

ERIC HAMBER SECONDARY

The Griffins' Nest

INFORMATIVE • IMPARTIAL • INDEPENDENT

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2021

VANCOUVER, BC

HOW HAMBERITES USE FIT

NEWS REPORT by *Katja Radovic-Jonsson (10)*

The pandemic has brought many changes to the Vancouver School District over the last 20 months. In the 2020-21 school year, student schedules were changed significantly, with the District switching to a quarter system with only part-time in-school attendance.

This year, the schedule structure has been altered once again, this time into a semester system with full-time in-school attendance. Introduced with this system is Flexible Instructional Time (FIT), a 50-minute multipurpose period during the day on Tuesdays and Thursdays. FIT, alongside the semester system, is being monitored by school officials to determine what works and what does not, but what do Hamberites think of FIT?

Over the first few months, FIT seems to have helped some students who struggle with procrastination. "It's really helpful for a lot of students to study for tests in between classes, especially because they procrastinate," says **Isabelle Jang (10)**. Procrastination is common among high school students, and FIT's convenient timing was cited as an opportunity for students to study.

FIT's benefits extend far beyond helping procrastinators, however. It also provides a time for students to finish their homework early and to work on projects with their peers, according to **Jaya Wood (9)**. Students can also receive feedback from their friends and teachers before handing in their assignments.

Fans of FIT say another benefit of the block is that it helps students space out their study time. Many students struggle with the workload of their classes, especially when they have after-school commitments to at-

tend. "With FIT, we can do homework throughout the day instead of rushing through it all after school," explains **Teresa Deruchie (9)**.

Beyond that, studying at school also helps keep students on-task. According to **Austin Witter (10)**, the atmosphere during FIT "allows you to stay in the school mindset."

But where do students spend this valuable study time? The answer is: everywhere, really. Isabelle Jang, for example, prefers staying in the classroom of her favourite teacher.

Meanwhile, many other students, including Teresa Deruchie, spend their time with their friends in the hallways up against the lockers. For students such as **Tristan Yan-Klassen (10)** who prefer a quieter atmosphere, the library is a popular choice.

One criticism among students is that some teachers use FIT to teach extra classes. This is especially common in off-timetable courses or other classes that require extra time commitment or do not work within the confines of the semester system.

According to one student, who preferred not to be named to avoid jeopardizing their standing with a teacher, these types of classes still provide learning opportunities for students, but can take away precious study time that students could otherwise utilize.

The concept of an in-school flexible time is not entirely new this year. Last year, Flex Time was introduced during the quarter system as a period when teachers could hold classes or students could study. Students' attendance for Flex was not required unless the student had a class during it.

Many students find that this year's FIT is a great alternative to Flex Time, as it is a non-instructional block within



school hours. "FIT is more of a set time for working rather than how Flex was more of a 'stay after school' type of deal, so I think that FIT works better," says **Lauren Kolmel (9)**.

There has been much speculation over whether FIT will be implemented permanently. While the VSB has not officially released a statement on this yet, the new concept has gained a lot of positive reactions from Hamberites.

"We are currently on a two-year trial for the semester system, with FIT included within that, and feedback from all around the district has been quite positive, so I think hopefully it will stay around," says Hamber Vice Principal **Ms. S. Blair**. The opportunities that FIT offers also align with the student-focused learning principles that the VSB has been implementing since around 2017.

When asked whether they think FIT should be kept permanently, many students, such as **Hailey Whittaker (9)**, agreed that it should be implemented into regular school schedules, regardless of whether the semester system is kept or not. "It's good to get some time to actually get our homework done during school," she explains.

Meanwhile, other students, including Isabelle Jang, say that FIT should continue to exist if the semester system continues in future years, but if the pre-pandemic linear system is reinstated, then FIT should not be implemented.

Regardless of its ultimate fate, however, Hamberites find that FIT provides many great opportunities so far, and it will likely continue to do so this year.

"In a democratic government, this should not be allowed": Critics Blast Information and Privacy Law Changes

NEWS REPORT by *Suhani Dosanjh (8)*

(Disclosure: Two editors at The Nest work with BC FIPA campaigning against Bill-22, and have made legislative submissions with other civil societies)

On October 18, the BC NDP government introduced Bill-22, a series of major amendments to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, or FOIPPA, to the Legislative Assembly. Critics, including journalists, advocates, and opposition politicians, have blasted the bill as a serious step back in government transparency.

FOIPPA was first drafted in 1991 by the NDP government, created with the purpose of giving citizens the ability to access information, either personal or general, that the government holds, as well as protect the privacy rights of British Columbians.

Amendments listed in a statement from the government's website mention that the province intends to strengthen digital data privacy, and better protect the public's personal information with the Bill. Also mentioned in the statement was the introduction of a "modest" fees for freedom of information (FOI) requests.

An FOI request is made when a person applies to gain access to government records. Upon receiving a request, a public body is required to release the records requested with narrow limitations. The public body may decide to charge a fee only for

large requests, but fees may be waived if the records are in the public interest, or if the applicant cannot afford the fee for a valid reason. FOI requests are commonly filed by journalists, researchers, advocates and non-profits, opposition political parties, and citizens looking for particular information.

Premier John Horgan said in an October 21 press conference, "We haven't settled on a fee. No fee has been set, and no commitment to actually having a fee is in the legislation." Citizen's Services Minister Lisa Beare, the cabinet member in charge of the bill's passage, admitted that she was in favour of having a fee that is around \$25, alluding that it is more likely that there will in fact be a fee imposed.

BC FIPA, a non-profit whose mission is to defend citizens' information and privacy laws, wrote in a letter to the government that "[Bill-22] would extend the ability of current and future governments to keep people in the dark about vital matters of public interest."

Michael McEvoy, Commissioner of the government's independent watchdog on privacy and information rights, the OIPC, said, "Application fees pose a real barrier for many who seek information that should be readily available to the public." McEvoy also said that he remains "unable to understand how this amendment improves accountability and transparency when it comes to public bodies that operate in a free and democratic society."

Bill-22 has also struck a note of

controversy with Ujjal Dosanjh, former Attorney General and Premier of British Columbia, later federal Minister of Health, who also served on the legislative committee that drafted the original FOIPPA in 1991. The Nest was able to secure an interview with him, where he commented on Bill-22 relative to FOIPPA's original purpose.

When asked what FOIPPA was intended for back in the 90's, Mr. Dosanjh said it was, "meant to [secure] everyone's privacy, of course. But it was also supposed to be so that people could have access to whatever [government-held] information they wanted about themselves and government business."

Mr. Dosanjh commented that "the most difficult and disappointing change is the new fee to get information. There was no fee before. The way I see it, there are thirteen territories and provinces in Canada. Seven of them have no fee. Six do. Now, British Columbia will be one of them with a fee. I believe that this is a backwards step; people should be able to access government information free of charge. In a democratic government, this should not be allowed".

Although the fee is a highly controversial amendment to FOIPPA, there is another new amendment that caused its own outrage. Under section 30.1 of FOIPPA, personal information held by a public body must be exclusively kept in Canada. This law was originally put in place with the assumption that citizens' personal information would be protected under Canadian privacy laws. However, the new amendments repeal section 30.1, making it possible for public data to reside on foreign countries' servers.

The government defended their decision about repealing section 30.1,

as they said on BC's official website, "Data-residency requirement changes will bring BC in line with other jurisdictions by removing restrictions that prevent access to digital tools and technologies. These changes will increase access to technologies and streamline service delivery for public bodies."

However, the OIPC Commissioner disagreed with the government, saying, "What is exceedingly troubling, however, is that the government now proposes to allow public bodies to send British Columbians' personal information outside Canada without explaining how they will properly protect it. Without concrete alternative protections for people's data, the government is effectively asking the Legislative Assembly for a blank cheque to eliminate the current restrictions on public bodies accessing and storing people's personal information outside of Canada."

Liberal MLA for Kootenay-East, Tom Shyptika, was quoted on Hansard giving his concerns, "We look at some of the world's most major data breaches over the last eight years. I highlighted last week Facebook, LinkedIn, Alibaba, and Yahoo. There's a long list of data breaches that have happened over the last eight years, and this is in the billions of people."

In the same interview, Mr. Dosanjh also commented on the data residency amendment, stating, "It is absolutely reprehensible for a government to [change the requirement]; it's a betrayal of our sovereignty."

Bill-22 will continue to be debated in the legislature over the coming days and weeks, and with an NDP majority government, is expected to pass and make some of the most consequential amendments to FOIPPA in the law's history.

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HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE



DAVID GUO

IN PURSUIT OF INTEREST: HAMBER'S NEW CLUBS

NEWS REPORT by Katie Hoo (10)



JESSICA KIM



STUCO



DAVID GUO



DAVID GUO

NEW YEAR, NEW STUCO

NEWS REPORT by
Adelaide Guan (9)

(Disclosure: Since being assigned and writing this article, Adelaide Guan has announced her candidacy for the Grade 9 Representative on Student Council)

With a new school year brings a new Student Council (StuCo), and Eric Hamber's 2021-2022 StuCo is ready to rock! With the implementation of the semester system, AM to PM school days are in full swing. While COVID-19 precautions may face the council with some restrictions, Co-Presidents **Erika Chung** (12) and **Ashlyn Ng** (12) are motivated to make this school year one to remember. "COVID has not stopped us," Ng explained. "If anything, we're just making a bigger comeback."

After the success of Clubs Day, StuCo has been working to organize events, including a past fan favourite: the haunted house. The StuCo Haunted House made a comeback in time

for Halloween, with COVID-19 safe restrictions. Groups reserved time slots, in order to keep the crowd numbers low. "We are doing a lot throughout COVID," said Ng. "There are a whole bunch of different ways we adjust our environment and our events."

When speaking of the 2021-22 StuCo, Ng is enthusiastic about the council. Based on her past experience with StuCo, she believes this year has one of the best teams of execs she's ever seen. Hamber's 2021-22 StuCo has two Co-Presidents instead of a single president. According to Ng, this dynamic makes StuCo a lot more effective and efficient. "We have a lot more space to collaborate with one another," she shared.

"StuCo acts as a big bridge between the student body and administration," Ng said about StuCo's role in the Hamber community.

StuCo has been planning to implement student body reports. The plan is to have Grade Representatives and Student Council members interview Hamber students to get general feedback. Students will be asked if there are any issues, any changes they'd like to see, and what they've liked so far this school year. "I think that's something everyone can look forward to," remarked Ng.

New clubs have been formed to bring the Hamber community together this school year. They unite Hamber students through collaborative experiences, topic-exploration, and the participation in activities of interest. There is a selection of over 50 clubs, with over 20 new ones, supporting students in accomplishing their goals this year.

Clubs Day was packed with excited students ready to sign up. If you have missed the event or are wondering which ones to join, most clubs are still welcoming new members. Read more for some insight on Hamber's newest clubs for the 2021-22 school year.

Club descriptions were sought from specifically new clubs, provided by executives via email. Though all new clubs were contacted, this article reflects those who responded. They have only been edited for length, grammar, and clarity.

Catholic Club:

The purpose of the Catholic Club is to share the teachings of the Catholic Church. We will teach numerous things such as the passion of Christ and heaven on a theological basis. We will also be doing activities such as making rosaries, learning and singing gregorian chants, and a Catholic version of jeopardy.

Craft Club:

Craft Club is a crafty, social club that operates as an art class outside class hours.

Drawing and Painting Club:

Drawing and Painting Club has different monthly activities such as outdoor sketching, human gesture sketching. If you would like to share your artwork, Drawing and Painting Club can help!

Language Club:

Language Club is a new club at Hamber planning to learn a new language every year. They help develop your skills by participating in various activities and lessons.

Hamber Operation Smile:

Hamber Operation Smile raises money for the Operation Smile organization and helps pay for cleft lip surgeries for families that can't pay for them; hence the name "Operation Smile".

Japanese Culture:

Japanese Culture Club focuses on learning about Japan's language and culture. We also do Japan-central activities like card games, origami, anime, and more to come!

Mental Health Awareness:

The mental health awareness group stems from Here4Peers. Our goal is to raise awareness and reduce stigma regarding mental health among youth. With the knowledge and experience learned from the Here4Peers program, they work alongside the school counsellors to provide resources and information throughout the year.

Pep Band:

Pep Band is a band made up of enthusiastic musicians that are looking to put spirit into school events! We are planning to perform at sports and oth-

er spirit events throughout the year.

Piano Club:

Piano club is a new club where players and piano appreciators come to enjoy music. You go to practice with an audience and just have a respectful place to play. It's a drop-in and very casual.

Solidarity, Not Charity:

Solidarity, Not Charity is committed to breaking down class, race, and feminist theory in a digestible way for Hamber students. They are also hoping to do fundraisers/mutual aid to help out the Vancouver community.

Writers Club:

Writers Club is a place where Hamber's writers can connect, develop skills, share work, and explore opportunities in a safe, open community. They write based on prompts, edit pieces, get feedback, watch and study famous writing techniques, help each other in projects, and enter competitions.

Hamber also introduces the newly created Yoga Club, Studio-Challenge Leadership, STEMpreneurship, Sign Language, Indigenous Focus Mentorship Group, Games Club, Crochet for Community, Coding Club, EH Best Buddies, and Art Matters this school year. These clubs allow students to engage in various activities such as learning a skill, making and connecting with new friends, and supporting the community.

Every student has an opportunity to get involved within this assortment of clubs that Hamber has to offer.

NEW TO HAMBER: THE SAFE AND CARING SCHOOLS PROGRAM

NEWS REPORT by Shaan Sandhu (10)

Since 1972, the School Liaison Program had been active in VSB schools across Vancouver. This changed on April 26, 2021, when the Vancouver School Board decided to discontinue this program.

The School Liaison Program placed police constables at Vancouver schools. Their jobs were to help students and make them feel safe at school. Students could go to these officers if in need of help, or to seek guidance. By June of 2021 the program

was completely discontinued, and going into the 2021-2022 school year, a new program called Safe and Caring Schools has been initiated to play a similar role.

The Safe and Caring Schools program was implemented into schools across the District, including Eric Hamber, at the beginning of September. It has a different goal than the School Liaison Officer program: providing resources to students. It offers education, prevention, and

intervention services. This program encourages students to be successful in their work and studies, while also managing their mental health.

The Safe and Caring Schools program involves nine school liaisons. Each liaison is stationed at two different high schools within the district, working with counsellors, education coordinators, a district principal, and a director of instruction. If a student needs to talk to someone, the liaison is there to help. **Renee Joiner** (Counsel-

ling), Hamber's assigned liaison, says she provides "proactive interventions, responsive and relevant education and support, restorative practices from a lens of a healing centred approach."

Ms. Joiner has a message to the Eric Hamber students regarding what she has to offer to our community. "I am excited to be the Safe and Caring Schools Liaison assigned to Hamber. Youth outreach is the foundation of my role, and I am here to listen, talk, help problem-solve, and connect to

the wider community such as (but not limited to) joining a sport after school, finding a job, or volunteer opportunities. I work closely with staff, support clubs & groups, provide resources on a wide variety of topics, and importantly— always have snacks in my office! I look forward to meeting you!"

Students can find Ms. Joiner at Eric Hamber on Monday, Tuesday, and every other Wednesday. Her office is located in the counselling suite in room #365.

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE

COVID-19 CASE REPORTING IN SCHOOLS

NEWS REPORT by Mathew Fu (11)

As of October, COVID-19 safety restrictions in BC have eased, gradually allowing for the return of normalcy in the midst of a pandemic. However, the easing of safety measures has yielded an influx of COVID-19 cases, especially in schools.

In late September, two COVID-19 outbreaks occurred in Lower Mainland schools where 20 to 30 cases were recorded at Promontory Elementary in Chilliwack and Maple Ridge Christian School. Outbreaks also occurred in Metro Vancouver at Sir Alexander Mackenzie Elementary, Kerrisdale Elementary and John Norquay Elementary.

In the two weeks after BC resumed publishing reports, more than 160 schools in Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley were added to COVID-19 exposure lists on the Fraser Health website. The increase of cases in schools parallel COVID-19 case percentages in young children, increasing from 9 per cent to 18 per cent in September. Although provincial officials initially maintained that cases among children were of low severity, public concern among parents has prompted action.

According to a study by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, schools without mask mandates have 3.5 times more COVID-19 cases when compared to schools without.

Parents like Claude Martins are still concerned about outbreaks and how their children will face safety risks when attending school. "It is the biggest percentage of our population that can't get the vaccine until they're approved for that age group. I feel like school children and schools in general need to be treated the same way we're treating long-term care facilities, where we have vaccine mandates for



BEN NELMS/CBC

staff," he commented. "We need to look at those same kinds of protocols for our education environments, as well as looking at a mask mandate for all of our staff and all of the students who go to schools."

Similarly, some physicians are also concerned about current safety protocols. Dr. Anna Wolak, a Vancouver physician, has been especially worried about the safety measures and COVID-19 cases in elementary schools.

"We're already seeing clusters. We did not see clusters this early on in the school year when we went back last year. Whether it has to do with Delta and its increased transmissibility or the lower protocols, it's hard to say."

The 2021-22 school year began without a system for notifying the public of COVID-19 exposures in schools. BC health officials maintained contact

tracing for every case within the school community, where close-contacts were instructed to isolate as well. Public notification of school exposures was "anxiety-provoking", according to Provincial Health Officer, Bonnie Henry, in the school year prior. Henry has since reversed course on her statement after complaints and outcry from parents, stating that parents need an "authoritative source" for data on COVID-19 exposures.

There is much debate and discussion around vaccine requirements for teachers and mask mandates, which prompted the expansion of the mask mandate from grades 4-12 to grades K-12 for all students. "This additional measure we are putting in place today is one more layer that will ensure we can continue to engage and support children throughout this ever-changing pandemic," Henry explained. "The majority of COVID transmission continues to occur in homes and through social networks. Nevertheless, increased diagnoses has led to increased numbers of potential exposure events and several school outbreaks have been detected and reported."

Uncertainty and conflict still remains much between parental concerns and safety measures implemented by the BC government. "My biggest fear is that we'll just be reactive, that we'll just continue to put in measures two weeks too late... we're looking to our leadership to actually provide information and to provide safety precautions, rather than having to rely on parents in the community to crowdsource this," stated parent Claude Martins. With the concern around students' safety in schools, much remains unresolved around school safety measures and whether they will continue to ease and allow for the return of normalcy to student life.



DAVID GUO

VERSATILE VICE PRINCIPALS

NEWS REPORT by Sara Maya Budhiraja (9)

Life at Hamber has certainly been different in the last few years, but two familiar faces have guided the students through it all: the Vice Principals.

Ms. S. Blair and Mr. D. Ambrose have been at the forefront of Hamber's COVID response. The Nest recently had the opportunity to discuss the roles of our Vice Principals with Ms. Blair.

When asked what she is looking forward to in the coming school year, Ms. Blair explained that student engagement and a sense of safety and community are key for Hamber students.

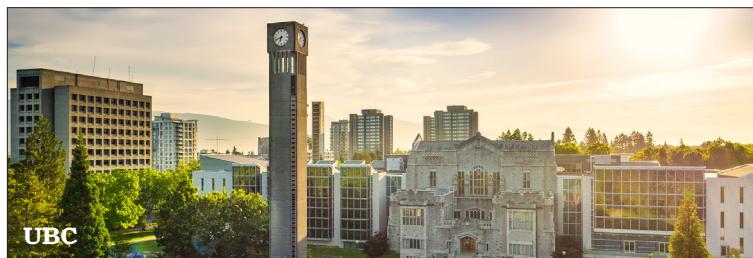
Ms. Blair discussed what she wanted to set in motion in the beginning of the year before COVID-19 and how those goals have changed during the pandemic. "We had our [start of year] assembly this year and last year to discuss important subjects like safety and code of conduct, and I thought it was interesting that we did it online."

During the pandemic, Ms. Blair and Mr. Ambrose have been taking on some additional responsibilities, like developing solutions for how COVID-19 affects the student body and what that means for the environment at Hamber. "We're using a trauma-focused lens and seeing that people might not be so comfortable with crowds," says Ms. Blair. "I see it in the hallways with people looking out for each other and making sure everyone feels safe. We're also trying to encourage fresh air and getting people to go outside as that's really important too."

One of the big changes in Hamber this year has been the implementation of FIT time for students to have flexibility to control aspects of their own learning. "We are implementing FIT time this year and making it very student-led, while making sure students are able to get into the groove of actually having FIT time," said Ms. Blair. The administrative staff also had to facilitate locker sign up this September, along with the implementation of mask mandates. Along with those issues, other COVID policies have been a main focus for Ms. Blair and Mr. Ambrose. "I feel the students and staff are being respectful of our new policy of wearing masks at all times in classrooms. I see students still using the hand sanitizer and washing their hands. We just need to work in the cafeteria and make sure we have just eight at a table. I think our pandemic policies are being followed quite well at Hamber."

AN INTRODUCTION TO POST SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIPS

NEWS REPORT by Jeffrey Chan (9)



UBC

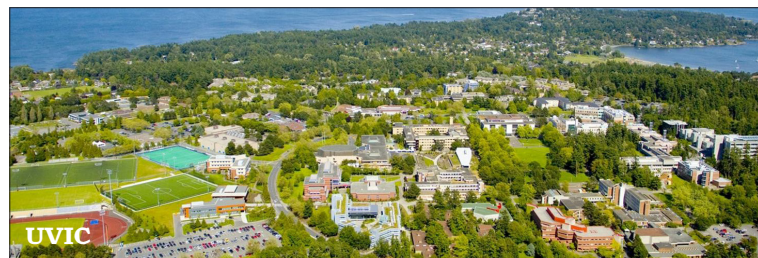
Once again, it's the time of year to apply for post-secondary scholarships. For those who are unfamiliar with scholarships, they are financial awards students. Most universities and colleges provide opportunities for scholarships. Additionally, there are scholarships not linked to universities, such as the TD Scholarships for Community Leadership. But how exactly does one apply though?

UBC has two major scholarships: the Presidential Scholars Awards and the UBC Centennial Scholars Entrance Award. The Presidential Scholars Awards include a one-time award of \$5,000, with renewable rewards up to \$40,000 on the Okanagan Campus, and \$80,000 on the Vancouver Campus. To be eligible for the Presidential Scholars Awards, one must need to be a Canadian Citizen or a permanent resident currently in high school (or CEGEP if residing in Quebec). As long as one's application is filled out and submitted before the deadline of Dec. 1st, 2021, they will be automatically considered for the scholarship. Successful applicants will be contacted by April 27, 2022.

The UBC Centennial Scholars

Entrance Award provides one-time and renewable awards up to \$80,000. However, this scholarship requires various additional requirements to be met. One must be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident to apply for the scholarship. Furthermore, they need to be entering UBC from high school or transferring from another post-secondary institution. Application to a direct entry undergraduate program is necessary, as well as no previous degree. Lastly, one needs to demonstrate financial need. To apply for this scholarship, one needs to complete a couple of other tasks besides UBC's application. A description of circumstance needs to be completed, outlining the student's financial situation. If one has been attending school for the past 48 months, they must complete a parent/guardian form, providing information on their families finances. Finally, a reference form must be filled out. The deadline for the aforementioned scholarship is December 1, 2021. The recipients of the UBC Centennial Scholars Entrance Award will be contacted by May 22, 2022.

The University of Victoria also has two types of major entrance



UVIC

scholarships: entrance scholarships based on admission average, and the Specific Criteria Application Awards. The reward amount of the entrance scholarships based on admission average vary, but are non-renewable. As a grade 12 Canadian high school student, one must need to have an admission average of over 90 per cent, or a minimum of 32 IB points to be considered for an entrance scholarship. One must self-report their grade 12 marks by March 15, 2022, and the grades will be verified against the student's official grades. To be considered for an entrance scholarship based on admission average as a Canadian graduate, one must be entering UVic within two years of graduation, and must not have attended any other post-secondary institutions. The other requirements are the same, sans the self-reporting of one's grades. Specific Criteria Application Awards typically have an award of \$4,000-\$5,000, but it is renewable over the course of one's time at UVic. The eligibility of this scholarship includes anyone entering UVic directly from a Canadian secondary school, any grade 12 Canadian citizens (and those studying outside of Canada), who have an

85 per cent admission average or 32 IB points (secondary school students), or those entering UVic from a Canadian college or university with a 7.5/9.0 (UVic scale) transfer average or an 8.0/9.0 Diploma transfer average. Students that are applying for the Specific Criteria Application Awards need to write a scholarship essay via the online application process, and submit it by April 30, 2022.

TD Bank has a Community Leadership Scholarship, open to students in the last year of high school, or their last year of CEGEP. The scholarship provides the recipient with up to \$10,000 for tuition, \$7,500 for living expenses each year for a maximum of four years. Along with that, additional funding is provided, and when everything is totaled, the amount results in up to \$70,000 over four years. One needs to have demonstrated community leadership, and have an overall grade average of 75 per cent in their most recently completed school year, to be considered for this scholarship. Three references are necessary to apply as well. Applications can be filled out on TD Bank's website, and are due November 15, 2021.

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE



REYA KHANNA/HAMBER

HAMBER'S SEISMIC UPGRADE: AN UPDATE

NEWS REPORT by Reya Khanna (10)

The construction of a new seismically upgraded Hamber has recently begun, with the frame of the building taking shape. The purpose of the new building is to have a seismically secure structure, as to ensure the safety of staff and students, considering that the current Hamber is not earthquake-proof. The new Hamber building is expected to open September 2023, located on the previous track field. The current school will be demolished and the track will be rebuilt on its grounds. Hamber students will get their track back in 10 years, but could be forced to wait until 2035. This is dependent on the speed at which other Vancouver schools are being made seismically safe. The current Hamber building will become a swing site due to its central location, acting as a temporary residence for schools going through a seismic upgrade.

Until the Seismic Mitigation Program is over, it is not known which other schools will use the swing space.

Students are excited to be entering the new building due to its new and modern redesign. The rooms will be organized for the benefit of new students, making it easier to find classes, contrary to the confusing layout at the current Hamber.

There are two student representatives on the school's seismic advisory group, as well as teachers, and support and district staff who have expressed their thoughts on the project through the School Advisory Group (SAG). The Hamber Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) and District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) have imputed their thoughts as well. Together, they have helped to input the community's voice into the project, successfully advocating for the addition of an auditorium to

the new school's plan.

The provincial government is providing \$94.1 million of the \$105.9 million required to construct the new facility, according to a government press release from May of this year.

However, the school will be the smallest school per student in all of Vancouver. The Project Definition Report (PDR) states student population will be capped at 110 per cent and consist of 1700 domestic students as well as 175 international students. There is concern from the PDR that the new Hamber will not meet the needs of the area's growing demographic. The PDR calls for further potential mitigations of reduced catchment and/or movement of special programs.

Compared to the current school, the new school will be 30 per cent smaller, with an auditorium half the size of the current one, as well as

smaller gym spaces, outdoor places, and smaller rooms for the drama, art, music, and fashion design programs. Due to the school being constructed on the track, it takes up space that would have otherwise been used by the athletics department. The current library at Hamber contains two floors, with it being a communal space for students to study and work. The new library will be over 50 per cent smaller and with little to no storage space. Most students enjoy having a full-sized locker to fit more of their belongings and class materials, but the new school will have half-sized lockers. General circulation and common spaces will shrink by 30 per cent as well.

Within the new school, there will be additional space, such as student huddle areas. Student huddle areas will be consistent throughout the building for social and informal gath-

erings, as well as for student collaboration. There will be 37 instructional classes and a 350 seat auditorium. To promote Hamber's sense of community, school memorabilia, such as awards and trophies will be relocated to the new school.

There will be a 69-space childcare facility on the top floor of the school with a separate entrance for children of four different age groups: infant, toddler, pre-schooler, and pre-school. The times of the daycare are set to not coincide with the students. According to the PDR, the childcare space took away physical space for education in the building, but not funding as it is paid for and operated by the City.

Overall, the new Hamber will have a majority of the features the current one does, but in a smaller and newer way, with a hope to carry the sense of community Hamber currently has.



VSB

HAMBER'S INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

NEWS REPORT by Adrian Yue (9)

For over 20 years, Eric Hamber's International Student Program has been welcoming students from around the world to study at Eric Hamber and discover Vancouver. The main aims of the International Student Program, as stated by the VSB, are to give students the ability to "study in one of our excellent schools offering courses in academics, fine arts, technology, languages, and athletics," and to "join a culturally rich cross-section of students," graduating with a Grade 12 Diploma. In addition, students can practice their English-language skills through living in Vancouver and learning in an environment whose primary language of instruction is English.

Often, the International Student Program is confused with the Interna-

tional Exchange Program. However, the International Student Program and the International Exchange Program differ in that the International Exchange Program requires the student to find another student and family to homestay on either end of the exchange and that it usually lasts for a few months. With the International Student Program, students either arrive with their parents/guardians or find a family to conduct a homestay with for the duration of their stay, and there is no need for a swap. Additionally, most students who arrive in Vancouver study here for more than one school year. Another key difference is that the exchange program is mainly facilitated from one school to another, versus the case-by-case basis

that the International Student Program operates upon. Further, International students arrive on a student visa attached to their passport which is valid for the duration of their stay.

"Some of the differences between international students and regular students is that they pay a tuition which is equivalent to what taxpayer fees would cover for their education," stated Ms. D. Gomes, ELL Department Head and main international student contact for Hamber's International Student Program.

In addition to the tuition paid by international students, international students who arrive before the age of 13 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. It is only after the age of 13 that students can be placed with a homestay family.

Once arriving in Vancouver, the students' impressions of Vancouver vary. When asked about the differences in Vancouver compared to their home countries, Ms. Gomes stated "One of the main things is the weather." Additional aspects of Vancouver that were commented upon by Ms. Gomes, when asked about the international students, was the change in atmosphere, and attending school at Hamber. Some students, depending on location, change from being required to wear a uniform to school to not being required to wear a uniform daily. The lingual changes and atmospheric changes are part of the reason that students choose to study in Vancouver, but it is also one of the most commented upon aspects of change.

The International Student Program, with its focus on providing an experience and taste of Vancouver, is an opportunity for students from across the world to study in a different school, gain different perspectives, and acquire new skills. Throughout their studies in the city, International Students have the ability to improve their English skills, live in a new environment without the need for an exchange, and graduate with a Dogwood Diploma.

HAMBER ATHLETICS: WHAT'S IN STORE?

NEWS REPORT by Greta Gibbon (9)



SENIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Hamber Athletics, designed for active students in the Hamber community interested in pursuing school sports, is fully up and running this year. Last year, due to COVID-19, students did not have access to the full athletics program. Though there was the implementation of training sessions through Eric Hamber Performance Centre, or EHPC, school sports didn't occur in their typical fashion. No games occurred and with the absence of a full day school schedule there were no intramurals. This year, however, Hamber Athletics is back in business with few restrictions and full operations.

The Athletics Department at Hamber has various sports teams running throughout the year. These sporting opportunities are scattered throughout the fall, winter, and spring seasons. Each season has a variety of sports students can try out for; however not all sports teams host tryouts. Cross country and track and field are among the teams that students can sign up for without worry of not making it onto the final roster.

In the fall, one popular sport is

volleyball. All of the girls' volleyball teams play in the fall, along with the Senior and Bantam boys teams. In the winter, basketball is the go-to sport. Teams are available for all grades, both boys and girls. Finally, in the spring, ultimate is a crowd-pleaser at Hamber with co-ed teams for grades 8-12.

Outside of competitive sports teams, Hamber offers various intramurals, which rotate every few months. Run by the P.E. Leadership 11 students, intramurals take place at lunch and are friendly games played against other students. Students can sign up individually or in teams, as all are welcome to participate. Intramurals are intended for students that want to have fun in a positive and encouraging environment. They typically run parallel to the sports teams of the season, so intramurals are another opportunity to play and get active in a less competitive atmosphere.

The most up-to-date information regarding both Hamber Athletics teams and intramurals can be found through the Hamber Hub on Teams or via @hamberathletics on Instagram.

HAMBER AND STUDENT LIFE

THE BEST YA MURDER MYSTERIES TO CUDDLE UP WITH THIS WINTER

REVIEW by Elle Glen (8)



One of Us is Lying, Karen M. McManus

REVIEW: ★★★★★

This novel is amazing and a must read. It kept me on the edge of my seat the entire time. I really enjoyed it and would definitely recommend it. This book has moments of humor, suspense, and sadness that keep you hooked till the last page. This book was a roller coaster that I would definitely ride again.

A Good Girl's Guide to Murder, Holly Jackson

REVIEW: ★★★★★

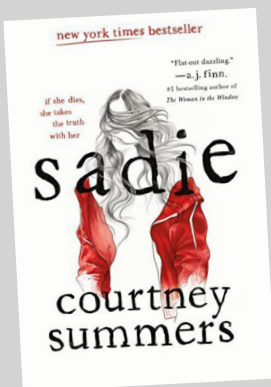
A couple chapters in, you will find yourself shaking and your heart beating fast. The suspense is enough to kill. The author makes the reader question every character in turn and you never know what secrets the characters are hiding. This dark tale is spun one thread at a time, with each new clue adding something new to the plot. This dangerous book was a thrill to read.



Sadie, Courtney Summers

REVIEW: ★★★

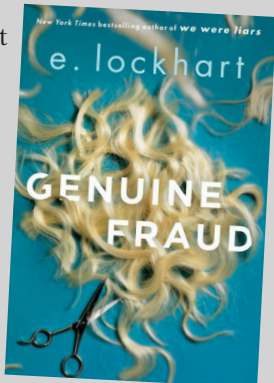
This book is an artful, disturbing story about lies, fear, and the hunt for truth. It also covers many heavy topics. Everything from poverty to sexual abuse, and physical violence to emotional trauma. The book gives every gritty detail, never sparing readers from the intricacies of Sadie's cruel life. Overall, this is an extremely eye-opening, poignant book that you simply must pick up.



Genuine Fraud, E. Lockhart

REVIEW: ★★★★★

This book left me gasping for air. It surpassed my expectations. E. Lockhart draws readers in and then drops them into a masterpiece where there is no right and wrong; there are only lies. None of the characters in this book are innocent, everyone is morally grey. Still, you can't help but get a front row seat to this train wreck.



All Your Twisted Secrets, Diana Urban

REVIEW: ★★★

This is a book where everyone is guilty in their own way, but no one knows who the true culprit is. *All your Twisted Secrets* is an easy, good read. The characters don't have the best development, but the plot is intricate and each detail matters to make up the larger picture. This book is a good way to get into mysteries. The twists in this book keep the reader guessing. Highly recommended!



The Cheerleaders, Kara Thomas

REVIEW: ★★★★★

If I could describe this book in one word, it would be addictive. The first few chapters completely captivated my attention. I could NOT put it down. The characters allowed the book to be dark, yet comforting at the same time. *The Cheerleaders* kept me on my toes, and guessing as I flipped from one page to another, falling completely in love with the book.



Hamber's Library Learning Commons has many of the titles listed in this article.



EYECRAVE/GETTY IMAGES

NEW GRADE 12 LITERACY ASSESSMENT

NEWS REPORT by Alanna Rudolph (11)

The Grade 12 Literacy Assessment is a new, BC wide, graduation requirement that will be first administered in the 2021-2022 school year. It will be written in November, January, April, or June, as chosen by the school. The assessment is not based on course material or curriculum; students are required to demonstrate their ability to think critically and communicate their own ideas about given texts.

The assessment contains three parts, all completed online. Part A requires thinking critically about texts. Students must answer select-response questions, such as multiple choice or matching. Part A also includes longer written responses in the form of a graphic organizer and multi-paragraph composition. In Part B, students must go beyond the texts, which focus on a different topic from Part A. As well as selected-response questions,

students choose between two prompts and answer with their own personal interpretation and thoughts in the form of a long piece of writing. The final part is an optional but encouraged self reflection.

To prepare for the assessment, students may watch a series of videos available on BC's course curriculum website. The videos explain the structure and types of responses in the assessment. Sample assessments are available both online and in print for students' practice. High quality responses are expected to show deep insights and understanding of the texts and prompt. Students must be able to effectively communicate their thoughts, although their writing is not required to be error-free.

The assessment was designed with input from the Advisory Group on Provincial Assessment (AGPA). It

is intended to be neither formative nor summative. The purpose of formative assessments are to reveal students' strengths and weaknesses so that their learning can be adjusted, while summative assessment measures the results of learning.

Students graduating from British Columbia's education system should, among other qualities, be literate and able to contribute to society. Assessments are a way to measure whether the system is performing as it should be, as well as find where improvements are needed. External groups, such as employers or post-secondary institutions, have used graduation assessments in the past to select students. AGPA has found that these external needs should not be a large influence on the system, and that its primary focus should be meeting needs from kindergarten to grade 12.

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO MICROSOFT TEAMS



MICROSOFT

SATIRICAL REVIEW by Noah Yu (11)

Ever since students started learning remotely, Microsoft Teams has been a fundamental component of learning. Rather than handing out assignments in person, teachers can now designate homework anytime they desire by COVID-safe means. Students, likewise, can inquire and interact with teachers outside of school hours. While all this is remarkably convenient for all parties, there is one downside: Microsoft Teams is extremely confusing.

As Albert Einstein once said, "The only source of knowledge is experience." Unfortunately, since both students and teachers have had limited time to adjust to online learning and Teams, nobody can claim they've had enough experience to understand it. In other words, if a reader were to skim this article in hopes of grasping a deeper sense of Teams, they would

be doomed.

Fortunately, not all hope is lost! Through this considerably short amount of time, users have gained some familiarity with the program. Here is a brief guide on how to use Microsoft Teams for the typical Eric Hamber student.

Downloading Teams on a Computer:

1. To access Microsoft Teams on a browser, go to www.theonion.com
2. Change "theonion" to "microsoft" and add "/microsoft-teams/download-app" to the end of the URL.
3. Click on the Microsoft logo at the top left corner.
4. Scroll to the bottom.
5. Where it says "follow Microsoft," find and click the Youtube logo.
6. Search "Gordon Ramsay" on Youtube. Click the first result.

7. Listen to Gordon Ramsay's soothing screams and comforting insults.

Signing In to Teams

1. Once Microsoft Teams has been downloaded, open the application. Accept all terms and conditions without reading thoroughly.
2. Teams will inform the user to sign in with an email and a password. Find a fellow peer's student ID for this part. Add "@learn.vsb.bc.ca" to the end of the selected peer's number.
3. For the password, kindly ask the selected peer through bribes and gift cards. If necessary, threaten the selected peer by throwing various produce items at them. This may include (but is not limited to) round projectiles such as eggs, coconuts, and individual peas.
4. Click "Sign in."

At this point, class and club teams should already be established and functional; ready and waiting for you.

Submitting Assignments on Teams

1. Click on the assignments tab. Locate and read the selected assignment's instructions.
2. Upon deciding that the selected assignment is too difficult to complete, complain about the fact that homework exists.
3. Un-evolve into a chimpanzee, orangutan, or any form of ape you desire to avoid homework for the rest of your life.
4. To gain supporters, persuade your teachers and peers to follow your lead.
5. Escape into the forest with your fellow apes and ooh ooh ahh ahh.
6. Now that you live freely and lawlessly among your own true kind, click on the assignments tab. Find the desired assignment to hand in and attach a chosen file.
7. Don't forget to click "Turn in!"

ADITYA CHINCHURE/UNSPLASH



HOUSING AFFORDABILITY IN VANCOUVER

NEWS REPORT by Amelia Hughes (12)

Vancouver is widely considered one of the nicest cities to live in. It has views of the mountains, is not far away from the ocean, and has an abundance of wilderness to explore. But with these luxuries come high prices in living accommodations, with the present average house in Greater Vancouver costing \$1.8 million, approximately 10 per cent more than in 2020.

With the pandemic, Vancouverites have observed one of the most unusual buying patterns in decades. The amount of buyers has doubled since 2020 and tripled since 2018. There is a shortage: the number of houses on the market is the lowest in years.

Justin Leigh, a local realtor, told The Nest that “prices in Vancouver will continue to rise as long as the demand for housing is higher than the available supply.”

The average household income in BC is \$64,000. With skyrocketing house prices, many families are moving to the suburbs, such as Burnaby,

Langley, Surrey, and Abbotsford. As businesses start moving online and many people now work from home, it has not been easier to move away from the city. This is causing the prices to rise, not just in Vancouver, but everywhere. Burnaby's house prices are the highest to date at 5 per cent more than last year.

“As housing prices continue to rise in Vancouver, people that live in the city are looking for more affordable housing options in the surrounding suburbs as well as areas farther out such as the Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island. Increased demand in these areas puts additional pressure on the housing supply in these areas and drives prices up in these areas as well,” says Justin Leigh. If prices keep rising in Vancouver and the suburbs, families will no longer be able to afford comfortable housing outside the greater metropolitan area.

Mayor Kennedy Stewart has now announced a new plan to create more

affordable housing to meet the growing demand for homes. The plan includes building more detached houses on the same lot and regulating prices. “Making Home is a new plan allowing thousands of young middle-class and new Canadian families to buy their first home, and includes allowing up to six ground-oriented units to be built on a single lot,” stated Stewart.

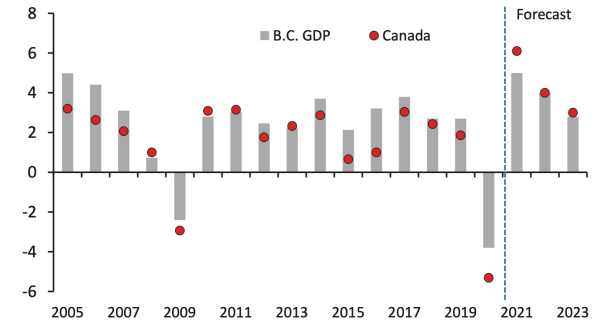
With carbon emissions and climate change being a great concern, the city has attempted to implement an overnight parking permit to reduce the amount of people buying new gas cars. The price varies based on the model and year of the car, but the premise is, if you leave your car parked on the side of the road overnight, you would need to purchase a permit. This is still being processed through legislation. Because middle class families are becoming less financially able to live in the city, Vancouver is growing its already notorious reputation for having high housing prices.

A LOOK INTO THE EFFECT OF COVID-19 ON BC'S ECONOMY

NEWS REPORT by Ryan Cheng (11)

B.C. navigates pandemic better than most peers

B.C. Gross Domestic Product, year-over-year per cent change



Source: Statistics Canada, Central 1 Credit Union

Without a doubt, the COVID-19 pandemic has strongly affected the economies of nearly every country and region in the world. Despite the many challenges imposed on BC by this pandemic, its economy has fared considerably well.

British Columbia's economy has always been quite unique compared to the other provinces and territories of Canada. Due to its geographical and geological traits, as well as its unique flora, the province's economy heavily relies upon its agriculture and manufacturing sectors. These sectors have not been affected significantly from the pandemic. The reduced human interactions in their operations were minimal compared to other sectors, reducing the amount of restrictions they were subjected to. However, other sectors, such as the film industry, which plays an important role within the economy, have been greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the years, BC has become a hot spot for the film industry, informally referred to as Hollywood North. In 2019 alone, a year prior to the start of the pandemic, BC's film industry grew to a record-high \$4.9 billion in valuation. This growth and success stopped abruptly with the start of the pandemic, which forced all film and television production to cease operations in March of 2020. By October of 2020, operations were allowed to continue, recovering most damage done to this sector of the economy by 2021. In fact, by December of 2020, over 60 projects were being filmed in BC—even busier than operations prior to the March shutdowns.

The service sector has not been as fortunate. Like the film indus-

try, the service sector suffered the most starting in late March of 2020. Between February and April of 2020, over 350,000 jobs had been lost across the province with the unemployment rate rising drastically from 4.3 per cent to 11.5%. Additionally, nearly half the respondents of a survey conducted by the BC Chamber of Commerce, Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, and Business Council of British Columbia had reported laying off staff or reducing hours to maintain the operations of their businesses. Even with the reopening of many services such as movie theaters and dine-in with the inclusion of a vaccine passport, the service sector is very much struggling.

Other sectors, specifically the real estate sector, remained virtually unaffected by the pandemic. With BC's real estate sector being one of the most expensive in the world, many expected it to recess along with the rest of the economy. However, contrary to these expectations, the real estate sector continued to grow, as evidenced by data from the BC Real Estate Association. In 2020, more homes were being sold at a higher price. The number of homes sold jumped to 94,000, a 21.5 per cent increase from 2019. The average price also rose to \$782,000, a 11.7 per cent jump from 2019. This sector has remained unaffected by the pandemic, and has continued showing signs of growth into 2021.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has affected sectors very differently, BC's economy was negatively affected as a whole. With the province's economy being made up of so many unique sectors, the damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic was minimized and is being steadily repaired.

THE OPIOID CRISIS

NEWS REPORT by Bianca Takenaka (10)

The Opioid Epidemic is the issue of the misuse and addiction of drugs that has been plaguing British Columbia since the 1990's. This often-ignored health crisis has now spread throughout Canada and has severely impacted hundreds of thousands of people, as well as its social and economic welfare of the areas it affects the most.

After the United States, Canada is the second largest consumer of prescription opioids in the world. Opioid related maltreatments and non-medical prescriptions have been increasing in Canada since 1999. From the time of the 1980s, opioids sold to hospitals and pharmacies have grown over 3000 per cent in Canada, and in 2016, over 20 million subscriptions were sold to Canadians. Since 2008, nonmedical prescription opioid use has been the fourth most predominant form of substance use in Canada after alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis.

Opioid related events such as hospitalization and death rates in Can-

ada have made their largest impact in British Columbia, with Yukon and the Northwest Territories not far behind. These trends resulted in the provincial government declaring a public health emergency in 2016.

In 2016, there was a record of 16 hospitalizations each day and 2861 opioid related deaths in BC alone. The highest number of deaths have occurred in the Fraser and Vancouver Coastal Health communities with 401 and 337 deaths respectively.

Throughout July of this year, there were 184 suspected opioid deaths in BC. This was the second largest number of suspected opioid deaths ever recorded in Canada, tied with January of the same year. The July 2021 numbers are equivalent to an estimated 6 deaths per day, which has been the average number of deaths a day due to this epidemic in BC. since then. Most of these deaths have been reported to have occurred among males between 30 and 39 years old, who have been compelled by both illegal and prescribed opioids.

As of September 2021, over 1,000 British Columbians have died during this epidemic since its 2016 declaration. The epidemic continues due to the growth of the illicit synthetic opioid supply, the majority being fentanyl and pain relievers.

It has been proven that pain relievers, including prescription opioids, have been overprescribed in BC, which has also contributed to higher rates of overdose and death. It has been confirmed that the communities with the highest volumes of prescribed opioid purchases, Surrey, Vancouver, and Victoria, are also the communities with the highest overdose death rates. Overdose death rates are increasing in British Columbia because most of the population who have died due to their prescribed opioids did not fill out a prescription for their given medications the year before their passing. According to Dr. Steve Morgan, a professor for the UBC School of Population and Public Health, prescriptions may have been side-tracked to the

illegal drug market before making it to the pharmacy stands.

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the Opioid Overdose Surveillance Task Group (OOSTG) have been conducting national examinations of opioid related events in hopes to reduce them. Efforts to develop addiction and health services for opioid users have been active since the early 90's, but have been emphasized by authorities more since 2016.

The VCH Regional Addiction Program has been the principal service in this project. This program has revealed the main challenges that have been preventing the reduction of the epidemic. Strategies include intervention-based and clinical therapies, new health systems and capacities, and resident evaluations in different communities. The prescribing system may need to be improved in order to make a change in this epidemic, particularly to monitor the purchases of fentanyl and morphine, which these two agencies have been working hard

on refining as well.

Studies have shown that opioid overdoses can also be countered by fast deployment of the drug naloxone. Other effective medications such as methadone, naltrexone, and buprenorphine have been in use to treat overdoses as well. Improvements of overdosing rates have been recorded in other countries because of these remedies, along with decreasing the easy access of opioids to the general public.

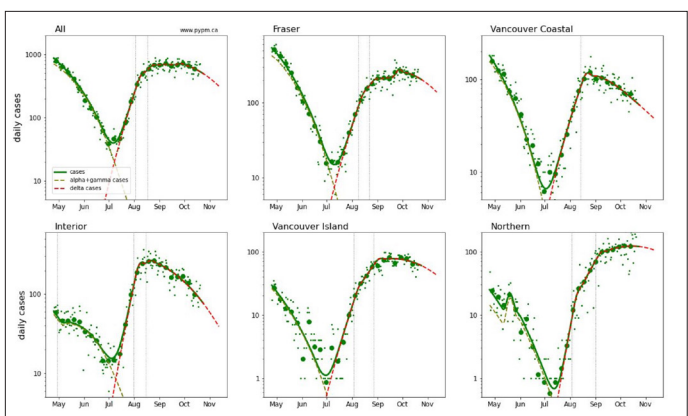
British Columbia has been suffering through this epidemic of addiction and unintentional death, and has finally gained further publicity over the last few months as opioid death rates have skyrocketed. Many initiatives have been working to control of these rates, along with potential treatments such as naloxone, methadone, naltrexone, and buprenorphine.

As of November 1, the province has moved to ask the federal government to decriminalize personal possession of illicit drugs within BC.

VANCOUVER AND THE PROVINCE

DEBUNKING COVID CONSPIRACIES

ANALYSIS by *Chloe Mayor Moure (8) and Rebecca Silver (8)*



Near the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic, conspiracy theories began to spread throughout the world, primarily on social media. Many theorists, blinded by fear, not only believe the theories, but spread them to others. Many would agree that the spreading of the false information is a pandemic in itself.

One of the more well-known theories is the microchip vaccine. The theory suggests the existence of the virus to be fake, and is just a cover to give people a reason to get a vaccine shot that injects trackable microchips in a person's body. Bill Gates, Microsoft's co-founder, is supposedly the one behind it all. Despite the lack of any evidence, this COVID-19 vaccine theory is still widely discussed and believed. In fact, a YouGov study shows that 20 per cent of people in the age range of 30-44 are saying it's "probably true." This theory gained exceptional popularity in late 2020 and early 2021 following the rollout of vaccines.

Conspiracy theorists have also stated that COVID-19 death statistics are supposedly being faked for shock and scare factor. Max Igan, an influential Australian internet conspiracy theorist made a post on a video hosting service well known for harbouring hate speech, titled "If People Get Jabbed After Watching This They Are Beyond Saving." As the title suggests, the video is about why one shouldn't get the vaccine and mentions related conspiracy theories. In the video, he states that even if one did not receive a vaccine, the chance of death is extremely low. In his own words, "According to the government's own statistics and good old fashioned math, your chances of surviving COVID-19 without the experimental injection depends on your age group. 0-14, survival is 99.998 per cent. 15-44, survival is 99.9930 per cent. 45-64, survival

is 99.9294 per cent. 65-85, survival is 99.6297 per cent. And over 85 survival is 98.2499 per cent. The numbers don't lie!" Needless to say, these statistics have been proven false. While it is true that children and young adults are less likely to die of COVID-19 when compared to older age groups, the statistics he cites are both incorrect and give false impressions of COVID-19 cases. In fact, a recent report by the BC Center for Disease Control (BCCDC) shows that unvaccinated people are 53 times more likely to die than those who have received both of their shots. This, of course, adjusts depending on age.

That same video has more than 20,000 shares on Facebook, with over 300,000 views as of October 2021.

Social media plays a large part in keeping conspiracy theories alive and spreading them, as the articles, posts, and multimedia are easily accessible for anyone with an internet connection. Social platforms including Facebook, TikTok and YouTube have outperformed credible news sources when it comes to COVID-19 related news, according to a SmithGeiger and Futuri's Audience and Revenue study.

According to journalist and researcher Orge Castellano, "Algorithms have aggravated the current problem of conspiracy thinking on the internet." Algorithms influence what we watch, what we search and in many cases what we begin to believe. When things are trending, others want to be a part of the trend. It often does not matter if the person knows they should not be following along. As long as they get the views or likes, they are content.

An example of this is how Facebook often has misinformation trending. According to BuzzFeed News, "Fake news stories keep trending because people on Facebook keep reading and sharing and liking them

— and the review team keeps siding with the algorithm's choices." After a certain point, the misinformation becomes too powerful to stop, as it's already been brought into the physical world. "Social media curates the 'news,' so you are more likely to see a story that agrees with your worldview and motivates you to take a path that is more consistent with that worldview," Rob Enderle, principal analyst at the Enderle Group stated.

Aside from social media, pandemic misinformation is readily available offline and in the physical world, usually in the form of protests. While these protests are the majority of the time peaceful, they can also get verbal and violent, such as Italy's infamous Green Pass protest. This leads to accidents and fights, and measures by the police are often taken, such as blocking the roads to protesters and diverting traffic.

Within a week of the BC's announcement of proof of vaccination, two protests against the system had taken place in Vancouver, one of which took place in front of a hospital. On September 1st, many gathered near Vancouver General Hospital and made their way to City Hall showing their opposition to the new passport system and COVID restrictions in general. Protesters chanted "Lock her up" repeatedly, referring to Dr. Bonnie Henry outside the hospital. As CBC News mentioned, "In downtown Vancouver, many in the majority white crowd carried signs comparing themselves to historic victims of genocide and other forms of violent racial and ethnic discrimination."

As Fight Fake News, a project of Louisiana State University puts it, "The conspiracy theory problem doesn't remain in the confines of social media; conspiracy theories have real consequences for society."

VERONICA HENRI/TORONTO STAR/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

JEN OSBORNE/MACLEAN'S

COVID-19'S FOURTH WAVE SWEEPS ACROSS BRITISH COLUMBIA

NEWS REPORT by *Teresa Chen (11) and David Zhang (11)*

The COVID-19 pandemic that took the world by storm in March 2020 reached its fourth wave over the summer. The new Delta variant, which is twice as contagious and pathogenic as previous variants, is surging in cases; doubling every eleven days in some countries and quickly filling up hospitals.

In an effort to slow the spread and curb infections, the BC government along with other provinces proposed a new solution—a COVID-19 passport.

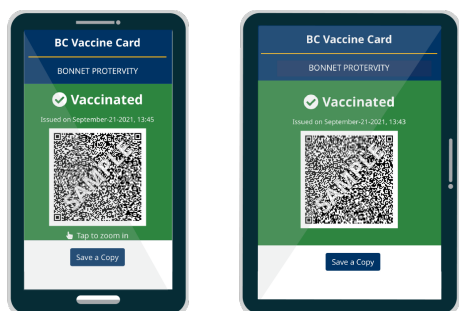
An order was issued on August 23 for all restaurants and cafes that offer table service to require proof of vaccination starting September 13. Other services such as gyms, movie theatres, bars, and indoor recreational centres are now also requiring the vaccine passport. Two doses of the vaccine are mandatory to enter any of these places. While it encourages more people in the community to get vaccinated, it has also caused commotion around the province.

B.C.'s COVID-19 passport has divided British Columbians into two categories: one that supports the

vaccine and one that does not. Over 90 per cent of BC's residents have had at least one shot. For the 10 per cent that refuse to get vaccinated, the addition of the passports have taken a significant toll on their lives. Some are determined to rid the province of this new proof of vaccination, and have staged protests and rallies denouncing the system.

On September 3, one of the many protests attempting to remove the passports was held in front of St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, with over 5000 protesters. It led to the verbal and physical assault of healthcare workers. It also created a lot of traffic, blocking the paths of emergency vehicles. On that night, several paramedics were trying to rush a patient with a severe arterial bleed to the emergency room, but because of protesters, the trip took twice as long.

The fourth wave has caused discord in BC. Despite the government's attempt to put it to an end by introducing vaccine passports, the virus does not seem to be leaving in the near future.



VACCINE PASSPORT IMPLEMENTATION

NEWS REPORT by *Adaly Hoy (8)*

On August 23, the government of British Columbia announced that by September 13, all British Columbians over the age of 12 needed to have had at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine in order to access events, services and businesses such as restaurants, concerts, and gyms.

After plenty of debate regarding the most effective way to prove vaccination, BC launched the BC Vaccine Card. For most British Columbians, the card is easy to set up, requiring information such as date of birth, date(s) of vaccination(s), type of vaccination, clinic location of each dose, personal health number, and a legal name. This generates a QR code that can be scanned by the business to confirm vaccination.

There are three main features that vaccine passports need in order to be effective: They cannot be easily counterfeited, they must be easy to access and display, and must be quickly verifiable. QR codes meet these criteria, being secure and manageable, indecipherable to the naked eye, and can be read by an equally secure device.

When entering a place such as a restaurant, the host or waiter will ask to see the vaccine card and a piece of valid government photo ID; however, people aged 12-18 will only need to show the BC vaccine card, and not ID. Considering that no vaccine has been approved yet for those under the age of 12, children under that age are exempt from the vaccine card requirements.

Since the announcement was made on August 23, bookings for vaccine appointments have increased as much as 200 per cent compared to the week before. The increase in bookings have mostly come from people under the age of 40. However, nearly 20 per cent of BC's population is still not fully vaccinated. Caroline Colijn, a BC epidemiologist, said, "[the vaccine card] has changed things noticeably, but it wasn't like, wow, OK, we'll get that extra 10 per cent or 20 per cent in the next three weeks. It's not that rapid."

Effective October 24, all British Columbians over the age of 12 must be fully vaccinated to access any business where vaccine passports are required.

VANCOUVER AND THE PROVINCE



LOOKING BACK: 1985 LOGGING BLOCKADE ON ATHLII GWAII

THE FUTURE OF BC'S OLD-GROWTH FOREST ECOSYSTEM AND LESSONS FROM GWAII HAANAS

ANALYSIS by Jeffrey Chan (9) and Derek Chau (9)

At the beginning of October 1985, logging on Haida Gwaii dramatically increased, threatening the native environment and culture. This sparked an outrage of the locals, banding together to block the logging roads on Athlii Gwaii. They eventually deemed the area as the "Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve," ensuring the old-growth trees would not be cut down. But Haida Gwaii isn't the only place where logging has turned unsustainable.

Since many old-growth forests are not protected by BC's provincial laws, they're vulnerable to potential large-scale logging projects which could ultimately ruin the ecosystem.

In October of 1984, logging rights were given to the Vancouver-based company Western Forest Productions to clear cut old-growth forests on Athlii Gwaii. According to an estimate by Athlii Gwaii: Upholding Haida Law on Lyell Island (2018), Gwaii Haanas (the south end of Haida Gwaii) would have been stripped bare of its trees in 1996 if those logging grants went into full effect.

Moreover, the logging rights would have starved the Haida people of their culture. The Haida hold trees in high regard. They use the wood to create symbolic pieces of art, and build structures, and carve designs derived from their ancestral and cultural roots. Totem poles are a central piece of Haida culture, one of their most prominent expressions of art. The logging of the trees would result in the Haida slowly losing a branch of their traditions, as totem poles were made from such highly valued trees.

Throughout October and November of 1985, crowds of Haida protesters, including many elders, constructed blockades that cut off access to the logging areas. "There will be no logging in the area that Haida people have designated is not to be touched. This is Haida land and there'll be no further logging in this area," said one of the Haida protesters during a televised protest on November 2, 1985.

The protests preserved the forests of old Sitka spruce, cedar, and hemlock trees, protecting the forests

against logging movements for about two months. Ultimately, 72 Haida protesters were arrested by the RCMP, and the forests were once again vulnerable to logging projects.

The protest brought attention to the issue. In October, when the blockades of the Athlii Gwaii were at its peak, Minister of Environment Thomas McMillan made an executive decision. He ruled in favour of the Haida, ceasing all ongoing and future logging projects. Gwaii Haanas was designated as a Haida heritage site, protecting the land.

Despite this, controversial logging in other areas persisted until July of 1987. The Government of Canada and the Council of the Haida Nation had signed the South Moresby memorandum of understanding, which led the 1,450 square kilometres of land to officially become off-limits for loggers. The same two parties signed the Gwaii Haanas agreement in 1993, stating that the Government of Canada and the Council of the Haida Nation would both commit to a shared responsibility of the forests through the Archipelago Management Board (AMB).

Further agreements were signed after the year 2000. There was the 2009 Kunst'aa Guu-Kunst'aayah Reconciliation Protocol, which returned the title of Gwaii Haanas back to Haida people, and the 2010 Gwaii Haanas Marine Agreement, which gave the Haida people management control of the waters surrounding Haida Gwaii. Destructive logging on Athlii Gwaii and the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve has since been discontinued, the land heavily protected.

Although the agreements helped protect the 1,450 square kilometers of old-growth forests, it was too late for Athlii Gwaii and other logged land. Currently, many old-growth forests across Canada still stand, but remain approved for logging. The rate of new logging sites increases every year, yet protection is rarely secured.

From April 2019 to the same month in 2020, about 592 square kilometers of new old-growth logging sites were approved. In the following year, the area of new logging sites on

old-growth forests increased to around 847 square kilometers, a 43 per cent increase from 2019-2020 and does not show many signs of slowing down.

Amid a global climate crisis, preserving old-growth trees might even be considered a priority. According to Jens Wieting, Senior Forest And Climate Campaigner with the Sierra Club BC, the province's south coast and Vancouver Island alone have forests around 15,000 square kilometers that hold carbon equal to 13 times BC's annual emissions. Clearing the forests for lumber would release all that stored carbon into the atmosphere, doing further harm to the environment along with deforestation of old-growth trees.

In addition, the old-growth forests that line the coast of BC create ecosystems for thousands of species. The Sierra Club BC calculates that "a minimum of 30 per cent of old-growth coverage per ecosystem is needed to avert a high risk of species extinction for coastal temperate rainforests." BC's 20,000 square kilometers of rainforest ecosystems, of which are mostly on the south coast, are currently "below the critical limit needed to sustain species."

The Haida people who organized the 1985 blockade were able to fight and win against imminent deforestation of Gwaii Haanas, saving its valuable forests, the ecosystem inside, and the culture that surrounds it. A Haida protester said in an interview during the blockade: "It's time that, in the exploitation of resources and in the management of these islands, the people who are here sharing these lands with us respect equally with everyone else the aspirations and the values of the Haida Nation. These are our homelands. We've been here for thousands of years; we intend to live here for thousands more."

If you are interested in primary and old-growth forests and would like to learn more, visit the website for both "Conservation North" and "Wilderness Committee." If you would like to know more about Haida Gwaii and Gwaii Haanas, you can see the website for the "Council of the Haida Nation."

EMPLOYMENT ACROSS BC

NEWS REPORT

by Annabelle McGarry (12)

"If B.C.'s job market were real estate, you could call it a buyers' market," states CTV News reporter Yvonne Raymond. The continuous job creation among Vancouver citizens has increased consequentially. Employers are finding an abundance of empty shift slots and a shortage of new recruits.

Over the past few years, there has been a huge shift over to using online

resources to find work. Job search websites like CareerBuilder, Indeed, Glassdoor and ZipRecruiter are just a few platforms filled with employers from professional associations and big corporations looking for volunteer, part time and full time employees. Mobile applications like CV Engineer, Canva, and Resumarker have opportunities to improve your current resume. Now is the optimal time to be looking and applying for positions. With the appearance of numerous job postings, the probability of being hired has increased significantly.

The pandemic has induced change not only with the economic aspect of a job, but the mental wellbeing of the employee. Many high stress occupations like those in healthcare and the service industry, are losing personnel as more people are

prioritizing flexibility and valuing their time. Employment rates across British Columbia have fallen to 5.9 per cent since September, which has led to 14,400 new jobs across B.C. According to Statistics Canada, Vancouver's current unemployment rate is at 6.7 per cent, compared to another location in British Columbia, Victoria that sits at 4.2 per cent. More Vancouver citizens are deciding to start personal business and leaving the traditional workplace behind. As stated by Statistic Canada, "B.C. unemployment rate is down by historical lows."

Based on the statistics, if you are a part of the population looking for a career, now is the ideal time to apply. Whether it's through multiple online resources or in-person interviews and applications, employers are in need of employees.

"This is their home, their history and their heart": Inside The Fairy Creek Protests

NEWS REPORT by Jaskirat Singh (12)



Since August 2020, Indigenous land defenders have been at "River Camp" and "Fairy Creek HQ" on Vancouver Island peacefully protesting old-growth logging. The protests started when activist Joshua Wright, along with other conservation advocates, noticed a logging path in a satellite image of the area near Fairy Creek. Since the path was found, countless protests have been held at Fairy Creek, in front of the Legislative Assembly in Victoria, and in other municipalities across B.C.

Old-growth forests are ecologically significant because they are trees that have grown naturally without disruption for long periods. To be classified as old-growth, a coastal forest must contain trees that are at least 250 years old, and 140 years old in the Interior, according to the provincial government. Fairy Creek, situated on the land of the Pacheedaht and Ditidaht First Nations, and according to ecologists is part of the 2.7 per cent of forests that are old-growth in B.C. However, that figure is disputed, with the province claiming that 23 per cent of B.C.'s forests are old-growth.

First Nations leaders wanted to take care of the old-growth forest after consulting members of their nations, but the B.C. government made their decision to hire a logging company, called Teal Jones, to remove the old-growth.

In June, the NDP government deferred logging activity, and said the Pacheedaht and Ditidaht First Nations leaders should decide how to handle the old-growth. However, Teal Jones and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) remained at Fairy Creek, said Indigenous Educator Toni Gladstone.

Teal Jones requested an injunction to stop protesters from standing in the way of their work. As Gladstone puts it, "Teal Jones is wrongfully towing vehicles and charging \$1000+ to get their car out."

When the court approved the injunction, the RCMP created a blockade in front of the site restricting access for land defenders. The RCMP created trenches to keep people back, but the protesters filled in those trenches to continue their protest.

Gladstone, who attended the protests during summer, said, "[police] are being violent towards the land defenders and the supporters. I have seen the 'law enforcers': smashing car

[windows], choking people, preventing access to healthcare, shoving older people, their medical responders spraying mace onto land defenders, [illegally] arresting so many people and specifically taking Indigenous and BIPOC defenders first." Videos obtained by CBC and APTN News taken at Fairy Creek have shown unconscious protesters being carried away by officers.

Over 1,000 arrests have been made since the start of the protests, and some protesters have been arrested more than once. The number of arrests surpassed the previous record formed during the War in the Woods in 1993.

National Police Federation President Brian Sauvé addressed the situation in a press release. He said, "We are very proud of our members' professional, thoughtful and patient approach to enforcing the expired Fairy Creek injunction." He added that the RCMP faced numerous verbal and physical aggressions from land defenders as they carried out their work.

The injunction came to an end in September and the B.C. Supreme Court ruled it would not be extended due to the RCMP's misdemeanor at the protests; Teal Jones appealed the decision to the B.C. Court of Appeal. Until the appeal is settled in court, the injunction remains in force.

Gladstone added that, "[Teal Jones] has petitioned to increase the budget to keep the injunction going multiple times because if Indigenous people can gather and stop this forest being logged, who knows what other act of sovereignty they will perform." An act of sovereignty is an action that shows the power of one person over another. With the NDP government being in power, they can enforce their position by taking away more rights and land from Indigenous peoples.

Protestors say their aim is to get the B.C. government to ban old-growth logging. Gladstone said, "[for her] it comes down to sovereignty. This land is the territory of the Pacheedaht and Ditidaht nations and they are expressing their power to protect and defend their land. This is their home, their history and their heart." She continued, "All the stories that forest holds cannot be said of another forest. This fight is a fight for our future survival and doing our best to give the next generations an earth that won't be on fire."

FEATURE

EDITORIAL

TRANSPARENCY MATTERS, PREMIER HORGAN

The Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act (FOIPPA), is the provincial statute that governs the information of all public bodies in the BC. Public sector organizations such as school districts, health authorities, ministries, and more, are bound to comply with FOIPPA, protecting British Columbians' privacy and their right to know the business of their government. Under the broad scope of FOIPPA, it is guaranteed that individuals have access to information held by public bodies in the province, subject only to narrow exceptions. All citizens of BC— most commonly journalists, opposition parties, researchers, or anyone looking to access their own personal documents— are able to file Freedom of Information ("FOI") requests to obtain these records. Public bodies are able to decline the FOI under limited conditions and may charge fees only for extensive requests, in a process extensively outlined in FOIPPA.

Introduced into the Legislature by BC's NDP government on October 18, 2021, was Bill-22, a piece of legislation that if enacted would make sweeping changes to FOIPPA, and consequently the province's accountability, security, transparency, and democracy. Notably, Bill-22 would implement a \$25 fee on all FOI requests, excluding those requesting personal information. Thus far, the government has provided a highly unsatisfactory justification for the fee, beyond the Minister responsible Lisa Beare saying that it is "in line with other jurisdictions". Most of the opposition's questions in the Legislature are being left unanswered.

The imposition of such fee will severely restrict journalists, activists, and opposition politicians, amongst other groups, from accessing public documents. This fee, which the government describes as "modest", can easily become substantial with multiple FOI requests in a year— especially limiting groups with smaller budgets, such as student journalists.

In past and current investigations, FOIs have been one of the primary building blocks used by The Nest to inform articles and source information. The Nest ob-

tained records from the Vancouver School Board and the Ministry of Education for past articles and is currently in the process of using FOIs for an upcoming one.

But what would the impact be of charging \$25 for public records? Freedom of information advocates say outbreak reports in schools, PPE contracts, police misconduct, and a host of other issues could be made harder to investigate. The timing of Bill-22 seems all too convenient for a province continually blasted for its lack of transparency.

As students, transparency in our education system "provides [us] the knowledge to make informed decisions and recommendations", according to the BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association, the organization leading a coalition against Bill-22 (Disclosure: the Student Press Freedom Act Campaign, founded by members of The Nest's Editorial Board, are active members of the coalition). Records related to issues that directly affect us and our schools would be more difficult to access through the barrier of Bill-22.

If we want to take ownership of our learning and hold the school district accountable, having equitable access to information through FOIs is essential.

Another amendment, the removed ability of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to waive a fee if records are in the public interest, is an additional step backward in transparency. Why should public citizens have to front the cost of information deemed to be important to the public? At the bare minimum, shouldn't information of that importance be provided for free?

Neither advocates nor the OIPC can answer that question, with the Commissioner writing in his October 20 open letter to Minister Lisa Beare that he is "unable to understand how this amendment improves accountability and transparency when it comes to public bodies that operate in a free and democratic society".

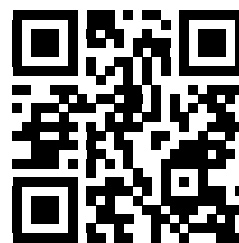
It's important to note the Commissioner's usage of the phrase "free and democratic society", a phrase infamous in Canadian Law found s. 1 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. It would

appear the Commissioner is making a reference to the quasi-constitutionality of access to information.

The Nest sees the fee as an excuse to deter potential FOI applicants and to line the coffers of the NDP government. Trust in public institutions is vital, and it is regressive to restrict the public from accessing records that could increase public perception of accountability through transparency.

Bill-22 is a fundamental danger to democracy in BC. The \$25 fee, among the other amendments to the Act, only adds to the already difficult and notably broken system of accessing public information. Student journalists throughout the province heavily rely on accessible information within their budgetary constraints. More often than not, it is unthinkable that secondary and post-secondary journalists can afford even one instance of these fees, much less a multitude of them. It is both inappropriate, and offensive, for the government to suggest that a \$25 fee is "modest". Modest is a relative word, and when speaking on the imposition of a fee for something that has been notably free for almost three decades, is a word that attempts to shield this government from the reality that a vast majority of those who file FOIs would not consider any such fee modest. Factors such as these can obstruct the democratic value of the freedom of the press in Canada. Bill-22 reduces government transparency to only those who can afford transparency, and even places certain chilling effects. The fact that the government is moving to exclude the Premier's Office from FOI requests heavily corrodes one of the foremost principles of liberal democracies; accountability of our elected leaders. No information from public bodies, meant to represent the people, should be behind a statutory barrier, one that severely limits who can have access to knowledge. Access to information enables accountability by virtue of its accessibility, makes for a more effective, open democracy, and allows people to make informed decisions in society. Bill-22 does nothing but hamper these principles that Canada was founded upon.

The Nest calls on the government to withdraw this regressive, unnecessary, and dangerous legislative proposal and consider the centrifugal role access to information plays in our free and democratic society. We endorse the BC FIPA led Transparency Matters Campaign, and invite readers to send a message to the government using the email template provided by BC FIPA, linked via QR code.



CANADA

SERIES OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS AT WESTERN UNIVERSITY ELEVATE DISCUSSIONS OF CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY

ANALYSIS by Simone Hamilton (11) and Lauren Lee (11)

"We let our students and families down," stated Western University President Alan Shepard during the release of Western University's new sexual violence 'Action Plan' amid the panic of an 'O-Week' turned sinister.

On the night of Friday, September 10, 2021, up to 30 young women were allegedly drugged at Western University in London, Ontario. The allegations were made through social media posts across many different platforms; all describing a similar chain of events at the Medway-Sydenham student residence during the infamous Orientation Week, or as it's been coined 'O-Week', at Western.

The tragic story of Gabriel Neil, a Western student who was murdered just outside of campus, hit the headlines alongside the allegations of the mass drugging, adding to the anger and sadness brewing amongst students within the university. The next week thousands of students, staff, and faculty at Western University participated in a walkout in protest of the culture of sexual violence on campus. It seemed unanimous amongst attendees that a cultural shift is needed, especially during 'O-Week'.

Western University stated they have not received any formal reports or complaints of a similar nature to those of the social media allegations. The London Police have been investigating the incidents but have had no witnesses or victims come forward as



of October 21. The London Police had received reports of four sexual assaults the previous week, however they have been counted as unrelated.

The London Free Press in conjunction with the Western Gazette, official student newspaper of Western University, revealed that they have received witness accounts from September 10, 2021 including at least one count of sexual assault, and many counts of young women being 'roofied'. 'Roofie' is a slang word describing a date-rape

drug such as Rohypnol, and the action of nonconsensually administering it with the intention of sexual assault. Date-rape drugs like Rohypnol or GHB can cause multiple symptoms including, but not limited to, drowsiness, unconsciousness, dizziness, and memory loss.

Witness accounts could conclude that victims feel more comfortable opening up anonymously or to those they trust, like friends on social media or a student journalist on campus.

The Ministry of Colleges and Universities in Ontario has announced some mandatory policy changes for all post-secondary institutions in the province to make reporting sexual violence easier and more victim-friendly. For instance, a student now cannot be reprimanded for breaking school rules on alcohol or substance use when reporting sexual violence, and they cannot be asked about their sexual history or expression. Post-Secondary institutions in the province have until

March 2022 to make these policy updates.

Western University's 'Action Plan' requires mandatory education for all students in residence on consent, personal safety, and sexual violence, as of September 20. They plan to hire 100 students as safety ambassadors in residences, as well as four new special constables so that patrol goes to 3 am. The last initiative of the 'Action Plan' is a task force made up of students, staff, faculty, and community leaders. The task force will be taking a critical look at student safety, specifically with gender-based violence and sexual assault, as well as with campus programming and activities. Participants of the walkout described this 'Action Plan' as a positive first step towards a brighter future for the safety of students at Western.

This series of events may have brought a dark commonality in university life to light across Canada. A 2017 Maclean's student life survey revealed that while 60 per cent of post-secondary students had been taught about consent in some form by an official school source, 40 per cent of the sexual assaults reported in the survey happened during post-secondary studies. Along with 31 per cent of students reporting they were not instructed how to report a sexual assault and 25 per cent saying that they were not given any information on support services for victims of sexual assault.



RYAN REMIORZ/
THE CANADIAN
PRESS

A DEEPER LOOK AT CANADA'S 44TH GENERAL ELECTION

ANALYSIS by Spencer Izen (12)

17 million votes, 338 ridings, and \$600 million. On September 20, Canadians headed to the polls, following a snap election called by the Prime Minister in mid-August.

The 36-day campaign featured the major parties vying to form government, seeking a mandate to lead Canada through a COVID recovery.

In the end, Canada's 44th Federal Election culminated in more or less mirrored results as produced in 2019. Canadians re-elected a Liberal minority government just as they had done in the previous election, with minimal change in the parties' seats on Parliament Hill.

Notwithstanding the election's groundhog-day result, there are three key takeaways Canadians should be made aware of:

1. The Far Right is here, and probably to stay.

Back in 2018, Harper-era Cabinet Minister, Maxime Bernier, left the Conservatives after losing the party's leadership race to Andrew Scheer and founded the People's Party of Canada ("PPC"). Positioned politically to the right of the Conservatives, the PPC

under Bernier ran in the 2019 election on an anti-immigration, pro-oil and gas industry, small government, anti-globalism, Canadian nationalist platform that rejected the scientific consensus on climate change. The debuting party earned 1.6 per cent of the national vote coming just shy of 300,000 ballots, but failed to garner any seats in the House of Commons.

Despite his 2019 loss, Bernier continued to lead the PPC as an extra-parliamentary alternative party for conservative Canadians. He ran again in the 2020 York Centre by-election, finishing fourth with 642 votes, or 3.5 per cent.

Fast forward to 2021, Bernier has repeatedly spoken out against mandatory vaccination, lockdown measures, and mask requirements. In August, the PPC leader posted to Twitter that he would not receive a COVID-19 vaccine, stating "I'm 58 years old. I believe I'm in good shape", despite the fact that health officials have continuously maintained that all eligible individuals should receive COVID-19 vaccination.

In the 2021 election, the PPC ran on a similar campaign platform to the previous election, but tapped into fringe anti-public health movements

across the country, gaining support from opponents of mandatory masks and vaccination. Protests in front of Vancouver's City Hall notably featured PPC banners.

In an official filing with Elections Canada, three of the PPC's 250 required signatures were from individuals with known connections to far-right groups, including Shaun Walker, a formerly American Neo-Nazi who was convicted "on federal civil rights charges for orchestrating attacks on non-whites in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 2002 and 2003" according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, an American hate-monitoring group.

"Intentionally or not, the PPC is the party largely favoured by the Canadian far and racist right," Elizabeth Simons, deputy director of the Canadian Anti-Hate Network, told CANADALAND.

When the results came in, more than 800,000 Canadians had cast their ballots for the PPC, more than doubling their result from the previous election.

If there is one thing to be noted from the PPC's 2021 showing, it's that Canada is not immune to far-right racist populist movements as seen in other western liberal democracies over the last decade. Despite Canada's diverse national identity, nearly a million voted for the party that calls for the "ending official multiculturalism and preserving Canadian values and culture".

2. The Green's had an opportunity. They Imploded.

Coming off the heels of a summer plagued with extreme weather events across North America and the heightened climate discussion, one would have thought the Green Party would have been able to walk away from this election with a record showing. With voters experiencing the impact of climate change more pointedly than ever, Canada's environmentally-focused party would have appeared to be in a strong position to make significant gains in Ottawa.

Or at least, that's what people

thought, because the Green's campaign under Annamie Paul was marred with party infighting that led to a poor showing at the polls.

The party had been plagued with an internal war that started in June when then Green MP Jessica Atwin crossed the floor and joined the Liberals following a dispute within the Greens over the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. Ever since, party officials and leader Annamie Paul have been butting heads over Atwin's exit, with Paul receiving heavy criticism from party insiders for her alleged role.

Paul, the first Black and Jewish woman to lead a federal political party, called her critics' attacks racist, sexist, and antisemitic, and continued to lead the Greens into the election. Some of Paul's staff echoed these sentiments in statements to news media.

Come election day, the Greens landed two seats, one of which was former longtime party leader Elizabeth May's Saanich—Gulf Islands riding, and the other was newly elected Mike Morrice's Kitchener Centre.

The 2019 election left the Greens with a record three seats, nearly 1.2 million votes, or 6.5 per cent of the national vote. This time around, the Greens dropped to nearly 400,000 and 2.3 per cent of the national vote. Paul herself lost her bid for Toronto Centre.

Days after the election, Paul announced her resignation, citing relentless attacks that made being leader the "worst period" of her life. Paul, as well as her staffers who spoke with news media, revealed the party's governing body undermined Paul financially throughout the election, thus limiting her ability to campaign. Party insiders, including former leader Jim Harris, maintain that Paul was not undermined by the Federal Council at any point during the election.

The Green Party's civil war hindered their leader's campaign and contributed to an election showing that failed to capture an opportunity to engage voters on their signature issue. Instead of establishing itself as Canada's go-to environmental party of record and respect, many Canadians now ponder the party's place in federal

politics as its uncertain future unravels on the national stage.

3. O'Toole's shift to the Centre Leaves Conservatives with an Identity Crisis

Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole made notable efforts to appeal to a broader segment of voters by nudging his party over the centre. However, in O'Toole's attempt to enlarge the already big tent party, his critics argue he caused that tent to collapse upon itself, leaving its members to question who Canada's Conservatives really represent.

During the leadership race, O'Toole ran on what has billed as a "true blue" platform of contemporary Canadian conservatism, making promises to repeal the Liberal government's carbon tax and firearms restrictions, only to later introduce his own version of a carbon tax plan and stating he would continue a Cabinet order banning 1,500 semi-automatic weapon models when on the campaign trail.

Party insiders, including Bert Chen, an executive on the Conservative's National Council, have called O'Toole's slide to the centre a "betrayal" of conservative values and demanded he be replaced as leader. Chen has since initiated a petition to have O'Toole removed as leader, but other party insiders have been hesitant to launch criticism at O'Toole's performance.

While O'Toole's future is uncertain, the broader issue of Conservative identity remains at a standstill. Justin Trudeau just won his third election, ousting three Conservative candidates since 2015: Harper, Scheer, and O'Toole. Political strategists and commentators drew from the 2015 and 2019 elections that Canadians were uninterested in definitively "right-wing" Tories in the Prime Minister's seat, but with O'Toole's failed shift to a platform closer to Mulroney-era progressive conservatism than Harper or Scheer, the Conservative Party is left with a large, unanswered question: who are we? It's a question they should hope to answer before the next election.

CANADA

SINGH
FOR ME?A LOOK AT THE
NDP LEADER'S
USE OF TIKTOK
IN THE FEDERAL
ELECTION
CAMPAIGNANALYSIS by Erika
Chung (12)

A historically underrepresented voting demographic was one of the targets of NDP leader Jagmeet Singh's election campaign strategy. In the months leading up to September 2021's federal election, Singh amassed nearly 850,000 followers and a cumulative 8.1 million likes on his official TikTok account, @thejagmeetsingh.

TikTok is a social media platform where users – mostly Gen Z or millennials – post short clips around 15-60 seconds in length of themselves with popular sounds, songs, or their own original audios.

In one of his videos, Singh asks "Why are we the only party willing to tax the super rich to invest in people to make their life better?"

"It's just the vibe, I'm that guy," responds the lively song, as Singh bops his head to the electronic beat.

With the COVID-19 pandemic limiting the frequency of in-person events and door-to-door campaigning, many political leaders have turned to social media to reach potential voters. The NDP's online campaigning strategy is reflective of this recent movement towards social media as a major platform for political parties. So far, Singh is the only Canadian federal party leader on TikTok.

Prime Minister and Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau has a combined 9.7 million followers on Instagram and Twitter, and releases bilingual updates on his account. Conservative leader Erin O'Toole also posts bilingual updates in addition to short video clips and infographics on his Twitter. However, liking or sharing a political post doesn't always translate to votes. In fact, traditional campaign strategies like physical signs have similar uncertainties.

The phenomenon is best explained by Carleton University professor of political science Jonathan Malloy, when talking about the use of physical signs

in election campaigns. "It's hard to really scientifically link the number of signs to the number of votes. It may be an indicator, but it doesn't necessarily mean you can prove that the signs created more votes by any means. From what I can tell, it is pretty anecdotal, rather than data-driven."

Social media is a big echo chamber for users, especially for those receiving news from political parties from social media. Users are unlikely to follow political candidates they dislike, instead interacting with content they agree with and/or enjoy. This can create a false sense of "hype" or popularity around political parties. This effect is not limited to political parties, especially on a platform like TikTok, where "trends" spread rapidly through its young audience.

Singh's social media presence is strong on both TikTok and Instagram. His frequency and usage of social media engagement suggests that more young people are able to interact with the political system and express their admiration of both Singh and his policies. NDP candidates have followed the party leader's lead, with TikTok accounts like @votekellyndp from Newmarket-Aurora, popping up in an effort to inspire young voters. Much of Singh's social media campaign centered on taxing the "ultra rich", fighting the climate crisis, and investing in health care.

However, unlike Singh's prediction in a TikTok video that young voters would turn out in historic numbers, NDP support was underwhelming, not quite the "orange wave" that would sway the popular vote in the NDP's favour. The NDP received 17.8 per cent of the popular vote, when two days prior to the election, the NDP polled at 21 per cent.

According to an analysis by the Globe and Mail of the NDP's weaker than expected performance, "Part of that was strategic voting, but some was weak ground organization." In organized labour, specifically private sector unions, NDP support has gotten progressively weaker.

At a post-election news conference, Singh acknowledged the flaws in the NDP campaign. He emphasized the need to improve ground game, referring to a traditional campaigning method consisting of canvassing and door-knocking by volunteers. This strategy is known as "Get out the vote", whose main goal is to get voters in the booth.

While the NDP focussed on TikTok, the Liberals used a more traditional approach with Facebook ads, and the Conservatives held live virtual Q&As and rallies. This, coupled with in-person campaigning, formed the hybrid approach that defined this pandemic federal election.

her way up the corporate ladder, eventually becoming Chief Financial Officer of China's largest privately-held company.

The Case Against Meng Wanzhou

In December 2018, Meng was arrested at Vancouver International Airport at the request of the United States. Her detainment triggered an outpouring of criticism from China, where the majority of people saw her arrest as a hostage situation. Meng's arrest was related to the extradition order from the United States. The United States was looking to extradite Meng on a fraud charge, contending that she lied to HSBC, a multinational investment bank, in business dealings that put the company at risk of breaching sanctions against Iran. The U.S. Department of Justice also accused Meng of misrepresenting Huawei's relationship with Iranian

VEXING VANCOUVER
GRANVILLE

NEWS REPORT by Ellis Jackson (11)

(Disclosure: Ellis Jackson volunteered with the Liberal Party of Canada during the election campaign)

It is said that a compromise is a result that leaves every participant equally unhappy. If that is how a compromise is defined, then the parliamentary elections of 2021 were surely a compromise.

On August 15, 2021, Governor General Mary Simon formally dissolved Parliament and ordered the Chief Electoral Officer to issue writs of election, ushering in a new election cycle.

The election proved to be as unpredictable as it was anticlimactic, with the polling at various times suggesting a sweeping Liberal majority, a slim Conservative victory, or a slight Liberal minority. While many ridings across the country were politically troublesome to the major players in the election, none were as vexing as Vancouver Granville. The riding was competitive during the race, a microcosm of the election at large, with it swinging rapidly between the Liberals, Conservatives, and the NDP during the election cycle.

The riding had been held by Jody Wilson-Raybould, a once-rising star in the Liberal Party and former Minister of Justice. In 2019, amid the SNC-Lavalin scandal, she was first transferred to Minister of Veterans Affairs, a change widely regarded as a demotion, and then subsequently ejected from the Liberal parliamentary caucus, but continued sitting as an independent MP. During the 2019 general election she was re-elected, achieving victory over Liberal candidate Taleeb Noormohamed and Conservative candidate Zack Segal. In July 2021, she announced that she would not be running for re-election in the next federal election.

In the 2021 election, three important players emerged during the race in Vancouver Granville. For the Liberal Party, tech executive Taleeb Noormohamed was once again chosen as candidate. For the Conservatives, lawyer Kailin Che ran. And for the NDP, climate and social-justice activist Anjali Appadurai was selected as candidate.

One issue on which the three candidates devoted much of their attention was housing. According to the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver, a professional association of realtors, housing prices in the Greater

Vancouver area have risen by 27.2 per cent over the last five years.

Each party proposed solutions, with the Liberals having proposed to construct 1.4 million new homes and institute measures against housing speculation, such as an anti-flipping tax. The Conservatives proposed measures including devoting 15 per cent of federal crown lands to housing, promoting high-density construction near federally-funded transit, and a two-year ban on foreign property ownership. The NDP proposed to construct 500,000 units of housing and invest in social housing and housing co-operatives. Both the Liberals and the New Democrats supported anti-speculation policies.

The issue of housing became a sore point during the race after Mr. Noormohamed revealed in an interview with Vancouver City News that he had bought and sold over 20 properties in Greater Vancouver since 2005, a practice that would be heavily discouraged under the Liberal housing plan. CTV News, using information from public housing records, later revealed the number of properties to be over 30. Mr. Noormohamed declined to reveal the profits of those sales in an interview with CTV News, "I can't give you an exact number," and added "I am absolutely committed to any and all measures we have put forward [on housing]."

Polling data collected by Mainstreet Research, an Ontario-based polling firm, at the beginning of the election indicated that Vancouver Granville was a safe Liberal seat without Jody Wilson-Raybould in the race, with around a third of respondents saying they would vote Liberal, a wide margin over the other parties. However, this early lead soon began to shift. The final projection by poll aggregator 338Canada had the Liberals at 30.7 per cent, the Conservatives at 30.3 per cent, and the NDP at 30 per cent, and considered Vancouver Granville a tossup between the three parties.

The local results proved difficult to call with the results being finally called by Elections Canada three days after Election Day. The final results were as unpredictable as predicted. Mr. Noormohamed won 17,055 votes, Ms. Appadurai won 16,619 votes, and Ms.

Che won 13,290 votes,

The final national results of the election were regarded by news media and the public as having proved disappointing to everyone involved. The Liberals failed to gain a parliamentary majority, the Conservatives failed to form government, and the NDP failed to expand their caucus by any significant amount, gaining only one seat. The Bloc Quebecois did not expand their influence, the Greens saw their share of the vote fall by two thirds, and the People's Party, while seeing major gains in the popular vote, failed to gain a single seat.

The Griffins' Nest had the opportunity to interview Sason Ross, the campaign chair for the Noormohamed campaign and executive assistant to Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, on the election results and their impact.

When asked about whether the Government had any plans to call another election to regain their majority, he remarked that while he did not have the knowledge of such decisions, he does know "...that the Government is really now focused on the task at hand," and that the issues "...I can see being priorities are healthcare, the environment, Indigenous reconciliation, and probably housing as well," indicating that an election in the near future is not on the table.

When asked whether the election results had changed any of the Government's plans and priorities, he said "I really don't think it does," and that "there are really critical issues that Canadians voted on in the past election that the Government must tackle."

On the local campaign in Vancouver Granville, Mr. Ross said that he learned the importance of personal interaction on the campaign trail, explaining that "In an electoral campaign, it's really about getting the candidate in front of voters," and that the voters "[have] that direct line of access to the candidate."

He also commented that during the campaign, "issues of housing and issues of the environment really came to the forefront," giving Mr. Noormohamed a better indication of his now-constituents' desires and attitudes when he represents them in the House of Commons.

BREAKING DOWN THE DIPLOMATIC
BREAKDOWN BETWEEN THE US,
CHINA, AND CANADA

NEWS REPORT by Ellie Duggan (12)

For the past three years, Canada has been caught between two superpowers - China and the United States - and their jostling for supremacy in the case of Meng Wanzhou and the detention of the two Michaels. At the start of the case, very few people knew who Meng Wanzhou was, but over the last three years her story has gained international attention. During Meng's house arrest, she lived close to Eric Hamber, bringing the international dispute very close to home.

Huawei and Meng Wanzhou

Meng was born in Chengdu, China. She is the eldest daughter of consumer-tech company Huawei's founder, Ren Zhengfei. Meng attended Huazhong University of Science and Technology, and while attending she earned a master's degree in accounting. After university Meng started as a secretary at the company and worked

her way up the corporate ladder, eventually becoming Chief Financial Officer of China's largest privately-held company.

The Case Against Meng Wanzhou

In December 2018, Meng was arrested at Vancouver International Airport at the request of the United States. Her detainment triggered an outpouring of criticism from China, where the majority of people saw her arrest as a hostage situation. Meng's arrest was related to the extradition order from the United States. The United States was looking to extradite Meng on a fraud charge, contending that she lied to HSBC, a multinational investment bank, in business dealings that put the company at risk of breaching sanctions against Iran. The U.S. Department of Justice also accused Meng of misrepresenting Huawei's relationship with Iranian

telecom company Skycom in further dealings. US investigators claimed that Meng was attempting to get extra banking services. Iran is subject to U.S. sanctions, which means that banks can be found criminally liable if they assist in moving money out of a sanctioned country and into world wide banking.

In the face of international pressure, Canada was keen to show the independence of its judicial system and Meng was placed under house arrest. During her house arrest, she was able to live in one of the two houses she owned in the Shaughnessy area and was permitted to travel around the city, wearing a GPS tracking ankle bracelet.

The Two Michael's Detention

Following Meng's arrest, China Michael Kovrig, a former diplomat, on December 10, 2018. He was an employee of the global think-tank International Crisis Group. Within

days, China also arrested business consultant Michael Spavor, under suspicion of "engaging in activities that threatened China's national security.", according to Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang. China repeatedly refused that the cases were connected to Meng's, saying they are "entirely different in nature." However, the arrests were seen by observers around the world as a form of retaliation for Meng's detention.

Meng's Release

On September 24, 2021, Meng accepted the charges for misleading HSBC in 2013 but did not plead guilty to the fraud charges. The agreement stated that she takes "responsibility for her principal role in perpetrating a scheme to defraud a global financial institution," said acting U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York Nicole Boeckmann.

Huawei was charged with misleading HSBC. Huawei went a different route than in the Meng case. As the charges against Huawei are different from Meng. They felt the case against the company would be complicated and difficult to resolve as they have other open cases. Huawei has had many different criminal investigations and has been charged by the U.S. justice department 19 times, since 2007.

Meng boarded a flight from YVR to Shenzhen the afternoon she was

released.

The Two Michael's Release

Following Meng's release, the Chinese government released the two Michaels. Huawei officials say the two Michaels' release was not known to the company until Meng was on her way back to China from Vancouver. Any conversation of the two Michaels took place separately, and that in the 18 months of talks between the US Department of Justice and Huawei's lawyers, it was not directly discussed. However, the political analysts in Canada do believe the cases were linked.

The Fallout

In the short-term, Canada has to decide whether to allow Huawei to provide 5G infrastructure equipment to the country. If Canada rejects Huawei, it is likely to inflame tensions between the two countries again. Canada will need to balance its relations between the two superpowers.

In the longer-term, the relationship between China and the US will continue to drive global international relations. Current problems with the supply chain of manufactured goods show how interlinked the world economy is. Given that the world is also facing a climate crisis and the two countries are the largest polluters, it is vital that both countries continue to co-operate and provide leadership.

CANADA

GOVERNMENT SPENDING DURING COVID

NEWS REPORT by Willow Peterson (8)

By the end of March 2020, COVID was starting to have a major impact on employment, healthcare and the economy. The Canadian government was faced with huge expenditures, spending massively on helping failing businesses, unemployed workers, and various sick benefits, as well as creating an effective vaccine and providing massive amounts of personal protection equipment (PPE).

As of November 30, 2020, the federal government had committed \$322.3 billion towards fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. News media have been tracking down federal COVID spending and have found that at least a quarter of a trillion dollars of government expenditure is being used to support more than 100 different measures and programs.

Some measures included safe return to classrooms, support to Indigenous communities, and long term care funds. The more major examples of government spending include CERB, PPE, and COVID vaccines.

Canada Emergency Response Benefit, also called CERB, was introduced in April 2020 to help Canadians who had lost their jobs due to COVID or who were eligible for sickness benefits. CERB also helped Canadians pay their bills during the pandemic. On June 15, it was extended by eight weeks for Canadians who still couldn't return to work safely. By early August, 8.5 million individuals had received help from CERB and more than 4 million had returned to work because of the help from the program. CERB cost the government at least \$80 billion.

Over \$8 billion was spent on PPE, including gloves, face shields, face masks, etc. Although widely used by the general populace, the most frequent users are healthcare workers.

Another major source of spending was COVID vaccines. Spending related to the vaccines also included needles, syringes, swabs, and gauze needed in order to inject the fluid; along with the infrastructure required to transport the vaccines. As of early 2021, the government spent at least \$18 billion on various aspects of the COVID vaccines: research and development, contact tracing and testing, procurement, deployment, and administration.

Although the cost of nurses and doctors related to COVID is hard to determine, some equipment costs can be calculated. For example, Canada spent \$35,000 to \$50,000 on each ventilator used to treat COVID patients, and about 50,000 were purchased. \$2.2 billion is also being invested for life sciences and vaccine manufacturing.

Canada has also spent over \$14 billion for long term care and is planning to invest another \$3 billion.

According to CBC News, the federal government has spent an average of \$952 million a day fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the next three years, \$101.4 billion will be invested to stimulate economic recovery in a post-COVID Canada.

For the first time ever, Canada's net debt is over \$1 trillion as of April 19, 2021, after a \$354 billion deficit due to the pandemic. Canada's debt has grown quicker than any other developed nation, and experts expect it to keep climbing up to \$1.6 trillion this year. The federal government will have incurred more debt over the COVID-19 pandemic than it did over the last 20 years combined. A recent report shows that without policy changes or tax increases, Canada will not post a surplus until the year 2070.

As of the 28th of October, Canada is still faced with high numbers of COVID cases, and government spending continues in effort to combat the pandemic.



ADRIAN WYLDE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE TRC'S 94 CALLS TO ACTION, EXPLAINED

ANALYSIS by Liliana Chow (12)

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) was formed to bring more awareness to the discrimination and marginalization Indigenous Peoples faced in the past and continue to face today. The TRC has said that reconciliation cannot begin unless Canadians know the historical experiences of Indigenous People on the land that is now called Canada, and recognize the continuing impacts of genocidal institutions.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada was created in 2008 to guide Canadians in learning about the history of Indigenous Peoples in Canada and begin reconciliation. The TRC's website mentions that its "mandate was to inform all Canadians about what happened in residential schools. The TRC documented the truth of Survivors, their families, communities and anyone personally affected by the residential school experience. This included First Nations, Inuit and Métis former residential school students, their families, communities, the churches, former school employees, government officials and other Canadians."

The final report compiled the stories of the 150,000 Indigenous Peoples

who were forced to attend residential schools, included estimated death toll figures, and suggested ways the Canadian government could reconcile with Canada's genocidal past.

The 94 Calls to Action are recommendations made by the TRC to be implemented by the federal, provincial, territorial, and Indigenous governments. These recommendations are divided into categories: education, child welfare, culture/language, health, justice, and reconciliation. Some examples are an inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, reducing the number of Indigenous children in foster care, creating university degrees in Indigenous languages, acknowledging that the health of Indigenous Peoples today is directly impacted by residential schools and previous discriminatory laws, and more.

As of October 2021, 20 of the calls had not begun, 32 hold project proposals, 29 are in progress, and only 13 are complete. While the final report was published in 2015, only 13 recommendations have been fully completed.

One reason as to why the vast majority of calls have yet to be implemented relates to how they are being

implemented. More Indigenous voices have been included in the making of the BC's new curriculum. However, Canadian Association of Social Work President, Dr. Susan Cadell, said that how schools teach Indigenous history varies widely. She stated that "some have courses that are optional [and] some have courses that are required." Moreover, Cadell said that there is no specific information that is required to be included in all of the courses, meaning that the information being taught varies across the province.

Call 62 states that Canada is to "make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal Peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students". In the Vancouver School District, only Van Tech and Eric Hamber offer BC First Peoples 12, and this class isn't mandatory, meaning most students are not learning specifically about Indigenous history. The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a time for Canada to reflect on the many Calls to Action that are yet to have been answered, and highlight the reconciliatory path forward.

WHAT IS RECONCILIATION?

ANALYSIS by Sara Maya Budhiraja (9) and Zachary Lukan (9)

The word "reconciliation" means two groups coming to a truce after a time of conflict. In Canada, this refers to recognizing the truth about our history and working with Indigenous people to mend the consequences of these events to move forward together. This means education about the cultural genocide that happened against Indigenous people and how they were and still are disadvantaged.

For decades, Canadians were unaware of the horrible conditions that Indigenous people had to endure in residential schools and on reserves, as Indigenous history wasn't taught about in schools until recently. This led to the development of stereotypes about Indigenous people, since people only saw inaccurate portrayals through media.

It is important to educate those who are Non-Indigenous and bring Indigenous peoples into that process. For so long, the narrative has been controlled by people who have not been impacted by Canada's treatment of Indigenous peoples.

The second part of reconciliation is working with Indigenous peoples to create a better future for Indigenous peoples. This means fair education and clean water for reserves. Over 100 reserves across Canada do not have access to clean tap water, something many Non-Indigenous Canadians often take for granted. Support for the survivors of residential schools who have experienced trauma is also needed.

While only making up 4.9 per cent of Canada's population, Indigenous people make up 30 per cent of Canada's prison population. These statistics tell us that Indigenous peoples are facing a cycle of addiction and poverty, which leads to incarceration. Life expectancy for Indigenous people is also much lower than other Canadians as many reserves do not have access to quality healthcare. One of the most prominent causes of these basic needs not being met is the way reserves are funded. Normally, provincial governments control education and things like clean water, but reserves are funded by the federal government. Reconciliation means recognizing all these inequalities and creating plans of action to fix every single one of them.

National Day
for Truth and
Reconciliation
September 30th



Canada

CANADA'S NEW HOLIDAY: A STEP TOWARDS RECONCILIATION

NEWS REPORT by Alexandra Chow (10)

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a new holiday in Canada that occurs annually on Sept. 30th. Parliament introduced this federal holiday in June 2021 to commemorate the history of residential schools and honour the Indigenous Peoples who were and remained deeply impacted by these schools.

As a result of the heightened national conversation, Non-Indigenous Canadians are becoming more aware of the inequalities Indigenous Peoples face, which leads to the public desire

to move towards reconciliation. In turn, this prompts the government to take action. However, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is not a disconnected and frivolous action the federal government decided to take, making a national holiday to honour the history of residential schools was recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada was created in 2007 with the purpose to educate Canadians about the history of the

residential school system and facilitate reconciliation among all Canadians. In 2015, they created a Calls to Action report. Calls to Action are actions that "advance the process of Canadian reconciliation", according to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The Calls to Action report states that the purpose of the holiday is "to honour Survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process."

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation falls on Orange Shirt Day, which is an Indigenous-led day to remember the legacy of residential schools. However, this is not a coincidence. The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is intentionally on the same date to "build on the momentum [of Orange Shirt Day]", explains an article from the Canadian Press published in the Vancouver Sun. Orange Shirt Day occurs during early fall as that is when children were taken from their families to residential schools.

Since the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a federal holiday, all federal workers have a paid day off. If a province or territory chooses to make it a holiday in their region, provincial government workers will also have the day off. Just over half of the provinces and territories have recognized this as a holiday: British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Manitoba, Newfoundland

and Labrador, P.E.I., and Nova Scotia. Nunavut plans to recognize the day next year.

On the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, many events were held to remember the legacy of residential schools. There were countless organized events and ceremonies, as well as many online programs highlighting the stories of residential school survivors.

While many Canadians were reflecting on Canada's history with Indigenous Peoples, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau joined his family in Tofino, BC for a vacation. He later admitted that "Travelling on Sept. 30 was a mistake, and I regret it", and subsequently visited the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc nation on October 18.

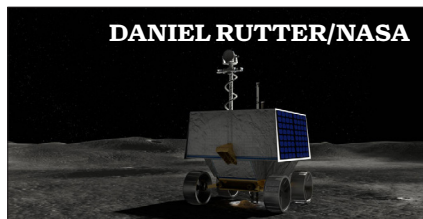
Other politicians have had meaningful ideas of what Canadians should do to move towards a better relationship with Indigenous Peoples. Michael Lee, Liberal MLA for the Vancouver-Langara community in which Hamber is located, recommends that Non-Indigenous Canadians read the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's reports, donate to Indigenous organizations, and spread awareness about the history between Canada and Indigenous Peoples.

Now that Non-Indigenous Canadians are becoming increasingly educated on the systemic oppression that Indigenous Peoples face, it is the belief of many that it is only right that Canada reconcile its history once and for all.

INTERNATIONAL

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT NASA'S VIPER

NEWS REPORT by Salena Sharma (8)



NASA's Artemis program will be sending their Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER) to the Moon's South Pole in late 2023. The rover will use its four instruments to analyze the lunar soil in the Moon's Nobile Crater and determine if water content is present. Water sources on the Moon can provide rocket fuel, breathable oxygen, and make space travel cheaper and more fundamental. The discoveries it makes will pave the way for future deep-space explorations.

The Artemis Program is a United States-led international human space-flight program that was created by NASA in 2017. Their goal is to land the first woman and first person of colour on the Moon by 2024. If successful, it will include the first crewed lunar landing mission since Apollo 17, in 1972 – the last lunar flight of the Apollo program. NASA plans to continue its research on the Moon throughout the coming years for answers that could contribute to the exploration of Mars.

In 2017, US President Donald Trump proposed sending astronauts to the Moon. NASA announced that they would start sending astronauts to the Moon in 2028. Trump's administration then shifted the deadline to send astronauts to the Moon up from 2028 to 2024. Lunar scientists have been identifying their next steps for projects to explore other planets. They later proposed they would send a rover to the Moon's South Pole, specifically to Nobile Crater, to look for water resources.

The existence of water on the moon was observed by data from previous missions. VIPER will be the first robotic rover on the Moon. It will launch in late 2023 to Nobile Crater. The rover will be controlled down at NASA's Ames Research Center in Silicon Valley, California.

"Once on the lunar surface, VIPER will provide ground truth measurements for the presence of water and other resources at the Moon's South

Pole, and the areas surrounding Nobile Crater showed the most promise in this scientific pursuit," NASA associate science administrator Thomas Zurbuchen states.

The rover is approximately the size of a golf cart. It will run on solar power, depending on the Sun – which is low on the pole's horizon – to stay warm and charged for its investigations. This rover will be one of NASA's first rovers with headlights due to the shadowed craters that are hazardous to VIPER.

VIPER will search for water and ice sources for three lunar days (equivalent to 100 Earth days). The rover will roam several miles during its mission and use its four scientific instruments to sample soil from different environments.

The rover will drill into the lunar soil, analyze it and send the reports back to Earth. VIPER will visit six locations of scientific interest and will use the drill samples to indicate whether its peripatetic route is leading to the water sources.

Nobile Crater is dark and shadowed with locations that will never see the Sun. The crater was formed through a collision with another smaller celestial body and is permanently covered in shadows – allowing ice to exist there. Nobile Crater provided many parameters for VIPER. For example, it provided visibility of Earth to help keep clear communication between the rover and the scientists at the Ames Research Center. Engineers have to use critical thinking for VIPER to manage the shadows of Nobile Crater. The surface is warm during the day and extremely cold at night.

Extreme swings in light and darkness could make it harder for the rover to dodge hazards. Periods of darkness in lunar regions can last multiple Earth days, therefore, VIPER will park in identified safe retreats where periods of darkness are shorter.

The Crater showed possibilities of survival and water sources. However, scientists do not know what the crater will be like, so they are devising the rover to prepare for the lunar soil.

The rover can drive sideways or diagonally, spin in a circle and move in any direction without transmuting the way it is facing. If the rover encounters soft soils, it will be able to walk using its wheels by moving each one independently to free itself.

VIPER will study the surface of 36 square miles; ten to fifteen of which are expected to traverse during its mission. The rover will collect samples from at least three drill locations.

An analysis of these samples from a variety of depths and temperatures will help scientists to better predict where else ice may exist on the Moon. With locations that do have ice, NASA will create a global resource map for future crewed lunar missions.

The cost of building and operating VIPER is \$433.5 million USD and an additional \$226 million USD will be paid to Astrobotic, a space robotics company, who will be sending VIPER and other science and technology payloads to the surface of the Moon.

Artemis is working to find ways of sending women, men, and robots to the Moon to collect more scientific research. The data may help in planning the future exploration of different planets, such as Mars.

A MILESTONE FOR SPACE TRAVEL: SPACE X INSPIRATION 4

NEWS REPORT by Alice Deyell (8)

On September 16, humanity took one step closer to commercial space travel when four civilians went into orbit around the earth. Jared Isaacman, Hayley Arceneaux, Chris Sembroski and Sian Proctor were the crew of the Inspiration4 mission, a SpaceX spaceflight with the goal of raising \$200 million for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The Inspiration4 astronauts launched from the Kennedy Space Center's Launch Complex 39A, the same location where the first humans ever to land on the moon launched. Inspiration4 spent three days orbiting around the Earth in the SpaceX Dragon Capsule, launching atop a Falcon 9 rocket.

At 7:06 EDT on September 18, 2021, the Inspiration4 capsule splashed down off the coast of Florida, ending their mission. The crew then received their SpaceX astronaut wings, approved by the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA). Commentators have called this mission an important historical milestone for space travel as we enter a new space age.

Each of the crew members of Inspiration4 had a designated core value to represent during the mission. Jared Isaacman was the commander of the mission and he represented the value of leadership. He is the CEO and founder of Shift4Shop, an eCommerce software, also being certified as a pilot. Hayley Arceneaux is a physician's assistant at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and represented the value of Hope. She is a pediatric cancer survivor, being diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer, in her left knee at the age of 10. Chris Sembroski was the Mission Specialist for the mission and he represented generosity. He is an air force veteran and currently works as an aerospace data engineer. Sian Proctor was the mission pilot of Inspiration4, representing prosperity. She is an accomplished geoscientist, entrepreneur and pilot.

The SpaceX Inspiration4 spent three days orbiting the Earth. The whole team had never been to space before, with all of them civilians. Jared Isaacman paid an undisclosed amount for the trip, likely being in the millions. When they launched, their rocket pushed them off the planet, with the Dragon Capsule becoming their home for their time in orbit. The spacecraft orbited 575km above the Earth, higher than the International Space Station and the Hubble telescope. While in space, they worked on some experiments, mostly relating to the human body in outer space.

As they returned to Earth, their parachutes were deployed to ease their descent into the Pacific Ocean. They splashed down in the Atlantic, where the crew of four was promptly met. The crew and capsule were brought onto a recovery vessel, with the capsule eventually heading for Cape Canaveral for inspections. The four new space-goers were brought to the SpaceX headquarters in Hawthorne, California. There they received their astronaut wings, pins that certified their new status as Private Astronauts. The wings have their name, mission role and callsign on the back, with a winged dragon capsule on the front. Hayley Arceneaux said, "This beautiful symbol of our journey means everything to me!" and Sian Proctor exclaimed, "I cried when I got my wings!" This proves as a testament to the achievement of these four new astronauts and how their time in space will affect their lives.

IS SPACE A GOOD INVESTMENT?

ANALYSIS by Max Von Dehn (10)

Jeff Bezos spent \$5.5 billion USD on a journey to the edge of space for 11 minutes. Meanwhile on Earth, over 9 million people a year die from starvation, and global temperature continues to climb. This prompts the question: is space a good investment?

We have been in space since 1961, when in the heat of the Cold War the Soviet Union managed to get the first human into space. At the time, the strategic value of space was too much to pass on, allowing countries to wipe out their enemies without getting their hands dirty. With both the United States and the Soviet Union battling for control of space, in 1969 humanity stepped foot on a different celestial body for the first time ever. However, times have changed.

We no longer have global wars to worry about, but instead humanitarian crises within all borders. Despite this, our investment in space has only increased, especially with the "Billionaire Space Race". Richard Branson also ventured to the edge of space this year for \$841 million USD. To many, space has become a billionaire's playground, with no value to the rest of us. However, when considering the value of space, it is important to differentiate governmental spending and the private sector. These parties have vastly different objectives in space and should be treated separately.

In 2020, NASA made up just 0.48 per cent of the United States' federal budget. This is a very small part of spending, meaning it does not take much away from spending in other areas. Yet despite the small budgets of NASA and other government space agencies, they manage to provide a huge amount of benefit to the world. One of NASA and the International Space Station's largest contributions is in recording data about Earth. Images from NASA satellites help inform us on the amount of carbon stored in forests – a critical factor when considering climate change as forests continue to shrink. These satellites have also helped save lives with their ability to help predict natural disasters, something that will only become more important with the increasing commonality of natural disasters.

Even the International Space



Station, one of the more controversial government-funded space projects, costs just 12 billion US dollars a year. That cost is split between all 15 member countries. It is justified in the eyes of many, as the Space Station has unified many countries, including former bitter enemies. Governmental involvement in space has shown one of space's greatest assets; space changes one from a citizen of a country to a citizen of the earth.

Governments are no longer leading the way into space. In recent years, companies such as SpaceX have taken over the space industry, becoming the primary way to gain entry to the stars. This takeover was expected, as companies can take financial risks that a government could never, as well as even risking human lives. However, should they be there in the first place?

When it comes to billionaires, there is often controversy around

how they spend money. However, billionaires have the right to spend their money as they please. The government can tax them more, but cannot force billionaires to spend their money in a specific way. At the end of the day, we need to not think of how billionaires could spend their money differently, but instead if we can benefit from their investments.

There is a large portion of the current space industry that offers nothing to most people – space tourism. Space tourism is currently one of the largest parts of our future involvement in space. However, it will be attached to a large price tag, one that could be spent somewhere else.

Despite this, there still is something to gain from the commercialization of space, although it may take a while to see the fruits of its labour. For this reason, space is best viewed as an investment. Jeff Bezos stated that the

goal of Blue Origin, the space tourism company he owns, is to build an infrastructure that future generations can build off, with Elon Musk's SpaceX attempting a similar goal. This will be done through the commercialization of space. SpaceX has already managed to cut rocket launch prices to almost three times less than NASA's price. With space tourism's prominence, we can at least hope that it makes space a safer investment.

Still, what is there to need from space? Is it just a demonstration that humanity can live where it wants, with a little scientific bonus added? Having a foothold in space does offer some things we just can't have on Earth. One of the most important contributions that is often overlooked is satellites. The communications we have today are only possible because of our foray into space, and so to some extent, we must always continue to invest in space to maintain what we have right now. Additionally, certain materials are easier and cheaper to manufacture in lower gravity, such as fibre optic cables, which are often used in transporting large amounts of data, again something that is integral to the society we have today. There is also the possibility of gathering resources from space, allowing us to continue our growth without devastating the planet. In addition to helping with the climate crisis on that front, space also offers humanity the possibility of offloading dangerous materials or excess carbon. It must be considered that these prospects will need a long time to be fleshed out, and would not provide any benefit until long after some of Earth's problems have caught up with us.

Fundamentally, we can live without space. There are a lot of aspects of our spending in space that are questionable and do not address the critical problems we have on Earth. However, space is quickly becoming the only direction that we can expand into. It offers solutions to existing problems if given enough time. While the money invested in space could be spent in other ways, the ultimate question we need to ask is: does space offer us enough to be a worthwhile investment, regardless of who is spending the money?

INTERNATIONAL

THE FALL OF AFGHANISTAN: A NEW TALIBAN RULE



RAHMAT GUL/ASSOCIATED PRESS



WAKIL KOHSAR/AFP

NEWS REPORT by Stephen Kosar (11)

On the 15th of August 2021, Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, fell to Taliban forces, marking the end of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the 20 year Afghan War.

That morning, the Taliban entered the city facing little resistance. One Taliban commander noted “[they] didn’t see a single soldier,” with their forces making it to the city center in the hour, and the presidential palace by the afternoon.

Many NATO aligned embassies, including the Canadian embassy, were evacuated and closed the same day.

Hours earlier, the President of Afghanistan, Ashraf Ghani, fled to Uzbekistan with his family and close aides, reportedly with large sums of cash. He later denied these claims. In many ways, his departure marked the collapse of the Afghan government. As of the 22nd of October, Ghani was in the United Arab Emirates, purportedly on humanitarian grounds.

The only place in the capital still under control by the Afghani and US governments at the time was Hamid Karzai International Airport, the main airport in Afghanistan. The US and its allies evacuated more than 123,000 officials, diplomatic staff, and refugees out of the country from the airport until the 30th of August, when NATO forces abandoned the airstrip.

The fall of Kabul followed the rapid collapse of the Afghan defense and the capture of the overwhelming majority of Afghanistan’s provinces by the Taliban since the withdrawal of US troops on the 1st of May. International observers were shocked at the fast pace of the Taliban’s advancements. A US intelligence report dated the 12th of August reasoned that the capture of Kabul would take 90 days from that point: it took three.

In total, it took three months and two weeks for a decades-long mission in Afghanistan to collapse, with a Taliban-led interim government now claiming control over the nation.

The Taliban previously ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, with their regime characterized by a severe and distorted interpretation of the Islamic religious rules, known as Sharia law.

Under the Taliban rule, their version of Sharia was instituted into law. Rules that were once open to interpretation became fundamental laws. Music, television, film, and most forms of art were banned. Although many Islamic scholars and scriptures support the idea of women having jobs and getting education, the regime banned women from working and going to university. Additionally, they emphasized the role of modesty from traditional Islamic rulings but took away peoples’ Islamic right to choose. The Taliban

made it mandatory for men to wear what they considered modest clothing and for women to wear the niqab when out and be accompanied by a male family member.

To install fear in civilians, the regime held public executions and punishment for people that broke these laws.

However, nearly all these restrictions were lifted when in 2001, following 9/11, the US and its allies invaded Afghanistan as part of the Global War on Terror. This invasion toppled the Taliban government and installed the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Many characterized the collapse of the Afghan government as a devastating failure for the United States. Public opinion in America and around the world was turned against the war in Afghanistan, considering the \$2 trillion spent and the thousands of lives lost. The rapid collapse of the government only worsened public perception, with many believing nothing was gained.

The US Military’s withdrawal plan involved strengthening the Afghan government and military forces. However, the Afghani troops were poorly trained and unprepared for the long-planned Taliban offensive. This led to their quick capitulation. Under the Doha Agreement between the US and the Taliban, NATO troops had to leave by May 2021, not leaving enough time for proper training to occur.

Many were quick to blame US President Biden, however, the wide consensus among the upper echelons of the US government was that all administrations since 9/11 were at least partly to blame. Retired Lieutenant General Daniel Bolger stated in an article by Politico that “There’s more than enough blame to go around... Generals and admirals — and I include myself — senior diplomats, and top intelligence leaders got it wrong over and over from start to finish.”

The future of Afghanistan is very uncertain. While many analysts believe that the Taliban will be more lenient than their previous government, they likely will implement harsh laws and extreme segregation of genders. The corruption that plagued the US backed government will no longer be a problem, with laws being enforced much more severely.

Economically, Afghanistan is facing a financial crisis, with extremely low levels of international trade and very little amounts of money entering the country. The United Nations predicts 95 per cent of Afghans will go hungry and 97 per cent may fall below the poverty line.

Only time can tell the true consequences of the Afghan War and the effects of the new Taliban government.



MARKUS SCHREIBER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

AFTER 16 YEARS, CHANCELLOR MERKEL STEPS DOWN

NEWS REPORT by Parker Haga (12)

After 16 years in charge of Europe’s biggest economy, Angela Merkel is stepping down as Chancellor of Germany. Angela Merkel was Germany’s first female chancellor and its first leader to step down due to their own volition.

As Merkel, the leader of the Christian Democratic Union of Germany, steps down, she leaves behind a complicated legacy. Many believe she was a strong, consensus-driven Chancellor, while others believe she lacked leadership and boldness. Despite what people believe, over Merkel’s 16 years in office, she has handled numerous major events; the immigration crisis, the Eurozone debt crisis, and now the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to leading Germany through these global events, Merkel ended the country’s military conscription, enabled the legalization of same sex marriages, instituted a minimum wage, and set a path for a nuclear and fossil-fuelled-power-free future.

Prior to becoming Chancellor, Merkel was the German Federal Minister of the Environment. Merkel’s scientific background and passion for

environmental action has been a significant part of her legacy. Many nicknamed her the “climate chancellor”. She has acted on this by persuading G8 leaders, such as George W. Bush, to curb climate change. However, as Merkel steps down, she still leaves Germany as the world’s largest air-choking coal producer. In addition, her departure is expected to throw Germany off course to meet its 2030 target of cutting greenhouse gas emission by at least 65 per cent from 1990.

Moreover, with Merkel stepping down, France’s Emmanuel Macron will most likely become Europe’s most influential leader as France has the second-biggest EU economy. However, Italy’s Prime Minister Mario Draghi also has the potential to become the next leader in the Union. Many politicians and diplomats believe there will be multiple premiers –all men – working together to fill Merkel’s shoes since her role and participation was so extensive. Regardless, there will be a significant change in the European Union’s leadership.

On September 26, Germany’s Social Democrats (SDP) won the most

seats in the national election for the first time since 2005. The SDP won 25.7 per cent of the vote, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) won 24.1 per cent, and the Green Party won 14.8 per cent. No winning party had ever received less than 31 per cent of the vote prior to this. Due to these numbers, a coalition will be required. As a result, the SDP party aims to lead Germany in a coalition with the Green Party and the Liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP). However, the CDU will also reach out to other smaller parties, including the Green Party and the FDP. Typically, the Green party leans towards the SDP, and the FDP leans towards the CDU, but the parties can lean either way and have not committed to a side. Until the coalition government is formed and a new chancellor is sworn in, Angela Merkel will remain the leader.

As Merkel’s tenure as the German Chancellor is coming to an end she explained that she was not looking for another political role. Instead, she asked herself, “Do I want to write, speak, hike? Do I want to be at home? Do I want to travel the world?”

THE TOXIC CONSERVATORSHIP

ANALYSIS by Marissa Lear (12)

From hits like “Baby One More Time” to “Toxic” Britney Spears has become a pop icon. However, for the past decade her name has been on front pages for other reasons. In 2008, Jamie Spears, Britney’s father, petitioned the court for a conservatorship. He stated that this was in Britney’s best interest due to her unstable mental state. The judge named Jamie Spears the conservator of the person and of the estate for Britney.

Throughout those 13 years, it slowly became clear that conservatorship was not the best option for her. Now, over a decade later, Britney is free after her father was removed as her conservator on September 29. Further details regarding the next steps of her conservatorship will be determined on November 12 during their next court date.

A conservator is “a court-appointed individual who handles financial or daily life affairs of a conservatee” as defined by the Legal Information Institute. A conservatorship of the estate means the conservator controls the conservatee’s finances. A conservatorship of the person means that the conservator dictates everything from the conservatee’s daily activities to health care. The court appoints conservators as last resorts and even then, only for extreme cases.

Andrea Seielstad, Professor of Law at the University of Dayton, wrote in an article in The Conversation that abusing the power of a conservatorship is a common occurrence that can be dated back to the 20th Century. Federal and local governments in the United States used it to mask theft of land from the Osage Tribe in the Midwest region. The government had used conservatorships as a way to gain control over Osage land and sell it back to the government without needing their

permission.

Several present stars like Amanda Bynes have gone public to talk about abuse within their conservatorships. Conservators have the power to financially exploit their conservatees which is a common example of the abuse they face.

Many are asking what the future holds for conservatorships. Some believe that the Britney v. Spears case has shone a light on the troubled justice system, and others feel that it is still a valuable solution for those unable to provide for themselves. Over the past decade, the whole world has gotten an inside look at what could happen with conservatorships, using Britney Spears’ as their main example.

The public has expressed disapproval regarding her situation and the recent Netflix documentary outlined the communal negative feelings towards conservatorships. Several journalists are reporting that this may lead to some reform or abolishing them completely.

Britney Spears’ conservatorship was first introduced because of a 2008 incident when Britney locked her and her children in a room after refusing to give them to her ex-husband’s bodyguard. At this time, Britney was at the height of her career and recently went through a difficult divorce the year prior. She wrote her Blackout album right before this incident which reflected her real life and the inner turmoil she was experiencing. Some have said that this album foreshadowed her deteriorating mental state which led to the conservatorship.

Britney could never get a break from the paparazzi and this in addition to the constant tabloids regarding her divorce, had a clear effect on her mental health. She was eventually involuntarily admitted to a hospital

for a psychiatric hold after losing full custody of her kids to her ex-husband. It was from there that the idea of a conservatorship was first offered up by her father.

This year was the first time the world heard what was truly going on for Britney Spears. She had never appeared in court to speak for herself. Her 24 minute speech on June 23 illustrated the cruel, traumatizing conditions of the conservatorship. She mentioned how she was forced to take lithium, which can lead to mental impairment if given a high dosage, after being taken off her usual medication. She had a lack of control over when she saw her kids or even got to drive her car. While many of these things were normal for conservatorships, with Britney functioning in the way she was and constantly touring, she did not feel that these actions were in line with her ability to perform at concerts or hold a four-year Las Vegas residency.

According to legal experts, for a conservatorship to be valid, the conservatee needs to be incapable of work. In her speech to the judge, Britney summarized how her father was abusing his position. He would deny her access to a lawyer of her choosing and forced her to keep her birth control device in. Britney tried several times to terminate the conservatorship soon after realizing the crippling impact it was having on her. She compared her life to sex trafficking.

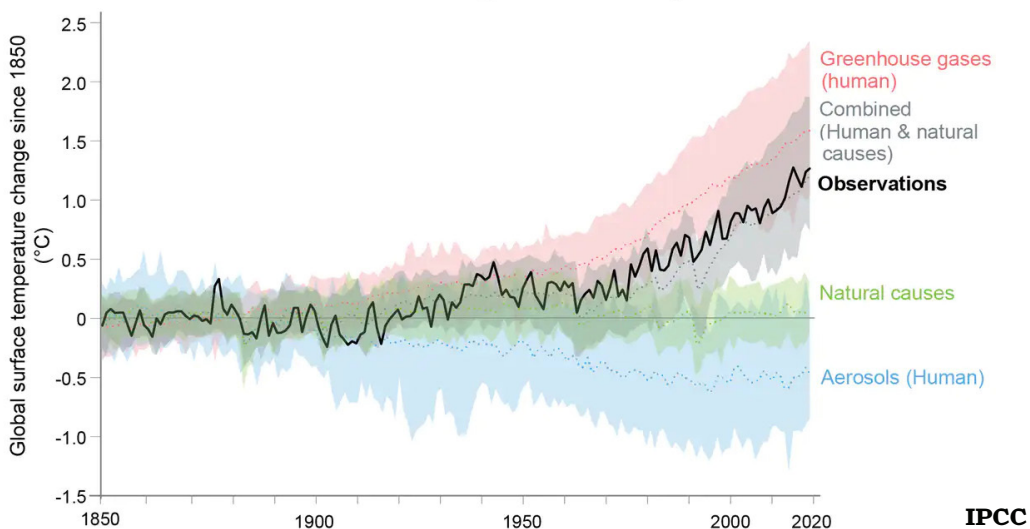
Britney Spears is currently waiting for the end of this year when her conservatorship will officially be terminated. In the meantime, a temporary conservator has replaced Jamie. Millions of fans have rallied behind Britney over the last year in support of her ending the conservatorship. It was a 13-year battle, but Britney Spears is free from her toxic conservatorship.

INTERNATIONAL

IPCC SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT: THE MOST SEVERE CLIMATE CHANGE WARNING YET

NEWS REPORT by *Arabella Mew (9)* and *Teagan Nichol (9)*

How do we know humans are causing climate change?



The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the primary of three instalments of the sixth assessment report (AR6) on Aug. 9, 2021. The IPCC is a body of the United Nations, responsible for advancing and assessing the science related to human-induced climate

change.

The current IPCC Chair, Hoesung Lee, said, "The Sixth Assessment Report will update our knowledge on climate change, its impacts and risks, and possible response options, and play an important role in implementing the Paris Agreement." This instalment

of the report summarizes the physical science basis by pulling together findings from over 14,000 peer-reviewed studies.

Climate change is defined as long-term changes in temperature and weather patterns for Earth's regional and global climates due to human

influence. The sixth assessment report serves as an undeniable warning of irreversible changes to the climate. The first instalment covers the physical science basis which has been divided into parts: A. The Current State of the Climate; B. Possible Climate Futures; C. Climate Information for Risk Assessment and Regional Adaptation, and D. Limiting Future Climate Change. Since the fifth assessment report, there have been new analyses, climate model simulations, and other methods combining evidence for an improved understanding.

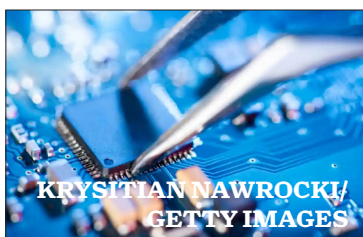
The report concludes that it is "unequivocal" that human influence has warmed the land surface, oceans, ice, and atmosphere of the planet as a cause of "widespread and rapid" changes. Many of these climate changes are irreversible and abrupt. IPCC author, Prof. Ed Hawkins of the University of Reading, said, "We're already experiencing climate change, including more frequent and more extreme weather events." The links between human-induced warming and extreme weather have become more apparent since the last report. The authors say that it is now an "established fact". The evidence provided of these changes includes heat waves and droughts, and heavy precipitation. In

almost all emission scenarios, warming of 1.5°C and 2°C is exceeded in the 21st century unless drastic reductions occur. However, the report does show that net-zero works for stabilizing and even reducing the surface temperature. The other two instalments are planned to be published in 2022.

To guarantee neutrality, the IPCC does not do its own research, but simply collects it in one place. The report released is a synthesis of all the relevant information volunteer IPCC scientists have found in the thousands of scientific papers released each year. Although the IPCC is not directly responsible for the original collection of data, it does have processes unique to its own organization. While creating reports, the IPCC collects and writes about information from other research studies. One of the essential parts of the IPCC process of creating a report is the reviewing stage. The report is reviewed by scientists employed by the IPCC. "Working Groups, members of the author teams, governments, IPCC observer organizations, and other organizations can all encourage experts to register as reviewers, facilitating the participation of experts encompassing as wide a range of views, expertise and geographical representation as possible."

THE GLOBAL COMPUTER CHIP SHORTAGE, EXPLAINED

ANALYSIS by *Max Von Dehn (10)*



It is hard to walk more than a couple of feet in your daily life without running into a device with a computer chip. These tiny devices are the lifeblood of computers, allowing what we take for granted to function properly. Everything from kitchen appliances, automobiles, and of course, devices require computer chips to function. Year after year, the demand for these chips has increased with no signs of slowing down. This means that the global shortage of computer chips has hit harder than it could have ever before, with large companies facing massive losses because of it. General Motors predicted almost two billion dollars of losses due to the shortages alone.

So how has a shortage of such titanic proportions appeared? As with most things, there is no single factor responsible for the scarcity. Especially as chips touch so many industries, it is hard to imagine that companies would let this occur; however, a large part of the shortage is due to something completely outside of their control.

COVID-19 spared no industries, chip manufacturing being no exception. At the beginning of the pandemic, one of the largest consumers of computer chips, the auto industry, cancelled the majority of their orders. The industry expected a large decrease in sales due to everyone being inside. However in 2021, car sales have jumped back to pre-pandemic levels, leaving car manufacturers scrambling

for chips. This compounds with the increase in purchases of consumer electronics, and companies stockpiling chips through the pandemic. As people were forced to work from home, and spent more time there, they invested in better electronics such as TVs, game consoles, and more. As the auto industry resumed their orders, the demand for computer chips had already been taken up by other companies, leading to longer waits.

This begs the question: why can't chip manufacturers just increase production? The issue is that chips are incredibly complex to make, requiring up to three months to produce, and even more to test and subsequently ship. They are extremely small and delicate, with each transistor that makes up the chip being smaller than a virus. Chips also require a perfectly clean environment to prevent damage. Small transistors make them vulnerable to damage from the smallest of dust particles. This results in the rooms in the factories being one thousand times cleaner than a hospital operating room. All this complexity means that rushing production will only lead to more problems down the road.

COVID-19 and the supply lag are not the sole reasons for the shortage. The world has seen a massive increase in demand for electronics. Even after a small falter in growth in 2019, 2020 saw a 5.4 per cent increase. This demand increase over the years have left manufacturers just ahead of demand, with COVID-19 disturbing the delicate balance of supply and demand.

Some experts forecast the wait for computer chips will head into next year, however, natural disasters, such as the cold snap in Texas that temporarily shut down chip production, could have their own effect.

The global chip shortage has shown how technology is completely integrated in our daily lives. However, it also demonstrates the precarious market we live in, where when problems occur, effects are large. The bottom line is, while the chip shortage right now is temporary, we should try to learn from it to prevent shortages like it in the future. So if you are ever shopping for cars, and notice that the promised electronic speed display is now analog, your Chevrolet Silverado is giving you one less mile per gallon than advertised, or that your iPhone is taking longer than expected to arrive, at least you know why.



GETTY IMAGES

THE RAPID SPREAD OF STREAMING SERVICES

NEWS REPORT by *Hannah Azad (12)*

The closure of theatres and increased time spent at home due to COVID has caused the popularity of streaming sites to surge in the past two years. After lockdowns were first implemented in 2020, these services—being accessible, affordable, and personalized—became a primary source of entertainment to many. The Wall Street Journal reported that over 16 million people subscribed to Netflix for the first time during this period, and the Canada Media Fund called it a "watershed moment" for Canadian media, experiencing significant viewership gains.

The overall number of subscriptions to streaming sites quickly surpassed 1 billion—a milestone that shocked the online-entertainment and media industry. Although they are still substantial, overall growth-rates of these services have since slowed.

When COVID placed Hollywood on pause, many movies that were originally planned to premier in theatres were redirected straight to streaming sites. Some of these include *Enola Holmes* (Netflix), *Borat* (Amazon Prime Video), and even the Broadway musical, *Hamilton* (Disney+). Industry experts say this process and increase in available content contributed to the enhanced appeal of streaming services

at the time.

Netflix, the most dominant streaming service in the industry, had especially benefited from this market boom. The streaming site attracted twice as many new subscribers as they had anticipated in 2020. Netflix's abrupt influx of users, and continuous release of original hits, including *Outer Banks*, had launched the company to great heights during the COVID year.

Unfortunately, Netflix would be impacted just as much by the pandemic's ease. As COVID restrictions loosened at the start of 2021, the streaming site's growth suffered dramatically. The number of Netflix subscribers increased by 4 million in the first 3 months of the year—their smallest gain in that time-frame in 4 years. They predict that they will continue to grow moderately for the remainder of 2021.

Meanwhile, the streaming service Disney+ has grown both during the first lockdown, as well as following it. The site exceeded 100 million subscribers after only 2 years of operating. With the help of the COVID boom, they were able to reach their goal of 60-90 million users 4 years earlier than expected. The platform continues to release original, exclusive content featuring much-loved characters, such as *Loki*, *Wanda Maximoff*, and *Cruella*

de Vil, sustaining its rapid growth.

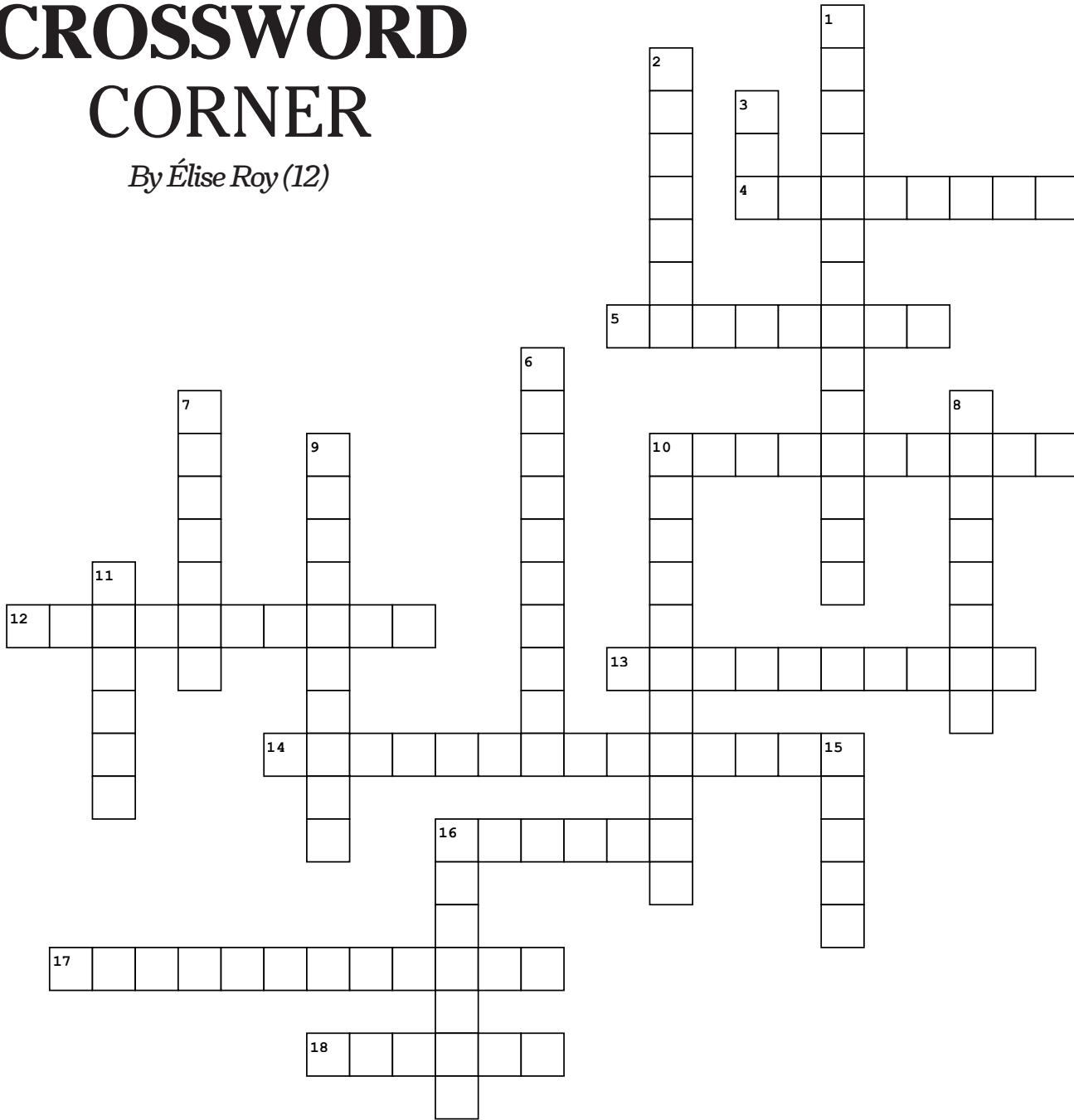
This swell of demand for video streaming services has made the market increasingly competitive. Similar to Disney+, companies have begun to launch their own platforms instead of streaming their original TV shows and films on existing ones. Experts say this may introduce the need for viewers to subscribe to multiple services, as the range of content on each of them will narrow. Smaller streaming services were given an opportunity to strengthen their consumer-base amidst the pandemic's market boom. The rise of sites, such as HBO Max and Youtube TV, has diluted the value proposition of those who previously stood alone in the industry. Concerns regarding the longevity of the services have arisen due to signs of market saturation.

A survey conducted by the United Talents Agency reports that 67 per cent of one-thousand US participants plan to spend more time consuming entertainment after the pandemic than they did prior to it. Their findings imply that despite the ease of restrictions, the viewing patterns that consumers developed during 2020 will likely remain consistent. Subsequently, the success of streaming services during the pandemic is predicted to continue well-after COVID.

HAMBERGER

CROSSWORD CORNER

By Élise Roy (12)



Across

- 4. A quick-service restaurant that is a division of White Spot
- 5. Botanical garden adjacent to Eric Hamber
- 10. Toucan Sam is the mascot for this multicoloured cereal
- 12. Word for a group of owls
- 13. The famous American bridge after which the Lion's Gate bridge in Vancouver was modelled
- 14. On November 7th, we change our clocks for _____ time
- 16. This pungent vegetable is thought to ward off vampires
- 17. Another term for Vitamin C
- 18. Main character in Netflix series Squid Game

Down

- 1. This 90-year-old Canadian actor best known for his role as Captain Kirk in Star Trek journeyed to outer space in the private launch of the Blue Origin rocket
- 2. Singer/buisnesswoman originally from Barbados
- 3. The only mammal with the ability to fly
- 6. A scaly, wingless, metallic insect
- 7. Protein that makes up hair, skin, and nails
- 8. The deadliest animal in the world, due to its ability to transmit diseases
- 9. Canadian-born James Naismith invented this sport
- 10. Word for a group of flamingos
- 11. A type of bird after which one of Vancouver's local mountains is named
- 15. An ornamental squash
- 16. An Italian dish consisting of tender morsels made from potatoes

A VERY HAIRY JOKE

COMIC by Lauren Lee (11)



ASK THE NEST ANONYMOUS ADVICE: ALL HAMBER'S MOST BURNING QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Question

Dear Nest,

How do I make friends in a COVID world?

-Pandemic Blues

Answer

Dear Pandemic Blues,

You would be surprised that it is possible to make friends with people in your grade that you hadn't previously been close with. The easiest way to make friends is by talking to those who sit next to you in class. They are probably in the same situation as you, so don't be afraid to be friendly. Your connection will grow since you see them every day. You could then spend time together outside of school. This year, I have been pleasantly surprised, making unexpected friendships by simply striking up a conversation. I wish you the best of luck.

-The Nest

Question

Dear Nest,

The pandemic has deteriorated the already strained relationship between my friend and I. How can I improve our relationship?

-Crumbling Companionship

Answer

Dear Crumbling Companionship,

Try planning a special activity for the two of you: for instance, watching a movie together, going out for lunch, or booking an art class (I highly recommend the latter—making art while chatting is superb). An activity that is out of the ordinary may help ease the tension. Secondly, give each other space if needed. Taking a few days away from each other is okay and part of a healthy friendship. Mend the relationship by focusing on the time you do spend together.

-The Nest

Question

Dear Nest,

I sometimes feel like participating in class because I have things to say but I just can't bring myself to raise my hand. Do you have any suggestions?

-Shy to Speak

Answer

Dear Shy to Speak,

Don't worry, doubts and nerves are completely normal! We all have them. In the future, try out the 3-2-1 method when faced with an anxiety-inducing situation (like in class!). The next time you have an urge to participate, don't give yourself enough time to overthink. Perform a quick countdown from 3 in your head, then raise your hand. If it goes smoothly, you can try it again! Soon, you will feel comfortable speaking in class. You've got this, I have faith in you.

-The Nest

Seeking advice? Reach out to The Nest anonymously via the form on our website www.ehnewspaper.ca

If your question wasn't answered, please write to us again: you may be featured in issues to come!



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