

MIDDLE EAST

WAR IN IRAN

■ U.S. and Israel intensify attacks after assassinating Supreme Leader Khamenei

■ Trump vows to avenge American troops killed in counteroffensive

■ Conflict swells as Tehran fires retaliatory strikes across Persian Gulf



Smoke plumes rise over Tehran on Sunday. The United States and Israel have shown no sign of relenting as they take aim at key military, political and intelligence targets. ATTA KENARE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Ayatollah's death sets 'axis of resistance' on an unpredictable new path

Assassination sparks anger, uncertainty across the Shia world

MARK MacKINNON
SENIOR INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENT
BEIRUT

THE GLOBE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

There were calls for revenge on Sunday from across the Shia Muslim world after the assassination of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, a cleric who long seemed to preside not just over Iran but half of the Middle East.

Beirut was tense Sunday evening, with the military deployed outside the country's lone airport and at major intersections in the Lebanese capital, even as many analysts suggested that Hezbollah – once the most formidable weapon in Iran's regionwide arsenal of proxy armies – was too weakened by a 2024 conflict with Israel to retaliate.

Ayatollah Khamenei was killed Saturday in a missile strike, part of the opening salvo in a war the United States and Israel have launched against Iran.

Early Monday morning there were reports of rockets fired from Lebanon into southern Israel, followed an hour later by at least three air strikes on the Hezbollah-dominated southern

suburbs of the city. Warplanes, presumably Israeli, could be heard in the skies afterward.

For much of the past two decades, the face of Iran's stern-looking, bespectacled Supreme Leader had stared down from billboards not just in Tehran and other Iranian cities but in Beirut and across southern Lebanon, street corners in Damascus and Baghdad and as far away as the Yemeni capital, Sanaa.

The ayatollah's death will be mourned by some Iranians, and officially marked by Iranian-backed militias across the region. But it will also be celebrated by at least as many Iranians who were repressed by his regime, as well as by Lebanese, Syrians and other Arabs who saw their countries broken and turned into fronts in the Islamic Republic's confrontation with the U.S. and Israel.

That confrontation was decisively lost long before the missile slammed into the ayatollah's official residence in Tehran, killing the world's most powerful and influential Shia cleric. Iran's "axis of resistance" had been crumbling since shortly after its ally Hamas launched its Oct. 7, 2023, invasion of southern Israel, triggering a furious and continuing response.

■ KHAMENEI, A9

Evidence links Indian officials at Vancouver consulate to Nijjar killing

MIKE HAGER
GREG MERCER

Canadian national-security officials were presented with evidence that Indian consular staff operating in Vancouver supplied information to assist in the assassination of Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, two sources told The Globe and Mail.

One of the Indian officials worked as a visa officer in the consulate, using his position to gather information about Mr. Nijjar from members of the Indian diaspora in Surrey, B.C., said the sources, one of whom is in law enforcement and one in national security.

Authorities believe the man, Kanwaljit Singh, was also an intelligence officer with India's external intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing, or RAW, the law-enforcement source said. The national-security source didn't identify Mr. Singh by name but confirmed that CSIS was monitoring an undercover RAW agent posted to the consulate who was also working as a visa officer.

Mr. Singh worked with Manish, a career diplomat who goes by one name and was Vancouver's consul-general at the time, both sources said.

The Globe is not identifying the sources because they were not authorized to share details of the investigation. Their information is based on the RCMP's investigation and intelligence from Canada's spy service and its allies in the United States and Britain.

While Ottawa has accused agents of India of being involved in the assassination, the identities of consular officials and their alleged roles in the Nijjar plot have never been publicly disclosed. The federal government expelled six diplomats in October, 2024, but only publicly named then-high commissioner Sanjay Verma.

Mr. Singh had previously been on a Canadian government list of accredited diplomats, The Canadian Press reported at the time, and his name was removed after the expulsions.

Mr. Nijjar, who was a key figure in organizing a referendum urging the creation of a separate Sikh homeland out of what is now the Indian state of Punjab, was gunned down in the parking lot of a gurdwara in Surrey, B.C., on June 18, 2023. The investigation into his death frayed an already strained relationship between Canada and the Indian government of Narendra Modi.

■ NIJJAR, A15

Carney says he aims to secure trade deal with New Delhi by end of year ■ A15

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by

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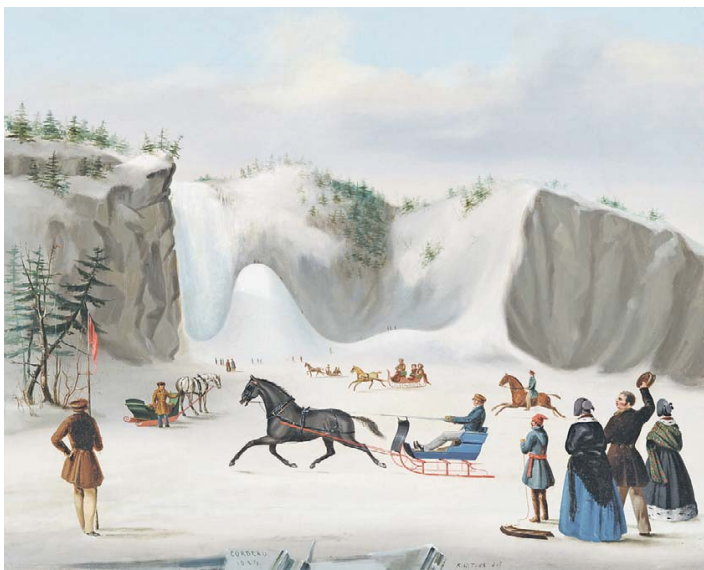
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ROBERT CLOW TODD'S CORBEAU AT MONTMORENCY FALLS



ROBERT CLOW TODD (ABOUT 1809–1866), CORBEAU AT MONTMORENCY FALLS, 1845, OIL ON CANVAS. THE MONTREAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, PURCHASE, DONALD LUC BOISVERT AND GASTON LAMONTAGNE FUND. PHOTO MMFA

Throughout March, we are showcasing artworks from the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. Founded in 1860, it is Canada's oldest art museum. MMFA's collection includes close to 47,000 works in a wide range of mediums. www.mbam.qc.ca

The timber merchant, shipbuilder and shipowner Allan Gilmour commissioned Robert Clow Todd to paint this picture to commemorate his horse's victory in an important race. The triumphant steed, Corbeau, is shown trailing a sled under admiring glances in a quintessential winter scene set at Montmorency Falls, near Quebec City. This popular location offering year-round activities for Quebeckers was the backdrop for similar paintings Todd made for proud horse owners, attesting to the prominence of this type of picture in Lower Canada at the time.

COLUMNISTS

JASON
DYCK

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LESLIE
BECK

FOOD FOR
THOUGHT



JOHN
RAPLEY

OPINION

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The Iran war potentially has large economic risks and no obvious payoff for the U.S. ■ B4

CORRECTIONS

A Saturday news column about journalistic balance incorrectly referred to released Palestinian hostages. Palestinian prisoners were released.

A Saturday news article about the British Columbia courts' stoppage of jury trials and other proceedings during the four weeks of FIFA World Cup games referred to Rebecca McConchie, the president of the B.C. Trial Lawyers Association, with an incorrect first name.

A Saturday Globe Investor article about taxes on investments misstated the name of the firm TSB Chartered Professional Accountant Inc.

A Feb. 9 Report on Business article on things Canadians should know about this tax season incorrectly stated that the CRA is doing away with mailing paper copies of notices of assessments and reassessments. People who don't have online accounts, have never shared their e-mails with the CRA or have chosen to receive paper copies of their tax assessments will continue to receive them via mail. However, digital copies will no longer be available through tax software.

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SANDRA E. MARTIN, STANDARDS EDITOR, standardseditor@globeandmail.com

A cardinal was found with a cellphone during secret conclave to elect Pope Leo, book claims

JOSHUA MCELWEE VATICAN CITY

The secret conclave that elected Pope Leo XIV head of the Catholic Church last May was interrupted when one of the 133 cardinals involved was found carrying a cellphone, a massive security breach, a book released on Sunday revealed.

As the clerics were preparing to take their first vote inside the Vatican's Sistine Chapel, which was fitted with jamming equipment to prevent outside communications, security officials picked up the signal of an active mobile connection.

The cardinals stared at each other incredulously, then one of the older clerics discovered he had a phone in his pocket and handed it over, according to *The Election of Pope Leo XIV*, a new book by two long-time Vatican correspondents.

The book does not name the cardinal or suggest he had any motive for keeping his phone, saying the moment left him "disoriented and distressed."

The scene was "unimaginable even for a film and never before seen in the history of modern conclaves," wrote the authors, Gerard O'Connell and Elisabetta Pique.

One such film, the 2024 hit *Conclave*, imagined a tangled web of intrigues during the fictional selection of a pontiff. Last year's unprecedented discovery of a phone was in its own way more startling than anything portrayed in that movie, Mr. O'Connell told Reuters. "Reality [was] better than fiction," he said.

Clerics taking part in a conclave



Pope Leo XIV leads the Angelus prayer from the window of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican on Sunday. GUGLIELMO MANGIAPANE/REUTERS

take a vow not to communicate with the outside world and surrender their phones and all other communication devices for the duration of the proceedings, which can last for days.

The cardinals met in a two-day conclave from May 7-8 under an intense global spotlight to elect a successor to Pope Francis, who died in April after 12 years leading the 1.4-billion-member church.

Much of the speculation at the time focused on the possibility that the cardinals would elect a new pontiff from Asia or Africa, given that the conclave was the most geographically diverse in history, with clerics from 70 countries taking part.

But no candidate from those regions garnered much support, according to the book, which discloses details of the cardinals' votes for the first time based on information from interviews with

participating clerics.

While it is strictly forbidden for cardinals to reveal details of the secret balloting at a conclave without permission from the future pope, it is common for journalists to slowly tease out information from clerics in the years afterward.

Two candidates immediately emerged as front-runners inside the conclave, the book said.

One was Italian Cardinal Pietro Parolin, a long-time Vatican official identified by many outlets as a leading favourite. The other was U.S. Cardinal Robert Prevost, a figure who was mostly unknown outside church circles but would emerge as Pope Leo, the first pontiff from the United States.

On the fourth ballot in the afternoon of May 8, Cardinal Prevost won with 108 votes.

REUTERS

U.S., Israel strike Iran after Khamenei's killing as Tehran vows revenge

Attacks continue amid counteroffensive that the U.S. military say resulted in deaths of three service members

**JON GAMBRELL
MELANIE LIDMAN
JOSH BOAK
ERIC TUCKER**
DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The U.S. and Israel pounded targets across Iran on Sunday, dropping massive bombs on the country's ballistic missile sites and wiping out warships as part of an intensifying military campaign after the killing of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Blasts rattled windows across the country and sent plumes of smoke high into the sky above Tehran. More than 200 people have been killed since the start of the strikes that killed Mr. Khamenei and other senior leaders, Iranian leaders have said.

Iran vowed revenge, firing missiles at Israel and Gulf Arab states in a counteroffensive that the U.S. military said resulted in the deaths of three service members – the first known American casualties from the conflict. Israeli rescue services said strikes had hit several locations, including Jerusalem and a synagogue in the central town of Beit SheMesh, where nine people were killed and 28 wounded, bringing the overall death toll in the country to 11. Eleven people were still missing after the strike, police said.

But the attacks on Iran showed no signs of relenting as the U.S. and Israel took aim at key military, political and intelligence targets in what appeared to be a widening war that carried the potential for a prolonged conflict that could envelop the Middle East and destabilize it. The strikes represented a startling show of military might for an American president who swept into office on an "America First" platform and pledged to keep out of "forever wars."

U.S. President Donald Trump said in a video posted to social media that the U.S. would "avenge" the deaths of the service members and that "there will likely be more" killed before the conflict ends.

Israel, which had pledged "nonstop" strikes, said it was increasing its attacks, with 100 fighter jets simultaneously striking targets in Tehran, Brigadier-general Effie Defrin told reporters at a briefing. The targets included buildings belonging to Iran's air force, its missile command and its internal security force, which violently quashed anti-government protests in January.

The U.S. military, meanwhile, said B-2 stealth bombers struck Iran's ballistic missile facilities with 2,000-pound bombs. Mr.



People watch from a rooftop as a plume of smoke rises after a strike in Tehran, Iran, on Sunday. More than 200 people have been killed since the start of the strikes that killed Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other senior leaders, Iranian leaders say. VAHID SALEMI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trump said on social media that nine Iranian warships had been sunk and that the Iranian navy's headquarters had been "largely destroyed."

Europe has mostly stayed out of the war and pressed for diplomacy, but in an indication that the conflict could draw in other nations, Britain, France and Germany said Sunday they were ready to work with the U.S. to help stop Iran's attacks.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Britain would allow the United States to use its bases to strike Iranian missile sites. The U.K. maintains nearby bases on Cyprus and the Chagos Islands, a British archipelago in the Indian Ocean.

The weekend attacks were the second time in eight months that the U.S. and Israel had combined against Iran. In the 12-day war last June, Israeli and American strikes greatly weakened Iran's air defenses, military leadership and nuclear program. But the killing of Mr. Khamenei, who ruled Iran for more than three decades, creates a leadership vacuum, increasing the risk of regional instability.

Mr. Trump, who a day earlier had encouraged Iranians to "take over" their government, signalled Sunday that he was open to dialogue with Iran's new leadership.

"They want to talk, and I have agreed to talk, so I will be talking to them," he told The Atlantic.

In the Gulf, Iran's retaliatory strikes went beyond U.S. and Israeli targets, pushing the conflict into cities that have long marketed themselves as regional safe havens.

The foreign ministers of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain said Sunday that their countries retain "the legal right to respond and the right to self-

defense" after Iranian strikes hit hotels, airports and other sites in multiple cities throughout the Gulf.

In the United Arab Emirates, authorities said most Iranian missiles and drones were intercepted. But some either got through or fell as debris, killing three people, injuring others and causing significant damage.

Bahrain and Kuwait said Iranian strikes in both countries hit civilian targets.

The weekend attacks were the second time in eight months that the U.S. and Israel had combined against Iran.

In other developments, Israel launched strikes on Lebanon's capital, Beirut, after the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah fired missiles across the border early Monday.

It was the first time in more than a year that Hezbollah has claimed a strike against Israel. The Israeli military said it intercepted a projectile that crossed the border and that several others fell in open areas. No injuries or damage were reported.

Hezbollah said in a statement that the strikes were carried out in retaliation for the killing of Mr. Khamenei and for "repeated Israeli aggressions."

Associated Press journalists in Beirut were jolted awake by a series of loud explosions that shook buildings and caused windows to shatter. Warplanes could be heard flying low overhead.

Lebanese government officials had urged Hezbollah not to enter the fray in support of Iran, fearing another war. The country has not recovered from the last Israel-Hezbollah war, which nominally ended with a U.S.-brokered

ceasefire in November, 2024. Since then, Israel has continued to launch near-daily strikes in Lebanon aimed at stopping Hezbollah from regrouping.

In Tehran, there was little sign that Iranians had heeded Mr. Trump's call for an uprising against the government.

The streets were largely deserted as people sheltered during air strikes, witnesses told the Associated Press, speaking anonymously for fear of retribution. The paramilitary Basij, which has played a central role in crushing protests, set up checkpoints across the city, they said.

Two powerful explosions were heard in Tehran's Niavaran neighbourhood late Sunday.

An eyewitness in the city told AP that the windows of their apartment shook violently, and residents came out onto the streets fearing it was too dangerous to stay inside. The witness spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals. Video footage from Tehran showed plumes of smoke filling the skyline, and the official IRNA news agency reported that parts of the building of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) were struck Sunday.

In southern Iran, at least 165 people were killed Saturday when a girls' school was struck, and dozens more were wounded, IRNA reported. The Israeli military said it was not aware of strikes in the area. The U.S. military said it was looking into the reports.

As supreme leader, Mr. Khamenei had final say on all major policies since 1989. He led Iran's clerical establishment and the Revolutionary Guard, the two main centres of power in the governing theocracy.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said in a prerecorded message that a new leadership

council had begun its work. The country's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, said a new supreme leader would be chosen in "one or two days."

Mr. Araghchi wrote Sunday in a letter to the United Nations that the attacks on Iran by the U.S. and Israel – including the strike on Mr. Khamenei – "recklessly open a dangerous Pandora's box, eroding the bedrock of sovereign equality and the stability of the international system."

As word spread of Mr. Khamenei's death, some in Tehran could be seen cheering from rooftops, witnesses said. Others mourned as a black flag was raised over the Imam Reza shrine in Mashhad.

An Iranian medical professional in northern Iran said he and colleagues spent the early hours of Sunday celebrating Mr. Khamenei's death indoors because armed security forces are still heavily deployed in his city.

There were forces stopping and interrogating people celebrating in their cars, but there was no gunfire, said the doctor, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal.

"It was one of the best nights, if not the best night of our lives," the doctor said in a voice message from the city of Rasht. In fact, "it was actually my first time ever smoking a cigarette. It was a very, very nice time. We didn't sleep at all. And we don't even feel tired."

Mr. Araghchi, Iran's Foreign Minister, blamed the U.S. and Israel for starting the war. He said he had spoken to his counterparts in the Gulf countries and urged them to pressure the U.S. and Israel to end it.

"You have crossed our red line and must pay the price," Iran's parliamentary speaker, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, said in a televised address. "We will deliver such devastating blows that you yourselves will be driven to beg."

In a social media post, Mr. Trump warned against any retaliation, saying "IF THEY DO, WE WILL HIT THEM WITH A FORCE THAT HAS NEVER BEEN SEEN BEFORE!"

An Israeli military official described Saturday's mission against the Iranian leadership as the result of months of "extremely high coordination" with the U.S. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss a covert operation, said a variety of factors created a "golden opportunity." Those factors included weeks of training and monitoring the movements of senior figures, along with "real time intelligence" that the targets were gathered together.

The results, the official said, were near-simultaneous strikes, within 60 seconds of one another, in three locations 1,609 kilometres from Israel that killed Mr. Khamenei and some 40 senior figures, including the head of the Revolutionary Guard and the country's defence minister.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. and Israel promise more strikes on Iran as UN calls for ceasefire

ADRIAN MORROW
U.S. CORRESPONDENT
WASHINGTON

The world is bracing for a potentially prolonged war in Iran that threatens to spread across the Middle East, with U.S. President Donald Trump pushing for the overthrow of the theocratic regime that governs more than 90 million people, and the dictatorship's remnants girding for retaliation.

Saturday's attack on Iran by the U.S. and Israel killed Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and other top members of the country's regime.

On Sunday, both Mr. Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to keep the war going.

"Combat operations continue at this time in full force and they will continue until all of our objectives are achieved. We have very strong objectives," Mr. Trump said in a video address.

He paid tribute to the three U.S. service members who have been killed so far and said, "There will likely be more before it ends – that's the way it is."

Mr. Netanyahu, in a video from Israel's defence ministry, said his country's forces were hitting Tehran with "growing intensity, which will continue to increase in the upcoming days."



A missile launched from Iran is seen in the sky from the Bureij camp for Palestinian refugees in the central Gaza Strip on Sunday. EYAD BABA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

The United Nations Security Council, meanwhile, is set to gather Monday, where the countries are almost certain to clash again.

At an emergency session of the council on Saturday, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said the U.S. and Israel had broken international law by attacking Iran. He also castigated Iran for hitting Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates with retaliatory strikes.

He said the fighting had to stop immediately. "The alternative is a potential wider conflict with

grave consequences for civilians and regional stability."

Mike Waltz, the U.S.'s ambassador to the UN, defended the air strikes as necessary, saying, "Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon."

Global markets are steeling themselves for a spike in oil prices as the war could disrupt production in Iran, one of the world's top-ten producers.

In retaliation for the U.S. attacks, the country could blockade the Strait of Hormuz, a major international shipping lane for moving oil and gas from the Persian Gulf. Tehran has already fired missiles at several other Middle

Eastern countries as it tries to hit U.S. bases in the region.

"How this ends is extremely uncertain at this point but in the meantime oil markets will have to face their worst fears," wrote Amarpreet Singh, a Barclays analyst, in a client note Sunday.

Mr. Trump made clear on Sunday that he would not be heeding any calls to back off, even as he held open the possibility of a negotiated settlement with Iran.

In the video address, Mr. Trump said U.S. and Israeli attacks hit hundreds of targets in Iran, including Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps facilities and air defence systems, and sank nine naval ships.

He called for "Iranian patriots who yearn for freedom" to rise up against the government and "take back your country." And he asked members of the Iranian military and security forces to surrender.

"Lay down your arms and receive full immunity, or face certain death. It will be certain death – won't be pretty," he said.

In an interview with The Atlantic magazine on Sunday, Mr. Trump said he would be talking with unspecified members of Iran's regime. "They want to talk and I have agreed to talk, so I will be talking to them. They should have done it sooner," he said.

The President will return to the White House Sunday from Mar-a-Lago, his Florida estate, where he

watched the attack on Iran unfold on Saturday. Vice-President JD Vance and other administration officials watched the air strikes from the situation room in the White House.

On Capitol Hill, Democrats and some Republicans are expected to try to force votes on a war powers resolution this week in a bid to rein in Mr. Trump's ability to attack Iran without legislative approval.

The exact timing is in flux: The Senate is scheduled to sit on Monday and the House of Representatives will return on Tuesday. It could take some procedural manoeuvring to bring the measures to a vote without the support of leaders of Mr. Trump's Republican Party, which holds a majority in both chambers.

One plan to force a war powers resolution vote will come from Thomas Massie, the maverick Kentucky Republican, and Ro Khanna, the leftist California Democrat, who previously successfully passed the measure requiring the release of the Epstein files over attempts to obstruct it by Republican leaders.

But Democrats will not be able to count on their entire caucus backing the move. "Committed Democrat here. I'm a hard no. My vote is Operation Epic Fury," Pennsylvania Senator John Fetterman, a staunch supporter of Israel, wrote on X.

Carney backs strikes, rules out military action

Canada will not get involved in conflict led by U.S. and Israel, Prime Minister says

STEVEN CHASE
SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY
REPORTER
MUMBAI

Prime Minister Mark Carney is backing U.S. and Israeli air strikes on Iran, saying Tehran is the main source of instability in the Middle East and must never be allowed to possess nuclear weapons.

Still, he ruled out participating in military action against the country during a fireside chat Saturday that followed a speech he gave in Mumbai as part of a trade mission to India.

The United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran on Saturday, targeting its leadership and plunging the Middle East into a new conflict that U.S. President Donald Trump said would end a security threat to the United States and give Iranians a chance to topple their rulers.

"We have not been party to the military build up to this, or the military planning of this. So it is not envisioned that we would be part of it moving forward," Mr. Carney said after being asked whether Canada would get involved.

He called the air strikes a "serious conflict" and said in "a serious conflict, you have to make choices."

Mr. Carney framed his support as a natural extension of Canadian foreign policy toward Iran. Canada cut off formal diplomatic relations with the country in 2012 under former prime minister Stephen Harper. Justin Trudeau never restored these ties and in 2024 designated the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist entity. Mr. Trudeau had also sanctioned 256 Iranian entities and 222 individuals in response to the regime's repression and its violence against its own people.

"Canada supports the United States acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to prevent its regime from further threatening international peace and security," Mr. Carney said in a joint statement with Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand on Saturday from Canada's trade mission to India.

Interim NDP Leader Don Davies said on X that Mr. Carney's support for pre-emptive strikes "contradicts numerous values" in the Prime Minister's January World Economic Forum speech, in which he urged countries to band together in opposition to what he described as an emerging world order in which strong nations would prey on the weak.

"Endorsing illegality, violence and destruction over dialogue

Canada's position remains clear: the Islamic Republic of Iran is the principal source of instability and terror throughout the Middle East, has one of the world's worst human rights records, and must never be allowed to obtain or develop nuclear weapons.

MARK CARNEY
PRIME MINISTER

and peaceful resolution is not what Canadians were promised, or support."

Mr. Carney's rationale for supporting the strikes focused on how Iran has refused to end its nuclear weapons program.

"Despite diplomatic efforts, Iran has neither fully dismantled its nuclear program, halted all enrichment activities, nor ended its support for regional terrorist proxy groups," the statement from Mr. Carney and Ms. Anand said.

"Canada's position remains clear: the Islamic Republic of Iran is the principal source of instability and terror throughout the Middle East, has one of the world's worst human rights records, and must never be allowed to obtain or develop nuclear weapons," the Prime Minister said.

Iran quickly retaliated with strikes Saturday on U.S. military facilities in the Middle East.

Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre backed the strike on Iran as well, bringing up the country's role in shooting down Flight PS752 from Tehran to Kyiv in 2020, which killed Canadians and Canadian residents. Tehran, he added "tried to build nuclear weapons to annihilate our allies. It massacred tens of thousands of its own people," he said. It "sought to kill prominent Canadian leaders, and ruthlessly targets Canadians of Jewish and Iranian descent."

Ms. Anand later called on Iran to cease counterattacks targeting other countries in the region.

"Canada stands with the Iranian people. We strongly condemn the attacks of the Iranian regime against our partners in the Middle East," she said in a statement. "These attacks must stop. We will continue to provide all possible support to Canadians throughout the region and urge Canadians in Iran to shelter in place."

She said in recent hours she has talked to foreign ministers of several countries, including Israel, Qatar, UAE, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Mr. Carney called on both sides to protect civilians.

"The Canadian government urges the protection of all civilians in this conflict. We will take all possible measures to protect our nationals and Canadian diplomatic missions throughout the region," he said.

The Prime Minister called on Canadians in Iran to shelter in place. "Canadians in the wider region should follow local advice and take all necessary precautions."

Ms. Anand asked Canadians in Israel, Palestine and Lebanon to consider leaving by commercial air carriers, calling the security situation across the Middle East "volatile and unpredictable."

With a report from Reuters

After attacks, Carney offers dose of the realpolitik he claims to espouse

CAMPBELL
CLARK

OPINION



Mark Carney wasted no time in backing U.S. military action to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. It was a quick decision to pick a side but also to pick from a menu.

It is hard to claim that preventing Iran from getting the bomb is the cause for this war.

It's particularly hard because U.S. President Donald Trump provided a whole menu of justifications in the eight-minute video he released Saturday – from Iran's nuclear-weapons program to its decades of sponsorship of terror – but really made his war about regime change in Iran.

When Mr. Carney issued a statement supporting the attacks, he offered a dose of the realpolitik he claims to espouse.

He chose to put Canada on the side of its biggest ally and trading partner when it went to war against a repressive regime that foments terror and conflict – even if the *casus belli* is being fudged.

He chose not to quibble over the legalities. Then he quickly ruled out any future military role.

It was, to use a phrase that Mr. Carney favours, an example of taking the world as it is, not as we wish it would be.

Like most of the world, Mr. Carney and Canada will watch from the sidelines as Mr. Trump takes a high-stakes gamble on a war of choice.

It's hard not to hope that the gamble ends with a new and different Iranian government that reflects the will of its people and stops bankrolling terror and conflict across the Middle East. It's hard not to worry that it is unlikely the bombing will accomplish that.

Already, U.S. and Israeli airstrikes have killed Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader since 1989, and reportedly another 40 Iranian officials, as well as hitting Iranian ships and military facilities.

But in places such as Libya and Iraq, the past has shown that decapitating a regime is not a sure path to democracy or peace and stability. Historically, airstrikes haven't been a good way to organize popular rebellions to take power.

Perhaps the U.S. government has intelligence that suggests there is more hope of a happy ending than risk of the kind of chaos and casualties that Iran and its proxies are still capable of causing.

Given Mr. Trump's record and temperament, it seems just as likely to be an impulsive roll of the dice.

At any rate, for those trying to

follow U.S. thinking, it's hard to follow the leader.

Mr. Trump's video Saturday suggested the attacks are related to the threat of Iran obtaining nuclear weapons but also aren't – he repeated his claim that U.S. strikes in June had obliterated Iran's nuclear facilities.

U.S. and Iranian officials had been at the table for negotiations on a nuclear deal that Oman's Foreign Minister, Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, the mediator in the talks, had said Friday was close.

All that suggests this is a war of choice not necessity.

Perhaps Mr. Trump saw an opportunity to devastate Iran's military after the country's defences were weakened by U.S. and Israeli strikes in June. Perhaps he hoped to distract from political troubles at home. He certainly seems far more infatuated with the use of military force than the candidate who ran in the 2024 presidential election.

Like most of the world,
Mark Carney and
Canada will watch from
the sidelines as Donald
Trump takes a
high-stakes gamble on
a war of choice.

Yet Mr. Trump has previously shown a willingness to risk conflict with Iran. In his first term, he withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal in which Iran accepted restrictions on its nuclear program.

In 2020, Mr. Trump authorized a drone strike that killed Iranian Revolutionary Guards Quds Force commander Qasem Soleimani – sparking a five-day escalation of U.S.-Iran tensions that, by a strange quirk of fate, was defused when Iranian forces mistakenly shot down Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752, killing 176 people, including 55 Canadian citizens and 30 permanent residents.

In June, Mr. Trump left the G7 summit in Kananaskis in Alberta to return to Washington to launch airstrikes on Iran. France's President, Emmanuel Macron, thought he was going home to work on a ceasefire.

Now, Mr. Trump is making his biggest gamble yet.

Once again, old allies aren't in the picture. Mr. Macron said he was not informed this time, either. Strikes are being conducted in conjunction with the Israel Defence Forces but this operation isn't backed by anything called the "international community."

Allies had a choice to back an ally that had already decided to gamble on attacks against a disruptive, repressive regime – from the sidelines.

Mr. Carney made a hard-nosed decision to pick a side.



Israeli emergency service officers search through the debris at the scene of an Iranian missile attack in Beit Shemesh, Israel, on Sunday. JOHN WESSELS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

'No words to describe it': Iranian missile kills nine in Israeli city of Beit Shemesh

TOVAH LAZAROFF
BEIT SHEMESH, ISRAEL

The plaster ceiling that fell on Tomer Ittah's head from the force of an Iranian missile that landed near his home was nothing compared to the smoke and chaos when he walked outside.

The synagogue across the way was simply gone, and in its place was a sandy crater and a number of burned-out cars.

"There are no words to describe it," said the 44-year-old man as he stood on the patio outside his home in Beit Shemesh, located between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. He spoke as he surveyed the army and emergency workers who were still searching for survivors.

Nine bodies were found in the rubble of the synagogue and a number of destroyed buildings nearby, according to city treasurer Arie Berdugo, who was one of the first people on the scene.

The bomb shelter under the synagogue was so badly damaged that the 10 people huddling inside were injured or killed, Mr. Berdugo said.

"The force of the blast sent bodies flying," he said, adding that it was impossible to tell where they had originated from. The missile hit in an older part of the city, where shelters are less effective or, in some cases, absent, he said.

As for the synagogue, "not even a stone was left," he said. "You would never even know that a house of prayer had been there."

It was day two of the resumed war with Iran, launched by Israel and the United States on Saturday morning, following the 12-day war between Israel and Iran last June. The opening salvo took place on the morning of the Sabbath, when people had left for synagogue, after months of speculation that such an attack was imminent.

Sirens have screeched across Israel almost non-stop since then, with residents jumping in and out of safe rooms or nearby bomb shelters. Those without have sought the best shelter they could find.

Warnings are first issued through cell-phones, urging everyone to stay close to shelters, followed by external sirens.

The country's iron dome system has shot down most of the missiles, but it is not always effective. A missile hit in Tel Aviv on Saturday night, killing a 32-year-old woman and damaging an apartment building so heavily that only its concrete shell was left.

Another 39 buildings were damaged, and

some 200 people had to be evacuated from the area because they were unable to safely stay in their homes, the municipality said.

On Sunday afternoon, the Tel Aviv neighbourhood was packed with emergency workers, cleaning details, camera crews and area residents who had returned to rescue their belongings.

Alongside the sound of sweeping glass and cranes removing rubble, area residents could be seen walking out of buildings carrying their belongings in suitcases and bags.

Among them was Ann Aron, 34, and her boyfriend, Costa Black, 36. They stood outside his rented bottom-floor apartment of six years, on pavement strewn with glass and broken window frames.

Mr. Black recalled how they had spent the day running back and forth between his apartment and the shelter in the next-door building. Hoping that the missiles would stop late at night, they had showered, put on pyjamas and gone to bed when once more a siren rang out.

"I had actually fallen asleep," Ms. Aron said. Still wearing their pyjamas, they went next door and climbed down some 10 stairs to the concrete shelter, joining some 20 others.

But instead of a clear signal, there was an explosion.

"It felt like the building had fallen on top of us," Mr. Black said.

Ms. Aron recalled, "The doors were shaking, people panicked, they started to cry."

Two of several dozen wounded in the attack banged on the shelter door, asking for help. One of them was bleeding, and Mr. Black took off his shirt and gave it to him to help stop it, Ms. Aron recalled.

Once outside, they saw a huge fire and medics evacuating the wounded on stretchers.

Mr. Black and some of the security personnel went through the building looking to see if anyone was trapped in their apartments, rescuing one elderly woman in a wheelchair.

It was only when they returned to their own apartment on Sunday, however, that they understood how close they had come to being among the wounded or the dead.

The blast had taken out the window opposite their bed, which in the aftermath of the attack was strewn with glass.

"It is very surrealistic and very frightening," Ms. Aron said. "I see in daylight that if we had stayed here in this bed, maybe if we had not heard the alarm, we would have been very badly injured or maybe possibly killed."

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Iranian-Canadians express different views about strikes

Some see it as necessary action to remove a dictator but others condemn bombings as foreign intervention that risks innocent civilians

ERIN ANDERSSON

On an early Sunday morning, Solar Gholami was called back to his gym north of Toronto by friends, who told him the police were waiting to see him.

He arrived to find 17 bullet holes in the street windows of the building in Richmond Hill, Ont., and several panes of shattered glass.

Mr. Gholami, the owner of Saliwan Boxing Club, was the main organizer of a Saturday rally in the area around his gym, originally planned as a demonstration for the people in Iran, fighting for democracy. By the afternoon, it had become a loud, festive dance party, the streets filled with thousands of Iranian-Canadians celebrating the death of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, a brutal dictator who ruled the country for 36 years.

Since January, when the Iranian government killed peaceful protesters, many of them students, Mr. Gholami has been among the members of Canada's Iranian diaspora calling for American military action to help topple the regime. "The world is a better place today for everyone," he said of Ayatollah Khamenei's death.

Mr. Gholami said he is now working with York Regional Police to determine who was responsible for the vandalism, and how he can reopen his gym safely, especially for the teenagers and young people who are members.

"I'm a fighter. I am not afraid," he said, vowing to keep organizing rallies until the Iranian people are also safe, and free.

While they wait to know for certain that families are safe, and follow the latest news out of Iran, members of Canada's Iranian diaspora also expressed different views about the American mili-



Above: People take part in a demonstration supporting the attacks by the U.S. and Israel against Iran, in Richmond Hill, Ont., on Saturday.

Right: Iranian-Canadian Bahar Tarzi was one of the people taking part in the Richmond Hill rally.

PHOTOS BY EDUARDO LIMA/ THE GLOBE AND MAIL



tary action, and what should happen now that Ayatollah Khamenei is dead.

As the news broke, thousands of people from the country's Iranian communities took to the streets in cities such as Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montreal, in some cases turning planned anti-government protests into celebrations.

Many, such as Mr. Gholami praised U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to bomb Iran, seeing it as a necessary action to remove an oppressive and violent dictator. "The world is a better place today," said Mr. Gholami.

"Unfortunately, some bombs will get people too, but we don't have any other choice."

Others continue to condemn the bombings by the U.S. and Israel as foreign intervention that risks innocent civilians and will likely further destabilize the region. "They are killing women and children, and it is breaking my heart," said Mona Ghassemi, president of the Iranian Canadian Congress. Forcing change in Iran, she said, especially by a self-interested Western power will likely lead to more upheaval and civilian deaths. "It is short-sighted to be celebrating."

Some fervently support Reza Pahlavi, the Western-educated eldest son of the deposed Shah, who has been living in exile since 1980. Others are just as fierce in their opposition to any semblance of a monarchy.

And some, like Safaneh Mo-haghegh Neyshabouri worry that whatever comes next will lead to more devastation for her country.

For years, Prof. Neyshabouri had a green shirt hanging in her closet, never worn, purchased shortly after she arrived in Alberta from Iran in 2010.

"It was my aspirational shirt," she said, only to be worn in cele-

bration on the day that Ayatollah Khamenei died.

Time passed: She got her PhD, married, became an associate professor in Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of Calgary. She watched Iran suffer under Ayatollah Khamenei's rule, even as she had children, and the shirt became too small. What never went away was the memory of being among the crowd, demonstrating peacefully in Tehran, in 2009, when the militia fired upon protesters, and the desire for the people of Iran to achieve democracy.

And yet, since learning that her country's dictator had been killed by foreign bombs, she has not felt like celebrating. She is still grieving for young women killed in a school caught in the bombing, still worried about loved ones in Iran taking cover. And she is afraid about what happens now, with bombs still falling, with her friend reporting the tense presence of Iranian militia, and the future uncertain.

"I find myself so fearful for the future of Iran that my other emotions cannot upload," she said. As a mother safely in Canada, she is weighed down by survivor's guilt. She knows friends in Iran who have not been sending their children to school for fear they'd be apart if the bombing started.

And she hopes that, within Canada, the people who care most about what happens next in Iran can come together, despite differences of opinion.

"I know many Iranians were waiting for this," she said, believing that the bombing would begin and end quickly, the Supreme Leader would be taken or killed, and the Iranian people would be left to decide their future. But that's not what history teaches, she said. "It's not going to be that easy. I think a lot about the human cost and the lives that are going to be lost."

In the meantime, she said, she hopes that, within Canada, the people who care deeply about what happens next in Iran, can work together, despite differences of opinion.

"I really hope that at least for those of us in the diaspora, we think, 'What can we build? What could we do to make it better?'"

Iranian retaliation shatters calm in expatriate-friendly UAE

MELANIE SWAN TEL AVIV

For the first time in its history, the United Arab Emirates, long regarded as a haven of stability in a volatile region, has come under direct attack.

After the U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran Saturday, the UAE's airports, hotels and infrastructure are suddenly in the line of fire.

Home to 200 nationalities and about 60,000 Canadians, the UAE's mainly expatriate population felt palpable fear after waves of missiles and drones targeted the country Saturday. By Sunday morning, calm had started to return.

By the afternoon, the UAE Ministry of Defence confirmed that its air force and air defence forces had so far dealt with 165 ballistic missiles, two cruise missiles and 541 drones.

Although Iran said U.S. bases were the intended targets, falling debris caused fires at high-profile civilian sites, including the Abu Dhabi and Dubai airports, the Burj Al Arab hotel in Dubai and the Fairmont Hotel on Palm Jumeirah. As of Sunday, three civilian deaths had been reported, with 58 more people injured.

The scale of the attack was unprecedented, affecting all Gulf Cooperation Council countries except Oman, a key partner in mediating talks between Iran and the U.S. Across Dubai and Abu Dhabi — two of the seven emirates that comprise the UAE — shock gave way to deliberate composure.



A plume of smoke rises from a warehouse in the industrial area of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates on Saturday. Waves of missiles and drones targeted the country on Saturday. ALTAF QADRI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian expatriate Niya Abdullahi has lived in the UAE for a year and a half. Even after a sleepless night punctuated by explosions, she said she feels "super safe."

"It's safer than Canada usually — and much safer than Toronto, where I'm from."

Saturday, however, was something entirely new. "The booms have been ongoing, and it's Ramadan too, so even when I woke up for my Suhour, I heard it again," she said. "I'm Muslim, and I'm just praying that it will get better."

From her apartment in Jumeirah Lakes Towers, she described hearing "scary roars" overhead — noises she initially associated with fireworks.

"I feel safer than if I were experiencing war in another country, but still, it's terrifying, as I never experienced anything like this in my life."

Airspace is temporarily closed, public events have been cancelled, and schools have shifted online. Despite quieter roads, grocery stores stayed stocked, and government alerts were direct.

"Now I'm thinking, what if the airspace doesn't open?" Ms. Abdullahi said. "They're saying it's safer in Oman, so if the airport isn't an option, we are exploring the options to go to Oman to lay low for a while."

Airspace is temporarily closed, public events have been cancelled, and schools have shifted online. Despite quieter roads, grocery stores stayed stocked, and government alerts were direct.

Others are not thinking about leaving. Instead, they are preparing for what may be in store.

Rob Duncan, a Canadian educator from Ontario who has lived in the UAE for 12 years, described watching interceptors streak across the sky, the booms rattling his windows.

"We've stocked up on essentials like food and water," he said.

"It's daunting, but we know

they're not targeting civilians. The incident on the Palm was the scariest. I have faith in the UAE, and security here makes you feel safe. If this continues, the most challenging part will be securing family supplies. Right now, I believe we'll get through it in a few days."

That confidence, rooted in experience, is echoed by long-term residents of the UAE, who are lured by a high standard of living, tax-free income and year-round sunshine.

Reem Hamid, a Canadian business owner who has lived here for 18 years, contrasts Saturday's events with her earlier life in Iraq. "It's much safer here than when I lived in Iraq," she said.

"I was out yesterday when the first missile was intercepted, so I felt the reverberations. We all know now that it's the American military areas that are the targets, so we understand that's why you hear more noise in those areas. You're all on alert, but it's been quiet for a while. It's not our first rodeo."

She credits the UAE's robust defence network. "We are in

2026, with a Ministry of Defence and comprehensive defence system. We must stay grounded to get through this. For 18 years, this country has taken care of us, and that trust is well earned."

"I feel extremely safe, and life goes on. Everyone should proceed with life as usual, unless the government tells you otherwise."

On Sunday, apart from attending her church service online, her routine continued as usual. "Otherwise, I'm going to the gym, and we have a memorial for a friend's mom who passed away a year ago, and we are keeping life moving as peacefully as possible."

It is this faith in the security of the country that leads so many tourists to come to the UAE each year, with 19.6 million visiting Dubai alone last year. Abu Dhabi is consistently voted the world's safest city, and the latest Numbeo index names the UAE as the world's safest country.

For Anne Peterson, a mother of six-year-old twins who has lived in the UAE for 15 years, the day was emotionally taxing. Explosions overhead terrified her daughters.

"Our girls instantly burst into tears. It was undeniably tense as we rushed home to seek shelter," she said. Later that night, "the loudest bang came at [40 minutes past midnight], again directly above us. ... This was by far the scariest part of the day."

And yet, she said, "I have great belief in the defence system."

"Our worry hasn't necessarily been being struck by the missiles themselves, but by falling debris from the interceptions," she added.

Asma Bahassan, born and raised in the UAE, described windows rattling in Mirdif, near Dubai International Airport, the world's busiest passenger airport.

But what stood out to her was the community's solidarity. There was "a mix of concern and mainly composure because we have a lot of faith in the leaders of the UAE, we know we will be kept safe. The UAE has a long history of stability, and there is trust in the leadership and the systems in place."

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Who was Ayatollah Ali Khamenei?

His doctrine of 'strategic patience' brought decades of instability to the Middle East

NATHAN VANDERKLIPPE
INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENT

A cleric and a revolutionary, a lover of poetry who oversaw a decades-long nuclear program and directed the deaths of many thousands of his own citizens, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei made the Islamic Republic of Iran into a global cornerstone of defiance and violence.

Ayatollah Khamenei became the country's second supreme leader in 1989, a decade after the Iranian revolution brought Islamists to power in the oil-rich country.

In nearly 37 years in power, he built a fearsome apparatus of state repression and military aggression, funding violent Islamist proxies in Lebanon, Syria, Yemen and the Palestinian territories and supplying potent weaponry to allies such as Russia, all while enforcing a strict religious orthodoxy at home.

His doctrine of "strategic patience" – an approach described as the pursuit of neither war nor peace – brought decades of instability to the Middle East, as his regime menaced Israel, chanted "Death to America" and openly sponsored organs of regional terror.

He was "one of the most evil people in history," U.S. President Donald Trump wrote on social media Saturday, corroborating Israeli reports of Ayatollah Khamenei's death. The death of the Ayatollah, 86, was confirmed by state media.

Ayatollah Khamenei was born in 1939 into a family of modest means. He pursued religious studies in a country that at the time was ruled by a monarch, Reza Shah Pahlavi, who worked closely alongside the U.S., co-operating with Washington against the Soviet Union and its Arab allies. Persian intelligence officers were trained by the CIA; the Shah acceded to American pressure to release political prisoners.

In 1962, Ayatollah Khamenei began to study under Ruhollah Khomeini, the influential Shiite cleric who accused the Shah of surrendering Iranian sovereignty.

Ayatollah Khomeini became Iran's first supreme leader after the Islamic revolution in 1979 that drove the Shah from the Peacock Throne. Ayatollah Khomeini's seizure of power brought theocratic rule to Iran, bloodied from its early days by the execu-



A large crowd gathers at Enghelab Square in Tehran, Iran, on Sunday, chanting anti-U.S. and anti-Israel slogans while holding Iranian flags and posters of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei after the Supreme Leader's death. HOSSEIN ESMAELI/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

tion of Shah loyalists. A rewritten constitution gave the supreme leader unquestioned power, including the ability to appoint leaders for the country's military and judiciary.

From the outset, Ayatollah Khamenei stood at his predecessor's side, becoming part of the Revolutionary Council in 1979.

A bomb attack in 1981 paralyzed his right arm but did little to halt Ayatollah Khamenei's advancement. He served as deputy defence minister and played a role in the organization of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, which Canada and others have recently designated as a terrorist entity. He spent eight years as president, until the death of Ayatollah Khomeini in 1989, when he was named successor.

Ayatollah Khamenei's elevation to supreme religious leader was met with skepticism about his ability to uphold the revolution his once-teacher had begun. Seen as a relatively junior cleric, doubters questioned Ayatollah Khamenei's ability to effectively operate the levers of power in a state riven by ideological and religious differences. At the outset, he was seen as leader of a caretaker administration.

But he moved quickly to elevate religious hardliners, undercutting economic-reform efforts, sidelining elected leaders to as-

sert his own priorities in affairs of the state and, over the span of many protests and elections, crushing those who threatened his rule.

In 2000, Ayatollah Ali Meshkini, head of the country's Assembly of Experts, described Ayatollah Khamenei's powers as "absolute," and "subject to no conditions of any kind, and popular elections have no influence on the matter."

Over the years, Ayatollah Khamenei shuttered critical media outlets and killed a law to promote press freedom; purged "un-Islamic" elements from universities; jailed artists, intellectuals and a Nobel Peace laureate; arrested and kidnapped foreigners; severed communication services when protest movements swelled; and gunned down protesters.

In January, security forces massacred civilians who had participated in anti-government protests. Human-rights groups estimate that the dead number in the tens of thousands. Ayatollah Khamenei had said that demonstrators, some of whom had chanted "Death to the dictator!" should "be put in their place."

He insisted on strict adherence to conservative Islamic principles, even banning women from riding bicycles, saying they "must avoid anything that attracts

strangers."

Ayatollah Khamenei called Israel a "cancer" growing in the midst of Islamic nations and, throughout his rule, pitted his regime against the U.S., which he in 1993 called "the dictatorship which the Muslim Iranian nation drove out from its home with empty hands."

For Ayatollah Khamenei, the U.S. represented not merely a much better armed military rival, but a profound cultural threat to the theocracy he sought to maintain. He rejected overtures from then-president Barack Obama and resisted nuclear talks with Donald Trump's administration, after Mr. Trump pulled out of an earlier deal in 2018.

After the U.S. struck a series of Iranian nuclear sites with bunker-busting bombs last June, Mr. Trump said that attack, dubbed Operation Midnight Hammer, had "obliterated" key components of the Iranian nuclear program.

Ayatollah Khamenei dismissed the bombing as having failed to "accomplish anything significant."

But the apparent failure of Iran's defensive systems to block U.S. bombers underscored a broader weakening of the Iranian regime. In years of war, Israel had already removed much of the threat that Tehran was once able

to wield through heavily armed proxies like Hezbollah and Hamas. The war was provoked by the deadly Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7, 2023.

On Saturday, Mr. Trump called the death of Ayatollah Khamenei "not only Justice for the people of Iran, but for all Great Americans, and those people from many countries throughout the World, that have been killed or mutilated by Ayatollah Khamenei and his gang of bloodthirsty THUGS."

Reza Pahlavi, the son of the late Shah, wrote on X that with Ayatollah Khamenei's death, "the Islamic Republic has effectively come to an end and will soon be consigned to the dustbin of history."

But Ayatollah Khamenei himself remained defiant until the end.

Last week, he dismissed the military armada that Mr. Trump had ordered to waters near Iran, saying American warships "could be sunk to the bottom of the sea," warning that "the strongest army in the world may receive a slap it cannot recover from."

He added: "A nation like us – a nation with this culture, this history, and these lofty teachings – will never pledge allegiance to leaders like the corrupt people who are in power in the United States today."

Three men appointed as Iran's interim leadership council

JUSTINE HUNTER
ANDREA WOO

Three men have been appointed as Iran's interim leadership council while the country's religious leaders choose who will succeed Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. The trio are not natural allies, nor is it immediately clear who will outrank the others.

■ **Ayatollah Alireza Araf**, 67, is a senior cleric who carries a high rank in a country where religion is the fundamental basis of the state. He is a member of the Guardian Council that vets candidates for president and has veto power over legislation, to ensure loyalty to and conformity with Sharia law.

He leads prayers in Iran's most important religious centre, Qom, and oversees education for religious leaders nationwide, notes the news organization Al-Jazeera.

His path to a senior role in Iran's government began as a child, according to the Middle East Institute. "His entire career has been shaped by appointments given to him by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei," a paper published by the think tank in 2020 said. "In fact, Araf may even be a candidate to succeed Khamenei when the day comes."

Ayatollah Araf, who comes from a clerical family, moved to Qom to further his religious studies at the age of 11. Although he was too young to play a major role in the 1979 revolution in Iran, his influence began to grow when Ayatollah Khamenei became Iran's Supreme Leader in 1989.

Ayatollah Araf was appointed to lead Friday prayers in his hometown of Meybod in 1992, when he was only 33 years old. He

has also served as director of Iran's nationwide seminary system and as a member of the Assembly of Experts, a body of 88 senior clerics who will now choose Ayatollah Khamenei's successor.

■ **President Masoud Pezeshkian**, 71, is broadly seen as a reformist. A former heart surgeon, Mr. Pezeshkian took office on July 28, 2024. The President is the second-highest ranking official in Iran, acting as the head of government that handles daily administration, economic policy and implements the Supreme Leader's decrees.

Iranians elect a president and parliament for four-year terms, although candidates for office are vetted by the Guardian Council.

The Economic Times of India describes Mr. Pezeshkian as a technocrat known for his calm demeanour in turbulent times, including nationwide protests over the rising cost of living in January.

Mr. Pezeshkian initially met with business leaders and promised to try to address their concerns, but dissent was bloodily crushed by security forces after Ayatollah Khamenei declared that "rioters must be put in their place." Thousands of Iranians were killed in January's protests.

The President campaigned on themes of reform: economic stabilization, easing social restrictions and pursuing constructive engagement abroad. He tried but failed to negotiate an agreement with the United States after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to intervene in the deadly crackdown on protesters.

In February, Mr. Pezeshkian instructed Iran's foreign minister to "pursue fair and equitable negotiations" with the U.S., the first clear sign from Tehran it wanted to try to negotiate.

Reacting to Ayatollah Khamenei's assassination, Mr. Pezeshkian said in a statement that Iran now considers "it its legitimate duty and right to avenge the perpetrators and masterminds of this historic crime."

In a recorded video statement on state television Sunday, Mr. Pezeshkian said that the interim leadership council has started its work, and that Iran's armed forces will continue to destroy enemy bases.

“

As high-ranking and well-embedded members of the political and security elite in the Islamic Republic who have survived the initial salvos of this war, they wield significant and growing power relative to other members of the elite

PARSA ALIREZAEI
RESEARCH ASSISTANT AT THE CENTRE FOR COMPARATIVE MUSLIM STUDIES, SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

■ **Chief Justice Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejei**, 69, is considered an ultra-conservative who has been sanctioned for human rights abuses by Canada, the U.S., Switzerland, the European Union and others. He was appointed to the post in 2021 by Ayatollah Khamenei.

A report from the human rights watchdog organization Faces of Crime said Mr. Ejei "has been instrumental in suppressing, torturing, and obtaining forced confessions from protesters against the 2009 presidential

election results" when he served as Iran's Minister of Intelligence and later as Attorney-General.

He also played a role on the Press Supervisory Board in a crackdown on reform-minded media in 2000, which led to the arrest of journalists and the closing of news publications in the country.

Political analysts at the Gulf States Newsletter describe him as a hardliner and loyalist to Ayatollah Khamenei, who is known for his harsh sentencing.

But the London-based news operation Iran International noted last year Mr. Ejei has recently distanced himself from the country's staunchest hardliners: He has promoted an anti-corruption agenda, and sided with moderates who had pushed back against a new, stricter hijab law.

Mr. Ejei holds a master's degree in international law, according to the judiciary's website. He carries the clerical title of *hojatolislam* – one rank below an *ayatollah*.

While the three men temporarily hold power, experts said Sunday the interim council may prove to be just a footnote in Iran's history.

Rex Brynen, a professor in the department of political science at McGill University and an expert in Middle East politics, said the composition of the interim council may be less important than broader pressures, given the challenges of transition, the likelihood of further strikes against leadership targets, and degraded Iranian military command and control.

"That being said, it suggests continuity in the Iranian approach, not any dramatic shift in strategic thinking," he said.

Parsa Alirezaei, a research assistant at the Centre for Comparative Muslim Studies at Simon

Fraser University, shared similar sentiments. The focus, he said, should be on Ali Larjani, the veteran politician and current head of the Supreme National Security Council who announced the interim council on Sunday, and Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, the former Tehran mayor who is now Iran's parliament speaker.

"As high-ranking and well-embedded members of the political and security elite in the Islamic Republic who have survived the initial salvos of this war, they wield significant and growing power relative to other members of the elite," Mr. Alirezaei said of the two men Sunday.

He added that internal power dynamic uncertainty suggests that the two men may have an advantage over others "given that they straddle the political and security apparatuses of the country and have done so for some time."

Mr. Alirezaei noted that, after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's death in 1989, Iran quickly amended its constitution and power structure to secure Ayatollah Khamenei's rule and deter threats from adversaries seeking to take advantage of internal turmoil.

He said he could see similar measures taken this time around, with even greater urgency – but added that urgency does not necessarily mean deviation from protocol.

"In fact, recent statements by the Guardian Council on the transition process suggest adhering to constitutional provisions," Mr. Alirezaei said.

"They want to show that their institutions remain strong and steadfast. By deviating from that, they would risk signalling to their adversaries that their behaviour, as well as their institutions, can be altered through force."

Tehran retaliates with attacks across Gulf region

Several U.S. military bases targeted following killing of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

MEERA RAMAN

Following the U.S. and Israeli military strike on Iran on Saturday morning, including the killing of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Tehran responded with a wave of retaliatory missile and drone attacks across the Gulf region, home to several U.S. military bases.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

In a post on X on Sunday, the United Arab Emirates Defence Ministry said it had so far dealt with 165 ballistic and two cruise missiles and 541 drones launched from Iran. Most of the projectiles were intercepted by air defences, but falling debris caused damage in civilian areas in multiple emirates. The ministry said Sunday three people had been killed.

In Abu Dhabi, the UAE's capital, debris from an intercepted drone fell on the international airport, killing one person and injuring seven, the airport authority said.

Debris from a downed drone damaged the Etihad Towers complex, which houses the Israeli embassy in Abu Dhabi, causing minor injuries to a woman and her child, the state media office said on Sunday.

In tourism-hub Dubai, two people were injured after shrapnel from Iranian drones fell over two houses when they were shot down by air defences, Dubai authorities said. Debris from a drone caused a fire at the luxury hotel Burj Al Arab, and the Dubai Media Office said four people were injured by damage at the Dubai International Airport — one of the world's busiest travel hubs.

OMAN

A drone hit the Omani port of Duqm on Sunday, injuring one foreign worker, according to the state news agency. The port has been used by the U.S. Navy as a logistical hub.

Under a 2019 strategic framework agreement between the U.S. and Oman, U.S. naval vessels have been allowed to dock at Duqm and Salalah, both ports on Oman's Arabian Sea coast. This allows vessels to access the region without transiting the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway between Oman and Iran.

Three commercial vessels around the Strait of Hormuz were attacked on Sunday.

The U.K. Maritime Trade Operations Centre said one ship caught fire after being struck by an "unknown projectile," about 17 miles northwest of the UAE. In a separate attack near Oman, four sailors were wounded on an oil tanker on which sanctions had been imposed by the U.S. Treasury in December. Another ship was attacked later, just five nautical miles from Oman, the UKMTO said.

Oman has frequently acted as a bridge between the U.S. and Iran, most recently mediating talks between the two countries in Geneva.

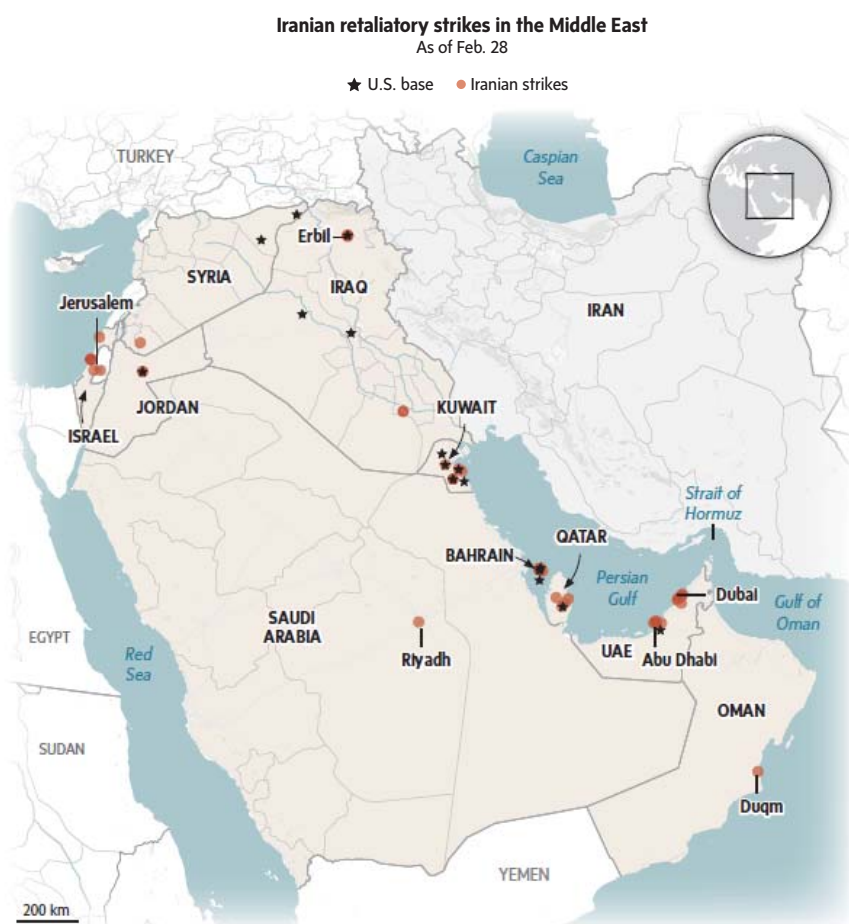
QATAR

At least 16 people were injured in Qatar, the country's interior ministry said. Its defence ministry said on Sunday that it has intercepted 18 ballistic missiles fired across the country, which hosts a major American air base.

Iranian missiles could be seen being intercepted above Doha on Saturday night and Sunday morning. Qatar's interior ministry said on Sunday that it was responding to a limited fire in an industrial zone after debris fell from an intercepted missile.

BAHRAIN

Bahrain, an island nation home to a major U.S. naval base, said a missile attacked the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet headquarters, and three buildings were dam-



MURAT YÜKSELİR / THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF WAR AND AEI'S CRITICAL THREATS PROJECT; OPENSTREETMAP

aged in the capital, Manama, and Muharraq city. On Sunday, Bahrain said it had shot down 45 missiles and nine drones.

Bahrain's interior ministry confirmed that the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Manama had been damaged in an attack, but there were no casualties.

KUWAIT

Iran fired 97 ballistic missiles and 283 drones at Kuwait, the country's defence ministry reported on Sunday, adding that "a number of them were destroyed." One person was killed and more than 30 people were injured, the country's health ministry said.

The military said in a statement that interception operations led to shrapnel falling in parts of the county, causing "limited damage." Three Kuwaiti troops were wounded when shrapnel landed in the Ali Al Salem airbase, the military said.

A drone struck the main international airport, injuring nine workers, the country's state news agency said on Sunday.

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry issued a statement on Saturday that confirmed Iranian attacks on the capital, Riyadh, and the eastern region, which it said were "successfully intercepted." Intercepted missiles were targeted at Riyadh international airport as well as Prince Sultan Air Base, home to U.S. military personnel.

The statement said the attacks came "despite the Iranian authorities' knowledge that the Kingdom had affirmed it would not allow its airspace or territory to be used to target Iran."

JORDAN

Jordan, which borders Israel, said it "dealt with" 49 drones and ballistic missiles, and its armed forces shot down missiles targeting its territory.

IRAQ

Iranian drones hit the international airport in northern Iraq, which also houses a U.S. military base. The base serves as a hub for American forces and has been a target of frequent attacks from Iran-linked groups in the past.

Four members of the Popular Mobilization Forces of Iraq, a militia group with ties to Iran, were killed in a bombing in the northeastern Iraqi province of Diyala on Sunday, the official Iraqi News Agency reported.

ISRAEL

At least nine people were killed and 28 were injured when buildings collapsed following an Iranian strike in the central city of Beit Shemesh, Israel's rescue services said.

Israel's emergency medical services said it was still looking for people trapped under rubble.

SYRIA

Four people were killed, and others were wounded, when an Iranian missile hit a building in the southern Syrian city of As-Sweida, the Syrian state news agency said.

With reports from Reuters and Associated Press

Cutting-edge technologies helped U.S. and Israel carry out assassinations

SEAN SILCOFF
TECHNOLOGY REPORTER

The U.S.-Israeli military attack that killed Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and members of his high command involved wide-scale deployment of several cutting-edge technologies, including artificial intelligence and the first use by U.S. military forces of a weapon inspired by Iranian technology.

The U.S. Central Command said Saturday that it had "employed low-cost one-way attack drones for the first time in combat." The LUCAS drones, built by Phoenix-based Spektreworks Inc., cost US\$35,000 each and were modelled after Iran's Shahed-136s, which have been used in the Ukraine war and hit several Gulf state sites in response to the attacks on Tehran.

"History was made yesterday, yet many overlooked the significant headline," Lorin Selby, a retired second rear admiral with the U.S. Navy and national security expert, said in a LinkedIn post Sunday about the LUCAS drones. "The era of the \$35,000 weapon has begun."

The drones complemented other technologies that have increasingly shaped recent military actions, including the capture by U.S. forces of deposed Venezue-

lan leader Nicolás Maduro in January.

The New York Times reported that the CIA, working with Israeli counterparts, had tracked Ayatollah Khamenei's movements for months and learned a meeting of top Iranian officials would take place early Saturday at a compound in Tehran. While it is not clear what other technologies were used, both the U.S. and Israel have many modern electronic warfare tools at their disposal.

Ayatollah Khamenei "was unable to avoid our Intelligence and Highly Sophisticated Tracking systems and, working closely with Israel, there was not a thing he, or the other leaders that have been killed along with him, could do," U.S. President Donald Trump said in a Truth Social post on Saturday.

Prior to the attack on Venezuela, the U.S. Space Force and the Cyber Command were involved in suppressing defence forces in that country, General Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said at the time. The U.S. Navy also used its electronic attack platform, known as EA-18G Growlers, to jam enemy radar and communications systems, The Wall Street Journal reported. Some observers believed the U.S. Cyber Command also disrupted Venezuela's electrical grid.

That followed the reported use of cyberweapons by the U.S. mil-

itary last June to disrupt Iran's air missile defence system during strikes on three nuclear sites.

Reuters reported Sunday a wave of cyberattacks took place alongside the U.S.-Israeli attacks. News websites were hacked and a religious calendar app called BadeSaba displayed messages telling users, "It's time for a reckoning" and urged armed forces to give up weapons and join the people. There was also a near-total internet blackout in Iran Saturday.

"I would expect that in connection to a kinetic assault that various hacking technologies would have been deployed to disrupt and deter communication within Iran," said Matt Holland, who used to write code for cybersecurity missions when he worked for the Communications Security Establishment, Canada's cyberspy agency, and is now an Ottawa-based cybersecurity entrepreneur.

The U.S. military is a customer of Palantir Technologies Inc., a Denver-based data and analytics giant whose flagship products allow the use of virtual digital twins of physical locations to inform real-time decision making. Palantir's AI-based software is also used by U.S. military intelligence to analyze drone and sensor data to pinpoint targets.

The U.S. military has also been a big user of large language model

(LLM) artificial intelligence technology. The Wall Street Journal and Axios reported that Anthropic PBC's LLM platform Claude was used during Saturday's action. That was despite the fact that Mr. Trump a day earlier directed all federal agencies to stop using Anthropic, accusing the San Francisco company in a Truth Social post of forcing the government "to obey their terms of service instead of our Constitution."

(Anthropic was the first LLM company to have its models used across the Defence Department's classified network. Later Friday, rival OpenAI said it had reached a deal with the Pentagon to deploy "advanced AI systems in classified environments.")

The Israel Defense Forces, meanwhile, have deployed an AI-based system called Habsora to generate attack targets using intelligence data since 2021. Israel has also conducted attacks on Hezbollah's communications system, including a sophisticated campaign that saw it remotely detonate pagers used by members of the Iranian-backed terrorist organization in September, 2024.

Israel's flourishing tech scene has also produced startups specializing in cybersecurity and other advanced technologies.

Mr. Holland said he expected the U.S. and Israel "would have mapped out all the computer/in-

frastructure assets that they would want to disrupt ahead of time, so it would be a rapidly executed plan once they decided" to attack, including everything "from hacking tools to signal jammers to passive listening of signals generated by key areas within Iran."

Ken Nickerson, a technology adviser and fellow with the Creative Destruction Lab in Toronto, said: "You definitely want to disable command and control from issuing radio commands to missile systems to launch" and deploy drones or other "loitering munitions in the sky" to attack sites "as soon as they turn on their radio frequencies."

The development of the LUCAS weapons came after U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth explored the military last year to establish dominance in drones.

Eliot Pence, chief executive of Canadian defence technology startup Dominion Dynamics, said the LUCAS drones offered a low-cost way for the U.S. military to take out anti-aircraft radar systems and complement big-ticket hardware such as fighter jets and missiles.

Combining cheap and expensive military hardware "is not something the U.S. has ever done. It's the new way of warfare," he said.

With a report from Reuters

With complex Iran, there are no magic bullets

Almost uniquely, the country has neither a single unified governing regime nor a single set of motives among those seeking its ouster

DOUG SAUNDERS
WASHINGTON

ANALYSIS

For the first time in many years, the United States has conducted a military action with the almost exclusive goal of regime change – something long desired by many in Iran and by the governments of neighbouring countries.

But deep and unresolved disagreements among those parties on the purpose, means and ideal outcome of that change are likely to dash any hope that aerial bombardment or the assassination of Iran's senior leaders will serve as a magic bullet to bring about meaningful positive change.

U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu both opened their official statements on the morning of Feb. 28 with their desire for Iranians to use the attacks to rise against the Islamic regime. Secondary goals such as a reduction of potential nuclear capability were described as conditional on this ill-defined revolutionary outcome.

The attacks do follow months of Iranian anti-regime protests and acts of public resistance. Jubilant dissidents in Tehran told

me on Saturday that they were defying the danger of missile attacks to head into their cities to celebrate the death of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, an event they have desired all their lives. There is no shortage of appetite for change, of some form or another, and we shouldn't downplay the extent to which many Iranians are willing to endure deadly attacks from Washington and Tel Aviv if it deposes such hated leaders.

On top of this, the pattern of missile craters that pocked the Persian Gulf and Mideast on Saturday painted a map of the theocratic regime's variety of enmities and rivalries across the region. The United States and Israel are joined by many regional governments, including Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and possibly Saudi Arabia, in desiring a swift end to the rule of the Ayatollahs, replaced by some form of Iranian regime they view as less of a threat, less of a competitor, or simply less powerful and influential in the region.

But that complex range of motives points to the strategic difficulty in an Iranian regime-change war: Iran, almost uniquely, has neither a single unified governing regime nor a single set of motives and aspirations among those seeking its ouster.

Different parties to this war want different outcomes from Iran. Some want it weaker, some want it to have exactly the same regime but with more pliable leaders and others want it variously to be a democracy, a monarchy, a non-military dictatorship, a different kind of religious state, a technocratic military

power or a fragmented failed state perpetually at war with itself rather than its neighbours.

Anyone seeking to bring about a change in Iran through external action has to wrestle with a threefold problem of fragmentation: Neither the Iranian state, nor its people, nor the Iranian neighbourhood is a single entity with consistent leadership, contact points or aspirations. All are multifaceted and divided against themselves. If the most reviled leaders of Iran's governing and military institutions are gone, the question as to what will replace them will have a hundred answers, with no consensus as to who might provide them.

"The Iranian regime" is not unified and co-ordinated in the way other countries are. It's not like Venezuela or Iraq, where by ousting the man whose photos adorn the walls, foreign powers might at least hope to cause the entire government to change its nature and allegiances.

Rather than a hierarchy answerable to the Supreme Leader, the Iranian state today is a number of power centres vying and sometimes competing for control of the state. Toppling Ayatollah Khamenei would still keep the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, which for years has been more powerful than the Ayatollahs, in control of the country's greatest wealth sources, its foreign interests and much of its military power. Even if the IRGC decided to side with the people or with some new head of state such as the late Shah's son Reza Pahlavi, it's not at all clear that the military or the judiciary – themselves almost separate gov-

ernments and possessing vast resources – would follow.

Likewise, the Supreme National Security Council – which controls Iran's nuclear programs, much of its military and intelligence agencies, and is thought to have more pro-Western leadership – might conceivably side with a new leadership or with a mass popular uprising, but would not necessarily have the IRGC or the full hierarchy of the army join it. The country's powerful judiciary and its elected parliamentary government similarly have their own leadership and loyalties almost totally separate from those other branches.

In the event of a truly revolutionary moment of change, several of those branches could side with the people, but it would only take one of them going its own way or remaining loyal to the clerics in order to turn a transformation into a terrible and long-lasting civil war.

Iranians, who Mr. Trump and Mr. Netanyahu said they're counting on to do the hard work of actually changing the regime, are just as divided. In December and January, what had been two years of largely unified mass protests became angrily divided between monarchists backing Mr. Pahlavi and republicans who remembered the brutality of his father's regime and sought a democratic transition.

And the Pahlavi backers are divided between those who see him as a transitory constitutional monarch and those who genuinely want a king.

The Islamic regime's enemies and rivals in the region each have their own desired outcomes, and degrees of motiva-

tion to influence those outcomes.

Israel, Jordan, Bahrain and some other Mideast capitals mainly want the IRGC's influence to end, especially its support for Hezbollah, Hamas and other disruptive theocratic movements in the region. Saudi Arabia is concerned about Iran's long-range missile capabilities and its support for the Houthi militia in Yemen. It is likely seeking a weakened but stable and prosperous Iran rather than a chaotic collapse that might empower non-state actors or cause a refugee flood.

The United Arab Emirates and Qatar want an Iran that can serve as a strong economic partner that doesn't spread extremism and refugees across the region or deter tourists. They probably also prefer a monarchy or some other friendly dictatorship.

It is quite possible that some of those actors, or Mr. Trump, might happily back a resurrected version of the former Islamic Regime if it were led by a more pliable and pro-Western figure such as Ali Larijani, head of the Supreme National Security Council. But many Iranian activists would view that as a betrayal, leading to a much larger uprising.

So, even if this has been a successful "decapitation" war in which top leaders are killed and the people persuaded to rise up, that outcome does not have any clear path to a regime change that will fulfill the aspirations of most Iranians, of most countries seeking change or win the support of all branches of the regime. Because Iran is such a complex target, there are no magic bullets.

Khamenei: It's difficult to predict who will emerge as new supreme leader, expert says

FROM A1

Anger flared across the Shia world Sunday, from Karachi – where Pakistani police used tear gas against protesters who breached the outer wall of the U.S. consulate – to Beirut, where thousands took to the streets in the predominantly Shia southern suburbs of the capital.

Naim Qassem, the leader of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militia, saluted Ayatollah Khamenei as a "divine leader and heavenly guide," though he stopped short of saying whether Hezbollah would take any action in response.

"We will do our duty in confronting aggression," Mr. Qassem said in a statement Sunday. "No matter how great the sacrifices, we will not abandon the field of honour and resistance."

U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, meanwhile, called on Iranians to rise up and bring an end to the Islamic Republic that was established in a 1979 revolution.

Before the Oct. 7 attacks, Ayatollah Khamenei was the de facto leader of an alliance that included both Hamas and Hezbollah, as well as a network of Shia militias in Iraq, the Houthis of Yemen and Bashar al-Assad's regime in Syria, which was very much a junior partner to Tehran.

Two and a half years later, Hamas has been devastated by the Israeli assault on Gaza, and Hezbollah is a shell of its former self after a two-month war with Israel in 2024 that saw the group's long-time leader, Hassan Nasrallah, assassinated in an air strike on his bunker in southern Beirut.

The Assad regime fell shortly afterward, and the Houthis have been weakened by Israeli, U.S. and British air strikes.

Now, Ayatollah Khamenei has followed the leaders of Hamas and Hezbollah to their graves, leaving open the question of who and what remains to carry on Iran's decades-long struggle against U.S.-Israeli-Saudi dominance of the Middle East.

Iran responded to the U.S. and Israeli attacks by launching missiles and drones at Israel throughout Saturday and Sunday, while also targeting U.S. regional allies Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan. Even Oman, a country that has remained neutral and which brokered last-minute U.S.-Iranian negotiations in an effort to avert the war, said drones had struck one of its port facilities.

Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister Abbas Araghchi suggested in an interview with the Qatari-based Al-Jazeera TV network that the elected government – always less powerful than the country's religious leadership – now had little influence over the actions of the military.

"What happened in Oman was not our choice. We have already told our armed forces to be careful about the targets that they choose," Mr. Araghchi said Sunday. "Our military units are now, in fact, independent and somewhat isolated, and they are acting based on general instructions given to them in advance."

The question hanging over Lebanon – as well as Yemen and Iraq – is whether Iranian proxies such as Hezbollah will join in the attacks.

"Hezbollah's capabilities were eclipsed



A woman holds a picture of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei while crying at an event honouring Iran's former supreme leader at Ashoura Square in Beirut, Lebanon, on Sunday. DANIEL CARDE/GETTY IMAGES



A Shiite Muslim hurls stones at the U.S. consulate's entrance in Lahore, Pakistan, on Sunday during a protest against the killing of Iran's supreme leader. ARIF ALI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

after the last blow," said Joseph Bayeh, an assistant professor of international affairs and public policy at Lusail University in Qatar. He predicted that Hezbollah would refrain from starting another war it couldn't win.

However, Amal Saad, a Hezbollah expert who lectures on politics at Cardiff University, said the "brazenness" of the Khamenei assassination would force Hezbollah's leadership to consider if war was coming to them whether they chose it or not.

"I do think that Israel might well maintain its new post-Oct. 7 strategy of eliminating threats even if they aren't fully fledged," she said. "So even if Hezbollah has been subdued, the fear of it rearming

and reconfiguring will likely mean Israel will try to finish it off."

Much of what happens next will be determined by whoever emerges as Ayatollah Khamenei's successor.

A three-member panel, including President Masoud Pezeshkian, was formed in Tehran Sunday to run the country until the 88-member Guardian Council selects a new supreme leader.

Leading candidates are believed to include Alireza Araf, a member of the Guardian Council who heads the Basij, a paramilitary force that is part of the elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, as well as Ali Larijani, the head of the regime's Supreme National Security Council. Other presumed contenders include

Ayatollah Khamenei's son Mojtaba, as well as Hassan Khomeini, the grandson of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic.

Abas Aslani, a Tehran-based senior fellow with the Middle East Centre for Strategic Studies, said it was difficult to predict who would emerge as the country's new supreme leader. But he forecast that the Islamic Republic – which has already weathered a series of anti-regime protests earlier this year by unleashing a crackdown that left thousands of people dead – would survive and continue its policy of confronting the U.S. and Israel.

"A surrender or change from the Iranian side seems unlikely," Mr. Aslani said, predicting instead that there would be "further escalation" of the conflict across the region.

The death of Ayatollah Khamenei "is a big loss for Iran and the axis, and this creates a vacuum," Mr. Aslani wrote in an exchange of WhatsApp messages. "But the infrastructure that Iran has built under his leadership is capable of recovering and adapting."

Prof. Bayeh agreed that the U.S. and Israeli air strikes were unlikely to bring about regime change on their own. He compared the situation to 2003, when the U.S. and its allies invaded Iraq to depose dictator Saddam Hussein without a plan in place for what came next.

While Mr. Hussein was removed from power, and later executed, the country eventually descended into a prolonged civil war that killed hundreds of thousands of people and ironically helped make Iran the region's dominant power.

"I doubt we will see regime change in Iran," Prof. Bayeh said. "But if it collapses, the aftermath will be similar to the Iraq fiasco."



EDITORIAL

ANDREW SAUNDERS
PRESIDENT AND CEO

DAVID WALMSLEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The subject who is truly loyal to the chief magistrate will neither advise nor submit to arbitrary measures - Junius

A new front in the fight against authoritarians

Of all the reaction to the U.S. and Israeli air strikes on Iran, that of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was the most clear eyed. In a statement, the ministry decried the Iranian regime's "large-scale policy of violence against its own people and other countries," a nod to the slaughter of countless thousands of anti-government protesters this year.

And the Ukrainians celebrated the disruption of the shadow alliance between Iran and Russia, rightly calling Tehran's military aid to Moscow "a gross violation of international law."

Anyone criticizing the U.S-Israeli strikes, and the killing of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, as a violation of international law should ponder those words. Iran cannot fund international terror, attack Israel for decades through proxies, pursue nuclear weapons and back a war of aggression in Ukraine and then expect that the niceties of international law will somehow shield it from the consequences of its actions.

After four years of bloody war with Vladimir Putin's Russia, Ukraine understands all too well the nature of the growing conflict between an authoritarian bloc of countries and the West. Iran's blood-soaked theocracy is part of that rogue's gallery of authoritarian states, supplying Shahed drones and drone technology to Russia, while underwriting terror groups in the Middle East and across the world. "We remember and will never forget the strikes of thousands of 'Shaheds' on our peaceful cities and people," the ministry wrote.

Ukraine understands what many in the West cannot or will not see: the attacks on Iran are one part of the wider conflict with authoritarian states. In that context, this weekend's air attacks on Iran creates an opportunity for the West to not only hold back, but to roll back the forces of authoritarianism and repression.

Happily, Ottawa seems to understand what's at stake. Prime Minister Mark Carney's statement on the weekend gave Canada's support to the military strikes and put this country's sympathies where they belong, with those suffering under Tehran's tyranny. "Canada stands with the Iranian people in their long and courageous struggle against Iran's oppressive regime."

U.S. President Donald Trump is urging Iranians to overthrow their oppressors. Mr. Trump is, at best, an imperfect tribune, but in this instance he is correct. Outside intervention might make it possible for ordinary Iranians to rise up, by debilitating the effectiveness of state security forces. But it will be up to Iranians to determine whether 47 years of theocratic dictatorship will end.

If it does, that will be foremost cause for celebration for the people of Iran, whose culture and history has been suffocated by theocracy for nearly a half-century. Fifty years of repression against women, against anyone who deviated from the rigid version of Islam imposed by the regime: the day that nightmare ends will be a jubilant day for Iranians.

But a free Iran would have far greater consequences. For a start, Russia would be deprived of a key ally in its brutal campaign against Ukraine. Instead, Moscow would have a neutral, or even West-aligned, country to the south.

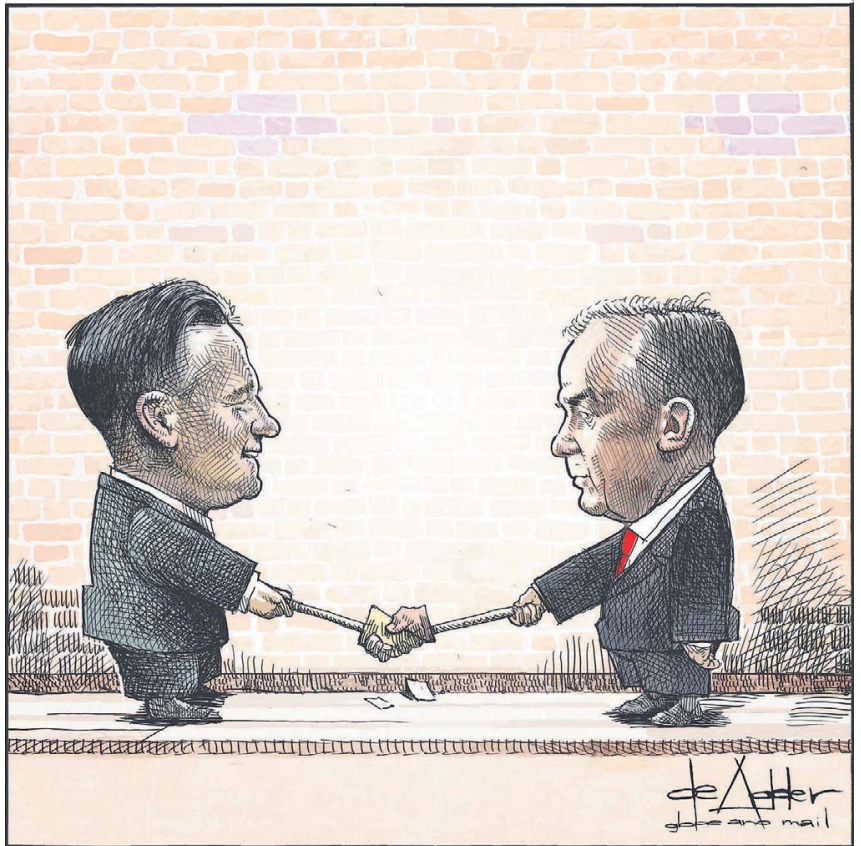
China, too, would suffer a setback. Its ability to buy Iranian oil at a deep discount would likely come to a sudden halt.

The effect on the Middle East of an Iran freed from the mullahs hard to calculate. Hezbollah and the Houthis would wither without Tehran's patronage. Israel would be safer, the Gulf States and Saudi Arabia would be more secure. The world would be a better place.

That outcome is far from certain, of course. An air campaign alone will not dislodge the Iranian theocracy, although Israeli and American air forces can limit the regime's use of advanced weaponry against its citizens. Whether Mr. Trump has the spine to finish the fight he has started remains to be seen, particularly if American casualties mount.

Iranians are reportedly celebrating air strikes against their own cities, preferring foreign bombs to domestic bullets and truncheons. But the popular mood could swing. Even if it doesn't, Iran's theocrats will not make it easy. More brave Iranians will be injured, and more will die, before the regime can be overthrown. There will be more chaos throughout the Middle East as Tehran attempts to lash out.

There are risks, yes. But there is also a hope: that Iranians, finally free after 47 years, can join in the fight against the dark forces of authoritarianism.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OFFSIDE

Re "The State of the Union was a zoo - and Team USA the monkeys" (Sports, Feb. 26): How did a discussion of the U.S. hockey team evolve to insulting all professional hockey players and then extend to all professional athletes?

"Some exceptions" are acknowledged, but I don't think that was generous enough. Ken Dryden and Randy Gregg may not have read bestselling novels, but surely legal opinions and medical journals count.

Isn't that "smart and savvy?" And those are only two "exceptions."

■ Marie Madill-Payne Toronto

Using the U.S. Olympic men's hockey team as political props is no different than using "ordinary citizens." I find both distasteful.

■ Daryl Gray Chester, N.S.

CUT TO THE CHASE

Re "Productivity is an urgent problem for Canada. The response? A 15-year study" (Report on Business, Feb. 23): Spending \$6-million and 15 years for a study that is purportedly not longitudinal but a snapshot? How about we save the time and money and do the simplest thing?

Ask the average Canadian the cause of low productivity and you will probably get at least two answers: The first would be government interference and the second could be a hundred things. Attack the first and the others will likely fade away.

Where do I send my invoice? It would be for zero dollars.

■ Clay Atcheson North Vancouver

FOREIGN FORAY

Re "Let's stop giving billions in research funding to foreign firms" (Report on Business, Feb. 23): I believe that is only one step in the right direction.

When research and development leads to the creation of promising Canadian companies, we should also limit foreign takeovers of such companies. Otherwise, our economic prospects will be routinely truncated when the intellectual property leaves the country anyway.

■ Jim Paulin Ottawa

Funding flows to the universities, not the companies.

Companies contribute cash and their own personnel time and, in exchange, get a negotiated level of access to university expertise and intellectual property. Universities benefit from a mix of corporate and public funding for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, and Canada gets newly trained researchers, many of whom stay in this country.

If access to these programs

were limited to Canadian-owned companies, the real loss would be in graduate student support. That funding would need to be made up without corporate contributions, or we would lose those students.

The vast majority of these projects do not result in IP, but only the creation of knowledge disseminated in scholarly publications and graduate theses.

■ Mike Szarka Waterloo, Ont.

Re "Trump has spurred a rush to China for trade salvation. That shouldn't sacrifice human rights" (Feb. 23): The general argument is that human rights are universal values, and claims they are merely Western values are used by governments wanting no challenge to their authority.

But extensive international research, detailed by professor Joseph Henrich in his remarkable 2020 book *The WEIRD People in the World*, demonstrates the West does indeed have values that differ from the rest of the world. Human rights can only exist in cultures that recognize the individual citizen as the basic unit of society.

We are mistaken in thinking it is merely dictators and authoritarians who stand in the way. I believe we are up against whole cultures that enable them, which will not necessarily evolve by virtue of more development and greater wealth.

In this context, who exactly would we be pressuring by refusing to trade? Where is the moral cause?

■ Peter Conroy Ottawa

NOT SO FAST

Re "Alberta cannot just up and leave Canada" (Feb. 23): Separation has become a convenient buzzword, and many think this relationship can be easily "uncoupled" without any fuss or muss.

In reality, it's a legal divorce of sorts to figure out who gets the furniture and who gets the dog. To prevent people from receiving misinformation, there should be more communication about probable consequences and how they could be worse off if they leave.

This isn't just floor crossing, it's country crossing and like leaving home without an updated map and with only one credit card.

■ Douglas Cornish Ottawa

CAUSE, EFFECT

Re "Building more homes alone won't fix affordability. Here's what else is needed" (Report on Business, Feb. 23): More supply leads to lower prices. Saying otherwise does not cut it.

Take a look at Toronto: Condo prices are dropping as a result of abundant supply. This trend line

is unmistakable and creating all kinds of angst with the owners and financiers of these unoccupied units.

Next stop? Excessive development charges. A reduction there would lead to better economics, more supply and even lower prices.

■ Brian Johnston Toronto

IF YOU BUILD IT...

Re "A failing grade on school construction in Vancouver" (Editorial, Feb. 23): The children and families who live in Olympic Village have suffered the consequences.

Over 20 years, the province and the Vancouver School Board could have planned to increase enrolment in neighbouring schools. Now city council is being asked, inappropriately, to approve a school too large for the site and where children have only the roof to play on.

This would jeopardize their safety by allowing too much traffic in a pedestrian-friendly community, as well as lose the trust of a community left out of meaningful decision-making. Everyone loses, unless the city has the gumption to say "no" to the school board and plan for the future in a sensible and creative way.

The school could be built properly tomorrow.

■ Joyce Resin Vancouver

The delay in building our school, due to lack of planning and co-ordination between the province and school board, is a great disservice to our families and puts city council in a bind.

Yes, there will be future residential "density" in surrounding areas and need for more classrooms. But because the province and school board failed to consider options to increase enrolment at nearby schools, all on larger sites, the city is now asked, in a rush and with little public consultation, to approve an extra floor for a much bigger school on this small site with no ground-level play area and constricted access.

I hope for more thoughtful, creative solutions; for co-ordination between governments; for true public engagement before decisions are cast, for our children's sake. The original school design could start construction next spring if the city rejects this rezoning.

Let's aim for A+, not settle for F-.

■ Peter Reese
Retired architect; Vancouver

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OPINION

Two wrongs don't make a right in the Iran war

U.S. administration has no apparent plan for the complicated day after in Iran, and its people deserve better

HUSSEIN BANAI

OPINION

Associate professor of international studies at the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies at Indiana University-Bloomington

There is a temptation, when a genuinely evil regime finally meets the force it has long invited, to treat the moment as a kind of justice. The Islamic Republic of Iran has spent 47 years imprisoning, torturing and killing its own people. It massacred thousands of protesters in the streets from December through February. It has exported violence across the region, subsidized militias and built a nuclear program it refused to account for. It is possible to feel that war means a reckoning has arrived. That feeling is

earned. It answers nothing about what comes next.

What ultimately produced this war was not the Islamic Republic's cruelty but the Trump administration's inability to decide what it actually wanted. Containment treats a hostile government as a permanent feature of the landscape and works to modify its behaviour through pressure and negotiation. Regime change treats every negotiation as a performance and every concession as a lifeline to a system that deserves to fall.

The administration oscillated between these two positions, undermining each with the other, until the oscillation became unsustainable and the bombs provided a kind of resolution. The war was the end point of a policy that had ceased to function, reached for when the contradictions could no longer be managed any other way.

That distinction matters enormously now, because the question that will dominate moving ahead is not the one the administration has been asking. It is not whether Iran's nuclear facilities can be degraded or its missile inventory depleted. It is this: What comes after the Islamic Re-

public, and who decides?

History offers a consistent and dispiriting answer to that question. The United States spent months preparing for post-Saddam Iraq, deploying the State Department's Future of Iraq project, consulting exile groups and gaming out reconstruction scenarios, and still produced a decade of sectarian violence, institutional collapse and an opening for forces far more destabilizing than the government it removed. In Libya, NATO's intervention was followed by years of civil war between competing factions with neither the legitimacy nor the capacity to govern. These are not arguments against ever using force; they are arguments for treating the day after the bombs fall as at least as important as the day the bombs are dropped. In Iran, there is no evidence that this calculation has been made at all.

The figure the Trump administration is most likely to put forward as the political face of what comes next is Reza Pahlavi, the exiled son of the deposed Shah, who is already Israel's preferred candidate and has spent the past several years building a transitional road map and cultivating

relationships with both governments. The problem is not simply his poll numbers or his contested legitimacy inside Iran, though both are real. The deeper problem is structural: The Islamic Republic is not Saddam Hussein's brutally effective but institutionally shallow regime, which was decapitated from above and dissolved almost overnight, however catastrophic the vacuum that followed.

The Islamic Republic has spent 47 years building something far harder to dislodge. The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) alone control an estimated third of the national economy, and clerical networks, bonyad foundations and security institutions penetrate the judiciary, the energy sector, the banking system, the media and local governance. Any leader who takes power in a post-Islamic Republic Iran will not be building on a cleared site, but governing on top of structures that have survived, and whose cooperation or at least acquiescence they will need. How Mr. Pahlavi, or anyone, manages that negotiation is the central question of the day after.

That uncertainty points to-

ward the likeliest outcome. An institution that has spent four decades building patronage networks, parallel bureaucracies and ideological coherence among its officer class does not dissolve when the clerical system above it is removed; it reorganizes. The most probable outcome of this war, then, is an Iran governed by the Guards themselves, under new branding. Mr. Trump's offer of "complete immunity" to the Guards if they stood down was an inadvertent acknowledgment that this institution cannot be dismantled, only co-opted.

None of this absolves the Islamic Republic. The regime was cruel, corrupt and willing to kill on a massive scale to preserve itself. The Iranians who filled the streets and found ways to resist even as the internet was cut and the security forces fired into crowds were right about the system that governed them.

But power exercised without responsibility for its consequences is its own kind of wrong. Iranians deserve far better than the regime that has ruled them. They deserve equally better than an intervention that treats their future as an afterthought.

What Canada can learn from Norway's winning Olympic strategy

JASON DYCK OSLO

OPINION

Leads track cycling and paracycling at the Norwegian Cycling Federation

The postmortems have already started. Canada finished the Milan Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics with 21 medals, its worst total since Salt Lake City in 2002, and the diagnoses are pouring in: Funding cuts. Athlete poverty. Federations are stretched too thin. And then, inevitably, Norway.

Norway topped the medal table again, and the comparisons began: their philosophy of joy over competition, their deep pockets, their children who don't keep score until the age of 13. I've read most of the coverage.

As a Canadian who has spent seven years working inside the Norwegian elite sports system, I want to offer a correction or two, and one insight almost nobody is talking about.

The most persistent misconception is that Norway's success is essentially purchased. It's an easy assumption to make. Norway is a wealthy nation, flush with oil revenues, and its state-run lottery funnels a large share of profits back into sport. But that money flows primarily to grassroots clubs and local infrastructure. It is not a slush fund for elite athletes.

I know this because I live it. As the national paracycling coach and strategic lead for track cycling at the Norwegian Cycling Federation, my athletes have won multiple international medals yet receive funding that is not enough on its own to lift them above the



Gold-medal-winning cross-country skier Johannes Hoesflot Kleabo, centre, celebrates alongside fellow Norwegians Martin Loewstroem Nyenget, left, and Emil Iversen at the Olympics. STEPHANIE LECOCO/REUTERS

poverty line. Canada's senior-carded athletes receive roughly \$26,000 annually. Norway's figures are slightly lower. Norway does not have a richer elite sport system than Canada. It has a better-designed one. Those are very different things.

You'll also hear that Norway has a "no scorekeeping until 13" rule. The story is compelling but subtly misleading. Norway absolutely believes in competition. Children race and learn how to compete. The culture around being fast is very much alive.

What doesn't exist is a ranking system. In most sports systems, including Canada's, early results determine who gets the travel

team spot, the better coach, the high-performance pathway at age 10. Rankings create divergent trajectories that are very hard to reverse. Norway removes that sorting mechanism.

It doesn't remove the competition itself, but the consequences that follow from it. Both the fastest and slowest 12-year-olds remain on the same development path. The result, across a generation, is an athlete pool not pre-filtered by the accidents of early puberty. A Norwegian late bloomer is allowed to stay in sport long enough to reach their full potential.

Here is what almost nobody is addressing. Norwegian children

play freely until 13, and somehow a decade later they're on Olympic podiums. Something has to happen in between. The answer is *idrettsgymnas*, Norway's sports high schools. These are fully accredited high schools spread across the country where sport and education are structurally integrated. The first half of every school day is reserved for training; classes begin after lunch. Full-time coaches work alongside teachers. Students spend three years training in peak developmental windows, without sacrificing their education. Rather than asking young athletes to squeeze serious training around homework and a bus schedule,

the system resolves that conflict entirely. Crucially, students train alongside equally serious peers, generating their own culture of ambition and accountability. They learn what professional preparation looks like by living it every day. This is the incubator that produces Norwegian Olympic champions.

The sports school model is not easily exportable overnight. But the direction is clear. Canada could push provincial governments to pilot integrated sport-school programs for the 16 to 19 age range. Not elite academies but accessible environments where serious young athletes can train without sacrificing their education. It could also ask an uncomfortable question of its youth ranking systems: Are they finding the best athletes, or just the earliest developers? Precocity is not the same as potential.

And it could stop treating Norway's success as a riddle to solve with more money. Funding matters, but Norway's real lesson is that system design is what separates a culture of winning from a culture of hoping.

The Canadian Olympic Committee's Team Canada 2035 plan names both Play and Podium as strategic pillars. The ambition is right. The athletes who could win medals at the 2034 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics are 13 or 14 years old right now. They are in schools, playing sports, full of potential. Build the right environment for them, and the results will show up on the podium a decade from now. That is not a guess. It is exactly what Norway did.

I've seen it work. Canada has the talent. The model exists. The question is whether anyone is willing to take it seriously.

For Israel, war once again as the air raid sirens sound

MARSHA LEDERMAN

OPINION

February went out like a lion in Israel, and March is roaring in like one: beastly, dangerous, on the hunt – and being hunted – as the country, with the U.S., launched Operation Lion's Roar against Iran, killing its supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and changing history.

Air raid sirens are sounding all over central Israel, iPhone alerts announced through the weekend. The red dots on the digital map blurred into blobs, so thick they obscured the names of some cities – Netanya, Rehovot, Ra'anana – where families were gathering anxiously in bomb shelters, instead of celebrating the joyous holiday of Purim, which begins Monday night. A holiday where kids dress up in costumes, based on the story of Queen Esther, which took place in Persia – now Iran.

Air raid sirens are a fact of life

in Israel. But at war with Iran, this howling signals a heightened level of alarm.

"You have crossed our red line and must pay the price," Iran's parliamentary speaker, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, warned the U.S. and Israel on Sunday. "We will deliver such devastating blows that you yourselves will be driven to beg."

For Israelis, these sirens, this new war, come after more than two years of war with Hamas, and while the country is still recovering from the devastation – psychological and otherwise – of the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks – as well as the Iranian strikes last June.

In November, when I visited Israel postceasefire, the impact of not only the war in Gaza but also the 12-Day War with Iran was evident. In Tel Aviv's Old North district, buildings destroyed by June's Iranian missiles loomed over a residential street like monuments.

Safe in Canada this weekend, watching a new war unfold on CNN, I have something else ringing in my ears. The words of a

Canadian-Israeli who told me over coffee in Tel Aviv: "Every time you hear the sirens, that's the sound of someone wanting to kill me."

The killing is endless. School girls in Iran, state media reported. And quickly thereafter, civilians in Israel. Nine people killed after a missile hit a public bomb shelter in a synagogue in the central Israeli town of Beit Shemesh. A 32-year-old woman from the Philippines, a caregiver who was trying to get her employer to a bomb shelter in Tel Aviv when she was struck by shrapnel.

There will be more deaths, it seems certain. On a rocket alert website Sunday morning Pacific time, the graphic states that there had so far been 1,285 red alerts on Sunday. On Saturday, there were 1,353.

When I see the "H" of the city of Holon on an alert map, the "olon" part hidden under red pin marks, I think of Amit Musaei, the tour guide who had survived the Oct. 7 attacks at the Nova Music Festival and now takes

groups back to the site of his horror, where the three friends he was supposed to meet were killed after hiding in a bomb shelter. Mr. Musaei lives in Holon with his young family. I send him a WhatsApp message. How many visitors from around the world, who have heard his story, are sending him these messages? Viewing this new war through his already traumatized lens?

On Saturday morning, I text the cousin who had shown me those Iranian-hit buildings in the fall. Is she okay? She tells me she is in the bomb shelter for the 12th time.

Our mothers survived Auschwitz together – her mother was my mother's aunt. My cousin has survived countless wars in Israel. Last year's Iranian strike had damaged the apartment building where she lives. Her story is not even close to unique in that country. Descendants of survivors, trying to survive.

Bomb shelters and safe rooms are ubiquitous in Israel, but a January report warned of a shortage of these protective spaces,

especially in Arab communities. Only 37 of the 11,775 public shelters are in Arab municipalities, and eight of those are not fit for use, according to Israel's state comptroller, citing data from last year.

The West Bank and Gaza are even more vulnerable.

In Israel, there will be overwhelming support for taking out the Israel-despising Khamenei and his oppressive regime. But it won't be unanimous from a country exhausted, depleted by war. Especially as another 100,000 Israeli reservists have been mobilized. As for Palestinians in the occupied territories, they are beyond depleted – and oppressed themselves.

There are rarely hard either/ors in war. Even as people around the world – including many diasporic Iranians and Israelis – celebrate the attack on an oppressive regime, there is also justified grave concern for family back home. What is happening to their loved ones? What has happened already? And what will happen next?



LIFE & ARTS

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The odds of securing a spot through the London Marathon lottery have dipped below 1 in 20 owing to the popularity of the sport. MATTHEW CHATTLE/GETTY IMAGES

The marathon boom is straining the sport — and reshaping its future

Technology, planning and fuelling could all give runners and races a leg up

ALEX CYR

Distance running, for its sustained popularity, has officially graduated from a trend to a lifestyle. Completing a marathon, once mostly the domain of elite athletes and the office weirdo, lately feels as commonplace as playing a game of tennis. Everyone is doing it.

This explosion of popularity has a troubling underbelly: the sport is bursting at the seams. The odds of securing a spot through the London Marathon lottery have dipped below 1 in 20. Qualifying times to the Boston marathon are in free fall. Runners complained about crammed streets and punishing heat in Berlin last fall. Even the solution that seems obvious on paper — expanding the World Marathon Majors — comes with complications. As soon as a race is elevated to major status, demand surges, and start lists saturate.

At the same time, the tools around running are evolving rapidly. Wearables now allow for highly specific training. Fuelling technology is improving season by season. Tracking systems are changing the experience for spectators as much as for athletes. The marathon of the future, many in the sport argue, won't simply be bigger. It will be smarter — really, it has no choice.

To understand where the sport may be headed, we spoke with two people thinking deeply about its next phase: Bill Quinn, a foresight strategist and consultant at major marathon sponsor Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), and Charlotte Brooks, event director at Canada Running Series, which hosts six annual races, four in Toronto and two in Vancouver. Their view is clear: the pressure on marathons isn't going away. But innovation may make the strain manageable.

TECH WE CAN USE

The challenge for runners of today isn't a lack of data. It's the opposite. Training watches, sleep trackers, recovery metrics and even glucose monitors generate oceans of information, often stored in separate silos. Mr. Quinn sees artificial intelligence as the bridge between raw numbers and meaningful insight.

"One of the big challenges is you buy all this stuff, get excited about using it, and then get drowned in all the data," he said. "That's where AI gets exciting is that it will make it easy for the average runner to understand."

Rather than scrolling through charts, runners could receive clear guidance from their wearables: when to push, when to rest, how to adjust fuelling or sleep. Mr. Quinn believes the shift from data to actionable in-

formation is close. "I think we're a handful of years away" from runners gaining clarity rather than confusion, he said.

Looking further ahead, he points to nanotechnology and smart equipment. Nanobots, ingestible pieces of tech, could circulate the bloodstream and share physiological data in real time that could offer suggestions on pace and fuelling.

Meanwhile, shoes could one day provide real-time feedback on stride efficiency or muscular imbalances. Nike already holds a patent for a midsole that can change its properties during a run, to offer support to a runner's fatiguing stride. These advances may still be years — or decades — away, but the direction is clear: increasingly personalized marathoning.

RETHINKING THE START LINE

Technology may also make races safer and more efficient. One of the biggest logistical challenges for large marathons is how to corral tens of thousands of runners in carefully timed waves so they can keep moving without causing chaos. That's easier said than done: New York and London now host roughly 60,000 runners apiece. London received 1.1 million applications for its 2026 race. Sydney, newly added to the World Marathon Majors, has become the fastest-growing marathon in the world and is on track to double its 2024 finisher total of 20,000 next year.

“

It's not just about putting more people on the course, it's about being able to make sure that it's safe when we do so.

BILL QUINN
FORESIGHT STRATEGIST
AND CONSULTANT AT TATA
CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Mr. Quinn believes AI could fundamentally change how corals are assigned. Instead of relying on a qualifying time run months earlier, races of the future could draw on recent training data to group runners more accurately. "It would allow us to safely put more runners on the course — being able to have more people be able to participate in those races could be really exciting."

Early versions of this thinking are already being tested. The Canada Running Series has been working with Manchester-based crowd scientist Marcel Altenburg since 2019 to optimize race starts and reduce bottlenecks, particularly at narrow points on course and in finish areas, Ms. Brooks said.

The changes are subtle, but significant: longer, more staggered starts; tighter control of arrival times; and rethinking how many runners are allowed into staging areas at once. The trade-off is complexity. Longer corral

windows affect permits, transportation planning and how early runners must arrive. But Ms. Brooks sees it as necessary as fields grow ever larger.

SMARTER FUELLING AND ON-COURSE SAFETY

Fuelling has become one of the most discussed topics in endurance sport, and not just among elites. As fields expand, ensuring that aid stations are properly stocked — and that runners in distress are identified quickly — becomes critical.

Mr. Quinn imagines a near future where wearable patches monitor runners' vital signs in real time. He envisions an AI device that will measure racers' biometric feedback, and prompt a medical team to send resources to runners in trouble.

"It's not just about putting more people on the course, it's about being able to make sure that it's safe when we do so."

Technology could also reshape logistics behind the scenes. Drones might be used to shuttle supplies to depleted aid stations.

RACING IN A WARMING WORLD

A warming climate is already forcing change. The 26 C heat at this year's Berlin Marathon was a reminder that traditional fall race calendars are no longer immune to extreme conditions. Many runners questioned the race's relatively late morning start times, staggered between 9:15 a.m. and 10:40 a.m. Ms. Brooks said start times are becoming a bigger consideration, with the Canada Running Series increasingly opting for earlier morning launches, often being 7:30 a.m. starts.

Equipment may also adapt. Mr. Quinn points to emerging materials that could respond dynamically to weather. Through advanced 4-D or 5-D printing, fabrics could change their properties mid-race — insulating runners at the start, then becoming lighter and more breathable as temperatures rise. In rain, the same material could turn hydrophobic.

TOWARD A MORE SUSTAINABLE MARATHON

Few sporting events generate as much visible waste as a marathon. Paper cups, gel packets and discarded clothing line the course.

One idea gaining traction is circular hydration: edible or biodegradable pods that replace single-use cups. Runners could bite into a water "pearl," consume it safely and drop the casing without environmental harm. In future iterations, Mr. Quinn suggested, the outer layer could even double as an energy gel, combining hydration and carbohydrates in one package.

Then, post-race, waste-sorting robots could manage the mountains of discarded cups and packaging more efficiently.

Special to The Globe and Mail

Why adding more fibre to your morning meal is an easy step toward better long-term health

LESLIE BECK
FOOD FOR THOUGHT



For a number of years, prioritizing protein at breakfast has been an overarching goal — perhaps at the expense of dietary fibre.

Don't get me wrong — including this vital macronutrient in the morning meal has muscle health and blood sugar benefits, among others.

However, most Canadians consume only about half of their daily recommended fibre intake. And breakfast is an easy meal to start bridging that gap.

Doing so has big payoffs. Adding fibre can lead to improved digestion, steadier energy and better metabolic health.

Here are five evidence-based health advantages of eating more fibre at breakfast, how much to aim for, plus tasty ways to add it to your meal.

A SMALL MORNING HABIT WITH IMPORTANT BENEFITS

Including fibre at breakfast, especially soluble viscous (sticky) fibre found in oats, barley, psyllium, chickpeas, lentils, sweet potatoes, apples, avocados, berries, citrus fruit and chia seeds can help improve satiety and appetite control.

That's because viscous fibre absorbs water and swells in the stomach, activating stretch receptors that send satiety signals to the brain.

Viscous fibre also slows the rate at which food empties from the stomach into the small intestine. As a result, you stay feeling full longer, helping to quell mid-morning hunger and cravings.

In addition, studies suggest that regularly eating a fibre-rich breakfast can improve insulin sensitivity and blood sugar control, especially in people with insulin resistance, prediabetes and Type 2 diabetes.

The delayed movement of food into the intestine slows glucose absorption into the bloodstream, leading to smaller post-breakfast glucose and insulin spikes.

Soluble viscous fibre can also help lower LDL (bad) cholesterol.

These sticky fibres bind to cholesterol-rich bile acids in the gut, causing them to be excreted.

The liver is then forced to pull LDL cholesterol out of the bloodstream to make more bile acids, compounds needed for fat digestion.

Regular breakfast fibre consumption also promotes gut health. It can improve regularity and reduce constipation. It also benefits the gut microbiome.

Prebiotic fibres, found in foods such as whole rye bread, barley, black beans, oats, apples, pears, berries and asparagus, feed beneficial gut bacteria in the large intestine.

In the process, short-chain fatty acids are produced, metabolites that fuel colon cells, reduce inflammation, improve glucose metabolism and increase satiety hormones.

There's more. Research has consistently shown that fibre at breakfast is a driver of an overall healthier diet and the consumption of nutrient-rich foods across the day.

HOW MUCH FIBRE?

The Canadian and U.S. Dietary Reference Intakes (DRIs) for fibre, set in 2005 and based largely on evidence to reduce the risk of coronary heart disease, advise adults ages 19 to 50 to consume 25 g (women) and 38 g (men) each day. Daily fibre recommendations for older women and men are 21 g and 30 g, respectively.

Since 2005, however, strong evidence has accumulated showing greater health benefits from higher fibre intakes, including a lower risk of cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes, colorectal cancer and premature death.

Current data support a daily fibre intake of 30 g to 40 g to reduce chronic disease and early mortality risk.

The Joint U.S.-Canada Dietary Reference Intakes Working Group is actively reviewing and updating the DRIs for energy and macronutrients, including fibre. This review began in 2021 and will occur over several years.

In the meantime, the World Health Organization released updated guidelines for carbohydrates in 2023, recommending that adults consume a minimum of 25 g of fibre each day.

FIBRE-PACKED BREAKFAST IDEAS

To put a decent dent in your daily fibre target, aim to get at least 10 grams at breakfast. Pair fibre-rich foods with a source of protein to enhance satiety and blood sugar benefits. Here are five suggestions.

Start your day with one cup of oatmeal or overnight oats. Mix in one cup of diced pear and two tablespoons of chopped walnuts; top with a dollop of yogurt and sprinkle of cinnamon (total fibre: 10 g).

Make an omelette or breakfast scramble (with eggs or firm tofu) with one half-cup of black beans, one quarter-cup of chopped bell pepper and a few handfuls of baby spinach. Serve with a sliced orange (total fibre: 12 g).

Try a yogurt parfait layered with one quarter-cup of 100-per-cent bran cereal, one tablespoon of chia seeds and one cup of raspberries or blackberries (total fibre: 19 g).

Enjoy avocado toast made with a slice of 100-per-cent whole grain bread, one quarter-cup of mashed avocado, one quarter-cup of pinto beans, one quarter-cup of pico de gallo and one teaspoon of chia seeds; add a squeeze of lime juice (total fibre: 14 g). For extra protein, add a poached or fried egg.

Make a breakfast green smoothie with milk (your choice), two cups of baby spinach, half-cup each of frozen pineapple and mango chunks, one quarter-cup of dry rolled oats and a tablespoon of chia seeds (total fibre: 11 g).

Don't stop at breakfast. Think about ways to include fibre at every meal (and snacks) to achieve an optimal daily intake.

Leslie Beck, a Toronto-based private practice dietitian, is director of food and nutrition at Medcan.

Mental illness is private, until it isn't

FIRST PERSON

It's framed as a crisis and sometimes it is. But most days, it's quieter than that, **Brandon W. Hahn** writes



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX CHEN

The waiting room is quiet in that way only waiting rooms manage. Not silent. Just muted. A television hums with a morning show no one is watching. A receptionist types with the confidence of someone who knows exactly where the printer jam is going to happen next.

I am early. I am always early. When you've spent most of your life managing appointments tied to your brain, punctuality stops being a personality trait and becomes a coping strategy. Early means prepared. Early means control. Early means you might get home before your thoughts decide to take the scenic route.

The chairs are arranged in a semicircle that suggests conversation but discourages it. Everyone is together, but no one is connected. We all sit with our coats folded neatly on our laps, pretending not to measure each other. Pretending not to wonder who is here for what. Pretending not to wonder how visible our own reasons are.

Mental illness has a strange relationship with public space. It's private, until it isn't. Invisible, until it leaks. I've lived with serious mental illness long enough to know that most of the work happens quietly, between appointments, between conversations, between moments that never make it into policy discussions or funding announcements. This is the part that doesn't photograph well.

After the waiting room comes the bus ride. Public transit is a masterclass in how society handles discomfort. There are rules, unspoken but firm. Don't make eye contact. Don't take up too much space. Don't be strange unless you're entertaining enough to justify it. Mental health exists here, too, wedged between backpacks and coffee cups, but it has to behave itself.

I've watched people decide, in a split second, whether someone's distress is acceptable. Whether it's medical. Whether it's inconvenient. Whether it's someone else's problem. These decisions are rarely malicious. They're practical. Reflexive. A city learning to keep moving.

Once, a driver waited an extra minute while someone gathered themselves. Once, a stranger offered a seat without

making a production of it. Once, someone looked at me like I was a person and not a potential delay. These moments don't trend. They don't scale. But they stay with you.

Support, I've learned, often arrives sideways.

I've spent years advocating for clearer, more humane conversations around serious mental illness. But the moments that have changed me most were never on any type of soapbox. They were in places where no one is trying to be inspirational. Places where the work is simply to get through the day without disappearing. Places like a warming centre, which has its own rhythm. Coffee first. Then quiet. Then stories that circle the room without ever landing. People are careful with their pasts

here. They offer them the way you'd offer change. In small amounts. Just enough to get by.

There is a version of mental-health discourse that treats lived experience like a credential you flash to gain entry into a conversation. I understand the instinct. Proof matters. But I've come to believe that lived experience is less about authority and more about attention. You notice different things. You listen differently. You understand how fragile dignity can be and how resilient.

I've found a podcast to talk about coping with mental-health issues. Mental health is often framed as a crisis and sometimes it is. But most days, it's quieter than that. It's procedural. It's logistical. It's deciding whether today is a day for eye contact or headphones. It's learning which doors open easily and which ones require explanation.

What I wish we talked about more are the small choices. The receptionist who uses your name. The driver who waits. The stranger who doesn't stare. These are not solutions. They are gestures. But gestures accumulate.

Communities are built from systems, but they are lived in moments. If we want to understand mental health, we might start there. Not with grand promises but with the ordinary care we extend when no one is watching.

Sometimes support looks like red tape and a pile of forms. Sometimes it looks like a chair that faces the window while holding a hand.

Brandon W. Hahn lives in Bowmanville, Ont.

First Person is a daily personal piece submitted by readers. Have a story to tell? See our guidelines at tgam.ca/essayguide.

For author Jay Pitter, Black public joy is a lively movie theatre

JOY DIARIES

When Jay Pitter, author of *Black Public Joy: No Permit or Permission Required*, seeks a night out of pure happiness, she gets dressed up and heads straight to the movie theatre to see a film celebrating Black stories.

But the public space expert doesn't watch quietly on her own: She yells boisterously at the screen and interacts with others in the audience — the louder, the better.

In this instalment of *Joy Diaries*, Pitter, who is also an adjunct urban planning professor at the University of Waterloo, explains why shared experiences such as this carry special significance.



ILLUSTRATION BY AGATHE BRAY-BOURRET

Black brilliance, Black joy and Black agency in a way that you don't see in most films. Obviously, we'll be getting all decked out.

I wore a mini-skirt, knee-high boots and a forest-green leather bomber jacket. Bright red lip. A little black clutch with silver spikes. And very large hoop earrings, the Black women's jewelry classic. We were all dripping in gold, actually. Gold chains, gold earrings, big gold rings. Black women wear whatever they want at any age. Tina Turner

wore micro-minis in her 70s. "Rolling deep" is the term for when we go out to public spaces, celebrations or events that we're really excited about, with a large group of friends. I'll go by myself to see a sad art movie, but at least 12 of us are going to *Black Panther*. We roll deep and we go downtown to the late show.

Opening night of a Black film in a Black community is literally a call and answer. We don't watch movies; we interact with movies. We critique the characters' choices. If we know the soundtrack, we sing along. We cheer for who we want to win and we predict the plot before it happens. Like, *He's gonna betray him! Don't trust that guy!*

In another theatre, this behaviour might not be considered culturally appropriate. You'll have the white lady shusher tell you to please be quiet. It'd be so weird if a Black person started shushing; that's not even part of our vocabulary. Public joy for us is a collective experience to be shared.

But we're not yelling, we're actually expressing joy in ways that are deeply, culturally Black. Tra-

ditional public call and answer is very rooted in African culture. Someone calls and then a person or group of people answer back. It happens in hip-hop and poetry. The tradition came over to North America through the transatlantic slave trade and is still very common in Black Baptist and Pentecostal churches. The pastor will say something and the whole congregation answers in a super lively way. Just like the movies, you're preaching with the pastor. He's not having a one-way conversation.

When you go to a Black movie,

that's the public joy you're witnessing. Some people might take that sort of thing for granted, but for us it's not to be taken for granted. It is a very particular and special public joy that's different from personal joy. Not just for Black people, but for women and queer folks, it's so important to develop a healthy sense of spatial entitlement to cultivate public joy in their daily lives, every single day.

Special to The Globe and Mail

As told to Rosemary Counter

WORLD FORECAST

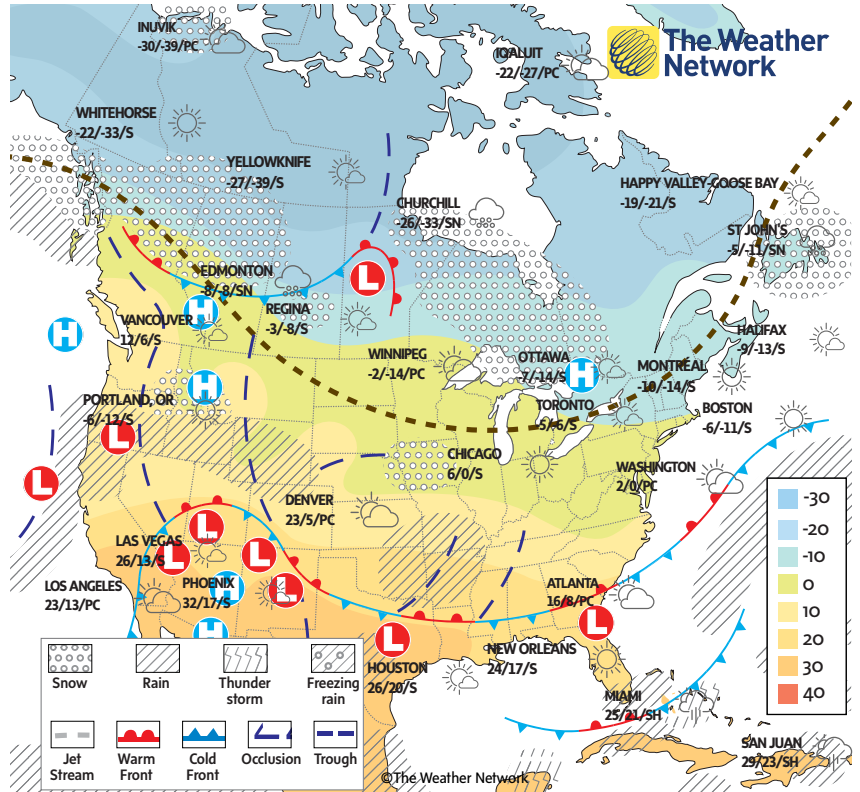
	TODAY	TOMORROW	WEDNESDAY
AMSTERDAM	15/5 PC	14/5 S	14/5 S
ATHENS	16/8 S	17/9 PC	18/9 PC
BANGKOK	37/27 S	37/26 S	37/26 S
BEIJING	5/1 SN	11/0 S	4/3 RS
BERLIN	13/2 PC	14/4 S	10/2 S
BRUSSELS	15/6 S	16/7 S	14/6 S
COPENHAGEN	8/3 C	10/1 S	6/0 S
FRANKFURT	12/1 S	13/2 S	13/2 PC
HONG KONG	24/18 SH	21/15 R	19/18 C
JERUSALEM	13/5 S	14/5 S	13/6 S
LAS VEGAS	26/13 S	23/11 S	26/12 S
LONDON	14/7 S	14/7 PC	14/7 PC
LOS ANGELES	23/13 PC	23/13 S	24/13 S
MADRID	17/10 PC	17/10 SH	17/9 SH
MAMI	25/21 SH	26/22 T	27/22 T
MOSCOW	2/0 RS	0/7 C	0/0 SN
NEW DELHI	31/18 S	33/20 S	35/22 S
NEW YORK	-3/9 S	3/2 RS	7/1 SH
NICE	16/10 S	17/11 S	18/11 S
ORLANDO	26/17 S	26/18 SH	28/19 T
PARIS	16/6 S	16/6 PC	17/6 S
PHOENIX	32/17 S	29/16 S	30/15 S
ROME	16/7 C	18/8 PC	18/7 PC
SAN FRANCISCO	15/10 SH	15/11 S	15/8 S
SEOUL	5/2 R	10/1 PC	10/0 S
SINGAPORE	30/25 T	30/24 T	30/24 T
SYDNEY	27/22 C	28/22 SH	29/22 PC
TOKYO	13/9 C	10/3 R	10/6 R
WASHINGTON	2/0 PC	9/5 R	18/10 R

LEGEND
Daytime high, overnight low, and conditions

C CLOUDY	RS RAIN/SNOW
FG FOG	S SUN
FR FREEZING RAIN	SN SNOW
HZ HAZE	SF SNOW FLURRIES
NA NOT AVAILABLE	SH SHOWERS
PC PARTLY CLOUDY	T THUNDERSTORMS
R RAIN	W WINDY

NATIONAL FORECAST

	TODAY	TOMORROW	WEDNESDAY
BANFF	6/6 PC	5/6 PC	3/7 SH
BARRIE	-6/12 S	0/6 SN	2/4 PC
BRANDON	-3/16 S	-6/10 PC	-10/13 PC
CALGARY	1/5 PC	7/7 PC	1/5 SN
CHARLOTTETOWN	-14/16 S	-1/2 PC	-1/6 SN
CHICOUTIMI	-11/16 S	-2/11 SN	-3/11 SN
CHURCHILL	-26/33 SN	-26/31 S	-26/33 S
CORNER BROOK	-13/13 SN	-6/6 SN	-2/11 SN
CORNWALL	-8/15 S	1/6 SF	3/5 PC
EDMONTON	-8/8 SN	4/15 SN	-11/13 SN
HALIFAX	-9/13 S	0/2 PC	4/3 RS
HAMILTON	-2/6 S	2/3 SN	4/1 PC
HUNTSVILLE	-6/13 PC	1/9 SN	4/5 S
IQALUIT	-23/27 PC	-23/28 PC	-24/28 PC
JASPER	6/2 S	6/3 RS	4/5 SH
KELOWNA	12/0 S	1/3 SH	7/1 SH
KINGSTON	-8/11 S	9/4 SN	2/3 S
LONDON	-1/5 S	3/3 RS	6/0 PC
MONTREAL	-10/14 S	-1/7 SF	2/5 PC
NIAGARA FALLS	-1/5 S	3/1 RS	5/0 PC
NORTH BAY	-7/9 PC	-1/10 SN	2/6 S
OTTAWA	-7/14 S	0/7 SF	3/5 S
PRINCE GEORGE	7/0 SN	5/2 RS	5/1 SH
PETERBOROUGH	-7/12 S	0/7 SN	2/4 PC
QUÉBEC	-12/16 S	-2/8 PC	1/7 PC
REGINA	-3/8 S	1/8 PC	-6/10 PC
SASKATOON	-9/12 SN	-2/15 PC	-14/14 SN
SAULT STE MARIE	-2/6 PC	1/5 SN	3/4 PC
SAINT JOHN	-9/13 S	1/0 PC	4/3 SN
SEPTIÈRES	-12/15 S	-3/14 SN	-7/14 PC
ST JOHN'S	-5/11 SN	-6/6 PC	0/6 SN
SUDBURY	-5/7 PC	-1/11 SN	3/6 S
THUNDER BAY	2/8 SN	0/8 C	5/5 C
THOMPSON	-19/29 S	-19/26 SN	-20/23 PC
TORONTO	5/6 S	2/3 SN	3/1 PC
VAL-D'OR	-9/9 SN	-2/11 SN	2/10 C
VANCOUVER	12/6 S	9/7 R	10/6 R
VICTORIA	11/6 S	9/7 SH	9/7 SH
WHISTLER	11/1 S	6/1 R	4/1 R
WHITEHORSE	-20/32 S	-22/23 SN	-12/19 SN
WINNIPEG	-2/12 PC	4/8 PC	4/9 C
YELLOWKNIFE	-27/38 S	-30/41 S	-26/27 SN



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PM aims for India trade deal by year's end

Carney tells business leaders in Mumbai that Ottawa can work with partners even if it disagrees on some topics

STEVEN CHASE
SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Mark Carney said he aims to wrap up a trade agreement with India by the end of the year.

A comprehensive deal with the country of 1.4 billion people would be more proof that Mr. Carney's efforts to repair a diplomatic rupture with New Delhi had borne fruit.

Speaking to a crowd of about 100 business investors and executives in India's financial capital of Mumbai Saturday, the Prime Minister said his visit marks the end of a "challenging period" in Canada-India relations and the beginning of a new, "more ambitious partnership" with the world's fifth-biggest economy.

Canada and India are emerging from a two-way diplomatic freeze of more than two years triggered when former prime minister Justin Trudeau accused New Delhi of a role in the 2023 murder of a Canadian Sikh activist. In 2024, Canada expelled six Indian diplomats including its top envoy in Ottawa, blaming them for being part of a campaign of violence against Canadians.

Canada's U-turn on relations with India comes as Mr. Carney's government is under pressure to clarify remarks from a senior official who told reporters in a background briefing last week that India is no longer involved in conducting foreign interference and transnational repression in Canada.

The Globe and Mail is not identifying the official because they were not authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

Security experts immediately challenged this assertion, saying it's not true. Liberal MPs Sukh Dhaliwal and Ruby Sahota also pushed back, with Ms. Sahota releasing a statement over the weekend saying that "any suggestion these threats have been resolved does not reflect the current security reality facing Canada."

Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand declined to say whether she agreed that India has ceased meddling in Canada but said no country gets a free pass to conduct foreign interference in Canada. A public inquiry last year reported that India was the "second most active country engaging in electoral foreign interference in Canada" after China.

New Delhi's current envoy to Canada, Dinesh Patnaik, however, told reporters in Mumbai Saturday that his country's position is that India never interfered in Canadian politics or society. "It's not a question of 'it is no longer happening.' It never hap-



Prime Minister Mark Carney, centre left, arrives in New Delhi on Sunday. Canada and India are emerging from a two-way diplomatic freeze of more than two years. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

pened," Mr. Patnaik said. "It's a problem Canada has to resolve itself. We are there to help you."

Speaking to the business crowd Saturday, Mr. Carney said the breakdown of the rules-based international order has ushered in a "more volatile global era" where great powers are using economic coercion to bully smaller countries.

Mr. Carney said it's understandable that nations are concluding that they need more independence and self-reliance, borrowing a term – "strategic autonomy" – that India uses to define its foreign policy.

India's foreign policy of "strategic autonomy" means engaging with competing powers to serve the national interests instead of aligning with any single global power bloc.

"Building true strategic autonomy requires diversification, not isolation," the Prime Minister said.

"It creates enormous opportunities for India and Canada to work together, to limit risks, to increase prosperity, and to build sovereignty."

Goldy Hyder, Business Council of Canada CEO, said he's encouraged by how fast Canada and India want to move to conclude a trade deal.

The bilateral opportunities for infrastructure in particular are enormous in both countries, he said.

"Today, in India alone over 20 international airports are to be constructed as well

as a couple of hundred domestic ones."

In a nod to significant foreign-policy differences between India and Canada, Mr. Carney in his Mumbai speech said Ottawa can work with partners even if it sometimes disagrees with them.

India, for instance, has a friendly relationship – and robust energy and arms trade – with Russia. Mr. Modi played host to Russian President Vladimir Putin last December and praised their "deep and unbreakable relationship."

By comparison, Canada has spent more than \$25-billion in recent years to help its ally Ukraine fight off Russia's full-scale invasion, which began in 2022.

The Prime Minister said his approach is values-based realism that is both pragmatic and principled, "recognizing that progress is often incremental, that interests of nations can diverge, and that not every partner will share all our values."

"We are actively taking on the world as it is, not passively waiting for a world we wish to be," said Mr. Carney.

He pitched the Mumbai audience on Canada's energy riches as well as tax rates and red-tape reductions by his government.

The Prime Minister said Canada's capacity to export liquefied natural gas to Asia is expected to increase by more than 50 million tonnes in the coming years.

He highlighted low taxes to Indian investors, saying he's cut Canada's "marginal

effective tax rate for new investment" to 13 per cent.

"That's 4.5 per cent lower than the United States and about half the G7 average."

He said Canada and India are natural partners given that two million Canadians trace their roots to India, "including leaders in business, science and government."

He played up the ability of Canadian-based companies to access the U.S. market, saying "beyond the threats and away from headlines, we retain the best trade deal with the United States: Our average tariff rate is less than 5 per cent and more than 85 per cent of our trade enters the U.S. tariff free."

Canada is now behind its peers in terms of preferential trade access to India. The diplomatic deep freeze with New Delhi prompted Ottawa to shelve trade negotiations in 2023.

In the past four years, many of Canada's trading rivals have struck deals with New Delhi that reduce the costs and barriers to selling goods and services to India – eliminating much of the tariffs the Indians charge on their imports.

This includes the 27-member European Union, New Zealand and Britain, as well as the four-country European Free Trade Association, which includes Norway and Switzerland. U.S. President Donald Trump this month struck an interim trade pact with India and an agreement to negotiate a more comprehensive deal later.

Nijjar: New Delhi had long accused him of being a terrorist and called for his arrest

FROM A1

Prime Minister Mark Carney is currently in India trying to restore relations as part of his effort to secure a free-trade deal by the end of the year.

India has consistently denied any role in a conspiracy to kill Mr. Nijjar, a Sikh separatist who it long blamed, often without evidence, for co-ordinating violent attacks in his homeland.

India's High Commissioner to Canada, Dinesh Patnaik, told reporters on Saturday in Mumbai that there was never any foreign interference in Canada by Indian officials, insisting "it never happened."

The high commissioner's office declined further comment when asked by The Globe about the allegations against Vancouver consular staff.

Mr. Manish did not respond to messages for comment on social media and an e-mail Saturday to the high commission in Cyprus, where he is now ambassador.

The Globe could not reach Mr. Singh, whose location after he was expelled from Canada isn't known.

Information about Mr. Nijjar was passed to another RAW officer in New Delhi and that officer communicated with the Lawrence Bishnoi organized-crime group, a prominent Indian gang blamed for a rash of extortions and other offences in Canada, both sources said. A Canada-based member of the gang then helped arrange the killing of the outspoken Sikh activist, the sources said.

The New Delhi officer, The Globe's two sources said, was Vikash Yadav, the same officer named in a U.S. indictment as the mastermind behind a foiled plot to murder another Sikh activist, an associate of Mr. Nijjar's.

On Monday, Mr. Carney is scheduled to meet with the Indian Prime Minister in an effort to reset the Indian-Canadian relationship, diversify Canada's international trade and lessen the country's economic reliance on the United States.



A person walks past signs of Hardeep Singh Nijjar at the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Surrey, B.C., in 2024. ETHAN CAIRNS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Last week, in a briefing with journalists in advance of Mr. Carney's trip, a senior government official said Ottawa does not believe India is continuing to interfere in Canada's domestic politics. Public Safety Minister Gary Anandasangaree later walked that back, saying there's "a lot more work to do" to ensure agents of the Indian government are not coercing or intimidating people in Canada.

Prior to Mr. Nijjar's death in June, 2023, New Delhi had long accused him of being a terrorist and unsuccessfully asked the RCMP for years to arrest him and send him to India.

In late July, 2023, Canadian officials were alerted to the alleged role of the Indian government in the slaying, according to the national-security source. Canada received information that Indian officials in New Delhi had plotted to kill Mr. Nijjar and other Sikh separatists, the source said.

Canadian officials also received information gleaned through wiretaps that captured a conversation referring to how Mr. Nijjar had been successfully eliminated, the source said.

In September, 2023, then-prime minister Justin Trudeau told Parliament minutes after The Globe broke the story that Canadian intelligence agencies were "pursuing credible allegations of

a potential link" between Indian government agents and the assassination of Mr. Nijjar.

That same day, then-minister of foreign affairs Mélanie Joly announced that she had expelled Pavan Kumar Rai, a man Ms. Jolie said was the chief of India's foreign intelligence agency in Canada.

The RCMP gathered evidence that Mr. Singh, sometimes working with proxies in the South Asian community, used coercion and bribery to extract information on Mr. Nijjar, leveraging his authority to issue Indian travel visas to those wanting to visit family in India, the law-enforcement source said.

Some who declined to co-operate were threatened with consequences for their relatives in India, the source said.

Investigators observed Mr. Singh visiting the downtown Vancouver consulate late in the evening, the law-enforcement source said. There was also evidence gathered that Mr. Singh relayed information about Mr. Nijjar back to New Delhi, the national-security source said.

Canadian authorities believe Mr. Yadav, the RAW officer, relayed this intelligence and money to the Bishnoi group, the two sources told The Globe.

Mr. Yadav has been on the FBI's Most Wanted List since October,

2024, and is accused by the U.S. of orchestrating a plot to kill Gurbat Singh Pannun, a New York-based activist who worked closely with Mr. Nijjar on a campaign to create an independent Sikh state in Punjab known as Khalistan.

American prosecutors have alleged in court documents that Mr. Yadav shared a private video of Mr. Nijjar's dead body with a man he had asked to kill Mr. Pannun.

Mr. Yadav engaged members of the Bishnoi gang to hire the four alleged gunmen accused of opening fire on Mr. Nijjar as he attempted to drive his pickup truck off the lot of Surrey's Guru Nanak gurdwara, the two sources said.

Canada declared the Bishnoi gang a terrorist organization in September, 2025, blaming it for a rash of extortions and violence in the South Asian community. Police agencies and local politicians had previously called for the federal government to act.

The law-enforcement source said Mr. Singh and Mr. Manish were not arrested because prosecuting them would have been impossible because of their diplomatic immunity.

Mr. Manish was officially re-assigned to be India's high commissioner to Cyprus in July, 2023 – three weeks after Mr. Nijjar was killed. But he exited Canada in May, 2024, India's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said at the time of his departure.

Members of the Sikh community alleged that consular officials were involved in the plot, but the Vancouver consulate denied these allegations in a 2024 statement.

"Canada-based Khalistani extremists and terrorists, who do not represent the peace-loving Sikh community, are enemies of better Canada-India bilateral relations and keep making accusations without any evidence and without facing any social or legal costs," the statement said.

Mr. Singh was expelled in 2024 as the RCMP deepened its investigation into Mr. Nijjar's death, according to the law-enforcement source.

Dan Stanton, a former CSIS in-

telligence officer, said if Canada has reliable intelligence good enough to be used as evidence against Indian officials, then it needs to be included in the criminal case.

"This is precisely where intelligence should be used. In this case, secrecy serves only to protect a foreign state," he said.

"I think the case should extend to the Indian government. If the government chooses to prosecute only those who pulled the trigger and stop there, that would effectively allow a foreign state to kill our citizens and get a free pass."

Simon Lafortune, a spokesperson for the Public Safety Minister, said the department was working to "ensure all federal tools are being used" to disrupt transnational repression from foreign actors and extortion linked to criminal networks. He declined to comment on the specifics of the Nijjar investigation.

After Mr. Yadav was implicated by the U.S., the Indian government asserted that he was a "rogue" agent who was operating independently. India says Mr. Yadav can't face trial in the U.S., because he has been charged in a kidnapping and extortion case in New Delhi.

Four Indian citizens have been charged in Mr. Nijjar's slaying. Karanpreet Singh, Karan Brar, Kamalpreet Singh, and Amandeep Singh, all in their 20s, are facing charges of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder. They arrived in Canada on temporary visas.

The Canadian federal justice department is fighting to prevent "sensitive" national-security information from emerging at their coming murder trial. In an application to the Federal Court, lawyers representing the Attorney-General of Canada asked for permission to withhold some evidence, arguing that releasing it "would be injurious to international relations and national security."

No diplomats or consular staff have been charged as a result of the investigation.



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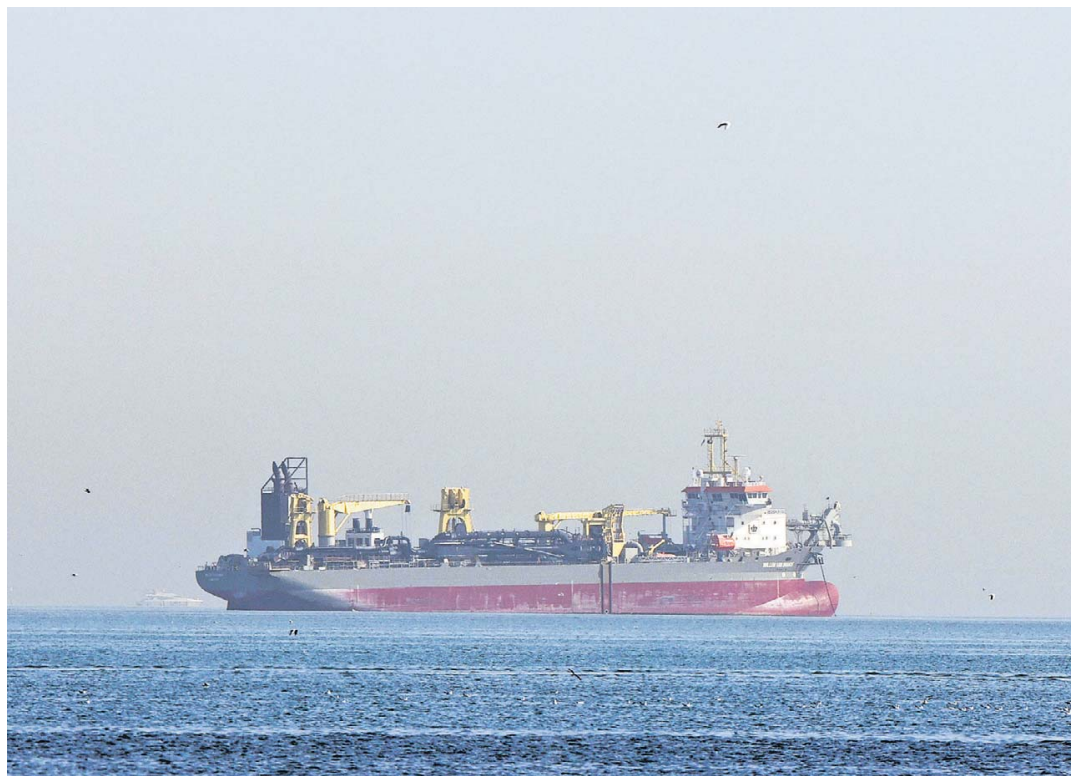
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Global markets on edge as war engulfs Middle East



An oil tanker offshore from Dubai on Sunday. The weekend's attacks and counterattacks effectively halted traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, the critical waterway through which about 20 per cent of the world's oil is shipped to global markets. FADEL SENNA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Oil prices expected to surge on supply, shipping disruptions

JEFFREY JONES

Oil prices surged as much as 13 per cent in response to U.S. and Israeli military attacks on Iran, and the Islamic Republic's retaliation, as markets assessed the risks of supply disruptions in the Middle East's most important shipping route.

The conflict has effectively halted commercial traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, the critical waterway through which about 20 per cent of the world's oil – more than 20 million barrels a day – is shipped to global markets.

It is also an important route for liquefied natural gas, mostly produced in Qatar, one of the world's largest suppliers. In 2024, about a fifth of global LNG passed through the strait, bound for China, India, Taiwan and South Korea, as well as European markets, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

The strait is located between Iran and Oman, connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. It is deep and wide enough that the largest oil tankers can sail through. There are limited alternatives for oil and gas exports from the region.

The global benchmark Brent crude price jumped above US\$82 a barrel when Asian markets opened on Monday. It later eased to US\$77.03.

The last time oil hit these levels was June, 2025, when the United States and Israel bombed Iran's nuclear facilities. Over the past several weeks it rose as warships and aircraft massed in the region, putting markets on edge.

The latest disruption prompted the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries to lift its output target for April, though the increase of 206,000 barrels a day is modest given world supply of more than 108 million barrels a day, based on the International Energy Agency's estimate.

The slight bump in output was meant to show that OPEC and its allies are prepared to use spare capacity if needed – but not in knee-jerk fashion, Rystad Energy said in a report.

Before the massive military buildup in the region, ordered by U.S. President Donald Trump, crude markets had been weak over fears of oversupply because of fragile global economies.

Spare capacity among OPEC+ members is about 3.5 million barrels a day.

■ OIL, B8

U.S., Iran could use crude as a weapon. They may not

ERIC REGULY ROME

ANALYSIS

You can safely bet that oil prices will climb a lot when the energy markets reopen Monday. They probably won't go through the roof, though, and the White House energy sages know this. The last scenario U.S. President Donald Trump needs ahead of the congressional mid-term elections is US\$150 oil triggering runaway inflation when the "affordability" emergency is already handing him problems.

To be sure, oil will play a role in determining the trajectory of the war. Once Iran depletes its inventory of missiles and drones, oil could emerge as the country's last powerful weapon. But will it?

Iran is a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, produces some 3.5 million barrels a day and, crucially, controls the narrow Strait of Hormuz, through which 20 per cent of global oil supplies pass. Shut down the strait for more than a few weeks and prices would surge to painful, vote-killer levels.

It's not in Washington's best interests to cripple Iran's oil infrastructure, and the United States is apparently gambling that it's not in Tehran's best interests either, which means keeping Hormuz partly open or at least not closed for long.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards reportedly warned captains on Saturday that no ship would be allowed to pass through Hormuz. Tanker traffic fell off sharply over the weekend as shipping insurance premiums climbed, but the Iranian regime has not closed the strait.

■ PRICES, B8

Attacks upend Persian Gulf's reputation as safe haven for investment

TIM KILADZE
CLARE O'HARA
NICOLAS VAN PRAET

Missile attacks across the Middle East are throwing the safe haven status of Persian Gulf countries into question, upending the investment thesis that lured wealthy foreigners and a growing number of Canadian companies to the region.

Cities such as Dubai and Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates and Doha in Qatar have blossomed into global commerce hubs over the past two decades, backed by oil-rich governments that have funded modern infrastructure and gleaming skyscrapers.

As they blossomed, they also offered something many countries in the Middle East could not: political calm. The likes of Qatar, Oman and the UAE have developed reputations for being politically neutral, much like Switzerland, and that has made them less likely to be roped into regional wars.

Combined with ultralow tax rates, this neutrality has lured wealthy foreigners, and it has also turned the Gulf into a hotbed for investment dollars. Canada's Brookfield Asset Management has long raised money in the region; Canadian lenders such as Royal Bank of Canada and National Bank of Canada are looking to expand in the Gulf; and Canadian insurers Manulife Financial Corp. and Sun Life Financial Inc. both recently opened offices in Dubai to court high-net-worth investors for their international arms.

Yet the safety that gave them comfort was thrown into question this past weekend after Iran retaliated for missile attacks that killed Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Supreme Leader.

■ GULF, B8



AL-EMRUN GARJON/AP

AVIATION

Conflict disrupts some of world's busiest airports, thousands stranded ■ B2

JOHN RAPLEY

Why a prolonged Middle East war poses large risks to the global economy ■ B4

Ottawa says provinces should pay for nurse practitioners, gives one-year grace period before penalties

CHRIS HANNAY

The federal government says provincial health plans should start covering the services of nurse practitioners who provide primary care as of April 1, but will delay enforcement for non-compliance for a year.

Some of the estimated six million Canadians not connected to family doctors have turned to alternative health care providers, often staffed with nurse practitioners, that may charge fees for services that would otherwise be covered by public insurance if provided by a physician.

This kind of out-of-pocket billing is prohibited for physicians but was until now a legal grey area for other professionals.

Closing this loophole amounts to one of the most significant updates to the Canada Health Act in years. The decision will add to costs for provincial health plans.

Federal Health Minister Marjorie Michel issued the directions to her provincial counterparts in a recent letter that has not been publicly released.

The federal government first sent a letter to provinces in January of 2025 that sought to discourage non-physician health professionals from charging patients out of pocket for the kinds of services a physician might provide.

Provinces receive billions of dollars from Ottawa to pay for health services, and some of that money is clawed back if a province is found to be allowing health

care providers to inappropriately bill patients. In the 2024-25 fiscal year, Ottawa transferred \$52.1-billion to provinces and territories for health care and levied \$62.2-million in penalties for inappropriate patient charges.

Ms. Michel wrote in her latest letter, sent Dec. 19, that the new Canada Health Act policy still takes effect on April 1, 2026, but will essentially not be enforced until April 1, 2027, as long as the province or territory starts covering these services by the end of 2028. Penalties for not extending coverage would be retroactive.

The letter also clarifies that the policy only affects services from nurse practitioners, midwives and pharmacists.

■ CARE, B6

PHARMACEUTICALS

Xenon awaits epilepsy drug study results that could lead to FDA approval ■ B3

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Airlines cancel some Middle East flights amid strikes

Air Canada, Emirates, Etihad and Qatar Airways all cancelled a number of flights from Toronto

ERIC ATKINS
TRANSPORTATION REPORTER

Air Canada and international carriers cancelled flights to the Middle East from Canada on Sunday as U.S. and Israel air strikes against Iran closed airports and disrupted air travel in the region and beyond.

War in Iran kept major Middle Eastern airports including Dubai, the world's busiest international hub, closed for a second consecutive day on Sunday in one of the sharpest aviation shocks in recent years.

Key transit airports, including Dubai and Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates and Doha in Qatar, were shut or severely restricted as much of the region's airspace remained closed after U.S. and Israeli strikes killed Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Air Canada said it cancelled direct flights to Tel Aviv, Israel, and Dubai, UAE, from Toronto Pearson International Airport on Sunday.

In addition, the following flights from Pearson were also cancelled: Emirates to Dubai, Etihad Airways to Abu Dhabi and Qatar Airways to Doha, according to the airport and Cirium, an aviation data company.



Passengers stranded after the shutdown of Dubai International Airport await assistance in the airport's parking lot on Sunday. ALTAf QADRI/AP

Pearson told passengers in an advisory on Sunday they should check with their airlines before coming to the airport. "Some flights at Toronto Pearson are impacted by changes to international airspace. Airlines are adjusting routes and schedules in response, which may lead to delays or cancellations," Canada's busiest airport said.

Air Canada's flights to Cairo, Saudi Arabia and Istanbul were not affected.

Air Canada typically flies four times a week to Israel and daily to Dubai. Peter Fitzpatrick, an Air Canada spokesman, said the airline's next scheduled flight to Israel is on March 8. Dubai flights are cancelled through to March 4.

An Air Canada flight to Dubai from Pearson turned around and returned to Toronto Saturday morning, he said.

Dubai International Airport on Sunday came under a reported attack by Iran, which is apparently targeting travel hubs in places it deems friendly to the U.S. Airports in Abu Dhabi and Kuwait were also hit.

According to Cirium, 40 per cent of the 3,990 flights to nine airports in the region were cancelled on Sunday.

The ripple effects were felt far beyond the Middle East, with tens of thousands of passengers stranded as far as Bali, Kathmandu and Frankfurt.

Israel said it had launched another wave of strikes on Iran on Sunday while loud blasts were heard for a second day near Dubai and over Doha after Iran launched retaliatory air attacks on the neighbouring Gulf states.

Emirates, the world's largest international carrier, said it had

suspended all operations to and from its Dubai megahub until Monday.

Qatar Airways, which has suspended all operations, said it would provide a further update on Monday and Germany's Lufthansa extended its suspension of flights to the region to March 8.

Airspace over Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Israel, Bahrain, the UAE and Qatar remained virtually empty, maps by Flightradar24 showed on Sunday.

The flight-tracking service said that a new pilot bulletin had extended the shutdown of Iranian airspace until at least 8:30 a.m. GMT on March 3, though regional airline sources said there was no certainty how long the conflict-related turmoil would continue.

The region and its airlines have become used to travel disruption over the past few years, but such a prolonged shutdown of the skies – more than 24 hours – and the shutdown of all three major Gulf transit hubs is unprecedented, analysts said.

The Gulf is also a major intersection for air cargo, putting further pressure on trade lanes on top of the disruption at sea.

Airline executives have said that crew and pilots are scattered across the world, complicating the complex process of resuming flights when airspace reopens.

Carriers around the world also face higher oil prices after Brent crude jumped by 10 per cent to US\$80 a barrel over the counter on Sunday. Analysts predicted prices could climb as high as US\$100.

Dubai and neighbouring Doha sit at the crossroads of east-west air travel, funneling long-haul traffic between Europe and Asia through tightly scheduled networks of connecting flights. With those hubs idle, aircraft and crews remained stranded out of position, disrupting airline schedules worldwide.

The sheer volume of people affected and the complexity of the logistics make it a challenge, London-based aviation analyst John Strickland said.

"It is not only customers, it is the crews and aircraft all over place," he said.

Airlines across Europe, Asia and the Middle East cancelled or rerouted flights to avoid closed or restricted airspace, lengthening journeys and driving up fuel costs.

The disruption has been intensified by the loss flight paths over Iranian and Iraq which had grown more important since the Russia-Ukraine war forced airlines to avoid both countries' airspace.

The Middle East airspace shutdowns were squeezing airlines into narrower corridors, with fighting between Pakistan and Afghanistan adding a further risk, said Ian Petchenik, communications director at Flightradar24.

Highlighting the scale of the disruption, Air India cancelled its flights on Sunday departing from Delhi, Mumbai and Amritsar for major cities in Europe and North America.

With reports from Reuters

SAFE-HAVEN YEN AND SWISS FRANC GAIN AS WEEKEND IRAN STRIKES UNNERVE MARKETS

LONDON The safe-haven Swiss franc and Japanese yen firmed, while the euro slid as trading resumed after a weekend that saw the United States and Israel launch their most ambitious attacks on Iran in decades.

The euro was last down 0.4 per cent at around US\$1.1769 compared with around US\$1.18 in late Friday New York trade. It fell 0.6 per cent on the Swiss franc to 0.90391, its lowest since 2015.

The U.S. dollar was a touch lower versus the Japanese yen at 155.85 yen and was last down 0.3 per cent against the Swiss franc. But the greenback strengthened on sterling and the Australian dollar.

U.S. and Israeli strikes – and Iranian retaliation – have sent shockwaves across the Middle East, and through sectors from shipping to air travel to oil on warnings of rising energy costs and disruption to business in the Gulf, a strategic waterway and global trade hub.

Trading was thin late on Sunday European time, but deals in major currency pairs can set the tone. Trading desks have also in the past year become more accustomed to reacting to weekend developments and bring traders in when necessary.

How energy markets react will be a major driver of how stocks, bonds and currencies

trade in response to developments in Iran.

Analysts expected oil to open sharply higher on Monday – traders said it is already up around 10 per cent in over-the-counter markets. Safe-haven gold was also likely to jump, and global stocks to fall.

Most Gulf equities fell on Sunday though Boursa Kuwait suspended trading and the UAE ordered its stock markets closed on Monday, a sign of the growing economic disruption sweeping the Gulf.

Analysts said Chinese markets would also be in focus given China's reliance on Iranian oil exports.

REUTERS

Berkshire Hathaway CEO Abel vows to maintain 'fortress-like' balance sheet

JONATHAN STEMPEL

Berkshire Hathaway Inc.'s new chief executive Greg Abel moved to put his stamp on the conglomerate with his first annual letter to shareholders on Saturday, pledging to maintain its "fortress-like" balance sheet and uphold the values of his predecessor and mentor, Warren Buffett.

Mr. Abel, 63, said he wouldn't rush to deploy Berkshire's near-record US\$373.3-billion cash stake, though he said it gave the company plenty of "dry powder" and that he had no plans to begin paying dividends, which Mr. Buffett also opposed.

Berkshire has not repurchased its own stock since the spring of 2024. "I recognize how you want us to succeed together, and to do so in the right way," Mr. Abel wrote in an 18-page, single-spaced letter. "My role is to ensure our liquidity levels and capital deployment remain intentional and deliberate."

Mr. Abel also paid homage to Mr. Buffett, 95, who remains chairman and goes to Berkshire's offices five days a week, calling him a "remarkable" CEO.

"Warren Buffett is arguably the greatest investor of all time, with generations benefiting from his investment acumen," Mr. Abel wrote. "To invest in Berkshire has long been a vote of trust in our founder – a trust that now rests with Berkshire."

Berkshire shares have significantly underperformed the Standard & Poor's 500 index since Mr. Buffett announced unexpectedly in May he was stepping aside as CEO. Though Mr. Abel's letter lacked Mr. Buffett's writing flair, CFRA Research analyst Cathy Seifert said it might prove reassuring to investors.

"He needed to show a degree of continuity, that the Berkshire franchise would continue despite the change in leadership, and it would be business as usual," she said. "In my opinion, he hit the mark."

The letter also signalled that Mr. Abel wouldn't upend Mr. Buffett's 60 years of work transforming Berkshire from a failing textile company into a more than US\$1-trillion conglomerate that owns car insurer Geico, BNSF railroad and dozens of other insurance, manufacturing, energy and retail businesses.

"If there were any doubts about whether Greg was the right individual to take the reins, the letter should dispel them," said Dan Hanson, who oversees more than US\$6-billion as head of the quality equity team at Neuberger Berman.

Berkshire also reported declining profit, after taking write-downs for its approximately 27-per-cent stakes in both Kraft Heinz and oil company Occidental Petroleum.

Fourth-quarter operating profit fell 30 per cent to US\$10.2-billion as income from insurance operations such as Geico declined. Net income fell 3 per cent to US\$19.2-billion, reflecting a US\$4.5-billion writedown for Occidental, despite gains from equity holdings led by Apple and American Express. For all of 2025, operating profit fell 6 per cent to US\$44.49-billion, while net income fell 25 per cent to US\$66.97-billion.

Mr. Buffett had long urged investors to ignore fluctuations in Berkshire's net income, which reflect accounting rules for equity investments. Full-year revenue was essentially unchanged at US\$371.44-billion, and Ms. Seifert said Mr. Abel "teed up an expectation that reinsurance and commercial insurance growth may be non-existent" in 2026.

One of Berkshire's best-known businesses, Fruit of the Loom, shed 6,000 jobs last year as revenue fell, Berkshire said.

Mr. Abel said Berkshire's culture and values will continue "in perpetuity," and signalled no changes in its decentralized structure in which its dozens of businesses operate largely without interference from the top. He also signalled a willingness to stick around, suggesting that in 20 years he will have had "just a fraction of the tenure that Warren had."

Mr. Abel pledged to invest in durable, well-managed businesses that Berkshire understands and "avoid businesses that undermine the fabric of society or could jeopardize Berkshire's reputation."

Mr. Abel signalled that long-time portfolio manager Ted Weschler, who manages about 6 per cent of Berkshire's equity investments, will continue playing a "broader role" assessing significant investment opportunities and supporting Berkshire in other ways.

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Xenon awaiting critical epilepsy drug study results

If the data show success, B.C. company expects to file for approval by the FDA to sell azetukalner in the U.S.

SEAN SILCOFF
TECHNOLOGY REPORTER



Xenon Pharmaceuticals, based in Burnaby, B.C., started in gene discovery but shifted focus to drugs affecting sodium channels that played a key role in signalling pain. TIJANA MARTIN/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Rick Bishop got a black Labrador named Sailor in 2017 to help deal with the epileptic seizures he had multiple times daily. Sailor hasn't had much to do since the rural Pennsylvania-based retiree started taking an experimental drug made by Burnaby, B.C.-based Xenon Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Mr. Bishop has been seizure-free since the early 2020s, dating to when he went on the drug, called azetukalner, as part of a 325-adult trial of epilepsy patients who had little luck with other medications. It's a marked change for someone who has participated in trials of multiple drugs, one of which impaired his vision. Taking azetukalner has led to a "100-per-cent improvement," in his quality of life, he said in an interview.

Results from that study published in 2021 showed participants with the most common form of epilepsy (focal onset seizures) who took azetukalner saw median seizure activity drop by more than half after six months. In follow-up studies, 25 per cent of participants who kept using the drug were seizure-free over any subsequent 24-month period; 10.7 per cent of them had no seizures at all.

Those results vaulted Xenon to become Canada's most valuable publicly traded drug developer. Now, the company is set to publish data that could further jolt the stock and enable it to take the drug to market.

Xenon is set to release results from a late-stage trial of 380 patients in the first half of March. If that study mirrors the success of the 2021 trial, Xenon expects to file for approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration this year to sell the drug in the United States, where three million people have epilepsy.

Several analysts who follow Xenon are optimistic azetukalner will again deliver a statistically significant improvement over placebo results and 50-per-cent-plus seizure reduction. "There is a high probability that this trial will succeed, and the drug will get approved," said Bloom Bur-

ton analyst David Martin in Toronto.

If so, azetukalner would be the 15th therapy developed in B.C. to win regulatory approval, according to the industry association Life Sciences B.C. That includes innovations from pioneers QLT and Angiotech, plus an antibody discovered in 2020 by AbCellera Biologics Inc. used to treat COVID-19 patients. Acuitas Therapeutics developed the lipid nanoparticle that delivered the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in patients.

Xenon's drug modulates the flow of potassium ions through electrical channels in the nervous system, tempering excessive brain activity that causes seizures. Other epilepsy drugs typically focus on sodium channels.

People in the Xenon study are among the most treatment-resistant epilepsy patients and typically take multiple anti-seizure drugs already, said Dr. Jacqueline French, a New York University neurology professor who helped conduct the trial. They were split into three groups for the latest study: participants either took a daily 15 mg pill, a 25 mg pill or a placebo. All were monitored for more than two

months to determine baseline seizure activity before starting the 12-week study.

The drug, Jefferies analyst Andrew Tsai said in a recent note, has already "produced one of the most compelling pivotal datasets in focal epilepsy." He expects it to become a US\$1-billion-plus-a-year seller and said doctors have "consistently endorsed azetukalner as a potential best-in-class epilepsy drug."

The reason doctors like it, said Dr. French, is that "it's easy, safe and fast." Unlike other anti-seizure drugs, it doesn't require a gradual increase in dosing over weeks. Xenon is running additional studies to see if azetukalner alleviates mood disorders and pain.

Xenon, which has a market capitalization of US\$3.5-billion, has raised US\$1.4-billion to date but would need more to take azetukalner to market, chief executive officer Ian Mortimer said in an interview. That could mean having another equity raise, striking a distribution partnership or selling out to Big Pharma.

The company, co-founded by University of British Columbia geneticist Michael

Hayden and postdoctoral student Simon Pimstone in 1996, started in gene discovery but shifted focus to drugs affecting sodium channels that played a key role in signalling pain. Xenon went public in 2014 and partnered with drug giants to develop pain treatments, but those programs failed or fizzled out. In March, 2017, Xenon's stock plummeted when its acne drug failed efficacy trials.

But its work led to exploration of neurological conditions Xenon could treat, including epilepsy. That resulted in a partnership with another Canadian company.

Valeant Pharmaceuticals International (now renamed Bausch Health Companies) had developed a potassium channel-modulating drug called ezogabine to treat epilepsy. While it reduced seizures markedly, ezogabine required a gradual buildup of dose strength and had to be taken three times a day, causing side effects that included fatigue and dizziness. It also turned patients' skin blue.

That drug, marketed by GSK plc, was approved in 2011 but regulators ordered that it carry warnings about the discoloration and threat of vision changes. GSK discontinued it in 2017, blaming limited sales.

Valeant knew ezogabine had problems and looked for alternatives using a similar approach but different chemistry. It devised a potassium ion channel drug that wouldn't require graduated dosing and could be taken once daily at night, minimizing the impact of side effects. It didn't turn anyone blue.

As Valeant encountered market challenges in 2015, a former company researcher set out to rescue the unproven drug. Valeant licensed it to him in 2015 and Xenon later acquired all rights to azetukalner from the researcher and Valeant.

"A biotechnology company's journey is long and incredibly challenging," Mr. Mortimer said. "There are many setbacks along the way, but we are on the doorstep of what all companies want to do."

Mr. Bishop, the retiree, is eager to see azetukalner succeed even though it causes side effects such as sleepiness and dizziness, and for him, tremors and occasional incontinence.

But he hasn't paid for the drug as a study participant and it's likely to cost US\$15,000-plus annually per patient, said Needham & Co. analyst Serge Belanger. Mr. Bishop's medical bills have wiped out his retirement savings already. "I won't even know how to afford it," he said.

Several analysts who follow Xenon are optimistic azetukalner will again deliver a statistically significant improvement over placebo results and 50-per-cent-plus seizure reduction.

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OPINION & ANALYSIS

Iran oil shock darkens prospects for all money

If war leads to outcome other than regime collapse, anxiety may rise in world oil markets

JOHN RAPLEY

OPINION

Contributing columnist for The Globe and Mail. He is an author and academic whose books include *Why Empires Fall* and *Twilight of the Money Gods*

It's hard to say what U.S. President Donald Trump's interest in Saturday's Iran attack is. He has expressed a number of goals at different times, but none of them is especially compelling. More puzzling still is that for a president whose party faces a difficult set of elections this year, this is a military campaign with potentially large economic risks, and no obvious payoff.

Unlike in Venezuela, Mr. Trump hasn't said this attack is about oil, and anyhow it's hard

to see how it could be.

Without a substantial and long-lasting occupation, the U.S. couldn't secure control of Iranian output anyhow. But, the impact both on Iranian exports and shipping in the region is going to add a premium to the world price of oil in the short term.

Oil had finished the week roughly 10 per cent up where it ended 2025. We'll have to wait for the markets to open in Asia on Monday to see whether prices rise much higher. But analysts are expecting that.

At the moment, we're left to speculate based on the performance of risk assets which do trade over the weekend, namely cryptocurrency. So far, what we've seen is concern among traders, but not outright panic. Mind you, that may itself be a concerning sign.

Market analysts have begun to detect a high degree of optimism among traders in recent weeks, based on apparent expectation that the world economy, led by the U.S., will continue growing strongly this year, recording low

inflation and producing continued high profits. They're also assuming that this war will be resolved quickly and in the favour of the U.S./Israel alliance.

At a time when most G7 economies are struggling to get moving and China's economy is slowing, the world's biggest economy – which is still a big source of demand in the world economy – may be heading into choppy waters.

Almost all of those are questionable assumptions. Most indications are the Iranian regime will be humbled if not destroyed by the war, but few analysts would predict that will give way to a speedy resolution. Prolonged instability is the more likely scenario.

And for as long as that instability continues, energy markets,

already under pressure from the artificial intelligence boom that is driving up electricity prices – particularly in the U.S. – will keep inflation from falling. Last week's producer price inflation report showed that if anything, inflation is going to heat up in the U.S. this year.

Therefore, it is looking increasingly questionable that the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates much, if at all, this year, and it may even end up raising them. Other central banks may find it necessary to follow suit, to prevent spillover effects like weakening currencies or higher inflation in their own economies.

Higher interest rates will, in turn, put a brake on economic growth at the very time there are signs it may be slowing. The final quarter of U.S. gross-domestic-product growth came in much weaker than expected, and while most economists believe that the tax cuts which take effect this year in the U.S. will add a tailwind to growth, there are early reports that the refunds that are appearing aren't turning out to

be as big as previously expected.

In sum, at a time when most G7 economies are struggling to get moving and China's economy is slowing, the world's biggest economy – which is still a big source of demand in the world economy – may be heading into choppy waters.

Last week's market reaction to Nvidia Corp.'s earnings report showed just how dangerous the optimism and complacency in the markets can be: After it blew through expectations, the tech company's share price fell, revealing that investors expected it to do even better.

The same could happen in world energy markets. If this war leads to any other outcome than a quick regime collapse, followed by the successful installation of a new Iranian government that quickly consolidates power – or alternatively, to a quick declaration of victory by Trump without any change in the regime – anxiety may rise quickly in world oil markets.

And if that happens, the prospects for 2026 could quickly darken.

OpenAI has shown it cannot be trusted. Canada needs nationalized, public AI

NATHAN SANDERS
BRUCE SCHNEIER

OPINION

Nathan Sanders is a data scientist affiliated with the Berkman Klein Center at Harvard University.

Bruce Schneier is a lecturer at the Harvard Kennedy School and the Munk School at the University of Toronto.

They are the authors of *Rewiring Democracy: How AI Will Transform Politics, Government, and Citizenship*.

Canada has a choice to make about its artificial intelligence future. The Carney administration is investing \$2-billion over five years in its Sovereign AI Compute Strategy. Will any value generated by "sovereign AI" be captured in Canada, making a difference in the lives of Canadians, or is this just a pass-through to investment in American Big Tech?

Forcing the question is OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, which has been pushing an "OpenAI for Countries" initiative. It is not the only one eyeing its share of the \$2-billion, but it appears to be the most aggressive. OpenAI's top lobbyist in the region has met with Ottawa officials, including Artificial Intelligence Minister Evan Solomon.

All the while, OpenAI was less than open. The company had flagged the Tumbler Ridge, B.C., shooter's ChatGPT interactions, which included gun-violence chats. Employees wanted to alert law enforcement but were rebuffed. Maybe there is a discussion to be had about users' privacy. But even after the shooting, the OpenAI representative who met with the B.C. government said nothing.

When tech billionaires and corporations steer AI development, the resultant AI reflects their interests rather than those of the general public or ordinary consumers. Only after the meeting with the B.C. government did OpenAI alert law enforcement. Had it not been for the Wall Street Journal's reporting, the public would not have known about this at all.

Moreover, OpenAI for Countries is explicitly described by the company as an initiative "in coordination with the U.S. government." And it's not just OpenAI: all the AI giants are for-profit American companies, operating in their private interests, and subject to United States law and increasingly bowing to U.S. President Donald Trump. Moving data centres into Canada under a proposal like OpenAI's doesn't change that. The current geopolitical reality means Canada should not be dependent on U.S. tech firms for essential services such as cloud computing and AI.

While there are Canadian AI companies, they remain for-profit enterprises, their interests not necessarily aligned with our collective good. The only real alternative is to be bold and invest in a wholly Canadian public AI: an AI



ISTOCK

model built and funded by Canada for Canadians, as public infrastructure. This would give Canadians access to the myriad of benefits from AI without having to depend on the U.S. or other countries. It would mean Canadian universities and public agencies building and operating AI models optimized not for global scale and corporate profit, but for practical use by Canadians.

Imagine AI embedded into health care, triaging radiology scans, flagging early cancer risks and assisting doctors with paperwork. Imagine an AI tutor trained on provincial curriculums, giving personalized coaching. Imagine systems that analyze job vacancies and sectoral and wage trends, then automatically match job seekers to government programs. Imagine using AI to optimize transit schedules, energy grids and zoning analysis. Imagine court processes, corporate decisions and customer service all sped up by AI.

We are already on our way to having AI become an inextricable part of society. To ensure stability and prosperity for this country, Canadian users and developers must be able to turn to AI models built, controlled, and operated publicly in Canada instead of building on corporate platforms, American or otherwise.

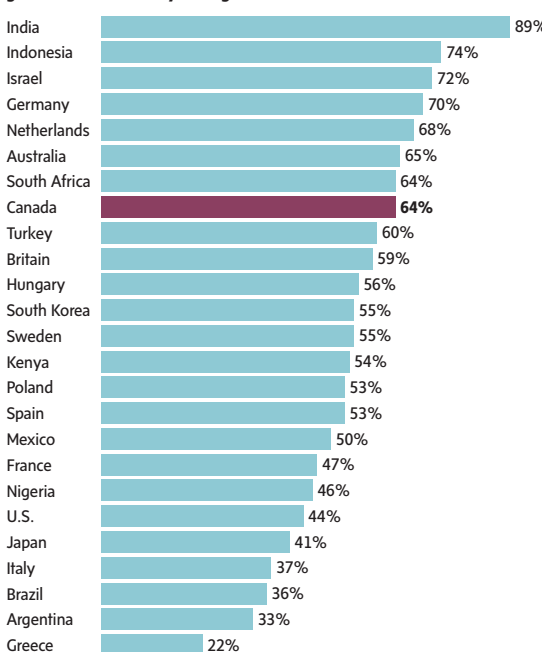
Switzerland has shown this to be possible. With funding from the federal government, a consortium of academic institutions – ETH Zurich, EPFL, and the Swiss National Supercomputing Centre – released the world's most powerful and fully realized public AI model, Apertus, last September. Apertus leveraged renewable hydropower and existing Swiss scientific computing infrastructure. It also used no illegally pirated copyrighted material or poorly paid labour extracted from the Global South during training. The model's performance stands at

The cost contrast: training Big Tech and public AI models

Model	Corporate	Public/open
NAME (RELEASE YEAR)	COUNTRY	COST ESTIMATE IN US\$ BILLIONS
Grok 4 (2025)	U.S.	\$490
GPT4.5 (2025)	U.S.	\$400
GPT4 (2023)	U.S.	\$40
Apertus (2025)	Switzerland	\$36
DeepSeek-R1 (2025)	China	\$6
GPT3.5 (2022)	U.S.	\$5
AllenAI Olmo3 (2025)	U.S.	\$2

THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: EPOCH AI (2026) AND APERTUS PROJECT

Share of public with 'a lot' or 'some' trust in their government's ability to regulate AI



THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: PEW RESEARCH CENTER (2025)

roughly a year or two behind the major corporate offerings, but that is more than adequate for

the vast majority of applications. And it's free for anyone to use and build on.

The significance of Apertus is more than technical. It demonstrates an alternative ownership structure for AI technology, one that allocates both decision-making authority and value to national public institutions rather than foreign corporations. This vision represents precisely the paradigm shift Canada should embrace: AI as public infrastructure, like systems for transportation, water, or electricity, rather than private commodity.

Apertus also demonstrates a far more sustainable economic framework for AI. Switzerland spent a tiny fraction of the billions of dollars that corporate AI labs invest annually, demonstrating that the frequent training runs with astronomical price tags pursued by tech companies are not actually necessary for practical AI development.

They focused on making something broadly useful rather than bleeding edge – trying dubiously to create "superintelligence," as with Silicon Valley – so they created a smaller model at much lower cost. Apertus's training was at a scale (70 billion parameters) perhaps two orders of magnitude lower than the largest Big Tech offerings.

An ecosystem is now being developed on top of Apertus, using the model as a public good to power chatbots for free consumer use and to provide a development platform for companies prioritizing responsible AI use, and rigorous compliance with laws like the EU AI Act. Instead of routing queries from those users to Big Tech infrastructure, Apertus is deployed to data centres across national AI and computing initiatives of Switzerland, Australia, Germany, and Singapore and other partners.

The case for public AI rests on both democratic principles and practical benefits. Public AI systems can incorporate mechanisms for genuine public input and democratic oversight on critical ethical questions: how to handle copyrighted works in training data, how to mitigate bias, how to distribute access when demand outstrips capacity, and how to license use for sensitive applications like policing or medicine.

Or how to handle a situation such as that of the Tumbler Ridge shooter. These decisions will profoundly shape society as AI becomes more pervasive, yet corporate AI makes them in secret.

By contrast, public AI developed by transparent, accountable agencies would allow democratic processes and political oversight to govern how these powerful systems function.

Canada already has many of the building blocks for public AI. The country has world-class AI research institutions, including the Vector Institute, Mila, and CIFAR, which pioneered much of the deep learning revolution. Canada's \$2-billion Sovereign AI Compute Strategy provides substantial funding.

What's needed now is a reorientation away from viewing this as an opportunity to attract private capital, and toward a fully open public AI model.

Ottawa won't say if it penalized Gripens in analysis

Document shows F-35 blowing the Swedish jet out of the water, with the U.S. jet scoring 95% on overall military capabilities

KYLE DUGGAN
SARAH RITCHIE OTTAWA

National Defence is refusing to disclose how it analyzed competing fighter jet bids after a Swedish media report suggested the evaluation was weighted against Saab's Gripen E.

Citing confidential sources, the Swedish business publication *Af-farsvarlden* reported that Ottawa added a risk coefficient to its analysis that significantly undermined the Gripen's test scores because it was still a new series aircraft.

The report comes after the federal government's internal 2021 scorecard, revealing the topline totals from the analysis, was leaked to Radio-Canada in the fall.

That document shows the American F-35 blowing the Swedish Gripen out of the water, with the F-35 scoring 95 per cent on overall military capabilities while the Gripen scored just 33 per cent.

The full report is not public and its partial leak kicked off an internal investigation to determine who released it because sensitive commercial information was involved.

When The Canadian Press asked National Defence if a significant amount of risk-weighting was applied to the Gripen, spokesperson Kened Sadiku said in an e-mailed statement the government "cannot comment on, or disclose details, related to the evaluation of bids" and it must "preserve the integrity of the procurement process."

Sierra Fullerton, Saab Canada's communications and public affairs lead, said the company would not comment on the Swedish media reports.

"We can confirm that Saab met or exceeded all of the stringent requirements for capability, interoperability and security set out in the Canadian fighter evaluation in 2021," Fullerton said in an e-mailed statement. "We remain convinced that Gripen would be a very good fit for Canada."

She also said the technology for the Gripen has continued to evolve since 2021 and pointed to a 2025 test flight that saw the fighter jet flown autonomously using a



For nearly a year, Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberal government has been reviewing whether to buy a fleet of 88 F-35s. Canada has only committed financially to the first batch of 16 F-35 jets. GEERT VANDEN WIJNGAERT/ASSOCIATED PRESS

third-party AI agent.

In a statement, a spokesperson for Lockheed Martin said its F-35 was chosen in a fair and open competition.

Lockheed Martin's statement added that 20 nations have chosen the F-35, and "it has won the capability assessment for every fighter competition it has been in so far."

At stake behind the cloak-and-dagger leaks and questions about grading is big business, international reputations – and the crucial question of whether Canada should plow ahead with plans to buy a large fleet of F-35s or opt for a mixed fleet that includes a contingent of Gripens.

For nearly a year, Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberal government has been reviewing whether to buy a fleet of 88 F-35s. The government had said it would finish that analysis by the fall but has provided no updates.

Canada has only committed financially to the first batch of 16 F-35 jets.

Saab, which is trying to sell the federal government on a fleet of Global Eye radar-surveillance planes, was one of two finalists in the fighter jet competition.

That competition ended in 2023 when Ottawa signed the agreement with the U.S. government and Lockheed Martin.

The review was launched in the early days of the Carney government amid U.S. President Donald Trump's trade war.

Saab launched a charm offensive last year in Canada, reviving its previous offers and floating the prospect of setting up a Gripen production hub in Canada that could come with some 10,000 jobs.

Alex McColl, who wrote his 2018 master's thesis calling for Canada to buy a Gripen fleet, said the partial leak of the scoring doesn't tell the full story.

"There was no explanation of how the scores were made. There was no highlighting of any risk deduction. I believe that the low score is explained by the risk deduction," he said.

Mr. McColl obtained documents in 2020 that showed how the government was drafting its evaluation scenarios, which he said he believes would have favoured the F-35.

Tom Lawson, a former chief of the defence staff who supports the F-35 deal, said there's no

doubt the combat capability of the Lockheed jet was well ahead of Saab's Gripen.

"What a wonderful thing to unfold on Canadians, to say, 'If we held the competition again today, we would match up much better,' because they know we're not going to have another competition," he said.

Mr. Lawson said polling suggests a majority of Canadians would be on board with a mixed fleet.

While he said he believes that's a bad idea, he thinks the federal government is smart to hold off on its decision as Canada and the U.S. are primed to enter negotiations this year to renew the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement on trade.

Pete Hoekstra, the U.S. ambassador to Canada, told CBC News in January that if Canada doesn't buy all 88 F-35s, the North American defence pact Norad would have to be altered. He also called the Gripen an inferior product.

The F-35 procurement has been in the works for more than a decade and has been plagued by politicization and delays.

The Conservatives want the Carney government to push

ahead with the full F-35 fleet order, while the NDP has argued for scrapping the contract entirely and opting for the Saab jets.

It's clear what the military wants.

Air Force Commander Lieutenant-General Jamie Speiser-Blanchet told the House of Commons defence committee in January that the F-35 was selected for its "advanced stealth capabilities, data and sensor fusion and increased lethality."

"The F-35 is the only fifth-generation advanced technology fighter aircraft available to Canada, and it was selected in the competition that was conducted by the government of Canada," she said.

"It is the only one, at this moment, that can meet all of the most advanced adversary threats we are seeing that are being promulgated and advanced technologically by Russia and China."

The first Canadian F-35 are set to be delivered to Luke Air Force Base in Arizona in 2026, and the first bound for Canada is scheduled to arrive at CFB Cold Lake in 2028.

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LEGALS

Independence American Insurance Company APPLICATION TO ESTABLISH A CANADIAN BRANCH

Notice is hereby given that Independence American Insurance Company, an entity incorporated under the laws of Delaware, intends to file with the Superintendent of Financial Institutions, on or after March 9, 2026, an application under subsection 574(1) of the *Insurance Companies Act* (Canada) for an order approving the insuring in Canada of risks, under the English name Independence American Insurance Company and the French name Compagnie d'Assurance Indépendance Américaine. Independence American Insurance Company is a general insurance company and intends to conduct in Canada property insurance. The head office of the company is located in Scottsdale Arizona, with the ultimate parent located in Luxembourg. The Canadian chief agent will be located in Newmarket, Ontario.

Toronto, February 18, 2026

Independence American Insurance Company
By its solicitors
Borden Ladner Gervais LLP

Independence American Insurance Company DEMANDE D'ÉTABLISSEMENT D'UNE SUCCURSALE CANADIENNE

Avis est donné par les présentes que Independence American Insurance Company, société constituée sous le régime des lois du Delaware, a l'intention de déposer auprès du Surintendant des institutions financières, le 9 mars 2026 ou après cette date, une demande en vertu du paragraphe 574(1) de la *Loi sur les sociétés d'assurance* (Canada) en vue de la délivrance d'une ordonnance l'autorisant à garantir au Canada des risques, sous la dénomination anglaise Independence American Insurance Company et la dénomination française Compagnie d'Assurance Indépendance Américaine. Independence American Insurance Company est une compagnie d'assurance de dommages et elle a l'intention d'offrir des services d'assurance des biens au Canada. Le siège de la société est situé à Scottsdale, en Arizona, et sa société mère ultime est située au Luxembourg. L'agent principal canadien sera situé à Newmarket, en Ontario.

Toronto, le 18 février 2026

Independence American Insurance Company
Par ses avocats
Borden Ladner Gervais S.E.N.C.R.L., S.R.L.

Court File Number: 2601-03216

COURT OF KING'S BENCH OF ALBERTA IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, AS AMENDED AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF TRION BATTERY TECHNOLOGIES INC.

NOTICE OF RECOGNITION ORDERS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Trion Battery Technologies Inc. (the "Company") made an application to the Court of King's Bench of Alberta at Calgary, Alberta on February 20, 2026 at 2:00PM, for an Initial Order under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* (Canada) (the "CCAA").

The Company sought and obtained, among other things:

1. An Order granting a stay of proceedings in favour of the Company, its related parties, and its directors and officers;
2. The appointment of FTI Consulting Canada Inc. as Monitor of the Company; and
3. Such further and other relief as counsel may advise and this Honourable Court may permit.

Copies of the materials filed in connection with this application are available on the Monitor's website: cfcanada.fticonsulting.com/trion.

Any party wishing to object to the relief granted should serve a record in accordance with the applicable Rules of the Court and provide notice to the undersigned counsel as soon as possible.

DATED at Toronto, Ontario, this 25th day of February, 2026.

AND TAKE NOTICE that counsel for the Trion Group is:

DLA Piper (Canada) LLP
Suite 2700, 10220 – 103 Ave NW
Edmonton, AB T5J 0K4

Attention: Carole Hunter re: Trion CCAA Proceedings
Phone: 1 (403) 698-8782
Email: carole.hunter@ca.dlapiper.com

PLEASE FINALLY TAKE NOTICE that if you wish to receive copies of the Initial Order or obtain further information in respect of the matters set forth in this Notice, you may contact the Monitor at:

FTI Consulting Canada Inc.
TD Waterhouse Tower
79 Wellington Street West
Suite 2010, P.O. Box 104
Toronto, Ontario M5K 1G8

Attention: Trion Group CCAA Proceedings
Toll-free: (833) 642-9673
Phone: (416) 649-8128
Email: trion@fticonsulting.com

DATED AT TORONTO, ONTARIO this 25th day of February, 2026.

FTI Consulting Canada Inc.
(solely in its capacity as Monitor of Trion Battery Technologies Inc., and not in its personal or corporate capacity)

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Australia says it may go after app stores, search engines in AI crackdown

SYDNEY

Australia's internet regulator said it may push search engines and app stores to block artificial-intelligence services that fail to verify user ages after a Reuters review found more than half had not made public any steps to comply by a deadline next week.

The warning reflects one of the most aggressive efforts globally to rein in AI companies, which face a growing number of lawsuits for failing to stop – and even encouraging – self-harm or violence while researchers caution that such platforms are more harmful to youth mental health than social media.

Australia in December became the first country to ban social media for teenagers, citing mental-health concerns, prompting an outpouring of world leaders saying they would do the same. The country now says it is spearheading a similar crackdown on AI by putting age restrictions on the content people can access with the technology.

From March 9, internet services in Australia, including search tools such as OpenAI's ChatGPT and lesser-known companion chatbots, must restrict Australians under 18 from receiving pornography, extreme violence, self-harm and eating disorder content or face fines of up to 49.5-million Australian dollars (\$47.7-million).

"eSafety will use the full range of our powers where there is non-compliance," a spokesperson for the commissioner said, including "action in respect of gatekeeper services such as search engines and app stores that provide key points of access to particular services".

OpenAI and companion chatbot startup Character.AI have faced wrongful death lawsuits over their interactions with young users, while OpenAI acknowledged this week it deactivated the ChatGPT account of a teen mass shooting suspect in Canada months before the attack, without telling the authorities.

Australia is yet to experience reports of chatbot-linked violence or self-harm, but the regulator has reported being told about children as young as 10 talking to the AI-powered interactive tools up to six hours a day.

eSafety was "concerned that AI companies are leveraging emotional manipulation, anthropomorphism and other advanced techniques to entice, entrance and entrench young people into excessive chatbot usage", the spokesperson said.

Top app store operator Apple did not respond but said on its website last week that it would use "reasonable methods" to stop minors downloading 18+ apps in Australia and other jurisdictions that are introducing age restrictions, without specifying the methods.

A spokesperson for Google, Australia's dominant search engine provider and No.2 app store operator, declined to comment.

Jennifer Duxbury, head of policy at internet industry group DIGI, who led the drafting of the AI code before it was signed off by the regulator, said eSafety was trying to notify chatbot services about the new rules but "ultimately any service operating in Australia is responsible for understanding its legal obligations and ensuring it meets them".

A week before Australia's deadline, of the 50 most popular text-based AI products, nine had rolled out or announced plans for age assurance systems, the Reuters review found.

The review was based on each platform's response to prompts asking for restricted content and moderation policies, published statements including terms of service, and statements to Reuters.

Another 11 platforms had blanket content filters or planned to block all Australians from using their service, measures that would comply with the new law by keeping restricted content from all users, leaving 30 with no apparent steps taken to follow the new rules, the review found.

Most large chat-based search assistants such as ChatGPT, Replika and Anthropic's Claude had started rolling out age assurance systems or blanket filters. Chatbot provider Character.AI cut off open-ended chat for under-18s.

Companion chatbot providers Candy AI, Pi, Kindroid and Nomi told Reuters they planned to comply without elaborating, while HammerAI said it would block its services from Australia initially to comply with the code.

But those were the minority. Of the companion chatbots, three-quarters had no functioning or planned filtering or age assurance, while one-sixth did not have a published e-mail address to report suspected breaches, which is also required.

REUTERS

Trump expects Fed pick, AI to deliver replay of nineties boom

U.S. President confident his nominee can unleash an economic bonanza, but many economists have doubts

PAUL WISEMAN WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump, his Treasury secretary and his choice to lead the Federal Reserve believe they can coax the U.S. economy into partying like it's 1999.

They are putting their faith in artificial intelligence to duplicate what happened when another technology arrived in the 1990s: the internet. Back then, the American economy surged as businesses became more productive, unemployment tumbled and inflation remained in check.

Mr. Trump is confident that his nominee to become Fed chair, Kevin Warsh, can unleash an even greater economic bonanza by jettisoning what the President sees as the central bank's hidebound reluctance to slash interest rates.

Many economists are skeptical.

The world looks a lot different today than it did when the Spice Girls ruled radio and *Titanic* dominated the box office. And the story the Trump team is telling – that a visionary Fed chair, Alan Greenspan, fuelled the nineties boom by keeping interest rates low – is incomplete at best.

"The administration is offering a rather distorted version of what actually happened in the 1990s," economist Dario Perkins of TS Lombard said in a commentary.

Nonetheless, the Trump administration believes history can repeat itself. All that's been missing, in the President's view, is a Fed chair with Mr. Greenspan's foresightedness.

Mr. Trump has repeatedly attacked current Fed chief Jerome Powell, whose term as chair ends in May, for his reluctance to lower rates aggressively while inflation hovers above the central bank's 2-per-cent target. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on social media in January that the president sought to replace Mr. Powell with someone with "an open, Greenspan-like mind."

"Our nation can see productivity boom like we did in the nineties when we are not encumbered by a Federal Reserve which throws the brakes on," Mr. Bessent said.

On Jan. 30, Mr. Trump said he was picking Mr. Warsh.

In speeches and writings, Mr. Warsh has argued that AI-driven improvements in productivity could justify lower interest rates.

These views align with Mr. Trump's desires for Fed rate cuts but mark a break with Mr. Warsh's own past as an inflation hawk. In the aftermath of the 2007-09 Great Recession, Mr. Warsh – then a Fed governor – objected to some of the central bank's efforts to help the struggling economy by



U.S. Federal Reserve chair nominee Kevin Warsh has argued that artificial-intelligence-driven improvements in productivity could justify lower interest rates. BRENDAN McDERMID/REUTERS

pushing down rates even though unemployment exceeded 9 per cent. Mr. Warsh warned then, wrongly, that inflation would soon accelerate.

At issue now are gains in productivity and the possibility that AI will make them bigger – much bigger.

To economists, productivity improvements are almost magical. When companies roll out new machines or technology, their workers can become more efficient and produce more stuff an hour. That allows firms to earn more and to raise employees' pay without raising prices. In short: Surging productivity can drive economic growth without spurring inflation.

In the mid-1990s, Mr. Greenspan was contending with a strange set of economic circumstances: Wages were rising, but inflation wasn't heating up.

Big productivity gains might have explained things, but government data showed no sign of them. Other Fed policy makers worried that surging wages and tame inflation couldn't co-exist and that higher prices were coming. They wanted to raise interest rates.

But Mr. Greenspan suspected the official productivity numbers were missing something. For one thing, they didn't jibe with the amazing tales of efficiency improvements the Fed was hearing from companies investing in computers and turning to the internet.

So he ordered his lieutenants to dig through decades of productivity numbers. The official statistics they assembled told an implausible story: Services firms – from retailers to legal practices – had supposedly seen productivity fall over the years, despite intense competitive pressure and massive investments in technology.

Mr. Greenspan didn't believe it. He persuaded his Fed colleagues that the government's numbers were wrong and were understating productivity. They agreed in September, 1996 to hold off on raising rates.

The economy took flight. Tardily, productivity advances

began to show up in the official data. Overall, American economic growth surpassed 4 per cent every year from 1997 through 2000, something it would do again only once in the next quarter century. The unemployment rate plunged to 3.8 per cent in April, 2000, lowest in three decades. Inflation stayed in its cage, coming in below 2 per cent – later the Fed's official target – for 17 straight months in 1997-1999.

American productivity certainly looked strong in the second and third quarters of 2025, and some economists attribute the improvements to early adoption of AI; they see bigger gains and stronger economic growth ahead. Others aren't so sure.

Joe Brusuelas, chief economist at the consulting firm RSM, wrote that the 2025 productivity improvements "are not because of artificial intelligence" but reflect investments in automation that companies made when they couldn't find enough workers during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. "Those investments are starting to pay off," Mr. Brusuelas wrote.

A productivity boom can raise the economy's speed limit – how fast it can grow without pushing prices higher. But it might not justify lower interest rates, Federal Reserve governor Michael Barr said in a speech earlier this month.

Businesses will borrow to invest in AI, putting upward pressure on interest rates. Likewise, American workers and their families likely would save less and borrow more in anticipation of higher wages, the payoff for being more productive; that would put still more pressure on rates to rise.

Bottom line, Mr. Barr said: "The AI boom is unlikely to be a reason for lowering policy rates."


Even Mr. Greenspan's Fed eventually came to the same conclusion, reversing course and starting to raise its benchmark rate in mid-1999, taking it from 4.75 per cent to 6.5 per cent in less than a year. (The rate Mr. Trump complains about now is around 3.6 per cent.)

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DIVIDENDS

Dividend Notice				
				
Notice is hereby given that the following dividend(s) have been declared. All amounts shown are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise specified.				
Issuer	Issue	Record Date	Payable Date	Rate
Pulse Seismic Inc.	Common Shares	19-Mar, 2026	26-Mar, 2026	\$0.1175

HUBBAY
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Dividend Notice

Hudbay Minerals Inc.

Hudbay Minerals Inc.'s board of directors has declared a dividend in the amount of C\$0.01 per common share, payable on March 27, 2026 to shareholders of record as of 5:00 pm (ET) on March 10, 2026.

Dividends paid by Hudbay Minerals Inc. are designated as eligible dividends for the purpose of the Income Tax Act (Canada), and for relevant Canadian provincial and territorial income tax legislation, unless notice to the contrary with respect to a particular dividend is given. As a result, the dividend payable on March 27, 2026 has been designated as an eligible dividend for this purpose.

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Care: New policy 'unclear and hard to apply, and likely to lead to billing mistakes,' Alberta says

FROM B1

"Some provinces and territories have raised concerns that the CHA Services Policy could negatively impact decisions to expand the scope of practice of health care professionals in the future," Ms. Michel wrote in the letter. "Specifically, there are concerns that these changes might automatically fall under the Policy. I assure you that this is not the case."

The federal government had also signalled in the past that it might issue a directive on billing for virtual care, which currently varies by province. But the Health Minister now says she will not do so.

"I reiterate my commitment that there will not be a virtual care policy interpretation letter," Ms. Michel wrote, who earlier in the message referenced discussions at an in-person meeting with her provincial and territorial counterparts last October. She said all the ministers would continue to discuss virtual care at their next in-person meeting in the fall.

Alberta said Ottawa's policies were "violating" the province's jurisdiction over health care and urged the federal government to repeal the interpretation letter and pause implementation of the new policy.

"While the federal government has offered a one-year waiver of

financial penalties, that is not sufficient," Maddison McKee, spokesperson for Adriana LaGrange, Alberta Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services, wrote in an e-mail.

"Using 'interpretation letters' to change how the Canada Health Act is applied bypasses proper federal-provincial collaboration and creates confusion, risk, and costs for Alberta's health system."

The provincial government did not provide an estimated cost of covering the additional services. But it added that the new policy was "unclear and hard to apply, and likely to lead to billing mistakes, unexpected patient charges, or gaps in coverage – exactly what the rules are supposed to prevent."

Guillaume Bertrand, spokesperson for the federal minister, said the office was "working collaboratively with provinces and territories to ensure a smooth transition."

The Canadian Nurses Association said it was supportive of Ottawa's plans. Chief executive officer Valerie Grdisa said that nurse practitioners provide a strong value for money in the health care system, as they can provide many primary-care services at a lower cost than physicians.

"The provincial and territorial governments are not realizing a proven, cost-effective, high-quality solution in a timely way," Ms. Grdisa said.

Danyaal Raza, a family physician and board member of the Canadian Doctors for Medicare, said it was "good news" that the federal government was continuing with this policy, even through a change in prime minister and health minister since the January, 2025 letter was issued. He said it was reasonable to give provinces and territories a grace period to adjust their funding structures.

But he said virtual care was a vital tool and he hoped that the lack of direction on funding virtual-care services wasn't a sign of foot dragging.

Brett Belchetz, an emergency physician and chief executive officer of Maple Corp., one of the largest telehealth providers in Canada, said he has had "constructive conversations" with federal and provincial governments about virtual care's role as critical infrastructure in the health care system.

However, Dr. Belchetz said expanding the Canada Health Act beyond physicians carried significant financial and operational implications. He said major changes should be done through legislation and public debate.

"Simply layering new financial obligations onto a decades-old framework without addressing underlying capacity and funding constraints risks compounding pressures rather than resolving them," he said in an e-mail.

From grassroots to the global stage: How Canada's soccer long game is paying off

Steady investment and local development ensure Canadian players can compete with the world's best

For years, soccer in Canada has held a distinctive place: widely played, deeply loved and increasingly respected on the global stage. The women's national team has long been recognized as a world class force, and participation across the country has never been stronger. The broader challenge has been translating that passion and success into sustained, system wide competitiveness – closing the gap between widespread participation and consistent high performance.

That gap is now closing, and not by accident.

As Canada prepares for international attention and a global tournament on home soil this summer, the sport finds itself at a true inflection point. The spotlight may be new, but the challenges are not. For years, a lack of sustained investment has limited the ability of the sport and its athletes to fully realizing their potential. What's emerging now isn't a sudden breakthrough, but the result of steady investment, cultural change and a growing belief that with the right support, Canadian soccer can compete with the world's best.

A newly announced partnership between Canada Soccer and BMO lands squarely in that context. Rather than marking a starting point, the partnership reflects a continuation of nearly two decades of involvement in the sport. It underscores a belief that success on the global stage is built over time.

"This partnership is really about momentum and making sure we don't lose it," says Kevin Blue, CEO and general secretary of Canada Soccer. "BMO understands that growing the game doesn't happen in four-year cycles. It happens every year, in communities across the country."

That distinction matters. Canadian soccer's recent success, from World Cup qualification to Olympic medals, did not emerge overnight. It grew from local clubs, school gyms and volunteer-run leagues that quietly built the foundation for a high-performance culture. Those efforts have



BMO's new partnership with Canada Soccer reflects its long-term investment in the sport at every level – from grassroots participation to the professional game.

long existed; what's changing now is the scale of opportunity around them.

Soccer is already the most played sport in Canada. What it has historically lacked is sustained, system-level support that treats winning as a long-term objective rather than a pleasant surprise. With the world's eyes turning toward Canada, the question is no longer whether the sport belongs on the global stage, but whether the country is prepared to stay there.

For BMO, the decision to deepen its involvement reflects what it has witnessed over two decades of investing in the sport at every level,

from grassroots participation to the professional game.

"Soccer in Canada isn't a trend, it's a movement," says Catherine Roche, BMO's chief marketing officer. "You see it in local leagues, schoolyards and packed stadiums. We're here to help support that ecosystem so the momentum is sustained."

That ecosystem spans far beyond elite competition. It includes youth development, coaching education and ensuring access remains possible in a sport that prides itself on being open to all. But it also increasingly includes performance standards – the expectation that Ca-

nadian teams don't just participate but compete and win.

For the players wearing the maple leaf, that shift is already tangible.

Canada's captain, Alphonso Davies, has risen from grassroots soccer to global stardom, mirroring the broader story of the sport in Canada: talent has always existed, but pathways were once fragmented. Today, those pathways are clearer, better resourced and aligned around the idea that Canadian players can thrive at the highest level.

Julia Grosso, whose Olympic-winning goal became one of the defining moments in Canadian sports history, sees the impact for young players navigating the system.

"The game grows when access grows," she says. "When organizations invest in the sport at every level, it opens doors for players who might not otherwise get the chance."

Access and excellence are not opposing ideas. In fact, the countries that perform best on the world stage – particularly those that are smaller than Canada but consistently ranked much higher, like the Netherlands – tend to understand that one fuels the other. Broad participation

creates depth. Depth creates competition. Competition raises standards.

Canada is now entering the phase where those standards are being tested and expectations are rising accordingly.

Hosting a global tournament changes the conversation. It brings scrutiny, pressure and the kind of national attention that demands results. But it also creates an opportunity to lock in gains, ensuring that success is not a single-cycle story but a sustained presence.

That is where partnerships rooted in longevity, rather than momentary hype, matter most. The visibility of the men's and women's national teams is important. So too is the quieter, long-term work that has been happening for years, in training environments, development programs and communities that continue to feed the system.

Canadian soccer has earned this moment. Not through a single win or tournament, but through years of participation, patience and belief. The challenge now is to convert momentum into mastery and to make high performance the expectation, not the exception.

The long game, it turns out, is paying off.



As soccer's momentum grows across Canada, clearer pathways and better resources help players thrive at the highest level.

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BMO



Oil: Big question is whether Iran could aim missiles at wells, plants in the Middle East

FROM B1

Norway-based Rystad said the spare capacity cannot be used too quickly, hampering their ability to deal with a larger disruption. As a result, the boost will not likely calm market over the medium term, it said.

“The bigger issue is physical reality: roughly one-fifth of global oil supply passes through the Strait of Hormuz, a vital artery for world trade, meaning markets are more concerned with whether barrels can move than with spare capacity on paper,” wrote Jorge Leon, Rystad’s head of geopolitical analysis.

As of Sunday, almost 150 tankers had dropped anchor across the Persian Gulf, halting exports and pushing up insurance costs, wrote Pratibha Thaker, editorial director, Middle East & Africa, at The Economist Intelligence Unit.

In the 12-day war last June, U.S. and Israeli air strikes against Iran hobbled the country’s nuclear facilities, oil prices initially surged on worries that military action could spread throughout the region, and even affect oil production. However, they quickly retreated when it became clear that output was left unaffected.

As of Sunday, it was unclear how long the hostilities would last in this far more intense conflagration, and what could be targeted. Iran vowed revenge after the killing of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and trad-



People line up at a gas station in Beirut, Lebanon, on Saturday, just hours after the United States and Israel began an attack on Iran. HUSSEIN MALLA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

ed strikes with Israel as part of a widening war. Iran hit U.S. military bases in Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. Its targets also included a hotel in Dubai and Kuwait’s international airport.

At least three vessels had been attacked, the U.K. Maritime Trade Operations Centre reported on Sunday. Two ships had been struck by unknown projectiles, causing fires that were later extinguished. In the third incident, a projectile exploded “in very close

proximity to a vessel,” though all crew members were reported safe, the centre said on its website.

“Unlike the more time-bound escalation seen in June, 2025, current signals suggest Tehran may sustain a cycle of retaliation, at least for the next few days, increasing the risk of prolonged instability,” Ms. Thaker said in a LinkedIn post.

Any disruption in the Strait of Hormuz will be temporary, and

traffic will eventually resume. The only question is when, said Rory Johnston, oil-market analyst at Toronto-based Commodity Context. With the U.S. Navy in the region, it is unclear how long Iran could maintain a closing.

The bigger question, however, is whether Iran could aim its missiles and drones at oil wells and processing plants throughout the region.

“These things are very, very soft targets, and Iran knows that. That, at least for me, is the even more acute, durable concern – the upstream attacks,” Mr. Johnston said in an interview.

“The strait is the headline – I think rightfully so, because it is very real, but it could close down and open up in hours, in days. And then it’s really a question of timeline.”

As markets wager on how long the conflict could last, Mr. Trump is also facing pressure domestically as he struggles to persuade voters that retail gasoline prices are set to fall. For that reason, he could have little appetite for a drawn-out war disrupting crude supplies and driving up pump prices.

Mr. Trump told The Atlantic in an interview on Sunday that he planned to speak with Iran’s new leadership. “They want to talk, and I have agreed to talk, so I will be talking to them,” he said, declining comment on the timing.

With reports from Associated Press

Prices: Monday’s rise should be blunted by gusher of oil supplies in global market

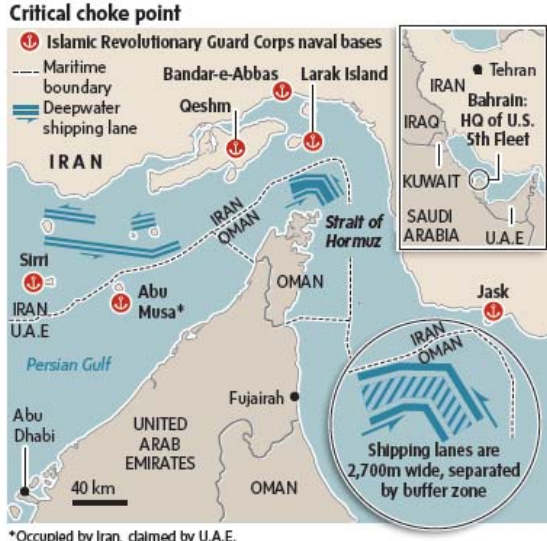
FROM B1

Iran needs the oil revenue to survive, and survival of the regime and the country is Tehran’s top priority. What’s left of the government – supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was assassinated over the weekend – must realize it cannot possibly win a shooting war against the combined might of the U.S. and Israel.

Of course, anything can happen in war, and it can be reckless to make predictions as the bombs and missiles fly and decapitation strikes continue. Still, the dynamics of the energy markets were working in the U.S.’s favour ahead of the war – and could work in its favour during it.

The world was awash in oil well before the U.S. and Israeli air strikes began Saturday. Brent crude, the effective international benchmark, reached a year peak of US\$81 a barrel last June. By December, it went under US\$60, then started to climb as rumours of war gripped the energy trading desks. On Friday, the day before the attacks on Iran, oil gained US\$3 to reach US\$73. If the media didn’t know that attacks were imminent, the oil traders apparently did.

The inevitable rise in prices Monday should be blunted somewhat by the gusher of oil supplies in the global markets. The International Energy Agency reported inventories of 8.2 billion barrels at the start of the year, the highest since 2021. On Sunday, OPEC+ (the extended cartel that includes Russia, Mexico, Oman and several other non-OPEC members) announced a production increase for April. For its part, the U.S. is loaded with oil, thanks to the shale revolution. The country exports far more oil



THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: GRAPHIC NEWS; IRAN INTERNATIONAL; REUTERS

and oil products than it imports. While these oil economies would love to see higher prices, they don’t want crippling prices, which would destroy demand and send oil spiralling down. That’s exactly what happened during the 2008 financial crisis, when oil went to an unprecedented US\$145, then crashed to US\$40.

There is another reason why both Iran and the U.S. are probably motivated to keep Iran’s oil industry, including Hormuz, in operation. While oil can be a weapon, it can also be a bargaining chip.

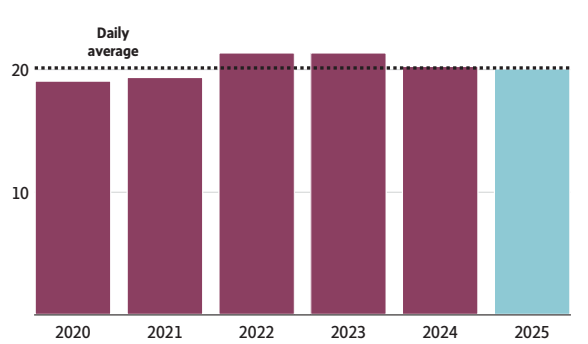
At some point, Mr. Trump will want to declare victory and retreat. In an election year, he cannot afford a long war full of U.S. casualties (on Sunday, three U.S. soldiers died in combat operations and five were seriously

wounded). Mr. Trump loves deals, and his inevitable “victory” statement might include one. He could offer to call off the dogs of war in exchange, or part exchange, for Iran ending its uranium-enrichment activity and opening its oil and other commodities to U.S. investment. The formula was set a year ago, when he offered investment and military aid to Ukraine in exchange for access to, and revenue sharing from, Ukraine’s rare earth mineral operations.

Iran is rich in oil – it has the world’s fourth-largest proven reserves – and holds enormous quantities of uranium, copper, iron ore, lithium and rare earth elements. With China holding a near-lock on rare earths, which are used for everything from electric car motors to defence

Total volume of crude oil flow passing through the Strait of Hormuz

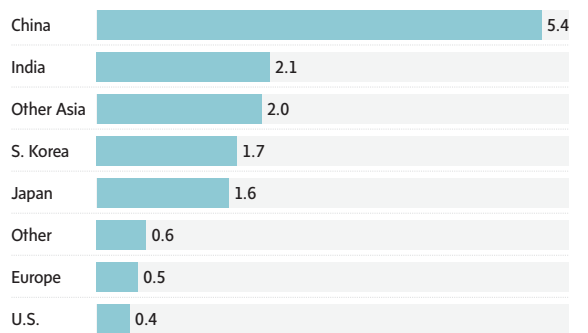
In millions of barrels per day (mbpd), 2020 to Q1 2025



THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: GRAPHIC NEWS; EIA; ENERGY INTELLIGENCE; BLOOMBERG

Destination of oil

By country or region, in millions of barrels per day (mbpd), Q1 2025



THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: GRAPHIC NEWS; EIA; ENERGY INTELLIGENCE; BLOOMBERG

technology, the U.S. is desperate for its own supply of those metals.

There is a huge potential flaw in this scenario. If the war drags on and the body counts climb on both sides, retaliation could be met with retaliation, and escalation

with escalation, to the point that neither side wants peace, just revenge. That scenario would preclude an early ceasefire agreement – and possibly send oil soaring if either the U.S. or Iran, with vengeance in mind, decide to use it as a weapon.

Gulf: Region home to multiple wealth funds, managing hundreds of billions of dollars

FROM B1

Over two days, debris from 390 missiles and 830 drones hit airports in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, the luxury Burj Al Arab hotel in Dubai, a high-rise building in Bahrain and Fairmont’s The Palm, in Dubai, where four individuals in the parking area were injured. All of these events seemed extremely unlikely only a few days ago.

“The image of Gulf cities as stable havens and safe places to live, work, and do business is now under attack,” Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, a fellow for the Middle East at the Baker Institute for Public Policy, wrote in an email to The Globe. The attacks, he added, are a “rude awakening for many of the expatriate residents, tourists, and other visitors, and may inflict psychological damage that is hard to measure, but may be difficult to unsee, especially if the disruption lasts longer than just a few days.”

Prolonged instability in the Gulf could also have an impact on global capital flows, according to Karen Young, a senior re-

search scholar at Columbia University’s Center on Global Energy Policy and an expert in Gulf countries’ economic statecraft, said in an e-mail.

“More and more, Gulf investment vehicles, either fully-or-partially-state owned, are now preferred partners in infrastructure investment and private equity funds globally and now serve as a dominant source of capital in the energy sector and in technology and AI,” she said.

The region is now home to multiple sovereign wealth funds, each managing hundreds of billions of dollars, and this money has been readily flowing into the West as Gulf governments try to diversify away from oil. In late 2024, for instance, Abu Dhabi-based Mubadala Capital bought Canadian asset manager CI Financial for \$4.7-billion.

The importance of this capital is not lost on Mark Carney, who travelled to Doha in January for the first-ever visit by a sitting prime minister. While there, the Amir of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, committed to making

“significant strategic investments in Canadian nation-building projects.”

It is possible the Gulf’s bout of instability will subside quickly. On Sunday, U.S. President Donald Trump said he was willing to talk to Iran’s new leadership, and any talks could result in a lasting ceasefire. If that play outs, the infrastructure money is likely to keep flowing and foreigners are likely to keep flocking to the region.

The third leg of the Gulf’s financial appeal has been its status as a hotbed for infrastructure projects, many of which have attracted Canadian capital and expertise.

In 2022, the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, the prov-

ince’s pension fund, announced one of the largest Canadian investments in the region, partnering with DP World to co-invest US\$5 billion in three UAE assets. They included the Jebel Ali Port in Dubai, one of the world’s largest, and building the National Industries Park in Dubai, a 21 square km area designated for manufacturing and processing companies.

Over the weekend, DP World suspended port operations at Jebel Ali, and Dubai’s media office said a fire was caused by debris from the aerial interception of an Iranian missile or drone. In an emailed statement, the Caisse said it does not have an office or employees in the Gulf region and that it is monitoring the situation closely.

Canadian engineering firms WSP Global Inc. and Atkinsrealis Group Inc. have also profited off the infrastructure boom. Based in Montreal, WSP just helped build the Zayed National Museum, the National Museum of the UAE in Abu Dhabi, and it was also contracted to upgrade major highways in Kuwait, as well as

help build the Kuwait Children’s Hospital.

It is possible the Gulf’s bout of instability will subside quickly. On Sunday, U.S. President Donald Trump said he was willing to talk to Iran’s new leadership, and any talks could result in a lasting ceasefire. If that play outs, the infrastructure money is likely to keep flowing and foreigners are likely to keep flocking to the region. In 2025, Dubai attracted the most millionaires globally, according to Henley & Partners, a consultancy that specializes in residence and citizenship planning.

But it is also possible that Iran will become destabilized amid a leadership vacuum, and the resulting chaos could spread throughout the region.

It may seem far-fetched at this moment in time, but the weekend’s chaos showed that what was considered unthinkable only a few weeks ago was in fact possible, and the region’s promise of stability is fragile.

With reports from Andrew Willis and James Bradshaw

Mastercard launches premium tier in Canada with Rogers as partner

BARRY CHOI

OPINION

Personal finance and travel expert at moneywehave.com, who was previously affiliated with Mastercard, Rogers, Visa and American Express, but currently has no relationship with any of the brands mentioned

Mastercard has announced the first Canadian issuer for the World Legend Mastercard, a new premium card tier, and the debut partner is an unexpected one: Rogers Bank.

The new Rogers Red World Legend Mastercard comes with strong perks and blends elements of both a cash-back and travel rewards card. It's a bold move for Rogers, but it's not likely to upend the premium travel card market just yet.

ROGERS RED WORLD LEGEND MASTERCARD BENEFITS

Cardholders earn 2 per cent cash-back on all purchases. However, if you redeem your cash-back for eligible Rogers purchases, the value jumps to 3 per cent, which is an above-average return. That rate also applies to international spending, with no foreign transaction fees, which is typically 2.5 per cent for most cards.

However, to get those rates, you must have a Rogers, Fido, Shaw or Comwave service. Otherwise, the earn rate drops to 1.5 per cent, making the card much less appealing for non-Rogers customers.

Ten Roam Like Home days (up to \$180 value) are also included, letting you use your phone abroad for calls, texts, and data at no extra charge. However, cheaper options such as travel roaming packages or eSIM data plans often beat the cost of using Roam Like Home regularly.

While the included annual six Plaza Premium airport lounge passes (valued at \$350) with priority access during peak periods are a nice touch, many people may still find the overall benefit underwhelming.

The card's comprehensive travel insurance is notably strong, providing up to \$5-million in emergency medical coverage per person for trips up to 21 days.

Finally, you get an annual \$200 entertainment credit for streaming and TV services, including Rogers Xfinity and Sportsnet+.

Even with solid benefits, the \$495 annual fee will be a sticking point, especially since Rogers offers a no-fee version of the card. You lose some benefits with the free option, but you also avoid the pressure to constantly optimize your perks. The premium option is best suited for heavy international spenders who are deeply invested in the Rogers ecosystem.

That said, you could argue that, compared with other travel cards in the same annual fee range, the Rogers Card can deliver a stronger overall return as long as you're disciplined. The key is to consistently set aside the cash-back you earn and treat it as part of your dedicated travel fund.

WORLD LEGEND MASTERCARD COULD LEAD TO MORE COMPETITION

Some people may see yet another premium credit-card tier as unnecessary, but this segment is actually one of the most underserved and high-potential areas in the market. Affluent customers spend more, travel frequently and are willing to pay for meaningful perks.

Mastercard is stepping directly into the ultra-premium arena by offering Legend Mastercard holders perks including:

- Exclusive perks and offers with Cirque du Soleil
- Hotel discounts at Soho House
- Special ticket access and retail discounts at sporting events
- Free and discounted roaming data with FlexiRoam
- \$30 off the first three months of streaming service Fubo
- Up to 30 per cent off when filing taxes with H&R Block
- Mastercard Travel Pass provided by DragonPass

This is in addition to exclusive dining, entertainment and travel experiences as a World Legend cardholder or purchased at Pricelless.com with Mastercard.

World Legend effectively puts Mastercard on equal footing with Visa Infinite Privilege and the Amex Platinum/Reserve tiers. With every credit card network now offering some form of global access – airport lounges, travel benefits, lifestyle partnerships – the real differentiator becomes perks and benefits offered by the card issuers that feel exclusive, practical and worth the annual fee.

The premium segment is small but incredibly profitable. High-income, high-spending customers generate more interchange revenue and tend to stay loyal to brands that make them feel recognized. Yet despite that, the number of true ultrapremium cards in Canada remains limited, leaving room for competition – whether that be in the travel or retail space.

In a market where a credit card can double as a status symbol, the winners will be the products that deliver both substance and prestige.

Winnipeg man often works 12-hour shifts

Jacob, 31, has plenty of savings and a mortgage on two properties

SAIRA PEESKER

PAYCHEQUE PROJECT

Name, age: Jacob, 31
Annual income: \$315,000
Debt: \$493,000 on house mortgage, \$110,000 on cottage mortgage
Savings: \$74,000 in tax-free savings account, \$213,000 in registered retirement savings plan
What he does: Aviation professional
Where he lives: Winnipeg
Top financial concern: "Avoiding that lifestyle creep and paying myself first."

Winnipeg resident Jacob, 31, earned more than \$315,000 last year in the aviation industry. But he works hard for that money.

With a base salary of \$215,000, he takes on as much overtime as he can, often working up to 12-hour shifts, eight days in a row.

"We are very short-staffed," Jacob says of his workplace.

To relax, he bought a cottage. His getaway spot is close enough that he can go there even when he only has one day off – which is often, especially in the summer.

His main residence is a four-bedroom home in a quiet Winnipeg neighbourhood that he shares with his wife and dog. Their plan is to have a family, so they bought a big house they can stay in for the long-term.

Jacob's wife quit her job last year. "We can afford it," he says, noting that they hope to have their first child in the next year. "We're both ready and we've thought a lot about it."

Jacob's income carries the couple's expenses, which include numerous extras he says he will likely cut when they have kids.

"I feel like I spend a lot of money unnecessarily," says Jacob. "Going out, concerts and that sort of thing can easily be axed from our budget."

He adds, "As soon as we have a family, I will definitely start contributing to an RESP," referring to a Registered Education Savings Plan. He also has a pension through his job, which will pay him 33 per cent of the average of his five best income years.

JACOB'S TYPICAL MONTHLY EXPENSES

INVESTMENT AND SAVINGS: \$2,000

- \$500 to TFSA. "I also do a lump sum deposit once or twice a year after a long stretch of work, or tax refund."
- \$1,500 to RRRSP.

SERVICING DEBT: \$2,945

- \$2,270 to mortgage. "House is worth approximately \$730,000."
- \$675 to cottage mortgage. "Cottage worth about \$140,000."

HOUSEHOLD AND TRANSPORTATION: \$6,620

- \$268 to property insurance. "For both properties."
- \$635 to property tax for house
- \$92 to property tax for cottage
- \$260 to electricity and gas for house
- \$167 to water for house
- \$20 to electricity for cottage
- \$3,333 to backyard upgrade.
- "Prior to the winter, we spent \$40,000."
- \$300 to gasoline. "Two cars."
- \$313 to car insurance
- \$817 to car payment.
- "Roughly \$26,000 owing. Wife's car is paid for."
- \$67 to car maintenance.
- \$50 on Uber
- \$150 for cellphones
- \$88 for home internet
- \$60 for cottage internet

FOOD AND DRINK: \$1,225

- \$400 at grocery store
- \$300 at Costco
- \$75 at coffee shops
- \$300 at restaurants. "About once a week we'll go out for dinner/order takeout."
- \$150 on alcohol. "More in the summer."

MISCELLANEOUS: \$14,501

- \$6,167 to federal income tax
- \$3,883 to provincial income tax
- \$336 to Canada Pension Plan
- \$33 to additional CPP contributions (for high earners)
- \$90 to Employment Insurance
- \$456 to union dues
- \$300 on going out. "Concerts every few months, and will meet friends for drinks 2-3 times a month."
- \$100 on cannabis. "Wife uses."
- \$24 for Netflix
- \$18 for Disney Plus
- \$17 for Kindle Unlimited
- \$11 for Amazon Prime
- \$15 for Apple Care
- \$19 for Apple Music
- \$14 for iCloud Plus
- \$13 for Sirius XM
- \$34 for Xbox Game Pass
- \$275 on clothing. "I buy a lot of my clothes from Old Navy or Costco in bulk."
- \$120 on Pilates. "Wife goes regularly."
- \$70 on pet food
- \$63 on vet bills
- \$167 on golf
- \$250 on hobby. "Trading card collection."
- \$47 on haircuts
- \$100 on cosmetics
- \$115 on personal services.
- "My wife gets her nails done, massages, acupuncture."
- \$33 on dentist. "90 per cent coverage through my insurance."
- \$8 on glasses. "One pair every two years, mostly covered by benefits."
- \$40 on prescription
- \$1,042 on vacations
- \$63 on donations. "We try to support local organizations."
- \$83 on gifts
- \$250 on life insurance.
- "Includes \$500,000 of coverage."
- \$233 on sports tickets
- \$12 on Visa annual fee

As it is now, Jacob puts \$2,000 toward savings each month, between his TFSA and RRRSP, which are both invested in mutual funds with the help of a financial advisor.

"My goal is to max out my TFSA in the next year or two, then start contributing to an additional investment account," said Jacob, whose wife has roughly \$250,000 in an investment ac-

count that was gifted to her by family.

"I also plan on increasing my payments on both mortgages to help pay them off faster."

Special to The Globe and Mail

Some details may be changed to protect the privacy of the person profiled. We want to thank them for sharing their story.

When and how to talk to young children about money

ERIN BURY

OPINION

Co-founder and CEO of online estate planning platform Willful.co who lives in rural Ontario with her husband and two young children

I manage the finances in our household and consider myself to be quite financially literate, stemming from when I read my mom's weathered copy of *The Wealthy Barber* as a teenager. Obviously, I want my own kids to be financially literate, too.

But my daughters are only 2 and 4, and I struggle with how and when to introduce them to the concept of money.

For help I turned to Robin Taub, an accountant by trade and the author of *Teaching Your Kids to Be Responsible, Independent and Money-Smart for Life*. The book covers five pillars – earn, save, spend, share

and invest – and how to broach these topics at different ages and stages.

Ms. Taub believes it's never too early to introduce these ideas in an age-appropriate way, although she recommends starting to actively have these conversations around age five.

"Raising money-smart kids has never been easy, but it's even harder in today's financially complex, sophisticated world," she said.

"We live in a digital world where cash is disappearing and bitcoin dominates the headlines, where spending has become frictionless but saving is still hard, where fraud and scams are constant threats and it's hard to keep up with the latest tools and apps."

So in that increasingly online, nuanced world, how do you teach a four-year-old about money? Ms. Taub encourages busy parents to use moments that crop up naturally in their day-to-day lives as teachable moments – as opposed

to sitting down for specific money lessons.

For example, she suggests using a trip to the grocery store as a way to highlight the difference between needs, such as milk, eggs and bread, and wants – popsicles and treats, for instance. (Highlighting the difference between needs and wants can be especially helpful for a toddler who insists they need yet another Paw Patrol toy.)

Ms. Taub said letting kids get involved in transactions can also be a teachable moment. That could look like allowing them to hand over money at the store and accept the change from the cashier. Since I rarely use cash, I often play coffee shop with our girls, where we mimic handing over cash and giving back change.

Our girls also received a piggy bank from their aunt for Christmas, with a shiny \$20 bill to put inside. We've used that to start conversations about saving: If they ask to get another toy, we

point to the money that's in their piggy bank. Ms. Taub says a piggy bank with separate compartments can be useful, so kids can allocate money into saving, spending, donating and investing compartments.

These tactile moments are few and far between in a cashless world. I find that tapping my phone to pay or paying bills from my phone, rather than visiting the bank, makes many day-to-day financial tasks intangible for a young child.

As kids get a bit older, you can start to introduce them to more complex topics such as digital payments. In the meantime, Ms. Taub suggests giving them opportunities to earn money through chores or an allowance, for instance, and make decisions about how they use it.

"With an allowance, they get to have that feeling of making choices with a scarce resource, and knowing what it feels like when you spend your money on some-

thing that, in the end, didn't feel like it was worth it," Ms. Taub says.

While our own kids are still a bit young for an allowance, we've tried to teach them about scarcity by going to the dollar store and giving them a "budget" of two items.

Finally, Ms. Taub says that the best way to teach your kids about money is to be a good role model yourself, and to lead by example so they absorb lessons through osmosis.

My kids aren't yet ready to grasp concepts such as credit, Apple Pay and compound interest. In the meantime, I'm just trying to demonstrate good habits, talk about money when and where I can, and most importantly, model gratitude for what we have and the importance of giving back.

"They are watching and listening and learning from us and the way we behave around money," Ms. Taub says. "So it's not always what we say. Often, it's what we do."

SPORTS

Kings fire coach Hiller, name associate Smith as interim replacement ■ B12

U.S. hockey gold medalists make Saturday Night Live appearance ■ B13

[VICTOIRE VS. FROST]



Leading the pack

Victoire forward Marie-Philip Poulin, right, shoots against Frost goaltender Nicole Hensley on Sunday in Laval. The Victoire shut out the Frost 4-0 to take first place in the PWHL standings ■ B13

GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Selective sports TV ratings tell an incomplete story

SIMON HOUP

OPINION



Is it too late to add a new sport for the next Olympic Games? After spending most of last week going back and forth with CBC's communications department trying to nail down exactly what the viewership was for Milan Cortina, it seems to me it could be totally entertaining to watch teams of PR professionals spin their TV ratings for public consumption. I imagine their bosses yelling like Brad Jacobs – "Hard!" – as they sweep their press releases clean of any bothersome data.

Mind you, I don't know how you'd decide who gets the gold in a competition like that, since everyone is always declaring victory.

Take CBC's press release issued last Monday, which proclaimed

that 30.5 million Canadians had tuned in to some part of the Games across CBC/Radio-Canada's English and French TV networks and the public broadcaster's Olympic partners TSN, Sportsnet, and RDS.

The release said that CBC-TV pulled in an average of 25 per cent of the total TV viewing audience during the Games, up 11 points from the 2022 Beijing Winter Games, and that time spent on its flagship streaming app, Gem, was up 632 per cent over Beijing.

The press release also included the top 10 most-watched moments of Milan Cortina. No. 1, of course, was when Jack Hughes scored that devastating OT goal in the men's gold medal hockey game. It was seen by 8.7 million viewers. But that's all CBC said about the game – which, okay, fine, maybe you don't want to ever think about it again.

Even so, it was disappointing that CBC didn't release any of the

other numbers that usually have been announced in the past: figures like the average minute audience (AMA), or the total number of viewers who caught at least some part of the game (aka "reach").

There are vanishingly few moments when Canadians can take the temperature of our own national pride. Sports can be a proxy, if an imperfect one, for measuring our patriotism and reflecting that back to us. Sometimes it can even offer us a guidepost to what kind of country we're becoming, to our changing tastes and values.

Fans from coast to coast were glued to their TV sets during the Toronto Blue Jays' playoff run last October. And if you were out in the parks and playgrounds and bars during that month, you saw your neighbours waving not just team-branded merch but the Canadian flag, too. Same when the Raptors won in 2019.

So, when Sportsnet released

viewership numbers to confirm that about 23 million viewers – or more than half of the country – watched some of the World Series, it helped to reinforce and amplify that experience, hearing an objective measure of our month-long national obsession.

The Canadian men's gold medal hockey game in 2010 remains in the popular imagination not just because of Sidney Crosby's iconic overtime goal but because we also know it was the most-watched TV event in Canadian history. The game had an average audience of 16.7 million across the entire broadcast and a reach of 26.4 million, peaking at 22 million when Crosby scored.

When I asked CBC for the average audience figure for this year's men's gold medal game, the network said technical limitations prevented them from determining that. (Basically, their research department had to have classified the game as its own separate program rather than just part of

its full Sunday morning broadcast.) Happily, late last Thursday they finally got back to me and said their research department had figured the number was 7.8 million.

But even that isn't a proper measure of the full audience, because it doesn't include anyone who watched on Gem, the service that CBC had spent the entire Games promoting.

It was a confounding admission. Over the past few years, the TV industries in both the U.S. and Canada have created systems to measure combined viewership across traditional TV channels and streaming services.

That's how Bell Media was able to announce that an average audience of 6.8 million watched this year's Super Bowl on TSN, CTV, RDS, and live streaming on Crave, and how Sportsnet determined the World Series drew an average of 7.5 million across all seven games.

■ RATINGS, B13

The Winter Paralympics celebrate their 50th anniversary in Milan Cortina

MARIAM KOURABI

When the Paralympic Winter Games get under way on Friday, they will mark a significant milestone: It's been 50 years since the first Paralympic Winter Games took to the global stage in Örnsköldsvik, Sweden.

In 1976, fewer than 200 athletes from 16 countries came to compete in alpine and cross-country skiing, laying the foundation for a winter sporting movement that has since grown into one of the Paralympics' most visible and competitive stages.

Those first Winter Games were modest by today's standards. There was no global broadcast, no integrated Olympic-Paralympic organizing committee, and little assumption that disability sport belonged in the mainstream. Athletes competed in often improvised conditions, using equipment far removed from the technological sophistication seen today.

Yet Örnsköldsvik 1976 represented a conceptual leap that, for



Canadian Paralympic athletes parade through Toronto Pearson International Airport ahead of their flight to the Milan Cortina Paralympic Games on Thursday. EDUARDO LIMA/THE CANADIAN PRESS

the first time ever, athletes with physical and visual impairments were competing in winter disciplines at an international, multi-sport level.

Canada was there from the very start, competing at the first Winter Paralympics and leaving an early imprint on the Games. A delegation of just six athletes took part in the only two sports on the program at the time, alpine and Nordic skiing. The group won four medals, including two golds, to finish ninth overall.

John Gow claimed Canada's first Winter Paralympic gold in the men's slalom (IV A), an event in the alpine skiing category, and a discipline that would become a long-term podium stronghold for the country. Lorna Manzer also made history, winning bronze medals in the women's slalom and giant slalom (alpine events) to become the first Canadian woman to reach the Winter Paralympic podium. 71 distinct Canadian athletes would go on to find a medal in the next five decades.

■ PARALYMPICS, B13

Reeling Kings fire head coach Hiller

Los Angeles lost back-to-back games after Olympic break; D.J. Smith named as interim replacement

GREG BEACHAM LOS ANGELES

The Los Angeles Kings fired coach Jim Hiller on Sunday after losing five of their past six games and falling out of playoff position.

D.J. Smith was named the interim replacement for the rest of the season in the first coaching change by general manager Ken Holland, who kept Hiller behind the bench when he took over the front office last May. Player development coach Matt Greene is joining Smith's staff as an assistant.

"I want to thank Jim Hiller for his dedication, professionalism, and the commitment he showed to our players and our team every day: He is a respected coach and person, and we appreciate the work he's done behind our bench," Holland said. "At this point in the season, we believe a change in leadership is necessary to give our group the best opportunity to reach its potential and compete at the level we expect. These decisions are never made lightly, but our responsibility is to position this team for success now



Jim Hiller was in just his second full season as head coach of the Los Angeles Kings, but the team has lost five of its past six games, including a lifeless 8-1 loss to Edmonton on Thursday. LUKE HALES/GETTY IMAGES

and moving forward."

Hiller was in just his second full season in the charge of the Kings, who looked lifeless in an 8-1 loss to the Edmonton Oilers on Thursday. Fans broke into repeated chants of "Fire Hiller!" while the Oilers poured it on in the second and third periods of Los Angeles' largest defeat of the season by far.

One night earlier, Los Angeles allowed five goals in the third pe-

riod of an embarrassing 6-4 loss to short-handed Vegas in both teams' first game back from the Olympic break. A 2-0 win against Calgary on Saturday was not enough to save Hiller's job.

Hiller went 93-58-24 with the Kings and made the playoffs twice, but never won a post-season series.

The 56-year-old Hiller was a long-time NHL assistant who got

his first chance to lead a team when the Kings promoted him to replace the fired Todd McLellan in February, 2024. He righted their season and got the Kings to the playoffs, but they lost in the first round to Edmonton — just as they had in each of the previous two seasons under McLellan.

Los Angeles tied its franchise records for victories (48) and points (105) last year in its first full

campaign under Hiller, but landed in yet another first-round matchup with the Oilers — and Connor McDavid sent them packing yet again in six games.

Hiller maintained McLellan's commitment to defence-first hockey as the Kings' primary identity, even if it sometimes meant playing a boring style for fans.

Holland addressed their offensive problems by acquiring high-scoring Artemi Panarin in a trade with the Rangers before the break, but the Kings then lost star forward Kevin Fiala for the season when he broke his leg while playing for Switzerland at the Olympics.

With back-to-back losses out of the break, Los Angeles slipped three points behind Seattle, which is in position for the final wild-card playoff spot in the Western Conference.

"We didn't feel good tonight," Hiller said immediately after the 8-1 shellacking from Edmonton. "I don't feel good standing here. Those players don't feel good today, but we've got a job to do."

Smith was the coach of the Ottawa Senators from 2019 to 2023, leading four non-playoff seasons before he was fired 26 games into his fifth season. He joined the Kings' staff after Hiller replaced McLellan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leafs 'embarrassed' in blowout loss to Senators, pushing streak to three

MYLES DICHTER TORONTO

There was no mincing words after the Toronto Maple Leafs' latest loss, a 5-2 defeat at the hands of the visiting Ottawa Senators on Saturday.

"Just bad. Just fairly embarrassing, to be honest with you," said Leafs captain Auston Matthews. "We need to have more pride in our play, no matter where we're at, no matter what the situation is. We just have to have more pride in our game and we didn't have that tonight."

Matthews and the Maple Leafs have dropped three straight games coming out of the Olympic break on the heels of a three-game winning streak.

It's getting dicey for the club which has made the playoffs in nine straight years — the longest active streak in the NHL — to ensure that run continues.

The Maple Leafs (27-24-9) entered action Saturday eight points out of a wild-card berth, and the road to get there is only more treacherous now.

"It's hard. It's the first time in a long time we've been in this position when we're out looking in. So we gotta figure it out pretty quickly," said forward William Nylander, who scored one of the Leafs' goals. "Still not impossible, but we gotta play a lot better hockey if we want to be there."

It was the Senators who looked like they wanted to be "there" a lot more.

Drake Batherson and Dylan Cozens each scored twice, and Thomas Chabot also got on the board for the Senators, who improved to 29-22-8 on the season to boost their slim post-season chances. Cozens also added an assist.

The Maple Leafs scored the first goal of the game thanks to Morgan Rielly, but they were outscored 1-0 and outshot 16-0 for the remainder of the first period.

The Senators would string together 19 consecutive shots and three straight goals to take control of the divisional battle and earn their first win over the Maple Leafs since Game 5 of their first-round playoff series last year, which Toronto took in six.

For the Maple Leafs, the slow start marked a continuation of sorts from Thursday's loss to the



Toronto Maple Leafs goaltender Joseph Woll makes a save as Ottawa Senators centre Stephen Halliday comes under pressure from Leafs defenceman Morgan Rielly in Toronto on Saturday. FRANK GUNN/CP

Florida Panthers, when Toronto was outscored 3-0 and outshot 16-7 in the first 20 minutes.

"Good first five minutes, I thought. Obviously got the first goal, which we've been searching for," said Toronto defenceman Jake McCabe. "And then we [expletive] the bed after that."

While the Maple Leafs struggled to find answers for their lack of desperation as they watch their playoff fortunes fade, they each cited "disconnect" as a reason for their current skid.

"We've had trouble stringing together good segments of games consistently. It's just been too much of a roller coaster," Matthews said.

The Maple Leafs had leaned on their pre-Olympic run for optimism toward a potential second-half surge.

Now, that spark is all but snuffed.

"When I look at the game or show tape or go over things, there's a certain way we need to play the game. But I can't give guys this [points to heart] or this [points to head] and they have to come with that. That's on them. They gotta bring the heart and the competitiveness that's needed," head coach Craig Berube said.

"I can go in there and yell and scream at them all I want. That doesn't do anything either."

With the trade deadline approaching on Friday, the Leafs could look very different in a week's time.

Toronto's pending free agents include forwards Bobby McMann and Scott Laughton in addition to defenceman Troy Stecher. Blue liner Oliver Ekman-Larsson, who has one more season on his contract, is also a candidate to be moved.

Berube admitted that uncertainty could play into the Leafs' struggles.

"But in saying that, those are all excuses. And we can't make excuses. Until guys in there decide they want to play the right way and play as a team, that's what you'll get," Berube said.

Rielly, the veteran defenceman and longest-tenured Maple Leaf, refuted a notion that the team is quitting.

"Obviously an effort like tonight given what's at stake is confusing and unacceptable. So moving forward, we need to not allow that to happen again," he said.

Matthews called the current skid a "tough stretch."

"It's never fun to lose. It's never fun to lose in this kind of fashion, three games in a row. So it's hard. It definitely wears on you, but we just have to be better. There's no hanging our heads, there's no feeling sorry for ourselves. Everybody's gotta look in the mirror and be better."

Toronto has three more games before the deadline, beginning Monday against the visiting Philadelphia Flyers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Echavarria takes Cognizant Classic after Lowry meltdown

TIM REYNOLDS PALM BEACH GARDENS, FLA.

Nico Echavarria didn't make a bogey all weekend. Shane Lowry was on his way to doing the same, until the very end.

And that's what decided the Cognizant Classic. Echavarria — who was three shots back with three holes left — shot a five-under 66 on Sunday to win at PGA National, finishing at 17-under 267 and beating Lowry (69), Austin Smotherman (69) and Taylor Moore (68) by two shots.

"It was a blessing today," Echavarria said. "I didn't have my best off the tee, but I was able to manage. I had some good breaks. To win out here, sometimes you have to have good breaks if you're not Scottie Scheffler that hits it every time in the perfect place. So, I'm happy with how it went."

Lowry — who remains snakebite by PGA National, where he has now finished in the top 11 for five straight years without a victory — was undone by consecutive double bogeys at the par-four 16th and par-three 17th, both resulting from tee shots that drifted way right and into the water.

"I had the tournament in my hands and I threw it away," Lowry said. "What more can I say?"

It was Echavarria's third PGA Tour win and first in the United States, and this one earned a second Masters invitation for the 31-year-old from Colombia. The US\$1.728-million winner's cheque was the biggest of his career, about US\$200,000 more than what he got for winning the Zozo Championship in Japan in 2024.

He could use the cash, too. Echavarria closed on a house in South Florida last week, and promised his wife that when he got his third win, they would add a dog to the family.

"I was hitting the ball good, and here we are," Echavarria said. "We're getting a dog."

A.J. Ewart of Coquitlam, B.C., finished tied for 13th at nine under — eight shots back of the winner. Sudarshan Yellamaraju of Mississauga, Ont., finished tied for 17th at eight under. Mackenzie Hughes of Hamilton, Ont., finished tied for 23rd at seven under. And Ben Silverman of Thornhill, Ont., finished tied for 40th at four under.

Lowry — who also had Sunday leads at PGA National in 2022 and 2024 — was rolling along, chipping in for birdie on the par-four ninth to start a run where he went five under in a five-hole stretch.

And he had a three-shot lead over Echavarria going to the par-four 16th. That's where his nightmare began.

Lowry's long iron off the tee was way right and found the water. After a penalty drop, he hit a wedge back to the fairway and his fourth shot found a greenside bunker. From an awkward stance, he blasted to 3 1/2 feet and rolled in the putt for double bogey — trimming his lead to one.

While all that was happening, Echavarria hit his approach on the par-three 17th to about 10 feet. He made the putt to pull into a tie, punching the air as he watched the ball roll into the hole.

Lowry then made another double at 17 with an iron shot that was well short and right. He needed a miracle on the par-five 18th after playing his second shot into a greenside bunker. Lowry's shot from nearly 30 yards skidded by, and Echavarria — in the scoring tent, watching the finish — knew he had won.

"It's uncharacteristic for Shane, a major champion, but it's just a testament to what this game is like," Smotherman said.

"I mean, you just have to stay in it for 72 holes."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Koepka says he still believes in Panthers' chances at a Stanley Cup playoff run

TIM REYNOLDS PALM BEACH GARDENS, FLA.

Brooks Koepka has a lot on his mind these days: He'll play in The Players Championship in a couple weeks, part of his buildup to get ready for the Masters.

Also in his thoughts: the Stanley Cup playoffs.

And no, he isn't giving up on

his Florida Panthers.

Koepka — a South Florida native, a big Panthers fan and someone who has made no secret of how much he has enjoyed their runs to the last three Stanley Cup Finals and the last two championships — said Sunday that he still thinks they can make a playoff run this season, even though the current standings suggest that's unlikely.

"I hope so," he said Sunday af-

ter finishing his round at the Cognizant Classic, about an hour up the road from the arena that the Panthers call home. "It's going to be tough."

Koepka, playing only a short drive from his home, shot a final-round 65 on Sunday, finishing at 10 under for the week at PGA National. It was his third tournament and second made cut since he returned to the PGA Tour after about four years playing

LIV Golf.

The Panthers have been crushed by injuries this season, with captain Aleksander Barkov yet to play because of knee surgery, defenceman Dmitry Kulikov limited to two games and Olympic gold medalist Matthew Tkachuk missing 47 games while recovering from off-season surgery to repair a torn adductor. They entered Sunday eight points out of a wild-card spot with 23 games

remaining.

Koepka, like many fans, wonders if all the games over the last four seasons are taking a toll.

"I think with three years in a row making the Stanley Cup [final], it's tough to stay healthy that long, and then riding a high of the Olympics, too," Koepka said. "I hope they do, but I'll be there if I can."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hilary Knight delivers joke during SNL appearance featuring hockey medalists

Men's, women's team members showed support for one another, celebrated gold medals

JOHN WAWROW

This time it was Hilary Knight's turn to provide a big laugh — with an assist from the *Saturday Night Live* writers — in the wake of a week-long dust-up involving the United States women and men's Olympic gold medal-winning hockey teams.

Knight, the U.S. women's captain, along with teammate Megan Keller and men's team brothers Jack and Quinn Hughes, made a surprise appearance during *Heated Rivalry* star Connor Storr's opening monologue on SNL on Saturday night.

With the Hughes brothers already on stage alongside Storr, Knight and Keller joined them to a loud and lengthy ovation. The four players wore USA jerseys with their gold medals draped from their necks.

Knight opened by saying: "It was going to be just us, but we thought we'd invite the guys, too."

The remark was a clear reference to a controversy that arose when the men received a congratulatory call from U.S. President Donald Trump following their 2-1 overtime win against Canada on Sunday at the Milan Cortina Winter Olympics.

Addressing the team over a speakerphone, Trump invited the men to his State of the Union speech, before adding he'd have to also invite the women, too. The president later said if he didn't invite the women, he'd risk being impeached, which led to the players laughing at a comment many saw as sexist.

Knight on Wednesday referred to the joke as being "distasteful and unfortunate."

Many of the men, meantime, said they laughed while being caught up in the celebration. Boston Bruins goalie Jeremy Swayman acknowledged they



From left, Quinn Hughes, Megan Keller, host Connor Storr, Hilary Knight, and Jack Hughes take part in *Saturday Night Live*'s opening monologue on Saturday.

WILL HEATH/NBC VIA GETTY IMAGES

"should have reacted differently" to Trump's remarks.

The U.S. women, who also beat Canada 2-1 in overtime three days earlier, politely declined Trump's invitation due to travel plans. The players travelled commercially and returned to North America late Monday evening, well after the men, who travelled on a charter flight paid for by the NHL and NHL Players' Association.

Jack Hughes scored the overtime goal for the men.

Keller scored the overtime goal for the women, with Knight tying the game in the final minutes of regulation.

Knight plays for the PWHL's

Seattle Torrent, and made the trip to New York City a day after being placed on long-term injured reserve. Keller, who plays for Boston, scrambled to New York hours after playing in the Fleet's 3-2 shootout win at Ottawa earlier in the day.

Jack Hughes plays for the NHL New Jersey Devils, and Quinn for the Minnesota Wild.

Knight delivered another punchline after Quinn Hughes said the last time the men won gold was 46 years ago at the 1980 Lake Placid Games.

Knight followed by saying the women last won in 2018.

Laughing, Jack Hughes responded by saying, "nice burn,"

before turning to Storr and saying: "These gold medals aren't just for us, they're for all hockey fans, yours' too."

When Storr asked if he could try on one of the medals, all four players turned and said, "No."

Heated Rivalry has quickly become a hit following its first season on Crave in Canada and on HBO Max in the U.S. Adapted from Rachel Reid's novel published in 2019, it features a plot revolving around a gay hockey romance in which two players from opposing teams carry out a secret, long-term relationship.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Victoire blank Frost to move into first place in PWHL standings

JARED BOOK LAVAL, QUE.

Ann-Renée Desbiens earned her fourth shutout of the season with a 17-save effort as the Montreal Victoire defeated the Minnesota Frost 4-0 in Professional Women's Hockey League action at Place Bell on Sunday.

Maureen Murphy had a goal and an assist, while Maggie Flaherty, Dara Greig and Laura Stacey also scored for Montreal (9-3-0-5). Hayley Scamurra had two assists.

It was the Victoire's fifth

straight win and eighth win in their last nine games.

Montreal moved into first place, one point ahead of Boston in the PWHL standings. However, the Fleet have two games in hand.

Nicole Hensley made 29 saves for the Frost (7-2-3-4), who were playing their first game after the Olympic break.

The Victoire opened the scoring with two quick goals in the first period. Flaherty kept a clearing attempt in the zone at the blue line and fired in a wrist shot for her third of the season.

Montreal doubled its lead just

71 seconds later when Greig drove the net and picked up a loose rebound for her third of the year.

Murphy's fourth of the season made it 3-0 with 8:37 remaining in the game when she beat Hensley from the slot. Stacey added a short-handed goal with 5:51 remaining on a shot entering the zone from the right circle.

Minnesota was 0-4 on the power play, including 54 seconds of 5-on-3 time in the third period. The closest the team came with the two-player advantage was Sidney Morin's shot that rang off of the post. Montreal was 0-2 with the

extra player.

Montreal captain Marie-Philip Poulin returned to action after missing one game with a lower-body injury suffered during the Olympics. She had an assist on Stacey's goal.

With the regulation win, Montreal — who was in last place on Jan. 4 — now leads the PWHL with 33 points. The Victoire have lost just one of their nine games since that date.

Minnesota failed to overtake Montreal in the standings. All three of the Frost's losses in their last seven games have come

against the Victoire.

Montreal scored two goals 1:11 apart to open up a 2-0 lead in the first period, which proved to be all the offence it needed and allowed it to control the rest of the game.

Minnesota captain Kendall Coyne Schofield, who was placed on long-term injured reserve earlier in the week, missed the first game in her PWHL career. She previously participated in all 69 regular-season contests and 18 playoff games the Frost have played.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Paralympics: More than 20 medals available across events in which Canada has past success

■ FROM B11

As classification systems evolved and competition deepened, Canada adapted quickly, developing coaching expertise and athlete pathways that emphasized technical precision and long-term development. By the 1990s, Canadians set the standard in alpine and Nordic events, and the country became known for producing technically sound skiers capable of excelling across changing snow conditions and courses.

In the 2006 Torino Games, Canada cracked its best-ever winter finish with 13 medals, slotting sixth overall. The 35 athletes sent to Italy rewrote expectations and dealt with the pressure of Canada's potential and progress that had been hinted at for years. It was the start of a much-needed wave of momentum ahead of the 2010 Games, hosted in Vancouver.

While the 2010 Games themselves fell well after the early era, they marked a culmination of decades of incremental growth. For the first time in Canada, Paralympic winter sport was presented to a mass domestic audience with purpose-built venues, integrated accessibility planning and sustained broadcast coverage.

Fuelled by a home crowd, multiple Canadians set records that have yet to be broken. Para alpine

skier Lauren Woolstencroft won five gold medals, becoming the first Canadian Paralympian to do so at a single Winter Games. It was a complete sweep in all five disciplines in her women's category.

To add on, Viviane Forest became the first Canadian athlete to win gold at both the summer and winter Paralympic Games, with victories in goalball and alpine skiing. Calgary native Brian McKeever also drew international attention after becoming the first athlete named to both a country's Olympic and Paralympic teams for the same Games. Although he did not start in the Olympic races due to late team changes, McKeever went on to win three gold medals at the 2010 Paralympics.

Attendance reached record levels, and many athletes later described the Games as a cultural shift, a moment when Paralympic sport was no longer framed as supplementary, but central. The hosts finished third after collecting 19 medals, 10 of which being gold. The post-Vancouver years saw a strengthening of all winter programs, particularly in para-Nordic skiing and para-alpine, alongside increased funding and professionalization. The country's winter Paralympians began to emerge not just as medal winners, but as recognizable public figures, advocating for better ac-

cessibility, equity and athlete well-being.

Canada's best came in Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Games, where a 55-athlete delegation won a remarkable 28 medals, 12 more than in Sochi four years earlier. Canada finished second overall in total medals, behind the United States, a national record that has yet to be surpassed.

Though para snowboard made its Paralympic debut in 2014, Canada did not make the podium in any event until most recently, the Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games. Lisa DeJong was the first to make the podium with a silver in the snowboard cross event, while later on the same day, Tyler Turner captured gold in his classification.

Looking ahead to the Milan Cortina Winter Games, more than 20 medals will be available across events in which Canada has historically finished among the top three.

The Games will be spread across multiple alpine regions, testing accessibility and logistics in ways that echo, albeit at a far grander scale. For Canada, the milestone is less about nostalgia than about tracing a through-line, from six athletes competing on borrowed infrastructure 50 years ago in Sweden to a modern program built to contend across multiple disciplines.

Ratings

■ FROM B11

CBC doesn't do that. They explained to me that they have two separate systems for TV and digital. All they could tell me was that, in addition to the 7.8 million average viewers on TV, there were four million stream starts on CBC and Radio-Canada's digital platforms for the men's gold medal game.

If your eyes are glazing over, you're not alone — there were several times during my interactions with them last week when I almost threw in the towel, figuring it wasn't worth trying to get to the bottom of the numbers they'd published.

Still, I admired CBC's willingness to keep answering my questions, because that kind of transparency is increasingly rare in Canadian TV.

For many years Numeris, the Canadian TV ratings agency, published a weekly list of the top 30 programs in this country. They stopped doing that in the summer of 2022, without ever fully explaining why. The suspicion was that the Canadian broadcasters behind Numeris didn't want the public to know how much their audiences were shrinking in the face of foreign streaming services.

But even though this is the sort of information that should belong to us — it is, after all, literally about us — it's kept locked up, accessible only by a few for commercial purposes.

Meanwhile, Canadian broadcasters have adopted a version of my late grandmother's mantra: If you don't have anything positive to say, don't say anything at all.

Traditional viewership is withering: according to Numeris, the audience tuning in to linear TV is now less than 60 per cent of what it was in 2014, during the Sochi Games. The PR departments of broadcasters are being more stingy and selective about the data they release. Sports is the only programming pulling in mass viewership, so sports ratings are the only ones we're given. And even then, rarely.

That's a shame. There are already too many moments when we feel divided from each other in this country. Sports broadcasters should tell us when we've come together for a game, so that we can celebrate not just what we're watching but the fact that we watched it together. And if our hearts are broken by an unlucky overtime bounce, so be it. It would just be nice to know how many of our fellow citizens were along for the ride.

Tyler Reddick makes NASCAR history at COTA

The Cup Series driver is first ever to win opening three races of the season

JIM VERTUNO AUSTIN, TEX.

Tyler Reddick's latest win drove him straight into the NASCAR record books.

Reddick held off hard-charging Shane van Gisbergen over the final 20 laps at the Circuit of the Americas on Sunday to become the first Cup Series driver to win the first three races of the season.

Driving a Toyota co-owned by Michael Jordan, Reddick won the season-opening Daytona 500 and a week later at Atlanta, then won from the pole in the first road course race of the year.

Jordan, the basketball Hall of Famer and six-time NBA champion, was with Reddick's 23XI pit crew exchanging high fives as Reddick crossed the finish line.

"It's one race, but it was so important," Reddick said. "It's so fitting to get three in a row and make history."

History made for a team and ownership group that has been making a lot of it. They took on NASCAR with a federal antitrust lawsuit. The settlement came in December and was considered a major legal victory that secured a permanent franchise-style model and ensured the team would remain in business for the long-term.

They've been unbeatable on the race track ever since.

"I'm proud of the team we put together," Jordan said. He credited co-owner Denny Hamlin, who also is a driver for Joe Gibbs Racing, with being the "mastermind" behind it's racing success.

"I just put up the money," Jordan said. "Denny's done an incredible job building this team."



Tyler Reddick, driver of the #45 Chumba Casino Toyota, celebrates with a burnout after winning his third race in a row to start the 2026 NASCAR Cup Series season winning the NASCAR Cup Series DuraMax Grand Prix at Circuit of the Americas on Sunday in Austin, Tex. LOGAN RIELY/GETTY IMAGES

Jordan also said he'll be at the next race in Phoenix to see if Reddick can extend the winning streak that has built a commanding 70-point lead in the drivers' championship.

Van Gisbergen, who won five of six road course races in 2025, lost his bid for a record-tying sixth consecutive road win. The only road course race the Trackhouse driver didn't win last season was in Austin.

"Tyler was just amazing," van Gisbergen said. "You're always disappointed with second when the expectations are so high."

Reddick was just too good all weekend in pursuit of history. His 11th career victory was also his second at COTA, a track built for Formula 1, and the first time he's had multiple victories at a track. He won at COTA in 2023.

It was far from easy, even if Reddick looked like he was in complete control. Van Gisbergen was on his bumper for several

laps in the final stage, but never found the pace to pass before falling farther and farther behind over the final six laps.

"I was just trying to minimize mistakes, Shane is so good," Reddick said.

Jordan, so clutch in his playing days, noted Reddick was cool in the driver's seat while under immense pressure.

"You see SVG coming back, you get a little nervous, but I think he had him covered the whole day," Jordan said.

ROUGH DAY FOR ROOKIE ZILISCH

Trackhouse Cup Series rookie Connor Zilisch came into the weekend with the expectation that he might be the one to end van Gisbergen's dominance on road courses.

But Zilisch's weekend began with a surprisingly poor qualifying position of 25th and got worse

Sunday when he got spun on the restart for stage two. Zilisch fought back into contention for the win in the final stage, but his race effectively ended when he was spun again in a restart out of a caution with 16 laps to go. He finished 14th.

BOWMAN HAD TO BAIL OUT

Hendrick Motorsports driver Alex Bowman had to get out of his car with about 20 laps to go after complaining about being sick.

He was replaced by Myatt Snider who had been working as a pit spotter for the Fox broadcast. Snider had to scramble to put on his race suit and get in the car.

KESELOWSKI FINISHES RACE WHILE STILL RECOVERING FROM BROKEN LEG

Brad Keselowski had a reserve driver Joey Hand on hand to take over in case his recently broken leg hurt too much. He didn't need him and was able to finish the race in 20th place.

The RFK Racing driver has been able to race in all three events this season despite breaking his right leg in December. The road course in Austin was a particular concern because of the physical strain through the left and right turns.

UP NEXT

The NASCAR Cup Series returns to oval racing Phoenix Raceway on Sunday, March 8. Christopher Bell outdueled Denny Hamlin in Arizona last year to become the first driver to win three races in a row in the NextGen car.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

GP	W	L	OT	GF	GA	Pts	
Tampa Bay	58	38	16	4	209	153	80
Buffalo	60	35	19	6	206	181	76
Montreal	59	33	17	9	208	193	75
Detroit	60	34	20	6	178	181	74
Boston	59	33	21	5	200	187	71
Ottawa	59	29	22	8	197	188	66
Florida	60	30	27	3	185	200	63
Toronto	60	27	24	9	193	208	63

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

Carolina	59	38	15	6	207	169	82
Pittsburgh	59	31	15	13	203	173	75
N.Y. Islanders	61	35	21	5	182	172	75
Washington	62	31	24	7	197	186	69
Columbus	58	29	21	8	184	185	66
Philadelphia	59	27	21	11	174	186	65
New Jersey	60	29	29	2	151	182	60
N.Y. Rangers	59	23	29	7	156	185	53

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

GP	W	L	OT	GF	GA	Pts	
Colorado	58	39	10	9	221	146	87
Dallas	59	36	14	9	200	163	81
Minnesota	61	35	16	10	204	179	80
Utah	60	31	25	4	190	167	66
Nashville	59	27	24	8	175	203	62
Winnipeg	59	23	26	10	168	184	56
Chicago	60	23	28	9	161	192	55
St. Louis	60	22	29	9	156	208	53

PACIFIC DIVISION

Vegas	60	28	18	14	199	191	70
Anaheim	58	32	23	3	196	204	67
Edmonton	61	29	24	8	215	206	66
Seattle	59	28	22	9	169	175	65
San Jose	58	29	25	4	179	202	62
Los Angeles	59	24	21	14	153	175	62
Calgary	58	24	28	6	146	172	54
Vancouver	59	18	34	7	152	218	43

Sunday

Pittsburgh 5, Vegas 0
Chicago 4, Utah 0
San Jose 2, Winnipeg 1, OT
St. Louis 3, Minnesota 1
N.Y. Islanders 5, Florida 4
Calgary at Anaheim

Saturday

N.Y. Rangers 3, Pittsburgh 2, SO
Philadelphia 3, Boston 1
San Jose 5, Edmonton 4
New Jersey 3, St. Louis 1
Colorado 3, Chicago 1
N.Y. Islanders 4, Columbus 3, OT
Carolina 5, Detroit 2
Los Angeles 2, Calgary 0
Ottawa 5, Toronto 2
Montreal 6, Washington 2
Buffalo 6, Tampa Bay 2
Dallas 3, Nashville 2, OT
Seattle 5, Vancouver 1

Monday — All Times Eastern

Detroit at Nashville, 2 p.m.
Columbus at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Carolina at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Dallas at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Colorado at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

NHL SCORING LEADERS

Not including Sunday's games

Player	GP	G	A	Pts
Connor McDavid, Edm	61	35	68	103
Nathan MacKinnon, Col	57	40	57	97
Nikita Kucherov, TB	54	31	64	95

PWHL

GP	W	OW	OL	L	GF	GA	Pts
Montreal	17	9	3	0	5	41	22
Boston	15	8	3	2	2	37	25
Minnesota	16	7	2	3	4	48	35
New York	17	7	0	3	7	38	45
Ottawa	17	4	5	1	7	42	44
Toronto	17	5	1	3	8	32	47
Vancouver	16	5	1	2	8	31	39
Seattle	15	4	1	2	8	33	45

Sunday

Montreal 4 Minnesota 0
Toronto at Vancouver

Saturday

Boston 3 Ottawa 2 (SO)

Monday

No Games Scheduled

WHL

Sunday

Edmonton 3 Swift Current 2
Everett at Wenatchee

Saturday

Penticton 4 Moose Jaw 1
Regina 6 Saskatoon 3
Victoria 7 Portland 3
Prince Albert 4 Prince George 3
Red Deer 4 Swift Current 2
Edmonton 6 Lethbridge 0
Kamloops 4 Vancouver 3
Medicine Hat 8 Calgary 3
Wenatchee 6 Kelowna 2
Spokane 5 Tri-City 2
Everett 3 Seattle 2 (OT)

Monday

No Games Scheduled.

OHL

Sunday

Kitchener 4 London 1
North Bay 5 Niagara 0
Oshawa 4 Guelph 1
Ottawa 5 Sarnia 0
Owen Sound 5 Erie 1
Peterborough 4 Flint 2
Sudbury 5 Kingston 3

Saturday

Flint 4 Ottawa 3 (SO)
London 5 Brampton 0
Owen Sound 5 Erie 4 (SO)
Saginaw 5 Peterborough 2
Windsor 3 Barrie 0

Monday-Tuesday

No Games Scheduled.

NLL

WEEK 14

Sunday

Vancouver 9 San Diego 7

Saturday

Buffalo 14 Toronto 9
Halifax 14 Calgary 10
Ottawa 14 Oshawa 13 (OT)
Philadelphia 9 Georgia 5
Rochester 13 Saskatchewan 12 (OT)

AHL

Sunday

Abbotsford 3 Calgary 2 (SO)
Lehigh Valley 6 Hartford 3
Milwaukee 4 Manitoba 3 (SO)
Providence 3 Bridgeport 2
Syracuse 3 Rochester 1
Toronto 5 Chicago 2
Ontario 4 Bakersfield 2
Colorado at Henderson
Tucson at San Jose

Monday

All Times Eastern
Charlotte at Hershey, 7 p.m.

QMJHL

Sunday

Charlottetown 7 Blainville-Boisbriand 4
Chicoutimi 10 Rimouski 3
Halifax 5 Quebec 4 (OT)
Moncton 5 Gatineau 1
Rouyn-Noranda 6 Shawinigan 4
Victoriaville 5 Newfoundland 4 (OT)

Saturday

Charlottetown 5 Saint John 4
Drummondville 7 Baie-Comeau 3
Newfoundland 4 Victoriaville 2
Shawinigan 5 Val-d'Or 1

Monday-Tuesday

No Games Scheduled.

THE BRIER

PRELIMINARY ROUND

At St. John's, N.L. (All Times Eastern)

Sunday

FOURTH DRAW
Alberta 6 Saskatchewan (McEwen) 4
Manitoba (Calvert) 12 Northwest Territories 5
New Brunswick 8 Northern Ontario 6
Yukon 7 British Columbia 4

FIFTH DRAW

Canada 11 Nunavut 2
Newfoundland & Labrador (Gushue) 8
Ontario 4
Newfoundland & Labrador (Young) 9
Prince Edward Island 8

SIXTH DRAW

Saskatchewan (Knapp) 8 Nova Scotia 5
SIXTH DRAW
Alberta vs. New Brunswick
Saskatchewan (McEwen) vs. Yukon
Northern Ontario vs. NWT
Manitoba (Dunstone) vs. B.C.

Monday

SEVENTH DRAW, 8 A.M.

Nunavut vs. Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland & Labrador (Young) vs. Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan (Knapp) vs. Quebec, Canada vs. Ontario

EIGHTH DRAW, 1 P.M.

Saskatchewan (McEwen) vs. Northern Ontario, Northwest Territories vs. Manitoba (Dunstone), British Columbia vs. Manitoba (Calvert), Yukon vs. New Brunswick

NINTH DRAW, 6 P.M.

Quebec vs. Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island vs. Saskatchewan (Knapp), Nunavut vs. Ontario, Newfoundland & Labrador (Young) vs. NF & Labrador (Gushue)

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	44	14	.759	—
Boston	39	20	.661	5 1/2
New York	39	22	.639	6 1/2
Cleveland	38	24	.613	8
Toronto	35	25	.583	10
Philadelphia	33	26	.559	11 1/2
Orlando	31	27	.534	13
Miami	32	29	.525	13 1/2
Atlanta	31	31	.500	15
Charlotte	30	31	.492	15 1/2
Milwaukee	26	33	.441	18 1/2
Chicago	25	36	.410	20 1/2
Washington	16	43	.271	28 1/2
Brooklyn	15	45	.250	30
Indiana	15	46	.246	30 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	45	15	.750	—
San Antonio	43	16	.729	1 1/2
Houston	37	21	.638	7
Denver	37	22	.627	7 1/2
Minnesota	37	23	.617	8
L.A. Lakers	34	24	.586	10
Phoenix	34	26	.567	11
Golden State	31	28	.525	13 1/2
Portland	29	31	.483	16
L.A. Clippers	27	31	.466	17
Memphis	21	36	.368	22 1/2
Dallas	21	37	.362	23
Utah	18	41	.305	26 1/2
New Orleans	18	42	.300	27
Sacramento	14	47	.230	31 1/2

Sunday

New York 114, San Antonio 89
Chicago 120, Milwaukee 97
Minnesota 117, Denver 108
Cleveland 106, Brooklyn 102
Memphis 125, Indiana 106
Atlanta 135, Portland 101
Detroit 106, Orlando 92
Oklahoma City at Dallas
Philadelphia at Boston
New Orleans at L.A. Clippers
Sacramento at L.A. Lakers

Saturday

Charlotte 109, Portland 93
Miami 115, Houston 105
Toronto 134, Washington 125
L.A. Lakers 129, Golden State 101
New Orleans 115, Utah 105

Monday

All Times Eastern

Houston at Washington, 7 p.m.
Boston at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m.
Denver at Utah, 9 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Golden State, 10 p.m.

Arsenal climbs five points clear at top of Premier League

Man United rises to third, marking an incredible run under interim manager Michael Carrick

JAMES ROBSON
MANCHESTER, ENGLAND

Arsenal passed the latest test of its Premier League title credentials with a crucial 2-1 win against Chelsea on Sunday, and Manchester United climbed up to third by beating Crystal Palace 2-1 to boost its pursuit of a return to the Champions League.

Jurrien Timber's second-half goal saw Arsenal re-establish a five-point lead over second-place Manchester City after Pep Guardiola's team kept the pressure on at the top by beating Leeds on Saturday.

Victory against Chelsea saw Arsenal overcome another of its major rivals and move a step closer to a first league title since 2004. It leaves the visit to City next month as potentially the last major hurdle for Mikel Arteta's team, which has no other games against the rest of the current top seven in the standings.

"We have the feeling that we have to win and win and win. You win so many games, but it is not enough to open the gap. That is the level of this league," Arteta said.

Benjamin Sesko's seventh goal in eight games sealed victory for United against Palace and moved it above Aston Villa in third on goal difference.

At the other end of the standings, Tottenham's winless run extended to 10 games after a 2-1 loss at Fulham – leaving it mired in a fight to avoid relegation. Nottingham Forest also failed to pull further away from the drop zone after a 2-1 loss at Brighton.

ARSENAL EDGES CLOSER TO THE TITLE

Arsenal had to respond after City closed the gap to two points a day earlier. And if Arsenal goes on to claim the title, it may well look back on this win as a decisive moment.

Even when down to 10 men, after Pedro Neto was sent off in the second half, Chelsea pushed deep into added time for an equalizer.

David Raya produced a stunning save to push Alejandro Garnacho's goalbound cross away as the seconds ran down at the Emirates. And the home fans breathed a sigh of relief when Liam Delap's goal was ruled out for offside in

the dying moments.

In the end, Arsenal's threat from set pieces proved the difference again. William Saliba put the home team in front, converting from a corner after 21 minutes.

And after Piero Hincapié's own-goal got Chelsea back into the game in first-half added time, Timber headed in from another corner in the 66th.

With 16 goals from corners this season, Arsenal has tied the record for a Premier League season, according to stats provider Opta.

CARRICK GETS THE BETTER OF GLASNER

"It feels like a big result," United captain Bruno Fernandes said after his team beat Palace.

United's latest win boosted its push for a return to the Champions League and further strengthened Michael Carrick's credentials to be given the coach's job on a long-term basis.

He remains unbeaten since being given a contract to the end of the season in January, with a record of six wins in seven games. His cause may also have been helped after overcoming a Palace team coached by Oliver Glasner, who was one of the early favourites to get the job when United fired Ruben Amorim at the start of the year.

Over two spells as United coach, Carrick has picked up 23 points from nine games. Opta said it was the joint highest points total for a manager after his first nine games in the league's history – equalling Ange Postecoglou's start at Tottenham.

Glasner was widely seen as a leading contender for the United job. His reputation has grown after winning the FA Cup with Palace last season and he will be a free agent at the end of the current campaign. And when Maxence Lacroix headed Palace in front after just four minutes, Glasner had the chance to claim a statement win in front of United's hierarchy.

But Carrick has instilled a resilient streak in his team in just a short space of time and United levelled in the 57th after Lacroix dragged back Matheus Cunha in the box and was sent off for denying a clear scoring opportunity.

Fernandes stepped up and converted from the penalty spot for his seventh goal of the season.

Sesko, who has been a scoring substitute in recent weeks for United, was given a chance from the start and struck again with a powerful winning header in the 65th.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Qatar soccer federation postpones all matches following strikes on Iran

DOHA, QATAR

The Qatar soccer federation postponed all tournaments and matches until further notice on Sunday amid global tensions following the U.S.-Israel strikes on Iran.

The QFA did not specifically mention the strikes when it announced the postponements on X, adding only that "new dates for the resumption of competitions will be announced in due course."

There are disruptions at Qatar's Doha airport as the strikes on Iran affected flights across the Middle East and beyond. Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar closed their airspace on Saturday.

Iranian missiles could be seen being intercepted above Doha on Saturday night and into Sunday morning.

Earlier on Sunday, Asian soccer's governing body postponed continental club championship playoffs scheduled in the Middle East this week, saying AFC Champions League Elite Round of 16 games will be rescheduled.

FORMULA 1 SEASON APPROACHING

The Formula 1 season is scheduled to start next Sunday in Melbourne, Australia, and then has races in Bahrain on April 12 and Saudi Arabia the following week. The season ends with back-to-back races in Qatar (Nov. 29) and Abu Dhabi (Dec. 6).

With Doha and Dubai traditionally acting as major stopover

hubs, teams reportedly had to change their routes to reach Australia.

The U.S. has large military installations in Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar.

Bahrain said a missile attack targeted the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet headquarters in the island kingdom, and three buildings were damaged in the capital, Manama.

British forces in Bahrain were within 200 metres of an Iranian missile strike, Britain's defence secretary, John Healey, said.

The 24-race F1 season was expected to start as planned.

Four years ago, Houthi rebels attacked an oil depot near the gleaming Saudi F1 track.

YOUTH BASKETBALL TEAM STUCK IN ABU DHABI

Monaco's under-18 basketball team is waiting inside an Abu Dhabi hotel until the airport reopens.

Monaco was taking part in a NextGen EuroLeague qualifying tournament in Abu Dhabi, which has now been cancelled.


"EuroLeague got back to us to tell us that the airport is closed until 2 p.m. on Monday," Monaco coach Mickaël Pivaud told sports daily L'Équipe.

"We're pretty settled in at the hotel, but we can't leave. We went out for three seconds to get some fresh air earlier and it exploded right above us. We didn't hang around and quickly went back inside."

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BIRTH AND DEATH NOTICES

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DEATHS



DR. GLENNIS M. LEWIS

Dr. Glennis M. Lewis passed away peacefully, on February 1, 2026, in Brandon, Manitoba. She will be lovingly remembered by her nieces, Tricia Connell (Curtis) and Vanessa Flavell (Marlin); her great-niece, Sela Flavell; and amongst many circles of friends throughout western and central Canada.

Glennis was born into the third generation of Woodside Farm near Vandura, SK, which was settled by her grandfather, George Chambers Lewis, in 1906, passed to her father, Joseph Edgar Lewis, then to her brother, Keith Edgar Lewis.

Glennis studied botany and law in Brandon, Calgary, and Ottawa; contributed to environmental law and public health in both the public and private sectors; and enjoyed movies, reading, music, canoeing, botanizing, birding, and adventures in natural areas.

A memorial page is posted at www.brockiedonovan.com. A celebration of life will occur in early June 2026, in the Brandon area. Please contact CelebrateGlennis@gmail.com for more details.

Arrangements are in care of Brockie Donovan Funeral & Cremation Services, (204)727-0694.

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DEATHS

KAREN RIEHM

December 16, 1937
February 24, 2026

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Karen Riehm on February 24, 2026, in her 89th year. Always cherished by her late husband, Bob; she was also predeceased by her daughter, Patricia and Michael Takacs; and her great-granddaughter, Christine Scott. Left to mourn is her extended family, including Teresa Da Silva; her beloved grandchildren, Cynthia Scott and Cliff Hurst; Jessica Riehm and Anthony Poon; Michael and Bryan Riehm; as well as her new beautiful great-granddaughter, Catalaya Riehm-Poon; dear great-grandson, Jonathan and Danielle Scott; and wonderful great-great grandchildren, Aaron, Christian, and Hayden. She is also lovingly remembered by her sister and brother-in-law, Judith and Richard Field, as well as her nephew, Paul and Darla Jones. We will all miss her love and her cookies. The family will receive relatives and friends at the Turner & Porter Yorke Chapel, 2357 Bloor St. West, on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, from 1 to 3 p.m., followed by the Service at 3 p.m. in the Chapel. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada would be appreciated. The family invites relatives and friends to sign the online guest book by visiting www.turnerporter.ca.

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FUNERAL SERVICES



**Benjamin's
Park
Memorial
Chapel**



SUNDAY

BARUCH, Susan - 10:00 Chapel.
BRIK, Gordon - 12:00 Chapel.
SOCHA, Michel - 1:30 Beth Tzedec Memorial Park.

MONDAY

RITCHIE, Carl - 11:00 Holy Blossom Temple.

SHIVA

BOMZE, Amos - 75 Grenadier Crescent, Thornhill.
HERSHENFIELD, Elaine - 150 Heath Street West.
SORIANO, Samuel - 1717 Avenue Road, #512.
SWIRSKY, Joanne - 9909 Pine Valley Drive, Vaughan.
BARUCH, Susan - 69 Aldershot Crescent.
BRIK, Gordon - 1219 Dartmouth Crescent, Oakville.
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DEATHS



SUZIE SCOTT

Suzie Scott died on her own terms by Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) on February 20, 2026, after a brief and difficult battle with cancer. Those who were lucky enough to know her will never forget her. Born in Indiana in 1946, her young life was ruptured by her mother's tragic death when Suzie was twelve. She spent her formative teenage years moving from one city to another, her care overseen by relatives and teachers who saw something special in the strong-willed teenager. The classroom was Suzie's refuge, and she excelled academically throughout all the upheaval.

She came to Canada at the height of the Vietnam War and never looked back. Canada was lucky to have her. She graduated from York University with a B.A. in Psychology in 1974, then, as a single mother, attended law school at the University of Toronto, often with her young daughter in tow. Suzie articulated for renowned criminal lawyer, Edward L. Greenspan, and was called to the Bar in 1979.

That was only the first step in her lifelong crusade against injustice. With her superb intellect and formidable drive, she spent her life as a lawyer fighting for the rights of those who did not have the benefit of privilege. A fearless advocate, she fought against police misconduct and wrongful convictions, defended women's and LGBTQ rights, championed academic freedom, combatted sexual harassment in the workplace, and later advocated against age discrimination in employment and public pensions. Not all of us can say that we changed people's lives for the better, but Suzie did.

Suzie spent countless hours in the dirt creating her beautiful backyard oasis, which was her pride and joy. She was an avid reader of thrillers and non-fiction alike, and was a home improvement queen. She loved adventure and travelled the world, seeing Asia, Africa, Europe and more. Suzie loved to cook and entertain, and made the best cherry pie this side of the border. Throughout her life, Suzie remained actively engaged in political causes, advocating for social justice and tolerance. In her final years, Suzie enjoyed nothing more than spending time with her two loving and adorable grandsons.

She is survived by her husband, Raymond Rea; her daughter, Sage Scott; Sage's partner, Trevor Saxton; her grandchildren, Jonah and Jacob; her sisters, Dolly Cebulash and Sally Battin; her brother, Robert "Butch" Hasinbiller; her nephews, Patchin Hasinbiller and Daniel Quinlan; and her longtime close friend, Bernard Hashmall. They will love her till their last breaths, cherishing memories of her indomitable will and generous love.

The family would like to extend their deep gratitude to the doctors, nurses and staff at Juravinski Hospital Emergency Room, and the Juravinski Cancer Centre for the unwavering and sensitive care they provided Suzie during her time in need, in spite of staffing shortages and underfunding from the Government of Ontario. The family also would like to thank the staff of Emmanuel House hospice for the care and support they provided during her final days. Last but not least, the family is grateful that she was able to avail herself of MAiD. While alive, Suzie was always in charge of her destiny. Because of MAiD, she was able to die as she lived.

A celebration of Suzie's life will be scheduled.

In your thoughts

Memorialize and celebrate a loved one in The Globe and Mail.

LAUREN CHAPIN

ACTOR, MINISTER, 80

FATHER KNOWS BEST STAR HAD DIFFICULT CHILDHOOD OUTSIDE OF THE SHOW

Pushed into acting at a young age by her mother, she endured an abusive father and nearly two decades in crises before becoming a born-again Christian and raising money to help abused children

ANITA GATES

Lauren Chapin, an actor who played the youngest of the three wholesome, upbeat, all-American children on the popular 1950s sitcom *Father Knows Best*, but whose personal life was a traumatic contrast to her best-remembered role, died Tuesday in Miami. She was 80.

Her death, in a hospital, was confirmed by her daughter, Summer Chapin, who said the cause was cancer.

As she wrote in a well-received memoir, Lauren Chapin was raised by a sexually abusive father and an alcoholic mother who pushed her three children into acting careers. Her life completely fell apart, she said, after *Father Knows Best* went off the air in 1960, and she began to feel like a 14-year-old has-been.

She spent nearly two decades in crises – addicted to heroin, working as a call girl, in prison for check forgery, stints in psychiatric facilities – until she said she became a born-again Christian and evangelical minister. She reportedly raised millions of dollars to help abused children and gave religious testimonials about suffering and endurance.

“I’m not proud of my past, but in a strange way, I’m thankful for it,” she once said. “If Christ can love a person like I was, he can love anyone. To me, that’s the real message of my past.”

Ms. Chapin was 9 when she was cast as Kathy Anderson, a giggly tomboy with ribbons in her pigtails. Her television father, Jim (Robert Young), an insurance agent, affectionately called her Kitten. To her brother, Bud (Billy Gray), she was Squirt or Shrimp. Her mother, Margaret (Jane Wyatt), quietly worried about her, and her big sister, Betty (Elinor Donahue), generally sympathized.

While her siblings on *Father Knows Best* faced typical teenage dramas, Kathy was a bundle of grade-school energy, always observing, frequently making fun and sometimes feeling terribly misunderstood.

“You promised,” she insisted when Dad hesitated to sleep all night in a backyard tent with her. When she felt frustrated, she complained melodramatically, “Why was I even born?” She burst into tears – regularly.

Caught eavesdropping once, tumbling to the floor when the door that she was hiding behind opened, she faced her father, who announced sternly, “I’m waiting for an answer.” Kathy paused, considered the question,



Lauren Chapin auditioned for *Father Knows Best* in 1954. She said she won the role partly because she looked so much like one of the real-life daughters of Robert Young, who played the titular father. THE CANADIAN PRESS

then looked up and offered, “I’m waiting until I can think one up.”

Father Knows Best, which began its six-season run in 1954, became one of the quintessential sitcoms of its era. Along with *Leave it to Beaver* and *My Three Sons*, it depicted an idyllic suburban postwar American household and, over its decades in syndication, was widely regarded as a cultural touchstone for the baby-boom generation.

In her 1989 autobiography, *Father Does Know Best*, written with Andrew Collins, Ms. Chapin said that going to work as a child, being one of the Andersons in the cozy house behind the white picket fence, was almost like having a normal, loving family for six years.

“I suppose deep down inside I

knew that they were just a crew working together,” she wrote. “But they seemed to be more than that to me.”

Lauren Ann Chapin was born May 23, 1945, in Los Angeles. She was the youngest of three children of William Chapin, known as Ray, a banker, and Marguerite (Barringer) Chapin, a classically trained pianist who, her daughter said, became her children’s agent to fulfill her own stifled ambitions.

Her father, she wrote, began to abuse her when she turned 4. It continued until she was almost 10 and began again in her teens when she lived briefly with her father and his new family after her parents divorced.

Meanwhile, Lauren made her screen debut at 7 on a 1952 epi-

sode of *Lux Video Theater*. She auditioned for *Father Knows Best* in the summer of 1954 and said she won the role over hundreds of other girls, partly because she looked so much like one of Mr. Young’s real-life daughters.

The series changed networks twice – from CBS to NBC and then back to CBS – rising steadily in the ratings until it was in the top 10. During the show’s run, Ms. Chapin appeared twice on the cover of *TV Guide*. One year she accepted an Emmy Award on Ms. Wyatt’s behalf, forgetting as she walked to the stage that she had taken off her shoes.

After *Father Knows Best* ended, Ms. Chapin saw her career crater. She enrolled at a local high school but often skipped class.

By the time she was 18, she

said, she made several suicide attempts, was married and divorced, and had eight miscarriages. In 1964, she sued her mother for her television earnings, claiming her mother had forced her to sign over all rerun benefits. She later said she never earned any money from syndication.

“I really felt like God was out to get me,” Ms. Chapin recalled in a 1989 interview on the syndicated talk show *Live With Regis and Kathie Lee*.

She also described how, after her first divorce, she blew her \$19,000 in savings on an eight-month drug spree of amphetamines, morphine and heroin. Her dealer, she said, promised that she could earn \$1,000 a night as a call girl, especially if she dressed as a little girl. She complied.

At one moment of desperation, she ended up in prison, convicted of check forgery when she tried to cash a stolen cheque. She served three years of a seven-year sentence, during which she received a high school equivalency diploma.

Ms. Chapin lived at various times in Killeen, Tex., and Orlando, among other places, and worked as a flight attendant, certified natural childbirth teacher, fragrance counter manager and AIDS foundation fundraiser. She had, by the early 1980s, become an ordained evangelical minister. The greatest satisfaction, she said, was using her position and her testimonies to help other addicts.

Ms. Chapin’s marriages to Gerald Jones, Wilton Walls Jr. and Robert L. Kelley ended in divorce. In addition to her children Summer and Matthew, both from relationships, she leaves a brother, Michael Chapin; and two grandsons. Her brother Billy Chapin, who as a child starred with Robert Mitchum in the Gothic-horror film *The Night of the Hunter* (1955), died in 2016.

When her memoir came out, she spoke to *Redbook* magazine about her often-stark and harrowing life and how, in some ways, her old TV show provided a path forward.

“I have nothing but admiration for the message of *Father Knows Best*,” she said. “I’m trying to raise my family like the Andersons – I believe the husband should be the head of the household, the mom should be home nurturing the kids, and the whole family should attend church. After all, if I didn’t have *Father Knows Best* to pattern myself after, what else would I have?”

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

JEFF GALLOWAY

ATHLETE, 80

Former Olympian inspired people with run-walk-run strategy

ED WHITE

Jeff Galloway, a member of the 1972 U.S. Olympic team who for decades inspired elite athletes and countless everyday runners by promoting a run-walk-run strategy, whether in a marathon or just a neighbourhood jog, died Wednesday at the age of 80.

Mr. Galloway had a hemorrhagic stroke and died at a hospital in Pensacola, Fla., daughter-in-law Carissa Galloway said.

His influence was evident in the final days of his life: Throngs of people posted videos online, hoping for Mr. Galloway’s recovery from emergency neurosurgery and thanking him for advice that boosted their confidence and took them to race starting lines.

Mr. Galloway’s family announced the surgery on Feb. 20

and invited the public to express support.

Jim Vance, an elite endurance sports consultant in San Diego, said Mr. Galloway was a “pioneer” in getting people to run.

“He removed the barrier to entry, which was mostly mental,” Mr. Vance told the Associated Press. “Running isn’t supposed to be a suffer-fest. It should be something peaceful, something enjoyable, so people can enjoy running and not dread it.”

Mr. Galloway survived heart failure in 2021 and was still hoping to complete another marathon after logging more than 230 during his lifetime.

“My mission now, at the age of 80-plus, is to show that people can do things that are normally not done, and can do them safely,” he told *The New York Times* in December.

Mr. Galloway’s run-walk-run method began in 1974 when he

agreed to teach a running class through Florida State University, two years after competing in the 10,000 metres at the Olympics. He figured it might attract customers to Phidippides, his new store for runners.

“None had done any running for at least five years. So we started walking with a few one-minute jogs,” Mr. Galloway said on his website.

“I spent some time with each group, during the runs, to adjust the frequency of walk breaks so that no one was huffing and puffing – even at the end,” he said. “Walk breaks kept the groups together. Everyone passed the final exam: finishing either a 5K or a 10K with smiles on their faces.”

Mr. Galloway believed walking during a run reduced the risk of injury, conserved energy and kept confidence afloat.

“I’ve been using them ever since,” he said, “continuing to

fine-tune the ratios of running to walking based upon pace per mile and individual needs.”

And Mr. Galloway even had his own recipe. He walked through every water station during the 1980 Houston marathon and finished with a faster time, 2:16:35, than his previous run-only 26.2 mile (42.1 kilometre) races, the *Times* reported.

He shared his running philosophies through books, websites and retreats. Mr. Galloway was the official training consultant for runDisney, a series of races at Walt Disney Co. resorts, and would be among the runners. Many admirers went online to offer tributes after his recent surgery.

“I never thought I would be a runner. I never thought I’d run a half marathon,” Karen Bock-Loose of Jacksonville, Fla., said in a video. “I’m 70 years old and I’ve run several since my 60th birth-

day when I discovered Galloway running. I just want to say thank you.”

Susan Williams recalled seeing Mr. Galloway as she struggled toward the end of a half marathon in Murray, Ky., in 2011.

“You passed me, and my butt was cramping,” she said. “You turned around and came back. You talked me through it. It was awesome.”

Bobby McGee, a Colorado-based running coach, said Mr. Galloway’s run-walk-run approach made running more accessible to the masses.

“When a group of people in any kind of run – from marathons to fun runs – get together afterwards they talk about their time,” Mr. McGee said. “Nobody asks them if they ran the whole thing.”

Mr. Galloway leaves two sons and six grandchildren.

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