



## Durham Muslim Youth Partner with Canadian Blood Services

Blood drive held by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association in Oshawa as part of nationwide initiative

On December 20, 2025, members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association donated blood in Oshawa to support Canadians in critical need. Muslim youth attended the blood drive which took place at the Canadian Blood Services at 1304 Harmony Rd N Oshawa, ON. These types of initiatives by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association are

part of an ongoing effort to serve Canadians and demonstrate the true spirit of Islam. Continuing its long-standing partnership with the Canadian Blood Services, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association is undertaking a nationwide initiative through which Muslim youth will donate blood in various locations across Canada. Blood and plasma donors asked to wrap up 2025 with a donation

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(Oshawa) – Canadian Blood Services is calling on people across Canada to book appointments to donate blood or plasma in the final two weeks of December — a time when donations traditionally drop as Canadians get busy with year-end activities and statutory holidays. Many don't realize that donor centres are open during the holidays and that patients continue to rely on donations every single day. Giving as a group is especially meaningful at this time of

year. Canada needs more new donors, and many first-timers come through the doors with someone they know. Donating with colleagues, teammates, friends, or family can turn a holiday gathering into something memorable. Whether you give as a group or individually, you will walk away with a deep sense of purpose and fulfillment knowing you've helped patients right here in Canada. Think of it as a meaningful gift to your-

self and to your community as you wrap up 2025. Visit [blood.ca](http://blood.ca), download the GiveBlood app, or call 1 888 2 DONATE (1-888-236-6283) to find a donor centre or mobile event near you, and book an appointment to experience what you get when you give. Canadian Blood Services is a not-for-profit charitable organization. Regulated by Health Canada as a biologics manufacturer and primarily funded by the provincial and territorial ministries of health, Canadian

Blood Services operates with a national scope, infrastructure and governance that make it unique within Canadian healthcare. In the domain of blood, plasma and stem cells, we provide services for patients on behalf of all provincial and territorial governments except Quebec. The national transplant registry for interprovincial organ sharing and related programs reaches into all provinces and territories, as a biological lifeline for Canadians.

### New carbon monoxide alarm rules take effect January 1

New carbon monoxide (CO) alarm requirements under the Ontario Fire Code come into effect on January 1, according to local and provincial fire services. These changes, introduced by the Ontario Fire Marshal, are designed to strengthen protection against carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, tasteless gas created when fuels, such as propane, gasoline, natural gas, heating oil or wood, do not burn completely in appliances like furnaces, fireplaces, hot water heaters, gas stoves and generators. Exposures to CO can cause headaches, dizziness, nausea, and in severe cases, can be fatal, said an advisory from Ajax Fire and Emergency Services to residents, landlords and building owners. To prevent exposure to carbon monoxide, make sure fuel burning appliances are inspected annually by a professional. It is also important that venting for the exhaust is kept clear and unobstructed from snow, ice and other debris.

Under the updated Ontario Fire Code: Carbon monoxide alarms must be installed on every storey of a dwelling unit. In multi-unit residential buildings, CO alarm requirements apply to individual units based on the presence of fuel-burning appliances or attached garages and may also apply to public corridors served by fuel-fired equipment. CO alarms may be hardwired, plug-in, or battery operated, as long as they meet recognized safety standards. Building owners and landlords are responsible for ensuring alarms are installed and maintained; residents and tenants must report any issues with alarms. "Carbon monoxide can become life-threatening in minutes, and the danger is often impossible to detect without a CO alarm. The new province-wide requirements significantly improve early warning and will help save lives. We encourage all residents to review their home now and ensure CO alarms are installed on every level, adjacent to each sleeping area and are in proper working order," said Melissa Balson, Public Educator, Ajax Fire and Emergency Services.

AFES Tips - Test carbon monoxide alarms monthly. - Plug-in or hardwired carbon monoxide alarms will not operate during a power outage unless there is a battery back-up. Ensure that batteries are replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. - Replace CO alarms at the end of their service life, as listed by the manufacturer. -Have fuel-burning appliances inspected annually by a qualified technician. -Keep exhaust vents, chimneys, and outdoor intakes clear of snow, ice and debris. - Never use generators, barbecues, or portable fuel-burning heaters indoors or in garages. - Never idle a vehicle inside an attached garage, even with the door open.

## Wisdom of Our Elders: The Contempt for Memory in Canadian Indigenous Policy

By Peter Best

What do children owe their parents? Love, honour and respect are a good start. But what about parents who were once political figures – does the younger generation owe a duty of care to the beliefs of their forebears?

Two recent cases in Canada highlight the inter-generational conflict at play in Canada over Indigenous politics. One concerns Prime Minister Mark Carney and his father Robert. The other, a recent book on the life of noted aboriginal thinker William Wuttunee edited by his daughter Wanda. In each case, the current generation has let its ancestors down – and left all of Canada worse off.

William Wuttunee was born in 1928 in a one-room log cabin on a reserve in Saskatchewan, where he endured a childhood of poverty and hardship. Education was his release, and he went on to become the first aboriginal to practise law in Western Canada; he also served as the inaugural president of the National Indian Council in 1961.

Wuttunee rose to prominence with his controversial 1971 book *Ruffled Feathers*, that argued for an end to Canadian's Indian Reserve system, which he believed trapped his people in poverty and despair. He dreamed of a Canada where Indigenous people lived side-by-side all other Canadians and enjoyed the same rights and benefits.

Such an argument for true racial equality put Wuttunee at odds with the illiberal elite of Canada's native community, who still believe in a segregated, race-based relationship between Indigenous people and the rest of Canada. For telling truth to power, Wuttunee was ostracized from the native political community and banned from his own reserve. He died in 2015.

This year, William's daughter Wanda had the opportunity to rectify the past mistreatment of her father. In the new book *Still Ruffling Feathers – Let Us Put Our Minds Together*, Wanda, an academic at the University of Manitoba, and several other

contributors claim to "fearlessly engage" with her father's ideas. Unfortunately, the authors mostly seek to bury, rather than praise, Wuttunee's vision of one Canada for all.

Wanda claims her father's desire for a treaty-free, reserve-free Canada would be problematic today because it would have required giving up all the financial and legal goodies that have since been showered upon Indigenous groups. But there is a counterfactual to consider. What if Indigenous Canadians had simply enjoyed the same incremental gains in income, health and other social indicators as the rest of the country during this time?

Ample evidence on the massive and longstanding gap between native and non-native Canadians across a wide variety of socio-economic indicators suggest that integration would have been the better bet. The life expectancy for Indigenous Albertans, for example, is a shocking 19 years shorter than for a non-native Albertans. William Wuttunee was right all

along about the damage done by the reserve system. And yet nearly all of the contributors to Wanda's new book refuse to admit this fact.

The other current example concerns Robert Carney, who had a long and distinguished career in aboriginal education. When the future prime minister was a young boy, Robert was the principal of a Catholic day school in Fort Smith, Northwest Territories; he later became a government administrator and a professor of education. What he experienced throughout his lifetime led the elder Carney to become an outspoken defender of Canada's now-controversial residential schools.

When the 1996 Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) attacked the legacy of residential schools, Carney penned a sharp critique. He pointed out that the schools were not jails despite frequent claims that students were there against their will; in fact, parents had to sign an application form to enroll their children in a residential school. Carney also bris-

ttled at the lack of context in the RCAP report, noting that the schools performed a key social welfare function in caring for "sick, dying, abandoned and orphaned children."

In the midst of the 2025 federal election campaign, Mark Carney was asked if he agreed with his father's positive take on residential schools. "I love my father, but I don't share those views," he answered. Some Indigenous activists have subsequently accused Robert Carney of residential school "denialism" and "complicity in the alleged horrors of Canada's colonial education system.

Like Wanda Wuttunee, Mark Carney let his father down by distancing himself from his legacy for reasons of political expediency. He had an opportunity to offer Canadians a courageous and fact-based perspective on a subject of great current public interest by drawing upon his intimate connection with an expert in the field. Instead, Mark Carney caved to the requirements of groupthink. As a result, his father now stands accused

of complicity in a phony genocide.

As for William Wuttunee, he wanted all Canadians – native and non-native alike – to be free from political constraints. He rejected racial segregation, discrimination and identity politics in all forms. And yet in "honouring" his life's work, his daughter misrepresents his legacy by sidestepping the core truths of his central belief.

No one doubts that Wanda Wuttunee and Mark Carney each loved their dads, as any son or daughter should. And there is no requirement that a younger generation must accept without question whatever their parents thought. But in the case of Wuttunee and Carney, both offspring have deliberately chosen to tarnish their fathers' legacies in obedience to a poisonous ideology that promotes the entirely un-Canadian ideal of permanent racial segregation and inequity. And all of Canada is the poorer for it.