Around the Coffee Table with Dale Jodoin

Are Canadians Paying More to Build a Stronger Canada?

By Dale Jodoin
Columnist

Around more than a few coffee tables lately, the conversation has started to change. People are no longer asking why everything became so expensive. They already know the answer isn't simple.
The question now is this. Are we about to go through another round of rising prices?
I'd like to know what you think.
Do you think another wave of inflation is coming, or is the worst behind us?
This question is significant because Canada is not isolated from global events. We may have our economy, but we are connected to almost every major event taking place around the world. A drought in Europe. Flooding in Asia. Wildfires in North America. Conflict in the Middle East. Shipping delays across the oceans. On their own they sound like separate news stories. Together they could affect every Canadian family.

We cannot stop those events. But we certainly feel them. When fuel prices rise, trucking companies pay more to move goods. Farmers pay more to run equipment. Manufacturers pay more to produce products. Grocery stores pay more to stock their shelves. Those extra costs don't simply disappear. Eventually they land in one place. Our shopping carts.
That is why inflation is more than an economic headline. It becomes a kitchen table issue. It affects seniors living on fixed incomes, young families trying to stretch every dollar, small businesses watching every expense, and anyone hoping to save for retirement.

Another aspect of this discussion warrants further examination.
Over the past while, many Canadians have made a conscious decision to buy Canadian whenever they can. Some have done it out of pride. Others want to support local farmers, manufacturers and small businesses. Many simply believe that spending their money should contribute to job creation at home.
I understand that thinking. In many ways, I share it.
But it also raises a fair question.
Does buying Canadian always save us money?
The honest answer is no.

Some Canadian-made products cost about the same as imported ones. Others cost more. Higher wages, smaller production runs, transportation costs, regulations, and production expenses can all influence the final price. This does not mean that purchasing Canadian products is the cause of inflation. The evidence simply does not support that conclusion.
What it does mean is that some Canadians are choosing to spend slightly more because they believe there is value beyond the price tag.
Maybe they are helping to keep a neighbour employed. Maybe they are supporting a local farmer. Maybe they are investing in a Canadian company that will still be here years from now.
That is not inflation.
That is a personal choice about where our dollars go.
The bigger question is whether those choices, repeated by millions of Canadians over many years, help build a stronger economy with more jobs, better wages, and businesses that are less dependent on foreign suppliers.
If they do, perhaps paying slightly more today becomes an investment instead of just another expense. At the same time, inflation itself At the same time, larger forces, beyond the control of any individual shopper, largely drive inflation itself. by forces much bigger than any one shopper. World energy prices, poor harvests, global supply chains, international conflicts, and interest rates all play major roles. Canada is not immune. What happens on another continent often reaches our grocery stores, gas stations and family budgets within weeks or months.

That is the world we live in.
So perhaps the real conversation isn't simply about why prices keep rising.
Maybe it is about what kind of country we want to build.
Do we always chase the lowest price, even if it means buying products made somewhere else? Or are we willing, when we can afford it, to support Canadian workers, Canadian farmers, and Canadian businesses, knowing that sometimes it may cost slightly more?

There is no single answer.
A senior living on a pension may have no choice but to buy the least expensive item on the shelf. A young family raising children may be in the same position. Another Canadian may decide the extra dollar is worth it because they believe it strengthens the country.
Every one of those choices deserves respect. So I'll leave you with one question this week.
If buying Canadian means paying a little more today but helps create jobs, strengthen communities, and build a more self-reliant Canada tomorrow, is that an investment worth making? I'd like to hear what you think. Because this isn't just a conversation about inflation.
It's a conversation about the kind of Canada we want to leave to the next generation.

Yes, It's Possible to Recover From a Bad Interview (Example of a Recovery Letter Included)

By Nick Kossovan

All of us have been there. The heavy silence in the elevator on the way down, the sudden, agonizing clarity about what you wish you had said, and the burning realization that you just blew a job opportunity. A bad interview feels final, like a door slammed shut and deadbolted.
Most job seekers throw in the towel. They chalk it up to nerves, decide it wasn't meant to be, or blame their interviewer for not knowing how to conduct an interview, all while convinced they won't get the job.
The corporate world is filled with flawed human beings—me included—who, having also been in the hot seat, understand that interview pressure can make even the most seasoned professional lose their composure. The good news, and I speak from experience, is that you can recover from a bad interview.
Most people view an interview as an objective test of what you can do and whether you'll be a cultural fit. For most job seekers, an interview is a high-stress conversation where nerves can make a brilliant career look amateurish in five minutes. When you freeze, ramble, or blow a simple question, the hiring manager isn't just concerned about your skills; they're concerned you're a risky hire. Course-correcting requires shifting their focus before they send you a generic rejection email.
This is where a well-crafted recovery letter— not to be confused with a thank-you note—comes in. It isn't about begging for a do-over; it's about demonstrating professionalism by owning up to a bad interview, controlling the narrative, and reminding the employer why you belonged on their shortlist.
Begin by acknowledging the elephant in the room. Trying to gaslight an interviewer into believing a subpar performance was a success is amateurish. Experienced hiring managers have a keen radar for double-talk; when an interview goes off the rails, they know it. Owning up to the fact that nerves got the better of you isn't a weakness; it's self-awareness. It shifts the focus from a temporary emotional hijack back to why you'd be a great hire.
Strategic execution requires the grit to assess your performance without sugarcoating. Did you ramble when asked about operational metrics? Did you fail to connect your past achievements to their current financial pain points? Once you identify where you stumbled, the recovery letter becomes your ultimate tool for damage control. It gives you a second chance to make the case you didn't make in the interview and to explain why you'd be a great hire.

Your recovery letter must be sent quickly—ideally the same day, or no later than 9:00 AM the next day—before the hiring team finalizes their decision to move on. Keep it short and professional. Most importantly, no self-pity! Employers don't hire sob stories, nor are they in the business of handing out chances. They hire people who get results. Admit you blew it because of nerves, then pivot quickly to why you're the person for the job. It isn't over until you give up or get a firm "No."

Here's how to write a recovery letter without grovelling or compromising your self-respect:
Subject: Following up on the Operations Manager role – [Your Name]
Dear [Interviewer Name],
Thank you for your time yesterday. I enjoyed discussing [Company]'s immediate priorities, particularly your focus on tightening project delivery timelines and reducing vendor overruns from Q4 2026 onward.
Reflecting on our conversation, I realize my answers didn't fully convey the depth of my track record or what I bring to the role. Quite frankly, I let my nerves get the better of me, and as a result, I didn't frame my experience as clearly as I should have.
When you raised the issue of budget slippage during complex deployments, I didn't mention that at [Previous Company], I overhauled our vendor management protocols—slashing project delay costs by 22% in less than eight months. That is the operational control I intend to bring to [Company] to protect—and grow—your margins.
My interest in the Operations Manager position remains strong. I am confident I have what it takes to address the operational bottlenecks we discussed. Thank you again for the conversation.
Regards,
(Your Name]
[Phone Number]
[LinkedIn Profile URL]

Keep in mind that a recovery letter isn't a silver bullet; it's an attempt to stay in the game. You're competing against candidates who may have seemed more polished and more confident. However, the letter's power lies in treating the interviewer as a peer, not a judge. It skips the laundry list of excuses, states a simple human fact—nerves happen—and offers a selling point, or several if you so choose, that you didn't mention during the interview.

While giving up after a bad interview protects your ego, it also leaves you unemployed. Nobody's coming to save your candidacy; that's entirely your responsibility. Sending a recovery letter takes guts. It shows you don't fold under pressure and that you own your mistakes, traits that every astute hiring manager respects. When you feel you haven't interviewed to your full potential, send a recovery letter. It could be the difference between being written off and being hired.