OPINION & EDITORIALS

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The CENTRAL NEWSPAPER
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Sorry Prime Minister, but young Canadians have sacrificed enough…

Recently, Liberal Prime Minister Mark Carney told a room filled with young Canadians "your future will not be the same as my past" which, as he put it "was a time of optimism, of hope, and of promise." He declared with a straight face that his budget would require "sacrifices" from young Canadians. After 10 years of Liberal Party ineptitude, this generation has sacrificed enough. Young Canadians today are the first generation that has been unable to afford homeownership, with 88 per cent of renters now saying that owning a home is out of reach. Half of millennials and two-thirds of Gen Z have even considered delaying starting a family because they can't afford a suitable home.

That's because home prices have risen 32 per cent faster than incomes in Canada since the Liberals took office, turning Canada into the most unaffordable housing market in the G7. Home ownership now costs 53.6 per cent of the median household income; 89.2 per cent in Vancouver and 66.4 per cent in Toronto, yet Mark Carney's own housing agency says Canadians shouldn't spend more than 32 per cent. It now takes a minimum income of $232,700 in Vancouver and $198,030 in Toronto to buy the average home. Just as the ladder of homeownership was being pulled up in front of youth, the bottom fell out. New housing sales in our major cities – the leading indicator of housing construction – have collapsed by more than half in the first three quarters of 2025 compared to 2024, and dropped 74 per cent compared to a ten-year average. As home-builders can't afford to build new homes, construction workers are getting laid off, and it's not just they who are being put out of work. Youth are facing an unemployment crisis with more than 460,000 young Canadians (those between 15 and 24) out of work.

The youth unemployment rate rose to 14.7 per cent in September 2025, an increase from 13.7 per cent in March and the highest since September 2010 (outside the pandemic). A report from Desjardins confirmed what Canadians have long known: the Liberals' massive increase in non-permanent residents, including temporary foreign workers, created a "deluge of available labour" that "well outpaced demand, putting upward pressure on the youth unemployment rate." What's even worse is that the youth employment rate fell to 53.6 per cent in July 2025. From May to August 2025, the unemployment rate for returning students averaged 17.9 per cent, its highest since 2009. These jobs used to allow youth to pay for tuition, groceries and rent when they went back to school. As their savings dried up, their costs were driven up. Grocery prices shot up 4 per cent year-over-year in September, double the Bank of Canada's target.

Fresh and frozen beef rose 14 per cent year-over-year, while meat overall increased 6.6 per cent. While Canadians have been paying more at the grocery store, rents also surged 4.8 per cent across Canada year-over-year. 49 per cent of those aged 18 to 24 are now spending over half their income on rent, despite having the weakest budgets. Only 22 per cent of renters are paying 30 per cent or less of their incomes on rent. At the same time, Food Banks Canada reports that well over 2.1 million visits were made in March, the highest in Canadian history.

Even those with full-time jobs are lining up, with nearly one in five visitors being employed but still unable to afford food. The report found "employment is no longer a reliable buffer against poverty", and Canada is becoming "a country where hunger is normalized". Young people and others shouldn't have to live like this. Once again, it's time for massive change in this country, and it must begin at the next federal election.

Canadian laws have been changed to favour possible terrorists…

Based on recent court rulings, it has become more difficult for Canada to remove suspected terrorists and other security threats due to new requirements as to evidence and procedures. The changes that have been made have introduced more avenues for individuals to challenge deportation orders, particularly by claiming persecution in their home country.

The primary reason for this development is a series of rulings from our courts which have strengthened the so-called 'human rights' protections for non-citizens. In 2024, a court ruling challenged the use of a person's past associations (presumably including possible terrorist cells) to predict their future risk to Canada's security.

Canadian courts have stated that determining someone as a security risk is a "forward-facing exercise" and that past conduct is not necessarily determinative. This has created new hurdles for officials by forcing them to prove a person's current threat to national security, not just their past affiliations or misconduct. In September 2023, the Supreme Court ruled that a provision of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act can only be used to declare someone inadmissible for engaging in violence if there is a clear connection to national security.

In the case of Mason v. Canada, a lower court's decision was overturned, with a view that acts of violence alone are not sufficient grounds for inadmissibility unless a "nexus to national security or the security of Canada" is established.

This newspaper believes that and other recent decisions serve only to constrain the authority of immigration officials, and will certainly make it more difficult to remove individuals with histories of serious violence. New legal precedents now risk paralyzing enforcement altogether by making it extraordinarily difficult to meet the burden of proof. As law abiding citizens of Canada, we deserve better than this.

One Oshawa councillor admits speed cameras were a cash grab…

The Ontario Conservatives did the right thing as they recently passed a bill banning speed cameras – once and for all. Only a short time ago, Oshawa Council actually voted in favour of pressing the Ford government to allow these automated cash machines to remain.

During the debate, Ward 4 Regional Councillor Rick Kerr (who voted in favour of the motion) actually confirmed what most of us already know – that speed cameras are little more than revenue generators for City Hall. He told his fellow councillors, "So, I read recently where the City of Kitchener has projected that in the four years between now and about 2028/29 there'll be something like $158,000,000.00 (one hundred and fifty-eight million dollars) brought into the City from automated speed cameras…

If the City of Kitchener doesn't have that revenue, where are they going to get $40-million a year to offset these (Provincial) downloads… and to offset the infrastructure improvements that need to be done?" The only two councillors who were in opposition to these automated cash machines were Councillors Bradley Marks and John Gray.

The CENTRAL NEWSPAPER welcomes your submissions and letters
As The CENTRAL works to provide an interesting and accurate reflection of the communities that make up Durham Region through our weekly news pages, we invite local citizens to participate in the conversation through submissions and letters to the editor.
We truly appreciate and support your efforts to make The CENTRAL your own.
Letters and submissions are welcome at newspaper@ocentral.com

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Letters To The Editor:

WHAT IS ON YOUR MIND? Send letters to newspaper@ocentral.com

Dear Editor:

I'm reaching out on behalf of Road Surface Recycling (RSR) — a homegrown Canadian company proudly based in Ajax, Ontario — to share a major success story that's changing how municipalities across Ontario approach road rehabilitation.

The Region of Durham has been championing RSR's 100% Hot In-Place Recycling (HIR) process, which recycles every bit of existing asphalt directly on-site. This technology, developed right here in Ontario, is helping municipalities:

Cut paving costs by up to 50%
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and petroleum use by more than 70%
Eliminate the need to truck in new asphalt or dispose of old materials
Rebuild and widen roads faster with minimal disruption to residents

Our process proves that Canadian innovation can lead globally in sustainable infrastructure — and it's being pioneered just down the road in Ajax. The Region of Durham's program has delivered exceptional results in cost savings, road quality, and environmental performance, setting a benchmark for other municipalities to follow.

We think this story would strongly resonate with your audience — it's a rare example of local technology solving a global challenge: how to modernize infrastructure sustainably and affordably.

Thank you for your time — we're proud to represent Ajax and Ontario in pushing the boundaries of circular, sustainable infrastructure.

Warm regards,
Maverick Crupi

Dear Editor:

While Ontarians struggle with some of the highest costs of living in North America, the Ford PCs spent $75 million of our tax dollars on an ad campaign in the United States aimed at influencing American courts and Republican voters.

The backlash was swift: President Trump announced the U.S. would halt trade negotiations with Canada and impose a 10% tariff on Canadian goods.

So, who produced this disastrous commercial?

A Toronto-based ad agency named Creative Currency — the same firm that pocketed $168,406 in 2022 for the PCs' "Get it Done" slogan.

Now, in 2025, according to Elections Ontario officials, the same firm received $1.7 million from the Ontario PC Party for advertising and polling prior to Ford's snap winter election.

So here's a question worth asking:

Who exactly is "getting it done"? Everyday Ontarians, or the insiders cashing in on the PC machine?

While Ford's friends profit, Ontarians are footing the bill — paying billions for the PCs' record-breaking ad spending, so-called "Skills Development" slush fund, and obscene corporate welfare dressed up as "economic growth."

Ontarians deserve to live affordably under an accountable and competent government — not foot the bill for backroom deals, taxpayer-funded vanity projects, and a government that paints itself as conservative while acting exactly like the federal Liberals.

Annie Nolan

Dear Editor:

The Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations (FMTA) yesterday issued a forceful condemnation of the Ford government's proposed changes to the Residential Tenancies Act (RTA) under Bill 60, denouncing the legislation as a catastrophic assault on tenant rights that will deepen Ontario's already devastating affordability and housing crisis.

"Bill 60 is not about efficiency; it's about evictions," said Yaroslava Avila Montenegro, the Executive Director of the FMTA. "This bill is designed to fast-track the removal of tenants from their homes, strip away key legal protections, and begin opening the debate to end rent control in Ontario. It's a clear gift to developers and corporate landlords at the expense of the nearly one-third of Ontarians who are tenants."Accelerating Evictions, Sacrificing Justice

The government's so-called "efficient" reforms to the Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB) are a smokescreen for eroding fundamental tenant rights. The proposed changes unfairly favour landlords and will worsen the housing crisis by:

Silencing Tenants in Eviction Hearings: The bill would remove a tenant's ability to raise new issues, such as a landlord's failure to maintain the property in a good state of repair, during hearings for rental arrears. This strips tenants of a fair defence by preventing the Landlord and Tenant Board from considering health, safety, or disrepair issues during an eviction hearing.

Reducing Access to Justice: The plan to slash the review period for LTB eviction orders from 30 to just 15 days will ensure more tenants, particularly the most vulnerable, lose their opportunity to appeal a decision and become more likely to be pushed into homelessness.

Punishing Minor Delays: A redefinition of "late payment" would allow eviction proceedings to begin after seven days delay in rent payment, pushing tenants into the eviction process for administrative errors or temporary financial setbacks.

Removing Compensation for "Own Use" Evictions: The bill would eliminate compensation for tenants evicted for a landlord's "own use," making it easier and cheaper for landlords to displace tenants under this provision. While the government has backed away from an initial proposal to end security of tenure, the remaining changes in Bill 184 create an insurmountable hurdle for tenants and will fast-track evictions for Indigenous communities, the elderly, low-income families, and migrant workers.

A recent study from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) warned that homelessness in the province could reach nearly 300,000 people due to decades of underinvestment. Bill 60 will exacerbate this crisis, turning a warning into a reality.

Bill 60 seeks to dismantle rights that tenants have fought for decades to achieve. The FMTA is committed to mobilizing tenants across the province to oppose this legislation at every step.

"We demand housing legislation that protects the right to safe, secure, and affordable housing for all," said Yaroslava Avila Montenegro. "We call on every tenant and every organization that believes in housing justice across Toronto and Ontario to join us in fighting this destructive bill. Together we are stronger. Together we win."

Yaroslava Avila Montenegro
Executive Director,
Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations