

OPINION & EDITORIALS



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The CENTRAL NEWSPAPER
Founder & Publisher: Joe Ingino
136 Simcoe St. N., Unit 4. Oshawa ON L1G 4S7
Tel: 905-432-2657
Email: newspaper@ocentral.com

Sir John A. Macdonald was a hero...

Last week we celebrated the birth of a great man, without whom Canada as we know it would never have been. Sir John A. Macdonald was born on January 11, 1815. He was certainly many things, but among them, he was a true believer in this country. His vision was a Canada that was strong and united – bound together by the British Crown and common institutions, and by a 'ribbon of steel' that brought goods and people together from incredible distances. In these uncertain and dangerous times, we should be inspired by Macdonald's goal of a proud and distinct Canada: protecting its citizens and holding its own across this vast continent. A nation in every sense of the word, not mere land. Unfortunately, the debate over removing statues of Sir John A. Macdonald remains a deeply polarizing issue in this country. Most reasonable people know that removing statues is simply a misguided aspect seen in today's 'cancel-culture' and that all historical figures should be understood in the context of their time. So, as we look back on what would have been Sir John A's 211th birthday, may we in our own small ways imitate his foresight and ambition. Together, following in his footsteps, we will leave our descendants a better Canada.

Nobody can get ahead in the Carney economy...

Recently released job numbers show what Canadians have been feeling for months: nobody can get ahead in the Carney economy, least of all our youth. After the worst summer for youth unemployment since the Great Recession, December saw 27,000 fewer Canadians aged 15 to 24 employed, a 1 per cent decline and 1.6 million Canadians out of a job, an almost 4.9 per cent increase in December. It's not just our youth that have been shut out of employment. The overall unemployment rate rose to 6.8 per cent, with 73,000 more people out of work in one month alone. And for anyone who says this is a global problem, unaffected by federal domestic policy, the unemployment rate fell to 4.4 per cent south of the border. Last month's declines capped off a terrible year for Canadians trying to enter the job market. The employment rate continued to trend down from 61.1 per cent in January to 60.9 per cent by the end of the year. From January to August, the job finding rate was 18.1 per cent – 2.9 per cent lower than the previous year and 5.9 per cent lower than prior to the pandemic. That's as the number of job vacancies fell by over 10 per cent in the third quarter of the year, providing fewer opportunities for those looking for work. Meanwhile, over the last 12 months, part-time employment grew almost 2 per cent faster than full-time employment as more and more Canadians are pushing into part-time positions after being unable to find full-time jobs. 2025 marked a collapsing ability to find work as the Liberal job crisis pulled up the economic ladder. It's clear Mark Carney's 'plan' simply isn't working.

Canada's Soviet-style healthcare system is failing...

A recent article published by the Fraser Institute took a look at the number of Canadians who left Canada for medical care in 2025. A number of worthwhile insights were gained as to the state of health care in this country and the growing phenomenon known as 'medical tourism'. Canadians who choose to seek treatment elsewhere will do so for several reasons, many of which may relate to their inability to access medical care in a timely fashion. It's quite understandable that those who are suffering the most would want to avoid long delays and make a quicker return to normal life. While there's no readily available data on the number of Canadians travelling abroad for health care, it is possible to produce an estimate of these numbers from data gathered through the Fraser Institute's Waiting Your Turn survey and from the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), which tallies the numbers of procedures performed in Canada. Each year, researchers with the Institute conduct a survey of physicians across Canada in 12 major medical specialties, and included in their survey is the question: "Approximately what percentage of your patients received non-emergency medical treatment in the past 12 months outside Canada?" In 2025, 2.1 per cent of patients in Canada were estimated to have done so. Physicians in Alberta reported the highest proportion of patients that received treatment abroad, totaling three per cent. Across Canada, urologists (those who specialize in the treatment of the urinary system) reported the highest proportion of patients travelling abroad, totaling 3.7 per cent. This, and other data point to a sizeable number of Canadians whose needs simply could not be satisfied within our current 'universal' healthcare system. For example, in 2025, patients could expect to wait 13.3 weeks for medically necessary treatment after seeing a specialist. This wait time (which does not include the 15.3 week wait to see a specialist) is almost 4.5 weeks longer than what physicians consider to be clinically "reasonable" (8.8 weeks). Therefore it is possible that some patients left the country in an effort to avoid the adverse medical consequences of waiting for care, such as a worsening of their condition, poorer outcomes following treatment, disability, or death. Clearly, the number of Canadians who ultimately receive their medical care in other countries is a growing concern, which speaks volumes about how our current Soviet-style system isn't working for them. Canada needs to free itself from the shackles of medical mediocrity and into a more progressive system of public-private partnerships. The days of socialist fear-mongering and worn out platitudes are over. It's time to move on.

Letters To The Editor:

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

Dear Editor:

We are still chasing ghosts.

The 'I saw it first makes it mine' has become an incredible cash cow for lawyers, devastating Canadian taxpayers, without ever attempting to determine just who or what that illusive 'I am, let alone when.'

Settlers are people who were and still are moving with groups of others to live in areas of the globe that still are sparsely populated and unoccupied, looking for a better quality of life.

Some of these groups have populated Canada intermittently over the last 13,000 years, including pre- and post colonial arrivals. Some staying longer than others. By now they have all perished. Today's Indigenous people are descendants from one or more of these groups, mixing and mating with pre- and post-colonial migrants and immigrants who continue to populate Canada. Some of the original bloodlines have become paper thin. Many only definable using DNA technologies.

We all have traces of that ancestral hereditary blood in our veins, dating back to the original arrivals. As blood-lines become thinner with each generation, settlements for abuse – neglect – and land should be pro-rated according to aboriginal blood content.

When that becomes less than that magic 1/16th – or 6%, claimants will have fifteen times more non-Indigenous blood in their veins, and be considered extinct, while they retain the same rights, opportunities, and responsibilities as all other Canadians.

'I saw it first' is a meaningless, pointless, and irrelevant claim. We are all settlers, and the land and resources belong to all of us to share and use, regardless of when we arrived, and where in the world we came from.

Andy Thomsen.

Dear Editor:

Earlier this month, the United States arrested Venezuelan dictator Nicolás Maduro. In doing so, nearly 29 million Venezuelans were finally liberated after almost three decades of socialist rule. Ontario's PC government should take the time to learn from the history of Venezuela — once Latin America's first democracy and most prosperous country — before our province is doomed to repeat it. Socialism in Venezuela did not happen overnight. It was a slow, drawn-out process that began with failing liberal economic policies.

After World War II, the Venezuelan government used tax revenue from its massive oil industry to subsidize the ever-growing size and scope of government. When oil prices collapsed in the 1980s, the government could no longer afford to sustain this bloated system. Instead of eliminating inefficient spending, it chose to run deficits, print money, and pile on public debt.

Economic and political instability followed for years, culminating in 1998, when Venezuelans abandoned liberal economic policies altogether and turned to socialism.

The result was catastrophic: a 15% decline in GDP between 1999 and 2025, widespread food shortages, crumbling infrastructure, hyperinflation exceeding 130,000%, and a record 8 million Venezuelans fleeing their homeland. I share this brief history as a warning about the thin, slippery slope that separates failed liberal economic policy from failed socialist policy. The Ford PCs gained a majority government in 2018 and a clear opportunity to steer Ontario away from deficits and mounting debt.

They could have learned from Venezuela by slashing government subsidies, ending corporate welfare, reducing Ontario's debt, and making the province competitive for investors.

Instead, the Ford PCs have added \$137 billion to Ontario's debt that future generations will be forced to repay. Moreover, food prices rose by 30% between 2018 and 2024, according to the

Ontario Food Consumer Price Index. Ontarians have little to show for the Ford PCs' reckless spending.

Thankfully, Ontario is not currently a socialist dictatorship — but we are treading that same slippery slope like never before. This is one of the many reasons Jim and Belinda Karahalios founded the New Blue Party: to offer Ontarians a true blue alternative and to hold the Ontario PC government accountable for their left-wing policies.

Anthony Zambito

Dear Editor:

What a great year this will be. 2026, an election year. A chance to finally get to make wrong right... I lived in Oshawa all my life. I have seen the greatness of Oshawa in all its splendor.

I remember during the world war. How many of our neighbours, sons, fathers and family members lined up Memorial Park as they enlisted to fight for what they believed to be true.

Our Freedom. Our way of life.

Today, I sit in my wheel chair and my heart aches. I remember all those young faces. How they talked about serving. The real Canadian pride of going over seas to battle.

I look around me today... and all I see is dispair. I see a cold, empty place.

To think that all those lives sacrificed to end up in social chaos. Today there is no fear of God. There is no stanards no social justice.

The weak appear to rule through their insanity. Those living at the bottom of the barrel are praised instead of helped. We are forced to accept that of which is unacceptable.

I bet that if those souls back during the time of the war appeared out of the thin blue. They would fight right on our home lands to rid of the enemies from within.

We have lost our way. We have lost our standards and values. Everything is compromise. Those that are elected to represent us only represent their own best interests.

This is why I hope that 2026 brings real change. That people will awaken and demand our standards to be upheld and our values brought forth. **Jerry Collus, Oshawa**

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