

OPINION
& EDITORIALS



The CENTRAL NEWSPAPER

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The political culture of entitlement needs to stop

By Jay Goldberg

Politicians who stop living like Canadians can never understand their priorities. Canada's politicians appear to forget the times we're living in. With nearly half of Canadians saying they're \$200 away from not being able to pay their bills, politicians should be especially cognizant of the struggles voters are going through. Instead, many seem to be living the high life, oblivious to the realities of everyday Canadians. Just the latest example comes from Ontario. At least four prominent Progressive Conservative MPPs who live in the Greater Toronto Area were caught billing upwards of \$10,000 each for downtown Toronto hotel rooms. Despite the fact that it is common for the average taxpayer to have to drive to work from the suburbs every day, if not farther, these PC MPPs took it upon themselves to bill taxpayers for hotel rooms instead of making the drive home after work.

Stan Cho, the former minister of tourism, culture and gaming, billed taxpayers more than \$16,000 over the course of three years for stays at Toronto hotels despite living within the city of Toronto. The three others—Charmaine Williams, Nina Tangri and Hardeep Grewal—expensed similar amounts and represent ridings in Mississauga.

To Cho's credit, he resigned from cabinet and reimbursed taxpayers. It is unclear whether the other MPPs have done the same. Premier Doug Ford called the actions of his MPPs "unacceptable," but these MPPs had been billing taxpayers for years. The practice only came under scrutiny after they were caught.

The problem isn't just hotel rooms. It's a mindset that's becoming far too common among politicians. Another example came last week from the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. The organization reported that Prime Minister Mark Carney spent nearly \$160,000 on airplane food during a single trip last November.

Carney travelled with a 55-member entourage, meaning each person on the plane spent roughly \$2,850 on airplane food. Former prime minister Justin Trudeau also routinely incurred airplane food expenses well above \$100,000 and famously stayed in a \$6,000-a-night hotel room while attending the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II.

Canadians are hurting right now. Living costs are soaring, with the cost of food for a family of four, for example, up by \$1,000 this year over last. The average Canadian doesn't want to hear about disconnected politicians living the high life at taxpayers' expense.

Plus, Canada's politicians keep taking big pay raises every year while Canadians' wages remain stagnant. The average backbench MP in Ottawa received a 4.2 per cent raise this year, bringing total pay to nearly \$220,000, more than three times the national average. Many argue that, if you want to attract impressive people to run for office, you need to offer high salaries and major perks. But perhaps that's the problem. Perhaps we have too many people who run for office who are too disconnected from the lives of everyday Canadians.

Here's a proposal: it's time for politicians to live like Canadians.

I'm not saying wages should be cut in half or politicians should starve on airplanes. Rather, politicians' wages should rise in line with the wages of Canadians. Every expensed meal, including those on airplanes, should be subject to a reasonable per diem. If politicians want to live the high life, they should pay the difference themselves. And while we're at it, their pensions should look more like ours. They shouldn't be gold-plated. This is how Canadians live. If politicians aren't happy with it, perhaps they should find another profession. If we want politicians to make policies that are in line with what we as voters want, perhaps it's time to ensure that they live the kind of lives that we live.

Unfortunately, too few politicians know what it's like these days to worry about what your son or daughter puts in the cart at the grocery store or how much gas is going to cost. Maybe it's time that we took steps in that direction.

Canadians increasingly believe politicians are too disconnected from the people they represent. These latest scandals suggest they're right. It's time to make sure politicians understand the lives that we live, and the first step is putting an end to these kinds of excesses.

Ontario Autism Coalition Statement on Parker Wells' Disappearance and the Urgent Need for an Alert System

The Ontario Autism Coalition (OAC) shares the fervent hope for the safe return of Parker Wells, an 11-year-old non-verbal, autistic boy who has been missing from a day home in Calgary's north end since July 16, 2026. We stand in solidarity with Parker's family, friends, and community in Calgary. Despite extensive search efforts, Parker has not yet been found, and our thoughts are with everyone who loves him.

Parker's disappearance has revealed a serious gap in how Canada responds when autistic and neurodiverse children go missing. In this case, there was no evidence of abduction, which meant the legislated criteria for an Amber Alert were not met. Days later, the Government of Alberta granted an exemption that allowed Calgary Police to use the Alberta Emergency Alert system through Alert Ready. This decision shows clearly that the infrastructure already exists and can be used for vulnerable missing children even when abduction criteria are not met. The gap is not technology. The gap is policy.

Families in Alberta are now calling for a dedicated alert for missing neurodiverse children. They are pointing out the same gap that families in Ontario and across Canada have been raising for years.

Ontario families remain disappointed that their government has not implemented this tool. The OAC has advocated for a disability-informed alert since 2022, after the tragic death of Draven Graham galvanized families to push for change. We met with officials at multiple levels of government and continue that work today. A private member's bill, Bill 74, helped advance the conversation, but it was shelved when the 2025 election was called. All Canadians have an opportunity to move this issue forward. Any new alert for vulnerable missing persons must be developed by the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial body called Senior Officials Responsible for Emergency Management (SOREM). We encourage Canadians to contact their provincial MLA or MPP and their federal MP to express support for the creation of a new alert.

The OAC calls on every provincial, territorial, and federal government to:

Work together at the SOREM table to create a regional, disability-informed alert for vulnerable missing persons, including autistic and neurodiverse children who elope or wander. We are ready to stand with any level of government willing to bring this forward, do the work, and ensure families, who are at one of the most anxious and desperate moments of their lives, can rely on a tool that reflects the realities of disability-related missing persons cases.

We stand with Parker's family and the community of Calgary. We hope Parker is found soon, safe and sound. We will continue to push for the systemic changes needed so that families across Canada are never left without an alert tool when a vulnerable child goes missing.

Letters To The Editor:

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

Dear Editor:

On July 31 I went to the Delpark Homes Seniors Club in Oshawa and had a very disturbing experience. The stamp Club which meets there on Friday mornings run by Larry friend has a requirement that you have a membership with the Oshawa Seniors Club to participate in their auctions. As I don't drive a friend of mine recently released from hospital retired master corporal Doug Moon offered to drive me, I said great you can say hi to some of your friends since your health started failing. When we arrived, the girl scheduled by herself at 9:05am July 31 explained at that time I would be joining the club and retired master corporal Doug Moon wanted to say hi to a few old friends.

That staff member said absolutely not he had to pay \$30 as a resident of Whitby. because of liability I reluctantly signed up and signed the waiver also which states they assume no liability whatsoever.

Not only did she lie to retired master corporal Doug Moon, she lacks empathy for senior individuals who enlist to give city of Oshawa employee a safe and secure way of life.

In the follow up I stayed and made sure I was registered for the fall auction held at the Whitby senior center. Doug made his way home on his own frustrated by what he had just been subjected to, he also lost his cell phone in the process. I would suggest the city implement a guest pass or something at normal fee of \$5 for individuals who are not able to attend very often (rather than holding seniors and veterans for random)

c.c city of Oshawa mayor
Durham Region Chair
Royal Canadian Legion (Ottawa)
Oshawa Central Newspaper
Debbie Forthe. Oshawa

Dear Editor:

The time is long overdue to put an end to the massive and ugly multi-billion-dollar HOAX created and promoted by infamous Kamloops Indigenous Chief Rosanne Casimir and an army of lawyers who shamelessly have been playing Canadian taxpayers for suckers, during the last five years, insisting there may be remains of as many as 215 so-called Indigenous children buried in that orchard-septic field become graveyard, without a shred of evidence.

Her recent statement probing into possible unmarked graves 'continues with no end in sight' is nothing but an incredible insult, insinuating she will continue to play taxpayers for suckers forever.

The BC Law society's attitude regarding that unmarked graves narrative in Kamloops is also very disturbing, and an incredible demonstration of contempt for the truth, by lawyers we used to hold on a high pedestal to maintain 'law order and good government'.

I am an immigrant, and I am appalled at the arrogance Canadians are being exposed to every day. The contempt demonstrated by our politicians and our justice systems is absolutely mind-boggling.

Overlapping titles, lawyers becoming grifters, while Truth and Reconciliation has transformed Canada into an ugly WOKE-infested swamp.

If none of those so-called Indigenous children have not been reported missing, the scamming should be terminated, and Chief Casimir should return that 9.5 million dollars without delay.

Andy Thomsen
Kelowna BC

Dear Editor:

Last month, 75,000 jobs were created across Canada - and 52,000 of them were right here in Ontario! That means more than two out of every three new jobs in Canada were created right here in our province. And that matters for Ontario workers and families. It means more people earning a paycheque. More opportunities to build a career. And more families with the confidence that comes from having a good job.

Since 2018, businesses have created more than ONE MILLION new jobs across Ontario. We've also attracted more than \$235 billion in new investment, bringing new businesses, new opportunities and more good-paying jobs to communities across our province.

There's still more work to do.

U.S. tariffs and global economic uncertainty continue to threaten Ontario workers and businesses. That's why our PC team will keep working every single day to protect Ontario jobs, bring in new investment and create more good-paying opportunities for workers and families across our province. Because when Ontario creates more jobs, you and your family have more opportunities to get ahead.

Doug Ford
Leader, Ontario PC Party

Dear Editor:

Keeping Ontario families safe starts with making sure violent and repeat criminals stay behind bars. That's why Doug Ford and the Ontario PCs are making a historic \$3 BILLION investment to expand jail capacity across our province.

Unlike the previous Ontario Liberal government, who closed eight jails, we're exploring every opportunity to create more space. We've hired over 4,000 new correctional officers to keep our jails running. We've created more than 2,500 correctional beds across Ontario. And when we reopen the Brantford jail, we're going to be adding another 125 more correctional beds. We're making the investments needed to hold criminals accountable and keep your community safe.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Michael Kerzner
MPP, York Centre

SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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or

mail to 136 Simcoe St. North Suite 4 Oshawa