

# OPINION & EDITORIALS



## The CENTRAL NEWSPAPER

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### Hire Canadians before anyone else...

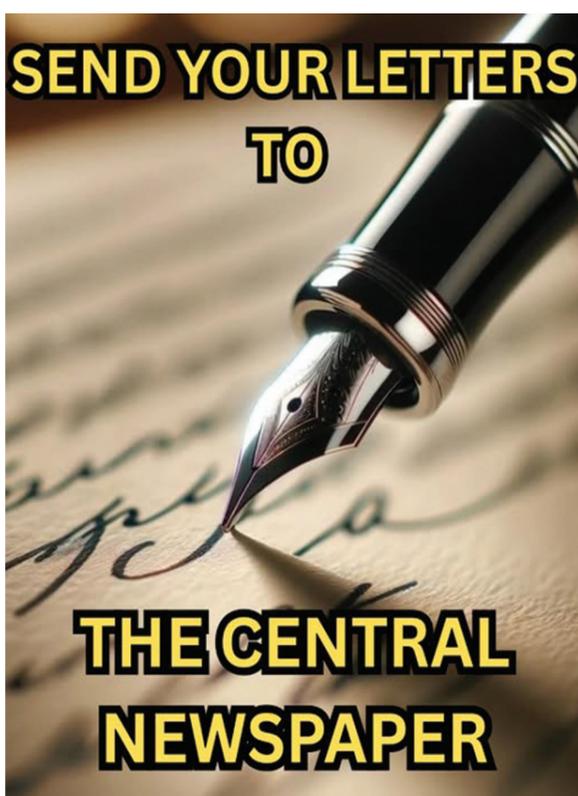
The Carney Liberals have proposed expanding "Express Entry" immigration for skilled workers into this country, which sounds – on the surface - like a reasonable idea. In actual fact, the government of Canada has the responsibility to prioritize our youth, and all efforts should be directed to giving jobs and training to unemployed young Canadians first. That should be obvious, yet the Liberals are only focused on expanding immigration streams that push our young people further away from jobs that would have set them on a path to success. At the same time, the Liberals have neglected to propose a plan that would ensure the 3 million non-citizen temporary residents - whose permits expire by the end of 2026 - will actually leave Canada once their visas are up. The Liberals' decade-long abuse of a once well-functioning immigration system is already overextending Canada's healthcare system and housing market, while taking job opportunities from Canadians, with no long-term solution in sight. Our government must do the right thing by abolishing the Temporary Foreign Worker program while creating a designated agricultural stream for legitimately hard-to-fill seasonal workers. We need a plan to get those millions of foreign workers with expired or expiring visas to actually leave when they're supposed to. As of January of this year, non-permanent residents outnumbered unemployed Canadians, and that's simply not right. The government has the responsibility and duty to prioritize our youth and our people, and all efforts should be directed at giving jobs and training to unemployed citizens of this country. The Liberals should be betting on Canadians, especially Canadian youth, who are eager to join our job market and to contribute to our society. We need to ensure that our young people are well-positioned to obtain good-paying jobs and are able to build a strong future right here in Canada.

### The made-in-Canada food crisis...

Nearly a year after asking to be judged by prices at the grocery store, Canadians are painfully aware of the change that Prime Minister Mark Carney has failed to bring. Recent Consumer Price Index data from Statistics Canada adds to an already grim picture, with food inflation soaring to 7.3 per cent year-over-year in a country facing the worst food price increases in the G7. And that figure is far from the ceiling. Compared with January 2025, canned fruit was up 11.1 per cent, whole chicken by 12.9 per cent, beef by 18.8 per cent and roasted or ground coffee by nearly 40 per cent year-over-year. For those eating out, the situation is no better. Food purchased from restaurants alone was up 12.3 per cent in the same period, with take-out and fast food up by 14 per cent. No wonder Restaurants Canada reported that nearly half of restaurants are operating at a loss or barely breaking even, with 7,000 closing last year and as many as 4,000 projected to close in 2026. No wonder household credit card debt was up by 50.6 per cent last year compared to 2015 – an increase of an astounding \$39.74 billion. In a country rich both in land and those who work it, where 70 per cent of all food and 80 per cent of processed food and drinks are made right here at home, such a reality is unacceptable. The Prime Minister should stop making false promises and actually start working with the Opposition parties in Ottawa to implement policies that would boost competition in our grocery sector and slash the taxes that drive up food prices, like the 17 cent per-litre fuel tax on truckers and farmers. We as citizens of this country cannot eat the Liberals' rhetoric, and we cannot accept their attempts to blame this made-in-Canada problem on global factors.

### Our broken asylum system...

Canada needs immediate federal action to crack down on non-citizens who commit serious crimes from being able to exploit loopholes in our asylum system - while enjoying better healthcare than many Canadians. We are seeing extortions rise while serious offenders claim asylum to delay removal, and that's not compassionate - it's simply reckless. All of us deserve safe streets and a fair system that puts victims first. Under the federal Liberals, Canada's immigration system is ripe for abuse, allowing bad actors to enter our country and target law-abiding citizens. It's time to focus on the victims of crime by closing the loopholes that allow non-citizens who commit serious crimes to terrorize our neighbourhoods. As an example of this, in British Columbia's lower mainland we've seen a daily slew of incidents of extortion being committed by non-Canadians. Small businesses are being handed demands, then shot up. This then escalates to the business owners themselves being targeted, resulting in extortion-related shootings and even murders. When these non-citizen criminals are caught, they claim asylum to delay justice for the victims, while at the same time receiving generous healthcare benefits. This growing crisis has caused BC NDP Premier David Eby to actually weigh in, calling our current asylum system "ludicrous" for allowing this to happen. That's why it was so disappointing when Prime Minister Mark Carney chose to vote against a motion to bar non-citizens facing serious crimes from making refugee claims – a status quo that most people will see as quite indefensible. In addition, the Parliamentary Budget Office is projecting that the Interim Federal Health Program that serves those seeking asylum will cost taxpayers nearly \$1 billion this year. At a time when Canadians are struggling to access basic care, it's unacceptable that the Liberals have expanded federal coverage with weak oversight and runaway costs. Canadian citizens who actually pay into the system should not come second. It's definitely time to restore justice to Canada's immigration laws and to end the insidious loopholes that are allowing foreign criminals to thrive in this country.



## Letters To The Editor:

WHAT IS ON YOUR MIND? Send letters to [newspaper@ocentral.com](mailto:newspaper@ocentral.com)

**Dear Editor:**

I am writing as a concerned Canadian citizen to formally request a review of the actions of Jamil Jivani, Member of Parliament for North Oshawa and Bowmanville, Ontario, regarding what appears to be a potential breach of the Conflict-of-Interest Act and/or parliamentary ethics obligations.

It has been reported and publicly discussed that Mr. Jivani independently travelled to the United States to meet with representatives of President Donald Trump's administration without a clear mandate, authorization, or public disclosure indicating that he was acting on behalf of, or with the approval of, the Government of Canada.

Foreign relations and diplomatic engagement are sensitive matters governed by established protocols and oversight. When an individual Member of Parliament independently engages with a foreign administration—particularly one that has demonstrated adversarial positions toward Canada's economic and political interests—it raises serious concerns regarding conflicts of interest, misuse of parliamentary position, and potential harm to Canada's national interests. Canadians must be able to trust that elected officials act transparently, within their authority, and solely in the public interest. Unauthorized or informal diplomatic engagement risks undermining Canada's official foreign policy, weakening established diplomatic channels, and eroding public confidence in democratic institutions.

I respectfully request that your office review this matter to determine whether any provisions of the Conflict-of-Interest Act, parliamentary ethics rules, or related disclosure and approval requirements were breached, and whether further action or clarification is warranted.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued work in upholding ethical standards in public office.

Sincerely,

**Jodi Gienow**

**Dear Editor:**

BC has become the new 'Wild West', driven by our Premier David Eby's obsessions with his distorted interpretation of UNDRIP.

I mailed this to every BC MLA, hoping some will have the courage to attempt to rein him in. Four years of scratching the dirt in an attempt to determine whether there are any remains of Indigenous children in the Kamloops residential school's graveyard, and still no results. It promotes speculation the claim was nothing but an ugly HOAX, arrogantly fabricated to SCAM Canadian taxpayers.

Insinuating about 215 Indigenous children were murdered by the teachers and preachers who worked there long and hard to help those children get a basic education, was incredibly ignorant. It has also become very obvious our Premier David Eby's distorted interpretation and application of UNDRIP has transformed Truth and Reconciliation into another massive multi-billion-dollar SCAM. Our WOKE politicians and a confused judiciary, is pandering to the bleeding hearts in our society, oblivious to how citizenship has been eroded to become secondary to ancestry. Using DNA to qualify and quantify all those claims would blow many of those claims to smithereens. Settlements should be pro-rated.

Sub-dividing BC, and awarding bits and pieces of our province to tribal groups of indigenous people, some with over-lapping titles is a radical attempt to undermine security and credibility of fee simple title to ownership of land in BC. The truth no longer has any value.

Using guilt as the principal weapon, fighting evolution by repudiating our common heritage and collective rights to occupy and use that same land and to harvest and share the natural resources, at a time we all should be celebrating our diverse and multi-cultural colonial history, our differences, what we have in common, and our many accomplishments, is unforgivable.

Lawyers will be the only winners if we do not stop Eby's incredible assault on our rights and our lands. The spirit and intent of UNDRIP was not to make the Chiefs and their lawyers multi-millionaires, while a lot of Indigenous people still live in poverty in poorly maintained housing on many of the reservations.

**Andy Thomsen.**

**Kelowna BC**

**Dear Editor:**

The flags at all Town of Whitby facilities will fly at half-mast, effective immediately, in honour of the victims of the mass shooting in Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia. Flags will remain lowered until the end of the week.

On behalf of Whitby residents, I offer my deepest condolences to all those impacted by this horrific act of violence. Our thoughts are with the families who have lost loved ones, those recovering from injuries, and the entire community of Tumbler Ridge during this unimaginable time.

As a fellow mayor, I was especially struck to hear that in a small, close-knit community, the mayor knew all the victims personally. That speaks to the deep bonds that exist in towns like theirs -- and like ours. When tragedy strikes, the grief is shared by the whole community.

Whitby stands in solidarity with the people of Tumbler Ridge and mourns alongside you.

**Office of the Mayor Elizabeth Roy, Whitby**

**Dear Editor:**

I am fed up. How many more of us need to die before someone does something. This past week. Someone decided to open fire at Memorial Park.

Memorial Park... from all the places. Is it not bad enough that there is open drug use on our streets. People passed out on the same streets and people passing away from exposure... that now we must endure open gun play?

Where is the police? I know it is 2026 and election year. I think it is time to send a clear signal to our elected officials. Do something about the situation in our core or resign.

I called my local rep... Not one call back. What kind of representation is this.

I called the police to speak about someone on this issue. They wipe their hands on the politicians. I called the Mayor. Two weeks ago. No reply.

We the people are left in a dangerous situation. We can't walk in our parks. Those elected have to go. We can't afford another four years of this.

**Lucille Blankership, Oshawa**

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