

OPINION  
& EDITORIALS

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The CENTRAL NEWSPAPER

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## Liberals vote against food affordability...

Back in the autumn of 2023, Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne said, “What we are offering Canadians is a plan for more competition, less consolidation and lower prices.” Well, after skyrocketing prices at the grocery store, the Liberals offered a one-time rebate financed by yet more debt that had made everything more expensive in the first place. Since then, far from lowering prices, the cost at the grocery till has only gotten worse. The price of peppers has soared 43 per cent while lettuce, tomatoes and cucumbers – all grown in Canada – have surged almost 40 per cent, 20 per cent and over 17 per cent, respectively. It’s not just what’s grown in our soil that’s increased, as fresh or frozen beef has jumped 27 per cent, while all non-poultry fresh or frozen meats increased by almost 22 per cent. Meat overall increased by almost 12 per cent, with ham and pork up over 10 per cent since Champagne’s announcement. These rising costs all add up to the highest food inflation in the G7, and double the rate in the U.S. Carney is now reheating his predecessor’s leftovers by rebranding the existing GST credit and providing a one-time top-up of less than \$5 a week for just over a quarter of Canadians. That’s little comfort for families who will be paying an average of \$17,600 this year on groceries, almost \$1,000 more than last year, according to the 2026 Food Price Report. During this Liberal cost-of-living crisis, the Official Opposition in Ottawa pledged to work with the government to help expedite Bill C-19, which will deliver a limited boost to the GST credit. But, as one might expect, the Liberals decided to play party politics by voting against a proposed ‘Food Affordability Plan’ that would have delivered grocery affordability for all Canadians. Instead of working together with the opposition parties to make life affordable, Mark Carney chose instead to blame them for the Liberal policies that have delivered this made-in-Canada food inflation in the first place. While Canadians continue paying higher prices at the grocery till - and record line-ups at food banks continue to increase – the Liberals offer plenty of resounding speeches with no concrete measures. The time for political gamesmanship is over. We need to solve the food affordability crisis in this country right now.

## Carney’s GST credit - new name, same flawed strategy...

Parliamentarians in Ottawa have voted to accelerate Bill C-19, the Carney Liberals’ new package of so-called “affordability measures” which includes a 25 per cent increase to the federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) credit, along with a one-time additional GST payment this year to individual Canadians. Recent polling reveals that no less than 67 per cent of respondents feel the cost of living is, “the worst I can ever remember it being” however, simply rehashing the same flawed strategy introduced by the previous Trudeau Liberals is the wrong approach. Millions of Canadians receive a GST cash payment, which the Carney Liberals have renamed the “Canada Groceries and Essentials Benefit” in an effort to offset how much we pay in GST. To qualify for the payment you must first meet the government’s definition of low-income and be at least 19 years old. Due to the Carney government’s 25 per cent increase and one-time payment, a family of four could now receive up to \$1,890 this year while a single individual could now receive up to \$950. Despite the new name given to the GST credit, Mark Carney is following the same strategy as Justin Trudeau when attempting to tackle affordability. In 2022, the Liberals sought to reduce the effects of inflation by literally doubling the GST credit for six months. In 2024, they suspended the GST on certain items for a period of two months, and even proposed handing out one-time rebate cheques of \$250, although that never actually happened. Those so-called rebate cheques would have been sent to individuals in this country who didn’t need it. As an example, the Trudeau government’s plan would have sent rebate cheques to working Canadians who earn up to \$150,000 per year. Not much hardship there. Regarding the GST credit, according to a 2021 study, more than one in 10 people (1.2 million) who received the credit were between the ages of 18 and 24 and living with their parents in households with total income of at least \$100,000. Of these individuals, more than 70 per cent were in school. In other words, approximately \$340 million in GST credits were spent on young people who work part-time, go to school and live in high-income households. The Carney Liberals’ proposed increase to the GST credit will cost approximately \$3 billion this year and around \$1 billion annually in subsequent years, and it does nothing to correct the targeting problem. Simply put, the government will spend millions of taxpayer dollars on individuals in higher-income households that don’t need the money. To best help Canadians in need, the government should forge a different policy approach than its predecessor, not rehash the same failed strategies under a new name. Will the Liberals ever get anything right?

## Crime in Oshawa...

The Durham Regional Police Service does not release a public crime tally based on actual neighborhoods, however, crime in the city of Oshawa is nevertheless concentrated in specific pockets. Based on 2025 and 2026 reporting, our downtown remains the primary hub for demands on the police, which should come as no surprise given the number of unhoused people with addiction and mental health issues who are literally living (and dying) on the streets. Certain pockets in north Oshawa have recently seen an increase in violent crime and have even been the focus of major drug trafficking investigations (e.g., Project Verona) involving fentanyl and cocaine. The ‘Eastdale’ neighbourhood, in the area of Harmony Rd N & Adelaide Ave E has an estimated total crime rate of 1,487 per 100,000 people, which is significantly lower than the Ontario average of 3,086. However, it remains a notable area for both property and occasional violent crime. Although Oshawa represents only 24% of Durham Region’s population, it accounts for nearly double that share in police activity. Perhaps it’s time for new leadership and a new set of councillors at both Oshawa city hall and the Region of Durham.

## Letters To The Editor:

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

Dear Editor:

This letter is now in the hands of 342 Members of our federal Parliament, including 117 rookies. Poking around the internet looking for that illusive and sacred truth has become a time-consuming exercise in futility. Social media and talk-show hosts have become very popular while our WOKE politicians and a confused judiciary are fully engaged fragmenting and re-defining our country. Carney’s new world order is slowly coming into focus. As a long-time banker he knows money, but policy and direction is still in a dense fog, arbitrarily awarding a bunch of non-Indigenous people VETO powers over land use and resource development is simply incomprehensible. Land ownership should be on top of the page. Ownership must be ‘cut in stone’, as it is the very foundation, we absolutely MUST HAVE to stabilize our already fragile financial, socio-economic, and political environments. Today the doors are wide-open for big multi-national corporations to scoop our precious and over-priced housing properties, making home ownership for Canadian middle-class workers completely out of reach. Huge global corporations have been busy buying our land and housing properties, while Trudeau was busy transforming Canada into a world class refugee camp. Economic immigrants we desperately needed to grow our economy are leaving through our back doors. About 1.25 million TFWs are taking their jobs, and more than half-a-million people are collecting EI. Total aggregate federal and provincial overspending for 2025 – 2026 alone is projected to be in excess of 113 billion dollars, while about 80% of so-called Indigenous residents still rely on social assistance. The Chiefs are getting the bulk of our resource royalties we need to build municipal, provincial, and federal infrastructure . Our colonial political system has left the doors wide open for radical changes in ownership of our land, and the destruction of our working middle class. Without the land, and the people to work it, we are truly screwed. We will all be tenants. We are well on our way. A Proportional ballot is the only ‘weapon’ that completely destroys that incredible lock our Premier David Eby has on the BC Legislature. Adopting, implementing, and using a Proportional ballot to pass legislation will require the support of at least 50% of all eligible voters, not 5%, and nobody will have VETO powers. Without that ballot we can kiss Canada as we know it good bye, and follow the US and the UK down that ugly colonial political sewer. The Eby’s and the Carneys of the world do not want to perform their electoral mandate to govern, they want to Rule, and Carney wants a mandate to bury that truth we so desperately need to have closure on reconciliation. Andy Thomsen.

Dear Editor:

Nuclear reactors are the highest cost option to meet Ontario’s electricity needs – up to 10 times higher than energy efficiency, and 2 to 8 times higher than new wind and solar energy. They are also far too slow. According to OPG, these new nuclear reactors would not come online until 2040 – 2048. That means more than 20 years of construction, cost overruns, and continued reliance on polluting gas. By contrast, new wind and solar projects can be built in 6 months – 2 years, reducing emissions and lowering bills quickly. A Risky Dependence on Foreign Fuel: To make matters worse, OPG is considering purchasing American-designed reactors from GE-Hitachi or Westinghouse. These reactors would require Ontario to import enriched uranium from the United States to fuel them. Does that seem like a good idea given the current political craziness unfolding south of the border? The Better Alternative: OPG’s proposal fails to examine crucial alternatives. Could Ontario meet its electricity needs more cheaply, more quickly, and more safely by investing in energy efficiency, wind power, solar energy, and energy storage (such as batteries and compressed air storage)? This is a question that the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) must examine during its mandatory review. That will only happen if the public demands it. What you can do: Ask the IAAC to direct OPG to evaluate whether energy efficiency, renewables, and energy storage are lower-cost, faster, safer, and more secure ways to meet Ontario’s electricity needs than building a massive new nuclear station at Port Hope. Learn more about the issue, how the assessment process works, and how you can have a real impact. Featuring Theresa McClenaghan, Canadian Environmental Law Association, and Jack Gibbons, Ontario Clean Air Alliance. Ontario is at a crossroads. The world is moving rapidly toward affordable, renewable energy – why should Ontarians be locked into the most expensive option for decades to come? Thank you for taking the time to speak up. Your voice truly matters. -Angela Bischoff

Dear Editor:

Hello Oshawa...this post is to make everyone aware of the Alano Club, 200 Thornton Road North. The Alano Club of Oshawa houses AA meetings. Every Thursday afternoon from 1 pm until 4 pm the Chalk Lake Station Band plays for your listening and/or dancing pleasure. We play country, bluegrass and some folk/popular type music. There is no admittance charge only a free will offering with all donations going to the upkeep of the hall....the band plays for free. There is free coffee available, washroom on the main floor, and a ramp which makes the hall handi cap accessible. The audience is most welcoming and friendly and the atmosphere always jovial. If you are looking for some fun on a Thursday afternoon, come join us and hopefully you will come back and bring a friend. Every one is welcome.

Dear Editor:

I live in Pickering. I keep reading in this newspaper all the incidents happening in our malls and our schools. I am worried for my teen kids going to high school. It is becoming more and more dangerous. We can’t go to a mall in fear of some 14, 15 year old punk pulling a gun and attempting to rob someone. This is not right. The police have to take a more pro-active roll in high traffic areas. I think the laws should be changed to punish the parents of those under age kids committing these crimes. Your child. Your responsibility. No under age kid should be in possession of a gun. No child should be committing any crime. Heather Atwood, Pickering

