

OPINION
& EDITORIALS



The CENTRAL NEWSPAPER

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Well Written, Well Read - Time Tested And Proven - #1 Newspaper Across Durham Region - Supporting Local Businesses

Let’s look at the rising cost of groceries for a moment...

We can all stop wondering whether we’re reading grocery price stickers correctly, because food prices are still rising and the most recent StatsCan data on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) confirms it. What we have long experienced in sticker shock is now plain for all to see - grocery prices have exceeded overall inflation for nine consecutive months, with food now costing around 4 per cent more year-over-year. No wonder 1 in 5 Canadians are skipping bills just to buy their weekly groceries. Prime Minister Mark Carney once said we should judge him, in part, by prices at the grocery store, however the CPI figures paint a damning picture. Food prices are rising faster today than when he became Prime Minister, and the latest data is no comfort for those who are struggling to make ends meet amidst inflation and Liberal Party mismanagement. The fine print is no better. For many young parents, infant formula is a basic necessity that now costs 5.9 per cent more than last year after climbing by over 80 per cent since 2017. The situation has gotten so desperate that formula has become one of the most stolen food products in Canada - something that should be unimaginable in a G7 country. To make matters even worse, roasted and ground coffee is up by an astounding 34 per cent. Fruit and vegetable prices are also rising, with oranges and apples up 7.2 and 4.2 per cent respectively, while fruit juices are up 7.3 per cent and carrots 11 per cent year-over-year. Canadians are also paying more for the poultry, meat and seafood that were once staples in our homes. Fresh or frozen chicken is up 6.2 per cent, while seafood and other marine products are up 8 per cent. The price of meat has soared by 8.4 per cent and fresh and frozen beef has risen by an astonishing 16.8 per cent. Overall, food inflation is still higher than the Bank of Canada’s target, forcing Canadians to make tough choices on how to eat, heat and house themselves. There is a better way. This newspaper calls on the federal government to scrap the industrial carbon tax on fertilizer and farm equipment, the 17 cent per litre fuel standard on gas and diesel, and the billion-dollar food packaging tax - all hidden taxes that drive up the cost of food. Sadly, the Carney government has already rejected this common sense idea. We just can’t afford more of the same.

Canada desperately needs an east-west pipeline...

The need for a Canadian east-west pipeline has never been more apparent than right now. We desperately need to focus on strengthening our energy security and independence while diversifying our export markets beyond the United States. Why? Simply put, it would help drive our national economic growth at a time when our country is borrowing money just to keep the lights on. An east-west pipeline would ensure ongoing access to Canadian oil and gas for homes and businesses from coast to coast, reducing the current reliance on oil imported from the U.S. or overseas. Did you know that we currently send the vast majority (around 97%) of our oil exports south of the border, which leaves us vulnerable to policy shifts in Washington? There’s no denying a pipeline to the East Coast would open up access to new international markets in Europe, and a potential northern B.C. pipeline to the West Coast would facilitate access to Asia, allowing us to achieve world market prices. A new pipeline of this magnitude would be a powerful nation-building project, one that would create thousands of new jobs across our country while generating significant tax revenue and royalties that would benefit all provinces. The facts speak for themselves, as pipelines are widely considered the safest and most cost-effective way to transport large volumes of fuel. Nevertheless, they remain a subject of significant political debate, with heightened inter-provincial feuding and ongoing discussions between the federal government, Alberta, and Saskatchewan to somehow advance energy corridor projects. Here in Ontario, the Ford government recently launched a feasibility study to explore the practicality and benefits of an east-west pipeline and energy corridor. It’s a shame these types of projects still face substantial opposition from environmental groups and some First Nations. Previous large-scale proposals like the Energy East project were cancelled due to a combination of economic factors and regulatory uncertainty, which continues to pose challenges for new projects. The push for an east-west pipeline still continues, however, in spite of the many challenges ahead. Let us hope this form of nation-building succeeds against all odds.

The Liberals’ inaction on the issue of extortion...

For the last 10 years our federal government has been playing politics when Canadian lives are at stake. The issue of extortion is a growing concern in parts of this country, and it’s up a whopping 330 per cent as soft-on-crime, catch-and-release laws continue to unleash a crime wave that no-one deserves. It’s been a fundamental failure of governance to allow extortion to not only flourish, but to grow at such an exponential rate. The reality is families are being shattered, and some communities are now living in a state of heightened anxiety. Every morning, we hear devastating headlines of broad daylight shootings, extortion calls, and families waking up to hear that if they don’t pay millions of dollars, their kids and their homes will be attacked. These extortionists are targeting businesses, they’re targeting people’s homes, and they’re targeting media outlets. Recently, we’ve even heard of them targeting lawyers. In fact, we’ve had over a hundred reported cases of extortion in Surrey, British Columbia so far this year, and there are countless others that go unreported. This is a crisis that our federal government needs to deal with. Many people are frightened, and they want action after the Liberals have repeatedly failed to keep them safe. Real solutions include mandatory minimum sentences of at least three years for anybody convicted of extortion, four years if you’re convicted using a firearm, and five years if you were convicted in the case of organized crime. But instead of taking real measures to stop extortion, the Liberals oppose stronger self-defence laws and block changes that would finally kick out non-citizens convicted of serious crimes. They talk about supporting the RCMP, but the hapless Minister for Public Safety hasn’t hired a single new officer - and even says it’s not his job to do so. The Liberals have let 18,000 known criminals with convictions into our country with their reckless open-border immigration policies without doing any background checks. While Mark Carney was in British Columbia, he took a stroll on the White Rock Pier instead of doing something productive, like meeting with victims, families, business owners and law enforcement. He didn’t have the decency to show up and stand up for communities that are crying out for help. It’s time for our federal government to take a serious look at changing some of the existing laws in this country that are failing to protect our citizens against these crimes.

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:

Doug Ford and the Ontario PCs promised to fix the mess left behind by the Kathleen Wynne Liberals — especially in our schools. But a recent study from the Fraser Institute has confirmed what parents already know: the PCs’ changes to Ontario’s Grades 1–12 curriculum maintain and even strengthen emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). After all the PCs’ talk in 2018 about “respecting parents” and “focusing on fundamentals,” the study found that:

- Ontario’s curriculum continues to push a social agenda through “equity and inclusion” themes and “culturally responsive teaching.”
- The sexual education component of the Grade 7 and 8 Health & Physical Education curriculum covers not just anatomy and reproduction, but “gender identity,” “sexual orientation,” and inclusion of “diverse” family types and orientations.
- Social Studies and History lessons have become vehicles for activism and political messaging, not critical thinking. Students are encouraged to view the past and present primarily through lenses of oppression, privilege, and activism.
- The new math program still mixes lessons on racial equity and emotional awareness instead of sticking to core numeracy skills.

In other words — the Ford PCs didn’t change the direction of Ontario’s education system. They kept the Wynne Liberals’ curriculum almost entirely intact, with new layers of bureaucracy and buzzwords added for good measure. The result? Ontario students continue to fall behind in literacy and math while classrooms focus more on ideology than education. The Doug Ford PCs have failed blue voters for seven years and will continue to do so, since the Ontario PC Party is run top-down like a dictatorship. There is no room for dissent. No input from the members.

Annie Nolan

Dear Editor:

Please consider the following article for publication in your community section:

A Disgraceful Display: The UN Has No Place at Our Remembrance Day Ceremony

At this year’s Remembrance Day parade in Oshawa, I couldn’t help but notice a shocking and deeply disrespectful sight — a United Nations flag flown front and center, and a UN-marked military vehicle rolling through the procession. I was born and raised in Oshawa. My grandfather fought for Canada in the Second World War, and other members of my family served in the First. They fought for a free and sovereign Canada — not for a future where unelected global bureaucrats and political institutions like the United Nations are elevated alongside our flag. The UN is no longer simply the peacekeeping body of the past. Today it advances global frameworks that can override or sideline national decision-making. For example: UNDRIP Controversy: Canada initially voted against the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in 2007 because parts were considered “incompatible with Canada’s constitutional order.” (LawNow.org) Shift to Full Support: In 2016, Canada removed its objections and endorsed UNDRIP, aligning with a global framework originally treated as aspirational due to sovereignty concerns. Global Agenda vs. National Sovereignty: Experts note that the UN often promotes frameworks and policies that bypass elected governments, diluting national authority over domestic policy. (OpenCanada.org) Remembrance Day is sacred. It exists to honour those who sacrificed their lives for Canada’s independence, democracy, and freedom — not to provide a platform for the symbolism of the United Nations, Britain, France, or any other global institution. The only acceptable symbols on this day are Canadian and American, reflecting the two nations that stood shoulder to shoulder in the world’s major conflicts, united in defence of liberty. When the UN flag is raised beside ours on Remembrance Day, it sends a dangerous message: that Canada’s sacrifices now serve global interests, not our own. That is not remembrance. That is submission. Those responsible for this display owe the veterans of Canada — and every family who has lost someone in service — an apology. Future ceremonies must remain Canadian in focus, Canadian in meaning, and Canadian in symbol — honouring those who fought for our flag, our freedom, and our country alone. Our soldiers deserve better. Our veterans deserve better. And Canada deserves leaders who will defend our sovereignty, not trade it away.

Ryan James Larche

Dear Editor:

I am writing to formally demand urgent and decisive action regarding repeated reports of animal abuse involving a dog named Shadow, currently residing at 1050 Simcoe Street South, Unit 42, Oshawa, Ontario, under the care of individuals Kyle and Andrew Lyman. It has come to my attention that multiple reports have been made regarding the mistreatment and abuse of Shadow, yet no effective intervention appears to have occurred to date. This lack of action is deeply troubling. Despite the absence of video footage, consistent reports from witnesses and concerned community members strongly indicate a pattern of abuse that warrants a thorough and immediate investigation. Excuses referencing the alleged behavioral issues of the individuals involved—regardless of any medical or developmental conditions—must not be used to justify or excuse acts of cruelty toward an animal. I have been made aware that multiple witnesses to the incident—where a dog was allegedly kicked and punched—have already provided statements to police. In my experience, written witness statements are typically sufficient grounds to lay charges in such matters. Therefore, I am concerned and confused as to why video evidence is now being demanded before any action is taken. It raises the question of whether this case is being treated with the seriousness it deserves. I recently saw a post by Durham Police on social media regarding a deceased dog found in a suitcase, and it is deeply troubling to think that meaningful action may only occur once a tragedy has already happened. What has happened to proactive policing, especially when it comes to protecting those who have no voice and depend entirely on humans for their safety and well-being? I urge Durham Police to take immediate and decisive action in this matter before it escalates further. Under the Ontario Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019 (OAWSA), it is a legal and moral obligation of the authorities to investigate and act upon credible allegations of animal abuse. The OAWSA explicitly prohibits causing or permitting distress to an animal and includes provisions for intervention where there is reasonable cause to suspect that an animal is in distress or at risk. These legal protections apply regardless of who the perpetrator is. Furthermore, under Section 15 of the Act, inspectors and police officers are authorized and required to take necessary actions, including entering a premises, seizing animals in distress, and laying charges where appropriate. Failure to enforce these laws represents a failure of duty on the part of law enforcement and animal protection services. I respectfully, but firmly, urge the Durham Regional Police Service to: Reopen and fully investigate the reports of abuse involving Shadow the dog; Coordinate with Ontario Animal Welfare Services to conduct a welfare check and ensure the safety of the animal; Hold the responsible individuals accountable in accordance with OAWSA and the Criminal Code of Canada, Section 445.1, which further criminalizes willful animal cruelty. It is wholly unacceptable for a vulnerable animal to remain in a dangerous environment due to inaction or misinterpretation of the law. This is not merely a community concern—it is a legal and ethical failure that must be addressed immediately. Please confirm receipt of this email and inform me of the actions your department intends to take.

Respectfully, Harpreet Kaur