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PM Trudeau, time to show us your cards

Canada's National Observer columnist Max Fawcett's recent piece on the Trudeau Liberals' discussion paper for a proposed oil and gas emissions cap drew some interesting comments from industry on the difficulty of meeting the government's targets. Fawcett summarizes, "They can't afford to reduce their emissions as quickly as the federal government would like - and might not be able to do it at all."

Of course, that was clear right from the start when the federal government's recent much-ballyhooed 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan assumed a 31 per cent reduction from 2005 levels for the oil and gas sector by 2030. That required a reduction of almost 45 per cent in just eight years from today (pre-pandemic 2019, we were 19 per cent above the 2005 level).

Who would think that was possible? I'd suggest nobody, including the government. But to meet our PM's latest COP26 promises, that's the kind of number that was necessary for the arithmetic to work.

A close reading of the discussion paper on the oil and gas emissions cap also raises a fundamental question about the future of Canada's refining industry, a subsector of oil and gas that doesn't get much attention. Refining makes up 10 per cent of our national oil and gas sector's GHG emissions, the paper points out. And it raises questions about whether the cap on emissions will apply to refining as well as actual oil and gas production.

If refineries are included, this could spark some companies shut down a refinery to avoid dealing with the difficulties of having to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from oil sands production. So a refinery in Ontario or Quebec could be sacrificed to avoid dealing with oil sands emissions, a much harder venture, Suncor and Imperial Oil would be perfectly poised to do just that because they have large bitumen mining operations and also own refineries in Eastern Canada.

Shutting refineries sounds bad, doesn't it? Think of the job losses, you might say. But aren't we supposed to be reducing our demand for gasoline and diesel as part of this whole green shift? No company that owns refineries is going to invest hundreds of millions or billions in a refinery only to be shuttered a few years later when demand tapers out.

The way a company avoids those costs is to shut down a refinery before an investment is required and import the gasoline, diesel and other products it needs for sale and no longer produces.

There are precedents for exactly this - for example, in 2003, Petro-Canada shut down its Oakville operation to avoid investing for an impending low sulphur gasoline regulation. We've



been closing our refineries in Eastern Canada for decades while increasing petroleum product imports, most recently, Imperial's Dartmouth refinery in 2013 and before that, Shell's Montreal refinery in 2010.

The government owes the public and industry an outlook on how far demand for petroleum products like gasoline and diesel is going to disappear in this country because this drop in demand determines how soon refineries will start disappearing to avoid large investments with short lives, particularly in Eastern Canada where it's easier to import than the Prairies.

All of this has implications for a very hot issue right now. And that's Enbridge's Line 5.

The state of Michigan wants to shut down Line 5 because it has safety concerns about the 69-year-old line and Canada is arguing the line must remain open. One reason we care about Line 5's existence here in Canada is this 540,000 barrel-a-day pipeline feeds Canadian and U.S. light crude to refineries in Ontario and Quebec. If our GHG reduction plan necessitates closing refineries in Ontario and Quebec, the rationale for keeping Line 5 open completely shifts.

Canada is in the throes of a serious labour shortage, but economists say it's not all the pandemic's fault - it's the inevitable culmination of a seismic demographic shift decades in the making.

"It's the slowest-moving train on the planet. It was predictable 60 to 65 years ago, and we have done nothing about it," said Amine Yalnizyan, an economist and Atkinson Fellow on the Future of Workers. "We knew this transition was going to happen."

The numbers behind all these help wanted signs are startling.

According to Statistics Canada, the unemployment-to-job vacancy ratio - a key measure comparing the number of Canadians looking for work to the number of available jobs - is currently hovering at a historic low in every province. In fact, the ratio is significantly lower now than it was before the COVID-19 pandemic began.

The reason isn't that there are fewer jobs opening up - remember the help wanted signs? It's that there are fewer workers available to fill them. And the reason for that, economists say, can be traced back to the post-war baby boom.

Not enough replacements.

While those 55 and older have been steadily exiting the Canadian workforce - an exodus that some economists believe was accelerated by the pandemic, as many older workers opted for early retirement - there simply aren't enough younger workers to replace them.

In fact, participation in the workforce among those ages 25-54 approached 88 per cent in May, up more than one percentage point from

Where have all the workers gone? Don't blame COVID, economists say

February 2020, before the pandemic had taken hold in Canada.

"That's what happens when a baby boom finally starts exiting from stage left, and there's not enough people entering from stage right," Yalnizyan said. "We've actually got a higher share of the working-age population working than ever."

That contradicts the theory that some sort of "great resignation" among working-age Canadians, many of whom took advantage of pandemic income supports, is to blame for all those job vacancies, according to Ian Lee, associate professor at Carleton University's Sprott School of Business.

"I just found that very suspicious because unless you're independently wealthy... most of us have to have

According to Statistics Canada, that has led to virtually unprecedented labour shortages across nearly every employment sector.

In particular, the construction and manufacturing sectors are having a difficult time recruiting skilled workers, followed closely by accommodation and food services, which includes hotels, restaurants and bars.

"People are finding other places to work. There just aren't enough people willing to do poorly paid jobs that are marginal at best," Yalnizyan noted.

"Workers have a lot more choices now," Lee agreed. "If you have more choices and you don't have to work in that industry, you'll go and work in an industry where there's a better career stream and where the wages are higher and the hours are more predictable."

That could force employers in certain industries to raise wages, Lee said.

"I'm not suggesting that the demand for those jobs is going to go away. It's not," he said. "It suggests to me that we're going to see some pretty serious wage inflation in these industries over the years ahead."

Wages predicted to rise.

According to Yalnizyan, this competitive new environment means employers in certain sectors will need

to raise wages if they hope to retain skilled workers.

"We are losing people who are trained as early childhood educators because we won't pay them more than we pay pet groomers. Well why would they stay if they can get a better job in some other sector?"

That's borne out by Statistics Canada data showing the reservation wage - the minimum hourly rate at which job seekers are willing to accept a position - surpassing the current offered wage in nearly every sector, whereas Canadian workers have historically been willing to settle for less.

Economists believe there are other possible outcomes - increasing automation to fill the vacuum left by the labour shortage, for one. Some industries could also bring in more temporary foreign workers to help fill gaps at the lower end of the labour market, potentially blunting the gains made by domestic workers.

But Yalnizyan said rising wages could help erase some of the inequalities caused by a labour market that has for years paid some workers well and others poorly.

"If we actually improve wages and working conditions, particularly at the bottom, we could be creating the conditions for making a more resilient middle class that can actually afford to buy stuff. That's what we've been missing out on for quite a while now," she said.

"Population aging can be our friend, not our enemy. But we have to treat it as something more than just a labour shortage for business. We have to treat it as an opportunity to make every job a good job."



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Passport progress: Canada rolls out new website to track delays

"It's useless information to me," says one Windsorer stuck in line, outside waiting on the street to get into the CBC building downtown.

Fawzi Qaisi, who has spent the last week getting his application organized, needs a new passport to go on a trip to Ohio.

CTV News asked him about a new Passport Canada website, which outlines the number of passports issued in the previous week, how much overtime staff are working and how many new employees were hired by the agency.

"That's great, but when you can't get an appointment to get your passport, it's useless information to me," says Qaisi.

The most recent data is for the week of July 11-17.

It indicates, more than 48,000 passports were issued across Canada, more than 7,000 hours of overtime were worked and 50 new employees were hired, to try to tackle the passport backlog.



Ed Zasko needs a new passport because his was recently stolen and he wants to make sure his old one is cancelled and a new one issued. He braved the line Monday because calling Passport Canada didn't fix the situation.

later nobody's still answering? That's ridiculous."

Passport Canada also has a website dedicated to wait times.

Connor Bondy could have spared himself time off work with that website, after being turned away last week at the Windsor office.

"We came with two hours left at two o'clock because it closes at four but we got sent home saying that we won't have enough time," Bondy tells CTV News.

He took another day off work Monday just to get his passport application processed, in advance of a planned trip to Mexico in November.

"I knew this was gonna be like a big time waster so I came here bright and early," says Bondy.

Also in the crowd, Avleen Bath and her family.

"We were at Service Canada, and we were waiting for like an hour. And then they couldn't help us. So we came here (to CBC building)," says Bath.

Her brother needs a new passport in time for a planned trip to Mexico in November.

Travelers who need are in urgent need of a passport will have to prove they need the document soon and will face additional fees.

Ontario town still recovering from ransomware attack

A small Ontario town is in the fifth day of dealing with a ransomware attack that has encrypted data.

St. Marys, Ont., a town of about 7,500 just over an hour and a half drive north-west of Toronto, says critical municipal services, including fire, police, transit, and water/wastewater systems were unaffected by the incident and are operating as usual. Municipal staff are performing their regular duties and are available by phone, email or in person at town facilities.

Brett Kitterer, the town's chief administrative officer, said it was hit by the LockBit 3.0 ransomware.

Work to restore services is going well, he said in an interview this morning.

"We are 80 per cent operational," he said, with hopes that all data will be recovered from backups by the end of the week. "Internal staff are working away mostly normally."

No ransom demand has been received by the municipality. However, the LockBit gang has posted a letter it claims to be from the data it copied as proof of theft.

The municipality is still trying to determine if any personally identifiable

data was copied.

"A number of our staff have put in incredible hours to the issue," Kitterer said, "but we're taking some very positive steps."

"The public likely never saw a significant impact to their services," he said. "Our critical services like fire, utilities, police were always operational. Even our other services like recreation were operational."

Kitterer said the town will hire a fire safety firm to do a full diagnostic of the IT environment to determine how it was infected and how the municipality can better protect itself.

Last fall, a special expert panel looking into the cybersecurity problems of Ontario's broader public sector, which includes municipalities, universities, and hospitals, issued an interim recommendation to the province on helping institutions deal with ransomware.

The final report is in the hands of the government.

According to researchers at Sentinel Labs, LockBit 3.0 ransomware is an evolution of the prolific LockBit malware-as-a-service (RaaS) family,

which has roots that extend back to BlackMatter and related entities.

After critical bugs were discovered in LockBit 2.0 in March, the strain's authors began updating their encryption routines and adding several new features designed to thwart researchers.

Other new capabilities include new management features for affiliates and the ability for victims to pay with Zcash as well as Monero and Bitcoin.

It also announced it would pay a "bug bounty" to anyone finding flaws in its code.

Kitterer said the attack was discovered by IT staff on July 20th.

"We noticed an issue with an external piece of software we use. They logged in to check it and immediately got what we call the screen of death [the ransomware declaration]."

"We were able to pull our servers offline. We believe that was an instrumental step to limiting the impact of this attack."

As IT began to diagnose the issue, they realized that servers that held some of the data devices were encrypted.

It is still trying to determine if there was personal information on those drives. At the moment Kitterer

believes most of it would be information that a member of the public could get through a freedom of information request - "run of the mill data that a municipality needs for their day-to-day administration."

The municipality said in a statement on its website that IT locked down the Town's IT systems and restricted access to email. The town also notified its legal counsel, the Stratford Police Service and the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security.

The town is now working with cyber incident response experts to investigate the source of the incident, restore its backup data, and assess the impact on its information, if any.

These experts are also assisting staff as they work to fully unlock and decrypt the Town's systems, a process, the municipality admits, that could take days.

"We have a skilled and knowledgeable team of Town staff, cyber security experts, and legal counsel working around the clock to resolve any issues related to this incident," Mayor Al Strathdee, said in a statement. "I have full confidence in our team and want to assure the public that protecting their privacy is our top priority."

Governments are a prime target for threat actors, who believe they are vulnerable to financial demands because they provide many essential services.

Items such as clothing or bed sheets that have made contact with an infected person.

Symptoms can present anywhere between five to 21 days after exposure.

Infected persons can remain contagious through skin contact for up to four weeks.

Ontario is now testing anyone who shows up to a healthcare provider or emergency room with an "unexplained acute rash or lesions."

Federal guidelines indicate the smallpox vaccine is most effective if administered within four days of exposure to a case, but can help if administered up to 14 days after exposure.

The City of Toronto continues to offer the Invivance smallpox vaccine to people considered to be at high risk of exposure.

There is also a therapeutic known as TPOXX which has shown to be helpful in cases where patients suffered severe complications from infection.

The World Health Organization (WHO) now says it is aware of 15,734 confirmed cases of monkeypox in 59 countries around the world, including three deaths.

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) says it is aware of 681 confirmed cases across Canada, with most in Ontario and Quebec.

Ontario reports 58 new monkeypox cases in past 3 days

Ontario says its total confirmed count of monkeypox cases increased by 58 since Tuesday, with hospitals admitting a second infected person into an ICU.

The number of confirmed cases is up by about 20 per cent since Tuesday.

There are now 288 confirmed cases of the infection in Ontario, up from 230 on July 19, 156 on July 14 and 133 on July 11.

Public Health Ontario says there remains only one confirmed case in a female, with all other cases in males.

More than 76 per cent (220) of the cases involve residents of Toronto.

There are nine other probable cases still under investigation, including two in adult females.

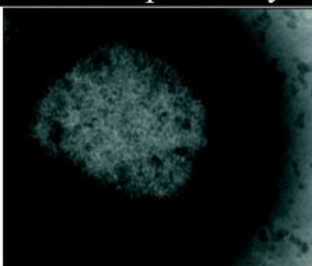
Since Tuesday, health officials say a second person admitted to hospital for monkeypox has required transfer to the ICU.

There have been a total of nine hospitalizations and two ICU admissions related to monkeypox in Ontario to date.

Across the province, Hamilton is reporting seven total cases, Halton is reporting eight, Middlesex-London has reported 10 to date and Ottawa has reported 21.

No deaths have been reported in Ontario.

The most commonly reported symptoms include rash, oral/genital lesions, swollen lymph nodes,



headache, fever, chills, myalgia and fatigue.

Monkeypox typically spreads through sustained close contact between people breathing, talking, coughing or sneezing.

It can also spread through skin-to-skin contact with rashes or bodily fluids and can also remain on

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Arjun Kapoor says Ranveer Singh should be allowed 'to be himself' when reacting to his nude photoshoot: 'Koi dikhawa nahi hai unmein'

Ranveer Singh practically broke the internet earlier this week. The actor, who was last seen in Jayeshbhai Jordaar, posed naked for Paper magazine and the photos went viral on the internet. While many praised the actor for his bold move, many trolled him. But, his best friend Arjun Kapoor is praising him and said he should be allowed to be himself.



The Ek Villain Returns actor was at a promotional event when asked about his reaction to Ranveer Singh's nude photoshoot. "The thing is, you should be allowed to be yourself. He is that way. Mujhe nahi lagta Ranveer Singh kabhi khisi cheez karke hai without being himself. Koi dikhawa nahi hai humein. Aap unhe 10-12 sal se dekhte hain ha," Arjun said. "When he comes in, there's warmth, there's energy, there's energy. Woh unki personality ka extension hai. Unki marzi hai, unka social media. Unhe shaki lagta hai uski waqt to be in that way that he wants to be. He wants to celebrate being comfortable in his own skin. I think we should respect that. Having an opinion is fair. I think trolls ko importance deni hi nahi chahiye kyunki mein because kuch toh lag kahenge, unka karm hai karna. Aapko jo cheez lagta hai, apko karm chahiye," he added. "And full credit to the boy if he is very happy doing what he is doing. If he is not being forced into it, and it's not being done in a wrong way or crude way, we should respect that. He's allowed to do what he wants to do and be happy, and that makes people happy by doing that," he said. Starring John Abraham, Arjun Kapoor, Disha Patani, and Tara Sutaria, Ek Villain Returns will release worldwide on 29th July 2022. The movie is directed by Mohit Suri and jointly produced by T-Series and Balaji Telefilms.

Anil Kapoor: Ranbir can portray finer nuances effectively

The first few days of a shoot are perhaps the most exciting for actors as they step into a different world and embrace new characters. Anil Kapoor admits it's thrilling to join the shoot of Animal. While Ranbir Kapoor, Bobby Deol and Radhika Mandarava began filming Sandeep Reddy Vanga's directorial venture earlier this year, Anil joined the unit on July 20 in Mumbai. Today, the cast and crew head to Delhi to kick off an extensive schedule of the crime drama that apparently sees the senior actor in a gray role. Probe him about the part, and he keeps his cards close to his chest. "All I can say is that it's an unusual and interesting role. I was looking forward to working with Sandeep as I liked Kabir Singh [2019]. I liked the story that Sandeep narrated to me, and I was sure that I wanted to be part of the film," he smiles. In the crime drama, Anil plays a strict father to Ranbir's gangster son. The senior actor had worked with the late Rishi Kapoor in many movies, including Garuda (1993) and Karobar (2000). Teaming up with his late actor-friend's son is a delight. "Ranbir is a talented, hard-working actor who can portray the finer nuances of every role effectively. I am working with the younger generation - Hrithik Roshan in Fighter, Aditya Roy Kapur in Captain, Ranbir in Animal and Harshvardhan in Bindaas. It's one of the best phases for me," he says, adding that he will sport a different look in the movie.

Pakistan find late wickets after Chandimal helps Sri Lanka past 300 on Day 1 of 2nd Test

Dinesh Chandimal struck his fourth successive half-century to drive Sri Lanka's total before Pakistan hit back with late wickets on Sunday's opening day of the second Test at Galle.



Chandimal, who hit 80, put on key partnerships including a 75-run fourth-wicket stand with Angelo Mathews, who fell short of fifty in his landmark 100th Test. Sri Lanka reached 315 for six when he had little stopped play for the day, with the hosts electing to bat first in their bid to bounce back from an opening loss in the two-match series. Wicketkeeper-batsman Niroshan Dickwella, on 42, and debutant Dimuth Theroththilaka, on six, were batting after pace bowler Naseem Shah struck with the second new ball. Naseem bowled Chandimal for 56, while left-arm spinner Mubhammad Nawaz stood out for Pakistan with the new wicket of Oshada Fernando, who made 50, and Chandimal. Chandimal, who made 206 not out, 76 and 94 not out in his previous two Tests, handled the opposition spinners with aplomb until his departure on a pitch that turned on day one. Mathews started well but failed to capitalize on a reprieve on 36 when Azam dropped in easy catch at extra cover off left-arm spinner Nauman Ali. Ali came after the tea break to get Mathews caught behind, with the batsman walking back to a dressing room cherishing his Test milestone. Fernando and skipper Dimuth Karunaratne started with a 92-run

opening stand before Nawaz broke through. Fernando smashed Nawaz for six to reach his seventh Test half-century but got out caught behind on the next ball. Kusal Mendis survived 11 balls and made three before being run out at the stroke of lunch off a direct throw from Agha Salman, while the batsman was backing up at the non-striker's end. Karunaratne fell to Yasir Shah's leg spin after his attempted reverse sweep went to backward point where Naseem took a sharp catch as Sri Lanka looked in trouble at 120-3. Chandimal took stock with Mathews and then De Silva in a partnership of 63 but a wild slog got him caught at backward point off Nawaz. Mathews, 35, was fettered by Sri Lanka Cricket and accompanied by his family at the start of the Test for reaching his century of five-day matches since his debut at the same venue in 2009, also against Pakistan.

We had full faith in Siraj, says Yuzvendra Chahal

Shikhar Dhawan made a well-crafted 97 while Shubman Gill made a classy 64 in his ODI comeback in India held their nerve to pull off a three-run win over the West Indies in the series opener here. Openers Dhawan (97 off 99 balls) and Gill (64 off 53) shared a 119-run stand before the West Indies fought back to restrict India to 308 in the first innings. The West Indies needed 15 off the final over for a second chase at Queens Park Oval but Mohammed Siraj was able to stop a rampaging Romario Shephard (38 not out of 25).

Akshay Kumar Becomes The Highest Taxpayer Actor Of 2022, Netizens Troll Him, Say, 'Canada Ka Ticket Kat Jayega'

Bollywood's Hit Machine, Akshay Kumar has added another feather to his glowing hat. The Rowdy Bachelor star has become the highest taxpayer of 2022 from the entertainment industry. Yes, you read that right! Notably, the Income Tax department has given 'samaan patra' to Kumar for retaining the title of 'highest taxpayer' for the past five years. A photo of the honorary certificate of Akshay has gone viral on social media with mixed reactions pouring in from netizens.



Many many users congratulated the actor, a few others took a nasty dig at Akshay. Reacting to the news, one user commented, "Desh me bane ukraine ke liye khat to karna padega warna canada ka ticket kat jayega." His remark reminds people of the time when the 54-year-old actor applied for his Canadian citizenship. Another said, "RIP for Indian

companies who pays more tax than Akshay kumar whole carrier." One comment read, "Inna panna san lathan se hai bhai." Well, it's been five years since Akshay has retained his title of 'highest taxpayer'. To note, he is the most sought after and bankable actor in Bollywood. Kumar is the only actor who has more than four to five releases in a year. For the coming years, Akshay has his hands full with many exciting projects including, "Raksha Bandhan", "Selfie" with Emraan Hashmi, "Abhishek Sharma's directorial 'Ram Setu', 'Bade Miyan Chote Miya', 'Gorkha', and 'Oh My God 2'. He was recently seen in the historical action drama 'Samrat Prithviraj' which failed to perform at the box office.

Cricket Australia inks seven-year deal with Disney Star to broadcast matches in India

Cricket Australia (CA) on Sunday said it has signed a seven-year deal with Disney Star to broadcast the country's cricket matches in India, the sport's largest market in the world. As part of the deal, which commences in 2023-24, Disney Star will televise all international matches as well as the KFC Big Bash League and Weber Women's Big Bash League in India.



Disney Star will take over from Sony, who have held the Australian rights since the 2017-18 season. According to CA, the channel's reach will provide "enormous exposure" for Australian cricket and for the board's commercial partners in India. "We are delighted to announce this new association with Disney Star from season 2023-24 onwards. Disney Star is

synonymous with the game in India and we look forward to working with them to showcase the outstanding cricket played in Australia every summer," said CA CEO Nick Hockley. "The magnitude of this association is testament to the enduring rivalry and respect that exists between Australian and Indian teams, the excitement and popularity of WBBL and

BBL, and the high regard of Australian cricket in India and global markets more broadly. "There was significant interest in our rights and we are very grateful to our current rights holder Sony for their partnership which will continue throughout this season," he added. Disney Star also recently won the TV broadcasting rights for the Indian Premier League from 2023-27.

"But yes, a little bit of pressure is always there, given the way they were hitting. Sanju [Samson] stopped a certain boundary off a wide, and that raised our confidence," said leggie Yuzvendra Chahal during the post-match press conference. At the top of order, Kyle Mayers (75 off 68) and Shubman Gill (46 off 61) reached West Indies' hopes with a 117-run stand for the second wicket before Brendon King (54 off 66) took the game deep. In the end, the West Indies fell short and ended at 305 for six. Sharda Thakur had struck twice earlier in the chase to bring back India into the game as he removed the set duo of Mayers and Brooks. The hosts needed 6 off the last 90 balls and the 36-run stand between King and Akshai Iyengar (32 not out of 32) kept India on the edge. However, Chahal came up with a timely breakthrough to make the job tougher for the West Indies. The home team were kept in the chase by the Shubman and Hosen whose valiant partnership was in vain.

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He never did anything halfway: Montreal volunteer fighter dies in Ukraine, mother says

Marie-France Sirois hadn't heard news about her son for days, until his best friend in the army called.

"I knew it was the end," she said. Her son, Emile-Antoine Roy-Sirois, 31, died on July 19, according to his friend, Adriel Marinac, an American volunteer in Ukraine. Roy-Sirois left Montreal in March to lend support to Ukrainian troops following Russia's invasion on Feb. 24.

Sirois is hoping to bring her son's body back to Montreal after the spent months pleading with him not to leave.

"He was bright and clever and kind... People loved him at first sight," she said. "I'll miss everything [about him], all my life."

She said she's been in contact with the Canadian Embassy in Ukraine, and the Ukrainian army is "supposed to take care of everything in order to get Emile's body back" home. Marilyne Guévremont, a

spokesperson for Global Affairs Canada, said the department is aware of the death of a Canadian in Ukraine, but she stopped short of confirming Roy-Sirois's identity.

"Consular officials are in contact with the family and are providing consular assistance," she said in an email to CBC News. "Due to privacy considerations, no further information can be disclosed."

Despite the absence of an official statement, Sirois said she has "no doubt he was killed."

"I didn't want to lose my son," Sirois said her son worked as a firefighter in Western Canada and in customer service at a delivery company.

A former student at Université de Montréal and HEC Montréal, Roy-Sirois followed international politics closely, Sirois said.

"He was interested in so many things at the same time," she said. "He never did anything halfway."



"It's like he was not from his time," his aunt, Martine Sirois, said. "He had noble values... When he was interested [in] something, he knew the subject completely."

"We loved that child so much," Marie-France Sirois said her son told her in March he wanted to go to Ukraine to protect children and fight "against crazy leaders."

On March 27, he left for Poland, where he stayed for 10 days, helping to transport medication, Sirois said. Soon after, she said, he joined a "foreign unit."

"I was totally devastated," she said. "They would talk almost every day,

and each time, Sirois said, she would try to persuade him to come back. "I didn't want to lose my son," Sirois said. "I was really begging him to come back or to do something else to help in a different way, but he wouldn't change his mind."

Liliane Roy-Sirois said no one could stop her older brother from leaving because "he was too good of a person."

"I told him 'go for it, but be careful,'" she said. His sister said she'll miss Roy-Sirois's sense of humour, intelligence and strength the most.

"I really hope people will remember him for his convictions and everything he gave in life," she said. "He was a beautiful person, and the world needs people like him to change things and move things forward. I'm so proud of him."

On May 20, Roy-Sirois spent his 31st birthday facing bombing raids in Ukraine's Donbas region, which has seen heavy fighting, Marie-France Sirois said.

She said she told her he was scared, but the fear wasn't enough to drive him away from combat.

"He was convinced that he could do something," his mother said. "I think for him there was no other way."

Ontario farmers say Canada's fertilizer tariff punishes them for Russia's war



A Russian soldier guards a field as foreign journalists observe the wheat harvest near Melitopol in southern Ukraine last week. Canada collects a 35 per cent tariff on all Russian imports, including farm fertilizer shipments, in retaliation for Russia's invasion of Ukraine. (The Associated Press)

Toronto dancer recounts painful experience with monkeypox. Avoiding close physical contact with someone who is infected or may have been exposed to the virus, maintaining good hand hygiene, and cleaning high-touch surfaces are other ways to help reduce the risk of becoming infected, according to PHAC.

Additionally, PHAC has recommended Canadians practice safe sex and use a condom, while they continue to learn about the virus.

"Having fewer sexual partners, particularly anonymous partners, even when they don't have symptoms, can also reduce your risk of getting infected," they said.

On July 21, the government also announced it will be providing funding to community-based organizations in places most affected by the virus.

"As the monkeypox outbreak evolves, the Government of Canada will continue to work with Canadian provinces and territories to determine the best courses of action to limit the spread of monkeypox in Canada," they said.

As the federal government continues its efforts to punish Russia economically for its invasion of Ukraine, Ontario agriculture groups and representatives of Canada's fertilizer sector are warning that cash crop farmers and consumers are the ones bearing the cost.

In March, France Minister Chrystia Freeland and International Trade Minister Mary Ng announced that in retaliation for Russia's illegal invasion, Canada was imposing a 35 per cent general tariff on virtually all Russian imports - including nitrogen fertilizer that Eastern Canadian growers rely on to boost crop yields.

The timing - mere weeks from the start of planting season - couldn't have been worse. Farmers make often risky decisions about what crops to grow and place orders for seed and fertilizer months in advance.

Russia had been a reliable source of nitrogen shipments. Before the tariff was imposed, it was exporting 660,000 tonnes of nitrogen fertilizer annually into Eastern Canada - about 85 to 90 per cent of the total fertilizer

applied. "Around one third [of the 2022 shipments] had not been delivered into Ontario yet when that tariff was applied, and some of those ships were even being told that they would have to turn around," said Ryan Koeslag, executive director of Ontario Bean Growers, which represents roughly 1,100 farmers growing approximately 100,000 acres of dry crops like white clover and black beans.

Fertilizer prices are a major input cost for already low-margin cash crop operations. A 35 per cent hike from this tariff - when combined with farmers' already-inflated energy and gasoline bills - puts a lot of upward pressure on commodity prices.

That's why Koeslag's organization - along with the Grain Farmers of Ontario, the Ontario Canola Growers, the Atlantic Grains Council, Les Producteurs de Grains du Québec, a half-dozen other farm groups from Eastern Canada and fertilizer industry representatives - called on the federal government again this week to reconsider.

"Take a second look at it, determine if this is ultimately the outcome that they wanted to achieve with applying this tariff and then compare that with what we see as being an inflationary problem in the grocery store," Koeslag told CBC News.

"We need compensation for farmers negatively impacted by the tariffs, and we want a secure and reliable supply of fertilizer so we can roll up our sleeves and do our part to help the world during this crisis," said Brendan Byrne, chair of the Grain Farmers of Ontario, in an email release.

Other groups say that if the government won't rebate the cost of the tariff, it should invest in expanding the domestic supply of fertilizer so growers aren't in this situation again in 2023.

Canada has the natural gas resources to become self-sufficient in fertilizer if the government invests in domestic nitrogen production, Koeslag said.

Following a meeting of federal, provincial and territorial ministers of agriculture in Saskatchewan on Friday, Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau said the government was investing in the fertilizer industry by funding research and innovation and helping farmers find new suppliers.

While modern farm techniques such as cover crops and crop rotation can help to reduce bulk fertilizer use, not all growers can pivot on a dime, Koeslag said. Natural nitrogen sources, such as livestock manures, also have been targeted by the federal government's climate change policies.

"It's hard to be a green farmer when you're operating in the red," Koeslag said.

When farmers can't afford optimal levels of fertilizer, they may apply less

to their fields and resign themselves to lower crop yields.

Meanwhile, a bumper crop of plant proteins and grains from Canadian producers could help to address food insecurity and supply chain challenges resulting from Ukraine's lost acres and blocked exports.

G7 allies left fertilizer alone

"Tariffs and retaliation and sanctions are the most effective when you can devise policies that have the maximum impact on the counter party whose attention you are seeking to get, and do the minimal damage to yourself," Freedland said one week after Russia invaded and two days before stepping on the tariff last winter. Even at that early stage, she warned the war was likely to hurt Canada's economy.

The fertilizer tariff could be making Canada's crops less competitive on the world market during periods of relative scarcity, holding back economic growth.

Other G7 allies didn't target fertilizer, making this exemption request different from those involving sanctions that were closely co-ordinated among Western democracies.

The fertilizer tariff could be making Canada's crops less competitive on the world market during periods of relative scarcity, holding back economic growth.

While Germany's request to Canada for a sanctions exemption to permit the return of a natural gas turbine for Russia's Nord Stream 1 pipeline was approved - a controversial decision that's now the subject of upcoming parliamentary hearings triggered by the Official Opposition - farm groups have yet to see any response to their request for a reprieve.

Agriculture ministers on Friday announced improvements to advance payment and loan programs for farmers, but Bibeau offered nothing in response to specific questions about this tariff.

"There is a bit of a double standard when it comes to how we deal with large companies versus the small farmer out there," Koeslag said.

"I know that there has been messages communicated back that - once you remove a tariff for one industry, that you would have to remove it for all, which I don't believe. I think that we're smarter than that. We're more nimble than that. The public understands the situation more than that."

Canada confirms 681 monkeypox cases as WHO declares global health emergency

Canada confirmed 681 cases of monkeypox across five provinces on Saturday as the global outbreak of the virus was deemed a public health emergency of international concern by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Cases are expected to keep rising, according to a statement from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC).

Monkeypox: World Health Organization declares public health emergency of international concern "PHAC continues to work closely with international, provincial and territorial health partners to gather information on this evolving outbreak and to assess the possible risk of exposure of the monkeypox virus in Canada," the statement said. "Canada will continue to work with



The WHO and international partners to strengthen the global response to the current monkeypox outbreak."

Over 70,000 doses of InVivance, a Health Canada approved vaccine for immunization against monkeypox, have been distributed to provinces and territories by the federal government today.





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