

# Judge gives diplomat's son racial discount



TORONTO POLICE SERVICE

Samir Abdelgadir, 45, moved to Canada when he was 19 and earned a bachelor's degree from McMaster University. In a report for the court, he attributes his lack of success to "systemic racism, repeated police targeting and unjust criminalization."

## POTUS vs. the pontiff

Embarrassment to America



FR. RAYMOND J. DE SOUZA  
Comment

"I am not a fan of Pope Leo," U.S. President Donald Trump said on Sunday.

Right back at you, Mr. President.

Pope Leo XIV did not say that. He didn't have to, given that Trump is by far the most unpopular democratic leader on the planet. Trump carries a minority of Americans at home, and precious few anywhere abroad.

"I have no fear of the Trump administration," is what the Holy Father did say. Why would he? Increasing numbers of observers wonder if the president is not only unhinged, but perhaps not well.

At a Saturday prayer vigil for peace in Rome, Pope Leo lamented that "even the holy Name of God, the God of life, is being dragged into discourses of death."

A man less narcissistic than Trump would have applied those words to the monstrous regime in Iran, which has invoked God's name to advance terror and tyranny for nearly 50 years. But Trump took it personally, and vomited forth an attack on Pope Leo that astounded even his most sycophantic supporters.

See DE SOUZA on A9

**Pope doubles down on peace, unity message. A10**

## HELD 14-YEAR-OLD FOR 36 HOURS AS PART OF SCHEME TO GET BACK 90KG OF STOLEN COCAINE

CHRIS LAMBIE

His father, a diplomat, helped him buy his first condo in Mississauga, Ont. His brother later helped him purchase a house in Hamilton and invest in several legitimate businesses.

But a judge considered his race while sentencing Samir Abdelgadir for helping to kidnap a 14-year-old Black boy for 36 hours in order to recoup 90 kilograms of cocaine stolen by the boy's half-brother.

Abdelgadir, 45, was convicted last year in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice for the March 2020 kidnapping in which the teen was snatched as he left for school.

Before his sentencing, Abdelgadir, who is a Black Muslim, obtained an Impact of Race and Cultural Assessment (IRCA) from the Viola Desmond Justice Institute.

"To be clear, the effects of anti-Black racism do not excuse Mr. Abdelgadir or lessen the seriousness of the offence. However, I am satisfied that there is some connection between Mr. Abdelgadir's life experience, anti-Black racism, and his commission of the offence such that it mitigates somewhat his degree of responsibility for the offence," Justice Sandra Nishikawa wrote in a recent decision.

Born in North Sudan, Abdelgadir was estranged from his father, a Sudanese diplomat, at the age of 19 when his parents divorced.

"Mr. Abdelgadir has been heavily impacted by his father's employment with the UN, multiple relocations, exposure to armed conflict, and unsafe environments," Nishikawa said.

During his childhood, Abdelgadir "witnessed bodies piled in the streets during the civil war in Yemen in the 1980s. Mr. Abdelgadir was subject to racism during his childhood in Bahrain," the judge said. "The IRCA describes that he faced significant discrimination as a Black Muslim, and that his family's home was attacked."

See SENTENCE on A2

**International student on expired permit allowed to stay despite attempted auto theft. A5**

## A TALE OF TWO PARTIES MPs ADJUST AFTER HOUSE RESETS

Liberals cheer new members as Tories play the 'long game'

STEPHANIE TAYLOR

OTTAWA • Liberal MPs were living in the moment on Wednesday, lining up to offer thunderous applause to the party's newest MPs as they arrived for a caucus meeting.

Conservatives, on the other hand, have their attention focused far into the future, playing the "long game," and emphasizing the party's unity behind leader Pierre Poilievre.

Both caucuses met on Parliament Hill for the first time since Prime Minister Mark Carney's government saw its status elevated to majority following three byelection wins on Monday — but it was in large part thanks to five MPs who had previously crossed the floor, leaving them one seat shy of the 172-seat threshold before Monday's votes were cast.

Four of those came from the Conservatives, including last week when southwestern Ontario MP Marilyn Gladu stunned many by defecting to the Liberals after spending her recent years in Parliament espousing right-wing and social conservative positions on issues like COVID-19 and the Liberals' latest anti-hate bill. Carney has since said she will vote with the government in Parliament.

Gladu's exit, coupled with Carney clinching a majority until 2029, has raised fresh questions about Poilievre's grip on his caucus and his future as party leader. But heading into Wednesday's meeting, the first time Conservative MPs have met behind closed doors since those two events happened,

none of his 140-member caucus was prepared to air grievances, at least publicly.

For his part, Poilievre has vowed in the wake of Carney's new majority to lead the party into the next election.

Ontario MP Andrew Lawton, one of two dozen members elected under Poilievre during the last election, pointed to the leader's record of winning overwhelming support from party delegates during his January leadership review and his recent attempts to broaden his appeal, speaking to more podcasts and travelling both to the U.S. and Europe, his first international trips since becoming party leader in 2022.

"I think this is a long game that we're playing," Lawton said.

See PARTIES on A7

**It's time we see some Liberal floor-crossers. Manning, A8**

*Massive Liberal poll leads mostly an illusion: pollster*

TRISTIN HOPPER  
Comment

As the Liberals enjoy some of the most explosive polling leads in Canadian history, a leading pollster is suggesting that it's mostly a product of mathematical error.

This week, Abacus Data CEO David Coletto suggested that many of his peers are chronically undercounting Conservative voters, presenting a "distorted version" of the electorate to the public.

"I do not believe that other pollsters are purposely doing anything wrong," he wrote in a blog post, but suggested that Canadian surveys were routinely showing "a larger Liberal advantage than may actually exist in the electorate."

Abacus Data's own surveys have indeed been showing a Liberal lead for the last few months, but not at the same margins as other polls.

Their most recent survey, published on March 24, showed the Liberals with a seven-point lead over the Conservatives (44 per cent Liberal to 37 per cent Conservative).

See HOPPER on A7



BLAIR GABLE / POSTMEDIA NEWS

**"Caucus is united," says Melissa Lantsman, one of the Tories' deputy leaders.**

## COMMENT

*AS THE SORDID ETHICS MESS OF CHRISTIANE FOX SHOWS, YOU CAN'T SHAME THOSE WHO FEEL NO SHAME. Higgins, A8*

## Psychiatrists split over how many people would seek MAID on mental grounds

SHARON KIRKEY

Thousands could choose to die by MAID if euthanasia is opened to people experiencing mental suffering alone, or perhaps only a small handful, parliamentarians heard this week.

A special joint committee struck to revisit Canada's readiness for doctor-assisted death for those whose

sole underlying condition is a mental disorder heard opposing prognoses from prominent psychiatrists Tuesday, with one side warning any such expansion would be "inappropriate and dangerous," while the other said those with severe mental illness can experience distress as profound as those with physical illnesses and shouldn't be treated "like second-class citizens."

Experts were divided over several core issues, including whether it's possible to predict with any degree of certainty whether someone will get better or not, and just how many people might seek, and ultimately be granted, MAID for mental illness if it becomes lawful, as scheduled, in March 2027.

Dr. Claire Gamache, of the Quebec association of psychiatrists, said a "very, very

small percentage" of people have mental disorders severe enough to qualify for MAID such as schizophrenia, severe obsessive-compulsive disorder and recurring depression.

She described a case involving a 70-year-old woman who has lived with serious OCD since her teens and an "irrational fear of contaminating her family with feces."

See DISORDERS on A4



nationalpost.com

It is nice to find the parliamentary traditions of blurring the issue, dodging the question and concealing the error are alive and well. But it gets us no closer to finding out what is going on.

JOHN IVISON, AND THE REMINDER THAT UNDER A NEW LIBERAL MAJORITY, QUESTION PERIOD IN THE HOUSE IS NOT 'ANSWER PERIOD.' A4

### INDEX

CLASSIFIED FP9  
DIVERSIONS FP12  
OPINIONS AS-A9  
REMEMBERING A12  
WEATHER FP9  
WORLD A10

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