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RIGHT TO THE POINT

Court orders housing aid even for tent-dwellers



TIM KROCHAK / POSTMEDIA NEWS

A Nova Scotia court case could open the door to more government assistance for those in homeless encampments.

COMMENT

Police the hate crime, not free speech

It has become a slippery slope in Edmonton

ROB BREAKENRIDGE

It's become apparent that dealing with hate-motivated crimes is now a part of the increased burden being placed upon police forces across the country.

Within the past couple of weeks, for example, we've seen a suspected arson at a Jewish restaurant in Montreal, along with gunshots and vandalism targeting two locations of a Jewish bakery in Toronto. Over the weekend in Saskatoon, a synagogue and numerous vehicles parked outside were vandalized — while the Saturday prayer service was in progress.

In addition, police have had to deal with serious terrorism threats. In Toronto last month, terrorism charges were laid in connection with public statements made by an individual at two separate pro-Palestinian demonstrations that police say advocated for “harm against members of the Israeli and Jewish communities.”

Late last year in Edmonton — on back-to-back days, no less — police arrested and charged two separate individuals in connection with threats toward the Jewish community.

See **BREAKENRIDGE** on A8

NOVA SCOTIA CASE TURNED ON WHETHER A TENT CAN BE CONSIDERED AN ACCOMMODATION

A tent should legally be considered a form of accommodation, according to the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal, in a decision that could set a precedent for government assistance granted to homeless people in the province.

The appellant, Jacqueline Lowe, was acting as representative of the estate of Bradley Lowe, a homeless man who died of an overdose in downtown Halifax in December of 2023.

Two months before he died, Lowe, who had been initially approved to receive \$380 per month in income assistance, applied for the enhanced rate of \$974 per month.

However, the request was denied because he was deemed “unhoused” and therefore did not meet the eligibility requirements.

Days after Lowe's death, Nova Scotia's Assistance Appeal Board dismissed an appeal and upheld the deci-

sion denying enhanced rate assistance. The case then went to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia and, in May 2025, Justice John A. Keith dismissed the judicial review, finding the board's decision unreasonable but ultimately concluding that Lowe did not meet eligibility requirements for the enhanced rate.

On Wednesday, however, the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal ruled not only that the board's original decision was unreasonable, but that Lowe met the eligibility requirements for enhanced rate assistance according to the province's Employment Support and Income Assistance Act.

“The court found that the hearing judge erred in interpreting the Regulations (of the Act), as the term ‘accommodation’ should include the applicant's tent,” Chief Justice Michael J. Wood wrote in the decision.

See **TENT** on A4

The West's enemies have shifted shape

BRADLEY MARTIN AND LIRAM KOBLENTZ-STENZLER

Comment

The latest U.S.-Iran standoff has laid bare the outdated lens through which Washington continues to see the Middle East. For nearly a quarter-century, American policy in the region has been locked into the assumptions forged in the post-9/11 era.

After the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks — when al-Qaida under Osama bin Laden killed almost 3,000 Americans — president George W. Bush launched the

“War on Terror.” That campaign marked a decisive break from traditional military thinking. Instead of preparing primarily for clashes with rival states, the U.S. redirected its attention toward loosely organized terrorist networks like al-Qaida and later ISIS.

“Our enemy is a radical network of terrorists and every government that supports them,” Bush told Congress just days after the 9/11 attacks. He went on to say that U.S. military action would begin with al-Qaida but continue “until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped and defeated.”

See **MARTIN** on A9

How a Canadian company's crypto cold wallets were hacked.

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POILIEVRE TO CARNEY: DELIVER ON TRADE

‘Concession after concession after concession’

JORDAN GOWLING

OTTAWA • Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre said the prime minister should focus on results in U.S. trade talks and should stop pre-emptively giving up concessions to the Americans.

“I think Mr. Carney needs to actually focus on the results that he promised, he promised he would have a deal by July 21st, 2025,” he said, during a press conference in St. John's, N.L., on Thursday.

“A year and a half later, I don't understand the strategy of making concession after concession after concession before even getting to the negotiating table,” Poilievre added.

Prime Minister Mark Carney spent Thursday in Saguenay, Que., a region hit hard by Section 232 tariffs on aluminum and lumber.

Carney said there are “many options” on how a trade deal with U.S. could be reached, in response to a question on whether quotas for Canadian steel and aluminum in the U.S. market are on the table.

“We're in a negotiation, so there are many options in terms of how a deal could be structured,” he told reporters, after touring an aluminum plant.

“But if I focus on the aluminum sector, the facts are that since the Americans put their tariffs in, their first tariffs on primary aluminum, the price of aluminum in the United States has gone up 58 per cent,” Carney added.

See **POILIEVRE** on A7

Hospital reviews are in: they're brutal and might help

SHARON KIRKEY

Many Canadians have not-so-fond memories of their hospital experiences, suggests a study that found nearly half of online hospital reviews analyzed involved negative feedback.

A random sample of 1,000 Google review comments involving Canadian acute care hospitals from 2017 to 2022 found people were more likely to leave negative (47.9 per cent) than mixed (19.8 per cent) or positive (32.3 per cent) reviews.

Feedback ranged from “the most frustrating experience in my life” to “great care and attentive physicians and staff.”

Senior author Dr. Dhruv Nayyar cautioned it's not a fully representative sample of the patients treated in hospitals. People with a negative experience are also more likely to leave an online review, he said.

See **HOSPITALS** on A2