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RIGHT TO THE POINT

COMMENT

Eby's American fashion statement while selling Buy B.C.



DAVID EBY / X

B.C. NDP Leader David Eby wears a sweater made by American manufacturer Patagonia in a campaign video promising to bring in Buy Canadian rules.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO POSTURE AS
CAPTAIN CANADA — OR CAPTAIN B.C. —
YOU'D BETTER LOOK THE PART



ADAM PANKRATZ

The problem with any politician who wraps themselves in the flag, as B.C. NDP Leader David Eby is doing, is that such acts must come off as authentic, or voters will see the move as a cynical electoral prop. Thus, being found wearing an American clothing brand, as Eby was, while delivering anti-American campaign slogans, as Eby has also been doing, is something you might think a clever politician would avoid. Yet, as is so often the case with Eby, the disconnect between words and actions makes his inauthenticity shine and puts a spotlight on the fact that he doesn't care as much about the province as he does his own job.

Eby's opening week was mostly characterized by his apparent belief that he is running against U.S. President Donald Trump. From his opening press conference to nearly every campaign stop since, Eby has been doing his best to invoke the spectre of Trump. Now,

there is most assuredly good reason to stand up to Trump: we aren't going to be the 51st state and his trade attacks are unwarranted. But if you're going to posture as Captain Canada (or Captain B.C.), you had best look the part, something Eby simply doesn't.

In an embarrassing moment on Sunday, as he tried once again to scare British Columbians into thinking that B.C. Conservative Leader Lorne Doerksen is a secret MAGA enthusiast, Eby delivered his anti-American and anti-Trump message wearing a Patagonia sweater. I harbour no specific ill-will toward Patagonia, but it is a well-known fact that it is an American company. Given the taint Eby believes all things American have, one might assume that Patagonia is not the appropriate outerwear for delivering a campaign promise to bring in "Built in B.C. and Canada" rules for public procurement.

See PANKRATZ on A10

The voters will decide whether Eby's snap-election gambit is a winner. *Cosh, A10*

GOP-founded group details U.S. casualties of Trump's Canada tariffs

Pence's public policy group breaks down toll on each state

ELLIE HUTCHINGS

The trade war between the United States and Canada escalated again on Tuesday, as the Trump administration's import ban on certain Canadian goods took effect. And some U.S. states are being hit harder by the dispute than others.

Canada is the U.S.'s second-largest trading partner, after Mexico, and according to a memo from the Advancing American Freedom Foundation (AAF), a conservative public policy organization founded by Trump's former vice-president, Mike Pence, the annual volume of U.S.-Canada goods trade is US\$674 billion.

But just five states account for \$284 billion, or 42 per cent, of the total: Illinois, Texas, Michigan, New York and Ohio. Illinois leads at \$76 billion, followed by Texas (\$70 billion) and Michigan (\$67 billion). New York's annual volume of trade with Canada equates to \$37 billion, while Ohio's is \$34 billion.

However, the states with the largest overall volume of trade with Canada are not necessarily those most exposed to the economic effects of the dispute.

Analyst Kat Miller explains in the AAF memo: "A trade war with Canada will negatively impact many (U.S.) states, especially those heavily engaging in trade with Canada, including energy- and mineral-rich states, many heavy-industry dependent states, and our agricultural heartlands."

See MAP on A9



Canada's economy stalls after three months of growth. *Page FP1*

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HOW AI COULD WIPE OUT HUMANITY

By survival of the smartest or as a tool of bad human actors

TOM BLACKWELL

It's 2040 and after years of stunning advances, artificial intelligence is not only smarter than humans, AI agents see people as an obstacle. And proceed to eliminate everyone on Earth.

It sounds like the stuff of science fiction, or once did. But the idea that AI could wipe out humanity has suddenly become impossible to ignore, as even the industry behind the technology warns of a possible apocalypse.

Yet the recent alarm bells have raised perplexing questions. How, exactly, could software — even superintelligent AI — actually carry out the very hands-on task of mass murder? And why would technology invented and trained by people turn on its human creators?

It's really not that far-fetched, the experts predicting AI doom insist.

"There are many ways that require very little contact with the physical world — even if they were just stuck in computers — that (AI agents) could cause large amounts of damage that could result in potentially everyone dying," Malo Bourgon, Canadian CEO of the Machine Intelligence Research Institute in Berkeley, Calif., said in an interview.

The non-profit's sobering raison d'être is to "help prevent human extinction from the development of artificial superintelligence."

See APOCALYPSE on A2

Nvidia CEO Huang a voice of AI reason. *Corcoran, FP8*

Liberals won't try to recoup \$34M paid to ineligible projects

CHRISTOPHER NARDI

OTTAWA • The Liberal government says it will not try to recover any of the at least \$34 million in ineligible funding paid out by the so-called "green slush fund," saying such efforts would not be in the public interest.

Industry Minister Mélanie Joly quietly made the revelation in a response tabled last week to questions by Conservative MP Luc Berthold on the now defunct Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC).

SDTC was a scandal-plagued cleantech fund derogatively referred to as the "green slush fund" by Conservative MPs. It was dissolved in 2024 by then industry minister François-Philippe Champagne after a scathing report by the Auditor General on the organization.

See FUNDING on A4

If schools are tools of 'white supremacy,' they are failing

MATTHEW LAU
Comment

At a recent staff meeting at an elementary school in the York Region District School Board (YRDSB), a presentation reportedly asked teachers to accept that, "The institu-

tion of education is an instrumental tool for maintaining and furthering the ideology of white supremacy. It is not the responsibility of people with intersecting marginalized identities to prove this. I will engage in dialogue about how we dismantle the structures and systems of white suprem-

acy rather than engage in debate about whether these lived realities exist."

For the sake of argument, suppose that statement is true and educational institutions in Ontario really are tools for "furthering the ideology of white supremacy." How best could we dismantle these racist in-

stitutions? The answer is easy: school choice. In B.C., Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Quebec — but not Ontario — the provincial governments partially fund independent schools, making them more affordable to more families. Ontario should follow suit.

See LAU on A11