

A BILLION ITEMS OF PROTECTIVE GEAR TO EXPIRE: AG. A7

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RIGHT TO THE POINT

‘Lolita Line’ bus driver not a victim

2025 incident led to human rights lawfare



JAMIE SARKONAK
Comment

In 2025, a school bus driver serving Vaughan, Ont., placed a placard with the words “Lolita Line” in the windshield and wore a pink miniskirt and over-the-knee nylons to pick up kids. Vigilant parents caught it on film and the driver was promptly dismissed. This, it turns out, wasn’t the end of the story: now, the driver, self-described as a “transgender woman,” is pursuing a human rights complaint — showing, once again, just how backwards that system is.

The driver, identifiable only as L.Z., alleges that the York Catholic District School Board and employer Landmark Bus Lines committed “discrimination with respect to employment because of ethnic origin, gender identity, and sex.” The York Catholic District School Board confirmed on Tuesday that this complaint stemmed from the events above.

The human rights complaint would have proceeded in secret were it not for L.Z.’s insistence on securing a publication ban, which was granted on Oct. 13.

See SARKONAK on A9



Watchdog failing in duty to limit money laundering in Canada: AG. Page FP1

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PMs finally getting the consideration they deserve



PETER J. THOMPSON / NATIONAL POST

Prime Ministers Institute co-founders James Stewart and Joanne Archibald — at William Lyon Mackenzie King’s grave at Toronto’s Mount Pleasant Cemetery — hope to promote research, education and informed conversation about Canada’s political history.

NEW INSTITUTE AIMS TO RAISE THE PROFILE OF LEADERS WHO WE DON’T TALK ENOUGH ABOUT

CHRIS LAMBIE

Standing beside the sunny final resting place Thursday for William Lyon Mackenzie King, in Toronto’s Mount Pleasant Cemetery, historian James Stewart couldn’t help but think about the service Canada’s 10th prime minister rendered to the country over a lengthy political career.

The legacy of King, a Liberal who spent more than two decades in office as the longest serving prime minister, gets scant attention, Stewart said.

“He’s not talked about in public discourse as much as someone like Mackenzie King should be, and like a lot of our prime ministers, they don’t take up a lot of space in the public square,” he said.

That’s why Stewart, a retired history teacher and the author of two books on

Canadian prime ministers, along with one of his former students at Toronto’s Bishop Strachan School, Joanne Archibald — a historical consultant who wrote her Masters thesis at the London School of Economics on Pierre Trudeau, and earned her PhD from Queen’s University with a thesis on the leadership of prime minister Louis St-Laurent — decided to form a new organization with plans to change that.

“It’s important for us to understand who these people are,” Archibald said. “What makes them tick? Why did they get out of bed in the morning? How did they grow up? What’s their background? What influences them from a family structure point of view?”

See INSTITUTE on A2

Key Arctic defence tech firm slips away

Ottawa fails to question sale to foreign giant



JOHN IVISON
Comment

Last week, the Israeli defence giant Elbit Systems announced that it had completed the purchase of International Submarine Engineering, an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) company based in Port Coquitlam, B.C.

The sale of the underwater-drone maker was greeted with dismay by those familiar with ISE’s storied 50-year history. The company was founded by Jim McFarlane, a former lieutenant-commander in the Royal Canadian Navy who had been involved in the design and construction of the Oberon-class of diesel electric submarines.

In 1982, the Canadian Hydrographic Service identified the need to perform hydrographic surveys in Canada’s Arctic, and ISE was awarded the contract to design and build an underwater vehicle. The result was the Autonomous Remote-Controlled Submersible (ARCS), Canada’s first AUV, which proved to be a world leader in technology that allowed the vessel to navigate a preprogrammed course, while avoiding obstacles.

See IVISON on A4

Frontier Alone of greatest threats to Canadians, Carney warns

CHRISTOPHER NARDI

OTTAWA • Frontier AI models are one of the greatest current threats to Canadians, say federal officials as the government released a national security strategy aiming to steel the country against growing risks and even war. Prime Minister Mark Carney’s government released the first national security strategy in over two decades on Thursday.

“The last strategy ... was written for a different world, and today’s national security strategy reflects profound new realities,” Carney said Thursday in Montreal.

The 13-page document provides a high-level view on how Ottawa aims to protect the country against wide-ranging threats such as war, artificial intelligence, hackers, espionage, sabotage and foreign interference.

See STRATEGY on A6

Defence threats hit ‘scary’ level. Higgins, A8

EU ‘partnership’ not the answer to our problems

JACK M. MINTZ
Comment

In the past two weeks, my wife and I spent time in Germany and the U.K. Luckily, we didn’t include France on our trip.

France is a symptom of what is wrong with Europe: paralysis and polarization. Its electorate is shifting to the nationalist right and Marxist-leaning left, neither of which has an-

swers for France’s fiscal, social and security issues. Trying to balance the country’s budget by cutting far-too-generous pensions and social handouts might well spark a revolution. Nor is growth an answer: the country’s competitiveness has been hampered by over-regulation, high taxes and an education system that’s underfunded because of costly teacher pensions.

Given this backdrop, why

is Canada seeking deeper economic and security ties with an underperforming European Union?

Canada is and will remain critical to U.S. security no matter who is president, so any attempts to go beyond improving trade with Europe and reach new political arrangements like “associate membership” will raise concerns in Washington.

A deeper relationship with Europe is appropriate, but

poking the eye of our southern neighbour is not in our long-run interest. Even after Trump and Carney are long gone politically, the U.S. still won’t want Canada leaving its security orbit. Nor should Canada want to give up access to the largest, most dynamic market in the world.

Read the full column on FP7
Nearly three-quarters of Canadians support closer ties with EU. A2