

Race tightens

New poll shows Bradford gaining ground on Chow A2

‘Blood potash’

Sask. premier slams Trump’s plan to deal with Belarus B1

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TORONTO STAR

WEATHER HIGH 16 C | MAINLY SUNNY | MAP A16 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

PARLIAMENT HILL

Carney pushes bill to speed up projects

Plan draws backlash from labour groups, environmentalists

ALEX BALLINGALL AND RYAN TUMILTY OTTAWA BUREAU

OTTAWA The federal government provoked fierce opposition from some environmental and labour groups on Monday after tabling legislation to make sweeping changes that remove what Prime Minister Mark Carney sees as barriers to development in pursuit of his pro-growth agenda.

Clocking in at more than 230 pages, Bill C-39 would enact many of the controversial changes to environmental and labour rules that the Liberal administration floated earlier this year. It comes as the prime minister promises some of the “most consequential” legislation in decades as his government grapples with the ongoing trade war with the United States and tries to bolster the economy through deeper commerce with other countries.

Government officials and cabinet ministers touted the legislation — which was applauded by at least one major business organization — as a way to create certainty for investments in development projects. They also said the bill will improve the process for collective bargaining after several major labour disruptions in which the Liberal government used a contentious power in the Canada Labour Code to intervene and end a work stoppage.

“This legislation will give our country the tools we need to build more, better, and more efficiently,” Transport Minister Steven MacKinnon said Monday.

Environmentalists, however, argued the proposals gut regulations designed to protect nature, while prominent union groups charged the bill is an attack on workers’ constitutional right to strike.

SEE BILL, A4

BILL A RADICAL DEPARTURE FROM OLD LIBERAL PLAYBOOK RAJ A4

GRAND THEFT TORONTO PART 4

Doing the crime, but not the time

Many car thieves serve short sentences. Often, they steal again

KEVIN DONOVAN CHIEF INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

In the old days, when a horse was stolen, they’d round up the thief and hang him. That’s a half-serious, half-joking refrain among victims the Star has spoken to.

Today, much to the consternation of vehicle owners, car thieves are almost never caught, and if they are, the public belief is that they get a slap on the wrist.

A Star review of 20 criminal cases

Community in shock

Suspect opens fire on police officer in attack at Belleville synagogue



DAVID RITCHIE

An officer stands guard outside a Belleville synagogue after Sunday night’s shooting during a Yom Kippur service.

JASON MILLER AND BEN COHEN STAFF REPORTERS

BELLEVILLE, ONT. As Norm Weddum walked into his synagogue Sunday evening for the Yom Kippur service, he thanked the police officer parked outside for watching over his congregation.

Inside Belleville’s Sons of Jacob synagogue, where Weddum is president, about two dozen members were about to mark the holiest day of the year in Judaism when a noise tore through the air. *Bang, bang, bang.*

Weddum and a few others went into the lobby to investigate the sound. Some had dismissed it as just another instance of someone pelting the temple with rocks.

“Then it happened again: bang, bang, bang,” Weddum recalled. “I yelled, ‘Everyone hit the floor, get on the floor immediately.’”

Outside, where a man had skulked towards the temple, a shotgun in hand, police and the suspect exchanged gunfire — 20 or 30 shots, by some witnesses’ count. Some bullets blasted through the synagogue’s stained-glass windows.

The officer and the suspect were both sent to hospital, where Const. Jeff Smith was in stable condition Monday and the 29-year-old accused was clinging to life.

The suspect has been identified as Sean Ward from Quinte West.

Police have not revealed a motive for the shooting, now under investigation by Ontario’s Special Investigations Unit, which probes police-involved shootings. When SIU spokesperson Kristy Denette was asked by a reporter if this was a “terrorist attack aimed at the Jewish community,” she said “common sense” would say that was “probably the case.”

SEE SHOOTING, A3

“It shouldn’t be happening in Belleville. It shouldn’t be happening anywhere.”

NORM WEDDUM SONS OF JACOB SYNAGOGUE PRESIDENT

20 YEARS IN ISOLATION

Seclusion at hospital ‘deeply troubling’

Patient ombudsman closely following Star’s investigation

JACQUES GALLANT COURTS AND JUSTICE REPORTER

Ontario’s patient ombudsman says stories of people being held in isolation for years at the province’s only maximum-security psychiatric hospital are “deeply troubling” as his office considers what actions it may take.

Craig Thompson has been “closely following” the Star’s investigation into the use of long-term seclusion at Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care in Penetanguishene, said a statement from his office.

“The patient experiences being shared are deeply troubling. All patients should receive safe and appropriate mental health care consistent with recognized, evidence-informed approaches,” said the statement. “We are always assessing what actions the office may take that are consistent with our legislative mandate.”

SEE WAYPOINT, A8

FULL INDEX, A2 ONO

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