SCHOOL BOARDS

Still in limbo

Newly elected trustees told supervision will continue A2

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'Lawyer up'

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PROUDLY CANADIAN OWNED SINCE 1892

TORONTO STAR

WEATHER HIGH 13 C | CLOUDY, SHOWERS | **MAP A16**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2026

FEDERAL BUDGET

Big spending, big deficits

Plan pours billions into housing, business and benefits for low-income workers and families

ALEX BALLINGALL
AND TONDA MACCHARLES
OTTAWA BUREAU

OTTAWA Prime Minister Mark Carney's 2026 budget aims to show an economy-obsessed government has put Canada's long-standing social gaps near the top of the priority list.

Alongside tens of billions of dollars in expected tax breaks for businesses, the new fiscal blueprint devotes $11.2 billion to "end" homelessness, billions in new funding for Indigenous infrastructure and supports, and a boost in tax benefits for low-income workers and families.

But the spectre of the trade war with the U.S. still looms large, with the government pressing ahead on an agenda to funnel incoming cash and go deeper into debt in a bid to juice economic growth and break Canada's dependence on its largest commercial partner.

Booking $151.5 billion in new spending over the next five years, the budget says roughly two-thirds of the new money is for business and economic growth, while individual supports merit about a third of new commitments.

That split prompted critics like the opposition NDP to decry the budget as "Christmas come early for CEOs," while the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives said it "masquerades" as a plan to help Canadians struggling with rising costs. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business, which represents small and medium firms, also slammed the budget for falling short of expectations, describing it as a "mega disappointment."

The Conservatives, seizing upon the government's plan to slightly increase immigration levels, slammed the move as designed to help big business offer lower wages and that it would make "corporate profiteers richer."

SEE BUDGET, A7



JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The budget unveiled Thursday by Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne and Prime Minister Mark Carney includes $151.5 billion in new spending over the next five years. The deficit is projected at $62.3 billion for the next fiscal year.

INSIDE

Feds set lofty housing goals

Government aims to end homelessness within a decade A3

Immigration targets remain unchanged for three years A4

Budget pledges $4 billion in funding for arts, culture A6

COURTS

Sexual assault victim left 'numb' by ruling

Naming attacker would be 'unfair,' judge tells woman before 'very low' sentence

JACQUES GALLANT
COURTS AND JUSTICE REPORTER

When Susan Gilbreath asked to have the publication ban removed on her name at the sentencing of the ex-boyfriend who violently sexually assaulted her, the judge said it felt "very unfair."

To Gilbreath's attacker.

And then came the prison sentence for Frederick Moore: three-and-a-half years for aggravated sexual assault, far below what the Crown was asking for, and which Superior Court Justice Gillian Roberts herself acknowledged was "very low." Moore was then released on bail pending appeal.

Gilbreath sat in the courtroom feeling "numb — completely numb."

She pointed out in an interview that she had done "exactly what I was asked by everybody involved" in the justice system, including a sexual assault exam and preparing to testify at a trial that never ended up happening because Moore admitted to the attack.

But that same system had failed to show up for Gilbreath, leaving her to continue to fear for her safety and wondering when Moore will truly be held accountable.

"I feel that because I survived, I'm more or less being punished," the 50-year-old woman told the Star. "I really feel that if he killed me that day, that maybe the outcome would be different."

Publication bans are imposed almost as a matter of routine to protect the identities of sexual assault complainants like Gilbreath.

SEE VICTIM, A10

ENERGY

Critics warn law a step toward privatizing utilities

Proposal could force elected officials from hydro boards

MARCO CHOWN OVED
CLIMATE CHANGE REPORTER
MAHDIS HABIBINIA
CITY HALL BUREAU

The province is pushing ahead with legislation that opens the door to the privatization of municipal hydro utilities across the province, including Toronto Hydro.

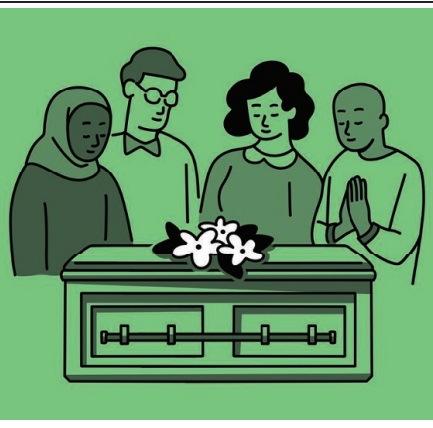
Before all councillors have had a chance to be sworn in after the municipal election, dozens of local public utilities could be forced to kick municipal staff and elected officials off their boards and replace them with private-sector directors, according to the proposed law being considered at Queen's Park.

SEE HYDRO, A13

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