

OVER THE EDGE

UNBC'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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The Changing “I” of Facilities: UNBC’s Most Creative Building Sign

BY AHMAD JALIL



Katherine's Monthly swap

Ahmad Jalil

If you’ve walked past the Facilities Management building on campus recently, you might have noticed something unusual about the sign. While most campus buildings maintain consistent signage, the Facilities building has developed a quirky tradition: a regularly changing letter “I” that takes on different themes throughout the year.

What started as a practical solution to a construction oversight has evolved into one of UNBC’s most charming unplanned traditions, according to Katherine Fedyk, Facilities Assistant at UNBC.

“When the building was first built and we moved in, we did have an ‘I’ there, but it was a completely different color than all the rest of the letters,” Fedyk explained. “It was sent back to one of the contractors to be redone, and for the longest time it was just an empty space.”

Rather than leave the gap, Fedyk decided to get creative. “One day I was just like, ‘Oh, it would be funny for me to go and make an eye.’ I think the first ‘I’ I

ever put out there, I constructed something with googly eyes because I thought it was funny,” she recalled.

What began as a simple joke evolved into a monthly tradition. The “I” has since taken many forms: a candy cane in December, snowflakes in January, a rose in February (which was mysteriously stolen), and a shamrock in March. During last summer’s wildfire season, the “I” was even transformed into a cigar—a humorous nod to the smoky conditions.

“It just kind of evolved into a theme for each month,” Fedyk said. “It’s honestly given this building more of a personality than just ‘new building.’”

The changing “I” has become something of a campus curiosity, with students and staff often wondering what will appear next. While most decorations have remained untouched, there have been a couple of exceptions. “The rose was like the second one [to be taken]. I was really surprised that nobody took the cigar because it was

just there, stuck on the wall,” Fedyk noted.

Beyond the creative signage, Fedyk emphasized that Facilities Management does far more than most students realize. “Facilities literally keeps the campus running,” she explained. “Everything from making sure the lights and heat are on to fixing a broken lectern or desk in a lecture theater.”

The department’s responsibilities extend from day-to-day maintenance to major construction projects, including building spaces for new programs like physiotherapy and nursing. They also manage all campus access, handling both

electronic and physical locks.

For those intrigued by the changing “I,” Fedyk mentioned that Facilities held a contest at orientation in September inviting students to design their own “I” for the building, though they didn’t receive any entries. Now, they’re extending the invitation to the UNBC community through Over The Edge.

Students interested in designing a future “I” for the Facilities building can send their creative ideas to facilities@unbc.ca.

Have you noticed the changing “I” on campus? Share your favorite design or submit your own idea for a future display!



A fishing rod for the I

Ahmad Jalil

NEVER, EVER CLICK

BY EHSAN TAGHIZADEH

In March of this year, a student in PG unfortunately fell victim to a cryptocurrency scam. Under normal circumstances, it would have been unlikely for him to make such a mistake. However, when the pressures of work and life become overwhelming, people can make decisions they wouldn't ordinarily make.

Imagine this: one night, while exhausted and trying to complete your homework, you receive a tempting message from someone you've recently met on social media. He/She/They offer guidance on cryptocurrency and promise opportunities to make money. You're too tired to read the message thoroughly; much of your

focus is on your studies or work. Thinking it will save you time and allow you to manage both your tasks and a financial opportunity, you click on the link. The result? Not only do you lose money, but you also waste valuable time and energy.

Here's a critical piece of advice, dear reader: never trust someone you've only met online. Sometimes, it is better to be cowardly than brave but with incomplete information.

Our friend is now busy trying to recover his assets, if that's even possible. Meanwhile, the scammer—whose identity and location remain unknown—enjoys his glass of beer in celebration of money deceitfully obtained

in less than two weeks.

On the other hand, the student—already struggling to afford a laptop, a plane ticket to visit family, or even basic living expenses—now faces a new issue far more complex and daunting than any academic challenge or programming assignments for his courses.

Perhaps in future editions of OTE, we'll share details and updates of this story or even the messages exchanged between this student and the fraudster, but until then, take the first advice in the title of this article seriously:

NEVER, EVER CLICK



Eid Mubarak — A Celebration of Renewal, Connection, and Hope

BY RAHIM SOMANI

As we conclude the sacred month of Ramadan, Eid becomes more than a celebration — it is a moment to pause, reflect, reconnect, and rejoice. It reminds us that through patience, generosity, faith, and compassion, we can emerge renewed in spirit

and reenergized in purpose.

Eid calls on us to carry forward the values cultivated during Ramadan: compassion, humility, gratitude, and unity. These values transcend religious boundaries and invite us all — regardless of background — to extend

kindness, uplift others, and foster belonging across our campus and beyond.

To those navigating hardship, grief, or seeking moments of hope — may this season offer light, healing, and peace. And as we gather in joy, we also honour the memory of those no longer with us. May their legacy continue to guide our hearts and actions.

In the spirit of Eid, let us move forward with intention — nurturing harmony in our relationships, striving for excellence in our learning and work, and contributing meaningfully to our communities.

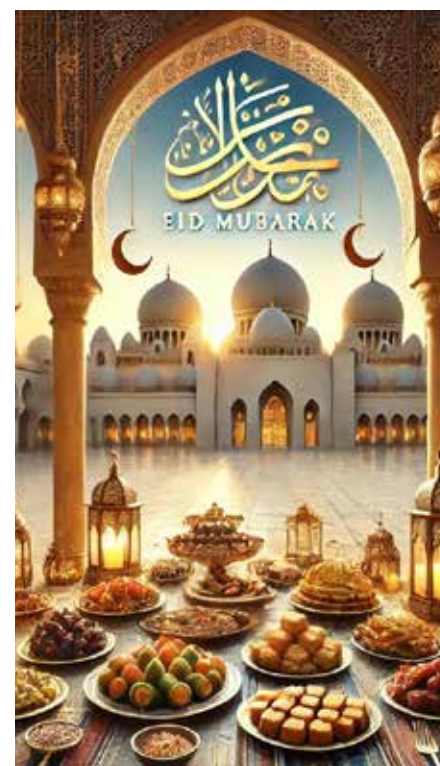
Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Eid filled with peace, joy, and fulfillment.

Eid Mubarak!



Eid Mubarak!

Rahim Somani



Climbing at OVERhang in Prince George

BY CALEB MUELLER

OVERhang is the only indoor climbing gym in Prince George, tucked behind the Pine Centre Mall at 2601 Recplace Dr (in the same building as the curling rink and golf club). Coming from a city with much larger gyms, it was a tough sell for me to get a student membership and climb there regularly. But, because I love climbing (and my knee doesn't let me do much running), it was one of my only choices. And I'm glad I did!

What Overhang lacks in size makes up for in character. Back in the big city, the gyms feel a little bit corporate. Overhang has an old school, local, and kind of gritty feeling that I miss, and I doubt it will change anytime soon. My favorite gym from my hometown used to have the same feel, but then they "renovated" and ruined it (especially the bouldering area). Another thing that's nice is when the staff remember your full name and your membership status, so you don't have to say it all

the time.

In the big gyms, you can climb for months without seeing the same person twice. Here, I pretty much recognized everyone by my third visit. I found it easier to talk and meet new people, especially if you are climbing alone and need a belay partner. It's also nice that if you want to have a chill climb alone, it's not usually so busy that you can barely get on a climb.

Because the walls at Overhang aren't very high, they had to make up for it with tough climbs. Don't get me wrong, there are lots of climbs for beginners. But when you get up to higher grades, they get hard. For context, grades at Overhang go from 5.6 (beginner) to 5.13 (expert) for top rope, and V0 to V13 for bouldering.

Even when famous climbers Alex Honnold and Tommy Caldwell visited the gym (back when they were cycling to Alaska), I heard from an employee that they said the gym was

"sandbagged". This means that people think a climb is harder than how it is graded. Other gyms tend to do the opposite of this (called "soft" climbs), so beginners don't get too discouraged once they try harder climbs and keep coming back.

Personally, even though I get frustrated, I think the hard climbs with lower grades are way better in the long term. My goal with gym climbing is to climb outdoors, and outdoor climbs are always harder (a 5.11 climber indoors might climb 5.10 outdoors). I think it's better not to get too confident on the grades you can climb indoors, then go outside and end up getting hurt.

All in all, I'm glad I found Overhang, and was able to keep up climbing strength while attending UNBC. The best thing is that when I travel back to my hometown, I'm always way stronger than my friends climbing at the big gyms.



Most sane climbers in northern BC

Caleb Mueller



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Letter from the Board

Dear Readers,
What an incredible year it's been for Over the Edge! The relaunch of our newspaper has been a tremendous learning experience for all of us.
We owe our deepest gratitude to the team at the Prince George Citizen, especially Cameron,

Kennedy, Allan, and Michael, for their extraordinary patience and guidance throughout our collaboration. Their willingness to work with a group of inexperienced student journalists made this revival possible.
To all students who submitted articles and remained patient during our sometimes turbulent

process: thank you! None of us had prior experience with newspaper production, and we've genuinely appreciated the opportunity to learn alongside you.
The community has been an invaluable resource, sending letters, emails, and connecting directly with our student writers. Your engagement has been

inspiring!
As we all navigate the busy exam season, we hope you enjoyed this semester's final issue. We welcome your ideas and feedback as we look ahead to our return in the fall.
Until then,
The Over the Edge Board



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UNBC'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER



Inside the Edge

*Q&A section

What resources are available at
Over the Edge?

Over the Edge offers a diverse range of resources, including tech equipment like computers, a professional camera, and a vinyl cutter, plus mentorship opportunities from PG Citizen professionals. For comfort and convenience, we have a water cooler, coffee machine, microwave, and ice maker. Active students appreciate our hang board for climbing training, and we keep a vacuum on hand for maintaining our shared space. Whether you're working on media projects or just need a well-equipped place to study and relax, OTE provides all the essential tools and amenities in one convenient campus location.

OTE is typing...



Prince George's Snowpack: What It Means for Our Water, Wildfires, and Community

BY YUG RATHOD



"Snow is not just a winter spectacle, it's our water supply, our fire defense, and our future."

As winter releases its grip on Prince George, our accumulated snowpack matters more than you might think. From filling our rivers to influencing wildfire risks, this frozen reservoir will shape the months ahead for our community.

This winter brought extreme cold spells mixed with mild temperatures and unpredictable precipitation. But what exactly is snowpack, and why should students care?

Snowpack forms when snow accumulates layer by layer on mountains and hills throughout winter. It's not just picturesque scenery — it's a vital water reservoir. When spring arrives, this snow gradually melts, replenishing rivers, feeding lakes, sustaining ecosystems, and ensuring our taps don't run dry in summer. When snowpack levels are abnormal — either too low or melting too quickly — it triggers a domino effect affecting water supply, agriculture, and wildfire risk.

As of March 1, 2025, the Fraser

River basin, which includes Prince George, has a snowpack at 77% of the long-term median — a 23% deficit. This slight improvement from February's 76% might seem minor, but it could create significant water challenges in coming months.

This 23% deficit means less spring runoff, reduced water flow, and greater difficulty managing summer heat. We've experienced low snowpack years before: shrinking rivers, struggling crops, and intense wildfire seasons with weeks of smoke-filled air. Water scarcity also threatens local agriculture, potentially forcing usage restrictions that impact food production and our regional economy.

"When the snow melts, what's left behind is the true test — how we manage our water today decides how we survive tomorrow."

What can we do? Start by treating water as the valuable resource it is. Simple actions like fixing leaky faucets, reducing lawn watering, and using water-efficient appliances make a difference. On a

larger scale, we need better water management policies: smarter irrigation systems, watershed protection, and storage systems that handle increasing climate unpredictability. Communities must plan ahead rather than just reacting to droughts or fire bans.

Wildfires represent another major risk connected to low snowpack. The summer of 2023 brought smoky skies back to Prince George as fires spread across the province. Less snow means drier forests earlier in the season, potentially leading to an earlier, more severe fire season. Rural communities and Indigenous Nations are particularly vulnerable, often located closer to forests with limited access to emergency services and fewer resources for

disaster preparation or recovery.

Prince George isn't passive in the face of these challenges. Local groups, from city crews to the Fraser Basin Council and UNBC's climate research teams, are working to understand implications for our water supply and develop solutions. Community members are increasingly doing their part as well.

Remember, snowpack isn't just weather data — it's our future. Addressing these challenges requires change, not perfection. Whether saving water at home, advocating for better planning, or simply staying informed about local environmental conditions, every action matters. The snow will melt, but the choices we make now will last much longer.

President Answers

Getting the Answers You Crave: We Ask, the President Delivers!



Anime subbed or dubbed?



I say subbed as it is closer to the original

BC's Critical Minerals Rush: Ecosystems and Communities at Risk

BY EMMA GRYG

British Columbia's northwestern region is experiencing a boom in critical mineral development as Canada races to become a leading global supplier. While government officials tout economic benefits, this rapid expansion raises serious concerns about environmental damage and impacts on local communities.

What Are Critical Minerals?

Critical minerals are essential elements used in renewable energy technologies, defense systems, and electronics, including everyday items like deodorant, pottery, and pencils. These include rare earth elements, cobalt, lithium, and others that power everything from wind turbines to smartphones. However, it remains unclear how much of the current extraction is actually supporting renewable technologies versus increased consumer goods production.

BC's Growing Role

BC plays a central role in Canada's \$3.8 billion national critical minerals strategy. Northwest BC alone saw \$347.6 million in exploration expenditures in 2024, representing 63% of the province's total mineral exploration. This region, nicknamed the "Golden Triangle," contains valuable deposits of copper, gold, silver, and other critical minerals.

The provincial government has aggressively promoted its Critical Minerals Strategy, emphasizing faster project approvals despite concerns about long-term environmental impacts. Federal involvement has accelerated this trend, with Canada and the U.S. announcing \$35 million in co-investments for critical mineral projects in May 2024.

Environmental Concerns Mount

The environmental stakes are enormous. Researchers from

Simon Fraser University report that mining companies are staking claims on areas newly exposed by melting glaciers, habitats that lack protection under current legislation.

The Skeena watershed, which supports five wild salmon species and the world's largest strain of wild steelhead, is particularly vulnerable. These populations have already declined by 56-99% over the past century and face further threats from mining activities through:

- Water contamination and flow disruption
- Habitat destruction
- Introduction of heavy metals that harm fish migration
- Changes in water temperature
- Financial Risks for Communities
- Local communities face significant financial and environmental risks from accelerated mining development. BC's system for securing cleanup funds from mining companies has major flaws:
- Companies only provide partial financial guarantees for site cleanup
- Funds can be returned before full remediation is complete
- Research shows 85% of lithium development, 66% of copper, 65% of vanadium, and 64% of zinc mining overlaps with Indigenous communities

British Columbia's mining sector currently has an estimated \$753 million shortfall in funds needed for environmental cleanup. If companies go bankrupt or abandon sites, taxpayers must cover these massive costs.

Development Outpacing Regulation

Despite these concerns, eight new metal mines are proposed in the region. In Northwest BC, 44.3% of mines are in the evaluation stage, 18.4% are in



Fishing the Skeena River

Emma Gryg

advanced stages, and 22.5% are in early development.

While regulatory reforms are underway, changes to the Mineral Tenure Act were initially expected by March 2025—lagging far behind the current pace of development. The current reform was prompted only after court rulings found that BC's online mineral registration system allows for unlawful staking without consulting with First Nations.

The Critical Questions

As BC positions itself in this global competition for critical minerals, important questions emerge:

- Are adequate safeguards in place to protect communities and ecosystems?
- Will the rush to develop these resources override careful environmental stewardship?
- Who will bear the long-term costs of this mineral development boom?

The answers will shape not just the province's economic future, but the health of its ecosystems and communities for generations to come. The challenge is finding a balance that allows responsible development without sacrificing environmental integrity and community well-being.

Environmental Engineering in Prince George: A Student's Perspective

BY RIKA RAO

As an Environmental Engineering student who made the move from Alberta to Prince George, I gotta tell ya, the differences hit you like a Flames fan at an Oilers game. The weather, the trails, the whole vibe - it's a whole other world, eh?

Weather: A Real Gong Show

Back home in Calgary, we'd get those chinooks rollin' in and the temperature would jump faster than gas prices after a long weekend. You'd be in a parka in the morning and a hoodie by afternoon! Here in Prince George? Forget about it. When winter shows up, it digs in like a stubborn Albertan refusing to admit the Stampede isn't the greatest show on earth. The snow sticks around so long you'd think it signed a lease.

Summer's another story altogether. Calgary gets hotter than the inside of a Tim's coffee on a July afternoon - bone dry with those wild thunderstorms that roll in outta nowhere. Prince George keeps it more chill, which is deadly when I'm out doing fieldwork instead of melting like a Beaver Tail in the sun.

Places to Wander: No Mountain? No Problem

I grew up with the Rockies as my backyard - you can see 'em from pretty much anywhere in Cowtown. Weekends meant bombing out to Banff or K-Country for a hike. Out here, it's all about the rivers. The Nechako and Fraser meet up right in town, which is pretty mint for studying different ecosystems.

The Ancient Forest near here would blow your mind - nothing like that back home unless you count the CrossIron Mills parking lot. Walking through those old cedars makes you feel smaller than a backbencher in Parliament.

The Engineering Side of Things

For my environmental engineering program, these differences aren't just beauty, eh? In Calgary, everyone's all worked up about water conservation and cleaning up after the patch. Here, it's all about managing too much water and sustainable forestry.

The air quality's different too. Prince George gets this gnarly inversion thing happening where all the mill emissions get trapped in the valley. Back home, those prairie winds are good for something besides wrecking your hair - they keep the air moving, don't ya know.

All said and done, studying here gives me a wicked comparison to what I knew back home. Who knew moving from the land of beef and oil to this northern forestry town would teach me more about environmental engineering than any textbook? Not too shabby for a place where "going south" means heading to Quesnel!



The Transit in Calgary

Rika Rao



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ALUMNI

SECTION

Growing up in Northern BC has given me a broader worldview and unique perspectives that differ from peers who grew up in major metropolitan cities. At UNBC, I seized every opportunity I was provided to learn, grow, and make new connections. People often underestimate how many opportunities there are at small universities. The smaller class sizes allowed for better connections with peers, faculty, and university resources. There are more opportunities for students to engage in research, new campus projects, and represent UNBC on the national and international stage.

Lila Mansour

BA Economics, 2015



Alumni Profiles

I am currently completing my JD Law Degree at the Lincoln Alexander School of Law at Toronto Metropolitan University (in Toronto, Ontario), and following my graduation, I will be articling at Canada's largest Family Law firm located in downtown Toronto. I look forward to pursuing a career in family law and serving spouses, parents, and children as they navigate difficult family breakdowns. As an Arabic-speaking legal professional, I hope to bridge the gap in legal services for Arab and other underserved clients.

In 2022, I launched a grassroots organization to serve the BC Arabic-speaking newcomer community in British Columbia called the BC Arabic Legal Support Centre. We function virtually to connect newcomers with virtual legal information, guidance, and community connections in Arabic. I am passionate about serving marginalized communities and advancing access to justice and better understanding of the law.

Having gone to high school in Prince George, going to UNBC was the logical choice. I had an amazing four years at UNBC meeting many fantastic people, taking superb programs, serving two terms on the UNBC Senate, and putting my Political Science background to practical use by running for Parliament in Cariboo-Prince George in 2008.

My career post-graduation took me to working across BC and Alberta in customer service and hospitality, finally beginning my career in finance and working to become a financial planner in 2013. Starting with RBC Royal Bank, the past ten years saw me progress from retail banking to wealth management, joining Integris Credit Union in 2018, Servus Credit Union in 2022, earning my Certified Financial

Drew Adamick

BA Political Science, 2010



Planner designation in 2023, and this past November, realizing a dream of mine to start my own independent practice in Lethbridge, AB.

I am hoping to lead my practice providing quality, holistic financial planning and advice truly aligned with my clients' best interests going forward. I am also joining several professional associations, including the Financial Planners Association of Canada.

SECTION

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Making Hot Pot in Prince George: A Northern BC Delight

ANONYMOUS

In northern British Columbia, one of the most noticeable culinary gaps is the limited availability of diverse restaurants. This absence is particularly felt in Prince George, where authentic Asian dining experiences like hot pot can be hard to come by. But fear not – creating this interactive, communal dining experience at home is entirely possible with some local knowledge and preparation.

Getting Your Hot Pot Equipment

The foundation of any hot pot meal is the pot itself. For the best experience, look for a divided hot pot with two compartments, allowing you to offer different broths simultaneously – perhaps one spicy and one mild. These specialized pots aren't typically found in local stores, so your best bet is to order online through Amazon, Temu, or AliExpress. Many models come with built-in heating elements, making the process much simpler.

Important note: Unless your hot pot comes with a built-in heating element, you'll need a portable electric cooktop. This essential piece of equipment allows you to keep your broth simmering throughout the meal right at the table. Look for induction cooktops for better temperature control and safety, available online or occasionally at Canadian Tire or Walmart in Prince George.

Finding Hot Pot Bases in Prince George

The flavorful broth base is what makes hot pot special. In Prince George, you have a couple of good options:

- Save-On-Foods in Spruceland Mall carries some basic hot pot soup bases
- Marquee International Food Store downtown offers a wider selection, including authentic Chinese and other Asian soup base varieties

Look for packaged hot pot bases in either liquid or solid form – they're designed to create rich, aromatic broths perfect for cooking your ingredients.

Sourcing Hot Pot Ingredients

Meat and Fish Balls

Bouncy, flavorful balls are a hot pot staple. Marquee International Food Store is the premier destination for these in Prince George, offering varieties like:

- Beef balls
- Fish balls
- Lobster balls
- Cuttlefish balls
- Thinly Sliced Meats

Proper hot pot requires paper-thin slices of meat that cook quickly in the simmering broth:

- Superstore carries excellent thinly sliced lamb, perfect for hot pot
- Save-On-Foods and Marquee also offer some sliced meat options, including beef and pork
- Seafood Options
- Crab sticks (imitation crab meat) and other seafood add wonderful texture and flavor:
- Available at most grocery stores in Prince George
- Consider adding shrimp or white fish slices for variety
- Vegetables and Mushrooms
- Fresh produce makes hot pot both nutritious and colorful:
- Superstore and Save-On-Foods are reliable sources for hot pot vegetables
- Must-try items include delicate enoki mushrooms, tender bok choy, and sliced potatoes
- Don't forget leafy greens, tofu, and Chinese cabbage

Setting Up Your Hot Pot Feast

With all ingredients collected from around Prince George, arrange them on plates around your hot pot, bring the broth to a simmer, and let everyone cook their own selections. The interactive nature of hot pot makes it perfect for gatherings during northern BC's cold months.

Creating authentic hot pot at home in Prince George may require a bit more effort than in larger cities, but the reward of experiencing this delicious, communal meal makes it well worth the preparation.



Not Hotpot but a Korean stew to get the idea

Will You Be Wearing a Green Shirt on April 7th?

BY BRIANA GREER

April 7th marks Green Shirt Day, a day of awareness for organ donation inspired by the #LoganBouletEffect.

In 2018, tragedy struck when a bus carrying the Humboldt Broncos hockey team collided with a truck, claiming 16 young lives and injuring 13 others. Logan Boulet was among those who didn't survive. In the midst of heartbreak, Logan's family made the remarkable decision to donate his organs, ultimately saving six lives.

This selfless act ignited what became known as the "Logan Boulet Effect," inspiring over 150,000 Canadians to register as organ

donors. Now, each April 7th, the day Logan's organs gave others a second chance, Canadians wear green shirts to promote awareness about organ donation.

The impact is significant. In 2024 alone, over 200 organ donors saved 481 lives in British Columbia. This matters to everyone: 76% of Canadians on transplant waiting lists need kidneys, with kidney disease affecting 1 in 10 Canadians overall and 1 in 3 Indigenous peoples.

For me, this cause is deeply personal. My mom battled kidney disease since her teens, but her health

deteriorated significantly in 2019. By 2021, she needed dialysis to survive and was placed on the transplant list. Last September, thanks to a deceased donor's generosity, my mom received a life-saving kidney transplant at Vancouver General Hospital, where we spent two and a half months during her recovery.

Who will you wear a green shirt for on April 7th? To learn more about organ donation or to register, visit register.transplant.bc.ca or greenshirtday.ca. Your decision could help save lives.



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What is Mark Carney's Deal?

BY NOLAN MAGGS

Editor's Note: Since this article was submitted, Mark Carney has become the leader of the Liberal Party and is now serving as the Prime Minister of Canada.

Who is This Guy, Anyway?

The Federal Liberals courted Mark Carney for years, yet most Canadians knew little about him. So why were the Liberals so determined to crown him as their next leader, and what can we expect from him as prime minister?

Carney served as Governor of the Bank of Canada during the 2008 recession, successfully steering Canada away from the major economic decline that hit the United States. His performance impressed the British enough to hire him to run the Bank of England, where he unusually waded into politics by advising against Brexit. He served until March 2020 —conveniently departing just before COVID challenged central banks worldwide.

Since then, he played a prolonged “will I, won't I” game with Justin Trudeau about joining his cabinet. Despite these political flirtations, Carney has never held elected office—he's fundamentally a banker.

Why Did the Liberal Party Want a Banker?

Carney isn't just any banker; he's an Anglo-Western-Canadian banker, making him an unexpected choice for a party that typically needs Quebec to win elections. Historically, Liberal success requires either a French Liberal leader or someone with strong Quebec appeal.

As an intellectual, Carney also risked suffering from the “Ignatieff effect”—named after Michael Ignatieff, whose lack of relatability led to the Liberal Party's devastating defeat in 2011.

So why take these risks? First, Carney provides

the perfect counter to Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre's economic attacks. Unlike Trudeau, Carney has strong economic credentials — even Conservative PM Stephen Harper kept him as Bank of Canada Governor. Second, the Liberals have always favored intellectual elites as leaders. Finally, Carney's distance from the Trudeau administration appeals to voters seeking change.

Is He the Right Leader for These Times?

Canada faces multiple challenges: high cost of living, housing shortages, climate change, economic underperformance, low government trust, and an unpredictable southern neighbor. Liberal candidate John Goheen said it best: “Extraordinary times require extraordinary leaders.”

“Extraordinary” has dual meanings — both “great” and “unusual.” Canada needs change, and change is inherently unusual. In short, Canada needs someone exceptional to fix our unusual problems.

Can a banker be exciting? Typically not — banking rewards predictability, not boldness. Yet Carney is unusual for a banker. In his 2021 book “Value(s): Building a Better World for All,” he argues that leadership must align with organizational purpose. As a bank governor, stability was his goal, but as prime minister, different rules apply. He advocates for values-based leadership to address current problems while rebuilding public trust.

Can He Save the Liberals?

The Liberals struggled in polls, with some projections showing a potential wipeout. Could Carney rescue them?

He faced significant challenges: taking over an incumbent party during a time when voters globally were rejecting incumbents, and trying to argue for

change while representing the status quo. However, after Trudeau announced his departure, Liberal numbers improved. A high-quality Leger poll showed the Carney-led Liberals tied with the Conservatives.

This suggested Carney might revitalize the party enough to prevent a Conservative majority, perhaps even forming another Liberal government.

What Will Carney Be Like as PM?

Carney is a thoughtful leader who considers both material and social outcomes from multiple perspectives. He believes a leader should be a steward working toward the common good, and that input and transparency are essential.

In his book, he acknowledges that elites and ordinary citizens see things differently. To bridge this gap, he prioritizes government transparency and accessibility to gather diverse perspectives and build trust. This approach aims to counter right-wing populism while addressing issues like climate change.

Carney's “Values-Based Government” blends realism and optimism. He advocates for effective communication and incorporating multiple viewpoints, while recognizing that a good solution now may be better than a perfect one later. He proposes frequent public forums to explain policy decisions, similar to government communications during early COVID lockdowns.

This would mark a significant improvement over the Trudeau government's poor communication. Despite investing in admirable projects like VIA rail modernization, the previous government failed to effectively publicize these accomplishments, creating the perception of inaction.

Policy Priorities

Carney says he'll prioritize the economy first, with promises to:

- Increase competition in the Canadian private sector
- Prioritize economic outcomes over spending levels
- Remove regulatory barriers to development
- Eliminate provincial trade barriers
- Reverse capital gains tax increases
- Incentivize housing construction for young Canadians
- Promote green consumption
- Cut middle-class taxes
- Reinforce supply chains
- Invest in infrastructure: railways, ports, roads, and bridges
- Increase defense spending to meet NATO's 2% target

Ironically, for someone touted as an “extraordinary leader,” these policies represent standard centrist neo-liberalism — not the substantial change many Canadians seek. But perhaps that's to be expected from a banker, even an unusual one.



Screenshot of Liberal Leader Mark Carney

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The Feline Perspective: Imagining Cats as Journalists

BY AHMAD JALIL

What if cats could write articles? Not simply typing “meow” repeatedly, but genuinely articulating their perception of the world. This thought experiment reveals fascinating insights about both feline consciousness and human communication.

A Different Reality

Cats experience the world unlike humans. They perceive motion with remarkable precision, detect ultraviolet light, hear frequencies up to 64,000 Hz, and navigate their environment through whiskers and scent in ways we cannot comprehend.

Cat journalism, if possible, might reject our linear narratives. Their articles could focus on subtle light changes, complex territorial scents, or minute vibrations signaling environmental shifts humans miss entirely.

Beyond Human Thinking

When imagining cats writing, we often project human concerns onto them. But feline journalism would likely transcend our preoccupations with politics and

economics. Cats might report on shifting sunlight patterns, distant sounds, or neighborhood cat dynamics expressed through scent markers.

Their temporal experience differs too. Living primarily in the present, cat articles might capture immediate experience with a vividness our future-oriented minds rarely achieve.

Biological Limitations

This fascinating thought experiment ultimately collides with reality. Cats lack the developed neocortex necessary for language processing, abstract thinking, and complex problem-solving. Without the neural architecture for understanding abstract symbols, grammar, and semantic relationships, cats cannot engage with written language despite their rich sensory experiences.

The Unbridgeable Gap

As tempting as it is to imagine the unique perspectives cats might offer through writing, we must acknowledge the reality: cats cannot write articles.



The Inexorable Confluence of Geopolitical Machinations: Post-Westphalian Paradigms and the Recalibration of Hegemonic Equilibria in an Era of Neo-Mercantile Diplomacy

Mrow. Purrrr meow meow mrrp purr meow. Mrrrrrowl purr meow mew mrp mew prrrrp. MEOW meow purr mrow mew purrrr (Johnson & Smith, 2023). Mrow mrrp purr MEOW purr mrrrrrp. Prrrrrp meow purr mrp meow mew mrow purr. Mrrrp! Meeeeeow purr mrrrowl mrp mew prrrrp (Richardson et al., 2024). Mrrrrp purr meow mrrrROWL prrrp mew. Meow purr mrrp mrow prrrp meow. Mrrrp purr mrrrrowl mew prrrrrr. Meow! Mrow mrp meow (Abernathy & Zhou, 2024).

Mew mrp purr meow MRRRRRowl purr meow mew prrrp. Purr meow mrrrp purr meow mew mrowl.

Regional Security Architecture Implications

Mrow prrp meow mrrrowl purr MEOW mew. Mrp purr meow mrrrrow purr mew mrrrowl. Purr

prrrp meow mrp mew mrow purr (Kingsley, 2024). Meeeeeow mrrp purr MEEEOW mew prrrrrr purr meow. MRRRowl purr meow mew mrp purr prrrp (Chen et al., 2023).

Economic Interdependence Assessment

Meow mrrp purr mrrrrowl mew mrp. MROW purr meow mew mrrrp purr meow mrrrowl. Purr prrrp meow mew mrp purr mrow (Davidson & López, 2022). Mew mrp purr MEOW mrrrp purr meow mrrrrowl. Mrp MEOW purr meow mrrrrowl prrrrp mew mrp (Williams, 2024).

Conclusion

Prrrrp purr meow mew mrp purr MEOOW mrrrowl. Purr meow mew mrp prrrr mrrrp meow! Meow mrp purr mrrrrowl mew prrrp.



Meow

Anonymous

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Ukrainian Newcomers Finding Their Way in PG

BROADCASTED BY IAN GREG



Employment challenges haven't stopped Ukrainian newcomers from building lives in Prince George since 2022. While regional unemployment climbed to 7.6% in February, many displaced Ukrainians continue adapting to new realities. Olena Kramarenko, now a career advisor at YWCA, was a practicing lawyer in Ukraine. "Prince George has become my second home," she shares. "This is a very cozy place with very friendly people."

Charles Scott, who volunteers with PG4Ukraine, notes that 278 Ukrainians currently call Prince George home. While job barriers exist, from licensing requirements to language challenges, local businesses like Stinger Welding and Nancy O's have stepped up. "Adventure is a choice," Scott reflects. "It's a lot better than thinking the world is against you."

CFUR Radio and Over the Edge Newspaper Join Forces

to reach more UNBC students. Over the Edge, which predates the university campus itself (established in 1993), recently secured additional funding through a successful referendum campaign that now includes graduate student levies. This will bring approximately \$9,000-\$10,000 per semester to support the newspaper's operations.

Under the leadership of Ahmad Jalil, PhD candidate and Acting Editor-in-Chief, the newspaper has transformed from a dormant publication to a vibrant student media outlet. Their partnership with the Prince George Citizen allows for distribution of 23,000 copies throughout the city.

Look for CFUR Radio's dedicated section in upcoming issues of Over the Edge, bringing student voices to the wider Prince George community.

In an exciting collaboration, CFUR Radio and Over the Edge newspaper have combined efforts

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Glacier Loss: Local Professor Speaks on Global Impact

BROADCASTED BY IAN GREG

UNBC research professor Dr. Brian Menounos recently stopped by CFUR studios to chat about his participation in a comprehensive global glacier study. The research tracked worldwide glacier mass between 2000-2023, finding Western Canada has lost approximately 23% of its ice mass during this period—about 1% annually.

"If we took all that lost ice and converted it to water, it would flood Vancouver Island by about 20 centimeters," Dr. Menounos explained.

Beyond contributing to sea level rise, melting glaciers impact local ecosystems, freshwater flow, and hydropower generation. Dr. Menounos warns that most Fraser Basin glaciers could disappear by century's end, affecting both our environment and cultural identity.

Interested students can contact Dr. Menounos directly at UNBC to get involved in glacier research.



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