

Russian tanks patrol streets of Kherson as key port city falls

Putin escalates missile, bomb strikes on major Ukrainian cities as civilians bear brunt of attacks



Women walk the wreckage of residential buildings destroyed by Russian shelling in Zhytomyr, Ukraine, on Wednesday. VIACHESLAV RATYNSKYI/REUTERS

NATHAN VANDERKLIPPE
BUCHAREST
MARK MACKINNON
LVIV, UKRAINE

THE GLOBE IN UKRAINE

Russian forces have occupied the centre of Kherson, a strategically important city of 300,000 in southern Ukraine, in a key advance that positions them to move along the economically critical Black Sea coast.

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UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly overwhelmingly backs vote condemning Russia ■ A5

REPORT ON BUSINESS
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It is the first large city in Ukraine to fall under Russian control, as troops continued to fire rockets, missiles and artillery into other important urban centres on the seventh day of war.

Heavy shelling destroyed buildings and raised death tolls in the Sea of Azov port city of Mariupol and in the eastern city of Kharkiv, where Russian paratroopers landed Wednesday and explosions shattered parts of the city's police headquarters and a nearby university building. Local officials reported a missile strike on the city hall as

well. Russia's targeting of densely populated areas is reminiscent of the ruthless campaigns it has waged in Syria and Chechnya.

In a video message, Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov expressed disbelief at the destruction of a Russian-speaking city, where a quarter of the 1.4 million residents have relatives in Russia.

"We never expected this could happen: total destruction, annihilation, genocide against the Ukrainian people – this is unforgivable," Mr. Terekhov said.

■ **KHERSON, A4**



Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas says her family, like all others in Estonia, has a story of abuse exacted by the Russian regime. HENDRIK OSULA/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Estonian PM fears that if Putin isn't stopped, her country is next

MARIEKE WALSH TALLINN

Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas, whose small European country sits on Russia's doorstep, says the West has missed repeated chances to draw a hard line with Vladimir Putin, and argues it must stand up to him or he will set his sights beyond Ukraine.

"I think definitely Putin has to lose this war. Otherwise, it's, again, a signal that he can get away with this and he has then, you know, other ideas," Ms. Kallas said in an interview with The Globe and Mail on Wednesday. "We have a saying that your appetite grows while eating."

Memories of Soviet rule are still raw in

Estonia. Smaller than Nova Scotia, the northernmost Baltic state regained its independence in 1991.

Since then, it has wrapped itself in the protection of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization – achievements that distinguish it from Ukraine. But added security doesn't give it ironclad certainty that it won't be next if Mr. Putin's invasion succeeds.

"Of course everybody is afraid because we know our neighbour," Ms. Kallas said.

The assurances from NATO that it is united and will defend the territory of all 30 member states gives Estonia confidence, she said, but "I couldn't say for sure that Putin wouldn't test this unity."

■ **ESTONIA, A12**

Charest says he's leaning toward a run for Tory leadership

ROBERT FIFE
IAN BAILEY OTTAWA

Former Quebec premier Jean Charest says that if he became the leader of the Conservative Party and prime minister, he would bring fiscal discipline to federal spending, mend regional divisions and restore Canada's brand on the international stage.

Mr. Charest said he has a wealth of experience as a federal cabinet minister under former Progressive Conservative prime minister Brian Mulroney and as Quebec premier from 2003 until 2012.

He met privately Tuesday evening with dozens of Conservative MPs and senators who wanted to hear his vision for the country.

"I am going to be running as a Conservative. I am not trying to run as a red Tory," Mr. Charest said in an exclusive interview with The Globe and Mail Tuesday. "I know this country very well ... and we deserve better and we can do better and we will do better and that is what I want to bring to the country."

Later in the interview, he appeared to hesitate on a leadership bid. "I am still not there yet. I still have to see the rules before I make a decision on whether I am in or not." However, a source close to Mr. Charest told The Globe that he's already told close friends that the convention is held as early as June. The Globe is not identifying the source because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the matter.

■ **CHAREST, A3**

BoC hikes key rate despite economic uncertainty caused by war

MARK RENDELL

The Bank of Canada has raised its policy interest rate, pushing up borrowing costs for the first time since 2018 and kicking off a series of rate hikes despite heightened economic uncertainty caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The central bank's governing council voted to increase the key overnight interest rate to 0.5 per cent from 0.25 per cent, the first step in a push to bring runaway inflation under control.

This puts the bank on the path to normalizing monetary policy after two years of holding interest rates at record lows to support the Canadian economy through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bank governor Tiff Macklem and his team proceeded with the rate increase despite disruptions to the global economy resulting from the war in Ukraine and the massive sanctions Western governments levelled against Russia in recent days. These moves included freezing the Russian central bank's foreign exchange reserves and cutting much of the country's financial system off from global markets.

"The unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by Russia is a major new source of uncertainty," the bank said in its rate announcement on Wednesday. "Prices for oil and other commodities have risen sharply. This will add to inflation around the world, and negative impacts on confidence and new supply disruptions could weigh on global growth."

■ **BOC, A12**

NOVA SCOTIA Gunman's spouse, 17 RCMP officers don't want to testify at inquiry ■ A3

INSIDE

KONRAD YAKABUSKI A15
LAWRENCE MARTIN A15
DAVID PARKINSON B1
ANDREW WILLIS B1
ROB CARRICK B10
CATHAL KELLY B13

A-SECTION

EDITORIAL & LETTERS A14
OPINION A15
LIFE & ARTS A16
FIRST PERSON A17
WEATHER & PUZZLES A18

B-SECTION

REPORT ON BUSINESS B1
GLOBE INVESTOR B10
SPORTS B13
COMICS B16
OBITUARIES B19

PODCAST

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MOMENT IN TIME

MARCH 3, 1934



ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHN DILLINGER BREAKS OUT OF JAIL USING A FAKE GUN HE WHITTLED

Some inmates use a spoon to tunnel their way out of jail, others scale a wall with knotted bed sheets. John Dillinger used the old “piece of wood carved in the shape of a gun” trick. Dillinger, who was later dubbed Public Enemy No. 1 by FBI boss J. Edgar Hoover, wasn’t just a notorious murdering bank robber; the gangster was a veritable Houdini of holding cells, having escaped from custody before. On this day in 1934, at the supposedly escape-proof Lake County Jail in Crown Point, Ind., where he was held while facing murder charges, Dillinger made his move during morning exer-

cises. He had whittled a piece of wood and blackened it with shoe polish. Suddenly, he was brandishing a pistol. He used the phony heater to take the Tommys from a pair of screws and busted out of the Big House to go on the lam. (Translation: He convinced two correctional authorities that his firearm was authentic, confiscated their machine guns and made his egress from incarceration.) Alas for Dillinger, four months later he was tracked down and felled in a hail of bullets when he left a movie theatre. The authorities used real guns.

PHILIP KING

{ COLUMNISTS }

KONRAD
YAKABUSKI

■ OPINION



As Russia wages war in Ukraine, Deputy PM Chrystia Freeland is right where she needs to be ■ A15

FIRST
PERSON

Being a funeral pianist can be a strange gig, but Amy Boyes knows her music was helpful to families ■ A17

ROB
CARRICK

■ OPINION



There will be winners and losers as we move away from what could be the lowest borrowing rates we’ll ever see ■ B10

Ottawa protest organizer Lich takes issue with political background of judge who denied bail

KRISTY KIRKUP OTTAWA

Ottawa convoy organizer Tamara Lich submitted an affidavit in court as part of a bail review, saying she was unaware a judge who denied her release was a former Liberal candidate. Had she known, she said, she would have asked her lawyer to request the recusal of the judge.

Ms. Lich’s affidavit also said the convoy protests at the heart of the charges she is facing included expressions of discontent with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Ontario Justice Julie Bourgeois, who presided over Ms. Lich’s bail hearing, ran for the federal Liberals in the 2011 election campaign in the Ontario riding of Glengarry-Prescott-Russell.

Ms. Lich, from Medicine Hat, organized the GoFundMe page for the convoy protest. She is a former member of the governing council of the separatist Maverick Party in Alberta.

Ms. Lich testified to contents of her affidavit on Wednesday morning in an Ottawa courtroom. During cross-examination of Ms. Lich, Crown lawyer Moiz Karimjee noted that Justice Bourgeois released fellow convoy protest organizer Chris Barber. On Feb. 18, Justice Bourgeois granted Mr. Barber bail and ordered him to leave Ottawa in 24 hours.

“I don’t know the particulars of Mr. Barber’s case,” Ms. Lich said. “I can’t really speak to that. I can only speak to how I would have felt had I had that information prior to the hearing.”

Mr. Karimjee also asked Ms. Lich if she was implying that Justice Bourgeois was biased against her.

“With the rhetoric and the language that came from some members of the Liberal Party of Canada, including the leader of the party, I would have definitely

felt uncomfortable had I known that beforehand,” Ms. Lich replied.

Mr. Karimjee said Wednesday that the matter is about the rule of law, not the Prime Minister.

Ms. Lich, who was wearing a surgical mask mandated at the court because of pandemic restrictions, faces several charges, including mischief and interfering with the lawful use and operation of property.

Court was adjourned on Wednesday without a decision on the bail review. Proceedings are to resume on Monday.

Tamara Lich, who was wearing a surgical mask mandated at the court because of pandemic restrictions, faces several charges, including mischief and interfering with the lawful use and operation of property.

During the bail hearing last week, Justice Bourgeois said evidence showed Ms. Lich was “one of the leaders of at least a group of people who obstructed, interrupted and interfered with the lawful use, enjoyment or operation of property in the downtown core of Ottawa by blocking and occupying streets.”

Justice Bourgeois also said that while Ms. Lich does not have a criminal record, the convoy organizer’s behaviour in Ottawa showed her “detention is necessary for the protection or safety of the public.”

On Wednesday, Ms. Lich’s lawyer, Diane Magas, said it was an “error of law” to suggest there is a danger to the public when there was no “suggestion of violence, intimidation, threats, damage,

destruction of property, of any sorts by Ms. Lich, or even her encouraging such activities.”

There is nothing to suggest Ms. Lich would not obey a court order, Ms. Magas added.

Pat King, an outspoken leader of the convoy, was denied bail on Friday. Justice of the Peace Andrew Seymour said evidence from the Crown painted a “portrait of an individual who has clear intention to continue his protest and is indifferent to the consequences.” He also described “significant frailties” in a proposed bail plan.

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson and Ottawa interim police chief Steve Bell have described what took place in the city as an “occupation.”

Last week, Mr. Watson ended a state of emergency declared on Feb. 6.

Demonstrations in Ottawa were also part of why Mr. Trudeau invoked the never-before-used Emergencies Act.

On Feb. 14, Mr. Trudeau said it was a “last resort” taken in response to prolonged demonstrations in downtown Ottawa and blockades at border crossings in Alberta, Manitoba and British Columbia.

The act’s powers are triggered as soon as it is invoked, but its provisions require that a vote on its use be held in the Commons within seven days. During that vote, which took place on Feb. 21, NDP and Liberal MPs voted in favour of using the act, while the Conservatives and Bloc Québécois voted against.

Last week, Mr. Trudeau said the federal government was ending the use of the act because it had been assured police had sufficient tools to deal with any further challenges. An inquiry will be held into the act’s use and a special review committee of parliamentarians will also conduct an examination.

Witness dispute impedes shooting inquiry

Seventeen RCMP officers, gunman's spouse refuse to testify to commission reviewing mass killing in Nova Scotia in 2020

GREG MERCER

Families of the 22 victims in Nova Scotia's mass shooting say no one should be untouchable for a public inquiry trying to investigate all the facts in the tragedy, including police responders and the gunman's partner, who was with him as he appeared to be planning his attack.

But the high-profile inquiry was bogged down in a dispute Wednesday over who could be forced to testify through the use of its subpoena power — with arguments focused on Lisa Banfield, Gabriel Wortman's common-law spouse, and 17 RCMP officers whose lawyer says being put on the witness box would be too traumatic for them.

No one, the victims' families' lawyers said, can help fill in gaps in the timeline of the massacre better than Ms. Banfield. She was riding around with him on April 18, 2020, in the hours before the attack as he allegedly plotted his route and even helped him cut a path through the brush that it's believed he later used to escape.

But while Ms. Banfield, who is facing criminal charges of her own for transferring ammunition used during the attack, has so far declined to co-operate with the inquiry, the families' lawyers are also getting resistance from the RCMP union.

A lawyer for 17 rank-and-file Nova Scotia RCMP officers named by the Mass Casualty Commission says the police

shouldn't be forced to testify in inquiry hearings because doing so would cause them to relive the trauma of April 18-19, 2020. Nasha Nijhawan, representing the RCMP's National Police Federation, argued to the inquiry's commissioners that those officers have already "suffered deeply," including grieving the death of one of their own in the attack.

She said the inquiry has an obligation to use a trauma-informed approach to handling witnesses, and said the officers' previous interviews with inquiry staff, free from cross-examination in a public forum, should be enough. Ms. Nijhawan wants the commission to accept an expert's report on mental-health problems among police officers to back up her argument.

"Are you prepared to risk causing them more harm?" she asked the commission. "They are people, more than just their uniforms."

That argument didn't sit well with lawyers for families of victims, who say decisions made by the RCMP in responding to the attack on April 18-19, 2020, are among the most critical questions for the inquiry — and those officers need to answer to the public.

"It's contrary to the public interest," said Robert Pineo, a Halifax lawyer representing many of the families involved. "I'm not sure how much faith there would be in the ultimate findings and recommendations of this commission if a blanket expert report was used to block critical evidence from being given."

Joshua Bryson, a lawyer representing victims Peter and Joy Bond, said police have difficult jobs and are often called to testify in criminal trials involving violent events. Using concerns over the potential for officers' trauma because of a "generic expert



RCMP officers move in to make an arrest at a gas station in Enfield, N.S., on April 19, 2020, the second day of a mass shooting that killed 22 people. TIM KROCHAK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

opinion" as a reason to avoid testifying in the inquiry is simply unacceptable, he said.

"This was traumatic for everyone," he said. "To suggest these members be disqualified from testifying because of the nature of this subject matter and their hypothetical experiences is very concerning. In our view, it acts as a bar for this commission to fulfill its mandate, which is to understand what happened."

Who should be called to testify at the inquiry into the mass shooting has been the subject of intense debate in early stages of the Mass Casualty Commission, which is being held inside a ballroom at the Halifax Convention Centre.

A lot of focus was on Ms. Banfield, and information she may be able to provide around the timeline of the massacre and some of the planning the gunman appeared to be doing. Tara Miller, a lawyer for the families of victims Kristen Beaton and Aa-

ron Tuck, said Ms. Banfield was with Mr. Wortman on April 18 when he went on a long drive around rural Nova Scotia.

He appeared to be tracing part of the route he'd eventually use in his attack, the lawyer said, pointing out homes of some of his victims and visiting a bunker he'd later use to hide out. Ms. Banfield allegedly helped him clear brush for a path the lawyer suggested he may have used to escape from police, although she never mentioned this when she was interviewed by the RCMP, Ms. Miller said.

"Having a complete understanding of what they did that day, where they travelled and who they talked to will be material," Ms. Miller said. "There are still many gaps and factual inconsistencies that exist in the timeline."

Ms. Banfield's lawyer, Craig Zeeh, said until her criminal charges are resolved, his client can't speak to the inquiry. She's already provided four statements

to police, he said, and helped RCMP investigators perform a re-enactment.

"We've been steadfast in our position that she will not, at this time, open herself up to further interviews," he said. "If her legal jeopardy were to be gone, Ms. Banfield would co-operate fully with this inquiry."

Anastacia Merrigan, a lawyer for a coalition of women's shelters and intimate partner violence groups participating in the inquiry, also argued Ms. Banfield, who was assaulted by Mr. Wortman the night the attack began, should be shielded from testifying because it could discourage other victims of domestic abuse from coming forward.

Some key pieces of information about the hours leading up to the attack come from statements to police made by Angel Patterson, a mutual friend of the couple who spoke to both of them multiple times on April 18. Ms. Patterson, however, has not responded to requests to be interviewed by the commission — and as an American living in Maine, the inquiry's power to subpoena her is limited.

Sandra McCulloch, another lawyer for the families, said some of the evidence given by Ms. Banfield to police, including her account of escaping from Mr. Wortman's look-alike police vehicle, while handcuffed, and spending eight hours hiding in the woods in sub-zero temperatures, needs to be more thoroughly examined.

"We have significant concerns about areas of Ms. Banfield's account, reflected in her statements to the RCMP. There's much left unsaid, including her account of her escape," she said. "There's no witness more critical to assisting with fulfilling the commission's mandate than Ms. Banfield."

Charest: Former premier says he has a strong record as a fiscal conservative, citing Quebec's surplus when he left office

FROM A1

The earlier convention gives an upper hand to high-profile MP Pierre Poilievre, the only declared candidate at this point. The source said Mr. Charest will make an official announcement a week after the leadership rules are released.

"One of the things I would bring to the job, and I think it would be advantageous, is a real understanding of how our federal system works. I have been on both sides," he said. "That's very much a conservative value to make the federal system work while respecting jurisdictions."

Ontario MP Ben Lobb, who is undecided, said: "He's got great experience. With Charest, he would broaden the tent ... He would be well-equipped to be a uniting candidate, a uniting leader."

But Mr. Lobb conceded that Mr. Poilievre is also a dynamic prospect.

Greg McLean, MP for Calgary Centre, said people are leaning toward Mr. Poilievre but said many Albertans will be open-minded about Mr. Charest.

"A lot of people in Alberta still believe that we need a Progressive Conservative type of government," he said.

Mr. Poilievre, a right-wing populist, is expected to draw significant support from social conservatives, and his surrogates have already attacked Mr. Charest as a tax-and-spend politician out of step with mainstream Conservatives.

Jenni Byrne, a former top aide to Stephen Harper who is supporting Mr. Poilievre, has accused Mr. Charest of opposing Mr. Harper's move to dismantle the gun registry and for bringing in a carbon tax as Quebec premier. She also criticized him for working as a legal adviser to Chinese telecom giant Huawei Technologies while Beijing had jailed two Canadians.

Mr. Charest said he has a strong record as a fiscal conservative, pointing out that he left Quebec with an \$8-billion surplus and a higher credit rating than that of Ontario.

He said he isn't afraid of a fight with Mr. Poilievre and his team about his vision of the country. "This will be a tough battle. I have no doubt about it," he said.

He stressed that he too will be reaching out to social conservatives and build a broad-based conservative coalition to unseat the federal Liberals.

"I am not going to be running against socons, quite to the contrary. Here are people who are very much focused on their communities and their churches ... so there is a place for everyone in the party," he said.

When Mr. Charest was contemplating a run for the Conservative leadership in 2019, The Globe reported that he been acting as a consultant to Huawei in the Meng Wanzhou extradition case and the tech giant's efforts to participate in Canada's 5G wireless networks.

Mr. Charest was part of a team at the law firm of McCarthy Tétraut, including former privy-council clerk Wayne Wouters, that Huawei retained in the summer of 2019 to offer strategic advice.

At the time, Mr. Charest and the law



Jean Charest said he will focus on including a more vibrant foreign policy and stronger national defence in his campaign, particularly with the growing threat from Russia, which has a modern military base in the Arctic. DAVE CHAN/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

firm declined to comment on client matters or "whether we act for an organization or not." Huawei vice-president for corporate affairs Alykhan Velshi said in 2019 that the Chinese telecom would not discuss "individual law firms or advisers" that it hires for expert advice.

Mr. Charest said he had approval of the law firm to explain his role in advising Huawei to seek a plea deal with the United States as the best way to return Ms. Meng to China and free imprisoned Canadians Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor.

"For us, the best path was to sort out her situation with the government of the United States, and as a result of that, the two Michaels would come home," he said. "We did not lobby Americans, but we worked very hard with the Huawei side so they could see their way clear to coming to an agreement."

Ms. Meng, the chief financial officer of Huawei Technologies, reached a deferred prosecution agreement with the U.S. Justice Department in September, 2021, allowing her to return to China nearly three years after she was detained in Canada at the request of the United States on bank-fraud charges.

A few hours after she left Vancouver, China released the two Michaels, who had been jailed on espionage charges since 2018 in what Canada said was retaliation for the detention of Ms. Meng.

Mr. Charest, 63, said that if he became prime minister, he would follow the advice of Canada's allies and Canadian security agencies that have urged Ottawa to

ban Huawei from this country's 5G networks.

He said he will lay out details and policies once the race gets under way, including a more vibrant foreign policy and stronger national defence, particularly with the growing threat from Russia, which has a modern military base in the Arctic.

"Canada has been missing in action in a lot of parts of the world, so we need to have a very serious look at what our foreign policy and defence is," he said. "The North for us is a big part of the challenge for the future. We need to have a very, very firm view of how we are going to occupy our territory and exercise our sovereignty."

Details of the Conservative leadership race are now being developed by a 21-member leadership election organizing committee. When an organizing committee was last assembled in

2019, it took about a month to draft the rules.

The leadership opened up this year when the Conservative caucus voted 73 to 45 on Feb. 2 to remove Erin O'Toole as leader, capping tensions between Mr. O'Toole and some caucus members. Candice Bergen is the party's interim leader.

Mr. Charest, served briefly as deputy prime minister under Kim Campbell and was leader of the opposition PCs from 1993 to 1998 when he was recruited to take over the Quebec Liberal Party and challenge the separatist threat posed by Parti Québécois Premier Lucien Bouchard.

“One of the things I would bring to the job, and I think it would be advantageous, is a real understanding of how our federal system works. I have been on both sides.”

JEAN CHAREST
FORMER QUEBEC PREMIER

Forty-seven Canadians arrested in global child sex-abuse investigation

PAOLA LORIGGIO

Forty-seven Canadians have been arrested and 12 children have been removed from abusive situations as part of a global investigation into online child sexual exploitation, the RCMP said Wednesday.

The Mounties said 186 charges have been laid in Canada so far during the investigation, dubbed Operation H. Arrests have been made in eight provinces over the past two years, they said, adding the investigation is still under way.

The RCMP say the probe began in New Zealand in the fall of 2019, after law-enforcement officials there were alerted by an electronic service provider who had discovered a large number of subscribers sharing "some of the most graphic and violent child sexual abuse material online."

Roughly 90,000 accounts were identified as possessing or sharing child sexual abuse material, they said.

"Online child sexual exploitation is borderless and is among the most heinous crimes targeting our most vulnerable — our children. ... Operation H is a prime example of how global collaboration can help all of our countries to protect children," RCMP Superintendent Andre Boileau of the National Child Exploitation Crime Centre said.

The international investigation has led to the arrests of dozens of suspects in New Zealand and the safeguarding of 146 children around the world, they and the European Union police agency Europol said Wednesday.

More than 800 cases have been opened internationally and more than 100 suspects identified across the EU, Europol said.

Toronto police, who were contacted as part of the probe, said they have arrested and charged six men with a total of 18 offences, including some related to possessing, accessing and distributing child sex abuse material. Toronto police Inspector Justin Vander Heyden of the sex crimes unit said one of the accused has since been convicted and jailed, one has died, and the other four are still going through the justice system.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Official backs Zelensky's death-toll claim

Ukrainian President said nearly 6,000 Russian soldiers have been killed so far – a figure sure to rise as the siege of big cities continues, source says

ERIC REGULY
EUROPEAN BUREAU CHIEF
BRUSSELS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's claim that nearly 6,000 Russian soldiers have been killed since the start of the invasion last week is not exaggerated and is sure to rise sharply as the Russian military lays siege to big cities.

That was the assessment of a senior Western intelligence official.

"I think the numbers that he is quoting there are probably highly accurate," the official said, suggesting the figure is no doubt far higher than Russian President Vladimir Putin had expected after only six days of military operations inside Ukraine.

The Globe and Mail is not naming the official because he was not authorized to identify himself publicly, given his sensitive position in the intelligence community.

He put the number of Russian dead, backed up by NATO analysis, at 5,800 as of Tuesday evening. There was no estimate for the number wounded.

On Wednesday, the Russian Defence Ministry said 487 of its servicemen had been killed and just fewer than 1,600 wounded.

Mr. Zelensky cited the 6,000 figure in a televised address on Wednesday, in which he sought to boost Ukrainians' morale and fighting spirit.



Destroyed military vehicles fill a street in the town of Bucha in the Kyiv region on Tuesday, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues. SERHII NUZHNNENKO/REUTERS

"Today, you, Ukrainians, are a symbol of invincibility," he said. "A symbol that people in any country can become the best people on earth at any moment. Glory to Ukraine!"

The Associated Press earlier on Wednesday reported Ukraine's emergency service said more than 2,000 civilians had died, a figure AP added was impossible to verify. The United Nations human-rights office had tallied 136 deaths.

The intelligence official said the number of Ukrainians dead was probably much higher.

The official said the war seemed to be headed into a more deadly phase since the Russian advance had met a robust Ukrainian defence. The initial wave was com-

prised of lightly armed, highly mobile military units that the Ukrainian military found fairly easy to fight, depriving the Russians of a swift victory.

"Part of what you are seeing is them now catching up, that now it is time to introduce [better-equipped] troops," he said.

"I think the concern we have, they seem to be bringing in heavier forces with more armour, more long-range artillery, heavier weapons that are not just more destructive in their nature, but frankly are also less precise. ... It means we're likely to see an expansion of what we've already seen in the last 48 hours, which is already a great degree of civilian infrastructure damage. And so the violence level will go up, the

number of refugees will go up, the number of civilian casualties and dead will go up."

The UN has said more than 870,000 civilians have fled Ukraine since Feb. 24. The European Union estimated as many as four million Ukrainians may try to leave the country as the fighting intensifies.

Poland has taken the highest number of refugees, at more than 450,000, followed by Hungary, Moldova and Slovakia. The number of internally displaced persons is not known.

On Wednesday, Russia made strategic gains in southern Ukraine and occupied the city of Kherson, which has a population of about 300,000. Yet other important Ukrainian cities, notably Kharkiv in the east, and Kyiv, the capital, remained under Ukrainian control.

On Wednesday morning, the regional governor in Kharkiv said Russian shelling had killed 21 people and wounded 112. Meanwhile, an enormous Russian convoy had rolled toward Kyiv. Late on Wednesday, Bloomberg reported a Pentagon official said Russian forces appeared to be stalled on the outskirts of the capital, possibly owing to shortages of fuel and food.

The Western intelligence official painted a gloomy outlook for Ukraine, in spite of its surprisingly strong defence of key Russian targets and Russia's inability, so far, to achieve air superiority.

Russia's sheer military might and tolerance for losses may eventually overwhelm Ukraine, he said.

"The mass and the quality and the capability of the Russians deployed are far greater than anything Ukraine has," he said. "If you just continue to grind away, you will overwhelm the defence. ... Eventually, if the Russians maintain the will, they will grind the Ukrainians down and they will have a victory of sorts, but the death and destruction accordingly will be very high."

Kherson: Fear of attack now touching all corners of the country

FROM A1

Yet Kharkiv and the capital, Kyiv, remained under Ukrainian control, as the country's soldiers and civilians fought Russian troops with anti-tank missiles and human shields – such as the thousands of people who gathered on an access road to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant after Russia seized control of land around the reactor complex, Europe's largest.

In Kherson, however, Russian tanks rolled past downtown apartment buildings shortly after midnight – pointing their main guns at some, shooting at others – then took up positions at Freedom Square, in the city's centre. Russia has "taken full control" of Kherson, its Defence Ministry said.

On Wednesday night, Mayor Igor Kolykhaev wrote on Facebook that "there were armed visitors in the city council today" and he told them, "We don't have Ukrainian Armed Forces in the city."

The Russian military imposed a curfew and banned people from walking together with more than one other person.

By then, the city had already been in Russian hands for hours.

At 10 a.m., when Evgeny Dremov left his home to find medicine for his mother, Russian soldiers with heavy equipment were stationed at checkpoints on two of the main arteries in Kherson's downtown, Ushakova Street and Ukrains'ka Street.

Mr. Dremov approached with his hands raised high. At each stop, soldiers searched his bag, his jacket and his phone. He passed seven such checkpoints before returning home with only half the pills his mother needs to slow the advance of her Parkinson's disease.

Hours later, his hands were still shaking. Still, he said he would go out again Thursday to search for more pills.

"What the eyes fear, the hands do," he said, reciting a common saying.

Residents in Kherson reported Russian control of the city's train station, port areas and the Antonovskiy Bridge, a critical point of connection with Crimea, annexed by Russia in 2014, as well as the roadways that lead to Odesa, the country's most important port city.

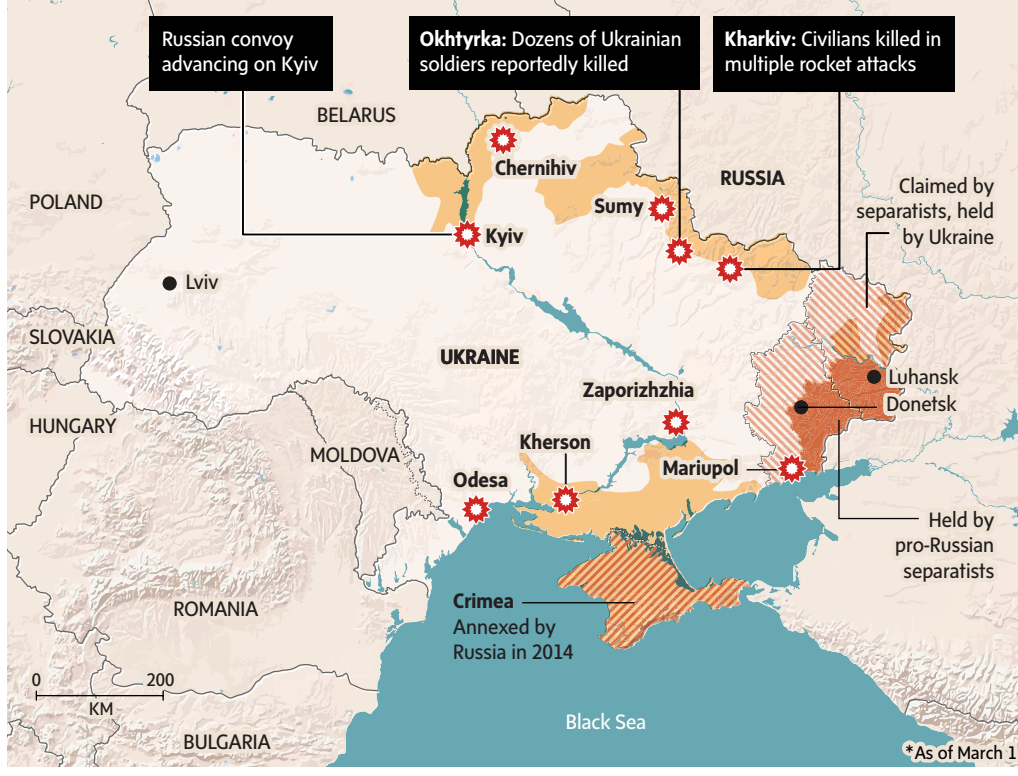
"Kherson is a key for southern Ukraine," said Sergiy Dmitruk, a lawyer from the city, where an unsettled quiet descended as people remained at home, some keeping their lights off for fear they could come under attack.

It is a fear that is now touching all corners of the country.

In Lviv, in western Ukraine, the day began with air-raid sirens.

Later, gunmen in black uniforms – who appeared to be Ukrainian special forces or members of the country's SBU security services – cleared part of the main square, although the rea-

Reported fighting Russian troop incursions



THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCES: REUTERS, AP, BLOOMBERG VIA GRAPHIC NEWS

son was not immediately clear.

On Wednesday Russia for the first time acknowledged significant losses in Ukraine, saying 498 of its soldiers had died.

In Kyiv, Mayor Vitali Klitschko warned Russian troops are moving closer to the capital. A 65-kilometre-long convoy remains positioned to the north of the city. A Tuesday attack on a television tower killed at least five people and rained destruction on Babi Yar, the site of Nazi massacres of Jews in 1941.

In a video address Wednesday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, his voice hoarse, said: "They have an order to erase our history. Erase our country. Erase us all."

A statement from the Ukrainian Armed Forces accused Russian forces of resorting to terror.

"Having no success in advancing, the enemy insidiously continues performing missile and bomb strikes on critical infrastructure in order to intimidate the civilian population," the statement said.

Russian forces have also failed to take Mykolaiv, a port city that lies between Kherson and Odesa.

In Kherson, however, the advance of Russian troops left the city gripped by terror.

Shortly after midnight Wednesday, a Russian tank passed by an apartment where Lina Ludchenko, a science librarian, lives with her two sons. It aimed its gun at her window. She backed away, fearing for her life.

Ten minutes later, she heard multiple shots – perhaps as many as 10. When she went out to look in the morning, she discovered that several apartments had been destroyed in a nearby building. Images she sent to The Globe and Mail show the apart-

ment windows had been turned into black holes.

On the street, Ms. Ludchenko found two people dead in a car – a woman in her 20s and a man in his 40s. She believed they had been shot for violating a curfew. "They were killed by Russians," she said. "There are only Russian soldiers in our city right now."

Residents remained defiant. Video shared with The Globe from Wednesday morning shows a line of tanks aimed at the regional administration building in Kherson's central square.

“

I have two places to hide. One is if we get shooting from the north, and another if we get shooting from the south. Mentally, it's very difficult. Sometimes I can't breathe normally. It's very difficult to function.

YURI VOLYNSKY
SOFTWARE PROGRAMMER
AND TANGO INSTRUCTOR IN KHERSON

A man stands between the tanks and the building, waving two Ukrainian flags. "Get out of Kherson!" someone yells.

Other images were far more grim.

Shortly before noon Tuesday, Anzhelika Melnyk's son, Yuri, emerged from a bomb shelter to get food and water from his apartment for his pregnant wife and four-year-old son. While he was outside, he was struck by a shell. "His body was torn into two parts," Ms. Melnyk said.

She gathered up the remnants and covered them to secure them from dogs before fleeing, as the attack continued. On Wednesday, she returned to pick up the body parts and brought them to the morgue. She also recorded a video of her son's shattered remains and sent it to others.

"I want the mothers of Russian soldiers to see what their children are doing in Ukraine," she said. Her son lived in an apartment building roughly five kilometres from the centre of Kherson, in an area far from any military facilities. She said she believed the attack that killed her son was part of an effort to terrorize the local population so it would not resist the capture of the city.

"I want those Russian mothers to see that Putin is firing not at military targets but at civilian homes," she said. The Russian President and his country "are not worthy to be on this Earth," she added.

"Mothers should not have to collect the pieces of their children."

The attacks have left parts of Kherson without water and electricity, including the village of Stepanovka, where a hospital is located.

Yuri Volynsky, a software programmer and tango instructor, spent Wednesday with his girlfriend. The pair were unable to move across the city to check on her 70-year-old father, whose apartment building was attacked, leaving him with burst windows and no water, heat or electricity.

Temperatures in Kherson are just above freezing. To stay warm, her father had covered the windows with plastic and was "wearing everything he can,"

Mr. Volynsky said.

Although Mr. Volynsky's own residence had not been struck, he has struggled to cope with the fear, rearranging bookshelves, electric heaters and mattresses in hopes of creating a safe space.

"I have two places to hide. One is if we get shooting from the north, and another if we get shooting from the south," he said. "Mentally, it's very difficult. Sometimes I can't breathe normally. It's very difficult to function."

Outside Ukraine, the West continued to respond with an escalating barrage of sanctions and criticism.

Canada said late Wednesday it would put sanctions on 10 petroleum industry executives at two Russian companies: Gazprom and Rosneft. Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly's statement, however, did not identify the names of the targeted executives.

The U.S. Justice Department has formed a "KleptoCapture" task force to find and seize assets belonging to sanctioned Russian leaders and oligarchs.

Some of those assets are hidden behind byzantine ownership structures.

U.S. President Joe Biden also said he is open to banning imports of Russian oil, a step Canada took earlier in the week. Jet manufacturers Boeing and Airbus both said they would join the list of Western companies who will not sell to Russia.

The death of civilians "fully qualifies as a war crime," British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said. He called Russia's tactics in Ukraine "barbaric and indiscriminate."

But with Western countries refusing to countenance military intervention, the defence of the country continued to fall to those in Ukraine willing to take up arms – including Sviatoslav Yurash, Ukraine's youngest-ever MP and a member of Mr. Zelensky's Servant of the People party.

In Kyiv, Mr. Yurash has been going to various checkpoints, delivering supplies and weapons.

The 26-year-old said although he has no military training, he was moving around Kyiv with a vest, helmet and AKM-74 assault rifle.

"They are trying to encircle the city, to cut off supply routes. They now have the north, they are working in the east, they are trying in the west, and we are beating them back there. The city is being prepared for a siege. We are bringing everything we need to prepare for that," he said, panting as he spoke.

"This is a city of millions. We are not just going to leave it after thousands of years of history. So, yes, we are going to fight to keep it Ukrainian, to keep it the capital of a European country."

With a report from Steven Chase in Ottawa

UN General Assembly deals Russia diplomatic defeat

GEOFFREY YORK
AFRICA BUREAU CHIEF
JOHANNESBURG

Russia has suffered a major diplomatic defeat at the United Nations, losing a vote at the General Assembly by an overwhelming margin of 141 to 5 after an emergency debate mobilized a surge of support for a resolution condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Diplomats jumped to their feet and applauded loudly when the vote results were displayed on a screen. Just four countries – North Korea, Syria, Belarus and Eritrea – voted with Russia to oppose the resolution, while 35 abstained.

The resolution demands that Russia immediately halt its invasion and completely withdraw all its forces unconditionally from Ukraine. The resolution “deplores in the strongest terms” the Russian aggression. It also condemns Russia’s decision to increase the readiness of its nuclear forces.

“The message of the General Assembly is loud and clear,” UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told journalists after the vote on Wednesday. “End hostilities in Ukraine – now. Silence the guns – now. Open the door to dialogue and diplomacy – now.”

The vote shows that the world wants an end to the “tremendous human suffering” in Ukraine, he said. “We don’t have a moment to lose. The brutal effects of the conflict are plain to see. As bad as the situation is for the people of Ukraine right now, it threatens to get much, much worse. The ticking clock is a time bomb.”

The resolution was approved by a larger margin than expected in the 193-member General Assembly, where all of the world’s countries are represented. It needed two-thirds support from the voting members to win approval.

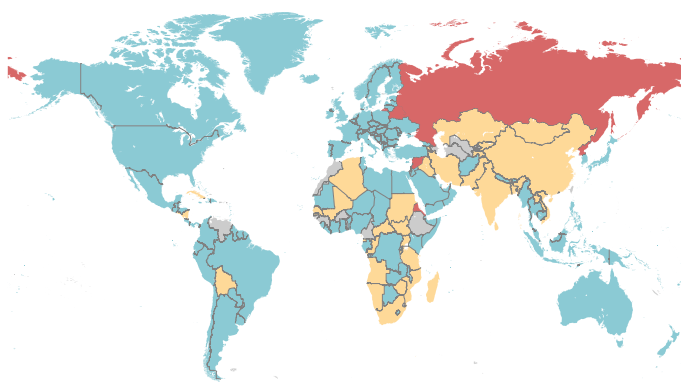
In a similar vote in 2014 after Russia annexed the Crimean territory from Ukraine, a resolution condemning Moscow’s actions was supported by far fewer



Delegates react as results of a vote on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine are displayed at an emergency session of the UN General Assembly in New York Wednesday. The resolution was passed by an overwhelming margin of 141 to 5. China, India and Pakistan were among the 35 abstentions. CARLO ALLEGRI/REUTERS

UN General Assembly voted to condemn Russia’s invasion of Ukraine

141 In favour of condemning **5** Against **35** Abstain **12** Did not vote



THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: UNITED NATIONS

countries: 100 of the UN’s member states.

Bob Rae, Canada’s ambassador to the UN, said the vote was an overwhelming result. “Now we must pursue peace with justice,

accountability and no impunity, and humanitarian assistance to those displaced by the war,” he said in a tweet after the vote. “Putin’s war must end.”

Even some of President

Vladimir Putin’s staunchest diplomatic friends were unwilling to support Russia in the vote. Some abstained, including Cuba, Nicaragua and Iran. Others, such as Serbia and Brazil, supported the resolution.

“This is a global rebuke of historic proportions,” said Samantha Power, administrator of the U.S. international development agency and a former U.S. ambassador to the UN.

“Putin is isolated to an unprecedented degree,” she said. “Even his long-standing partners are condemning this invasion.”

The General Assembly held the emergency debate under a rarely invoked clause that allowed it to hold a vote if the UN Security Council’s five permanent members failed to reach an agreement on an issue.

Since the beginning of the war, Russia has wielded its veto power at the Security Council to block any resolution against its Ukraine invasion, so the council referred

the issue to the General Assembly for a vote.

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the U.S. ambassador to the UN, said the vote showed that the world is united. “Light has won over darkness,” she told journalists. “The vast majority of the world has condemned Russia’s unprovoked, unjustified, unconscionable war. We have demonstrated that Russia is isolated and alone.”

There was a similar gesture on Tuesday, when more than 140 diplomats walked out of a room in Geneva, Switzerland, when Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was due to speak by video link to the UN Human Rights Council. Only a small handful of diplomats remained to hear him speak.

The dozens of abstentions at the General Assembly, however, showed that many countries are still unwilling to condemn Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Among the abstentions were China, India, Pakistan and 17 African countries, including South Africa.

Another dozen countries did not participate in the vote, for unclear reasons. Some were traditional Russian allies, such as Ethiopia, that might have wanted to avoid any connection to a vote criticizing Moscow.

The abstentions by key powers such as India and China in the UN General Assembly were a signal that Russia still retains some level of tacit support from countries that remain reluctant to criticize it – largely for reasons of economic or military links.

“India is the world’s biggest arms importer, and it is dependent on Russia,” said Sanjay Ruparelia, the Jarislowsky Democracy Chair at Ryerson University in Toronto. “Its reliance is even greater in the realm of tanks, fighter jets and submarines. All of these require maintenance, spare parts, etc.”

Despite attempts to diversify its arms suppliers, India still feels a strong need for Russian weaponry after a series of violent clashes with China on the Sino-Indian border, Mr. Ruparelia told The Globe and Mail.



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Several Ontario municipalities keep vaccine policies in place

ALLISON JONES

Many Ontario municipalities are keeping COVID-19 vaccine mandates for their staff even as they lift the proof-of-vaccination requirement at facilities such as community centres.

The province's vaccine certificate system covering restaurants, bars, gyms, cinemas, event spaces ended Tuesday and several municipalities confirmed vaccination would no longer be required to enter their recreation facilities and arts centres.

But many municipalities that enacted policies requiring employees to be double vaccinated or lose their jobs are keeping those mandates in place.

In Toronto, the city said that despite the other public-health measures lifting, its policy that employees need to be vaccinated isn't being removed.

"Ensuring all employees, as well as new hires, are vaccinated is an important component of what the city is doing to help protect the health and safety of all employees and the communities they work with," the city said in a statement.

York Region's director of corporate communications said maintaining the employee vaccine mandate is consistent with the municipality's obligations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. "As we have demonstrated throughout the pandemic, York Region continues to take every possible step to protect our employees and residents, including through our mandatory vaccination policy and strongly recommending all staff obtain booster vaccines as they become available," Patrick Casey said in a statement.

tors, including health care, schools and post-secondary institutions, to develop vaccination policies mandating that – at a minimum – unvaccinated employees had to submit to regular testing.

Kieran Moore, the province's Chief Medical Officer of Health, had said he would like to dissolve those policies in line with the lifting of the vaccine certificate system, though he said last week that discussions were continuing and it would take longer.

Many institutions, notably hospitals, developed policies that went beyond that standard, firing employees who refused to get vaccinated, and those facilities said their strict requirements would stay in place despite the province lifting restrictions.

The city of Windsor and the town of Clarington also said their employee vaccine mandates would stay in place. The city of London said it was reviewing its policy, but hadn't yet made any changes.

Sudbury said it reviewed its mandatory vaccination policy in the context of Tuesday's provincial changes and decided to keep it.

Ottawa required unvaccinated employees to complete an education course about COVID-19 vaccines, and a spokeswoman said Tuesday that the city would follow public-health advice.

"This policy is a temporary measure which aims to reduce the risks associated with COVID-19 and may be amended as new public health directives, provincial or federal legislation, regulations, or orders are formalized," said Valerie Turner, innovative client services general manager, in a statement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



In a ruling last month, the Ontario Ministry of Labour ordered Uber to pay a Toronto courier a total of \$919.37 in wages and holiday pay. Labour advocates say the decision that found the courier was an employee, not an independent contractor, sends a clear message on the issue of employment status that gig platform workers have long fought for. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Uber plans to appeal ruling that courier is an employee

HOLLY MCKENZIE-SUTTER TORONTO

Uber says it intends to appeal a recent Ontario Ministry of Labour decision that found a Toronto courier was an employee, not an independent contractor as the company had argued.

The Feb. 22 decision from employment standards officer Katherine Haire found several violations of the Employment Standards Act – and employment lawyers and advocates say the ruling sends a clear message on the issue of employment status that gig platform workers have long fought for.

Ms. Haire ordered the company to pay Uber Eats courier Saurabh Sharma wages he argued were deducted without notice last August, along with wages to make up for missing public-holiday pay and minimum-wage discrepancies, adding up to a total of \$919.37.

The ruling also dinged the company for not allowing required breaks during all of Mr. Sharma's shifts.

Uber spokeswoman Keerthana Rang said in an e-mail Wednesday that the company will appeal the decision, indicating that the case is headed to the province's labour board.

Ryan White, a lawyer who represented Mr. Sharma, said he would welcome the opportunity to argue the case before the labour board, which could set a precedent for future cases on the issue of employment status for gig workers.

Unions and other advocates have long argued that gig workers such as Mr. Sharma should be considered employees under the law and that Uber and similar companies are their legal employers – a demand Mr. White and Mr. Sharma both said was validated in the ruling.

"I think it does send a pretty clear message to other platform employers," Mr. White said of the ruling.

The case could also have further implications in a continuing class-action lawsuit against Uber Technologies Inc., involving roughly 50,000 people who are seeking the same designation as employees.

That class action was certified last year by an Ontario Superior Court judge, and stemmed from a court filing made by Samfiru Tumarkin LLP and Uber Eats courier David Heller in 2017.

Alex Lucifero, an Ottawa employment law-

yer with Samfiru Tumarkin, said the Labour Ministry decision "confirms what we've been saying all along, which is that the vast majority of these gig workers ... are effectively employees and that they are owed the same rights and the same minimum employment standards that all other employees are owed."

While the Labour Ministry decision doesn't set a legal precedent, Mr. Lucifero said it will likely be useful as a submission in the continuing class action on the issue of whether Uber couriers are employees.

"It clearly gives an indication that is the way a court will favour," he said.

The ruling also comes at a pivotal time for regulation of gig economy jobs in Ontario. It was rendered a week before the province introduced legislation aimed at addressing some, but not all, of the employment-standards issues at play in Mr. Sharma's case.

That proposed legislation, introduced Monday, would cover people who work on digital platforms such as Uber. It would offer people minimum wage for active hours, bar operators from withholding tips, establish recurring pay periods and require that companies give greater transparency about how platforms work.

Critics were quick to point out, though, that the government's new bill doesn't touch the issue of employee classification. The Opposition NDP and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers pointed to Mr. Sharma's case as evidence that the Progressive Conservative bill didn't go far enough to ensure gig workers have the same rights as all other workers.

Labour Minister Monte McNaughton said in a written statement Wednesday that Ontario's move to provide "core rights" to gig workers sets a higher standard than other provinces.

"Gig workers in Ontario will be significantly better off than their counterparts in Alberta, British Columbia, or any other part of the country," he said, also noting that companies could choose to go beyond the government-set standards.

"Nothing is preventing a \$66 billion-company from providing their workers with higher pay, vacation time, or other protections, tomorrow, if they chose to do it."

Mr. Sharma and his lawyers are still waiting for the ruling to be enforced.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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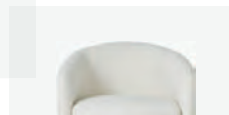
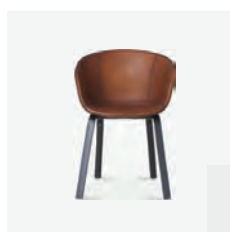
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Conflict tests balance of Turkey's relationships

President Erdogan's dilemma involves supporting a country under attack without angering a powerful neighbour that could retaliate

JANICE DICKSON ISTANBUL

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's balancing act of backing Ukraine while signalling that Russia remains important to his country is becoming increasingly difficult as he criticizes Vladimir Putin and yet continues to accommodate him.

The two leaders have a tense working relationship long described as a marriage of convenience, but it could be jeopardized by Mr. Erdogan's support for Kyiv.

He has sold lethal drones to Ukraine, and Turkey has described the conflict as a war, triggering an international pact that prevents additional Russian warships from entering the Black Sea. Turkey voted Wednesday in favour of the United Nations General Assembly's historic denunciation of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. On the other hand, Turkey has not closed its airspace to Russia and will not impose sanctions against the regime.

Mr. Erdogan has also offered to mediate the crisis, and earlier this week said Turkey would not turn its back on either Ukraine or Russia. On Tuesday, he urged Ukraine and Russia to stop fighting and said Ankara was not opposed to NATO expansion — a key bone of contention for Mr. Putin.

Experts in Turkey have described Mr. Erdogan's approach to Mr. Putin as walking a tightrope: showing full support for Ukraine while trying not to anger a powerful neighbour that could retaliate. The two countries have strong economic ties, with Turkey relying heavily on Russian fuel exports, tourism and trade. At the same time, Russia has long posed a threat, with historic fighting between the countries often resulting in Turkey losing territory.

Many experts have said that if Russia becomes irritated by Turkey's support for Ukraine, it could retaliate by bombing Idlib in Syria, which would send more Syrian refugees toward Turkey's southern border. "Turkey has figured out over the centuries its approach to co-operating with Russia and to confronting it," said Atlantic Council senior fellow and former U.S. ambassador to Azerbaijan Matthew Bryza, who is based in Istanbul.

Mr. Bryza said Turkey has tried to thread the needle on this issue and many others in the past, but it was clear Ankara could no longer avoid calling the conflict a war and triggering the implementation of the Montreux Convention, which limits warships in the Black Sea.

Mr. Bryza pointed out that Mr. Erdogan reached out to Mr. Putin, explaining the situation, and Russia reportedly assented. "So a balancing act, constantly," he said.

"He condemned the war. He condemned the annexation of Crimea. But he said those relations will continue on both sides," Mr. Bryza added.

Turkey's relationship with Ukraine is also important. Mr. Bryza said Turkey is Ukraine's largest investor. He pointed out that not only has Ankara sold drones to its neighbour, the two countries have agreed to manufacture them in Ukraine. "Those are killing Russian soldiers. ... There are dead Russian soldiers because of Turkey's co-operation with Ukraine, and there will be many more."

Turkey has traditionally balanced its relationships with the West and Russia, de-



Ukrainians living in Turkey protest Russia's invasion of Ukraine in Ankara in February. On Tuesday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan urged Ukraine and Russia to stop fighting and said Ankara was not opposed to NATO expansion. CAGLA GURDOGAN/REUTERS

spite its membership in NATO, said Seckin Kostem, an assistant professor of international relations at Bilkent University in Ankara.

He said Turkey and Russia are connected by geography and economic ties, particularly on energy, and the Syrian conflict. But Turkey defines its relationship with Ukraine as strategic — the two signed a free-trade agreement just last month — while its relationship with Russia is much different.

Prof. Kostem said Moscow has important economic leverage over Ankara, which is another key reason Turkey has to co-operate with its neighbour. "It's a strange partnership. It looks like an unlikely partnership. A lot of them referred to it as a marriage of convenience. ... I call it an informal geopolitical alignment, but it's definitely not a strategic partnership."

He raised Turkey's downing of a Russian jet in 2015, and then, in 2020, the killing of more than 30 Turkish soldiers in Idlib as a result of a joint Russian-Syrian air strike. "So it's not a close coordination of military plans in Syria. It's rather the two sides accommodate each other for pursuing their own military strategies," he said.

He also pointed out that Russia and Turkey have usually been at odds in every geopolitical crisis from Syria to Libya, Crimea, Nagorno-Karabakh, Georgia and now the invasion of Ukraine.

"They do have close ties. But because they have to have close ties, this doesn't mean they are allies or strategic partners. They've learned to have to co-operate in the past three decades. They share the same geography, so it's been a tough learning process."

Turkey's overtures to Russia have caused tension with the West. At the same time, Turkey has not always felt supported by NATO.

Mr. Bryza said Russia has also been playing it carefully with Ankara because Mr. Putin's chief strategic goal when it comes to Turkey is splitting it away from NATO.

After the 2016 attempted coup in Turkey, Mr. Putin was the first foreign leader to call Mr. Erdogan.

Meanwhile, the Obama administration took days to condemn that coup, and U.S. secretary of state John Kerry said that if Mr. Erdogan had clamped down on the opposition, Turkey's membership in NATO would have come under scrutiny.

Then, in 2017, Ankara's multibillion-dollar purchase of a Russian missile system prompted the Trump administration to impose sanctions against Turkey.

However, Mr. Bryza said, "Russia's attempt to pull Turkey away from NATO is now doomed," as Ankara tilts toward Ukraine.

What people often fail to understand when it comes to Turkey and Russia is the bloody history the two share, said Tallha Abdulrazaq, an expert and consultant on Middle Eastern military and strategic affairs. Several wars were fought between the Ottoman Empire and Imperial Russia between the 16th and 20th centuries, with the Ottomans losing much territory, he said.

"Such major historical events leave a sense of trauma that amplifies feelings of danger. This was perhaps best exemplified when Turkey shot down an encroaching Russian Su-24 in October, 2015. Ankara thought NATO would have its back against its nuclear-armed neighbour and it had strategic interests in Syria, so was hoping NATO would come in on its side."

But "aside from lip service, the Turks were told they'd be on their own in any conflict with Russia."

Dr. Abdulrazaq said the incident led to a humiliating climbdown for Mr. Erdogan, who apologized to the families of the de-

ceased pilots as part of Mr. Putin's conditions for normalizing their relationship in 2016.

He said preventing warships from entering the Turkish Straits will not change much, since Russia already has considerable naval power in the Black Sea. It is more symbolic, and the reasons are clear: "Erdogan doesn't want to risk a repeat of 2015, where Turkey is left hung out to dry with an extremely angry and powerful neighbour to the north."

"Turkey is still very much a part of NATO and desires strong ties with the West. But it won't risk the Kremlin's ire again without cast-iron guarantees that it will be supported and shows of good faith from the West in terms of Turkey's national security and strategic interests in Syria, as well as energy politics in the Eastern Mediterranean."

If Russia does get angry over Turkey's support for Ukraine, it might show in northern Syria. Soli Ozel, a lecturer at Kadiri Has University in Istanbul, said Russia could respond by striking Idlib, sending refugees fleeing again.

"I do think that the response from Russia, if they want to really create trouble for Turkey, it would come from Syria," he said.

Mensur Akgun, a lecturer at Istanbul Kultur University, said that while Russia is Turkey's neighbour to the north, it is also a problem in the south because of its support for President Bashar al-Assad's war in Syria.

"So there are complex set of relations with the Russians and they try to mediate between Ukraine and Russia and they try to calm down the Russians. But obviously they are reluctant to go beyond the restrictions of the Montreux Convention."

He too said there would be significant consequences for Turkey and Europe if Russia were to attack Idlib, where four million people are squeezed into a small plot of land.

The consequences of this war in Ukraine are "enormous" economically and politically for Turkey, he said.

Many experts have said that if Russia becomes irritated by Turkey's support for Ukraine, it could retaliate by bombing Idlib in Syria, which would send more Syrian refugees toward Turkey's southern border.

Canadian medical, humanitarian organizations respond to crisis

ANDREA WOO

When Nataliia Haidash's friend, a nurse, told her she would be returning to help their native Ukraine, Ms. Haidash knew there was little use in arguing. She had pleaded with her friend to support their home country from New Brunswick, where they now live, but her friend had already made up her mind.

"She told us she wanted to be a nurse in a Ukrainian hospital because that's where she's needed most now," an emotional Ms. Haidash said in an interview on Wednesday. "We tried to reason with her, we tried to tell her let's do something here, let's not rush. But when she decided, she did everything in her power to get the tickets as fast as possible."

Ms. Haidash and others began soliciting donations and, within 24 hours, they had amassed nearly 50 pounds of medical supplies including gauze, tourniquets and emergency blankets, filling the nurse's suitcases. Members of the Ukrainian community donated Ukrainian hryvnia so she would not have to worry about credit cards or currency conversion. One man gave her a bulletproof vest.

On Monday, just 48 hours after announcing her intentions, the nurse boarded a flight bound for Poland. By Wednesday, she had reached southern Ukraine by bus

and connected with local volunteers, Ms. Haidash said. The Globe and Mail has agreed not to name the nurse because of concerns for her safety.

The urgency of Ms. Haidash's friend comes as Ukraine's health care system faces mounting pressure a week into Russia's invasion. Humanitarian access is being impeded, medical supplies are running low and Ukraine's Ministry of Health has issued an urgent plea for foreign health care workers to help.

Under martial law, the heads of health care facilities can permit foreign doctors and nurses to assist, provided they have documentation of their professional qualifications.

Some Canadians wanting to get involved are doing so indirectly. After considering going to Ukraine himself, Vish Vadlamani of Delta, B.C., decided that it would be more worthwhile to fund any Canadian with combat or medical experience looking to go, with airline credits from a trip that he had cancelled because of COVID-19. Dozens of people have contacted Mr. Vadlamani, who said Wednesday that his top pick would likely be a medic from Calgary.

"I figured that at least I could do something from my side, even if it's very little," he said.

Jeff Blackmer, executive vice-president of global health and chief medical officer at the Cana-



Patients take shelter in the basement of a perinatal centre in Kyiv after hearing air-raid sirens on Wednesday. Ukraine's health care system faces mounting pressure amid Russia's invasion. VALENTYN OGIRENKO/REUTERS

dian Medical Association, said humanitarianism is deeply embedded in the medical profession and that he's aware of physicians discussing in Facebook groups and other channels how best to assist efforts in Ukraine.

However, he advised these workers to first contact groups such as the Red Cross and Médecins sans frontières (MSF, or Doctors Without Borders) to determine what the needs are and how best to help.

"It's not optimal circumstances to just parachute in folks who are extremely well meaning, but might not have the skills in really difficult, almost impossible, circumstances for untrained

people," he said.

MSF has had teams in Ukraine prior to the current conflict, providing HIV care in Severodonetsk, tuberculosis care in Zhytomyr and improving health care access in Donetsk. These efforts have been suspended as the organization dispatches teams to Poland, Moldova, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia in response to an influx of Ukrainian refugees. Teams in Belarus and Russia are also prepared to provide humanitarian assistance.

Joe Belliveau, executive director of MSF Canada, said the group has been working through tele-medical systems in recent days to train and support surgeons in an-

icipation of a surge in injured people. Supply chain issues are a major concern, he said.

"We're already hearing from our teams that there's a shortage of, for example, insulin for diabetes, anti-retrovirals for HIV/AIDS treatments," Dr. Belliveau said. The World Health Organization has also warned that the medical oxygen supply in Ukraine is "nearing a very dangerous point," putting thousands of lives at risk.

The humanitarian organization Médecins du monde (Doctors of the World) has had members responding to the conflict in Ukraine since 2015 and currently has about 100 members on the ground providing health care and psychological supports.

Nadja Pollaert, executive director of the organization's Canadian chapter, said members were moved to safe locations last week and that the group is now assessing next steps.

"Several years from our past experience of what is ... the pressure on the health care system will be huge because of the movement of population," she said. "We are looking also to Romania and Poland because of the influx of refugees, who will be putting a lot of pressure on their national health care systems as well. And we expect, as usual, unfortunately, in conflict zones, a lot of issues related to mental health."

Ukrainian activists risk becoming Putin's targets

Anti-corruption reformers shift their efforts to humanitarian work, aiming to provide food to Kyiv and other besieged cities

MARK MacKINNON
SENIOR INTERNATIONAL
CORRESPONDENT
LVIV, UKRAINE

Until a week ago, Iryna Shyba and Paulina Li thought the battle of their lives would be the one to rid Ukraine of endemic corruption. Today, as a real war consumes their country, they find themselves making strange alliances as they shift their efforts to a massive humanitarian operation that aims to bring food to Kyiv and other besieged cities.

Ms. Shyba and Ms. Li are just two of a group of Ukraine's young reformers – many of them judicial specialists who were working on rule-of-law projects funded by the European Union – who are now building a supply chain they hope will stretch from the Polish border to the cities on the front line. It will deliver everything from bulletproof vests and walkie-talkies to McDonald's hamburgers.

They do so mostly out of a sense of civic responsibility, wanting to play a role in an impressive countrywide effort to resist the week-old Russian invasion. But they also do so knowing that people like them – young, Western-minded reformers who want to see their country join the European Union – could be targets should Russian President Vladimir Putin succeed in his campaign to subjugate Ukraine.

The activists work these days out of what is normally a trendy wine bar in the old city of Lviv. Instead of live music and European food, the Vinoteca Praha now produces 3,000 lunch bags a day, each stuffed with a meat or cheese sandwich, as well as an apple. The local McDonald's contributes another 3,000 hamburgers a day to the effort.

During the first few days of the war, the volunteers were making deliveries to the long lines of Ukrainians stranded at the Polish border waiting to flee the country. Now, as those lines on the Ukrainian side have eased, they are delivering meals to internally displaced persons from other parts of Ukraine who are now living in Lviv, as well as to the reservist soldiers who guard checkpoints around the city.

Plans are being developed to organize relief convoys that will bring food and other supplies to civilians and soldiers in cities on



Above: Oleksandr Sydielnikov, left, and Iryna Shyba take part in a co-ordination meeting Wednesday in Lviv, Ukraine.

Right: Volunteers make lunch bags, for displaced persons and reservist soldiers, in what is normally a trendy wine bar in the city.
PHOTOS BY ANTON SKYBA/
THE GLOBE AND MAIL



the front line in the days ahead.

"We are not in need of food here. The most important thing is to redirect all our humanitarian aid to Kyiv and the east," said Ms. Li, an expert on judicial reform at Pravo Justice, a non-governmental organization funded by the European Union.

But while the activists say they are not suspending their efforts to clear out what they see as a corrupt old guard of judges in the country, they say the war effort is forging some surprising partnerships.

"A few days ago, I was doing reforms and fighting corruption in the judiciary. Now, we have judges who we perceived to be corrupt helping – calling and texting activists and saying they want to do something together, saying 'let's make a difference,'" said Ms. Shyba, the deputy head of the EU Anti-Corruption Initiative, another judicial reform NGO.

"Yesterday, we had a very famous and infamous Ukrainian politician here giving a lot of money to support us," said Ms. Li, laughing as Ms. Shyba inadvertently

let slip the name of a millionaire former presidential candidate. "He is providing a lot of food and he's helping the army a lot because I think they realize that all their money that they received in maybe a corrupt way doesn't matter if there is no Ukraine."

“

Only in the worst-case scenario, only if we see the Russian army near Lviv, we probably should escape. Otherwise, we will fight.

OLEKSANDR SYDIELNIKOV
TEAM LEADER OF THE
ETHICS COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

The reformers say they are optimistic they and their country will somehow prevail. They compare the situation in Ukraine with late 2013 and early 2014, when the pro-Russian regime of Viktor Yanukovich was using violence against pro-EU protesters who

had taken to the streets in Kyiv and other cities. There were dark days, they recall, before Ukraine's pro-Western revolution eventually prevailed and Mr. Yanukovich was ousted.

"I see a very similar mood of people, gathering money, gathering food and so on. This is really the same as Mайдан. Of course, the level of problems is much higher, and the number of people getting killed is much higher," said Victor Kylymar, an anti-corruption expert with Ms. Shyba's organization, who took part in the 2014 uprising.

The personal risks for the reformers are also very real.

In a televised speech days before the beginning of the invasion, during which Mr. Putin recognized the independence of the southeastern Donbas region of Ukraine, the 69-year-old Russian leader laid out a long list of grievances with the West and Ukraine.

In the middle of his complaints about the eastward expansion of the NATO military alliance and the supposedly "Nazi" government of President Volodymyr Ze-

lensky (who is Jewish), Mr. Putin launched into a surprisingly detailed diatribe about Ukraine's fight against corruption and its efforts at judicial reform.

It's a fight that has been supported by funding from Western governments, including Canada's, leading Mr. Putin to the conclusion that "there is no independent judiciary in Ukraine" – a country he described as "a colony with a puppet regime."

Mr. Putin raged about a specific point: "The Kyiv authorities, at the West's demand, delegated the priority right to select members of the supreme judicial bodies, the [High] Council of Justice and the High Qualifications Commission of Judges, to international organizations," he said. "Are the Ukrainian people aware that this is how their country is managed?"

Ms. Shyba believes the rant revealed one of the reasons that Mr. Putin decided to attack Ukraine. "He's pissed off that Ukraine is becoming a democratic state where there is rule of law, and which could show an example to Russian citizens how it should be. It's not only about NATO, it's about Ukraine making some progress on anti-corruption and judicial reform."

Oleksandr Sydielnikov is one of those whom Mr. Putin indirectly accuses of covertly taking over the judiciary. In fact, what he and his colleague Denys Zboroshenko do – as team leaders of the Ethics Council Secretariat – is vet judicial candidates for possible conflicts of interest, or suggestions of corruption. The effort included checks such as whether the property and lifestyle of a would-be judge corresponded with their official income.

"We were so happy that we made Putin furious," Mr. Sydielnikov said with a laugh.

But the 30-year-old – who was born one month after Ukraine gained its independence from the Soviet Union – acknowledged that it was also deeply worrying.

Mr. Sydielnikov said he and the other reformers are staying to help their country as long as they can. "Only in the worst-case scenario, only if we see the Russian army near Lviv, we probably should escape. Otherwise, we will fight, and we will support our army and our people because we are the first potential victims of his regime."

He said his wife, Svetlana Maisetriuk, a communications director for the National Agency on Corruption Prevention who had previously worked for USAID, the U.S. government's international development arm, had already decided it was unsafe to remain in Ukraine.

"Now she's in Poland, buying [bulletproof] vests" for the volunteers, Mr. Sydielnikov said.

Germany prepares for influx of refugees fleeing invasion

EMMA GRANNEY BERLIN

In the northwest Berlin suburb of Reinickendorf, the sprawling, tree-studded grounds of a former hospital have been transformed into an arrival centre for hundreds of Ukrainian refugees who are fleeing escalating attacks by Russia.

On Tuesday, some of them carried small bags or rolled suitcases that lolloped along the cobbled pavement. They walked past cars with Ukrainian licence plates and children laughing as they kicked a soccer ball among themselves.

Red arrows on large white signs point the way to the rectangular orange and yellow brick building where refugees first register with the government.

By Tuesday, about 800 people had made their way through the gates of the arrival centre. Activity is only expected to increase as more Ukrainians flee their homes, or those who have already arrived in Poland – which is starting to show the strain of welcoming nearly 400,000 refugees – make their way west into Germany.

The European Union is expected to grant those refugees the right to stay and work in member states for up to three years, after a proposal Wednesday to grant automatic temporary protection.

Irina Bondas, a member of the Ukrainian diaspora who lives in Berlin, was pleased with news the EU is considering the emergency proposal, though it worries her to think about a protracted conflict.

"I feel that most of the people fleeing are not thinking about staying here for long right now," she told The Globe and Mail.

Pointing to other conflicts, such as wars in the former Yugoslavia, she said, "People back then also thought it would last only a couple of weeks. So now it is impossible to think in longer terms."

The proposal in front of the EU comes on the heels of various European governments pledging help to resettle displaced Ukrainians. Italy, for example, has allocated €10-million (\$14-million) for refugee centres and pledged to increase their capacity by up to 16,000 places.

Estonia has lifted all visa requirements for Ukrainians, ensuring that people with expiring permits can stay and removing barriers for those who wish to go to the northern Baltic country. The visa exemption is indefinite, according to Estonian Police and Border Guard spokesperson Ilmar Kahro, and the federal government is also considering changes to make it easier for newly arriving Ukrainians to work while they're in the country.

While Estonia doesn't have controls along its border with Latvia, police have set up checkpoints to track the numbers of Ukrainians coming to the country and share information. About 200 have crossed into Estonia since the checkpoints were established, Mr. Kahro said. More are expected as the crisis escalates.

The Estonian Refugee Council is also co-ordinating evacuation buses for people at Ukrainian border crossings with Poland and Slovakia. As of Wednesday the group had five buses en route or about to start their multiday trips.

In past refugee crises, displaced people have tended to stay close to their home country, according to the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR.

The agency expects that trend



A woman is comforted by a friend after arriving from the Ukrainian border at Berlin's main train station on Wednesday.
TOBIAS SCHWARZ/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

will hold true. So does the German government, according to Ministry of the Interior and Community spokesperson Sascha Lawrenz.

About 875,000 people have fled Ukraine since Feb. 24, according to data compiled by UNHCR. About 5,300 of them have entered Germany, the country's federal government said Wednesday.

The volatile situation "does not allow any reasonable planning in terms of numbers," Mr. Lawrenz said, but he added that "Germany has the competence and means to deal with all realistic scenarios."

That competence stems from past experience. Former German chancellor Angela Merkel opened Germany's borders to more than one million refugees in 2015 and 2016, many of them fleeing the Syrian civil war at a time when other EU countries weren't so willing to put up their hands.

Most of the Ukrainians who have arrived at the Reinickendorf centre so far were already in Ger-

many visiting friends and family, and left stranded when Russia invaded their homeland.

Sascha Langenbach, spokesperson for the Berlin State Office for Refugee Affairs, which runs the centre, has no idea how many refugees will make their way to Germany.

"Nobody can tell at the moment," he told The Globe as families filed by to speak with officials inside one of the buildings.

"We do have information from the border from Poland to Ukraine – also from Romania and Moldova in the south – that there are thousands of them coming, especially women and children. The men return and go back to fight in the war."

His team is expanding capacity as quickly as possible, but he said the primary focus is securing enough beds, food, social workers and psychologists to help people "who have basically lost everything."

Refugees who register at the Reinickendorf arrival centre are given temporary accommodation in one of the 85 houses run by the government, which together have capacity for 1,300 people. By Tuesday, Mr. Langenbach's office was in the midst of adding space for 1,200 more.

Berlin Mayor Franziska Giffey told The Globe in an e-mail that the city is expecting up to 20,000 refugees. She said additional arrival centres will open soon.

As Ukrainians flee worsening attacks by Russia, the non-profit arm of online accommodation hosting giant Airbnb has started reaching out to hosts in nearby countries, asking them to take part in a mammoth housing effort. Airbnb.org says it is working closely with non-governmental organizations and other partners to support larger resettlement efforts and offer free, short-term housing to up to 100,000 Ukrainian refugees.

Jennifer Bond, a member of the Airbnb.org board, told The Globe in an interview that the foundation is initially reaching out to hosts in Poland, Hungary, Romania and Germany, but she expects that effort to broaden in the coming days and weeks.

"There will be an immediate, urgent need in those countries immediately surrounding Ukraine, but really this is a global crisis," Ms. Bond said. "As Ukrainians start to move into new destinations, our response will be activated in other countries as well."

The effort builds on a similar program Airbnb.org rolled out to help house 20,000 refugees who recently fled Afghanistan.

With reports from Marieke Walsh in Estonia and Reuters

PHOTOS FROM THE FRONT LINES



Newborn baby boy Ivan cries next to his mother as they take shelter in the basement of a perinatal centre while air-raid sirens ring out in Kyiv Wednesday. VALENTYN OGIRENKO/REUTERS



Sergiy Badylevych, 41, holds his wife, Natalia, and child in an underground Kyiv metro station being used as a bomb shelter. ARIS MESSINIS/STF/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES





Scores of people wait to board an evacuation train to Lviv at Kyiv's central train station on Wednesday. GLEB GARANICH/REUTERS



Left: Members of Ukraine's Territorial Defence Forces prepare to deploy to various parts of Kyiv Wednesday, as Russia continued its advance on the Ukrainian capital for the seventh day. CHRIS MCGRATH/GETTY IMAGES



Below: Firefighters work to contain a blaze at the economics department building of Karazin Kharkiv National University after it was allegedly struck during recent shelling by Russia. SERGEY BOBOK/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



A man walks through the wreckage of destroyed military vehicles in the streets of Bucha, Ukraine, on Tuesday. SERHII NUZHNEKO/REUTERS

Estonia: Small Baltic country's past is marred by decades of Soviet atrocities

■ FROM A1

Ms. Kallas and leaders in other Baltic states who were occupied by the Soviet Union have long warned that Russia was increasingly emboldened by a lack of consequences for the red lines it already crossed.

For example, in 2007 Estonia sustained 22 days of cyberattacks on its government websites, banks and news outlets, which were linked to the Kremlin.

Then came the 2008 invasion of Georgia, she said, and the annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Other Western leaders played down the warnings and now Estonia finds itself on the border of a country again waging war.

"What Russia learned from this is that they can take pieces and then you know, they have already gained and nothing really serious happens to them. So, they gain more confidence," she said.

In 2014, as a member of the European Parliament, she said she heard EU politicians dismiss the incursion into Crimea as an "internal conflict," despite Crimea being part of a sovereign Ukraine.

On Feb. 24 – Estonia's Independence Day – she said she woke up to a "very, very bad dream" come to life: the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

She said just days before the attacks began, some European officials at the Munich Security Conference still did not believe Mr. Putin would launch a full-scale war.

"We were right all the time. But it doesn't really help right now does it?" Ms. Kallas said during an interview in the building that holds the Prime Minister's Office in Tallinn's picturesque old town.

The 44-year-old Prime Minister has held her post since January, 2021. She said it's been "one crisis after the other" with ever-higher stakes.

The small country of 1.3 million people first declared independence from Russia in 1918. But during the Second World War, it was invaded by the Soviets, then the Nazis, and then again the Soviets.

It became independent again three decades ago, and despite the long occupation, it still traces its founding to 1918.

Today, Estonians bristle when they hear their country described as a former Soviet state.

"We have been more independent in our history than we have been occupied," Ms. Kallas said.

Still, Estonia's past is marred by decades of Soviet atrocities. Ms. Kallas said her family, like



Kaja Kallas, seen during an interview with The Globe and Mail in Tallinn on Wednesday, says it has been 'one crisis after the other' since she became Prime Minister in January, 2021.

HENDRIK OSULA/
THE GLOBE AND MAIL

“We don't have the naiveté towards Russia, whereas the Western countries sometimes do. And, well, it is because they come from a totally different background.

KAJA KALLAS
PRIME MINISTER OF ESTONIA

every other in Estonia, has a story of the abuse exacted by the Russian regime. In her case, her maternal family was deported to Siberia, where, at the age of just six months, her mother survived the three-week trip by cattle wagon to get there.

More than 30 years after the Soviet Union's dissolution, Estonia has never had the privilege of ignoring the threats from Russia.

"We don't have the naiveté towards Russia, whereas the Western countries sometimes do. And, well, it is because they come from a totally different background," Ms. Kallas said.

But something is different this time in the West's response. Through the G7, NATO and the European Union, countries have jointly hit Russia with escalating waves of sanctions over the past week and sent arms, but not troops, to Ukraine.

Also different is the response from Ukrainians, who have mounted a fierce resistance to the barrage of bombings from a military that outnumbers them. Women are making Molotov cocktails, individual Ukrainians are going toe to toe with troops in the streets, and the defiance from

13 Ukrainian soldiers on an isolated island became a rallying cry for the country.

Still, the death toll is mounting in the week-long war and Ms. Kallas and NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg have warned that worse is still to come. Russia stands accused of indiscriminate bombing in civilian areas.

On Tuesday, Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly referred Russia to the International Criminal Court "as a result of numerous allegations of the commission of serious international crimes in Ukraine by Russian forces, including war crimes and crimes against humanity."

The road to Ukraine prevailing is unclear, Ms. Kallas acknowledged. It's a difficult question that she said she also discussed with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson when he visited Estonia on Tuesday: If Russia has painted itself into a corner, how does it get out?

"I don't have a good answer for this," she said.

The threat of more cyberattacks and Russia's control over a small share of Estonia's gas supply are where Ms. Kallas said she sees the most likely potential for

aggression from Russia.

"The more connected we are, the more vulnerable we are," she said.

But she added that Estonia has diversified its energy supply and has gone through months of planning to prepare for any potential cyberattack on its world-renowned digitized government.

Despite Mr. Putin's military superiority, Ms. Kallas said Mr. Putin will never get the support or acquiescence of Ukrainians that he needs to successfully replace its government. She believes two elements are in Ukraine's favour: its citizens' motivation to defend their country and its sheer size.

"You can conquer some cities, but to keep those cities is much, much harder. So, there's going to be resistance," she said. "And even if Ukrainians submit to some kind of peace treaty, it wouldn't be voluntarily. I mean, it would be because the gun is pointed at their head."

But she worries this will lead to a "continuous and long conflict" because Russia won't "have the support of the public and the resistance goes on."

BoC: Inflation will be likely higher in near term than projected in January, bank says

■ FROM A1

"Financial market volatility has increased. The situation remains fluid," the bank added.

U.S. Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell made similar comments on Wednesday before the House financial services committee, indicating he would back a 0.25-percentage-point rate hike by the Fed later this month, despite uncertainty about the impact of the war in Ukraine.

The Bank of Canada's decision to start tightening monetary policy comes in response to the highest inflation in decades, which has eroded the purchasing power of the Canadian dollar and challenged the central bank's credibility as an inflation fighter. It has also become clear in recent months that the Canadian economy has largely rebounded from the pandemic-induced recession and no longer needs emergency monetary policy support.

The rate of inflation hit a three-decade high of 5.1 per cent in January, and consumer price index growth has exceeded the central bank's target range of 1 per cent to 3 per cent since April of last year.

In January, the Bank of Canada predicted the rate of inflation would remain close to 5 per cent until the middle of the year, then decline to nearly 3 per cent by year-end.

It warned on Wednesday, however, that price increases have become pervasive, and inflation "is now expected to be higher in the near term than projected in January."

Countries around the world have struggled with high inflation over the past year, as the pandemic disrupted global supply chains and changed consumption patterns, leaving central bankers scrambling to understand what was happening and to adjust their monetary policy levers. The Ukraine conflict adds to both inflationary pressures and economic confusion.



The Bank of Canada's rate hike on Wednesday is the first in what analysts expect will be a quick succession of increases in the coming quarters. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Russia is one of the world's largest oil and gas producers, and both Russia and Ukraine are major grain exporters. Disruptions resulting from sanctions, counter-sanctions and the military conflict itself have already pushed up global commodity prices. West Texas Intermediate crude oil hit US\$112 a barrel on Wednesday for the first time since 2011.

Higher energy prices tend to benefit the Canadian economy. But they also hit Canadians at the gas pump and feed into production and transportation costs, pushing up consumer prices at a moment when the Bank of Canada is already worried about losing control of the inflation narrative.

"Persistently elevated inflation is increasing the risk that longer-run inflation expectations could drift upwards," the bank warned. Central bankers pay especially close attention to people's expectations regarding inflation, as beliefs about the direction of inflation affect where prices actually end up.

"Central banks would normally look through geopolitically driven commodity price pressures, but with inflation already so far

above target, the BoC has said it is more concerned about upside risks to inflation than downside." Josh Nye, senior economist at the Royal Bank of Canada, wrote in a note to clients.

The Wednesday rate hike is the first in what analysts expect will be a quick succession of increases in the coming quarters that could bring borrowing costs back to prepandemic levels next year.

Avery Shenfeld, chief economist at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, said in a note to clients that the central bank's outlook for higher inflation means it will likely increase rates more quickly than previously expected.

"Odds are that the bank will deliver the remaining three quarter-point hikes we had allocated for 2022 over the next three rate-setting dates, rather than spread out through the year," he said.

"We expect it to then pause at a 1.25 per cent overnight rate to take stock of the direction for growth and inflation ... before resuming rate hikes in 2023."

How high interest rates ultimately go in this cycle depends on a range of variables, from the stability of the housing market to

how quickly Canadian consumers spend extra savings they accumulated during the pandemic. Financial instruments that track market interest rate expectations point to six more rate hikes over the next year, bringing the policy rate back to its prepandemic level of 1.75 per cent.

Canadian homeowners will likely experience these moves most directly through their mortgages. Variable rate mortgages move in lock-step with the central bank's policy rate. That means people who have variable rate mortgages will see their monthly payments rise or more of their payments go to servicing interest rather than paying down the principal.

People with fixed-rate mortgages – the majority of homeowners in Canada – could see monthly costs go up when they renew their mortgage agreements.

The rising cost of borrowing could begin to cool Canada's overheated housing market. Over the past two years, the price of a home in Canada has jumped by 43 per cent, with record-low mortgage rates fuelling demand and allowing home buyers to take out ever-larger loans. The bank noted on Wednesday that activity in the housing market remains elevated, "adding further pressure to house prices."

The rate decision comes almost exactly two years after the Bank of Canada made the first of several emergency cuts that rapidly brought the policy rate to 0.25 per cent from 1.75 per cent in response to the first wave of COVID-19. The bank also launched an unprecedented intervention into financial markets in March, 2020, pumping hundreds of billions of dollars into the system and quadrupling the size of its balance sheet in a matter of months.

The emergency measures involved buying huge amounts of federal government bonds as part

of Canada's first-ever quantitative easing (QE) program, aimed at holding down interest rates on longer-term bonds and reducing borrowing costs across the economy. It also involved forward guidance: a promise not to raise interest rates until slack in the economy had been absorbed.

The bank slowly wound down these emergency measures over the past two years, ending the QE program in October and dropping its forward guidance in January. Its decision to keep its policy rate near zero, however, looked increasingly inappropriate in light of blistering growth in consumer prices and a rebound in both economic output and employment.

The Canadian economy is performing better than expected, the bank said in its rate announcement. GDP grew 6.7 per cent on an annualized basis in the fourth quarter of 2021, Statistics Canada reported on Tuesday. Preliminary data also show the economy kept growing in January despite health restrictions related to the Omicron variant.

"The rebound from Omicron now appears to be well in train: household spending is proving resilient and should strengthen further with the lifting of public-health restrictions," the bank said.

Since October, the bank has been in what it calls the "reinvestment phase," in which it is maintaining the size of its balance sheet, but no longer increasing its holdings of federal government bonds. Policy makers have said they will consider allowing the balance sheet to shrink by letting the bonds mature – a process called quantitative tightening (QT) – after the first rate hike.

"The timing and pace of further increases in the policy rate and the start of QT, will be guided by the bank's ongoing assessment of the economy and its commitment to achieving the 2 per cent inflation target," the bank said.

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The subject who is truly loyal to the chief magistrate will neither advise nor submit to arbitrary measures - Junius

The search for answers in Nova Scotia

After two years of waiting, public hearings into Canada's worst mass murder are finally under way in Halifax. This week, the commission holding the hearings released evidence about one of the most controversial aspects of the tragedy: that the RCMP waited 12 hours before sharing with the public that the killer was disguised as one of their own.

It has long been known that the province's 911 dispatch system, and some RCMP officers themselves, were told early on by witnesses that the shooter, Gabriel Wortman, was driving what appeared to be a white RCMP cruiser. But a report prepared for the Mass Casualty Commission on the killings in April, 2020, in Portapique, N.S., fills in the terrible details.

A terrified woman whose husband was the first person Wortman killed, and who herself would moments later be murdered while on the phone with a 911 operator, said that there was a car in her driveway and that it was "decked and labelled RCMP ... [inaudible] ... but it's not a police officer."

A local man, who was driving with his wife through Portapique, passed what he believed was an RCMP officer in his cruiser, only to have the man pull up beside their car and open fire. The couple sped away and happened upon real RCMP officers responding to the shootings.

The wife of the driver told officers the shooter's car appeared to be an RCMP police cruiser. Her husband, who was wounded, told police the same thing at 5 a.m. the next morning, after he was released from hospital.

This was vital information. Wortman, enraged after a fight with his partner, killed 13 people in and around the remote Portapique area between 10 p.m. and 10:40 p.m. on April 18, 2020, and then disappeared into the night.

The next day, Wortman killed three people in a home about 60 kilometres from Portapique. He killed two more people after pulling them over on a highway. He also shot a woman walking along a road.

After those killings, at 10:17 a.m., the RCMP finally posted on Twitter that the gunman might be driving a replica RCMP cruiser and wearing an RCMP uniform.

Still in his fake Mountie car, Wortman went on to shoot and wound a real RCMP officer. He then collided with the vehicle of a second Mountie and shot her dead. He also killed a man who pulled over to see if he could help out with what he may have thought was an accident involving two RCMP vehicles. Wortman drove off in the man's car.

By the time an RCMP tactical team shot Wortman dead in a chance encounter at a gas station 100 kilometres south of Portapique, he had killed 22 people.

The RCMP has never explained why it didn't publicize the information about Wortman's disguise for 12 hours after first hearing of its possibility, and for almost three hours after Wortman's partner - who'd been beaten and tied up by Wortman but escaped and hid in the woods until the morning - confirmed to the RCMP that he was driving a vehicle "that looks identical to your police cars."

Was it a failure of communication? An error made in the fog of a fast-moving murder rampage? A policing decision? All three?

The inquiry's role is to make recommendations that could prevent similar tragedies. But most of the matters it is looking into under its mandate are related to policing. In much of the country, including Nova Scotia, the RCMP are effectively the provincial police force.

On Tuesday, another commission report showed just how confusing the situation was for the first Mounties who arrived in Portapique.

They were being told an RCMP vehicle was already on site, but couldn't understand why. They also quickly realized the shooter was going after multiple victims, after running into the couple Wortman had shot at in their car.

They worried their marked cars would make them a target, and decided to abandon them for their own safety and proceed on foot - while Wortman was still killing people in Portapique.

And by 10:30 p.m. on April 18, they knew Wortman's name and that he was driving a fake RCMP car.

It was a confusing and intense time, far beyond the normal experience of Mounties who police rural areas. But it has left the families of the victims asking questions about the RCMP's decisions during the killer's extended rampage. The inquiry is not a trial, but the RCMP is going to feel like it's in the dock.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CANADIAN SUPPORT

Re Ukrainian-Canadians Head To Ukraine To Join Fight Against Russia (March 2): If there was any lingering doubt about the resolve and commitment to maintaining the freedom of Ukrainians, look no further than Yaroslav Hrytsiuk, the 18-year-old high-school student from Toronto running toward the fight.

I don't know if there is a secular equivalent to godspeed, but I hope the next headline about Mr. Hrytsiuk is about reuniting with his mother and a safe return back to his new home in Canada.

■ **Mark Spurr** Toronto

Re Sajjan Calls On Russia To Ensure Humanitarian Access (March 2): Would it be too much to ask our leaders to stop declaring that we stand "shoulder to shoulder" with Ukrainians, when it is closer to reality to say that we are standing behind them? Several paces behind, in fact.

■ **Chris Marston** Toronto

WHAT NEXT?

Re Will Putin's War Threaten His Presidency? (March 1): Various Putin watchers have commented on his cold rationality and emerging persecution complex, and made historical comparisons to signs of dissent within Joseph Stalin's Politburo in response to his increasingly paranoid behaviour.

As British writer C.P. Snow wryly observed in his biographical sketch of Stalin, he "wouldn't be the first or only person with persecution-mania to have something to feel persecuted about." But "unlike most paranoiacs, he could act his delusions out."

Whether Mr. Putin's paranoia triggers his demise remains to be seen (some believe Stalin was poisoned).

But with the implied threat of nuclear war, I wouldn't be the first to suggest that supreme power entails supreme danger for all concerned.

■ **Denis Gertler** Toronto

Re Brace For Economic Collateral Damage, Freeland Tells Canadians (March 2): Our governments are still not doing enough to choke off Russian business and finance. Citizens should therefore take action.

Any person, institution or organization with an investment fund should immediately screen Russian companies out of their portfolios, as well as companies doing substantial business in Russia.

Let's also avoid online marketplaces where Russian retailers can still sell or ship products.

The struggle for Ukraine is starting to demonstrate the pow-

er of global civil society and the solidarity of citizens who won't stand for invasion and horror.

■ **Tom Urbaniak**
Professor of political science,
Cape Breton University;
Sydney, N.S.

I urge Chrystia Freeland to continue to tighten the screws on Russia by expelling Russian diplomats. Be strong.

■ **John Callum** Toronto

Re Pressure Builds (Letters, March 2): A letter-writer states that the second half of eliminating Russian propaganda from Canada would be for broadcasters to drop Fox News.

He is welcome to my home at any time to review, select and burn the books that I should not be reading; to audit my credit card statements and cancel the subscriptions that I should not be receiving; to contact my television provider to delete the channels that I should not be watching.

■ **John Budreski** Vancouver

VACCINES AND PROTESTS

Re The 'Anti-vax' Label Is A Problem, And It Needs To Be Retired (Opinion, Feb. 26): Society comes with a certain amount of faith in the abilities of fellow members.

None of us has the time to study construction methods before we call a plumber, or nerve pathways before we call the dentist.

We freely put our faith in them to do the right thing.

Why should this be any different with virology and COVID-19? Why do anti-vaccine people not trust their fellow man?

They have no background in science and all the wonderful things a scientist learns before becoming a doctor.

At the end of the day, laypeople should trust that someone has done the heavy lifting and luxuriate in a society that allows this privilege.

So what are we to call someone who refuses to have faith in their fellow man, who lives outside the common beliefs of society?

A heretic.
■ **Robert Graham** Kingston

Re We Need To Reassess Our Emergency Powers (Report on Business, Feb. 25): I agree that we need strengthened legal regimes and enforcement capabilities to deal with disruptive protests. Municipal police forces and existing laws, short of the Emergencies Act, have plainly not been able to cope.

I am sorry, however, that this argument was based primarily on the importance of our reliability as a trading partner. As an Ottawa resident, what matters to

me above all is protecting the freedom of my city from protesters who would take it away in the name of whatever cause they espouse.

Our right to live in peace should be first, please, then the economy.

■ **Jim Paulin** Ottawa

CONSERVATIVES AND LIBERALS

Re Wanted: A Real Conservative Climate Plan (Editorial, Feb. 26): I find current government climate policy illogical and harmful, yet The Globe and Mail's editorial proposes that the Conservatives adopt some form of Liberal-lite policy to curb emissions with more taxes and targets.

Fossil fuels, and coal in particular, still deliver reliable energy at low prices. There is a direct correlation between energy consumption and standard of living, and other countries want our standard.

Until a cheaper reliable source is found, much of the world will continue expanding use of fossil fuels.

Any carbon we reduce will be swamped by others such as China.

The Conservative position should be logical: Support development of cheaper energy sources, such as nuclear and renewables, and carbon capture and storage - and convince the world to get off fossil fuels.

■ **Paul Gagnon** Calgary

Re Canada's Future Elections Risk Mirroring The Culture-war Rhetoric Of The U.S. (Feb. 28): Advocating for Justin Trudeau to stay on as Liberal Leader (because there is no suitable replacement who possesses his putative gifts - "impossible" to imagine) seems to expose what is ailing the party: The leader is the party and the party is the leader.

When a party's hopes are vested almost entirely in its leader, a kind of stasis can set in. This was evident to me in the last election, when the Liberals barely improved their fortunes after believing they could win a majority.

In 2016, U.S. Democrats tried to "reinvent" Hillary Clinton to no avail at the ballot box. The same pitfall could happen to the Liberals despite any tweaks to Mr. Trudeau.

The thirst for change can determine the outcome of an election more than anything else.

■ **James Phillips** Toronto

Letters to the Editor should be exclusive to The Globe and Mail. Include name, address and daytime phone number. Keep letters under 150 words. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. E-mail: letters@globeandmail.com

Money, not missiles, will be Putin's undoing

The Russian leader's grip on power may look absolute, but he depends on his coterie of thieving billionaires

ALEXANDRA WRAGE
PETER KLEIN MONACO

OPINION

Alexandra Wrage is the founder and president of TRACE, an anti-bribery business association.

Peter Klein is founder and executive director of the Global Reporting Centre.

Without a single foreign soldier on their soil, Russians are under fire – lining up for cash at ATMs, seeing the ruble massively devalued and watching powerlessly as the fragile Russian stock market refuses to open for fear of collapse. U.S. President Joe Biden opened his State of the Union address this week pledging sanctions targeting Russia's kleptocratic ruling class, saying the U.S. will "seize your yachts, your luxury apartments, your private jets. We

are coming for your ill-begotten gains." In Vladimir Putin's war of bullets and bluster, it is money, not missiles, that may prove to be his undoing.

Part of Mr. Putin's motivation for this war, formed in "consultation" with yes-men seated at the far end of absurdly long tables, was to hold off anti-corruption and pro-transparency efforts that have taken hold in the West and are creeping eastward. Days before invading, Mr. Putin gave a rambling hour-long speech to justify his war, railing against the Ukrainian High Anti-Corruption Court, the National Agency on Corruption Prevention and NGOs that sought to clean up Ukraine's state-owned enterprises.

Here in Monaco, where we have been filming a documentary about global corruption, the effect of the Russian kleptocracy is palpable. Menus are offered in Russian for the wealthy who vacation here, and those who establish businesses in the haven to hide their wealth. The recent Pandora Papers exposé revealed that Mr. Putin's alleged mistress mysteriously bought a multimillion-dollar home in the Mediterranean principality, and used a Monaco financial services firm that also worked for one of

Mr. Putin's billionaire friends. Our driver said he fears the new sanctions against Russia will dry up his business, since wealthy Russians are his best clients.

Mr. Putin's grip on power may look absolute, but he depends on the coterie of thieving billionaires that he allows to dip into the state's resources. Lose their fealty and he is finished. With the invasion of Ukraine, he may have overplayed his hand.

He underestimated the speed and severity of sanctions that a co-ordinated financial system could impose. Even traditionally neutral countries such as Switzerland have joined the European Union, Canada, the United States, Japan, Taiwan and New Zealand in their plans to block Russian banks from the SWIFT international network. Key Russian imports and exports have been halted. Russian assets of Putin allies have been frozen. Airspace has been closed to Russian aircraft worldwide. Travel bans targeting Russian airlines have trapped travellers in the country. Western companies and investors are exiting the Russian economy. Switzerland has taken the unprecedented step of freezing the "secret" bank accounts of Russia's oligarchs. In direct response to the invasion, the U.K.

is introducing legislation to require foreign owners of property to reveal their identity. This step has been promoted by anti-corruption activists for years, but was finally triggered by Mr. Putin's own folly.

While strongmen such as Mr. Putin have continued amassing wealth by taking advantage of lax corruption enforcement, the ground has quietly been shifting under their feet. New laws in several countries that prohibit anonymous shell companies will constrain the ability of oligarchs to park their wealth overseas. Increased scrutiny of "golden passports," which allow the wealthy to buy citizenship or visas, will make it harder for Russian billionaires to move their mistresses into London mansions or their children into Swiss boarding schools. Pressure is mounting to rein in bank secrecy. In response to a changing world, Mr. Putin clearly felt cornered.

Only days into the war, Mr. Putin's billionaires have begun to publicly revolt, one going so far as to predict that the war would be "catastrophic" for Russia. Ordinary citizens are protesting too, risking arrest to speak out against the invasion.

It would be a major error to suggest that Mr. Putin is weak,

but he does have a weakness. Mr. Putin needs the support of the Russian oligarchs, and their support depends on access to their cash. Unfortunately for Mr. Putin, most of that cash is parked overseas, deliberately taken out of Russia and invested in places such as London, Paris and New York. Some estimates indicate that 85 per cent of Russia's national income may be stashed overseas. All the West has to do is scoop up those mansions, seize those overseas bank accounts and lock down visas and foreign travel by Russia's elite.

Do that, and Mr. Putin will find himself utterly alone at home and abroad.

As Russian forces continue to march through Ukraine, they've surrounded the ancient city of Kharkiv, known as the Kharkiv fortress, and prepared for a classic military manoeuvre of the 14th-century: the siege. But times and tactics have changed, and Mr. Putin and his cronies find themselves under economic siege. Huddled behind the isolated walls of their national border and cut off from the previously friendly fields of the global financial system, Russia's economy will be strangled – a move that may force Mr. Putin to withdraw in a way no bombs ever could.

On Russia sanctions, Freeland is in the right place at the right time

KONRAD
YAKUBUSKI

OPINION

Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland has articulated Canada's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine with the resolve and assuredness of someone who looks like she has been preparing for this moment for a very long time.

It is no act. No one in the Canadian political class has studied Russia, or its now pariah president, more than Ms. Freeland. As a student of Russian history at Harvard and exchange student in Kyiv in the 1980s. As the Moscow correspondent for the Financial Times in the 1990s. Or, since 2015, in her successive roles as Canada's minister of international trade, foreign affairs and finance.

"There are moments in history," Ms. Freeland said on Monday, "when the great struggle between freedom and tyranny comes down to one fight, in one place, which is waged for all humanity."

Her five-minute speech overshadowed that of her boss, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and went viral on social media. Like her other pronouncements on Russian President Vladimir Putin's military assault on Ukraine, it stood out from the boilerplate recrimination uttered by many politicians. It was personal, thoughtful and stated with conviction.

If Mr. Putin has confounded many Western leaders, Ms. Freeland seems to have had his number for some time now. She has never bought the narrative of Mr. Putin as a nationalist leader seek-



Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland joins a march in Toronto on Sunday as thousands gather to show their support for the people of Ukraine after the invasion by Russia. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

ing to restore Russia to imperial or great-power status, suggesting rather that he has used that ruse as a cover for his own insatiable appetite for power and wealth.

"All the talk of a mystic Slavic brotherhood, of feelings of national humiliation, of responding to the threat posed by NATO and standing up for a multipolar world has done its job. It has also obscured what Putin really wants. He is a dictator whose thirst for power has eroded the economic prosperity his rule had hitherto partly rested upon. Foreign conquest is an obvious distraction and substitute," Ms. Freeland wrote in Britain's Prospect magazine in 2014.

Ms. Freeland's Ukrainian roots – her grandparents immigrated to

Canada in 1948 and her mother helped write the country's constitution after it won its independence in 1991 – have undeniably shaped her own views on Russia and Mr. Putin.

When she was named foreign affairs minister in 2017, some experts worried Mr. Putin would see the move as a provocation. He had slapped an entry ban on her and 11 other Canadian politicians and senior bureaucrats after Canada placed sanctions on Russia following its 2014 annexation of Crimea.

Ms. Freeland ended her predecessor Stéphane Dion's efforts to seek a rapprochement with Russia and championed the adoption of Canada's Magnitsky Act, enabling the sanctioning of foreign

nationals for corruption or human-rights violations. The law has come in handy now.

While at Foreign Affairs, however, Ms. Freeland was principally preoccupied with a different threat than Mr. Putin to the rules-based international order – specifically then-U.S. president Donald Trump, whose disdain for multilateralism had scrambled postwar global institutions.

She has had more success in persuading reluctant European allies to embrace far tougher sanctions on Russia and Mr. Putin than they had initially been prepared to accept, including a freeze on the foreign assets of the Russian central bank. The freeze effectively prevents the bank from intervening in foreign-exchange markets

to shore up the ruble, which has plunged to a record low.

According to a Reuters report, Ms. Freeland directly addressed Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov and central bank governor Elvira Nabiullina during a Feb. 18 meeting of Group of Twenty finance officials, warning the duo not to doubt the resolve of "like-minded democracies" to punish Russia if it invaded Ukraine. Politico reported on Sunday that Ms. Freeland had spent much of last week "pushing the idea of sanctioning the central bank" among her Group of Seven colleagues.

It would be an exaggeration to suggest Ms. Freeland was alone responsible for the West's adoption of economic sanctions on Russia that few people, or even Mr. Putin himself, thought possible. But, on this issue, Canada does appear to have exerted substantial influence on its peers.

"What we are seeing here from Vladimir Putin is an attempt to have his cake and eat it, too. He wants to behave like a communist dictator, but he and his entourage had thought they could do that and continue to enjoy all of the fruits of global capitalism," Ms. Freeland explained on Tuesday. "And what the world decided really, really clearly last week and then particularly this weekend, is you don't get to do that."

In 2014, following the Crimea annexation, Ms. Freeland, then a backbench Liberal MP, warned: "To secure his power at home, Putin has tested its limits abroad. Whether it is in Ukraine, or elsewhere, one day we will have to stop him."

Fate, or something like it, seems to have put her in the right place at the right time.

Putin's war is revitalizing the Biden presidency – and America's global leadership role

LAWRENCE
MARTIN

OPINION

That was a chipper and confident Joe Biden giving the State of the Union address Tuesday night.

Small wonder. His presidency has been given a new life. Vladimir Putin's barbaric assault on Ukraine has shifted the focus from the President's debilitating domestic woes to a leadership role on the global stage confronting the march of authoritarianism.

Mr. Biden has an opportunity to unite his brutally fractured republic against a common enemy. In a rare show of bipartisanship, typically disdainful Republicans actually stood to applaud him as he expressed his resolve in meeting the Putin challenge.

"It is in this moment that our character is formed, our purpose is found," Mr. Biden said. "I know this nation. We will meet the test."

The Russian autocrat's butchery resets the course, not just for this President, but the country. American leadership has become indispensable again. The end of the Cold War had the effect of making the world less reliant on the United States. The sudden onset of Cold War 2 changes that equation.

External threats have been a consensus-building, unifying force through American history. Now its people have common purpose again, and its transatlantic allies are suddenly unified to a degree not seen in decades.

Allies such as Canada could not be enthused by the economic thrust of the Biden speech, however, as he doubled down on his pledge to rebuild manufacturing via domestic sourcing.

"We're going to do it by buying American," he vowed. "Made in America from beginning to end. All of it. All of it."

In the speech, which offered an overstated list of good deeds accomplished and more to come, Mr. Biden devoted considerable

time to trying to reassure Americans that the days of COVID-19 anguish would soon be behind them. But the war was the major focus.

The magnitude of the invasion dwarfs most everything that transpired in the first year of his stewardship. He set out to be a New Deal president but might be more comfortable and more suited, despite his bungling of the Afghanistan withdrawal, to the role of defender of the free world.

Missing from his speech was any major new initiatives against Russia or an articulation of a more wide-ranging foreign policy. Regrettably, he passed on an opportunity to appeal directly to the Russian people with a message that they are being isolated by their dictator's act of madness and will suffer grievous economic consequences as a result.

Mr. Biden's confidence – "I am more optimistic about America today than I have been my whole life" – runs up against perilous realities. The threat of a thermonuclear confrontation, given the Pu-

tin bombast, cannot be entirely discounted. While the naked aggression has brought on condemnation throughout the world, the Russian leader still appears to have the support of China. The effect of the war could touch off a new arms race, resulting in less resources for other priorities. Inflation could ramp up even more than it already has.

Politically, however, Mr. Biden hopes to benefit from several factors: the rally-around-the-flag effect; the competence he has displayed thus far in forging the economic sequestration of Russia; and the perverse response to the crisis of the Republican Party, which sometimes looked to be more on board with the Kremlin than Ukraine.

Normally, the Republicans – the party at the helm at the end of the first Cold War – would be in an advantageous position as espousers of a hard-line stand against Russia. But under Donald Trump, the party was a Putin patsy. Defence assistance to Ukraine was frozen and Mr. Trump was im-

peached for his attempt to allegedly blackmail its president, Volodymyr Zelensky.

But Mr. Biden has hardly been impressive in his dealings with the Russian strongman who interfered in the 2016 election in a bid to help Mr. Trump gain the White House. Rather than recoil, he treated Mr. Putin with a measure of patience, almost respect. While lacking domestic support for a military confrontation with Russia in Ukraine, Mr. Biden need not have given Mr. Putin the green light by publicly vowing to keep his forces out of any conflict. Had he left the door open, it may have had the effect of making Mr. Putin think more than twice about an assault.

Nevertheless, the crisis could work in Mr. Biden's favour. He appeared to be headed for a disastrous defeat in the midterm elections. That still may be the case. But his presidency has been recast. Courtesy of the autocrat's monstrous aggression, he has a chance of reasserting his leadership, and that of his country.

LIFE & ARTS

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B.C. filmmaker's latest work highlights how artists are confronting climate change

Niobe Thompson's *Carbon* casts the title element as a misunderstood hero now contributing to a catastrophe that isn't her fault, but ours

MARSHA LEDERMAN

It is the best job in the world, being able to write about art. It's particularly exciting when readers want to engage: amplify your ideas, debate your observations, complement them with their own. So often, though, you write into the wind and hope somebody catches onto what you're saying and gives it a think.

But rarely in my years of writing has something like this happened.

I received an e-mail last year from Canadian filmmaker Niobe Thompson. I had written about him once before, when he released his documentary series *The Great Human Odyssey*.

He wanted to tell me about his new film, to be released in 2022. *Carbon: The Unauthorized Biography* had its world premiere at Toronto's Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema Feb. 28, and will be broadcast March 4 on CBC's *The Nature of Things*. It is a tribute to the chemical element that is causing so much trouble for us, but also created us.

In the film, co-directed by Thompson and Australian filmmaker Daniella Ortega, *Carbon* is a character with a personality and a story (and a gender - female, with she/her pronouns). Voiced by Sarah Snook (*Shiv* from *Succession*), *Carbon* is a misunderstood hero who has created an unlikely miracle (life) and is now contributing to a catastrophe. Not her fault; ours.

"She's at the core of life. She makes this world possible," Thompson told me this week at a Vancouver café. "Why shouldn't *Carbon* tell her own story and speak directly to us?"

In the spring of 2019, Thompson was coming off a year-long sabbatical; he and his family had left Edmonton to travel the world. He had read *The Uninhabitable Earth* by David Wallace-Wells and was thinking a lot about climate change - and what he could do about it.

"Even though I've been working in this space for a long time, made two films about the tar sands, it really brought home that we're in a serious crisis and we're all going to be facing our kids at a certain point and they're going to be asking: What did you do?"

He did some math: At the time, he fig-



Director Niobe Thompson, left, and composer Jonathan Kawchuk work behind the scenes on *Carbon: The Unauthorized Biography*. The film, which premiered in Toronto earlier this week, will be broadcast March 4 on CBC's *The Nature of Things*.

ured his daughter was going to be his age in 2050, maybe raising a family.

"And I think 2050 is going to be a very different world in terms of the climate trajectory. So I really thought: Well, if this is a reassessment, if this is a moment when we're taking a breather and I'm trying to figure out what to do with my remaining energies, what's it going to be?"

He thought about going off the grid to prepare for the apocalypse. "But then in a more sober moment you think, well what do I actually have to give? And I'm a filmmaker."

Then, he told me, he read something that August that further encouraged him. It was an article I had written about climate change and the arts, how artists were taking on this subject matter. And maybe, by doing so, could become the planet's saviour.

"It's like you just read my mind with that article," he told me. "And I thought, wow, there's other artists out there thinking about the same thing. Marsha's kind of

laying down the gauntlet and saying the science is settled; now the artists have a job to do. And it really helped clarify my thinking," he said.

This was pretty thrilling to hear. I grappled with how to write this without sounding self-congratulatory; truly, that is not the intent. I just thought: This is really cool. How ideas build on one another and create something new.

"You throw a stone out into the pond and the waves are going to hit the shore at some point," Thompson told me. "You threw a stone in August, 2019, and I can't be the only artist who read that and went 'yeah, that.' And then started putting their life in order to go in that direction."

Carbon was shot entirely during the pandemic, so Thompson would often be directing via Zoom, or relying on remote crews in far-flung locations. But it also meant access to some big names who might not have been available otherwise, like the superstar (sorry) astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson.

As for Snook, Thompson says she was totally on board.

"What a gift to have an actor like that. And she really bit into the role," says Thompson, noting that in spite of her rock-stardom fame, she was accessible and gave the role her all. "She did not mail it in."

Not wanting to be called out by his daughters for fiddling while the planet burned, Thompson has made a personal commitment to always be working on at least one project dealing with the climate issue.

"You said it. Now that we know the science, it's time for the artists to get to work," Thompson, who is now based in Victoria, told me. The Rolling Stones' *Time Is on My Side* was playing in the background.

"I have another thing to say to my kids when they're parents about 'what did you do when you knew.' This was one of the things that I did. I don't know if it's going to be thin gruel when we're old to say these things, but we're all just trying to use what we've got, right?"

Canadian comic-book hero Chip Zdarsky takes over Batman

BARRY HERTZ

It is Chip Zdarsky's multiverse - we're just living in it. The Canadian writer and artist (real name Steve Murray, born in Edmonton and raised in Barrie, Ont.) has been something of a flesh-and-blood superhero in comic-book circles for the past decade, first earning industry notice for his edgy Eisner Award-winning series *Sex Criminals* with Matt Fraction, then being placed in charge of Marvel's weirdest (*Howard the Duck*) and biggest (*Star-Lord*, *Daredevil*, *Spider-Man*) properties.

Now, Zdarsky - who before gaining a foothold in the comics world worked as an illustrator/advice columnist/Garfield correspondent at the *National Post* - is set to run the industry's most prestigious title: *Batman*.

Starting in July, Zdarsky and artist Jorge Jimenez are taking over DC Comics' landmark title, just as the world gets a new on-screen Dark Knight in Robert Pattinson (and a few months before Ben Affleck and Michael Keaton's takes on the vigilante hit the screen in November's *The Flash*).

Ahead of this new Bat-era, Zdarsky spoke with *The Globe and Mail* about the similarities between comics writing and Canadian newspapers, and building bridges between the worlds of Marvel and DC.

You've handled *Spider-Man*, *Daredevil*, now *Batman* (not to mention *Jughead*). Who else is on your comic-book bucket list?

I've definitely got a couple, but it's one of those things where I hate to say them out loud because usually a friend of mine is currently writing the title. It'd be like if a friend of yours was being interviewed about their dream



job and they said, "Oh, deputy arts editor of *The Globe and Mail*." The knives are everywhere, Barry!

Is it safe to say that your recent work on the anthology series *Batman: Urban Legends* was an audition of sorts, and you ... passed?

I guess it was! The *Urban Legends* story was my take on modern

Batman. But also over the pandemic I'd been writing *Batman: The Knight*, which is a miniseries about young Bruce Wayne travelling the world and acquiring his bat-skills. That was for the main *Batman* editor, Ben Abernathy, and we got along really well. I think he enjoyed the scripts and also working with me. As you know, I came from Canadian newspapers, so the daily deadlines of those jobs made me pret-

ty good with the monthly deadlines of comic books. Never underestimate turning scripts in on time in career advancement.

You're calling this upcoming Batman arc "Failsafe" the Dark Knight's own "Doomsday," referring I guess to Superman's own infamous brush with death in 1993. What other inspirations are going to be felt here? And should I be stocking on up on the issues in the hopes they become *Death of Superman* rare (or, rather, in the hopes it becomes worth substantially more than *DOS* ended up being worth)?

Yeah, I mean, back in the day the *Batman* equivalent of *Doomsday* was Bane, who infamously broke his back in the comics. And then Tom Hardy broke Christian Bale's back in the movies. Classic Tom Hardy! Here I wanted to design a villain with our artist Jorge that could challenge *Batman* in a bigger way. Look, I'm not discounting broken backs, but Christian Bale just healed his by chilling out in a pit and hanging by a rope, really stretching that puppy out. It'll take more than that for what we're doing in the comic. And hey, I'm in no position to be giving advice on how to balance your financial portfolio. And don't look to *Batman* for advice either. Bruce Wayne got rich by paying that guy to off his billionaire parents in an alley.

This year, audiences will get three on-screen Batmen: Pattinson, Affleck and even Keaton. How will your on-the-page Bruce Wayne stand apart?

Mine is surrounded by Robins. Surrounded! In the comics, *Batman* has a very large supporting cast. A lot of what I'm doing in the book is having him deal with that fact. Is it a good thing to have

an army of protégés? What's his responsibility to the ones willing to follow him into this vigilante life? Also, thanks to our amazing artist, Jorge Jimenez, our *Batman* is way more handsome than those other chumps.

Do you think we're reaching a point of *Batman*-saturation? *Baturation*? Or is the world simply in constant want of new Dark Knight tales?

He's a popular character! The only thing that will derail the *Baturation*, or has in the past, is bad work. And it can be challenging to make good work when so many stories and versions of the character exist out there already. But man, it really feels like there's stuff out there for every *Batman* fan from bat-cradle to bat-grave.

Not long ago, it was unheard of for a writer to be working on both DC and Marvel books. Yet you're still going to be on *Daredevil*. How does that work?

Ha! I switched from exclusive contracts to non-exclusive contracts a couple of years ago because I'm so scared of commitment. It feels like there's less of an intense rivalry between Marvel and DC these days, so everyone's been really kind and supportive about my dual company work. At least they've been kind to my face! I think I'm the first person to write both books at the same time? It's a weird world.

A few years ago, there was a deal for *Sex Criminals* to become a TV series with Universal. Is there any update on that development?

After a few years of development, the rights are back with Matt Fraction and myself. So we can finally go and produce the stage musical, I guess?

FIRST PERSON

MY UNUSUAL SIDE HUSTLE



ILLUSTRATION BY DREW SHANNON

Being a funeral pianist is a rewarding experience, but it can be strange, too, **Amy Boyes** writes

“It’ll be fun,” I said to my skeptical husband. As a newly minted Master of Music, I was heavy on pianistic ability, light on cash and quickly wearying of teaching. “Funeral playing though?” he questioned, shaking his head. “11 a.m. on a weekday, sight-readable music, in and out in an hour – funerals will be easy money.” Or so I thought. After applying for gigs at my local funeral homes, I only had to wait a week for the phone to ring. “Is this Amy, the funeral pianist? Our regular pianist caught the flu. Can you step in tomorrow morning, 11 a.m.?” “Right! 11 ... yes,” I agreed, rifling for a pen to take down the address. “Has the family requested any specific pieces?” “We’re still waiting, but whip up *Amazing Grace* on spec.” “No problem,” I said. “I’ll be ready with a prelude and the typical hymns, *Abide with Me*, *The Lord is My Shepherd* ...” “Hmmm,” he murmured, unconvincingly. “You never really know, dear.” Earl, the funeral home director, called back an hour later. “Are you sitting down?” he asked cryptically. “It seems the deceased had eclectic tastes in entertainment – sci-fi, Johnny Cash, westerns from the sixties. That sort of thing. And the family wants the music to reflect that.” I was suddenly worried. My pat collection of hymn arrangements – pretty things with legato left-hand accompaniment figures, contemplative tempi and simple harmonization – might not see me through. Besides, the funeral was the next day. There wasn’t much time to learn new music. “The casket will be wheeled in with the theme from *Star Trek* playing. You know the one?” Earl broke into the iconic theme in a warbling tenor. “Right ...” I was suddenly worried about what I had gotten myself into. “And then, before the eulogy, they’d like the theme from *Bonanza*.” “Da-digga-dum-dum-digga-digga-dum, BONANZA!” we sang at each other, roughly in time and perhaps even in the same key. “And the last one ...” Earl broke off. “This last request you can’t make up because no one would believe it. The family asked for the casket to be wheeled out to *Ring of Fire*.” I was silent, processing all the theological implications. “You know?” Earl pressed. “The Johnny Cash tune?” “Unorthodox, wouldn’t you say?” “Play softly,” was Earl’s advice. “Maybe no one will notice.” The next morning, I arrived at the funeral home with a binder of hastily downloaded sheet music under my arm. At the columned staircase at the front entrance, an elegant hearse, sparkling in the winter sun, was parked precisely in the middle of the U-shaped drive. I took a deep breath, not sure what I should expect. Would the family be weeping softly? Weeping loudly? Would the body be on display? Hidden away? The lobby was quiet, pleasingly decorated in the beiges and greens of mid-1990s hotel interiors. I

predicted a floral wallpaper border in the bathroom and, in due course, was not disappointed. An usher approached. “Welcome,” she said in soothing tones. “Who have you joined us to remember today?” I suddenly realized that I didn’t know the deceased’s name. I had no idea whose life I would be memorializing. “I’m not sure,” I replied rather clumsily. “Earl asked me to play for an 11 o’clock.” She stretched an arm toward a dimly lit chapel. “Make yourself at home.” And so I did, with a prelude of old hymns. An older man with wispy hair approached the piano. I was playing a modern setting of *In the Garden*, all seventh chords and suspensions. He wandered past floral arrangements in urns and on pedestals, fresh flower sprays hooked on various wire apparatuses, their colours and designs a mishmash of many florists’ efforts. He wore a yellow and maroon plaid jacket last aired in the early 1980s by the looks of it and held a glass of punch. “Say!” he said, as I rounded off the tune. “Do you take requests?” “I’m sorry?” I gaped, wondering if the man had mistaken the funeral with an all-request evening at the local pub. “How about a little Manilow? *Can’t Smile Without You*? That’d be nice.” I glanced at the clock at the back of the chapel. It was 11 sharp. “I’m sorry!” I whispered. “It’s actually time for *Star Trek*.” During the service that followed, I sat on the piano bench and listened to the stories, the funny anecdotes that make their way into eulogies; recited the Lord’s Prayer alongside the siblings, nieces and nephews; and prayed with the minister, a subcontracted clergyman of no particular denomination, earning a quick buck like me. I knew I was at a funeral, but it wasn’t until those final words were spoken – “ashes to ashes, dust to dust” – that reality hit. A man was gone and he wasn’t coming back. I thought of the cheque, left on the piano for me. I had stuffed it into my bag without looking at the amount. Was it enough? Enough to salve this terrible sadness, this dreadful gnawing? I blinked away tears, focusing on the notes on the page. I just needed to get through the service without breaking down. “You got us out of a pickle on this one!” Earl was chatty once the service was over, jovial even. “My pleasure,” I nodded, still feeling a little numb. Earl smoothed down his suit jacket, slightly ruffled from moving floral sprays into the hearse. “I’ll keep you on the roster. Does that suit?” I started to protest – no, please don’t ever call me again. I don’t want to sit here and watch a life ushered out. I don’t want to be a part of any of this. Nothing you could pay me would make me want to come back again. But then I thought of my mortgage and my grocery bill. I thought of how lucky I was to play for the bereaved. People swayed when I played the well-known hymns. I even heard a bit of humming. I grew up ever so slightly and heard myself say, “Anytime, Earl. Anytime.”

Amy Boyes lives in Ottawa.

Robert Glasper’s Black Radio series corrals A-list musicians in genre-blending ways

BRAD WHEELER

With his acclaimed, continuing *Black Radio* series of albums, the American jazz pianist Robert Glasper corrals A-list musicians in sublime, genre-blending ways. One might think the maestro would have a master plan for the collaborations and choices of original and borrowed material, but sometimes pure chance carries the day. Asked about the cover of the Tears for Fears anthem *Everybody Wants to Rule the World* on his new *Black Radio III* album, Glasper says he just happened to hear it one day on, what else, the radio. “I was driving to the studio when it came on,” says Glasper, who won a Grammy Award for his album *Black Radio* in 2013. “I went in and put down the piano part immediately.” The cover is one of 13 cuts of R&B infused with jazz and hip hop he made with Gregory Porter, Esperanza Spalding, Jennifer Hudson, Killer Mike, India.Arie and many others. The album includes the previously released single *Better Than I Imagined* (with H.E.R. and Meshell Ndegeocello), which won the Grammy for Best R&B Song a year ago. Lalah Hathaway contributes the vocals to *Everybody Wants to Rule the World*. The track was already done when Glasper previewed the song to the rapper Common. “He heard it and said, ‘You have to let me get on that song,’” Glasper recalls. Common then added his socially conscious rap. *Everybody*, then, wants to be in Glasper’s world. He spoke to *The Globe and Mail* on Zoom from Los Angeles.

Does *Black Radio* mean anything more than the obvious?

Black Radio is actually a song I wrote with Yasiin Bey [formerly Mos Def] back in 2007. It was about the black box, or black radio, in an airplane. When an airplane crashes and burns, it’s the thing that survives. We wrote a song about how great music survives the test of time.

Are you saying we are in a crash situation right now?

Musically we’re always in a crash situation. I think most of the music around today is bad.

You’re part of the vanguard of breaking down the rigid categorizations of music. Do you feel the traditional gatekeepers who enforced those categorizations don’t have the power they once did?

Radio in Europe is not as categorized as it is in America. It’s an evolution. When I say Black radio, I mean that if I could make my own radio station, which is what people today do with playlists, what would my radio sound like?

So, how did you arrive to the sounds of your *Black Radio* albums?

Black music is a big house of many rooms. I live in that house and I’m just going from room to room. I grew up playing in the church. I grew up playing R&B. Jazz was the last one I got into playing, in high school. Before high school, I was already playing weddings with my mom. Luther Vandross and Anita Baker, you know? This is an obvious, easy thing for me to do. My mom was singing jazz one night and R&B the next. And then she was the music director on Sunday.

The album opens with *In Tune*, which is pure poetry. It reminds me of the Pete Townshend song *Pure and Easy*, about a note that when played unifies the universe. He wrote that song 50 years ago. How do you think we’re doing today with the unifying power of music?

It’s going well. I know because I go to all my shows [laughs]. Because of the different genres I work in, I have a piano-trio audience here, a hip-hop audience over there and I have an R&B audience as well. If you come to my show, you’re going to see an 80-year-old white man sitting next to a 15-year-old Black kid. I’ve watched people teach each other about what I’m doing. That white man might not understand J Dilla, so the kid explains it. Then I might play a standard like *Stella by Starlight*, the old man can tell the kid about it. So, it’s that. I’ve seen it many times.

But once people leave your concert, things don’t seem so united.

No. They do not. But that’s a slow process.

I would argue that it’s worse than slow. Are we not going backward in some ways?

It’s not backward. What’s happening now is that we can see what’s been going on all along. It’s in our face now. The light has been shown on it. We open our phone, it’s there.

Part of the process?

It has to be. Once you see something, that’s when change begins to start. You see the liar. You see the murderer. You see that things are unfair. You see that it’s unjust. Black people have always seen it, but now white people are. And they’re saying, “This stuff really is happening. Y’all aren’t crazy. You’re not just making this up. You’re not just being angry for no reason.”

This interview has been condensed and edited.

TODAY’S SUDOKU SOLUTION

4	9	1	3	6	5	8	2	7
7	5	3	8	2	1	9	4	6
6	8	2	7	4	9	1	3	5
9	6	5	2	1	8	4	7	3
3	4	8	6	9	7	2	5	1
2	1	7	5	3	4	6	8	9
5	7	9	1	8	2	3	6	4
1	2	6	4	5	3	7	9	8
8	3	4	9	7	6	5	1	2

TODAY’S KENKEN SOLUTION

⁴ 4	¹⁻ 3	⁵⁻ 6	^{40x} 1	² 2	⁵ 5
²⁺ 6	²⁻ 2	⁵ 5	³ 3	⁴ 4	¹ 1
³ 3	²⁺ 4	² 2	⁵ 5	⁵⁻ 1	⁶ 6
³⁺ 2	⁶⁺ 1	¹⁻ 4	¹¹⁺ 6	³ 5	³ 3
¹ 1	⁵ 5	³ 3	³⁺ 2	⁶ 6	²⁻ 4
^{30x} 5	⁶ 6	³⁻ 1	⁴ 4	³ 3	² 2

First Person is a daily personal piece submitted by readers

Have a story to tell? Please see the guidelines on our website tgam.ca/essayguide, and e-mail it to firstperson@globeandmail.com

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The Local Journalism Initiative (LJI) supports the creation of original civic journalism that covers the diverse needs of underserved communities across Canada.

TORONTO FORECAST AND ALMANAC As observed at Toronto Pearson International Airport

Weather forecast for Toronto including temperature, precipitation, and sun data for today, tomorrow, and the week ahead.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Map of Ontario showing regional weather forecasts for cities like Huntsville, Peterborough, Toronto, and Windsor.

NATIONAL FORECAST

Table of national weather forecasts for various Canadian cities including Banff, Brandon, Calgary, and Toronto.

WORLD FORECAST

Table of world weather forecasts for major international cities like Amsterdam, Beijing, London, and New York.

LEGEND

Legend for weather symbols and conditions such as Cloudy, Freezing Rain, and Snow.

UV Readings and Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) for various Ontario cities.

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER
THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022

NORTH

♠ K 9
♥ J 10 9
♦ K 10 7
♣ Q 10 9 5 2

WEST

♠ 7 5 4 3
♥ A 8 6 2
♦ 6 4 3
♣ A 8

EAST

♠ J 10 6 2
♥ Q 7 5 4
♦ A 9 5
♣ 6 3

SOUTH

♠ A Q 8
♥ K 3
♦ Q J 8 2
♣ K J 7 4

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

The bidding:

East South West North
Pass 1NT Pass 3NT
Opening Lead – two of hearts.

A defender should not permit himself to be governed by rigid rules. He should not always return the suit partner led; he should not always play second-hand low or third-hand high; he should not always cover an honour with an honour.

mistake of playing the queen, South makes two heart tricks instead of one and easily makes three notrump. The defence cannot recover once the queen has been played.

But if East ducks the nine of hearts (at the same time signaling with the seven to show interest in the suit), South must eventually lose three heart tricks and the two minor-suit aces for down one.

Ducking the nine violates the general rule of third-hand high – but the situation calls for it. East knows from the lead of the deuce that West has precisely

four hearts, leaving declarer with two. These can be either A-K, A-x, K-x or x-x.

In the first and third cases, playing the queen costs a trick; in the second case, East's play does not matter because South scores two heart tricks whatever East plays.

It therefore follows that playing the seven of hearts will, in the long run, prove far more successful than playing the queen.

CHALLENGE CROSSWORD

Challenge crossword puzzle grid with numbered starting points for clues.

CRYPTIC CLUES

- ACROSS: 1 Resistance at workplace (10), 8 Lightweight cat (5), 9 Wrongly presume it's the highest (7), 10 Complicated counter beat (7), 11 Daisy is kind of neat to look at (5), 12 Country writer (6), 14 Tentative suggestion put out by some animals? (6), 17 Lawful time back in the Fifties (5), 19 Visible understanding? (7), 21 Reduce the charge (7), 22 Classified unconventional trade (5), 23 He ruins the drink and the game (10)

QUICK CLUES

- ACROSS: 1 Author of The Song of Hiawatha (10), 8 Maxim (5), 9 Constantly working (2,3,2), 10 Female wild cat (7), 11 Illuminated (3,2), 12 Get to the bottom of (6), 14 Emerge (6), 17 Power of effective action (5), 19 Hard to achieve (7), 21 Upholstered backless sofa (7), 22 Constellation, the Hunter (5), 23 Ground between armies (2,4,4)

SUDOKU

9x9 Sudoku puzzle grid with some numbers pre-filled.

INSTRUCTIONS Fill in the grid so that each row of nine squares, each column of nine and each section of nine (three squares by three) contains the numbers 1 through 9 in any order. There is only one solution to each puzzle.

KENKEN puzzle grid with mathematical operations in cages.

INSTRUCTIONS 1. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 6 without repeating. 2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners. Freebies: Fill in 3. single-box cages with the numbers in the top-left corner.



J.D. Power declares Best Residual Value on Subaru Crosstrek and WRX in ~~2021~~ **2022**



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Subaru vehicles are engineered to be capable, versatile and retain their value far down the road. That's why we're proud to announce that Subaru has won two J.D. Power 2022 Canada ALG Residual Value Awards for the 2nd year in a row. Learn more about our award-winning achievements at subaru.ca/awards.



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*2022 awards based on the J.D. Power ALG residual value forecast for the 2022 model year. For J.D. Power 2022 award information, visit jdpower.com/awards. Crosstrek, WRX and Subaru are registered trademarks.



Motivated Canadians to move. Started a movement.

Every day, Canadians count on YouTube to build their future, learn new skills, and inspire others.

When Maddie Lymburner started her YouTube channel in Hamilton, ON in 2018, she never dreamed her videos would move so many people. But her unique brand of dance-inspired workout videos motivated Canadians to get fit, and became a place many turned to to stay active during the pandemic. Maddie is now a full-time content creator because of her start on YouTube, and has launched MadFit, her own workout app.

REPORT ON BUSINESS

ONTARIO EDITION ■ THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022 ■ GLOBEANDMAIL.COM

 S&P/TSX 21,255.64 +251.13	 DOW 33,891.35 +596.40	 S&P 500 4,386.54 +80.28	 NASDAQ 13,752.02 +219.56	 DOLLAR 78.94/1.2668 +0.25/-0.0040	 GOLD (oz.) US\$1,922.30 -21.50	 OIL (WTI) US\$110.60 +7.19	 GCAN 10-YR 1.82% +0.11
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Canadian companies consider future of Russian operations

A few have severed ties but others, including Magna, weigh their options after invasion of Ukraine

NICOLAS VAN PRAET
CHRIS HANNAY

As the list of international companies pulling out of Russia grows longer by the day, Canadian corporations doing business there are grappling with difficult decisions on whether to cut ties with the country outright or stick it out and bear the reputational and operational risk that could follow.

While Canadian companies such as **Kinross Gold Corp.**, McCain Foods Ltd. and Canada Goose are distancing themselves

from business in Russia or suspending operations outright in the country, other corporate pillars appear to be pushing on for now, including auto-parts maker **Magna International Inc.** and convenience store giant **Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc.** Several smaller companies also sell into the country, including Ski-Doo maker **BRP Inc.** and label manufacturer **CCL Industries Inc.**

For all of them, the world has changed with Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Canada and its Group of Seven allies have condemned what they call an unprovoked attack and slapped Russia with sanctions, in-

cluding prohibiting transactions with Russia's central bank. Western leaders have also moved to cut several of Russia's largest banks off from the international financial system by excluding them from SWIFT, the messaging network that facilitates most global money transfers.

Foreign-based multinationals are increasingly shunning the country. Energy giant Exxon Mobil Corp. said it would exit Russia, while aircraft maker Boeing Co. suspended maintenance and technical support for Russian airlines. Rival Airbus SE stopped sending spare parts.

■ **RUSSIA, B8**

War adds a new set of hurdles along BoC's path to higher rates

DAVID PARKINSON

OPINION

In finally launching a cycle of interest rate increases, the Bank of Canada all but admitted that the move was overdue. But with the war in Ukraine pulling monetary policy in opposite directions, there's still a hint of hesitation in the central bank's words.

The quarter-percentage-point rate hike that the bank announced Wednesday was both well-telegraphed and widely anticipated, but it was, nevertheless, a pretty momentous occasion. The last time it raised rates, in October, 2018, neither Bank of Canada Governor Tiff Macklem nor senior deputy Carolyn Rogers were even employed by the bank. Inflation was 2.4 per cent, a bit hotter than the bank's 2-per-cent target. The bank had never heard of COVID-19, and had never had to slash its key rate to near zero to defend the economy against a global health and economic crisis.

■ **PARKINSON, B4**

Canada will need multiple rate increases to cool housing frenzy ■ **B4**

Sunwing just the first deal as hospitality sector faces merger pressure

ANDREW WILLIS

OPINION

Entrepreneur Stephen Hunter took tough steps to ensure Sunwing Airlines and Sunwing Vacations survived the pandemic, cutting staff and borrowing money to ensure the business would still be around when restrictions lifted and Canadians could once again head south in the winter.

However, the chief executive of family-owned Sunwing knew the bills would eventually come due.

As this year began, the tour operator faced repaying \$327-million in federal government loans.

At the same time, vacation travel was taking off and Sunwing needed to spend money to lease aircraft and rehire pilots and flight attendants.

Mr. Hunter said the conflicting pressures of paying down debt while needing to put more capital into expanding the company prompted Sunwing to revisit pre-pandemic overtures from WestJet Group and agree to sell the business his family launched in 2002.

"We got to the point, in the last few years, where we couldn't grow as much as we wanted to grow," Mr. Hunter said in an interview.

■ **WILLIS, B6**

[UKRAINE]

BIG TECH'S CALL TO ARMS

Companies are taking steps that go beyond previous geopolitical conflicts ■ **B2**



People walk past a closed Apple reseller shop in Omsk, Russia, on Wednesday. The world's largest technology companies are taking extraordinary measures amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine. ALEXEY MALGAVKO/REUTERS

Fund managers likely facing uphill battle to sell their shares in Russian companies

CLARE O'HARA
DAVID MILSTEAD

More than a dozen Canadian fund managers hold shares of Russian companies that have been on Canada's trading sanctions list since 2015, but money managers may struggle to find buyers as they now seek to eliminate their exposure to the rogue nation.

The asset management divisions of several banks and two of Canada's largest insurers are among the fund managers that have the Russian stocks in their mutual funds and exchange-traded funds. Independent fund giants **AGF Investments**, **IGM Financial Inc.**, **Fidelity Investments**

Canada ULC and **Vanguard Investments Canada Inc.** also hold Russian stocks in their funds.

No ETFs or mutual funds in Canada are made up entirely of Russian stocks, but fund managers still have exposure to the country in their emerging markets funds, particularly those that concentrate on Eastern Europe.

The holdings include stocks in several companies listed in Canada's Special Economic Measures (Russia) Regulations, developed in 2015 after Russia invaded Crimea in Ukraine.

Managers also hold stock in Russian companies that are not included under the Canadian regulations.

The 2015 regulations prohibited partici-

pation in new debt or equity financings of more than a dozen Russian companies, including large banks and energy companies that trade on international stock exchanges: Gazprom; Sberbank of Russia; Novatek; Rosneft Oil Co.; Transneft; Surgutneftegas; and VTB Bank.

The financing regulations didn't apply to shares owned before the companies were added to the list, meaning the Canadian investors could keep their stakes after the restrictions were announced.

However, the widespread international condemnation of Russia's invasion of Ukraine has made holding those stocks reputationally toxic, even if it is legal.

■ **ASSETS, B8**

GOVERNANCE

Canada lags on women in executive roles, global study says ■ **B3**

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Laurentian Bank's first-quarter profit up on strength of commercial loans ■ **B7**

INVESTING

A realist's guide to winners and losers in coming wave of rate hikes ■ **B10**

COMPANIES

AIR CANADA	B6
FORD MOTOR	B7
ONEX	B6
PEMBINA PIPELINE	B11
ROGERS COMMUNICATIONS ..	B3
SHAW COMMUNICATIONS	B3

SPORTS

■ **B13-B18**

PARALYMPICS Letting Russian, Belarusian athletes compete pleases no one, Cathal Kelly says ■ **B13**

SOCCER Roman Abramovich puts Chelsea up for sale as clamour for sanctions grows ■ **B13**



West Texas Intermediate crude jumped 7 per cent on Wednesday to settle at US\$110.60 a barrel. Global benchmark Brent oil rose nearly 8 per cent to US\$112.93, its highest in nine years. RICHARD CARSON/REUTERS

Oil and natural gas prices climb to new multiyear highs on energy-supply fears

Gains come despite OPEC+ agreement to increase shipments and IEA deal to release crude reserves

JEFFREY JONES
BRENT JANG

Worries of global shortages as Russia intensifies its invasion of Ukraine prompted traders to drive up the price of oil to new multiyear highs on Wednesday while European prices for natural gas skyrocketed to record levels.

The gains for oil came despite an agreement by members of OPEC+ to boost shipments by another 400,000 barrels a day, in line with previous monthly increases.

That development, as well an agreement on Tuesday among members of the International Energy Agency to release 60 million barrels of stockpiled crude, have failed to constrain prices that were on the rise even before Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

West Texas Intermediate crude jumped 7 per cent on Wednesday to settle at US\$110.60 a barrel. Global benchmark Brent oil rose nearly 8 per cent to US\$112.93, its highest in nine years.

While oil markets rally, natural gas prices are reaching unprecedented levels in Europe.

European futures contracts for natural gas soared to record highs on Wednesday amid escalating uncertainty over the availability of supplies from Russia. Prices for the benchmark Dutch contract for delivery in April jumped 43 per cent.

Commercial crude oil inventories are at their lowest level since 2014, and producers have limited capacity to immediately boost production. At the end of last year, Canada produced about 4.1 million barrels a day of oil and condensate, including about 3.1 million from the oil sands. Domestic producers have yet to announce major capital spending plans to increase output, despite the surge in prices.

The industry has little ability to boost supplies for export in the short term, said Tim McMillan, president of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers.

"As far as medium and long-term, we need to build more infrastructure," he said. "We've got one major oil pipeline under construction today, we've got one LNG facility under construction, and that all of a sudden seems very inadequate compared to the global need for democracies like Canada to fill a larger role in balancing these energy markets."

The Trans Mountain oil pipeline expansion to the West Coast from Alberta faces major delay and a cost overrun. Shell-led LNG Canada is slated to ship liquefied natural gas to Asia from Kitimat, B.C., starting in 2025 at the earliest.

Western countries have imposed a host of economic sanctions against Moscow, including freezing the Russian central bank's foreign-exchange assets and barring several of the country's banks from the global financial system's primary mode of communication, known as SWIFT. But there has been no global boycott of Russian oil exports, which have recently amounted to about 4.5 million barrels a day.

So far, U.S. President Joe Biden and other world leaders have avoided that step, for fear that it could cause oil prices to spike and fuel runaway inflation in their countries. However, the White House said on Wednesday it is open to the idea if Russian President Vladimir Putin intensifies his aggression against Ukraine.

"It's very much on the table, but we need to weigh what all of the impacts will be. We're not trying to hurt ourselves. We're trying to hurt President Putin and the Russian economy," White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki told MSNBC.

International economic sanctions that are already in place against Russia are having a similar effect to an oil boycott, however. An informal "buyers' strike" among jittery traders and oil transporters is keeping those exports off the market, Helima Croft, head of global commodities strategy at RBC Dominion Securities, said in a report to clients.

Cargoes of Russia's Urals crude oil were

offered at a deep discount but went unsold on Wednesday, according to Bloomberg.

"While there are no explicit energy sanctions yet, the current central bank sanctions as well as the selective SWIFT action is causing major risk aversion by key market participants," Ms. Croft wrote. "Moreover, there is also a growing view that these energy carve-outs will soon prove untenable as the Russian war strategy grows more gruesome and civilian casualties climb."

On the natural gas side, a combination of factors led to the spike in prices, including fears of Russia cutting back sharply on supplies to Europe and the role of sanctions on Russian banks disrupting financial transactions in the energy sector.

There is also growing pressure within Europe to wean itself away from Russian natural gas and hopes for accelerating the shift toward renewable energy, said Clark Williams-Derry, an analyst with the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.

"All of these things are creating what you could call sort of a geopolitical risk premium," he said in an interview from Seattle. "There is extreme uncertainty about how much natural gas is going to be available in the near future and that is driving up prices today."

Russia supplied an estimated 34 per cent of Europe's total consumption of natural gas in 2020, accounting for 42 per cent of Europe's overall imports of the fuel.

Canada could one day be a large exporter of LNG, although after years of false starts by would-be developers it's unclear how many plants could get built in the next half decade.

Another question is whether they would be best situated on the West Coast or East Coast. For example, it would indirectly help Europe if LNG is exported from British Columbia to Asia because that frees up LNG supplies elsewhere in the world. "It depends on how things work out, but there is Qatar natural gas heading towards Asia that could be shuffled out for Europe," Mr. Williams-Derry said.

Russia stops payments to foreign investors holding stocks, ruble bonds

MOSCOW

Foreign investors are effectively stuck with their holdings of Russian stocks and ruble-denominated bonds after the central bank put a temporary halt on payments and major overseas settlement systems stopped accepting Russian assets.

Moscow is blocking foreign investors, who hold tens of billions of dollars worth of Russian stocks and bonds, from exiting after its invasion of Ukraine triggered a wave of economic sanctions and a hemorrhage of assets.

The Bank of Russia said on Wednesday it had banned coupon payments for foreign investors holding ruble-denominated sovereign debt, known as OFZs, and Russian companies were also barred from paying dividends to overseas shareholders. It did not say how long the curbs, which don't apply to local investors, would last.

"Issuers are eligible to take decisions on paying dividends and making payments on other securities," the central bank said in a statement. "But actual payments ... towards foreign clients will not be made. This applies to OFZs as well."

Foreigners held around 3 trillion rubles (US\$28-billion) worth of OFZs out of a total market of 15.5 trillion rubles, according to central bank data as of Feb. 1.

The National Settlement Depository, the Russian system for overseeing the sale of securities, said separately it was limiting payment options on Russian securities for foreign individuals and companies, as well as a right to transfer such assets, in line with a central bank request.

The world's biggest settlement systems, Euroclear and Clearstream, are no longer accepting Russian assets, effectively shutting off an exit route for overseas investors. Settlement systems are a key part of the global financial system, holding trillions of dollars of assets for banks and investors and settling deals on their behalf.

Belgium-based Euroclear said in a note on Tuesday that the NSD had blocked its accounts as a result of the central bank measures.

"To the extent legally permissible, you should wire out any remaining long balances in rubles as soon as possible," it said.

Euroclear said it would immediately disable its account at its Russian correspondent bank, Dutch group ING.

Clearstream also informed its customers on Tuesday evening that the NSD has blocked all securities held on Clearstream Banking's FNH Account.

Foreigners held 19.7 trillion rubles in Russian shares as of July, 1, or around a third of the total market capitalization at that time. Moscow has kept the stock market shut this week to stem losses.

The central bank also said on Wednesday that Russian residents can no longer make foreign-exchange transfers to foreigners under loan agreements.

REUTERS

Big Tech's response to Russia sets new precedent, experts say

TEMUR DURRANI
TECHNOLOGY REPORTER

The world's largest technology companies are taking extraordinary measures amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine — far beyond any steps they have made in previous geopolitical conflicts.

Apple Inc. has halted the sale of all products in Russia, taking down Apple Pay services and restricting access to Kremlin-controlled news outlets such as RT and Sputnik. The U.S.-based tech giant has also stopped displaying live-traffic features for Apple Maps, after a move by Google parent Alphabet Inc. this week to temporarily disable similar functions on Google Maps. Alphabet said it took the action for the safety of local Ukrainian communities.

Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX) has activated satellite service in Ukraine through its Starlink system to safeguard the country's broadband internet during the conflict. Microsoft Corp. said it is helping

protect Ukraine from cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns and providing the country with humanitarian assistance.

At the same time, Meta Platforms Inc. — which operates Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram — said it has added new safety features such as locking accounts, labelling misinformation, removing the ability to view or search for friend lists, and demoting posts that contain links to Russian media websites.

The moves were made after Ukrainian leaders pleaded with the companies late last week in a letter.

"We need your support," said the letter written by Ukrainian Vice-Prime Minister Mykhailo Fedorov, who shared it on Twitter. "Modern technology is perhaps the best answer to the tanks, multiple rocket launchers and missiles."

The blog posts and statements that announced the new measures from the trillion-dollar companies used language that they have previously shied away

from. Microsoft president Brad Smith, for example, called the conflict "the tragic, unlawful and unjustified invasion of Ukraine."

"This has become both a kinetic and digital war, with horrifying images from across Ukraine as well as less visible cyberattacks on computer networks and internet-based disinformation campaigns," Mr. Smith wrote.

It is a sharp contrast to the "politically neutral, actor-agnostic" image that these internet-based corporations have maintained over the course of the past decade, said Philip Mai, co-director of the Social Media Lab at Ryerson University in Toronto.

"Of course, it is up for debate whether they were ever truly politically neutral," he said. "But the fact is, this is something they have decided they are no longer being neutral about. And that from them is quite the big shift."

The measures also raise questions about why the tech companies have not taken initiatives or weighed in on other international conflicts before, Prof. Mai said.

"You start to wonder why they

chose to do something here. Was it because we're talking about wealthy, white nations and not Afghanistan, Syria or South America?" he said.

"They've now sort of lost any high ground about where and how they choose not to be involved in other geopolitical situations. When the dust hopefully settles in Ukraine, what will they do for other calls in other countries?"

Carmen Celestini, a postdoctoral fellow with The Disinformation Project at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, agrees.

"If combatting disinformation or misinformation is what they're saying they have taken these steps for, well, that's been happening for years and proliferating in several other regions," said Prof. Celestini, who is also an instructor at the University of Waterloo.

Anatoliy Gruzd, a Toronto-based Canada Research Chair in privacy-preserving digital technologies, is not surprised by the new measures.

"There's been a trend at tech companies that has been developing quite clearly over the last few years, where we've seen them publishing transparency reports and calling out countries that run disinformation campaigns on their platforms," he said.

"We've seen this for good reason during the COVID-19 pandemic. And we've also seen this in China, where Big Tech has certainly vocalized their stance before."

However, Katrina German, chief executive officer of Saskatoon-based online strategies firm Ethical Digital, believes the decision was only based on monetary rationale.

"Each company is obviously trying to figure out what's the best approach for them individually and I'm sure conversations on that are still taking place about whether these things should be temporary or not. What ties them all together though is that they're still considering their revenue first and foremost," Ms. German said.

Canada lags on workplace gender parity, study finds

Country saw slight improvement last year compared with 2020, but still falls behind others, including U.K.

IRENE GALEA

Canada's gender balance in the workplace has improved but still lags behind other developed countries, according to a new international study, drawing attention to the lack of robust and consistent legislation on the issue.

The report from Amsterdam-based gender research firm Equileap looks at 3,895 public companies – each with a minimum market cap of US\$2-billion – amounting to 102 million employees across 23 countries. It gives countries a score based on a variety of factors, including the size of the wage gap, women in leadership roles and child-care leave.

Canadian companies had an average score of 39 per cent in

2021, up from 33 per cent the year before. While Canada has consistently outperformed the United States by three or more percentage points, it has consistently underperformed compared with a number of countries including Britain, at 48 per cent, and Australia, at 46 per cent.

France topped the list, at 52 per cent, followed by Spain with 50 per cent. Of the countries measured, Japan had the lowest score with 28 per cent.

“We continue to see year-on-year support progress when it comes to gender equality of the corporate sector, but it's painfully slow,” Equileap chief executive Diana van Maasdijk said.

Out of just 18 companies globally that have achieved gender balance – defined as having between 40 per cent and 60 per cent women in their work force – just two are Canadian: National Bank of Canada and Choice Properties REIT. Out of the 100 highest scoring companies over all, Canada had three: Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce ranking 40th, Royal Bank of Canada at 77th and

Bank of Montreal placing 78th.

According to data submitted by Canadian companies, the biggest improvements were at the board and executive levels, with only modest improvement at the senior management and broader work-force levels.

Canada has a relatively high percentage of companies that have published an anti-sexual harassment policy, and this has increased steadily since 2019 to 68 per cent from 54 per cent – higher than the U.S., Britain and Australia.

Yet only 17 per cent of Canadian companies publish gender-based pay information, up from 7 per cent in 2019. That's far behind Britain, where three-quarters of reporting companies shared employee wage statistics.

According to Ms. van Maasdijk, one reason why Canada is not improving more quickly is because of a lack of legislation.

“Although Canada has a Prime Minister who has been very vocal about gender equality for a long time, it doesn't seem like that has translated into regulation,” she

said. She points to some countries, such as the Netherlands and France, which have recently implemented policies requiring that up to half of a corporate board must be female.

Others note that while legislation is important, it's just one tool that can be used to increase gender equality in the workplace.

“It's also about things like organizational priority, and leadership and internal policies and practices and regulations and requirements within organizations,” said Andrea Gunraj, vice-president of public engagement at the Canadian Women's Foundation, who was not surprised that Canada was “not doing as well as I think we want to.”

Some legislation does exist in Canada. Last year, Ottawa passed the Pay Equity Act, which requires federally regulated workplaces with 100 employees or more to disclose wage-gap data for women, Indigenous people, persons with disabilities and members of visible minorities. Ms. Gunraj said while it was long-awaited, the act doesn't go

far enough.

“It only applies to the federally regulated sector, so it has its limitations there,” she said.

She noted that while legislation can be powerful, ensuring it is consistent – and therefore measurable – is important. Harassment and gender-based violence are addressed in provincial and territorial labour laws but are inconsistent across sectors and regions, making it difficult to understand legislation might be helping. Meanwhile, intersectional studies would likely show a more unbalanced story, she said.

“When you're looking at it from the perspective of Black women, Indigenous women and women with disabilities, we're seeing the numbers really just plummet.”

Equileap sells the data it collects to investment managers that create gender-based funds determined by the company rankings. Ms. van Maasdijk said the assets under management in gender-lens funds has risen to US\$6-billion, up from just US\$600-million 10 years ago.

Executives from Rogers questioned on how Shaw merger would affect local news

ALEXANDRA POSADZKI
TELECOM REPORTER

Members of Parliament pressed executives at **Rogers Communications Inc.** about the company's assertions that the \$26-billion takeover of **Shaw Communications Inc.** will have no impact on local news.

During a House of Commons committee on Canadian heritage Wednesday, Lisa Hepfner, a Liberal MP and former journalist, asked how the telecom and media giant can be certain that local news won't be affected by the deal. Ms. Hepfner noted that in the past, mergers have led to news stations being shut down in spite of similar promises.

Colette Watson, president of Rogers Sports & Media, said the only impact of the takeover on local news is that annual payments from Shaw to Corus's Global News television network would stop.

“Shaw does not own any local television or radio stations, which means the transaction will not result in any further consolidation within Canada's television and radio industries, nor will it reduce competition,” Ms. Watson said.

The change, Ms. Watson said, is that Corus Entertainment Inc.'s Global News will no longer be affiliated with Shaw. (Although Shaw sold its 38-per-cent stake in Corus in 2019, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission considers

the two companies to be affiliated because they are both controlled by the Shaw family.)

The CRTC requires broadcast distributors – companies that deliver television channels through cable, satellite or internet protocol networks – to contribute 5 per cent of their broadcasting revenues to local news and Canadian content. To fulfill part of its obligation, Shaw pays roughly \$12-million a year to Corus, the television and radio-station owner it spun out as an independent entity in 1999.

Rogers has said that if its acquisition of Shaw goes forward, it will redirect that funding to its own local news channels. Rogers owns 54 radio stations, 7 Citytv stations, 5 OMNI television services and 30

community TV channels, Ms. Watson said, adding that the company plans to add 43 net new journalism jobs post-merger.

Corus previously said in a filing to the CRTC that the takeover could have a “detrimental impact on local news production and delivery, including in markets such as Kelowna, Lethbridge, Saskatoon, Regina, Peterborough, Kingston, Saint John and Halifax, where Corus operates local stations but Rogers does not.” As a result, Corus has called on the CRTC to revisit how it allocates funding to local news providers.

Conservative MP Kevin Waugh accused Rogers of “cherry picking” major markets such as Vancouver and Calgary for news coverage while ignoring smaller ones

such as Lethbridge, Alta.; Kelowna, B.C.; Regina and Saskatoon.

Ms. Watson said Global News is a “top station” in Western Canada with a news budget nearly \$100-million a year higher than Citytv's.

“The long-term viability of local news is indeed in question, but this transaction is not responsible for that reality,” Ms. Watson said. She called on the government to amend the Broadcasting Act and to expand the existing journalism tax credit regime to broadcasters. The government has introduced Bill C-11, which aims to modernize the Broadcasting Act by regulating online streaming platforms.

Rogers has said it expects the deal to close during the second quarter of this year.



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Parkinson: Ukraine conflict looks like driver of still more inflation

FROM B1

Today, Mr. Macklem and Ms. Rogers face inflation of 5.1 per cent, a three-decade high – and it's likely headed higher before it turns lower. The Canadian economy has fully recovered from the COVID-19 recession much faster than the bank had anticipated. The combination has made rate hikes both inevitable and essential – not just the single increase announced Wednesday, but, in all likelihood, a series of increases over the next year or more.

And, frankly, it looks as if the Bank of Canada arrived late to its own party.

Earlier this week, Statistics Canada reported that real gross domestic product surged at a 6.7-per-cent annualized pace in the fourth quarter of 2021, well ahead of the bank's estimate. The figures showed that the economy had fully recovered its pandemic losses as of roughly three months ago. Preliminary January data indicate that the economy continued to grow even as the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus forced a new round of shutdowns and restrictions.

In the bank's statement accompanying the rate decision, it acknowledged that the stronger-than-expected growth "confirms its view that economic slack has been absorbed."

The bank began hinting in mid-December that there was little if any slack remaining in the economy. It stated flat-out in its January rate decision that "a broad set of measures are now indicating that economic slack is absorbed." Its statement Wednesday – that the GDP data confirm what the bank had already concluded five weeks ago – is about as close as you may ever see to a central bank acknowledging that it has gotten itself a little behind the curve on starting to raise rates.

And yet there remains some hesitance in Wednesday's decision. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has thrown a whole set of new and fast-changing variables into the mix.

The conflict already looks like the driver of still more inflation: Uncertainty over the security of oil and natural gas supplies from Russia have sent crude prices skyrocketing more than 20 per cent since last Friday. On the other hand, if supply interruptions and shortages were to occur in Europe, the implication is certainly negative for output, business confidence, consumption and investment – it would be a major drag on global growth.

And yet, higher oil and gas prices are a boon for Canada's energy sector, generating increased income and, perhaps, creating a powerful impetus for new investment in the sector. The surging energy prices also improve the country's terms of trade – which would be supportive of a stronger dollar, offsetting at least some of those inflation pressures by easing the cost of imports.

Obviously, a serious escalation of the conflict would be overwhelmingly negative for the global economic outlook, in addition to being a human tragedy. That would put central banks, here and elsewhere, in a very different place than they were a week ago.

The fact that the Bank of Canada went ahead with its rate hike is an indication that its thinking hasn't strayed too far toward such bad-case scenarios. Nevertheless, at this still-early stage of the invasion, the uncertainty surrounding all of this may have been enough for it to pull its policy punch.

This was most noticeable in its decision to hold the line on the other pillar of its pandemic policy: its quantitative easing program, under which it has purchased hundreds of billions of dollars in government bonds over the past two years. The bank had been hinting that it might start reducing those bond holdings in conjunction with the beginning of rate hikes, but Wednesday's announcement indicated that the bank is still just thinking about it, with no update on the potential timeline. Given the actions taken by Western allies to freeze Russian assets, cut off its central bank and block its access to global payment systems, this may have seemed like an inopportune time to alter the Bank of Canada's terms of engagement in a key segment of the bond market.

We'll get a clearer sense Thursday of just how much the uncertainty has weighed on the bank's thinking, when Mr. Macklem provides the bank's postdecision economic update speech, followed by a news conference and an appearance before the House of Commons finance committee. But it's certain the Ukraine crisis has put a new set of variables in the bank's interest rate path. Whether it alters the course will be a burning question as the situation evolves.

Constellation subsidiary to buy medical-records software suite for \$700-million

JOSH O'KANE
TECHNOLOGY REPORTER

Toronto's **Constellation Software Inc.** says a subsidiary will spend US\$700-million in cash and stock to buy a suite of medical-records software from Chicago-based **Allscripts Healthcare Solutions Inc.**

The acquisition includes Allscripts' business segments that focus on hospitals and larger physician practices, including software for record-keeping, billing, workflow improvement and regulatory compliance.

The purchase is being made by Constellation subsidiary N. Harris Computer Corp., an acquisitions-focused company that buys software serving public-sector, health care, utility and other organizations. Harris and its portfolio businesses employ more than 6,000 people, and it already has more than 20 health care software companies in its holdings.

Constellation is one of Canada's most valuable technology companies, with a market capitalization of more than \$45-billion. Chief executive officer Mark Leonard said in a shareholder letter last year that the company was interested in making larger acquisitions with its excess cash.

The companies said late Thursday that Constellation would pay for the acquisition with US\$670-million in cash upon closing and an additional \$30-million consideration based on the new division's performance over two years. They expect the transaction to close in the second quarter.

Constellation spent US\$1.2-billion in cash on acquisitions in 2021, though the company said in its most recent financial statements that the majority of its purchases were company shares and assets. But it did report buying software companies in a number of markets, including insurance, health care, mining and financial services.

The company said last month that it brought in US\$1.38-billion in revenue in its most recent quarter, which ended in December. It reported a profit of US\$145-million, or US\$5.86 per share.

Harris is one of six business lines within Constellation, which the company says "operate essentially as mini Constellations, conglomerates of small vertical market software companies with similar economic characteristics."



Over the past two years, the typical price of a home in Canada is up 48 per cent to \$836,300, according to the Canadian Real Estate Association's home price index. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada will need more rate increases to cool housing frenzy: experts

The 25-basis-point increase comes as home prices hit record highs month after month

RACHELLE YOUNGLAI
REAL ESTATE REPORTER

The Bank of Canada's decision to raise interest rates on Wednesday is not expected to cool the country's frenzied real estate market, with homebuyers still able to get cheap mortgages to compete for properties.

Economists said it will take multiple interest rate increases – not just Wednesday's 25-basis-point increase to 0.5 per cent – before borrowing costs rise meaningfully. (A basis point is one-hundredth of a percentage point.)

"I don't think 25 basis points alone would have much of an impact on the housing market. It will take a series of rate increases to achieve that," said Jean-François Perrault, chief economist with Bank of Nova Scotia.

Bank of Montreal chief economist Douglas Porter said it is unlikely that Wednesday's rate hike will have any significant impact on a housing market with as much momentum as Canada's. "I suspect rate hikes would really begin to bite when we get to 100 basis points," he said.

The rate was raised as home prices continue to hit record highs month after month. In the Toronto region, the country's largest real estate market, the typical home price jumped \$354,000, or 36 per cent, to \$1,340,000 in the 12 months to February, according to the local real estate board. In the Vancouver region, the typical home price was up 21 per cent year-over-year to \$1,313,400, according to the local board.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic started, home prices have climbed at a record pace, with homebuyers looking for roomy properties in the suburbs and smaller cities where home prices are somewhat cheaper.

Over the past two years, the typical price of a home in Canada is up 48 per cent to \$836,300, ac-

ording to the Canadian Real Estate Association's home price index, with less populated areas, such as Cambridge, Ont., Halifax and Chilliwack, B.C., unaccustomed to dealing with unrelenting competition.

"It's very desperate here," said Kelli Tynes-Harrington, realtor with Royal LePage Atlantic who has sold homes in the Halifax area for nearly two decades.

Ms. Tynes-Harrington does not think an incremental increase in interest rates will deter buyers. She said for most of the pandemic, there have been multiple bids on every property. That kind of competition was unheard of prior to the start of the pandemic.

"There's so many buyers out there that are frustrated with just the lack of inventory," she said. "Many are just struggling to even find something."

Frances Hinojosa, mortgage broker and president of Tribe Financial Group, said Wednesday's rate hike will likely have a 'psychological impact' and 'cause buyers to rush into the market.'

In announcing its decision to raise the overnight lending rate, the Bank of Canada pointed to Russia's invasion of Ukraine as a major new source of uncertainty, in addition to continuing problems caused by the pandemic. However, with the Canadian economy continuing to grow and inflation soaring well above the central bank's target of 2 per cent, the bank's governing council said it expects interest rates will need to rise further.

The central bank did not indicate when it would raise rates again. It mentioned housing only once in its Wednesday press release, saying "activity is more elevated, adding further pressure to house prices."

Scotiabank's chief economist Mr. Perrault said "it isn't inconceivable that a first rate hike might actually add to pressures in the market as homebuyers rush into buying ahead of even higher

interest rates down the line."

Frances Hinojosa, mortgage broker and president of Tribe Financial Group, agreed, saying Wednesday's rate hike will likely have a "psychological impact" and "cause buyers to rush into the market."

The rapid rise in home prices has motivated would-be buyers to quickly make offers for fear of getting priced out of the market. Now, prospective buyers are racing to make their purchase before mortgages get more expensive. That was the case for Sarah Grant and her husband. For most of last year, they were looking to buy a bigger property in Toronto for their family of four.

Ms. Grant said they felt pressure to buy before interest rates increased and ended up forgoing Toronto and buying a house in Kelowna, B.C., without viewing the property in person. "It was definitely one factor that was on our mind when we acted quickly," she said.

Although fixed mortgage rates are higher than they were last year, they are still near historic lows. Wednesday's change will not affect homeowners who are already locked into a fixed-rate mortgage. If a borrower has a variable-rate mortgage, which is typically pegged to the Bank of Canada's overnight rate, a higher share of their payments will go toward paying interest instead of the principal.

Within hours of the announcement, most of the country's largest banks raised their prime lending rate by 25 basis points to 2.7 per cent, effective Thursday. The higher prime rate will bump up borrowing costs on variable-rate mortgages, home equity lines of credit and other lines of credit.

The last time the Bank of Canada embarked on a series of rate increases was after the 2016 real estate boom in Toronto and Vancouver. Over the subsequent two years, the central bank raised the overnight rate five times to 1.75 per cent from 0.75 per cent. The higher borrowing costs, combined with tougher mortgage qualification rules and foreign buyer taxes, helped to calm the market frenzy in Toronto and Vancouver.

ECB'S POLICY DILEMMA INTENSIFIES AS EURO-ZONE INFLATION REACHES RECORD HIGH

FRANKFURT Euro-zone inflation soared to another record high last month, intensifying a policy dilemma for the European Central Bank, which will need to convey a sense of calm amid war-related market turmoil but also respond to mounting price pressures.

Inflation in the 19 countries sharing the euro accelerated to

5.8 per cent from 5.1 per cent in January, the highest figure in the bloc's two decades, beating expectations for 5.4 per cent and also confounding the ECB's own projection for a drop, data from Eurostat showed on Wednesday.

A 32-per-cent jump in energy costs drove inflation last month but unprocessed food prices

were also up sharply, rising 6.1 per cent and making inflation especially painful for lower-income families.

But the ECB's chief economist Philip Lane called for "tolerating a temporary increase in the inflation rate," which was caused by a shock in the supply of fuel and other goods.

REUTERS

DILBERT



Wary of a second Cold War, investors monitor global shifts

Russian invasion of Ukraine is the strongest sign yet that decades of stability are coming to an end, with markets feeling the impact

LANANH NGUYEN

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, investors have enjoyed decades of global economic stability in which military conflicts and foreign diplomacy played a diminished role in the movements of markets.

But Russia's invasion of Ukraine is the most overt sign of a recent change in that dynamic as increased jostling among powerful countries will have sweeping consequences for investors.

The largest military conflict in Europe since the Second World War – combined with simmering tensions between the United States and China – has investors watching shifts in international power dynamics more closely than they have in a long time.

“There has been more global geopolitical tension now for the last several years – frictions between China and the rest of the world, China and the U.S. in particular, are not going away,” said Daniel Ivascyn, the chief investment officer at PIMCO, a fund manager that oversees US\$2.2-trillion in assets. “This Russia situation further complicates some of these broad global relationships, and it absolutely is an increased topic of conversation with our investors.”

Financial markets have long been sensitive to geopolitical events – elections, supply disruptions and trade tensions – that can move prices. And in just a few days, the invasion of Ukraine has prompted a series of economic manoeuvres that can quickly transform the way countries raise money, where they buy raw materials and with whom they do business.



Stock traders, who already faced uncertainty as governments and central banks grappled with the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, now must deal with an armed conflict that could hamper any business that relies on oil, natural gas, metals and grains. BRENDAN McDERMID/REUTERS

The U.S. and its European allies said they would freeze any Russian central bank assets held by U.S. financial institutions, making it harder for the central bank to support the ruble. Fresh sanctions have essentially barred some Russian banks from international transactions. British oil giant BP said it would “exit” its almost 20-per-cent stake in Rosneft, the Russian state-controlled oil company, which was valued at US\$14-billion last year. And Norway’s sovereign wealth fund, the world’s largest, said it would divest itself of its Russian investments.

These and other moves – along with Russia’s status as the world’s third-largest oil producer, behind the U.S. and Saudi Arabia – have shaken up markets around the world. Commodities traders are figuring out how to reroute the global flow of oil, natural gas, metals and grains. And stock traders who already faced uncertainty as governments and central banks grappled with the fallout from the pandemic now must deal with an armed conflict that could hamper any business that relies on those materials.

On Tuesday, the S&P 500 fell 1.6 per cent, the latest in a series of rapid swings and a drop to start

March after two consecutive down months. Oil prices rose sharply, with Brent crude trading at more than US\$106 a barrel, as more than two dozen countries announced plans to release emergency reserves.

Jason Schenker, president of Prestige Economics, a forecaster in Austin, Tex., described the revival of tensions between Western countries and Russia as a second Cold War.

“There’s this competition for global influence and global power, but now the stakes have been raised,” Mr. Schenker said. “We might be in for a protracted battle of sanctions and soft-power diplomacy. And we could see cascading risks of further military action.”

That risk was clear Tuesday when former prime minister Dmitry Medvedev of Russia warned that economic wars “quite often turned into real ones,” prompting the French Finance Minister, Bruno Le Maire, to backpedal from an earlier statement that Europe was ready for “total economic and financial war against Russia.” Mr. Le Maire said his use of the word “war” had been inappropriate.

Although the incursion into Ukraine is a tangible and overt ex-

ample of the way geopolitical events are increasingly affecting markets, the shift was already well under way.

Tensions have been escalating between the U.S. and China, its largest trading partner in goods, for years, most notably with the trade war during former president Donald Trump’s administration, which included tariffs on a broad swath of Chinese products in 2018. But the jockeying has continued since then: Beijing has moved to rein in companies that list their shares in the U.S. while also giving Wall Street banks a freer hand to operate within its borders, meaning that business that investors conduct there is on Chinese terms.

Russia’s attack on Ukraine and the moves to isolate it could push Russia even closer to China, which has been more circumspect than other countries about the offensive. It has also prompted increased unease about China’s relationship with Taiwan, the self-governed island that is claimed by Beijing. Although there is no sign that an invasion of the island is imminent, China regularly sends warplanes toward Taiwan, and analysts have said Beijing is making it clear that it would not rule out military action to absorb the island.

Taiwan plays a crucial role in the global supply chain for semiconductor chips that power things as diverse as iPhones and cars, and it is an important trading partner with the U.S., which imports billions of dollars in electrical machinery from the island.

Any military move on Taiwan would cause a seismic shift for the global economy, and investors and businesses are closely watching the global economic effects of the sanctions on Russia as a test case, said Karl Schamotta, chief market strategist at Corpay, a global payments company.

The sanctions against Russia resemble old-school capital controls, signalling a renewed willingness by governments to use economic tools to achieve foreign-policy aims, said Mr. Scha-

motta, who is based in Toronto. That may come as a shock to companies and traders who have become accustomed to moving hundreds of millions of dollars across borders quickly and easily.

“There’s going to be sand put into the gears of the global economic machine, on purpose,” he said. “Governments are going to try to slow how things move across borders and how much money can move from one place to the next, and that’s a completely different world if you’re a large multinational corporation. It makes business much more difficult.”

Fighting, by itself, has not impeded the growth of financial markets. After the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, for example, the stock market stayed closed for four days and reopened to a sharp sell-off. But the effect was temporary, and equity markets marched steadily higher even as the U.S. waged wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in the decades that followed. The most severe interruption was a financial, not military, crisis in 2008.

After analyzing the performance of the S&P 500 since 1945, UBS Global Wealth Management found that markets usually fell during the first week of key military conflicts. But in 14 of 18 cases, they rose within three months.

Kristina Hooper, the chief global market strategist at Invesco, which manages US\$1.6-trillion for clients including pension funds, insurance companies and individual investors, said the fighting in Ukraine was more worrisome because of its human toll. She expected small gains for the U.S. stock market this year, but for those gains to come with increased volatility; geopolitical considerations are only adding to the cloudy conditions already facing investors as the Federal Reserve plans interest-rate increases to tamp down inflation.

“There’s an awful lot of uncertainty out there,” she said.

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[WAR IN UKRAINE]



A moment to reflect

A man uses his cellphone on Wednesday in Kyiv's Dorohozhychi subway station, which has been turned into a bomb shelter

CHRIS MCGRATH/GETTY IMAGES

WestJet set to buy vacation airline Sunwing

Takeover marks a new foray into the air-travel business for Onex Corp.

ERIC ATKINS
TRANSPORTATION REPORTER

WestJet Group is buying Toronto-based Sunwing Airlines and Sunwing Vacations, taking a bigger step into the holiday tour market as the travel industry tries to rebuild two years into the pandemic.

The takeover, announced Wednesday, marks a new foray into the airline business for **Onex Corp.**, which bought Calgary-based WestJet for \$3.5-billion in 2019. The purchase price for the Sunwing deal, which requires government approval, was not disclosed. The companies said the takeover could be finalized late this year.

The heads of Sunwing and WestJet said in a joint interview that the companies' tour businesses will be combined and headquartered in Toronto, while WestJet will run Sunwing Airlines from its Calgary base. The

two brands will be marketed separately.

The deal comes as the airline industry tries to rebound, two years after COVID-19 spurred governments to close borders and caused demand to plummet, leaving airlines with steep financial losses.

There will be no job losses in the planned takeover, said Alexis von Hoensbroech, the chief executive officer of WestJet, and Stephen Hunter, Sunwing's CEO, in the joint interview.

Both airlines are hiring employees as demand for travel returns. WestJet has 8,490 on staff, down from its prepandemic level of about 14,000, and flies 180 planes. Sunwing employs 2,400 with a fleet that ranges in size from 40 to 10 depending on the season.

"We have a lot of staff [who] have been here for a long time. So I have many sleepless nights thinking about how we're going to get through this pandemic," said Mr. Hunter, who will run the combined tour division. "Not only is it going to be okay because, finally, our Prime Minister helped us out with his announcement a couple of weeks ago

[on looser COVID-19 testing rules for travellers], and sales have been tremendously good for everybody across the sector. But ultimately this marriage will mean more jobs for Canadians."

Mr. Hunter said he is optimistic the deal will receive regulatory approval, given that it combines complementary businesses — an airline with a strong presence in Western Canada and a tour operator that is mainly based in Ontario and Quebec.

Mr. Hoensbroech, who started in the top job at WestJet two weeks ago, said the deal will allow WestJet to tap into a bigger market of Canadians who want to buy resort vacations in the winter. "We are complementing each other ... in areas where we both are weak," he said.

Sunwing was founded in 2002 by Mr. Hunter's father, Colin Hunter. German tourism and airline company TUI Group owns 49 per cent. The company also owns and operates 45 resorts in Mexico and the Caribbean, several tour providers, a luxury charter jet service and other vacation and hotel brands. Mr. Hunter and TUI become shareholders in WestJet while retaining owner-

ship of several hotels in the Caribbean.

WestJet is Canada's second-largest airline, behind Air Canada. The two companies command 83 per cent of the domestic market and 88 per cent of international airfares sold in Canada, according to Cirium, an aviation data company. WestJet in 2021 accounted for 37 per cent of domestic seat sales and 18 per cent of the international market. Sunwing has a 3-per-cent share of sales to foreign destinations.

WestJet's airline combined with Sunwing's strong tour business would present a more formidable competitor to Air Canada and its vacations division, as well as Montreal-based Transat, which has a significant presence in the European tourism market.

Airline takeovers in Canada are reviewed by the Competition Commissioner and by Transport Canada, which report to the Transport Minister, who makes the final ruling. **Air Canada** dropped its planned takeover of **Transat AT Inc.** last year when the European regulator refused to approve the deal.

The deal comes a year after The Globe and Mail reported that

Mr. Hunter had received a takeover offer from an unnamed suitor. Around the same time, Marriott International took on the marketing for 19 of 44 Sunwing resorts in a deal spurred by the collapse in travel caused by the pandemic.

Sunwing has borrowed \$227-million from taxpayers under an emergency-loan program for large employers. The airline has also borrowed another \$99-million from the federal government to repay customers whose flights were cancelled during the pandemic.

Mr. Hunter said the government loans will be repaid when the deal closes.

The Unifor union, which represents 452 Sunwing pilots and 700 WestJet employees in customer service and baggage handling, said the takeover will lead to more jobs. WestJet's plan to raise capacity to some destinations, coupled with Sunwing's intention to stop bolstering its fleet with imported aircraft in the busy months, will boost employment, said Scott Doherty, a Unifor executive.

With a report from Andrew Willis

Willis: Sunwing's owners in fortunate position of having found deep-pocketed buyer

FROM B1

He said Sunwing was looking at options for dealing with the seasonality of its business — its fleet goes from 40 aircraft in the winter to 15 in the summer — before the pandemic burdened the company with debt. He said tapping the market reach and financial strength of WestJet and parent Onex Corp. "helps get us over this hump."

Sunwing's financial challenges mirror what is playing out for owners of hotels, restaurants, gyms, ski hills and all sorts of other privately held businesses hit by the pandemic. If they survived the past two years, they did so by slashing costs, burning through savings and borrowing money.

Now these entrepreneurs — the hospitality sector is dominated by family-owned businesses — face the challenge of rebuilding their operations while paying down debt.

Sunwing's owners are in the fortunate position of having a deep-pocketed buyer. Other companies facing the same headwinds are going out of business. Toronto-based Sky Regional Airlines Inc. shut down last March, ending a decade-long run.

Mr. Hunter's family and Sunwing minority shareholder TUI Group, a German tour operator with a 49-per-cent stake, will take WestJet shares in exchange for their business. The Hunter family



Sunwing chief executive Stephen Hunter and his family, along with minority shareholder TUI Group — a German tour operator with a 49-per-cent stake — will take WestJet shares in exchange for their business. The Hunter family and TUI will continue to own a collection of 30 hotels in the tropics. FRED LUM/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

and TUI will continue to own a collection of 30 hotels in the tropics.

Sunwing is a private company but did disclose that it borrowed \$227.1-million under a federal government loan program and drew an additional \$99.6-million from a credit facility. This was expensive capital. The debt carried

a 5-per-cent interest rate, and Mr. Hunter said that, as a private company, Sunwing was also forced to pay an additional 6 per cent for credit insurance.

"With or without this deal, we were looking to repay that financing," he said. "This will turn out to be a good investment for Canadian taxpayers."

WestJet is unique among Canadian airlines for turning down government funding during the pandemic, a decision that Mr. Hunter said made the Calgary-based airline a more attractive partner. WestJet and Sunwing declined comment on the value of the transaction.

Toronto-based Onex acquired

WestJet in 2019 for \$5-billion, including assumed debt. Onex's financial results, released last Friday, show it funded the takeover with US\$980-million of equity. Of that total, US\$196-million came from Onex, with the remainder coming from its institutional investor clients.

Onex's results show that, despite the pandemic, the company received US\$3-million in cash distributions from WestJet over the past two years.

WestJet chief executive Alexis von Hoensbroech, who took the top job less than two weeks ago after serving as CEO at Austrian Airlines, said combining the two companies will be a win for consumers and will mean more jobs in Canada, "as you combine Sunwing, a large tour operator with a small airline, with WestJet, a large airline that's a small tour operator."

Once Sunwing joins the fold, WestJet plans to expand a tour business that was focused on Florida, the Caribbean and Mexico to destinations the Calgary-based airline already serves, such as Arizona, California, Hawaii and Europe. WestJet's advisers on the transaction are investment bank Barclays and law firm Goodmans LLP.

The takeover requires regulatory approval — a process that helped scuttle Air Canada's proposed acquisition of Transat AT Inc. last April — and is expected to close by the end of the year.

Ford details plans to run its EV unit separately

U.S. automaker also says it will boost spending on electric vehicles, as CEO bets aggressively on new strategy

AISHWARYA NAIR

Ford Motor Co. said on Wednesday it will boost spending on electric vehicles to US\$50-billion, up from the previous US\$30-billion, through 2026 and run its EV unit separately from its legacy combustion-engine business, in a move aimed at catching industry leader **Tesla Inc.**

The reorganization and additional investment come as chief

executive Jim Farley bets aggressively on the company's electrification strategy.

Mr. Farley said Ford plans to build more than two million EVs in 2026, about one-third of its annual global production, with EVs rising to 50 per cent of its total volume by 2030.

Ford shares closed up 8.4 per cent at US\$18.10 at the end of trading Wednesday.

The company does not expect to make a profit on its EV business until the next-generation models begin production in 2025, according to chief financial officer John Lawler.

Reuters on Tuesday was first to report that Ford planned to separate its main vehicle efforts into two separate businesses in order to accelerate its electric-

vehicle efforts.

Although the EV business, named Ford Model e, will be separated from the company's internal-combustion engine (ICE) unit, Ford Blue, the two divisions will share technology and "best practices," the automaker said.

The two businesses, along with commercial-vehicle unit Ford Pro, will report separate financial results by 2023, it added.

"We view the news positively as it has strong industrial logic, and it will enable investors to separately value the money-losing EV business," Wells Fargo analyst Colin Langan said in a note.

Barclays auto analyst Brian Johnson said in a note titled "Reorganization Not Restructuring" that Ford's announcement sug-

gests it is "likely to accelerate its progress towards a BEV future – but not to a near-term spin."

Doug Field will lead Ford Model e's product development as chief EV and digital systems officer, and Lisa Drake will head EV industrialization for the unit.

Mr. Farley's move stops short of addressing calls from some investors who have pushed Ford and General Motors Co. to spin off their EV operations as a way to extract the full value of those businesses.

Industry analysts, however, said with Wednesday's announcement, Ford would be setting the table for a possible spinoff of its EV unit down the road.

Ford said it hoped to cut structural costs of up to US\$3-billion in its ICE business, but did

not say if that effort would involve reducing head count. Mr. Farley also said the EV unit will need to spend "billions" to secure critical raw materials for batteries as EV volume ramps up.

"We need the ICE business to generate cash and the EV business to focus on innovation," Mr. Farley said.

Ford said it expects to spend US\$5-billion on EVs this year, a twofold rise over 2021. It is also targeting an adjusted earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) margin of 10 per cent by 2026 versus 8 per cent it hopes to achieve this year.

REUTERS

FORD (F)

CLOSE: US\$18.10, UP US\$1.40

Laurentian Bank's first-quarter profits up after boost from commercial loans

IAN BICKIS

Laurentian Bank of Canada reported an increase in first-quarter profits as it got a boost from seasonal commercial loans while it continues with efforts to revamp its retail business.

The Montreal-based bank said Wednesday that profits of \$55.5-million for the quarter ending Jan. 31, up from \$44.8-million a year ago, were boosted in part by a \$2.2-billion, or 17 per cent, jump in commercial loans.

"Commercial banking remains our growth engine, capital markets provides a focused and aligned offering, and personal banking is repositioning for growth," said chief executive Ramia Llewellyn on an earnings call.

Commercial loans were especially boosted by inventory financing, which grew by 39 per cent from the fourth quarter.

About half of the inventory financing business is geared to recreation vehicle and marine sales, which were helped, especially on the RV side, by better supplies in the quarter.

On the retail side, Laurentian is in the midst of a major

turnaround plan. In December, it announced a new partnership with Brim Financial on Visa cards and before that it launched its first digital app, while it is also streamlining how it handles its mortgage business.

Ms. Llewellyn said the bank has reduced credit-card issuing time from 25 days to instantaneous, while in the three months since the bank launched its app more than 25 per cent of online banking customers have downloaded it. She said the bank is proactively calling customers who have mortgages up for renewal as it looks to increase its share of market in the space and that initial results are "encouraging."

The bank says its net income amounted to \$1.17 per diluted share for the quarter ended Jan. 31, up from 96 cents per diluted share in the same quarter a year earlier.

Revenue totalled \$257.5-million for the quarter, up from \$247.4-million for the first quarter last year.

Laurentian says its provisions for credit losses amounted to \$9.4-million for the quarter, compared with \$16.8-million a year earlier as lower provisions on impaired loans were partly offset by

higher provisions on performing loans.

On an adjusted basis, Laurentian says it earned \$1.26 per diluted share in its most recent quarter, up from an adjusted profit of \$1.03 per diluted share a year earlier.

Analysts on average had expected an adjusted profit of \$1.20 per share, according to financial markets data firm Refinitiv.

Scotiabank analyst Meny Grauman said the bump from the seasonal inventory finance business helped the bank beat expectations, but that the opposite trend could weigh on the next couple of quarters when the recreational financing is expected to dip. He said in a note that the bank's start to the year is encouraging but that it is still early days in Laurentian's ambitious transformation.

"Overall, we continue to expect to see ongoing progress for Laurentian on the commercial loan front, but we believe that challenges in the retail business are more formidable."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

LAURENTIAN (LB)

CLOSE: \$43.58, UP \$1.93

PURDUE PHARMA MEDIATOR INDICATES SACKLER OPIOID DEAL HAS ENTERED FINAL STAGE

NEW YORK A mediator in Purdue Pharma's bankruptcy case on Wednesday indicated an agreement was being drafted between the company's owners and U.S. states pressing for more money to resolve allegations that the OxyContin maker fuelled the opioid epidemic.

Members of the wealthy Sackler family, who own Purdue Pharma, have been trying to reach an agreement with eight states and the District of Columbia, after they had blocked a previous settlement that included a US\$4.3-billion cash payment.

The Sacklers had proposed a settlement worth up to US\$6-billion in mediation, and most of the states had agreed to settle on those terms, according to a report filed in February by mediator Shelley Chapman.

Ms. Chapman reported on Wednesday she was unilaterally extending talks, which U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Robert Drain allowed if she is actively involved in drafting terms.

While neither Purdue nor the mediator offered any details during a Wednesday court hearing, Justice Drain said he believed the mediation was proceeding as hoped after "reading between the lines" of the latest report.

To allow the mediation to progress, Justice Drain extended a litigation shield that protects the Sacklers from being sued for their alleged role in the opioid crisis until March 23.

The shield would have expired on March 3 if it was not extended.

While the mediation continues, Purdue is also trying to revive its prior bankruptcy plan that was based on the US\$4.3-billion settlement.

Purdue filed for Chapter 11 protection in September, 2019, after being hit with thousands of lawsuits claiming that the company and members of the Sackler family used deceptive marketing to fuel a nationwide opioid epidemic.

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Russia: Bank controls, supply disruptions could hinder companies that decide to stay

FROM B1

Auto maker Ford Motor Co. suspended operations in Russia, and Apple Inc. halted sales of iPhones and other products while condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine. International shippers, such as Maersk, Hapag-Lloyd and MSC, have suspended bookings to and from Russia, as the country becomes increasingly shut out of world commerce.

All of that is forcing Canadian companies into a quick rethink of their commitment to Russia. If they stay, they risk being on the wrong side of the moral line their own government has drawn in this conflict. They might also have trouble supporting their Russian operations given the bank controls or difficulties finding supplies to feed operations. But pulling out also comes with cost.

"Truthfully, it's hard to make the case for staying in Russia right now," said Yan Cimon, a specialist in international business and strategy at Laval University's department of management. "Those companies who want to stay in Russia, or could benefit from staying, will find it really hard to take a break and assess the situation and try to put the decision off."

Perhaps no Canadian company has more at stake in the current conflict than Magna. The Aurora, Ont.-based car-parts maker has six manufacturing facilities and roughly 2,500 employees in Russia. The company's 2020 annual report said it had \$120-million in fixed assets in Russia and \$345-million in sales from the country, about 1 per cent of the company's global total.

Magna said the Russian plants make body, chassis, seating and exterior sections of vehicles, but did not specify which car company the parts are for. Magna spokeswoman Louise Colledge said Tuesday the plants are still running and Magna is monitoring the "very dynamic" situation.

"We are liaising with our customers and suppliers on a daily basis in order to review individual programs – our focus is to maintain business continuity," Ms. Colledge said in an e-mail.

Joseph McCabe, president of AutoForecast Solutions LLC, said all foreign manufacturers with a Russian presence will be affected by this conflict. He said he has no firm confirmation on how severely Magna's operations will be affected, but expected them to be evaluating temporary and permanent changes to their supply chains. "This action by Russia has put them under a global lens with companies now forced to consider if a full extraction from the jurisdiction is warranted," he said.

At one time, Russia was seen as a breakthrough market for Magna. Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska bought US\$1.54-billion in shares of the company in 2007 and planned to run it with founder Frank Stronach. Mr. Stronach told shareholders at the time that before the investment, he sought and received a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin to



Alimentation Couche-Tard, based in Laval, Que., and which controls the Circle K chain, has 38 stores and more than 320 employees in Russia, part of its global footprint of 14,200 outlets. CHRISTINNE MUSCHI/REUTERS

get his endorsement of the deal. Mr. Deripaska later sold his shares during the financial crisis in 2008.

Mr. Deripaska was placed on a U.S. sanctions list in 2018 for his ties to the Kremlin. However, he is one of the few oligarchs to publicly break ranks with Mr. Putin over the invasion of Ukraine. On Sunday, Mr. Deripaska released a statement on the Telegram messaging app urging an end to the bloodshed.

Earlier this week, Russia's central bank introduced new capital controls that required companies operating in the country to exchange 80 per cent of their foreign earnings into rubles, to help prop up the Russian currency. Magna did not respond to questions about whether they were affected by the orders.

Some companies have already pressed pause on their Russian business.

Toronto-based miner Kinross Gold Corp., which has operated in Russia for more than 25 years, said late Wednesday it is suspending operations at its Kupol mine as well as all activities at its Udinsk development project. Kupol, located in a remote area of Russia's far east, is the gold miner's most profitable operation, bringing in US\$442-million in operating earnings in 2021. The mine is also a big boost to the region: Kinross's 2020 sustainability disclosure notes the company made \$190-million in payments to local governments and the mine contributed between 15 per cent and 20 per cent of the area's gross domestic product.

Kinross said in a statement it is "deeply concerned about the tragic situation and the extent of casualties and destruction in Ukraine and wishes to express its sympathy and support for the people who are suffering because of the conflict." It said it is hoping for a peaceful and diplomatic solution.

McCain Foods Ltd., the Canadian frozen French fry giant, began constructing a potato processing plant in 2020 in Russia's Tula oblast. The company said it

paused construction last week and was re-evaluating the future of the project. "A final decision will be taken in the coming days," Charlie Angelakos, vice-president of global external affairs and sustainability, said in a statement. The company also donated \$200,000 for relief efforts in Ukraine.

Canada Goose, maker of luxury parkas, said Wednesday it would suspend all sales in Russia and donate \$100,000 for humanitarian aid in Ukraine. "Canada Goose is deeply concerned by the conflict unfolding in Ukraine. We stand with all of those who are impacted by the violence," the company said in a statement.

And 100 business leaders wrote an open letter to the federal government urging Ottawa to step up sanctions on Russia and pledging, as business leaders, to unwind commercial relationships with the country. The signatories included John Chen, executive chairman of BlackBerry Ltd., and Walied Soliman, chair of Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP.

CCL Industries Inc. is another Canadian company with operations in Russia. The Toronto-based label maker has five factories in Russia that employ 428 people and manufacture labels for consumer packaging, pharmaceutical and food and beverage companies, some for products within Russia. The company said it brings in \$70-million in sales in the country, a small share of its \$5.7-billion in annual global revenue.

"[These are] crazy times," CCL chief executive officer Geoffrey Martin said on a call last week to discuss the company's earnings. "On behalf of all those people, we know perfectly well that none of them had anything to do with the situation that's unfolded in the Ukraine, and they have our continuing support."

At Couche-Tard, a similar concern for its Russian-based employees is playing out as it weighs its next move. The Laval, Que.-based company, which controls the Circle K chain, has 38 stores

and more than 320 employees in Russia, part of its global footprint of 14,200 outlets.

"As our people are our number one priority, we are following the situation closely and continue to support our team members inside and outside Russia," said Couche-Tard spokeswoman Jennifer Vincent. "At this point, we have made no plans to change our operations."

Restaurant Brands International Inc., a fast-food chain that owns properties that include Tim Hortons, said it has 800 Burger King locations in Russia, all of which are owned and operated by local franchisees. The company said it had watched the attack on Ukraine "with horror" and is insisting that its Russian franchisees abide by international sanctions, including those imposed by Canada. The parent company's statement came after its master franchisee in the country told Russian state-owned news agency RIA Novosti that Burger King continues to operate in Russia and plans to expand this year by opening more locations. Burger King Russia's communications director told RIA the company considers Russia a strategic market.

Oil giant BP PLC, Russia's biggest foreign investor, led the Western-company exodus this past weekend with its announcement that it would abandon its stake in Russian oil giant Rosneft, a decision that could cost it as much as US\$25-billion in writedowns. Rival Shell PLC followed, citing Russia's "senseless act of military aggression" as it cut ties with state-controlled Gazprom.

Calfrac Well Services Ltd., which has yet to report full-year 2021 results, said in its third-quarter report that its revenue from its Russian operations in the first nine months in 2021 was \$94.1-million – 28 per cent higher than in the first three quarters of 2020. The company had \$745-million in total revenue during those nine months of 2021. The company told The Globe it had no comment on its Russian operations.

Meanwhile, a Russian businessman has stepped down from the board of Buhler Industries Inc., a Winnipeg-based farm equipment company. In a statement on Wednesday, Buhler said its board has accepted Konstantin Babkin's resignation as a director. He is well-known for publicly supporting Mr. Putin.

Other Canadian companies doing business in Russia could face mounting pressure to explain their stance on the country in the days ahead, especially if they're traded publicly.

"We expect companies to act prudently and diligently, as they have a fiduciary duty to do," said Willie Gagnon, director of Quebec investor-rights group Médac. He also urged companies to "pay particular attention to their social responsibility, beyond their legal obligations, in these tragic circumstances."

Some companies have seen their exposure to Russia shrink over the years. BRP Inc., the Canadian maker of snowmobiles and watercraft, has sold into Russia for almost 30 years. BRP CEO José Boisjoli has travelled frequently to Russia in the past to boost business, and delegations from Russia have also travelled to Quebec to study how to replicate the province's 35,000-kilometre network of snowmobile trails.

With a solid snowpack and an enthusiastic base of customers for power sports vehicles, Russia was BRP's third-largest market after the United States and Canada as of 2014. Its importance to BRP declined in the years afterward.

Since the conflict in Crimea and the international sanctions that followed, BRP sales in Russia now represent less than 5 per cent of total sales, said company spokeswoman Biliiana Necheva. National Bank analyst Cameron Doerksen pegs it more precisely at 1 per cent.

Gordon Johnston, CEO of Edmonton-based engineering firm Stantec Inc., told analysts asking about its exposure to the Russian region in recent days that it pulled out of Ukraine late last year as tensions increased. It had a project in Ukraine but wrapped it up last month after a meeting with its customers.

OpSens Inc., a Quebec City maker of fibre-optic sensors used in the medical and oil and gas industries, has sold some wares in Russia in the past and was eyeing the country as a market to develop until the war began. Now, it's off the radar completely, CEO Louis Laflamme said.

"Even if the conflict disappeared tomorrow with a wave of a magic wand, there will be a long-term impact for any prospective business for companies like ours," Mr. Laflamme said. "It's just too risky and unpredictable. I'm not a political expert but it's 2022. I would have naively thought the world was past a time when we sent tanks in to solve problems."

With reports from David Milstead, Susan Krashinsky Robertson, Wendy Stueck, Brent Jang and Reuters

Assets: 150 stock or bond funds in Canada have some Russian holdings, data show

FROM B1

To assess funds' holdings, The Globe and Mail reviewed ownership records from Bloomberg and S&P Global Market Intelligence, including some records provided by Stand.earth, an environmental activist group that wants to call attention to how Canadian institutions finance Russian oil and gas. It also received fund data from research company Morningstar.

Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, the only major Canadian pension fund with significant disclosed Russian holdings, said last week it sold more than \$300-million worth of stock in Russian companies on the restricted list.

Alberta Investment Management Co. and British Columbia Investment Management Corp. also said this week they would sell their Russian holdings, with BCI saying it would take time to dispose of \$107-million in Russian stock, but trading in these securities has now ground to a halt, given international sanctions, trading restrictions and Russia's ban on foreigners selling Russian securities.

Dozens of Canadian business leaders signed an open letter to the Canadian government this week pledging to "do what we can to support you in isolating Russian leadership by unwinding commercial relationships and divesting Russian holdings." Kevin McCreddie, chief executive officer of AGF Management Ltd., is

the only signatory who is an executive at one of the fund managers in The Globe review.

While some investment companies say they want to clear Russian holdings off their books, many may find they can't because of a lack of potential buyers, trading halts on some stock exchanges, price declines and uncertainty about whether the trades could be completed.

According to data from Morningstar, 150 stock or bond funds in Canada have some Russian holdings. All told, the holdings equal \$1.2-billion in stocks and nearly \$1-billion in bonds.

The Globe review also found fund managers that owned some stocks of Russian companies on the restricted list, including investment arms of Manulife Financial Corp., Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Bank of Nova Scotia and Bank of Montreal, as well as international giants such as HSBC, Fidelity and Vanguard. CIBC and BMO's asset managers hold shares of six companies on Canada's 2015 restricted list, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence.

When contacted by The Globe, many managers of mutual funds and ETFs said their Russian holdings were minimal or very limited compared to their overall portfolios: Far less than 1 per cent, in all cases the companies specifically cited.

Still, many Canadians have been contacting wealth managers to ensure their portfolios have zero Russian exposure. "They do

not want to aid Russia in any way whatsoever," said Charlie Spiring, founder of independent wealth manager Wellington-Altus Financial Inc. "We did a sweep to ensure we had zero exposure."

Russian-share ownership, while small, is still widespread across the Canadian fund industry.

About one-third of the investment funds that hold Russian assets have 2 per cent or less of their assets there, and just 20 have 5 per cent or more. Only about two dozen track an index for their investments, and the rest are actively managed funds for which the investment companies have discretion where to invest.

HSBC's BRIC Equity Fund Investor Series – the "R" stands for Russia – had 22.6 per cent of its portfolio in Russia as of Dec. 31, according to Morningstar, with Gazprom making up 6.3 per cent; Lukoil 5.4 per cent; and Sberbank just over 5 per cent. According to Morningstar data, it's the only Canadian fund with more than 10 per cent of its holdings in Russia.

In response to questions about HSBC's holdings of companies on Canada's restrictions list, spokesperson Caroline Creighton said in an e-mailed statement: "HSBC complies with all international sanctions everywhere that we operate." She did not provide any details on whether HSBC was going to sell its Russian holdings.

Mawer Investment Management Ltd.'s emerging markets fund, with 8,636 per cent of its holdings in Russia, has the most

exposure of any fund managed by a Canadian parent company. Mawer declined to comment.

Sberbank is one of the more popular restricted Russian holdings among big investors worldwide. S&P Global Market Intelligence counts nine Canadian fund managers holding the shares as of their most recent disclosure reports.

BMO spokesperson Jeff Roman said in an e-mail that the bank's mutual funds and ETFs "do not have significant exposure to the region." But the bank did not provide answers on whether it would sell its Russian holdings.

Bank of Nova Scotia and CIBC did not respond to The Globe's questions on whether they were considering divestment of Russian assets.

Manulife Financial Corp. has several emerging markets funds that include Russian shares – as well as an emerging markets Eastern Europe Fund that has four companies on the Canadian restrictions list among its top holdings.

"We, and our sub-advisors, manage assets on behalf of some clients where a relatively small exposure to Russian companies exists within the portfolios," Manulife spokesperson Cheryl Holmes said in an e-mail. "We are addressing directly any specific questions or directives clients with exposure to Russia may have regarding exiting those positions."

Manulife did not address whether it is looking to sell the

Russian positions.

Several of the fund companies contacted by The Globe about their Russian holdings said they plan to sell as soon as practicable.

AGF spokesperson Amanda Marchment said in an e-mail the process is under way, and the company is "committed to divesting from Russian holdings in due course and as exchanges reopen."

ETF provider Horizons ETFs Management (Canada) Inc. has several emerging markets funds with less than 2.2-per-cent exposure, but spokesperson Jonathan McGuire said the company will be looking for "opportunities to potentially exit those positions, when possible."

Canadian asset managers with investment funds that track an index may also need co-operation from the company that created and maintains that index. MSCI Inc., one of the world's biggest index managers, weights Russia at 3.24 per cent of its emerging market benchmark and around 0.3 per cent in its global benchmark.

It is consulting with investors about removing Russian securities from its indices. Dimitris Melas, MSCI's head of index research and chair of its index policy committee, told Reuters on Monday it would not make a lot of sense for the index "to continue to include Russian securities if our clients and investors cannot transact in the market."

With a report from Tim Shufelt



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GLOBE INVESTOR

A realist's guide to winners and losers in the wave of interest rate hikes

Who's better and worse off as we move away from what could be the lowest borrowing costs we'll see in our lives

ROB CARRICK

OPINION



The new normal is rising interest rates.

The first step up for rates from the emergency low of the pandemic has been taken by the Bank of Canada and more increases are ahead. Here's a realist's take on who's better and worse off as we adjust to the move away from what could be the lowest borrowing costs we'll see in our lives.

BETTER: HOME BUYERS AND OWNERS

You thought anything house-related would be listed on the worse side, right? Won't rising rates hurt affordability in a market that is already too expensive by virtually all rational measures? The answer is yes, let's hope so.

Price growth in the housing market needs to cool down and higher rates can help accomplish this without overtly damaging the market. Housing is important to the economy and a crash in the sector would undermine growth at this key moment of transitioning away from pandemic restrictions. Slower growth in house prices, or even zero growth for a while, is a win because it will help first-time buyers get into the market, even as they face higher borrowing costs. Saving a down payment is demoralizing when prices keep rising by double-digit amounts over year-ago levels. A quieter housing market is good for long-time owners as well because it reduces the risk that prices will rise to unsustainable levels and then fall hard.

WORSE: HOUSEHOLDS STRUGGLING TO COPE WITH INFLATION

Stubbornly high inflation is a big reason why rates are rising right now – higher rates are supposed to cool demand for buying goods and services. This cooling process takes a while, though. In the meantime, we will have higher



ISTOCK

costs for food, gas and other staples, plus higher borrowing costs.

We are entering a tough period for households with big grocery bills, two vehicles to fuel up and debts like a line of credit where the rate is directly influenced by the Bank of Canada's overnight rate. There will likely be further rate hikes in April and beyond, and inflation could be headed higher if the Russian invasion of Ukraine keeps pushing up the price of energy, grains and other staple commodities.

BETTER: PEOPLE WHO RECENTLY TOOK OUT VARIABLE RATE MORTGAGES

Wait, doesn't the interest rate on variable rate mortgages rise along with the Bank of Canada's overnight rate, which was increased by 0.25 of a point on Wednesday? Correct, but take a look at how much lower variable-rate mortgage costs have been lately in comparison with fixed-rate loans. Some of the big mortgage brokerages had five-year variable rate mortgages as low as 1.1 per cent this week, with five-year fixed rate mortgages at 2.79 per cent to 2.99 per cent. There is room for the Bank of Canada to increase the overnight rate by at least 1.5 percentage points in total without pushing the cost of a variable rate mortgage above the current fixed rate.

WORSE: PEOPLE WHO CHOSE FIXED RATE MORTGAGES AND HAVE TO RENEW THIS YEAR OR NEXT

Discounted five-year fixed rate

mortgages went for about 2.35 per cent in early March, 2017, according to the Ratehub.ca historical mortgage rate database. As noted above, discounted five-year fixed rates today are close to half a percentage point higher than that right now.

Rates on five-year fixed mortgages are influenced by five-year bonds issued by the federal government. Rates on these bonds have backed off lately because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Money flows into bonds in uncertain times, which has the effect of pushing interest rates lower.

But rates on bonds were on the rise before the invasion and can be expected to start rising again at some point. Higher costs for fixed rate mortgages are likely in the months again.

BETTER, BUT NOT REALLY: EVERYONE WHO HAS MONEY IN SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

The rising rate trend should result in better rates in savings accounts, but the improvement will be negligible. Prior to this week's move by the Bank of Canada, 1.25 per cent was a big win for people with high-rate savings accounts. With inflation running at 5.1 per cent, savers will be getting a negative real rate of return for quite some time to come. Rates will have to rise a lot, and the inflation rate will have to drop sharply.

Savings accounts are still the place to keep money you want to keep safe, mind you. Do not trust the stock or bond market right now with money you can't afford to lose.

Why some CERB recipients who did everything right may still owe up to \$2,000

ERICA ALINI

William Don Falconer of Vancouver did not claim Canada Emergency Response Benefit payments for which he wasn't eligible. Nor did he make the easy mistake of applying for the financial aid twice, as many Canadians unwittingly did amid the confusion that surrounded the rollout of the pandemic benefit in the spring of 2020.

And yet, Mr. Falconer recently discovered he owes \$2,000 in benefit overpayments.

He is among an unspecified number of CERB recipients who are being told they may have to pay money back nearly two years after they received the benefit, all because of an extra payment from Ottawa. Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) did not respond by deadline to a question about how many Canadians are affected.

The issue dates back to the early days of the CERB, when Ottawa distributed a \$2,000 "advance" payment to many who applied for the benefit through Service Canada before June 14, 2020. The funds, which were in addition to the regular benefit of \$500 a week, represented a four-week advance of future payments and were an effort to get money into people's pockets as quickly as possible, the government said at the time.

To puzzled applicants like Mr. Falconer, who wondered why they were receiving more cash than expected, Ottawa said not to worry. The advance would be applied against a future claim period, ESDC, which operates Service Canada, said back then.

As promised, many Canadians who'd received the advance saw their CERB payments interrupted later on their claim. But for those who were not entitled or did not collect payments for a period of at least 20 weeks, some or all of the advance is now an outstanding balance owing, according to ESDC.

Mr. Falconer, who collected only six weeks of CERB before going back to what was then his job as a hotel manager, is among the Canadians for whom Ottawa did not reconcile the advance payment.

"I don't think that it's wrong for the government to be asking for this money back," he said. "It was great that they tried to get as much money into the hands of Canadians as they could in a very uncertain time for a lot of people."

Over all, the Ottawa paid out \$81.6-billion in CERB and employment insurance to 8.9 million recipients between March 15 and Oct. 3, 2020.

Mr. Falconer said he always wondered whether he'd have to give the money back. But the news that he did still came as a surprise after he was able to file his 2020 taxes last year without issue, he added.

ESDC said Service Canada began notifying Canadians who still have a balance owing from the advance payment in November, 2021. However, Mr. Falconer said he has yet to be formally notified. Instead, he said he found out about the issue when he recently logged into his online CRA account to file his 2021 return. It was then that he noticed he had a \$2,000 balance under employment insurance. The Canada Revenue Agency collects EI overpayments on behalf of ESDC.

Even after calling both Service Canada and the CRA, Mr. Falconer said he couldn't get a clear answer on whether he will also have to refile his 2020 return since he paid tax on the advance CERB payment.

The government says it will not charge penalties or interest on the CERB overpayment and will work with taxpayers to establish flexible repayment schedules if necessary.

Mr. Falconer said he was offered a 10-month repayment plan, although he added he doesn't need it.

"It worked out well for me because at the time I really needed \$2,000," he said. Now, he says, returning that sum is "not going to be the end of the world."

But Mr. Falconer worries about low-income Canadians who might struggle to pay back the money.

ESDC said Canadians "will not be put into financial hardship by having to repay emergency benefits they received."

A government backgrounder on the CERB overpayments says communication from Service Canada will also outline Canadians' appeal rights.

The prime rate has started climbing. Where it stops, no one knows

ROBERT MCLISTER

OPINION



Interest rate analyst, mortgage strategist and columnist

The first of multiple rate hikes from the Bank of Canada is in the books and banks have already boosted their prime lending rates by 25 basis points to 2.7 per cent.

Now borrowers all want to know the same thing – where does this end?

Canada, and the world, is in largely uncharted territory. Not even our central bank knows how high prime rate could go, as its off-base forecasts clearly demonstrate.

The bank does say, however, that Canadians should feel confident that runaway inflation is only temporary – that it'll get soaring prices under control. That might lead one to think we won't see the roughly two percentage points of rate hikes that the market now expects.

But as flawed as market expectations may be, this is not the time to ignore them – not if you're a borrower living paycheque to paycheque anyway.

Oil prices have exploded, reminiscent of 1970s oil shocks. Barring a quick reversal, the Russian invasion of Ukraine could precipitate more and/or faster hikes from the Bank of Canada.

And like surging interest rates, soaring oil is also a recession pre-

cursor. Rate-hike cycles usually end in recession anyway, let alone those following commodity price shocks.

That's why financial markets, who are always forward-looking, are already pricing in an economic slowdown. Bond-market derivatives now suggest Canada's key lending rate could peak and turn lower within 24 to 36 months.

BE CAREFUL WITH ASSUMPTIONS

Expectations of a slowing future economy don't necessarily imply a mild rate-hike cycle. Inflation is "nothing like we have had in decades," U.S. Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell said Wednesday. Indeed, it's hazardous for any mortgagor with a tight budget and limited liquid assets to assume we won't see more than 150 bps of rate tightening. (There are 100 basis points in a percentage point.)

I like to say our central bankers are firemen who've arrived late to an inflation fire. After the 1973 oil shock, central banks also took too long to tighten monetary policy. Inflation hit double-digits and the prime rate just about doubled. The 1970s were a different era with far less consumer leverage (among other things), but while history may not repeat this time, it could rhyme.

The Fed's Mr. Powell reminded U.S. Congress on Wednesday, "the economy evolves in unexpected ways." He admitted he can't call a turn in inflation with confidence, despite repeatedly assuring it would be "transitory" in the early

Lowest nationally available mortgage rates

TERM	UNINSURED	PROVIDER	INSURED	PROVIDER
1-year fixed	2.29%	MCAP	2.09%	True North
2-year fixed	2.09%	MCAP	1.99%	True North
3-year fixed	2.88%	Scotia eHOME	2.59%	True North
4-year fixed	2.94%	Alterra Bank	2.79%	True North
5-year fixed	2.94%	HSBC	2.69%	HSBC
10-year fixed	3.34%	HSBC	3.19%	Nesto
5-year variable	1.39%	HSBC	0.99%	HSBC
5-year hybrid	2.17%	HSBC	2.17%	HSBC
HELOC*	2.35%	Tangerine	n/a	n/a

Source: Robert McLister; data as of March 2.

*Home equity line of credit

stages of the pandemic recovery.

So while some say even five rate hikes this year is "aggressive," know that it's not. Not with inflation more than 150 per cent above target and climbing. Not when our central bank is playing catch-up. Not as inflation expectations are surging along with commodity prices. Not as war threatens to disrupt supply further.

It's a reasonable bet that the Bank of Canada will have to hike enough to take us into recession, to bring this bout of inflation under control. Knowing that, Canada's yield curve may well invert either this year or next. Inversion occurs when longer-term rates fall below short-term rates and it's a highly reliable recession signal.

Recessions ultimately result in lower mortgage rates. That's why well-qualified borrowers shouldn't overpay for a long-term fixed mortgage, despite the ominous inflation outlook.

And that's despite the risk of stagflation. Stagflation occurs when inflation surges and GDP

drops. To head off this nightmare economic scenario, our central bank could potentially be forced to hike more than the expected 200 bps.

Ultimately, however, high rates and high price levels should be self-limiting. It just might take a few years.

FOR NOW ...

Most people should avoid rushing into fixed rates materially above 3 per cent, especially with lenders that have punitive prepayment penalties. The outlook just doesn't justify it.

I say "most" people because mortgage term selection is first and foremost about risk mitigation. If you're a mortgagor with a tight budget, tentative employment and/or few liquid assets, and/or you simply can't handle the threat of higher-than-expected rates, bite the bullet and lock in at least some of your mortgage.

You don't need to lock in all of it and you don't need to pick a five-year term. Hybrid mortgages let you split borrowing between a

fixed and a variable rate. You can borrow half in a fixed and half in a variable, for as low as 2.17 per cent combined (HSBC's uninsured rate).

A FEW LAST TIPS

■ Canada's all-important five-year bond yield had its biggest plunge since 2011 this week. Some will wait to see whether fixed rates – which are tied to the five-year bond yield – fall, but I wouldn't expect major improvement near-term.

■ If you need to lock in within the next four months, do it before five-year bond yields run back to their February highs. (While we could see a minor dip in some fixed rates, the five-year yield is still on an uptrend.)

■ If market projections prove true – a loose assumption – rate simulations suggest the most competitive standard variable mortgage would result in less interest paid over five years than locking into today's best five-year fixed rate.

Rates in the accompanying table are as of Wednesday from providers that advertise rates online and lend in at least nine provinces. Insured rates apply to those buying with less than a 20-per cent down payment or those switching a pre-existing insured mortgage to a new lender. Uninsured rates apply to refinances and purchases over \$1-million and may include applicable lender rate premiums. For providers whose rates vary by province, their highest rate is shown.

End of DSCs will usher in new compensation models for advisers

JAMESON BERKOW
GLOBE ADVISOR REPORTER

Salaries are set to become more common for financial advisers in Canada, along with entirely new forms of compensation as the investment industry adjusts to a world without deferred sales charges (DSCs).

Regulators have banned sales of mutual funds that penalize investors for early withdrawals. The new rules take effect on June 1, followed one year later by the end of segregated funds containing DSCs.

Proponents of DSCs argue they're necessary for younger advisers to cover their costs while building up their businesses and, more broadly, for advisers to justify serving clients smaller accounts. Opponents claim that, aside from the potential for abuse, DSCs have effectively killed any incentive advisers might have to modernize their compensation structures.

Now that DSCs will soon no longer be an option, industry insiders are bracing for big changes.

For those who are newer to the industry, DSCs would've helped them survive, says Maria Jose Flores, chief compliance officer at Carte Wealth Management Inc. in Mississauga. "But now, the problem that we're going to be facing is that nobody wants to serve accounts that are less than \$100,000 because even if you charge a 1-per-cent fee, that's nothing on a month-to-month basis," she says. "So, [advisers will] say it isn't worth their time."

Advisers working at the big banks will likely see an "influx" of

clients who have smaller accounts from independent dealers as part of a broader "consolidation" once the DSC ban takes effect because salaries tend to make up a much larger proportion of these advisers' income, according to Ms. Flores.

Bill Charles, chief executive officer of Global Maxfin Investments Inc. in Richmond Hill, Ont., says DSC sales have been on the decline for years as it became increasingly apparent that regulators were looking to end the practice. His company's DSC holdings have dropped from more than 20 per cent of its overall book of business a decade ago to roughly 5 per cent today.

Advisory firms will need to come up with "creative ways" to deal with the impact of that decline on recruitment, including giving new advisers a more "predictable income while building their business up to a certain level," Mr. Charles says.

"There are lots of things that firms can do," he says, "but bringing in younger advisers into the business is going to be a challenge the industry has to address."

Some experienced advisers are adopting an apprenticeship-like model in which they bring in younger advisers with titles such as "associate" or "junior adviser" in order to provide the same type of hands-on training and stable income that newer advisers used to get from DSCs, he adds.

HOW TO WORK WITHOUT COMMISSIONS

As for serving smaller accounts in economical ways without DSCs, other countries such as Australia,

Britain, the Netherlands and South Africa, which have all banned sales commissions paid to advisers, offer case studies on how it can be done.

"This bridge has already been crossed by every other country that has a financial advisory industry," says Jason Pereira, partner and senior financial consultant with Woodgate Financial Inc., and president of the Financial Planning Association of Canada in Toronto. "There is an entire cohort of advisers who have been figuring this out for years now."

Subscription-based services, often referred to as the "Netflix model," are becoming an increasingly popular option for advisers looking to earn a steady income stream from clients who don't necessarily have large sums of money to invest. The model already exists in Canada. David O'Leary launched Kind Wealth in 2017 with a model in which clients pay a set monthly retainer fee.

"The percentage-of-assets model ensures that advisers will work with only the wealthiest 3 to 5 per cent of Canadians," Mr. O'Leary told Globe Advisor in 2019. "If you take a percentage of investments, then you can't make money from the average Canadian who has only \$10,000 or \$50,000 to invest."

While subscription-based services remain a relatively small part of Canada's financial advisory industry, Mr. Pereira expects the end of DSCs to accelerate the adoption of new compensation models. "DSCs were too lucrative for too long," he says, "so, there was previously no need to do anything else, but now that's about to change."

Markets summary

CANADIAN STOCKS

Canada's commodity-heavy main stock index rose, as soaring oil prices drove energy shares higher, while the Bank of Canada raised its key overnight interest rate for the first time in more than three years to curb soaring inflation. The Toronto Stock Exchange's S&P/TSX Composite Index was up 251.13 points to settle at 21,255.64.

U.S. STOCKS

Wall Street ended sharply higher after U.S. Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell signalled the central bank would likely raise interest rates less than some investors had feared. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 1.79 per cent to end at 33,891.35 points, the S&P 500 gained 1.86 per cent to 4,386.54, and the Nasdaq Composite climbed 1.62 per cent to 13,752.02.

All the 11 S&P 500 sector indexes advanced, with financials jumping 2.6 per cent after falling sharply so far this week. The banks index rebounded 3 per cent after hitting its lowest level since September, 2021, in the previous session. The S&P 500 posted 26 new 52-week highs and two new lows; the Nasdaq Composite recorded 51 new highs and 123 new lows.

Apple Inc. ended 2.1 per cent higher after announcing a product launch for March 8, when it is expected to promote a low-cost version of its popular iPhone with 5G. Nordstrom Inc. surged 38 per cent after the department store chain forecast upbeat full-year revenue and profit.

COMMODITIES

Oil surged relentlessly beyond US\$110 a barrel, extending its rally since Russia invaded Ukraine seven days ago, on expectations that the market will remain short of supply for months to come after sanctions on Moscow and a flood of divestment from Russian oil assets by major companies.

Brent crude futures peaked at US\$113.94 a barrel during the session, before settling at US\$112.93, up 7.6 per cent.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures hit a high of US\$112.51 a barrel, and closed 7 per cent higher at US\$110.60.

FOREX AND BONDS

The Canadian dollar rose against the greenback and all the other Group of 10 currencies, as the Bank of Canada hiked interest rates for the first time since October, 2018. The loonie was trading 0.7 per cent higher at 1.2668 to the greenback, or 78.94 US cents, the biggest gain among G10 currencies.

Canadian government bond yields were higher across the curve, tracking the move in U.S. Treasuries. The 10-year rose 8.9 basis points to 1.801 per cent, recovering some ground after it slumped on Tuesday to its lowest intraday level in nearly eight weeks at 1.679 per cent.

REUTERS AND THE CANADIAN PRESS

A low-volatility strategy for the jittery investor

IAN TAM

NUMBER CRUNCHER

CFA, director of investment research for Morningstar Canada

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Profitable Canadian-listed companies exhibiting a history of steady fundamentals.

THE SCREEN

As the chaos continues in Ukraine, the energy-heavy S&P/TSX Composite Index seems to look relatively unscathed, posting neutral or even positive returns over the trading days after the initial attack by Russia. As an investor, however, it is difficult to ignore the flurry of news dominating screens across the world. For those investors seeking a measure of assurance amid uncertainty, today we use Morningstar CPMS to look for profitable, low-volatility stocks. To create this strategy, I started with ranking the 707 stocks in our Canadian database on the following metrics:

- Five- and 10-year standard deviation of earnings and return on

Profitable TSX-listed stocks with a history of lower volatility

RANK	COMPANY	TICKER	MKT. CAP. (\$ MIL.)	5Y EPS DEV. (%)	10Y EPS DEV. (%)	5Y ROE DEV. (%)	10Y ROE DEV. (%)	5Y OF TTL. RTN. (%)	5Y BETA	FWD. ROE (%)	LATEST EARN. SURPRISE (%)	DIV. YLD. (%)	12M TTL. RTN. (%)	RECENT CLOSE (\$)
1	Firm Capital Mortg.	FC-T	471.5	2.6	2.5	0.3	0.5	22.5	0.9	8.6	1.7	6.6	9.1	14.08
2	Waste Connections	WCN-T	41,242.7	4.4	9.3	0.7	0.6	20.0	0.7	14.2	0.0	0.7	28.5	160.27
3	Great-West Lifeco	GWO-T	34,744.3	4.5	5.3	0.5	1.1	23.7	0.8	15.0	0.0	5.3	17.6	37.33
4	George Weston Ltd.	WNT-T	20,108.0	4.2	7.5	1.9	2.2	19.6	0.3	21.6	3.7	1.8	46.3	136.15
5	BCE Inc.	BCE-T	60,948.5	4.1	4.9	2.1	2.6	17.6	0.3	16.5	0.0	5.5	28.3	67.05
6	TMX Group Ltd.	XT	7,210.3	4.1	6.6	0.6	3.3	21.5	0.6	10.7	0.0	2.6	8.3	128.9
7	Metro Inc.	MRU-T	15,907.8	4.3	4.7	3.2	3.0	17.8	-0.1	14.2	0.0	1.7	26.9	66.03
8	COGECO Inc.	CGO-T	1,112.7	3.2	5.6	1.7	1.8	26.9	0.3	19.2	0.0	3.2	-15.7	77.27
9	Loblaw Cos. Ltd.	L-T	32,692.4	8.3	9.1	1.2	1.6	19.0	0.0	18.2	5.4	1.5	61.0	98.02
10	Cdn. Utilities Ltd.	CU-T	9,545.7	4.9	6.1	1.0	2.0	21.2	0.6	11.9	0.0	5.0	23.6	35.44
11	TC Energy Corp.	TRP-T	66,835.5	4.9	7.0	0.7	2.3	26.3	0.8	14.1	0.0	5.3	33.1	68.13
12	Cdn. Nat'l Railway	CNR-T	106,222.6	5.7	7.6	2.0	1.7	22.0	0.6	21.9	4.0	1.9	8.9	151.79
13	Open Text Corp.	OTEX-T	14,766.1	4.5	5.6	1.8	3.2	24.1	0.9	23.4	0.0	2.1	-4.1	54.45
14	Atco Ltd.	ACO-X-T	4,757.2	5.3	7.0	0.6	2.8	24.2	0.8	9.2	0.0	4.4	15.4	41.59
15	Cogeco Comm.	CCA-T	3,112.9	5.3	6.4	1.5	1.4	24.9	0.5	16.8	0.5	2.8	-10.8	100.8

Source: Morningstar CPMS; data as of March 1.

equity (a statistical measure of volatility, applied in this case to bottom-line earnings and profitability over the past five and 10 years – lower figures preferred);

- Five-year standard deviation of total returns (similar to above, but measuring the movement in a stock's price);
- Five-year price beta (recall that beta measures the historical sensitivity of a stock relative to an index. A stock with a beta of one

has historically moved in tandem with an index in trending markets. Here we prefer stocks with lower betas);

- Forward return on equity (using the current year's median estimate on earnings and dividing by the adjusted book value per share).

An additional screen was put in place to remove companies with a market capitalization of less than \$170-million, a figure

meant to exclude the bottom one-third of the universe by size. To qualify, companies must have met or exceeded their latest expected earnings estimate from the Street, as measured by earnings surprise.

WHAT WE FOUND

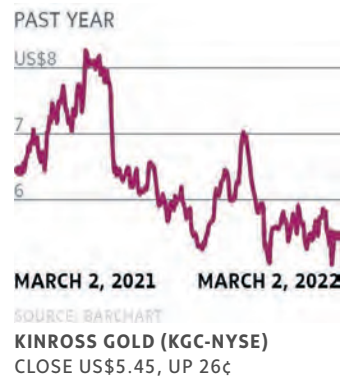
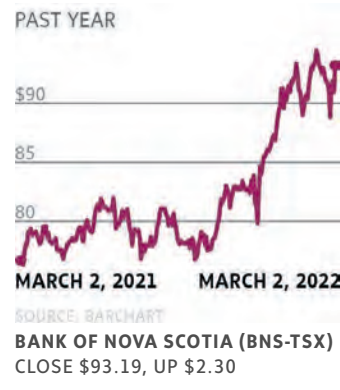
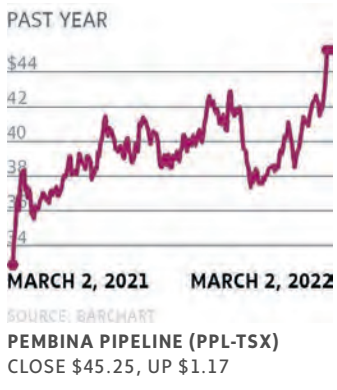
I used Morningstar CPMS to backtest the strategy from January, 2004, to January, 2022, assuming

an equally weighted 15 stock portfolio with no more than three stocks for every economic sector. Once a month, stocks were sold if they fell below the top 25 per cent of the index based on the above metrics, if forward ROE turned negative or if the company missed earnings expectations by more than 5 per cent. When sold, stocks were replaced with next qualifying stock not already held in the portfolio, considering the aforementioned sector limits.

On this basis, the strategy produced an annualized total return of 11.1 per cent, while the S&P/TSX Composite Total Return Index advanced 8.1 per cent. Over this 18-year time frame, there were 78 months where the index posted negative returns. Of these months, the strategy outperformed the index 78 per cent of the time (61 of 78 months) – noteworthy given the defensive nature of this strategy. The stocks that meet requirements to be purchased into the strategy today are listed in the accompanying table.

This article does not constitute financial advice. Investors are encouraged to conduct their own independent research before purchasing any of the investments listed here.

EYE ON EQUITIES DAVID LEEDER



While he sees the outlook for **Aecon Group Inc.** remaining "generally positive" after weaker-than-anticipated fourth-quarter financial results, National Bank Financial analyst Maxim Sytchev lowered his rating for its shares to "sector perform" from "outperform" on Wednesday, citing a "muted" risk/reward profile and share-price outperformance thus far in 2022.

Target: He cut his target for Aecon shares to \$18 from \$21. The consensus on the Street is \$21.81.

Saying it is now one of his "Top 3 Best Ideas," BMO Nesbitt Burns analyst Ben Pham raised **Pembina Pipeline Corp.'s** to "outperform" from "market perform," seeing its new joint venture with U.S. private equity firm **KKR & Co. Inc.** as a "positive valuation marker" for its gas processing assets.

Target: Also touting its "attractive" valuation, he raised his target to \$50 from \$43, exceeding the \$46.09 consensus.

Citing a receding financing risk on its acquisition of Bank of the West and "best-in-class" results, Scotia Capital's Meny Grauman upgraded **Bank of Montreal** to "sector outperform" from "sector perform" after Tuesday's release of better-than-expected first-quarter earnings report. "Shares have trailed the peer group since rumours of a deal first made headlines," he said.

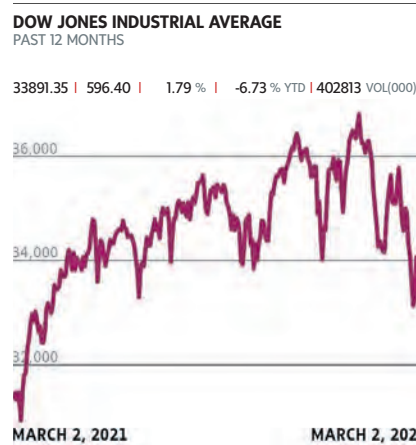
Target: His target rose to \$169 from \$165. Consensus is \$165.10.

After its results also topped the Street's expectations, National Bank Financial analyst Gabriel Dechaine sees the biggest factor to revive investor sentiment toward **Bank of Nova Scotia** being a recovery of its international segment. He said that focus "likely overshadows a string of strong quarters from BNS's domestic business, with Q1/22's results no exception."

Target: Mr. Dechaine raised his target by \$1 to \$91, maintaining a "sector perform" rating. Consensus is \$98.07.

With **Kinross Gold Corp.** being the sole North American gold producer with meaningful Russian exposure, RBC's Josh Wolfson sees the current conflict in Ukraine as "a key overhang for shares and at risk of impacting prior-outlined capital allocation." "A prolonged valuation discount may be justifiable from both a risk and ESG perspective," he said.

Target: Reiterating an "outperform" rating, Mr. Wolfson cut his target to US\$6 from US\$6.50. Consensus is US\$8.36.



TSX INDEXES AND SUB INDEXES

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
TSX COMPOSITE IND	21255.64	251.13	1.20	291797	0.15
TSX 60 INDEX	1231.31	17.43	1.37	144323	-0.07
TSX COMPLETION IN	854.96	6.42	0.52	147473	1.03
TSX SMALLCAP INDE	818.06	3.13	0.38	87934	5.68
TSX VENTURE COMPO	854.96	1.67	0.20	71621	-8.97
TSX CONSUMER DISC	251.87	3.71	1.50	5532	-7.98
TSX CONSUMER STAP	735.66	9.05	1.25	4021	-3.59
TSX ENERGY CAPPED	213.53	1.80	0.85	75453	30.37
TSX FINANCIALS CA	410.67	6.21	1.54	44206	1.87
TSX HEALTH CARE C	40.01	0.08	0.20	6771	-12.95
TSX INDUSTRIALS C	370.99	9.94	2.75	20422	-2.61
TSX INFORMATION T	166.53	-0.11	-0.07	8364	-21.54
TSX MATERIALS CAP	367.01	0.52	0.14	59225	11.79
TSX REAL ESTATE C	369.98	3.08	0.84	11094	-6.89
TSX GLOBAL GOLD I	327.15	-2.11	-0.64	92305	12.04
TSX GLOBAL MINING	122.14	2.24	1.87	218218	17.51
TSX INCOME TRUST	258.47	1.77	0.69	10414	-2.01
TSX PREFERRED SHA	678.42	-2.40	-0.35	1660	-3.17
TSX COMMUNICATION	205.99	3.00	1.48	16059	5.56
TSX UTILITIES CAP	337.62	0.16	0.05	11754	-1.67

TSX VOLUME
TOP 20 FOR STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
SU SUNCOR ENERGY	39.52	0.32	0.82	20281	24.87
ENB ENBRIDGE INC	56.07	0.81	1.47	11521	13.48
GWO GREAT-WEST LI	37.01	-0.32	-0.86	9860	-2.50
CVE CENOVUS ENERG	20.01	0.32	1.63	9169	29.01
SLF SUN LIFE FINA	65.88	0.84	1.29	7436	-6.43
BTE BAYTEX ENERGY	5.59	-0.03	-0.53	7177	42.97
CPG CRESCENT POIN	9.46	0.11	1.18	6517	40.15
K KINROSS GOLD CO	6.88	0.26	3.93	6001	-6.27
ATH ATHABASCA OIL	2.09	0.04	1.95	5779	75.63
RCI-B ROGERS COMM	67.28	1.69	2.58	5500	11.71
ABX BARRICK GOLD	29.25	-0.64	-2.14	5499	21.62
BBD-B BOMBARDIER	1.49	0.01	0.68	5361	-11.31
HQB BETAPRO CRUDE	3.33	-0.47	-12.37	5222	-57.79
CNO CDN NATURAL R	72.82	1.46	2.05	4458	36.24
BTO B2GOLD CORP	5.23	-0.12	-2.24	4200	5.02
DML DENISON MINES	2.00	0.07	3.63	4159	14.94
TD TORONTO-DOMINI	101.49	2.58	2.61	4146	4.65
XIU ISHARES S&P T	32.41	0.44	1.38	4119	-3.34
GXE GEAR ENERGY L	1.57	-0.05	-3.09	3970	72.53
MFC MANULIFE FIN	25.27	0.42	1.69	3813	4.81

TSX 52-WEEK HIGHS
STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
ALA ALTAGAS LTD	28.31	-0.18	-0.63	514	3.66
ALTS ALTIUS MINERA	22.34	0.99	4.64	168	28.32
BCE BCE INC	68.19	1.14	1.70	3048	3.62
CJQ CDN NATURAL R	72.82	1.46	2.05	4458	36.24
CJ CARDINAL ENERG	6.85	-0.06	-0.87	1810	60.42
CHW CHESSWOOD GRO	14.60	0.33	2.31	13	1.46
CPG CRESCENT POIN	9.46	0.11	1.18	6517	40.15
D-JUN DREAM OFFICE	27.01	0.51	1.92	163	9.66
ENB ENBRIDGE INC	56.07	0.81	1.47	11521	13.48
ERF ENERPLUS CORP	16.64	-0.14	-0.83	1405	24.74
FIL FILO MINING C	16.39	0.72	4.59	390	28.35
FM FIRST QUANTUM	36.72	-0.09	-0.24	1999	21.31
FEC FRONTIERA ENER	13.90	0.30	2.21	118	35.74
IBG IBI GROUP INC	14.26	0.24	1.71	27	5.32
IMO IMPERIAL OIL	57.82	0.88	1.55	1532	26.74
IPO INTERNATIONAL	9.92	0.42	4.42	64	40.31
KEL KELT EXPLORAT	5.85	-0.11	-1.85	546	21.37
MPK MCKAN MORTGAGE	19.14	0.40	2.13	136	11.09
MX METHANEX CORP	66.32	1.51	2.33	157	32.53
MRG-UN MORGUARD N	19.43	0.32	1.67	32	9.71
NTR NUTRIEN LTD	111.11	2.88	2.66	2494	16.86

TSX 52-WEEK LOWS
STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
NVA NUUVISTA ENERG	9.93	-0.21	-2.07	959	42.67
OVV OVINTIV INC	59.85	-0.22	-0.37	506	40.62
POU PARAMOUNT RES	29.10	0.03	0.10	343	18.34
PXT PAREX RESOURC	28.39	-0.50	-1.73	842	31.37
PPL PEMBINA PIPEL	45.25	1.17	2.65	3792	17.93
PD PRECISION DRIL	74.74	0.22	0.30	64	67.24
SGR-U SLATE GROCE	12.00	0.09	0.76	N/A	5.26
SDE SPARTAN DELTA	8.28	-0.61	-6.86	1070	38.69
SU SUNCOR ENERGY	39.52	0.32	0.82	20281	24.87
SGY SURGE ENERGY	8.46	0.23	2.79	1210	91.84
TRP TC ENERGY COR	69.49	1.36	2.00	2487	18.12
TECK-A TECK RESOU	51.09	1.24	2.49	2	33.74
TECK-B TECK RESOU	48.89	1.90	4.04	2552	34.20
TPZ TOPAZ ENERGY	20.92	0.52	2.55	492	17.20
TOU TOURMALINE OI	51.17	-1.14	-2.18	1342	25.29
UNS UNI SELECT IN	27.74	1.12	4.21	136	7.77
NPK VERDE AGRITEC	7.97	0.48	6.41	234	184.64
VER VERMILION ENE	24.40	-0.21	-0.85	2364	53.46
WCP WHITECAP RESO	9.85	-0.02	-0.20	3104	31.51

TSX GAINERS
TOP 20 FOR STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
QFOR Q4 INC	6.20	1.26	25.51	413	-27.06
STGO STEPPPE GOLD	1.81	0.25	16.03	155	54.70
HBIT-U BETAPRO BI	5.30	0.68	14.72	N/A	-5.02
HOU BETAPRO CRUDE	27.28	2.93	12.03	1370	113.29
HNU BETAPRO NAT G	14.64	1.49	11.33	1159	74.49
TV TREVALL MINING	1.28	0.13	11.30	354	-25.58
BTMS GREENBROOK T	4.60	0.45	10.84	11	-14.66
BRAG BRAGG GAMING	9.00	0.82	10.02	135	40.19
CARS-U EVOLVE AUT	39.43	3.46	9.62	N/A	-18.40
OZP-BROMPTON OIL	3.40	0.28	8.97	3	82.80
YSP-ALTIUS GROUP L	1.10	0.00	8.91	148	46.67
SPP-U SPROTT PHY	18.31	1.33	7.83	11	28.31
SBN-S SPLIT CORP	6.89	0.50	7.82	1	-1.29
FTG FIRAN TECHNOL	2.75	0.19	7.42	36	3.77
PPTA PERPETUA RES	5.03	0.33	7.02	41	-16.58
BNK BIG BANC SPLI	17.12	1.10	6.87	8	-0.64
APY ANGLO PACIFIC	2.69	0.17	6.75	1	12.55
NPK VERDE AGRITEC	7.97	0.48	6.41	224	184.64
CTS CONVERGE TECH	9.74	0.58	6.33	567	-10.40
DRX ADF GROUP INC	1.70	0.10	6.25	7	5.59

TSX LOSERS
TOP 20 FOR STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
BDEQ BLACK DIAMON	12.86	-1.91	-12.93	1	-12.81
HOD BETAPRO CRUDE	3.33	-0.47	-12.37	5222	-57.79
HOD BETAPRO NAT G	10.13	-1.22	-10.75	1565	-64.18
RND-U RBC QUANT E	16.60	-1.70	-9.29	2	-8.34
CFX CANFOR PULP P	5.04	-0.51	-9.19	233	-24.66
AEE AECON GROUP I	15.91	-1.40	-8.09	1697	-5.75
VOYG VOYAGER DIGI	9.89	-0.80	-7.48	399	-37.37
AKT-A AKITA DRILL	1.06	-0.08	-7.02	294	12.77
AOI AFRICA OIL CO	2.39	-0.18	-7.00	1838	33.52
OPT OPTIVA INC	23.71	-1.78	-6.98	N/A	-13.34
SDE SPARTAN DELTA	8.28	-0.61	-6.86	1070	38.69
CIEI CIBC INTERNA	19.54	-1.37	-6.55	N/A	-9.45
FTRP FIELD TRIP H	1.86	-0.13	-6.53	57	-39.22
HUV BETAPRO SP500	11.55	-0.76	-6.17	578	34.62
STC SANGOMA TECHN	17.20	-1.05	-5.75	18	-21.17
SFTC SOFTCHOICE C	22.24	-1.31	-5.56	39	4.17
FORA VERTICALSCOP	17.50	-1.00	-5.41	16	-42.66
AR ARGONAUT GOLD	2.28	-0.12	-5.00	1385	-5.00
EINC E AUTOMOTIVE	13.31	-0.69	-4.93	29	-26.75
ARIS ARIS GOLD CO	1.61	-0.08	-4.73	13	6.62

TSX 52-WEEK HIGHS
STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
ARE AECON GROUP I	15.91	-1.40	-8.09	1697	-5.75
AKT-B AKITA CL B	3.98	-0.02	-0.50	N/A	61.79
ANGR ANAERGIA INC	11.35	-0.43	-3.65	58	-48.81
CPG-PR-D CANADIAN	25.27	-0.12	-0.47	N/A	-1.56
CFX CANFOR PULP P	5.04	-0.51	-9.19	233	-24.66
FIH-U FAIRFAX INC	11.19	0.08	0.72	134	-11.26
GWO-PR-H GREAT-WE	24.35	-0.42	-1.70	1	-3.64
GWO-PR-I GREAT-WE	23.33	-0.45	-1.89	2	-5.05
LWRK LIFEWORKS IN	24.01	-0.33	-1.36	234	-5.95
LNR LINAMAR CORP	63.83	0.29	0.46	184	-14.81
MAG MAGNA INTERNAT	88.58	1.84	2.12	1480	-13.45
MFC-PR-M MANULIFE	22.77	-0.23	-1.00	7	-5.48
MFC-PR-R MANULIFE	24.98	-0.01	-0.04	6	-0.87

TSX 52-WEEK LOWS
STOCKS \$1 OR MORE

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
MRE MARTINREA INT	9.36	-0.11	-1.16	411	-18.61
MDF MDF COMMERCE	3.93	0.04	1.03	78	-30.32
CBNK MULVHILL EN	0.99	0.00	0.00	N/A	N/A
KPI PARKLAND FUEL	31.95	0.01	0.03	441	-8.11
PRMW PRIMO WATER	18.53	0.52	2.89	135	-16.98
QBR-B QUEBECOR IN	27.04	-0.07	-0.26	987	-5.29
TCS TECTYS INC J	34.00	0.23	0.68	58	-35.37
THNC THINKFIC LA	3.60	0.03	0.84	268	-59.60
UNC UNITED CORP L	104.00	0.75	0.73	1	-8.09
FORA VERTICALSCOP	17.50	-1.00	-5.41	16	-42.66

S&P/TSX COMPOSITE INDEX STOCKS
LARGEST STOCKS BY MARKET CAPITALIZATION

	CLOSE	NET CHG	% CHG	VOL 000s	YTD %CHG
AAV ADVANTAGE OIL	7.82	0.14	1.82	1500	5.53
AEE AECON GROUP I	15.91	-1.40	-8.09	1697	-5.75
AEM AGENIC EAGLE	66.50	-0.90	-1.34	1796	-1.03
AC AIR CANADA	23.82	0.95	4.15	3268	12.73
AGI ALAMOS GOLD I	9.62	-0.25	-2.53	861	-1.13
ALQ ALGONQUIN POW	18.41	0.03	0.16	2882	0.77
ALD ALIMENTATION	49.38	0.24	0.49	1481	-6.83
APD-UN ALLIED PROP	44.92	0.31	0.69	270	2.21
ALA ALTAGAS LTD	28.31	-0.18	-0.63	514	3.66
ALT ALTIUS GROUP L	49.45	0.37	0.75	123	-30.32
ARC ARC RESOURCES	15.67	-0.27	-1.69	3687	36.26
ARTZ ARTIZIA INC	47.22	0.57	1.22	253	-9.80
ARTZ ARTIS REAL	13.12	0.00	0.00	254	9.88
AXO-X ATCO LTD CL	41.50	-0.09	-0.22	252	-2.81
ATA ATS AUTOMATIO	47.07	0.78	1.69	215	-6.31
ACB AURORA CANNAB	4.63	-0.02	-0.43	1135	-32.41
BTO B2GOLD CORP	5.23	-0.12	-2.24	4200	5.02
BCE BCE INC	68.19	1.14	1.70	3048	3.62
BBD-B BOMBARDIER	28.33	-0.62	-2.14	105	-10.88
BLDP BALLARD POWE	13.87	-0.15	-1.07	1085	-12.71
BMO BANK OF MONT	147.64	2.97	2.05	1767	8.41
BNS CANADIAN PACI	93.19	2.30	2.53	3757	4.06
ABX BARRICK GOLD	29.25	-0.64	-2.14	5499	21.62
BHC BAUSCH HEALTH	30.47	0.64			



SPORTS

Canadian duo named to carry flag at Paralympics opening ceremony ■ B14

Raptors look to avoid a season sweep by the lowly Pistons ■ B18

[BEIJING PARALYMPICS]



Members of Team Ukraine arrive at the Zhangjiakou Athletes Village on Wednesday. The International Paralympic Committee ruled that parathletes from Russia will be allowed to compete at the Games as neutrals. ALEX DAVIDSON/GETTY IMAGES

By letting Russia compete, the IPC shows it's living in the past

When things go awry, and they will, people will start to question the Olympic and Paralympic movement

CATHAL KELLY
OPINION



There is a lot of moral courage going around these days. What we have to figure out together is which sort we agree with now that the world has changed.

On Wednesday, the International Paralympic Committee declined to remove the Russian team from the coming Games. Citing its own rules and regulations, the IPC said it lacked the legal basis on which to do so. Instead, the Russians will compete as neutrals.

It was a largely symbolic gesture. Are we really worrying about who's allowed to play hockey while Kyiv is being flattened? But facing across-the-board international pressure, the IPC held to the basic principle of Olympic neutrality. That took some steel.

The problem is that many people are addressing the same topic, but they aren't speaking about the same thing. For Ukrainians and their supporters, sports has become war by other means. The new rules of engagement are that there are no more rules.

For the people administrating those sports,

they are trying to keep what they see as a path to mutual understanding open for some future, better time.

There's virtue in both things. But the two kinds have become incompatible and only one is still functional.

What's at issue isn't the sports or the symbolism. It's whether that basic principle of a neutral playing ground has survived the past week.

The Paralympics start in earnest on Saturday, if they can get that far. Every time a Ukrainian plays a Russian, it will be newsworthy. Every handshake offered or pulled back is a very big thing.

These athletes are not used to being spokespeople, never mind speaking on behalf of entire countries. The temperature is already very high. At the presser addressing the IPC's decision, a Ukrainian journalist choked up as he asked officials what they would say to the parents of a young biathlete reportedly killed in Kharkiv on Tuesday.

So this will go badly wrong at some point. A boycott still seems about as likely as any other outcome.

If they go through with it, what we're about to see is something a lot more real than the sports we are used to – fraught, unpredictable and actually important.

While the sports is happening, the participants will also be field testing a suddenly unpopular proposition: “The Olympics are a good idea.”

In carrying out that test, they'll address a bunch of sub-questions.

Can we put war (the word “politics” no longer fits in this sentence) to one side and hold a sporting event when one sovereign participant is in the midst of wiping out another? Should we do that?

If we aren't going to do that, who's going to be the first to pass beyond the “speaking our truth” phase and opt out?

Does that mean the rest of the world's liberal consensus should opt out as well? And if so, for how long? Forever?

If we have just seen the end of one era – roughly speaking, Francis Fukuyama's vision of *The End of History* – what does the cultural wing of the new one look like?

These issues are too big for sports. As a political actor, sports is good at peacetime. It has a real way around a truism – “say ‘no’ to racism” or “we're all on one big team called ‘humanity.’” Sports is not equipped to take on ethical questions once civilization becomes savage.

But this is the world we've built for ourselves since the Berlin Wall came down.

■ KELLY, B14

Abramovich selling Chelsea in fallout from Russia's invasion

ROB HARRIS LONDON

Faced with the threat of financial sanctions targeting Russians, Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich announced Wednesday he is trying to sell the Premier League club that became trophy-winning machine thanks to his lavish investment.

The decision by the billionaire oligarch to sell his most high-profile asset is one of the clearest signs yet that Russia's business elite are feeling the repercussions of President Vladimir Putin's decision to invade Ukraine. Owing Chelsea has made Abramovich a household name in Britain and politicians have been demanding that he be included on the list of wealthy and influential Russians hit with British sanctions because of the war.

“Please know that this has been an incredibly difficult decision to make, and it pains me to part with the club in this manner,” Abramovich said in a statement. “However, I do believe this is in the best interest of the club.”

One potential buyer had already gone public to reveal Abramovich was trying to sell with a price tag of at least US\$2.5-billion floated. Swiss billionaire Hansjorg Wyss claimed he “received an offer on Tuesday to buy Chelsea from Abramovich” along with three other people.

However, Abramovich insisted that “the sale of the club will not be fast-tracked but



With potential financial sanctions looming because of his close ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin, Roman Abramovich announced that he is looking to sell Chelsea FC.

MARTIN MEISSNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

will follow due process.”

Abramovich said he will not be asking to be repaid £1.5-billion (\$2.5-billion) in loans he has granted the club during 19 years of injecting cash to elevate the team into one

of the most successful in Europe. The set of every major trophy was completed last month when Chelsea won the Club World Cup.

“I have instructed my team to set up a

charitable foundation where all net proceeds from the sale will be donated,” he said. “The foundation will be for the benefit of all victims of the war in Ukraine.”

Abramovich has faced calls to condemn Russia's attack on Ukraine, which he so far has not done.

Parliamentary privilege had been used by Labour Party legislator Chris Bryant to claim in the House of Commons that Abramovich was already looking to sell London properties, speculating that “he's terrified of being sanctioned.”

Abramovich has not commented on any attempts to seize his assets, which grew from the fortune he made in oil and aluminum during the chaotic years that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

The speed of Abramovich's pending exit from Chelsea is striking as he was trying to instigate a plan this past weekend to relinquish some control in order to keep the club under his ownership, announcing plans to shift the “stewardship and care” of the club to its foundation trustees.

“I hope that I will be able to visit Stamford Bridge one last time to say goodbye to all of you in person,” Abramovich said. “It has been a privilege of a lifetime to be part of Chelsea FC and I am proud of all our joint achievements. Chelsea Football Club and its supporters will always be in my heart.”

■ CHELSEA, B17

IPC blasted for letting Russians compete

Credibility of Paralympic movement questioned as legal worries trumpet moral arguments

STEPHEN WADE

A decision by the International Paralympic Committee on Wednesday to allow Russians and Belarussians to compete as “neutrals athletes” generated a heart-wrenching reply only hours after it was announced.

Russian athletes had already been slated to compete as RPC, short for Russian Paralympic Committee, as punishment for the state-sponsored doping scandal at the 2014 Sochi Olympics and a subsequent cover-up.

The IPC added more restrictions on the Russians when the Paralympics open on Friday. Belarus was sanctioned for its part in aiding Russia with the invasion and war against Ukraine.

But there was no expulsion. And that hit a nerve.

At a news conference in Beijing hours after the decision, a reporter who said he worked for the Kyiv Post asked IPC president Andrew Parsons what he would say to the family of young biathlete Yevhen Malyshev.

Malyshev was killed this week in Ukraine, but the exact circumstances of his death are unclear. The International Biathlon Union said Wednesday he “died this week serving in the Ukrainian military.”

“I cannot even start to imagine the pain that his family is feeling at the moment,” Parsons said. “I can only tell them that my deepest thoughts are with them. This is absolutely not fair. It is disgusting. It is against humanity.”

The Ukraine-based reporter said he was the only journalist from the country that had managed to reach Beijing, and he pressed Parsons again to explain why Russians and Belarussians should be allowed to compete — even as neutral athletes. He repeatedly identified them as being from the “aggressor nations.”

Canadian Sports Minister Pascale St-Onge says the IPC is wrong to allow Russian athletes to compete under a neutral banner. She is calling on it to immediately reverse its decision. St-Onge says allowing Russians and Belarussians to take part as neutral athletes puts Canadian Paralympians, and those from around the world, in an unfair position by forcing them to decide whether to compete against them.

A joint statement from the



During a news conference at the 2022 Winter Paralympics on Wednesday in Beijing, a journalist from Ukraine holds a photo of Yevhen Malyshev, a biathlete who died this week serving in the Ukrainian military, according to the International Biathlon Union. ANDY WONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

athletes of Ukraine and Global Athlete group, an international athlete-led pressure body, said the IPC issued “another blow” to every Ukrainian athlete and citizen.

“The demands of the athletes have been cast aside in favour of Russian interests,” the statement said. “Sports administrators are choosing bloodshed and profits over principle and stakeholders.”

Germany’s chef de mission Karl Quade, a member of the Paralympic movement since the IPC was founded in 1989, said he was “deeply ashamed” by the decision.

The Swiss Paralympic Committee said it could not comprehend the reasons for allowing the athletes to compete.

“The fact that legal considerations were given priority over moral and political arguments is a major burden for the credibility of the Paralympic movement,” it said in a statement.

IPC spokesman Craig Spence acknowledged the distaste many feel for allowing Russians and Belarussians to compete.

“We have the world’s eyes on us right now, and they may not be agreeing with the decision,” Spence said.

Nadine Dorries, a British minister who is responsible for sports, called it “the wrong decision.”

“They [IPC] must join the rest

of the world in condemning this barbaric invasion by banning Russian and Belarussian athletes from competing,” she said.

Parsons said the decision was not unanimous among his dozen board members, but he said the majority favoured it. He did not give a voting breakdown.

Both delegations will be excluded from the medal table, and the IPC said it would not hold events in either country “while the present situation continues.” Parsons called it the “harshes possible punishment we can hand down within our constitution and the current IPC rules.”

Athletes from Russia and Belarus will instead compete under the Paralympic flag and use the Paralympic anthem. The RPC delegation must cover the “RPC” symbol on uniforms in all events and ceremonies. The Belarus delegation must cover its national flag on uniforms.

The IPC said it would also withdraw the “Paralympic Honor” given to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The International Olympic Committee on Monday pushed sports bodies to exclude Russian and Belarussian athletes from international events, but it left the final decision to individual governing bodies. The IOC has been slow to crack down on Russia, allowing its athletes to compete in

the past four Olympics following the Sochi doping scandal.

The IOC said the action was needed now to “protect the integrity of global sports competitions and for the safety of all the participants” but left sports bodies with a way around the exclusion by adding that Russians and Belarussians could compete as neutral athletes or teams if expulsion was not possible because of short notice.

On Wednesday, IOC president Thomas Bach said no sanctions had been taken directly against the Russian Olympic Committee because it was not responsible for the invasion.

The move by the IPC comes as Russia is being barred from competing in a long list of sports, including skating, skiing, soccer, hockey, basketball, track and field, and some tennis events. Some sports like swimming haven’t followed the recommendation from the IOC to ban Russians, instead allowing them to compete as neutral athletes.

The IOC, however, has not removed the membership or leadership positions from Russians in its own organization.

Parsons acknowledged the possibility that some Paralympic athletes might refuse to compete against their counterparts from Russia. He also had said the options for the IPC were “limited” because of the possibility of legal

challenges from Russia or elsewhere.

Bach will not attend the Paralympics and has designated Parsons — an IOC member — to represent the body.

The 20-member Ukrainian contingent, accompanied by nine guides, arrived in Beijing on Wednesday following initial fears they may not be able to make it in time for the Games, which run from March 4-13.

While the IPC hasn’t spoken to Ukrainian athletes since the decision, Parsons insisted they were here to compete.

“These athletes have fought the battle of their lives to be here. ... This is a difficult moment in the history of the nation and they want to make everyone proud,” he said.

Paralympic officials say 648 athletes and 49 delegations will take part in the Winter Paralympics. There were 2,900 athletes at last month’s Winter Olympics with 91 delegations.

Officials say 71 Russian athletes are expected to compete in the Paralympics, joined by 20 from Ukraine. The entire Ukrainian delegation was expected to arrive in time for Friday’s opening ceremony. The Paralympics close March 13.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, WITH A REPORT FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kelly: The next 10 days could determine the future of the Olympics

FROM B13

If we want a monolithic activity through which to negotiate our shared values, it’s either this, shopping or Facebook. Sports seems as good as any other thing.

The problem is tools. Sports doesn’t have any. It has a playbook for scandals (again, a word that no longer fits): make a bad decision; empanel lawyers to investigate how the decision was made; come up with some excuses for that decision; fire the people who made it; hire some new, more palatable people to make equally bad decisions; change nothing.

This is based on the idea that people like their games too much to do anything about it.

We are reaching the “do some-

thing about it” stage.

If the Olympics (through the Paralympics) can’t bend to that reality, they risk breaking. These next 10 days will tell us how that worked out.

In times of great peril and fear, our principles become luxuries. In hindsight, we massage the story so that it doesn’t look that way — what epic film doesn’t love recalling the cruel or catastrophic decision avoided, while avoiding talking about all the ones that weren’t?

Now we’re living in that movie — for several coddled generations, for the first time. For all the good they’ve done us, the rules are still being upheld.

That won’t last much longer. Images of Russian Paralympians celebrating their wins will enrage

Images of Russian Paralympians celebrating their wins will enrage the world. Should some Russian do or say something even slightly provocative, it will be much worse.

the world. Should some Russian do or say something even slightly provocative, it will be much worse. Sports administration in general will become an inevitable focus of that anger.

That’s the irony here. That in an effort to remain true to its ideal of neutrality, the IPC has just made the whole mission less sustainable.

If the goal was bolstering the palatability of the Olympic movement, the correct decision was turfing Russia (and Belarus), and punting the larger issue of whether the IPC has the power to do so down the road. Who would have tried to stop it? These people are bureaucrats to the end.

Now the decision has provoked a confrontation. With the IPC/IOC on one side waving a

copy of the Olympic charter and Ukrainians on the other side waving photos of dead athletes, it’s not hard to see who wins that one.

If the IPC wants to continue holding the Paralympics, it ought to hope everyone involved quits and it has an excuse to cancel them. That is its best-case scenario.

Like so many decisions taken in sports over the past few days, this is down to “two worlds” thinking. The IPC still lives in the world that was before Russia invaded Ukraine. Everyone else is living in the one after.

Until all of us on this side of the line are talking to each other from the same world, very few of the big decisions anyone makes will be workable.

Russians face more sports sanctions

JAMES ELLINGWORTH
DUSSELDORF, GERMANY

With the exception of the Paralympics, Russian athletes were restricted from competing in more sporting events around the world on Wednesday.

Sports including biathlon and table tennis were among those to join more than a dozen other Olympic sports in excluding competitors from Russia and Belarus because of the invasion of Ukraine. The International Paralympic Committee, however, said Russians and Belarussians would be able to compete in Beijing as “neutral athletes” without national symbols.

Blanket bans have been imposed in soccer, track, basketball and hockey, among other sports,

following an appeal from the International Olympic Committee to exclude Russians and Belarussians from international events.

The IOC, however, left open the possibility of allowing them to compete as neutral athletes if expulsion was not possible because of short notice.

Other sports bodies that have so far let Russians and Belarussians keep competing as neutral athletes include FINA, which governs swimming and other aquatic sports, and the federations for boxing, gymnastics, fencing and judo.

The restrictions have been strongly criticized by Russian politicians and on Wednesday by striker Artem Dzyuba, the top scorer for the Russian national soccer team.

Dzyuba wrote on Instagram

that he is “against any war. War is terrible,” but said he found sporting sanctions a form of discrimination. “I am against discrimination based on nationality. I’m not ashamed to be Russian. I am proud to be Russian. And I don’t understand why athletes have to suffer now.”

The governing body for British motorsports on Wednesday banned Russians from competing at events in the country, throwing into doubt Formula One driver Nikita Mazepin’s ability to race in the British Grand Prix in July.

The sport’s international governing body, known as FIA, had said Tuesday that Russian drivers such as Mazepin can still compete but a block on having cars in national colours would stop his team, Haas, from bringing

back the Russian flag-stripe livery it removed during last week’s testing.

Motorsport UK went further, with sanctions barring drivers and teams from Russia and Belarus from competing anywhere in Britain. The FIA didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment on what it would do when its rules conflict with those of national governing bodies.

The invasion of Ukraine has also led to a reshaping of sports’ corporate ties to Russia. English soccer club Everton ended its sponsorship with companies belonging to Alisher Usmanov, a Russian billionaire who was placed under European Union sanctions last week. Also, a potential buyer has claimed Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich is seeking to sell Chelsea,

last year’s Champions League winner.

Premier League games this weekend will be preceded by a show of solidarity toward Ukraine, with captains also wearing armbands in the blue and yellow of the country’s flag.

There has also been an exodus of foreign players and coaches at Russian sports teams. Former Norwich manager Daniel Farke quit as of Russian soccer club FC Krasnodar on Wednesday, a day after Markus Gisdol left as coach of Lokomotiv Moscow. Defender Yaroslav Rakitskiy, who played for Ukraine at two European Championships, cancelled his contract with Zenit St. Petersburg on Wednesday for what the club said were family reasons.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sabres offence rattles Maple Leafs

Lowly Buffalo ends its six-game losing streak with road win over Toronto

PAUL ATTFIELD

Whether you want to call it luck, coincidence or simply bad timing, it hardly matters.

Mitch Marner dressed for the 400th game of his NHL career on Wednesday, and he took the ice surrounded by a “sea of blue and white,” as the arena host applied an in-house touch of hyperbole with a hockey game at Toronto’s Scotiabank Arena free of capacity restrictions for the first time since Dec. 11, 2021.

Given the pair of milestone moments, it’s even more of a shame that the Toronto Maple Leafs didn’t have anything resembling a sense of occasion, with the Buffalo Sabres snapping the home side’s three-game win streak with a 5-1 victory.

That the Leafs chose this night to come out flat and uninspired, just as they did in last month’s 5-2 loss to the Montreal Canadiens or the 6-3 reverse against the St. Louis Blues – or even the 7-1 loss in Pittsburgh earlier this season – is bound to continue to confound head coach Sheldon Keefe. He had warned about the team playing down to its opposition after the morning skate.

“Sometimes you just really need a real slap in the face to kind of get dialled in,” he said. “That’s how I felt about the Montreal game, not unlike our game in Pittsburgh early in the season.”

The defeat left the Leafs third in the Atlantic Division, a point back of Florida and two back of Tampa Bay. Given the circumstances, the lone bright spot on the night may well have been Marner, who registered an assist on his team’s goal to push his point streak to five games.

With nine goals, 14 assists and 23 points in his past 12 games entering Wednesday, 2015’s fourth overall pick led the NHL in each of those categories for February, and was honoured as the NHL’s player of the month on Tuesday. Not that Marner is any way fixated on numbers, apparently.

“It’s tonight? I thought it was next game,” Marner said when asked about the milestone appearance after the morning skate. “There we go. That’s cool. Hopefully I can keep tallying that up for a couple more hundred. It’s definitely a cool milestone to hit and all with the team I grew up watching. It’s a pretty cool thing to be a part of.”



Sabres forward Peyton Krebs, left, tries to get past Maple Leafs forward Nicholas Robertson during the first period of Wednesday’s game in Toronto. Buffalo took an early lead en route to a 5-1 victory. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The 17,122 on hand certainly seemed happy to be part of a live Scotiabank Arena crowd once more, if the beaming smiles on many of their maskless faces could be taken as proof. It took less than 30 seconds for the first familiar refrains of “Go Leafs Go” to break out, and a minute more for a chorus of boos to ring around the stands as Alex Kerfoot was sent to the penalty box for tripping with the first penalty of the night.

The home crowd had even more cause for complaint 55 seconds later, when a point shot from Jacob Bryson deflected off Morgan Rielly and past Petr Mrazek, making back-to-back starts for the first time this season.

But just a few days removed from its 15-point salvo in Detroit during the 10-7 win over the Red Wings, the Leafs’ top trio continued its own impression of the famed Production Line. Marner fed rookie Michael Bunting, who teed up Rasmus Sand-

in to beat Craig Anderson for the tying goal at the 11:48 mark. With his seventh point in his past three games, Bunting kept in touch at the top of the rookie scoring race, moving one point back of Detroit’s Lucas Raymond for first place.

Despite the 34-point disparity between the teams entering play, the Sabres looked strong, looking to snap a six-game losing streak. Playing their first game in Toronto since Dec. 17, 2019, Buffalo took control of the game in the second period.

With Timothy Liljegren given the night off, Travis Dermott drew back into the lineup as Keefe shuffled his defensive pairings with Jake Muzzin still out with a concussion.

Defensive miscues led to both Buffalo goals in the middle stanza, however. Mrazek gave up an easy rebound from a Rasmus Asplund shot, but with Victor Olofsson outmuscling Sandin in front of the goaltender, the Swede was presented with

a tap-in to put the Sabres in front 12:19 into the period. That lead was doubled just over six minutes later when Sandin miscontrolled the puck, allowing Jeff Skinner to poke it through to Tage Thompson, who buried it over the glove hand of Mrazek.

Skinner added sprinkled more salt in the home side’s wounds in the third period, beating Mrazek on a breakaway for his 21st goal of the season. Kyle Okposo wrapped up the scoring with just over eight minutes to play.

Mrazek, bidding to win a third successive game, gave up five goals on 31 shots, while Anderson let in just one of the 30 pucks fired his way.

These two teams are to face each other at the Heritage Classic at Hamilton’s Tim Hortons Field on March 13. But the Leafs have four games before they turn their attention to that showpiece event, starting Saturday when they play host to the Vancouver Canucks.

Flames continue rolling atop the Pacific Division

JOSHUA CLIPPERTON

The Calgary Flames had a near-perfect February.

March is off to a pretty good start, too.

Calgary won for the 12th time in 13 games Tuesday to extend its lead atop the Pacific Division.

It’s been quite the 2021-22 turnaround for the Flames, who have put things together under head coach Darryl Sutter after missing the playoffs last season.

They’re also far from satisfied.

“Every day has to be about getting better,” the veteran bench boss said before his team’s latest victory, a 5-1 decision in Minnesota against the Wild. “If you’re trying to make the playoffs, I don’t think you can have much of a downtime.”

Very few Flames have experienced that 52 games into the schedule.

Calgary netminder Jacob Markstrom – the NHL’s second star in February – has led from the crease behind a roster that’s al-

lowed the second-fewest goals against a game (2.10), and ranks fifth in both shots surrendered (29.1) and the penalty kill (88.2 per cent).

The big Swede has a league-best eight shutouts to sit two back of Miikka Kiprusoff’s single-season franchise mark of 10 set in 2005-06 for a team that surrenders the second-fewest high-danger scoring chances at 5-on-5 (an average of 9.40 per 60 minutes), according to naturalstattrick.com.

But the Flames aren’t just doing it with defence.

Star winger Johnny Gaudreau sits sixth in league scoring with 67 points, while Andrew Mangiapane and Matthew Tkachuk are in a race to 30 goals with 28 and 27, respectively, after both found the back of the net Tuesday.

General manager Brad Treliving also chipped in mid-season by adding Tyler Toffoli from the Montreal Canadiens via trade with the deadline now less than three weeks away.

And then there’s Elias Lind-

holm, who’s become one of the NHL’s best two-way centres skating between Gaudreau and Tkachuk on Sutter’s top line.

Calgary went 10-1-0 in February – all 10 victories came in regulation – with the only blemish an ugly 7-1 road loss to the Vancouver Canucks last Thursday.

All the Flames did from there was beat Minnesota 7-3 at home two nights later before securing another four-goal win Tuesday against the same opponent.

“The 7-1 game was a tough one,” Lindholm said Tuesday. “Everything that could go wrong, went wrong.”

Very little else has in Calgary the past few months.

SANDIN BESTS HOCKEY HERO

Alex Ovechkin made headlines for his tepid response to questions about Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

The Washington Capitals sniper, who’s just five goals away from overtaking Jaromir Jagr for third

on the NHL’s all-time list, has breathlessly supported Russian president Vladimir Putin during his career, and recently declined to distance himself from his country’s leader.

That controversy didn’t make the first game for Toronto Maple Leafs defenceman Rasmus Sandin against Ovechkin any less special.

“A guy I’ve been looking up to since I was young,” the 21-year-old said. “I think that was one of my first jerseys that I ever had.”

Sandin also scored the winner with Ovechkin on the ice late in Monday’s 5-3 victory.

“It’s pretty cool to go against him,” added the blue-liner. “Even though right before the goal he cross-checked me right over my arm.”

“Stung a little bit.”

SENS TO HONOUR UKRAINE

Ottawa Senators owner Eugene Melnyk, whose parents were born in Ukraine, said Wednesday his

team will play the country’s national anthem before home games the rest of the season.

“The unprovoked assault and the ensuing carnage, unnecessary human, economic and social destruction of a sovereign country is unspeakable and unacceptable in a civilized world,” Melnyk wrote in an open letter. “And while the images from Ukraine show courage and resilience, they also cry out for help.”

Melnyk praised the international response, including from the NHL and the International Ice Hockey Federation, and added that some proceeds from upcoming 50/50 draws at games will go to organizations providing medical and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine.

The Senators will also continue to play the Canadian and American anthems.

The Winnipeg Jets had a Ukrainian choir sing the country’s anthem prior to Tuesday’s game against the Montreal Canadiens.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PWHPA inching closer to forming women’s pro hockey league

JOHN WAWROW

Talks with select NHL teams and major corporate sponsors have intensified in the Professional Women’s Hockey Players’ Association’s bid to form a league within the next year, two people with direct knowledge of discussions told The Associated Press.

While progress is being made, one of the people said an announcement is not imminent, while also cautioning against placing a timeline on when a proposed league made up of the world’s top players could be ready for opening faceoff.

“No timeline, but we’re getting closer,” said the person, who like the other AP source spoke only on the condition of anonymity because the discussions are private.

In a text, PWHPA executive Jayna Hefford declined to comment Wednesday.

Details of how the proposed league would operate are unknown, though the most ideal

scenario would involve NHL franchises on both sides of the border co-sponsoring women’s teams competing in a regular-season schedule followed by playoffs.

What’s also unclear is when and how long a PWHPA league’s season would run. The top players have U.S. and Canadian national team commitments, including competing at the women’s world championships in August, as well as a yet-to-be scheduled series of rivalry games expected to be played in November.

The NHL, as an entity, has backed off funding a pro women’s league after the coronavirus pandemic blew a major hole in its budget. That hasn’t stopped the league from supporting women’s hockey, which most recently included the U.S. women’s team taking part in the Winter Classic on Jan. 1 and paying for a charter flight for the team to travel from its Minnesota base to Los Angeles en route to the Beijing Olympics last month.

It also hasn’t stopped NHL franchises from forming their

own partnerships. The PWHPA lists 10 NHL teams as partners, including Washington, the New York Rangers, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Chicago and Philadelphia.

The establishment of a partially NHL-backed league attracting top international players would be considered a game-changer for women’s hockey.

It would be separate from the six-team Premier Hockey Federation, which was founded in 2015, and remains North America’s only women’s professional hockey league. In January, the PHF announced it is expanding to eight teams, and more than doubling its salary cap a team to \$750,000 next season.

PWHPA members have mostly balked at joining the PHF while in pursuit of establishing their own league in which players receive livable wages, health care and have dedicated access to training and practice facilities.

The PWHPA was formed three years ago following the demise of the Canadian Women’s Hockey League. In that time, the associ-

ation has attracted enough corporate and media broadcasting partnerships to base players in five hub cities – two in the U.S. and three in Canada – to practise and compete against each other expense-free in a series of barnstorming weekend events across the continent.

The most recent “Dream Gap Tour” stop was in Ottawa last weekend, with another scheduled for Washington, this weekend.

The PWHPA is also hosting a “Rivalry Rematch” game between the United States and Canada set for Pittsburgh on March 12. It will be the cross-border rivals’ first meeting since Canada won Olympic gold with a 3-2 victory over the Americans last month.

The buzz over the PWHPA inching closer to forming a league grew immediately in the aftermath of Canada’s victory.

Canadian forward Brienne Jenner cited corporate support in both the PWHPA and PHF by saying, “I think we’re not that far off.”

“I think there is a market out

there, and a lot of people want to see this level of women’s hockey on a regular basis,” she added.

Canada coach Troy Ryan urged corporate sponsors to get on board.

“The girls deserve an opportunity to be professional athletes,” Ryan said. “I think if anyone is smart out there, corporate sponsors or donors or business people, they would back it as a business plan because I think there’s a viable market out there for it.”

U.S. captain Kendall Coyne Schofield grew emotional in stressing how important it is for women’s hockey to take advantage of the boost in attention the sport gets following the Olympics.

“Women’s hockey cannot be silent after these two weeks,” Coyne Schofield said. “We need to continue to push for visibility. We need to continue to fight for women’s hockey because it’s not good enough. It can’t end after the Olympic Games.”

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Forrest, Westlake named Canada's flag-bearers

Opening ceremony will mark the first time the Paralympic honour will be shared by two Canadian athletes

LORI EWING

Carrying Canada's flag into the opening ceremony of the Beijing Paralympics will feel like a victory in itself, say Ina Forrest and Greg Westlake.

Forrest, a three-time Paralympic medalist in wheelchair curling, and Westlake, one of Canada's most decorated hockey players, were chosen as Canada's flag-bearers for Friday's opening ceremony at Bird's Nest Stadium.

And after two years of upheaval caused by COVID-19, including the crush of cases the past couple of months due to the Omicron variant, the veteran Paralympians were rejoicing on Wednesday over successfully getting to the starting line.

"When you finally get on the flight and know you're going, you're like 'Wow, we made it everybody,'" Forrest said.

"It was stressful," Westlake added. "We could lie and say it wasn't, but one of the biggest challenges for these Games was just getting to these Games."

Beijing marks the first time Paralympic flag-bearer duties will be shared by two Canadian athletes.

Westlake and Forrest are two of Canada's most decorated winter Paralympians. Forrest, a 59-year-old from Spallumcheen, B.C., captured gold at the 2010 and 2014 Paralympics, plus bronze four years ago in Pyeongchang. She also has three world titles.

She was struck by a drunk driver and paralyzed when she was 21,



Ina Forrest, a three-time Paralympic medalist in wheelchair curling, says she was thrilled to be chosen to lift the Canadian flag at the Beijing Paralympics. "It's one of those just-so-proud-to-be-Canadian moments."

JUNG YEON-JE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

but didn't consider sports until she was approached by an avid wheelchair curler in a grocery store in 2004. She was named to her first national team two years later.

"Pretty excited and thrilled to be chosen," Forrest said on flag-bearer honours. "It's one of those just-so-proud-to-be-Canadian moments. And as a Canadian athlete, you have a few of those through your career. So, this will be just one more to add to the package of something you just feel deep inside your heart."

Westlake, a 35-year-old from Oakville, Ont., is making his fifth Paralympic appearance. The former long-time Canadian team captain won gold in 2006 and bronze in 2014, and lost in the

gold-medal game to rival U.S. in 2018.

Westlake, who had both legs amputated below the knee when he was just 18 months old after he was born with malformed feet, has been a strong voice for Paralympians for years.

"It's been a long time, a lot of advocacy, a lot of just standing up for Paralympians over the years, trying to really promote just the quality of athletes and more importantly the quality of people. Being involved in Paralympic sport has just had such a profound impact on my life and really shaped the man I am today," he said. "So, I'm extremely proud. I'm extremely humbled by the honour and I just can't wait to get out there with my teammates."

It was fitting, Westlake laughed, that both he and Forrest learned they'd be flag-bearers over a Zoom call with Canada's chef de mission Josh Dueck.

With the shuttering of training facilities, and tight travel restrictions, Canadian athletes have been among the hardest hit by COVID-19.

Westlake credited Hockey Canada for their "amazing job" preparing players and ensuring they had the necessary tools at their disposal, whether it was access to ice, or fake ice players could set up in their garages to practise stick-handling and shooting.

"And we had [Zoom meetings] weekly, daily and we really pushed ourselves in other aspects that maybe we just didn't have the

time to do before," he said. "We worked so much on our mental resiliency, our mental toughness, our sports psychology. We were doing book reports, things that I hadn't done in years as a high-performance athlete."

"We tried to enjoy it as much as we could. And now, it's the payoff. We're here and we get to be together and play together and compete."

The threat of testing positive for COVID-19 amid the highly contagious Omicron variant meant several weeks spent in virtual isolation for both Westlake and Forrest.

"As a team, you're just wanting to protect each other. So, you're not together because that's the safest way to be. And that's a hard way to be a team preparing for Paralympics," Forrest said. "When we finally did get together, it was great to be able to practise and train the way we like to train. But again, you're in the bubble situation, you're away from home. And it just seems like it was so easy for people to catch COVID-19, so you were still really worried."

Canada's COVID-19 restrictions meant Canada's Para hockey team arrived in Beijing with only a half dozen games under its belt this past season. The team has played two exhibition games in Beijing, beating South Korea 7-0 on Tuesday and the Czech Republic 6-0 on Wednesday.

The Paralympics open Friday and run through March 13.

Nordic skiing star Brian McKeever, a 17-time Paralympic medalist, was Canada's flag-bearer at the opening ceremony four years ago in South Korea. Para judo athlete Priscilla Gagne carried the Maple Leaf into the opening ceremony at the Tokyo Summer Paralympics in August.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	52	35	11	6	76	182	146
Florida	53	35	13	5	75	218	161
Toronto	54	35	15	4	74	198	157

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

Carolina	53	37	11	5	79	185	126
Pittsburgh	55	33	14	8	74	178	148
N.Y. Rangers	53	33	15	5	71	157	134

WILD CARD

Boston	54	32	18	4	68	161	146
Washington	55	28	18	9	65	176	156
Columbus	54	28	25	1	57	179	196
Detroit	55	24	24	6	54	160	194
N.Y. Islanders	50	20	22	8	48	128	142
Ottawa	52	19	28	5	43	137	166
New Jersey	54	19	30	5	43	167	197
Philadelphia	53	16	27	10	42	131	184
Buffalo	55	17	30	8	42	148	196
Montreal	54	13	34	7	33	127	206

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	54	40	10	4	84	218	153
St. Louis	52	32	14	6	70	188	141
Minnesota	51	31	17	3	65	191	162

PACIFIC DIVISION

Calgary	52	32	14	6	70	182	125
Los Angeles	54	29	18	7	65	159	153
Vegas	54	30	20	4	64	174	157

WILD CARD

Nashville	53	30	19	4	64	163	151
Edmonton	54	30	21	3	63	179	171
Dallas	52	29	20	3	61	151	151
Anaheim	56	26	21	9	61	165	172
Vancouver	55	26	23	6	58	154	158
Winnipeg	54	24	21	9	57	163	166
San Jose	54	24	24	6	54	143	168
Chicago	54	19	27	8	46	134	185
Seattle	55	16	34	5	37	140	196
Arizona	53	14	35	4	32	122	195

Wednesday

Buffalo 5 Toronto 1
St. Louis at N.Y. Rangers
Los Angeles at Dallas
Nashville at Seattle

Tuesday

Edmonton 3 Philadelphia 0
Columbus 4 New Jersey 3
Tampa Bay 5 Ottawa 2
Detroit 4 Carolina 3 (OT)
Calgary 5 Minnesota 1
Winnipeg 8 Montreal 4
Colorado 5 N.Y. Islanders 3
Anaheim 4 Boston 3
Vegas 3 San Jose 1

Thursday — All Times Eastern

Carolina at Washington, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Florida, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Boston at Vegas, 9 p.m.
Colorado at Arizona, 9 p.m.
Montreal at Calgary, 9 p.m.

Friday

Detroit at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Vegas at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	41	21	.661	—
Chicago	39	23	.629	2
Philadelphia	37	23	.617	3
Milwaukee	37	25	.596	4
Cleveland	36	26	.581	5
Boston	37	27	.578	5
Toronto	34	27	.557	6.5
Brooklyn	32	31	.507	9.5
Charlotte	31	33	.484	11
Atlanta	29	32	.475	11.5
Washington	28	33	.459	12.5
New York	25	36	.410	15.5
Indiana	22	42	.344	20
Detroit	15	47	.241	26
Orlando	15	48	.238	26.5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	49	12	.803	—
Golden State	43	19	.693	6.5
Memphis	43	20	.682	7
Utah	38	22	.633	10.5
Dallas	37	25	.597	12.5
Denver	36	25	.590	13
Minnesota	34	29	.539	16
L.A. Clippers	33	31	.516	17.5
L.A. Lakers	27	34	.443	22
New Orleans	25	36	.410	24
Portland	25	36	.410	24
San Antonio	24	38	.387	25.5
Sacramento	23	40	.365	27
Oklahoma City	19	42	.311	30
Houston	15	46	.245	34

Note: The top eight teams per conference will qualify for the playoffs

Wednesday

Charlotte 119, Cleveland 98
Indiana 122, Orlando 114 (OT)
New York at Philadelphia
Miami at Milwaukee
Sacramento at New Orleans
Utah at Houston
Oklahoma City at Denver
Portland at Phoenix

Tuesday

Boston 107, Atlanta 98
L.A. Clippers 113, Houston 100
Toronto 109, Brooklyn 108
Washington 116, Detroit 113
Minnesota 129, Golden State 114
Dallas 109, L.A. Lakers 104

Thursday

Chicago at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Memphis at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Miami at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
Golden State at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Sacramento at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers, 10 p.m.

Friday

Atlanta at Washington, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Utah at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Houston at Denver, 9 p.m.
New York at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

AHL

Wednesday

Charlotte 3 Hershey 0
Belleville 3 Hartford 2 (OT)
Syracuse 6 Rochester 3
Abbotsford 6 Toronto 4
Providence 5 Lehigh Valley 3
Cleveland 4 Laval 2
Texas at Chicago
San Diego at Colorado
Tucson at Ontario
Bakersfield at San Jose

Thursday — All Times Eastern

Rochford at Manitoba, 8 p.m.

Friday

Abbotsford at Laval, 7 p.m.
Iowa at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
Rochester at Belleville, 7 p.m.
Stockton at Laval, 7 p.m.
Utica at Syracuse, 7 p.m.
WB/Scranton at Bridgeport, 7 p.m.
Everton 27
Burnley 25
Wolverhampton 26
Southampton 26
Brighton 26
Crystal Palace 27
Aston Villa 25
Leicester 24
Newcastle 25
Brenford 27
Leeds 26
Everton 24
Burnley 25
Wolverhampton 26
Norwich 26

Tuesday

Burnley 0 Leicester 2

Saturday

All Times Eastern
Leicester vs. Leeds, 7:30 a.m.
Aston Villa vs. Southampton, 10 a.m.
Burnley vs. Chelsea, 10 a.m.
Newcastle vs. Brighton, 10 a.m.
Norwich vs. Brentford, 10 a.m.
Wolverhampton vs. Crystal Palace, 10 a.m.

FA CUP

FIFTH ROUND

Wednesday

Liverpool 2, Norwich City 1
Luton Town 2, Chelsea 3
Southampton 3, West Ham 1

Tuesday

Peterborough United 0, Manchester City 2
Crystal Palace 2, Stoke City 1
Middlesbrough 1, Tottenham 0 (ET)

Thursday

All Times Eastern
Everton vs. Boreham Wood, 3:15 p.m.

GERMANY

DFB POKAL

QUARTERFINAL

Wednesday

Hamburg SV 2, Karlsruhe 2
(Hamburg SV advances 3-2 on penalties)
Hannover 96 0, RB Leipzig 4
VfL Bochum 1, SC Freiburg 2

Tuesday

FC Union Berlin 2, St Pauli 1

Tuesday

Red Deer 11 Medicine Hat 1
Seattle 4 Kelowna 3

ENGLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
Man City	27	21	3	3	64	17	66
Liverpool	26	18	6	2	70	20	60
Chelsea	25	14	8	3	49	18	50
Man United	27	13	8	6	44	34	47
West Ham	27	13	6	8	46	34	45
Arsenal	24	14	3	7	38	27	45
Tottenham	25	13	3	9	35	32	42
Wolverhampton	26	12	4	10	24	21	40
Southampton	26	8	11	7	34	37	33
Brighton	26	7	12	7	25	30	33
Crystal Palace	27	6	12	9	37	38	30
Aston Villa	25	9	3	13	33	37	30
Leicester	24	8	6	10	39	43	30
Newcastle	25	5	10	10	28	45	25
Brenford	27	6	6	15	27	44	24
Leeds	26	5	8	13	29	60	23
Everton	24	6	4	14	28	41	22
Burnley	25	3	12	10	22	32	21
Wolverhampton	26	5	4	17	25	47	19
Norwich	26	4	5	17	15	55	17

Tuesday

Burnley 0 Leicester 2

Saturday

All Times Eastern
Leicester vs. Leeds, 7:30 a.m.
Aston Villa vs. Southampton, 10 a.m.
Burnley vs. Chelsea, 10 a.m.
Newcastle vs. Brighton, 10 a.m.
Norwich vs. Brentford, 10 a.m.
Wolverhampton vs. Crystal Palace, 10 a.m.

FA CUP

FIFTH ROUND



Chelsea striker Romelu Lukaku, front, scored against Luton in the 78th minute of their match on Wednesday to punch his team's ticket to the FA Cup quarter-finals. ADRIAN DENNIS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Chelsea advances in FA Cup amid off-field ownership crisis

Blues complete 3-2 comeback against Luton thanks to Lukaku goal

STEVE DOUGLAS

Facing a crisis off the field, Chelsea was in a spot of bother on Wednesday when the team fell behind not just once but twice to a lower-league opponent in the FA Cup.

In the end, the most expensive player of the Roman Abramovich era bailed Chelsea out.

Romelu Lukaku completed the comeback with a 78th-minute winner as the European champions beat second-tier Luton 3-2 away to reach the quarter-finals.

Other teams advancing from the fifth round were Liverpool, which beat Norwich 2-1, and Southampton, a 3-1 winner against West Ham, in all-Premier League matchups.

Chelsea's players took the field at Kenilworth Road barely an hour after Abramovich made his stunning announcement that he was looking to sell the London club after 19 years in control, as he

faces the threat of financial sanctions targeting Russians in the wake of the invasion of Ukraine.

"You're getting sold in the morning," was one of the chants sung from Luton fans, who were in raptures after their team went ahead for the first time through Reece Burke's second-minute header.

Saul Niguez equalized in the 27th minute, only for Luton to regain the lead in the 40th when Harry Cornick ran clear of Chelsea's defence to sidefoot home a finish.

Timo Werner grabbed Chelsea's second equalizer in the 68th minute, before crossing for Lukaku to slot in with 12 minutes left.

"There was some noise today around the club, of course, so it was not so easy to focus," Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel said, "but we did very well I think."

"In the very short term," Tuchel added, "for us as a team, staff and players, hopefully [it will change] not too much. Maybe even it will change nothing. But the situation is now out there and a big situation."

Back in action four days after beating Chelsea in the League Cup

final, Liverpool stayed on course for an improbable quadruple of trophies with a second win over Norwich in 11 days.

Jurgen Klopp fielded a heavily rotated team featuring 10 changes and one of them, Takumi Minamino, scored both goals – in the 27th and 39th minutes.

Liverpool reached the FA Cup quarter-finals for the first time under Klopp, whose team is second in the Premier League and on course to advance to the Champions League quarter-finals.

Norwich, which lost to Liverpool twice in the league – including as recently as last month – and in the League Cup, scored through Lukas Rupp in the 76th.

Southampton also rang the changes – nine in total – against West Ham but still came through, with substitute Armando Broja scoring one goal and earning a penalty that was dispatched by James Ward-Prowse.

Manchester City, Crystal Palace and second-tier Middlesbrough advanced Tuesday, while Everton plays host to non-league team Boreham Wood on Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chelsea: Abramovich started a run of megarich owners in English soccer

FROM B13

Chelsea had won the league title only once – in 1955 – when Abramovich bought the club in 2003. Helped by a number of expensive signings, the club won the Premier League title two years later and has added four more since then, most recently in 2017.

The haul of 18 trophies in 19 years also includes two Champions League titles and the Club World Cup success he was in Abu Dhabi to witness last month.

His last public visit to a match at Stamford Bridge was last year after also hosting Israeli President Isaac Herzog at the stadium in November.

Abramovich rarely speaks publicly but did give an interview to Forbes last year, in part explaining the purchase of Chelsea in 2003 for £140-million including £75-million of debt.

"In hindsight, especially with the public profile it would bring me, maybe I would have thought differently about owning a club," Abramovich was quoted as telling Forbes. "But, at the time, I just saw this incredible game and that I wanted to be a part of

that in one way or another."

Abramovich was the first of the megarich owners to enter English football, starting a trend that has continued with Manchester City benefiting from Abu Dhabi investment since 2008 and Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund buying Newcastle last year.

It is unclear how the sale will affect Chelsea's finances. There is a long-term need to revamp Stamford Bridge to generate more income from fans and corporate backers. Chelsea has the smallest and most dated stadium of the Premier League's most successful clubs, with plans for a rebuild of the 41,000-capacity venue put on hold by Abramovich in 2018 as British-Russian diplomatic tensions deepened.

Abramovich has not had a British visa since 2018 when a renewal application was taking longer than usual to go through and was withdrawn. That came at a time when Britain pledged to review the long-term visas of rich Russians in the aftermath of the poisonings of Russian former spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter in the English city of Salis-

bury. Britain blamed Russia for the pair's exposure to a nerve agent, an allegation Moscow denies.

Abramovich's connections to Putin have been the subject of speculation for years.

In 2012, a High Court judge in London highlighted Abramovich's connections to Putin in a ruling related to a legal battle. Judge Elizabeth Gloster said Abramovich had "very good relations" and "privileged access" to Putin though adding he could not "pull the presidential strings." Abramovich has denied taking any orders from Putin.

The ripples of the war also led to the loss of key Russian-linked sponsorship at another Premier League club on Wednesday.

Everton suspended deals with firms owned by Alisher Usmanov, a Russian metals tycoon who has been sanctioned by the European Union. Usmanov's firms include USM which has the naming rights to the training ground and paid £30-million for the same rights to a new stadium being built in Liverpool.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TFC young gun says new-look team has more of a family feel

NEIL DAVIDSON

Toronto FC's dismal 2021 season is now in the MLS team's rearview mirror, like a crashed car on the side of the highway.

Seventeen first-team players from the 6-18-10 campaign have moved on, with Jamaican international defender Kemar Lawrence likely No. 18. Young defender Luke Singh is expected to go out on loan to FC Edmonton of the CPL.

New coach Bob Bradley, who doubles as Toronto's sporting director, prefers to look forward rather than back and has offered little on what happened before his arrival other than to suggest that the club's recent nomadic ways due to the pandemic and poor record last year meant "that there were just guys in different places, guys that weren't as committed to the club as they might have been earlier."

"Guys that in different moments just hadn't been committed to all the things that you need to do to be part of a winning team," he said after taking over.

Teenage midfielder Jayden Nelson shed a little more light Wednesday after a BMO Field training session ahead of Saturday's home opener against the New York Red Bulls.

Nelson, who worked under coaches Chris Armas and Javier Perez last season, suggested that this year's dressing room is more receptive and welcoming to the Toronto's young guns.

"It's more refreshing. I feel like now it's more vets that want to help the young guys come up and stuff like that," said the 19-year-old midfielder. "It's kind of a better environment. I'll say it feels totally different in the changing room. I wouldn't say less egos, it's more of a family in the changing room so it's nice to be around there now."

"Sometimes it's hard to get along with guys that have done bigger things in the sport already," he added. "It's just a balance that we have now that's better."

While the revamped TFC roster is still a work in progress, Bradley showed in the season-opening 1-1 tie at FC Dallas that he has no problem going with homegrown talent.

Toronto's starting 11 featured five Canadians: veteran midfielder Jonathan Osorio plus 17-year-old Marshall-Rutty, 19-year-old Nelson and Deandre Kerr and 22-year-old Jacob Shaf-felburg. There were six other Canadians on the bench.

Nelson, a native of Brampton, Ont., who has won three caps for Canada, also credited Bradley for the improved atmosphere.

"He's hands-on with everyone and he doesn't really have any favoritism or anything," he said. "If you're, lets say, a reserve or a starter, it's all the same. So that's what I think sets him apart from probably the previous managers, which were great, but it's refreshing to have him here."

Toronto has 13 players aged 24 and under on the first-team roster with 12 of those Canadian.

"It's something that we're all been waiting for," Nelson continued. "So we're just excited to get on the pitch and play together like how we did at the [TFC] academy."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Toronto FC's Jayden Nelson, front, suggests that this year's dressing room is more receptive and welcoming to the young players. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHITECAPS ENCOURAGE FANS TO SUPPORT UKRAINE

VANCOUVER The Vancouver Whitecaps are asking their fans to support Ukraine as the Eastern European country grapples with a Russian invasion. Fans attending the Whitecaps' home opener against NYCFC on Saturday are being encouraged to wear yellow and blue clothing to show their support for Ukraine. The Whitecaps say they will donate to the Canadian Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal on behalf of everyone who attends Saturday's match. Vancouver's Major League Soccer club is also encouraging fans to make additional individual donations to support Ukraine. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PREMIER LEAGUE HAS BENEFITED FROM ABRAMOVICH'S INVOLVEMENT, NEVILLE SAYS

Former England defender Gary Neville believes Roman Abramovich and other foreign owners have been good for the Premier League, saying the English top flight has become more competitive as a result. Russian businessman Abramovich said on Wednesday he would sell Chelsea Football Club, 19 years after buying the team, amid growing calls for the 55-year-old to be hit by sanctions after Russia's invasion of its neighbour Ukraine.

Abramovich said that a sale was in the best interests of the reigning European champions, and Neville, speaking at the Financial Times Football Business Summit before news broke of Chelsea's sale, defended the metals magnate and overseas investment in the English game.

Neville said the "alleged links between Abramovich and [Russian President Vladimir]

Putin," which the Chelsea owner has denied, caused problems for the club but should not lead to Abramovich being kicked out of English football.

The Premier League, he said, had benefited from the Russian's involvement.


"He [Abramovich] has been an owner of Chelsea now for 20 years and from my point of view I have spoken openly about how I have welcomed the challenge to the historical elite, which was Manchester United, Liverpool and Arsenal."

"New money into Chelsea, Blackburn all those years ago when Jack Walker put money in, Leicester City winning the league, Manchester City and the Abu Dhabi wealth, I do believe we are a stronger league for it, more competitive and admired all around the world."

REUTERS

BIRTH AND DEATH NOTICES

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DEATHS



SUSAN THERESE BAKER

Peacefully, with family by her side at Joseph Brant Hospital, on Monday, February 28, 2022.

Beloved wife of Dr. Michael William Baker for 59 years and loving mother of Sean and Stephen (Denise) and cherished grandmother of Sophia, Kendall, Benjamin and William Baker and added grandmother to Olivia and Norah McCormick.

Predeceased by her parents and her sister and sorely missed by her surviving brother Piers (Gill), sisters Lise Kent (Richard) and Etta French (Ron Aubrey) and many friends and family in Kingston, Burlington, Oakville and around the world.

Sue was born in Gainsborough, England and immigrated to Canada in 1950 with her parents first living in Westmount, PQ and then moving to Ottawa, where she attended Nepean high school. When Sue was 19 years of age, she joined the Royal Canadian Air Force, where she met Michael.

Following her discharge from the RCAF, Sue raised her two sons together with Michael through their numerous military postings, some of the more notable ones being North Bay, ON; Duluth, MN; Ottawa, ON; Winnipeg, MB; Fredericton, NB; Lahr, Germany and Kingston, ON.

Along the way, Sue earned a Bachelor of Education at the University of Manitoba followed by a Master's Degree in Education from the University of New Brunswick. Sue taught for more than 21 years, most of which was spent with the Catholic District School Board in Kingston.

Following Michael's retirement from the military as a Major and her retirement from teaching in Kingston, Sue was not content to sit still but rather gathered Michael and continued to use her skills as a gifted teacher to work as a Special Education teacher at Western Academy Beijing in Beijing China for three years and then for two years in Cairo, Egypt.

Upon returning to Canada, Michael and Sue spent some further time in Kingston before moving to Burlington, ON. Never one to be shy, Sue joined the Burlington Women's Probus Club where she was involved with the Hiking and Book Clubs. In the last few years, Sue was able to spend time doing the things she loved including walking her cherished Standard Poodle Izzy, hiking in Newfoundland and the Rockies, visiting Ireland and Paris, and spending time with her grandchildren in Oakville and North Carolina.

Sue lived a wonderful life, full of strength and kindness. She, in turn, was loved very much.

In lieu of flowers, Sue would like you to consider a donation to the Canadian Cancer Society for Breast Cancer Research or Carpenter Hospice.

Visitation will be held at the Kopriva Taylor Community Funeral Home, 64 Lakeshore Road West, Oakville on Friday, March 4, 2022 from 4 p.m.-8 p.m. Funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, March 5, 2022 at St. Andrew Catholic Church, 47 Reynolds Street, Oakville at 1:30 p.m.

Online condolences at
www.koprivataylor.com.

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DEATHS



SISTER JOSEPHINE CONLIN
CSJ
(formerly Sister Mary Herbert)

Died peacefully at Sisters of St. Joseph Residence, 2 O'Connor Drive, Toronto, Ontario on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 in the 69th year of her religious life.

Sister Josephine (Jo) is predeceased by her parents, Herbert Conlin and Mary (Rowan) Conlin, her brother Gerry (Helen) and her sisters Genevieve Bennett (Joseph), Margaret Crawford (Edward), Teresa Read (David), Isabel Walsh (John), Agnes Heintz (Edward) and Frances Conlin.

She will be lovingly missed by her sister, Rosemary McCabe, many nieces and nephews as well as her dear friend Joanne and her Sisters in community.

Sister Jo grew up in Toronto where she attended St. Joseph's College School and after graduation chose nursing as her profession, entering St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing, Class of 1949. Four years later, Sister Jo answered her call to religious life and entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto, on September 8, 1953, where she became known as Sister Mary Herbert.

After many years of nursing at St. Joseph's Hospital, Sister Jo became the Director of the School of Nursing from 1962 to 1975. Following this, Sister Jo became a specialist in Pastoral Studies, Health Care Services. She became Director of Chaplaincy Services both in Toronto and Hamilton from 1978-1983.

After further studies in theology, Sister Jo served in the ministry of Spiritual Direction and Retreat work for the next 15 years. In 2006, Sister Jo became a volunteer with several organizations, the last one being at "Becoming Neighbors" where she prayed for new Canadians.

During her time at St. Joseph's Residence at 2 O'Connor, she was present to all, continuing to touch many people's lives from her wheelchair, always with a smile on her face and a big hello.

Sister Jo's love for the alumni of St. Joseph's School of Nursing was evident as she attended their annual events and in turn her affection was returned as evidenced by the joyous reception she was given by her former students as she entered the room.

As a nurse herself, Sister Jo had a special affection for the nurses who cared for her at St. Joseph's Residence and this was reciprocated by them. The most common words they used to describe her were: gracious, grateful and a woman with a beautiful soul.

Visitation will take place on Friday, March 4, 2022 at St. Anselm's Church, 1 MacNaughton Road, Toronto, ON from 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. Followed by the celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial Interment at Holy Cross Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Fontbonne Ministries, 791 Queen Street East, Toronto, ON M4M 1H6.


Kane-Jerrett Funeral Homes, Thornhill
905-889-8889

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JOEL DAVID SCHWARTZ
April 29, 1983
March 3, 2009

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Larry, Julie and Jonathan

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Pistons seek season sweep of Raptors

Toronto unsure when Anunoby, VanVleet will return to the lineup

As strange as it might seem judging by the standings, the visiting Detroit Pistons will go for a sweep of their three-game season series with the Toronto Raptors on Thursday night. The Pistons, coached by former Raptors coach Dwane Casey, have won the first two meetings between the teams, most recently a 103-87 drubbing at Detroit on Jan. 14.

The Pistons also swept three games from the Raptors last season and are 8-7 against them over the past four seasons. They have never swept the Raptors two seasons in a row.

After their 116-113 loss to the host Washington Wizards on Tuesday, the Pistons were 14th in the Eastern Conference.

After squeaking past the visiting Brooklyn Nets 109-108 on Tuesday, the Raptors were seventh in the East.

The Pistons have won three of their past five games, defeating the Boston Celtics, Cleveland Cavaliers and Charlotte Hornets by a combined five points.

In the loss to the Wizards on Tuesday, Jerami Grant scored 26 points, Cade Cunningham 20 and Saddiq Bey 19 for the Pistons.

"I like the way we're connecting; the ball is moving around and we're finding the right person," Casey said. "Our one-on-one defence has to be better throughout the game."

Toronto will go for a third

straight win after taking two from the Nets, starting Monday with a 133-97 blowout in Brooklyn.

The Raptors were without OG Anunoby (finger injury) and Fred VanVleet (knee) for both games. On Tuesday, Gary Trent Jr. had a team-high 24 points for Toronto.

The Raptors were backed by a crowd of 18,903 as attendance limits were removed for the first time since Dec. 11 with the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions.

Anunoby had played with a non-displaced fracture in the ring finger of his right hand before persistent pain led to an MRI that revealed the injury.

He visited a hand specialist on Monday.

"The specialist said it was nearly healed," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. "It's getting better every day. I guess we're waiting to determine [if] he's able to play on it. They said probably within two weeks it would be fully healed, so I guess we're just trying to decide which route we're going to take."

VanVleet played some games with the bruised knee that kept him sidelined against Brooklyn. As with Anunoby, the question is whether he will be able to play despite the injury.

"Is there a chance he could [make it worse]? Yeah, it's bruised; he could get hit again," Nurse said. "He could play, as we've seen, as well. Obviously, it probably gets a lot better with rest, a lot quicker. For me, if guys want to play, we're playing them if they want to play through it."

REUTERS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

MEXICO TO REPLACE RUSSIA AT LANGFORD RUGBY SEVENS

Mexico will replace Russia in the 12-team field for the HSBC Canada Women's Sevens next month in Langford, B.C. World Rugby announced Monday that Russia had been barred from all international rugby and cross-border club rugby activities until further notice in the wake of the invasion of Ukraine. The Russian women stood third in the World Series standings after four events. "We fully support World Rugby's strong stance and decision to suspend Russia from all international rugby and cross-border club activities," Rugby Canada chair Sally Dennis said in a statement. Rugby Canada, its provincial unions and clubs will not compete against Russia at any level until peace is restored. The Langford field will also feature Australia, Brazil, Ireland, England, Fiji, France, Japan, New Zealand, Spain and the U.S. Japan, which joins the field as an invitational team, will compete on the Sevens Series for the first time since 2020. The Langford tournament, which is scheduled for April 30-May 1, is taking place for the first time since 2019 because of the pandemic. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PANDEMIC-DELAYED 2020 VOYAGEURS CUP SET FOR JUNE

Thanks to the pandemic, the 2022 Canadian Championship will kick off a month before the final of the 2020 tournament. Canada Soccer announced Wednesday that the 2022 edition will run May through July with 13 teams. At the same time, it said that Toronto FC and Forge FC will meet June 4 at Hamilton's Tim Hortons Field in the pandemic-delayed 2020 final. The 2020 tournament was postponed because of COVID and then eventually whittled down to a one-off game between CPL champion Forge and Toronto, which posted the best record in a mini in-season tournament with Montreal and Vancouver when MLS resumed play in 2020 with Canadian teams playing among themselves. Forge FC qualified for the final after winning the Island Games, the CPL's truncated 2020 season. The draw for the 2022 tournament, meanwhile, will take place March 9. The first round is scheduled for May 10-12 with the quarter-finals May 24-26, semi-finals June 21-23 and the final on a date in July to be determined. THE CANADIAN PRESS

GIANTS ADD A SECOND WOMAN TO COACHING STAFF, RELEASE RUDOLPH

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. The New York Giants have added a second woman to their coaching

staff, and started clearing cap space for free agency by releasing veteran tight end Kyle Rudolph. New coach Brian Daboll on Wednesday announced Angela Baker has joined his staff as the inaugural recipient of the Rosie Brown Minority Coaching Fellowship. Baker will be the offensive quality control coach. The fellowship is named in honour of Hall of Famer Rosie Brown, arguably the best offensive lineman in Giants history. Shortly after replacing Joe Judge, Daboll hired Laura Young as the team's director of coaching operations. He had worked with her in Buffalo. Daboll also hired Cade Knox as an offensive assistant/game manager. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPURS' MURRAY FINED FOR HITTING REF WITH BALL

San Antonio Spurs all-star guard Dejounte Murray was fined US\$20,000 by the NBA on Wednesday for throwing the ball off the legs of a referee earlier this week. The incident occurred during the Spurs' 118-105 loss to the Memphis Grizzlies on Monday night. After the Spurs were called for a foul in the lane on a Ja Morant drive, Murray delivered a bounce pass to the shins of the official who called the foul. He was given a technical foul and ejected. Meanwhile, Indiana Pacers forward Jalen Smith was fined US\$20,000 for directing profane language toward a game official in the Pacers' 119-103 loss to Magic on Monday in Orlando. REUTERS

WOODS WINS INAUGURAL PLAYER IMPACT PROGRAM, COLLECTS \$8-MILLION

Tiger Woods has not competed in any official tournament for more than a year but he still beat PGA Tour big hitters Phil Mickelson, Rory McIlroy, Dustin Johnson and Jon Rahm to win the inaugural Player Impact Program and its US\$8-million first prize, the U.S.-based circuit said on Wednesday. The concept, which awarded a combined US\$40-million to the top 10 finishers, was implemented in 2021 as a way to reward players who positively "move the needle" and generate the most positive interest in the PGA Tour. Woods suffered career-threatening leg injuries in a car crash last February and spent a sizeable portion of the year out of the spotlight before competing with his 12-year-old son in an unofficial 36-hole tournament last December. Mickelson, who is currently taking a break amid fallout from comments he made about the Saudi-funded golf league, collected US\$6-million as the runner-up. REUTERS

ROBERT REID

PRINTER, 94

PRINTING VIRTUOSO
CREATED PAPER MASTERPIECES

A book designer par excellence, he produced hand-printed small press poetry books and large-run trade books, including some of the most valuable and beautiful books ever produced in Canada

JUDY STOFFMAN

Printing was for Robert Reid a lifelong addiction that began when he was nine years old and received a toy Swiftset printing press with moveable rubber type for Christmas. This he used to make a family newspaper with dramatic headlines, each page no bigger than a postcard. It sparked a love of print that lasted until his death in Vancouver on Jan. 21 at the age of 94.

He could recognize any typeface – Garamond Roman, Ultra Bodoni, Caslon, Baskerville – as if it was the face of a long-time friend. He considered books works of art that gave delight to hold and look at. He named his four sons Michael, Anthony, Nicholas and Quincy because, according to Quincy Reid, he said those names would yield elegant italic initials.

He expressed his love of the printed word and image across the entire range of what is possible in publishing. Some of the most valuable and beautiful books ever produced in Canada came from his presses in Vancouver and Montreal, and are now in the rare book libraries of the University of British Columbia, McGill University, University of Toronto and other Canadian institutions of higher learning. During his lifetime, printing technology changed; letterpress and gravure gave way to offset lithography and computers transformed everything. But Mr. Reid never lost his commitment to craft, and the belief that a book should have a personality.

His students at the Vancouver School of Art (now Emily Carr University of Art and Design) where he taught typography and graphic design in the 1950s, went on to modernize the look of Canadian advertising, newspapers and magazines.

The late Keith Branscombe was perhaps his star student. Mr. Branscombe went on to the Royal College of Art in London, was art director of *Chatelaine* and *City and Country Home* magazine, design consultant for Thomson Newspapers and assistant managing editor of graphics at the *Toronto Star*, where he redesigned the paper in 1993.

“Bob was introducing us to the best typography in the world,” recalled another former student, Charles Mays, who became art director of *Dome* Advertising in Vancouver. “If he had a fine piece of rag paper, he would sort of stroke it and run his fingers along the deckle edge. He was a touchy feely kind of guy. He taught us linocuts, woodcuts, rubber cement drawing. He was excited about everything.”

Robert Russel Reid was the youngest of five children, born Oct. 26, 1927, in Medicine Hat to Daniel and Orah Genalda (née Haag) Reid. His father was a tobacco and candy wholesaler, but sold his share of the business and resettled the family in Abbotsford, B.C. Bob was 13 in 1940 when his father died suddenly and his mother moved the family to Vancouver. His elder sister Marian bought him a grown-up

hand-cranked letterpress that became the centrepiece of his basement print studio in the family's new home

At the library of UBC, where he enrolled in commerce a few years later, he noticed an open book in a glass case, the start of a chapter enlivened with a red capital letter. Much later he recalled in his self-published memoirs that it gave him a powerful desire to print his own book.

What he selected to reprint on the advice of Dr. Kaye Lamb, the university librarian, was one of the earliest books published in British Columbia: *The Fraser Mines Vindicated*, by the opportunist Alfred Waddington, first published in 1858. Waddington was trying to lure the greedy and the gullible to B.C.'s gold rush.

It took Mr. Reid two years to copy out and typeset the 100-page book on a platen press, creating 110 numbered copies priced at \$10 apiece. When he took the books to a Los Angeles print show, U.S. collectors snapped them up. Today they might sell for \$500.

His masterwork was the bibliography of the Lande Collection of Canadiana, 2,328 historical documents collected by Lawrence Lande, a notary, poet, composer and author.

In 1951, after graduating from UBC, he moved his handpress from his mother's basement to a shop on Pender Street and founded Graphos Press, designing and printing invitations, greeting cards and various announcements for architects, artists and art galleries. He also printed a student literary magazine called *PM*, and later designed *Canadian Literature*, the periodical founded by George Woodcock. He married Felicity Pope, who had been *PM* magazine's managing editor and shared his interest in typography and bookbinding.

They became part of a circle of gifted young artists in Vancouver that included Takao Tanabe, Bill Reid, Harry and Jessie Webb and the Czech émigré George Kuthan.

He sold Graphos Press in 1955 and started teaching at Vancouver School of Art. In 1962 he won a Canada Council grant to spend a year abroad to visit printing houses, paper makers and type foundries, and the whole family, now including four sons, sailed for Europe. There the marriage broke apart when Felicity refused to return to Canada. She moved to Ibiza, Spain, with the children.

Mr. Reid settled in Montreal in 1963 to work for McGill University (now McGill-Queen's) Press, launched the previous year by Robin Farr. His job was to set a style for the new press. He loved the vitality of the city and over the next dozen years, did some of his best work in book design. In the basement of the Redpath Library, he also ran the Redpath Press, for special projects and limited editions.

His masterwork was the bibliography of the Lande Collection of Canadiana, 2,328 historical documents collected by Lawrence Lande, a notary, poet, composer and author. The book is embellished with fold-out maps, reduced-size facsimiles of legal documents, royal proclamations and drafts of government bills, all printed on paper imported from Spain, England and Italy.

“It's the greatest piece of fine printing in scope and execution in Canadian history,” said the printer Rollin Milroy, a friend of Mr. Reid. “It shows Bob's ambition and vision.” The cost overruns nearly got him fired.

In 1974, Mr. Reid moved to New York where he met his great love, Terry Berger, then working on children's books at Harcourt Brace.

They were soon living together in Manhattan (later in New Haven, Conn.), supporting themselves as book packagers. “We did a book, *Great American Scenic Railroads*, because Bob loved trains, and sold it to a publisher,” she recalled. “He did the research and I, the writing.”

A popular series of guides to country inns throughout the United States, for Holt, Rinehart & Winston along with a series on bed and breakfast places for Prentice Hall kept them going for years. They travelled widely and spent weekends checking out paper shows, collecting ephemera. They enjoyed all the same things.

“I am Jewish and he was Scottish. I have no idea how we came together from such different worlds,” Ms. Berger said in a phone interview.

Unable to afford American health care, Mr. Reid moved back to Vancouver when he was 70, leaving his beloved Terry, who did not wish to be so far from her children and grandchildren. But the relationship continued.

Mr. Reid's son Anthony gave him a Mac computer and Mr. Branscombe, his former student, flew out from Toronto to show him how to download a wide range of old and new typefaces. He could thus continue for another two decades to design posters, broadsides, birthday cards and illustrated limited edition books on his favourite subjects such as movie stars, jazz musicians and old-time film directors. He made many friends in Vancouver among a new generation of letterpress enthusiasts and was always ready to help with their projects.

Mr. Reid lived in a small apartment in Vancouver, with toy trains running on tracks all around it. Lacking savings, he found a generous patron in the book collector and philanthropist Yosef Wosk. In 2007, Mr. Wosk endowed the Robert R. Reid Medal for Lifetime Achievement in the Book Arts in Canada, given annually by the Alcuin Society, an organization of book professionals and collectors. Robert Reid was the award's first recipient.

Exhibitions of his work were held at McGill in 2017 and University of Toronto's Massey College in the spring of 2018 in honour of Mr. Reid's 90th birthday. Late last year, he was admitted



Robert Reid expressed his love of the printed word and image across the entire range of what is possible in publishing. He considered books works of art that gave delight to hold and look at. YUKIKO ONLEY



A page of Mr. Reid's typography work is seen in Kuthan's *Menagerie of Interesting Zoo Animals*. COURTESY OF CHESTER GRYSKI

to St. Paul's Hospital with COVID-19; he had not been vaccinated. His recovery was slow and incomplete and he returned home to have a medically assisted death.

He leaves his companion, Ms. Berger; his only surviving son, Quincy, who lives in Costa Rica; and several grandchildren.

Special to The Globe and Mail

I REMEMBER

ERNA PARIS

I met Erna Paris in 2008, shortly after the publication of her terrific book *The Sun Climbs Slow: The International Criminal Court and the Struggle for Justice*.

Erna's book is a fascinating discourse on the history of international jurisprudence, culminating with the founding of the International Criminal Court (ICC), an organization Canadians played a key role in creating. I was fortunate to be able to option the book's film rights.

I remember when we first met, over coffee and cookies, at my office. Erna struck me as intelligent, charming, self-effacing

and kind, with a strong, determined sense of justice.

With funding from TVO, Knowledge, SRC and the NFB, we produced a documentary feature film on the ICC, following Luis Moreno Ocampo, the court's first chief prosecutor. Writer-director Barry Stevens filmed the prosecutor's travels to the Congo, at the United Nations and at his office in The Hague. The film, *Prosecutor: Law, No Order* had a world premiere at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam, followed by screenings in Toronto, at the UN and elsewhere.

The film continues to be used in schools across Canada and beyond.

Throughout our 18-month production process, Erna was always so supportive and helpful.

Her vision, her profound sense of decency, inspired us.

Erna never became as famous as she deserved to be. But that was not important to her. What Erna cared about was justice.

Her infectious spirit, her passion for the rule of law and her warm smile are forever missed.

Peter Raymond, White Pine Pictures, Toronto



Erna Paris HELEN TANSEY

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Day 1 | March 28 | Reykjavík



Following your morning arrival in Reykjavík, you'll enjoy breakfast and a self-guided tour at the Viking World Museum, and then a visit to the world-renowned Blue Lagoon to spend some relaxation time in its geothermal seawater. Then, settle in at the Fosshótel or explore the town before a Welcome Reception hosted by



The Globe's CEO & Publisher, Phillip Crawley, complete with Icelandic cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Retire to your room and rest for the brilliant days ahead.



Day 2 | March 29 | Reykjavík

Start the day with a Globe Insider Breakfast, hosted by Phillip Crawley and National Affairs Columnist, Doug Saunders. Then, partake in an exclusive Journalist Talk with Senior Foreign Correspondent, Mark MacKinnon. In the early afternoon, choose between a city tour, Scandinavian cooking class, a hike to Reykjadalur or a tour of a geothermal energy plant and visit to the Kerið Crater. A group dinner of traditional Icelandic cuisine awaits.



Day 3 | March 30 | Hella



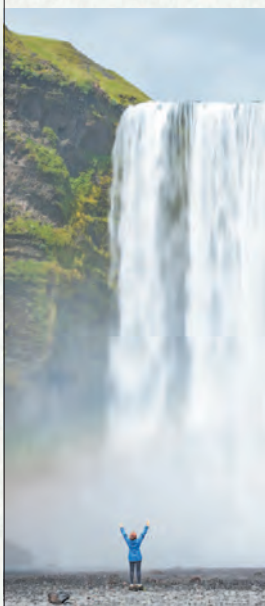
Wake up and enjoy another Globe

Insider Breakfast, hosted by Phillip Crawley and Mark MacKinnon, who will review and discuss daily headlines. You'll then depart Reykjavík

and travel to the southeastern region of Iceland for a Golden Circle Tour with stops at Thingvellir National Park to see the location of the first parliament, Gullfoss Falls, and the spectacular Geysir, where you can find out why these natural springs have captivated travellers for centuries. Late in the afternoon, check into the Rangà Hotel, an exclusive four-star resort in southern Iceland.



Day 4 | March 31 | Hella



A day of adventure and exploration lies ahead. Following a Globe Insider Breakfast with Phillip Crawley, Columnist and Feature Writer, Elizabeth Renzetti and National Affairs Columnist, Doug Saunders, you'll have the enviable dilemma of choosing between the following excursions: horseback riding with stops at the stunning Írárfoss Waterfall and Eyjafjallajökull Glacier; a guided walk of the area and the Caves of Hella; or a hike on Sólheimajökull Glacier. The evening includes a Farewell Dinner at the Rangà Restaurant, hosted by Phillip Crawley and your Globe journalist companions.



Day 5 | April 1 | Hella/Reykjavík



Enjoy a final Globe Insider Breakfast, hosted by Phillip Crawley and Doug Saunders, before checking out. Then, gather once more for a



Globe Book Club Talk with Elizabeth Renzetti. You'll then travel back to Reykjavík International Airport, where you'll fly back to Canada in the late afternoon.



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