

A RESOURCE FOR BUSINESSES



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05 NIAGARA 21ST 40 UNDER FORTY BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS GALA

**06 COMPARISON OF GPT-4 OMNI AND GOOGLE GEMINI
THE BATTLE OF THE AI GIANTS**

14 CANADA'S WILDFIRE CRISIS

20 UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF QUALITY SLEEP

MAY ISSUE SPOTLIGHT'S
Celebrating Excellence, Innovation, Technology and More

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

As the publisher of Business Link, I am thrilled to bring you the latest business updates from vibrant business communities in Niagara, Canada, and the global markets. In this edition, we celebrate the remarkable achievements of the recipients of the Niagara 21st 40 Under Forty Business Achievement Awards, highlighting their outstanding contributions to the business world.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion take center stage as we delve into the importance of fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace environment. Additionally, we shine a spotlight on Junior Athletics, recognizing the young talents making waves in the sports arena.

Exciting developments await with the launch of Abatement Technologies' innovative product, ATL, set to revolutionize the industry. Furthermore, we explore the fascinating realm of sleep science as we uncover the secrets of quality sleep from Dr. Andrew Huberman's esteemed lab.

In a battle of the AI giants, we present a comprehensive comparison of GPT-4 Omni and Google Gemini, providing insights into the cutting-edge technologies shaping the future of artificial intelligence.

Join us on this enriching journey as we navigate through the dynamic landscape of business and innovation, bringing you the latest trends and developments from across the globe.

Warm regards,

Yours in Business
Marilyn Tian, M.B.A
President & Co-Publisher



CONTENTS

Niagara 21st 40 Under Forty Business Achievement Awards Recipients	05
Comparison of GPT-4 Omni and Google Gemini	06
Abatement Technologies Launches ATL Filtration™	08
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Focus	09
LOCAL BUSINESS BUZZ	
Niagara Upcoming Events	11
Celebrating Junior Athletics	12
NATIONAL BUSINESS BEAT	
Canada's Wildfire Crisis	14
Boeing's Starliner: A Historic Journey to the StarsBegins	16
Disney's Streaming Triumph Overshadowed	18
Unlocking the Secrets of Quality Sleep	20
GLOBAL BUSINESS PULSE	
Global News Hightlights	23

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40 2024 Niagara

UNDER FORTY BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

MAY
29

CLUB ITALIA,
2525 Montrose Rd,
Niagara Falls

5:00 PM

**Don't miss out! Ticket sales end on May 22nd for the
Business Link 40u40 Business Achievement Awards Ceremony Gala**

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21st Niagara 40 Under Forty Business Achievement Awards

2024 RECIPIENTS

Dr. Raynold Wonder Alorse
Government of Ontario (Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services)

Stefanie (Vescio) Anello
Law Society of Ontario

Diana Aquino
Walker Industries

Robert Barber
Prevail Paralegal Services Professional Corporation

Jonathan Belgrave
Brock University

Taylor Book
Beechwood Doughnuts

Mike Britton
ONpoint Strategy Group

Mandy Cavasin
Niagara Children's Centre

Bailey Charles
BDC

Lisa D'Amboise
Brock University

Brittany Davy
Anchor Rehabilitation Support Services Inc.

Samantha Forbes
Birchway Niagara

Jaime Giles
TD Commercial Banking

Erin Hagar
SunOpta Inc.

Ryan Harrison
Welland Jackfish Baseball Club

Andrew Harwood
City of St. Catharines

Wes Keller
Black Frame Cinema Inc.

Brent King
RORE Real Estate

Andrew Korchok
Niagara Region

Elyse Lappano
Brock University

Matthew Leask
Lancaster Chown & Welch LLP

Angelica Masterson
The Vintage Venture

Peta-Ann McCaulsky
Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)

Ana McKnight
Niagara College

Megan McRae
City of Thorold

Calissa Ngozi
Hunter-Sawyer Enterprises Inc

Yvonne Niwahereza
Breathe88

Jeremy Phillips
Centennial Homes Niagara Inc.

Andrea Sacco
You Empower Tomorrow

Maya Saggar
Impact Learning

Becky Sciliberto
Niagara College

Brilee Sears
Town of Pelham

Dina Senior
Improv Niagara

Teegan Sirianni
TELUS

Allyesa Stewart
Autism Ontario

Kiara Theodosopoulos
Airbus Helicopters

Chris Ventura
Brock University, Co-op, Career and Experiential Education

Alyssa Waldes
White Oaks Resort & Spa

Ashley Avis Wasilewicz
Ashley Avis Marketing Inc.

Michael Zappitelli
BarrelHead at Pillitteri Estates Winery



Comparison of GPT-4 Omni and Google Gemini: The Battle of the AI Giants A Historic Journey to the Stars Begins

By Business Link

In the ever-evolving landscape of artificial intelligence, two titans have emerged, each pushing the boundaries of what's possible. GPT-4 Omni, the latest iteration of OpenAI's groundbreaking language model, and Google Gemini, the search giant's answer to the AI revolution, are now facing off in a battle for supremacy.

GPT-4 Omni: The Versatile Powerhouse

Boasting a staggering 175 billion parameters, GPT-4 Omni is the most advanced language model to date, capable of tackling a wide range of tasks with unparalleled accuracy and fluency. From natural language processing to content generation, this AI behemoth has proven its mettle time and time again. Its ability to understand and generate human-like text has made it a game-changer in industries ranging from healthcare to finance.

Google Gemini: The Search Engine Visionary

Google's Gemini, on the other hand, is a bold attempt to revolutionize the way we interact with search engines. Leveraging the vast knowledge base of Google's search index and the company's expertise in natural language understanding, Gemini aims to provide users with more personalized, contextual, and engaging search experiences. With its integrated AI capabilities, Gemini promises to deliver insights and recommendations that go beyond the traditional search results.

The Battle of Capabilities

When it comes to raw power, GPT-4 Omni holds a distinct advantage. Its sheer scale and the breadth of its knowledge make it a formidable opponent in tasks such as content generation, language translation, and complex problem-solving. However, Gemini's strength lies in its deep integration with Google's search infrastructure, allowing it to provide more relevant and personalized results tailored to each user's needs.

The User Experience Conundrum

While GPT-4 Omni excels in its ability to engage in open-ended conversations and tackle complex tasks, Gemini is designed to streamline the search process, offering a more intuitive and user-friendly experience. This dichotomy poses a challenge as both models strive to capture the attention and loyalty of users.

The Battle for the Future

As the AI landscape continues to evolve, the competition between GPT-4 Omni and Google Gemini will undoubtedly intensify. The outcome of this battle will have far-reaching implications, shaping the future of how we interact with technology and access information. The AI giants' ability to innovate, adapt, and cater to the ever-changing needs of users will be the key to emerging victorious in this exciting race.

Abatement Technologies Launches ATL Filtration™ A New Era in Clean Air Solutions

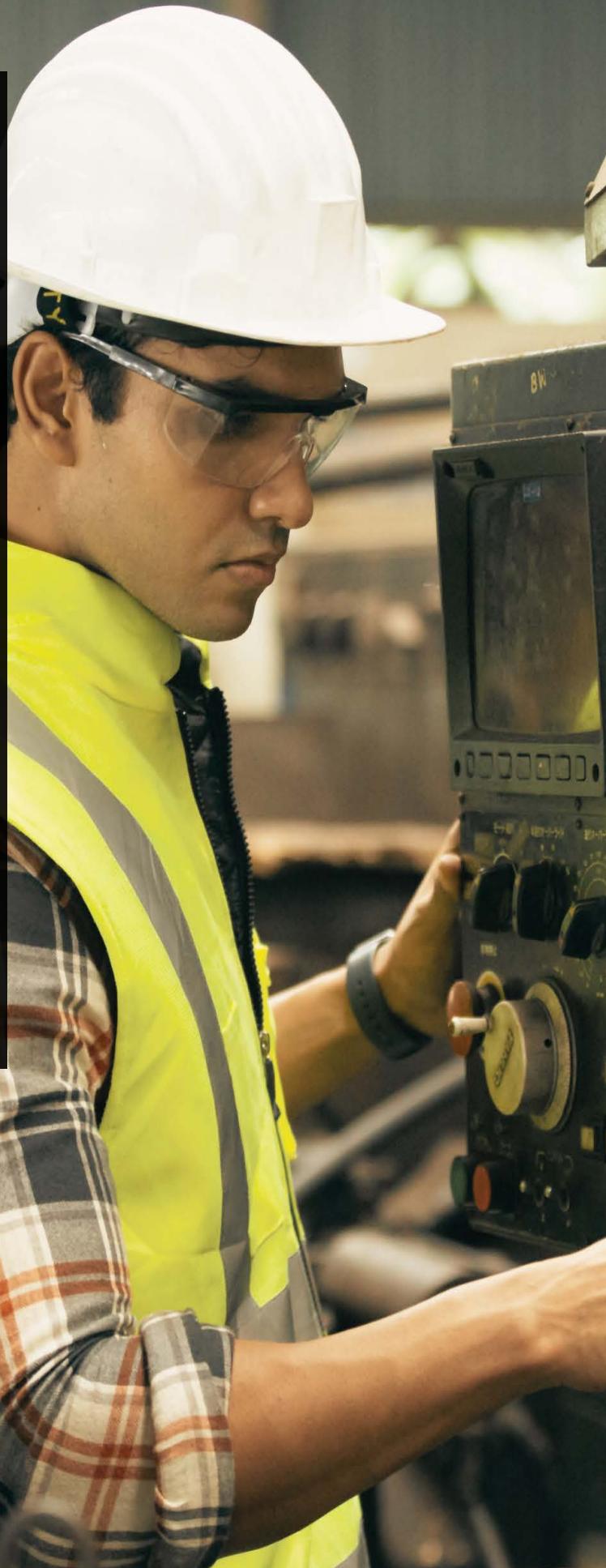
Abatement Technologies, renowned for its specialized construction containment and filtration products, has launched ATL Filtration™, a new service aimed at providing reliable, cost-effective filter solutions for commercial buildings.

Leveraging 39 years of industry experience, ATL Filtration combines expertise and quality to address the indoor air quality needs of buildings across the United States and Canada.

Backed by a team of National Air Filtration Association (NAFA) Certified Air Filter Specialists (CAFS), ATL Filtration offers filter replacement services tailored to each building's unique requirements. Greg Parlee, EVP Sales, Marketing and Distribution at Abatement Technologies, highlights the personalized approach of ATL Filtration, emphasizing the company's commitment to clean air solutions.

ATL Filtration now offers a range of services, including facility assessments, next-day delivery, customized filters, and life cycle cost analytics. Currently serving Ontario, Quebec, the Atlantic Provinces in Canada, and Georgia in the US, ATL Filtration plans to expand its services to new locations in the future.

For more information about ATL Filtration by Abatement Technologies, visit www.atlfiltration.com.





About ATL Filtration:

Leveraging 39 years of industry experience, ATL Filtration aims to improve indoor air quality by delivering comprehensive filtration solutions with exceptional customer service. With a focus on integrity, innovation, and reliability, ATL Filtration strives to be the go-to service partner for businesses seeking clean air solutions. Visit www.atlfiltration.com for more details.

About Abatement Technologies:

Abatement Technologies is a leading manufacturer of HPA-based air filtration and construction containment equipment for critical environments, including healthcare facilities, asbestos abatement, and disaster restoration sites. With products sold in over 50 countries worldwide, Abatement Technologies is committed to providing effective solutions for clean air.

Article source: <https://www.canadianmanufacturing.com/>

Small Business Offer

Cashflow low? Get funding for energy-saving upgrades.

Incentives cover
up to **100%**
of total costs for
improvements*

Small businesses can get incentives on energy efficiency upgrades that deliver ongoing savings. There are no high upfront costs—**incentives go directly to the Program Delivery Agent so you pay only the reduced price.**

Warehouses

Shipping door equipment

Dock door seals

Up to
100% of total
installed costs

Air curtains

Up to
90% of total
installed costs

Restaurants

Demand control kitchen ventilation

Get up to \$24,500 in joint
incentives from Enbridge Gas
and Save on Energy.

Limited-time offer

0 – 5,000 CFM exhaust
\$10,000
maximum per unit



Email energyservices@enbridge.com
for program details and to confirm that you qualify.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Focus: Leadership Niagara's Cohort Engages in Transformational Learning Day

By: Michelle Ross, Leadership Niagara Program Advisory

On the photo, Marcell Blanchard



On May 3, Leadership Niagara welcomed this year's Community Leadership Development cohort for a learning day at the Niagara Folks Arts Multicultural Center. The day was centred on exploring Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to promote a healthier, more productive, and unified community.

The day kicked off with curated content from Zainab Awad, Manager of Health Equity at Niagara Health. Discussions about privilege, unconscious bias, intersectionality, and cultural humility prompted learning to better equip our leaders in navigating relationships with care, and thoughtfully dismantling biases to create more equitable opportunities.

Participants also had the opportunity to learn from Whit Ross, 2SLGBTQIA+ Advocate and Associate Director of Educational Development at Niagara College. Whit spoke about supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ Individuals and Communities. Participants explored concepts related to understanding sexual orientation and gender diversity to promote inclusivity and foster a community where every individual feels seen, valued, and free to express their authentic selves.

Marcella Blanchard, FASD Service Planner and Program Coordinator at De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre spoke about understanding indigeneity and allyship. Marcella shared powerful stories that reinforced the importance of acknowledging past injustices and the active inclusion and support of Indigenous voices.

The day additionally included a guided tour

of the Niagara Folks Arts Multicultural Center to learn about the newcomer and immigrant settlement programs and services offered. Participants also received an uplifting visit from Therapy Tails, providing an opportunity for emotional release to help participants process their experiences in a therapeutic way.

After an immersive day of dynamic learning, participants left with proactive strategies to establish safe spaces and embody effective allyship. Empowering our leaders to enact policies and practices that foster a deeper understanding, empathy, and respect for equity deserving individuals and groups.

Creating safe and inclusive spaces where all individuals are valued and their unique identities are celebrated is a critical skill requirement for today's leaders. The richness of diverse viewpoints contributes tremendously to the quality of collective decision-making. It's the key to unlocking growth and our shared future in Niagara.

Leadership Niagara would like to thank Zainab Awad, Whit Ross, Marcella Blanchard, the team at the Niagara Folks Arts Multicultural Center and Therapy Tails for their contributions to the learning day.



NIAGARA MAY 2024 UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 13-26

10:00AM-5:00PM

MAY 25

5:00PM-9:30PM

MAY 29

5:00PM-9:30PM

JUNE 04

2:00PM

ANNUAL HYDRANGEA DISPLAY

Floral Showhouse

7145 Niagara Parkway, Niagara Falls

TOUCH-A-TRUCK EVENT

Gala Centre

5152 Thorold Stone Road, Niagara Falls

NIAGARA 21ST 40 UNDER FORTY
AWARDS GALA

Club Italia

2525 Montrose Rd, Niagara Falls

GARDENING FOR SENIORS

Victoria Avenue Library

4848 Victoria Ave, Niagara Falls



Celebrating Junior Athletics

The Impact of Youth Sports on Health and Development

By Ryan Li

The NHL playoffs have arrived, offering Ontarians a chance to reflect on the unifying power of sports in their lives, even as the Leafs' season comes to a close. Beyond the professional stadiums of the NHL, NBA, or MLB, thousands of youth sports leagues across Ontario have an even greater impact on the next generation. From improving physical health to fostering personal development, sports play a profound and multifaceted role in young athletes' lives.



While the specific benefits may vary from sport to sport, the positive impact of youth athletics on children's health is undeniable. Engaging in physical activities like running or playing ball not only promotes physical well-being but also cultivates lifelong friendships and habits of physical activity.

In addition to physical health benefits, youth sports also nurture important life skills that extend far beyond the field. Learning from coaches, motivating teammates, and overcoming challenges in sports parallel real-life situations in school or work, instilling values like teamwork, perseverance, and resilience.

Moreover, sports offer children an opportunity to have fun and disconnect from screens, addressing a growing concern about screen time among children today. With every minute spent at practice, children are stepping away from their phones and engaging in active, offline activities.

In the Niagara region, there is a wide array of junior leagues available for children and teenagers, ranging from traditional sports like hockey and baseball to niche activities like curling and fencing. These leagues not only offer children a chance to pursue their athletic interests but also provide invaluable opportunities for personal growth and development.

Ultimately, youth sports embody the essence of teamwork, perseverance, and joy, shaping the next generation of athletes and leaders. The relationships and experiences formed through sports participation leave a lasting impact on children's lives. As we witness the transformative power of sports, let's continue to support and promote junior athletics, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to experience the countless benefits of sports participation. Let the kids play.



Ryan Li is a dedicated Youth Journalist from Vancouver. He is known for his insightful reporting and passion for journalism. Currently, Ryan is preparing to further his education by studying public policy at Georgetown University in the U.S.



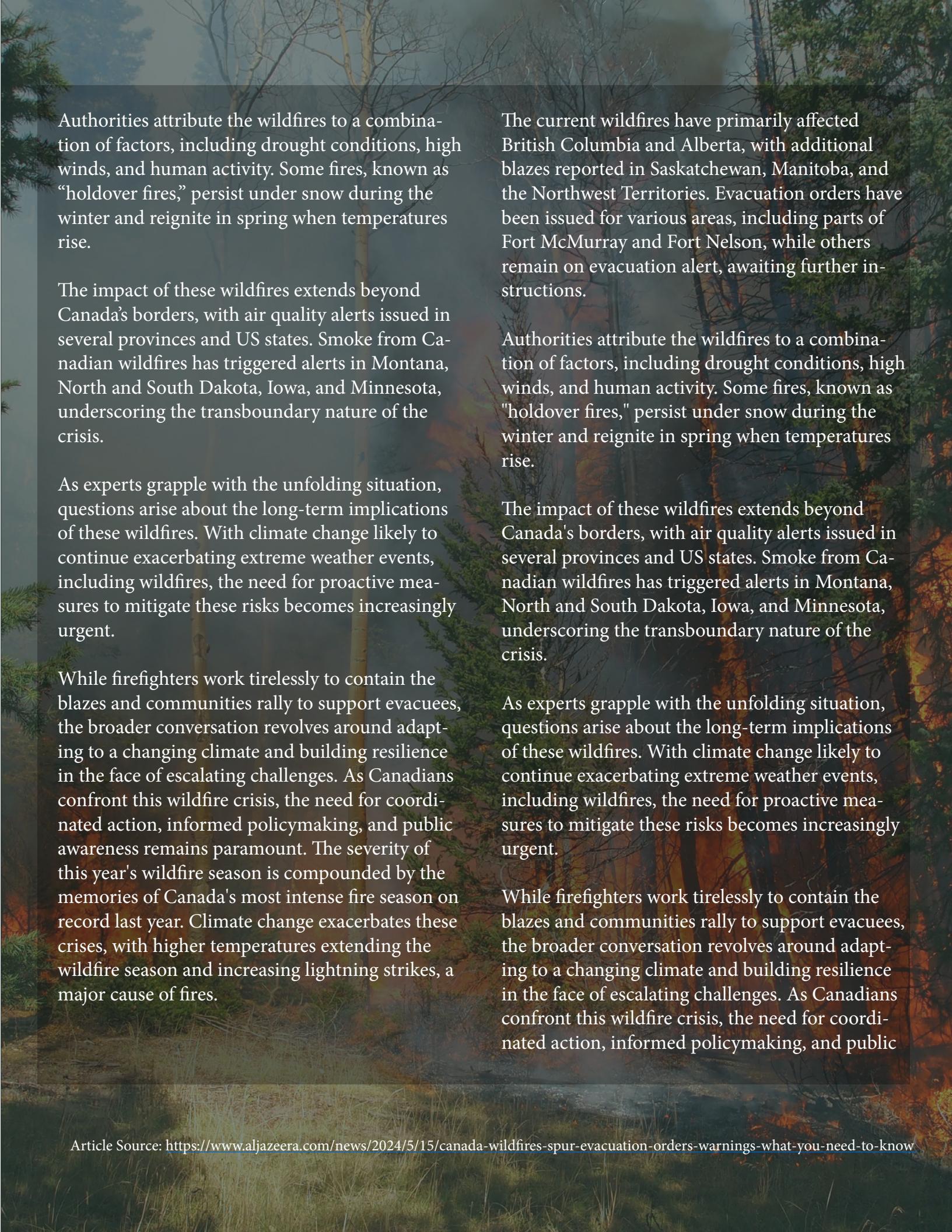
Canada's Wildfire Crisis: Updates and Insights

Canada is facing a dire wildfire situation, with over 130 wildfires raging across the country, according to the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC). These massive blazes have forced thousands of people to evacuate, prompting concerns of another devastating fire season.

One particularly alarming development is the rapid growth of wildfires near Fort Nelson in northeastern British Columbia. Residents of this small town were forced to flee their homes as flames approached the community. In Alberta, residents of Fort McMurray, located at the heart of the Canadian tar sands region, were given a mere two-hour notice to evacuate due to approaching fires.

The severity of this year's wildfire season is compounded by the memories of Canada's most intense fire season on record last year. Climate change exacerbates these crises, with higher temperatures extending the wildfire season and increasing lightning strikes, a major cause of fires.

The current wildfires have primarily affected British Columbia and Alberta, with additional blazes reported in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and the Northwest Territories. Evacuation orders have been issued for various areas, including parts of Fort McMurray and Fort Nelson, while others remain on evacuation alert, awaiting further instruction.

A large-scale wildfire is shown, with thick smoke billowing into the sky and intense orange and yellow flames visible in the background. The foreground shows charred ground and burnt trees, emphasizing the scale and intensity of the fire.

Authorities attribute the wildfires to a combination of factors, including drought conditions, high winds, and human activity. Some fires, known as "holdover fires," persist under snow during the winter and reignite in spring when temperatures rise.

The impact of these wildfires extends beyond Canada's borders, with air quality alerts issued in several provinces and US states. Smoke from Canadian wildfires has triggered alerts in Montana, North and South Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota, underscoring the transboundary nature of the crisis.

As experts grapple with the unfolding situation, questions arise about the long-term implications of these wildfires. With climate change likely to continue exacerbating extreme weather events, including wildfires, the need for proactive measures to mitigate these risks becomes increasingly urgent.

While firefighters work tirelessly to contain the blazes and communities rally to support evacuees, the broader conversation revolves around adapting to a changing climate and building resilience in the face of escalating challenges. As Canadians confront this wildfire crisis, the need for coordinated action, informed policymaking, and public awareness remains paramount. The severity of this year's wildfire season is compounded by the memories of Canada's most intense fire season on record last year. Climate change exacerbates these crises, with higher temperatures extending the wildfire season and increasing lightning strikes, a major cause of fires.

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Boeing's Starliner: A Historic Journey to the Stars Begins

Boeing's Starliner spacecraft is gearing up to make history as it joins an exclusive group of spacecraft with its first-ever astronaut launch today. Scheduled to depart from Florida's Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, the launch will mark only the sixth time that NASA astronauts have inaugurated a brand-new spacecraft.

The journey was initially planned to commence at 10:34 p.m. EDT (0234 GMT on May 7) aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket. However, an issue with a valve on the rocket prompted the postponement of the launch. Despite the setback, anticipation remains high for the upcoming event.





The Starliner capsule will carry two NASA astronauts, Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore, on a mission known as the Crew Flight Test (CFT), a pivotal step in the spacecraft's journey. This mission signifies Starliner's debut as a crewed vehicle and represents a significant milestone in American space exploration.

During a recent press briefing, NASA chief Bill Nelson highlighted the historical significance of the occasion, noting that crewed debuts of new spacecraft are rare and monumental events in space history. Starliner's inclusion in this elite group underscores its importance in advancing human spaceflight capabilities.

Boeing's Starliner joins the ranks of other notable spacecraft, including SpaceX's Dragon, which has successfully completed multiple missions to the International Space Station (ISS). While SpaceX has been a reliable partner for NASA, the addition of Starliner enhances the agency's options for crewed space transportation.

Looking ahead, if the Crew Flight Test proceeds as planned, Starliner could embark on its first contracted mission to the ISS in early 2025. Beyond its immediate objectives, tonight's launch also carries historical significance as the first crewed liftoff for the Atlas V rocket and the first crew-carrying mission for the Atlas rocket family in over half a century.

Moreover, the launch represents a return to tradition, as it marks the first crewed mission to depart from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in over five decades. While previous missions have launched from nearby Kennedy Space Center, tonight's event symbolizes a new chapter in space exploration from this historic launch site.



Disney's Streaming Triumph Overshadowed Revenue Miss Sends Shares Plummeting 10%

Disney reported its fiscal second-quarter earnings, surpassing analyst estimates due to narrower streaming losses. However, shares plummeted 10% as revenue missed expectations for the fourth consecutive quarter, and softer guidance for experiences was provided.

Total segment operating income surged 17%, with Disney+ and Hulu turning a profit for the first time. Despite this, the streaming unit, including ESPN+, reported a loss of \$18 million, significantly narrower than the previous year's \$659 million loss.

Entertainment streaming revenue (excluding ESPN+) rose 13% to \$5.64 billion, with Disney+ seeing an increase in subscribers to 117.6 million globally. However, Hulu and ESPN+ subscribers experienced slight declines.

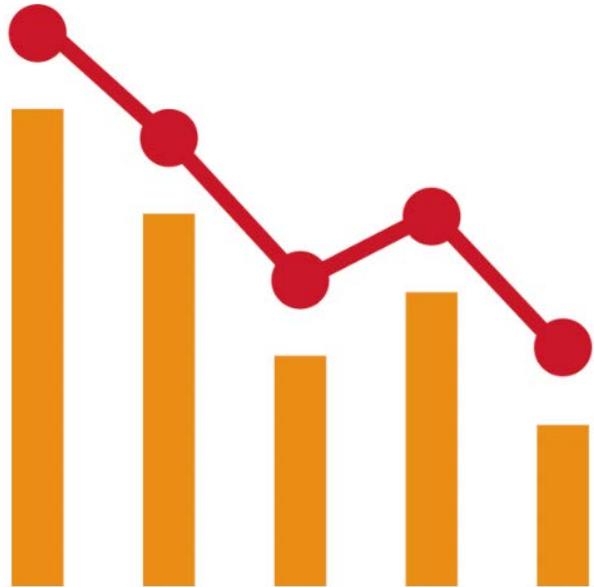
Disney's U.S. parks and experiences revenue increased by 7%, while international sales soared by 29%. Yet, Disneyland Resort in California faced lower profits due to cost inflation, particularly higher labor expenses.

Traditional TV revenue struggled, with ESPN's revenue rising but operating income dropping due to subscriber declines and increased programming costs. Linear network revenue across Disney's portfolio, excluding ESPN, fell 8%.

Content sales, licensing, and other revenue decreased by 40% as there were no blockbuster movies released during the quarter.

Despite Disney+ core subscriber growth, no growth is anticipated in the third quarter. However, growth is expected to resume in the fourth quarter. The recent partnership with Charter Communications contributed to segment growth but diluted average revenue per user.

Although streaming profitability is projected for the fourth quarter, a loss is forecasted in Disney's entertainment direct-to-consumer unit for the fiscal third quarter.



Article Source: <https://www.space.com/boeing-starliner-first-astronaut-launch-cft-historic>

Unlocking the Secrets of Quality Sleep: The QQRT Approach

By Huberman Lab Neural Network

Thank you for joining the Huberman Lab Neural Network—a once-a-month newsletter with science and science-related tools for everyday life. This newsletter aims to provide you with actionable information in a condensed form.

In the guest series with Dr. Matthew Walker, we explain how to determine your sleep needs and improve sleep quality. This newsletter highlights key protocols from these episodes that will improve your ability to fall asleep, stay asleep and enhance the overall quality of your sleep.

Quality sleep is essential for overall well-being, but achieving it requires understanding and optimizing four fundamental aspects: Quantity, Quality, Regularity, and Timing (QQRT). Let's delve into each element and explore how you can enhance your sleep hygiene to ensure restful nights and rejuvenated mornings.



Quantity:

Ensuring adequate sleep duration is crucial for optimal health and functioning. Most adults require 7 to 9 hours of sleep per night to allow for essential restorative processes. However, individual needs may vary based on age, lifestyle, and health status. Babies, teens, and individuals battling illness may require more sleep to support growth and recovery.

Quality:

Sleep quality refers to the depth and continuity of sleep. Fragmented or disrupted sleep can impair overall well-being, even if total sleep duration meets recommendations. Wearable sleep trackers can help assess sleep efficiency, with scores above 85% indicative of good sleep quality. However, excessive monitoring may lead to sleep-related anxiety, termed "orthosomnia." Balance is key, with less frequent review of sleep scores recommended to minimize undue stress.

Regularity:

Maintaining a consistent sleep schedule promotes healthy sleep patterns and aligns with the body's internal clock, or circadian rhythm. Aim for regular bedtimes and wake times, with a margin of ± 30 minutes to accommodate variations. Implementing a bedtime alarm can help reinforce sleep schedule adherence and enhance overall sleep quality.

Timing:

Aligning sleep schedules with individual chronotypes optimizes sleep quality and ensures synchronization with natural sleep-wake cycles. Understanding your chronotype, whether a morning person or night owl, allows for tailored sleep timing. Assessing sleep quality based on personal wakefulness upon rising provides valuable insight into sleep efficacy and potential optimization strategies.

Enhancing Sleep Hygiene:

Implementing sleep hygiene practices can further enhance sleep quality and overall well-being. Key considerations include:

- Managing light exposure: Dimming lights in the evening and maximizing exposure to morning sunlight support melatonin regulation and circadian rhythm alignment.
- Temperature regulation: Maintaining a cool bedroom environment promotes sleep onset and enhances sleep quality.
- Optimizing food and caffeine intake: Timing meals and caffeine consumption to minimize sleep disruption and support restorative sleep.
- Establishing a wind-down routine: Engaging in relaxing activities before bedtime signals the body to prepare for sleep and promotes a smooth transition to restful slumber.
- Limiting alcohol consumption: While alcohol may induce drowsiness, it can disrupt sleep architecture and lead to fragmented sleep.

Seeking Professional Guidance:

Persistent sleep difficulties may indicate underlying sleep disorders requiring professional evaluation and intervention. If sleep hygiene practices fail to improve sleep quality or daytime functioning, consulting a healthcare provider is recommended to identify and address potential sleep disorders such as sleep apnea or insomnia.

By prioritizing sleep quantity, quality, regularity, and timing, individuals can optimize their sleep hygiene and unlock the restorative benefits of quality sleep. Embracing the QQRT approach fosters a holistic understanding of sleep and empowers individuals to cultivate healthier sleep habits for enhanced well-being and vitality.



Stay Connected

New Huberman Lab episodes are released every Monday on YouTube and all major podcast platforms, including Apple Podcasts and Spotify. Please subscribe on YouTube and follow the podcast on Apple Podcasts and Spotify. I regularly post additional science and science-based tools on Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, Threads, and LinkedIn.

We're always interested in feedback and encourage you to reply directly to this newsletter with your thoughts. While we can't always respond to each message, we do read each one.

Thank you for your interest in science™!

Best wishes,
Andrew

NEWS

WORLD

World's leaders meet today to discuss global warming and terrorism issues. Among other things will also discuss new measures on global security. Last time this meeting was very productive and has brought major changes on Earth. We will visit several places of strategic interest and will discuss possible collaborations nationally.



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BUSINESS NEWS

ECONOMY • INVESTMENTS • CORPORATION • STOCK EXCHANGE

Economic Growth

The economic situation is growing after the most recent changes are tax system. Last time this meeting was very productive and has brought major changes on Earth. We will visit several places of strategic interest and will discuss possible collaborations nationally.

Will also discuss new measures on global security. Last time this meeting was very productive and has brought major changes on Earth. We will visit several places of strategic interest and will discuss possible collaborations nationally.

**MAY
GLOBAL NEWS
HIGHLIGHTS**





Your trusted companion.

Erion Insurance Group has you covered for all of life's milestones. Our brokerage has deep roots in the Niagara Region, and we offer a wide range of personalized options for individuals, families, and businesses. With a wealth of experience and unrivaled expertise, we're here to help make sense of it all when insurance gets complicated. We're right around the corner, so we can be there by your side.

erioninsurance.com
1.866.955.2281



HIGHLIGHTS

Target Expands Cat & Jack Brand into Canada, Eyes Global Growth Strategy

Target (\$TGT) is broadening its Cat & Jack children's brand at Hudson's Bay Co. in Canada with new items like swimwear and outerwear, marking its inaugural wholesale venture, set to launch next year. Additionally, Target is exploring sales opportunities in Europe and the Americas, prioritizing its wholesale strategy outside the U.S., with the Hudson's Bay deal marking its return to Canada after exiting the market due to losses.

More:

- Target seeks growth following three consecutive quarters of sales decline, attributed to decreased consumer spending on non-essential items amid inflation and rising interest rates.
- Private-label products such as Cat & Jack, contributing roughly \$3B in yearly sales, play a vital role in Target's revenue, accounting for nearly one-third of its total sales.
- In addition to launching new lines and exclusive items like Diane von Furstenberg collections and Stanley brand tumblers, Target has been growing its store brands.
- The retailer plans to open 300 new stores, renovate existing locations, and introduce Target Circle 360, a paid membership program, to compete with Amazon and Walmart.

Article Source: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-05-06/target-tgt-to-expand-sales-of-cat-jack-in-house-goods-to-other-retailers?srnd=industries-v2>

HIGHLIGHTS

Global Infrastructure Partners and Canada Pension Plan Investment Board to Acquire Allete Inc. for \$3.9B

Global Infrastructure Partners and Canada Pension Plan Investment Board will acquire Allete Inc., a Minnesota utility owner, for approximately \$3.9B, including all outstanding shares at \$67 per share in cash, representing a 19% premium to Allete's pre-deal closing price. The total deal value, including debt assumption, is estimated at \$6.2B.

More:

- The acquisition coincides with a notable increase in U.S. electricity demand, propelled by factors including the establishment of data centers, new manufacturing facilities, and endeavors to electrify a larger portion of the economy.
- Allete shares (\$ALE) fell 1% after the deal announcement, following a 5.6% gain on initial reports of the acquisition.
- Allete's Minnesota Power utility engages in clean-energy development activities and serves 150,000 consumers.
- JPMorgan Securities LLC is acting as Allete's primary financial adviser for the deal, anticipated to be finalized in mid-2025, pending shareholder and regulatory clearance.

Article Source: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-05-06/gip-cppib-to-buy-us-utility-owner-allete-for-67-per-share?srnd=deals>

Ilya Sutskever Leaves OpenAI, Jakub Pachocki to Lead Research

OpenAI co-founder and chief scientist Ilya Sutskever is leaving the company. Last year, Sutskever participated in a failed board coup of CEO Sam Altman before reversing his decision.

More:

- OpenAI research director Jakub Pachocki will replace Sutskever, who joined OpenAI in 2015 after his tenure at Google Brain.
- In an X post, Sutskever wrote he is pursuing a project that's "very personally meaningful" and will reveal details "in due time."
- Altman stated on X that Sutskever's departure "is very sad" and "OpenAI would not be what it is without him."
- Greg Brockman, OpenAI's president, also wrote that Sutskever "played a key role in helping build the foundations of what OpenAI has become today."

Article Source: <https://wccftech.com/openai-chief-scientist-ilya-sutskever-who-had-backed-the-coup-against-sam-altman-quits-to-work-on-a-personal-project/>

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