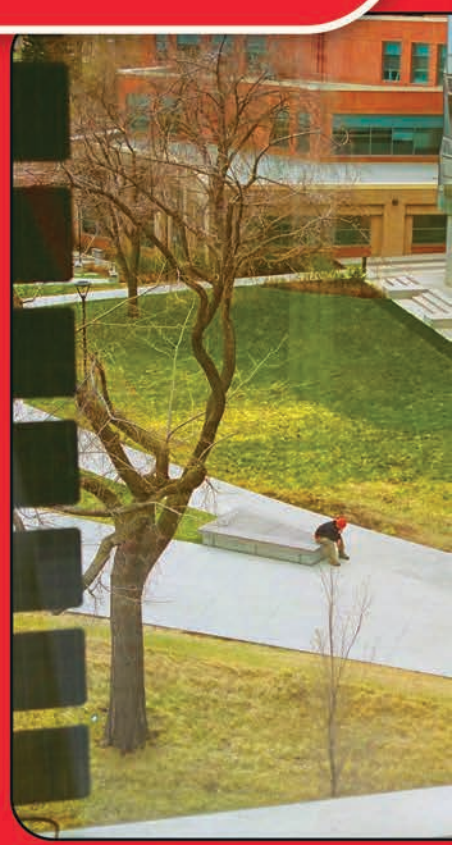
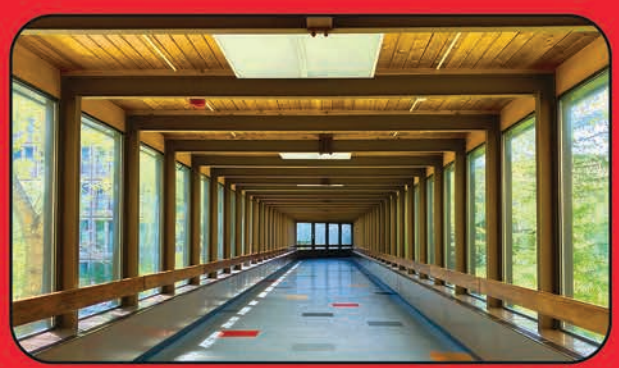
THE GAUNTLET

VOL. 64 | ISSUE NO. 07 | January 20, 2025





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EDITORIAL

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The Golden Spatula -

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Concepts of an opportunistic future

As the magic of the holidays fades into warm memories and the winter break comes to a close, a fresh calendar year is upon us and it brings a renewed sense of possibility. For many of us, the energy of January is a chance to reclaim the motivation that might have been lost during the end-of-the-semester rush of exams and final papers. But I'm sure many of us were haunted by certain questions during the holidays: What are your summer plans? Are you interning anywhere? What are you planning to do after you graduate? In a world where uncertainty creeps into every corner of daily life, it's important to talk about the issues shaping our futures with open and honest conversations that we would love to ignore but can't.

Whether you're a first-year student fresh in your academic journey or a fifth-year student who is preparing to step into the workforce, the start of 2025 is a vital time to reflect on your goals and aspirations. It's not too late to consider all of your options and this issue of the *Gauntlet* features stories that discuss all things money, jobs, opportunities and more. Not only will you find a step-by-step guide to walk you through the job application and interview process with advice from the Centre for Career and Personal Development from crafting the perfect resumes to mastering your interviews to help you land your dream job, you will also find insightful discussions about the discourse surrounding the current job market.

But it's not solely about the survival of the fittest or fighting the system when trying to make a place for yourself in the professional world—we hope to inspire and motivate you through your remaining time at UCalgary and beyond. You'll find stories that pull back the curtain on industries that are often shrouded in mystery. Seasoned pros from the arts and music industries share insights into their career paths, revealing both the struggles and successes of making a living in creative fields as they share information on how students can pursue careers that are deemed risky and unconventional when compared to corporate life. We also explore the unpredictable journey of professional athletes with a Dinos athlete who has gone through the trials and tribulations of playing on the professional stage before taking a detour, returning to academia as a student-athlete which has rewarded him with the opportunity to step back into the world of a professional athlete once again.

Not only do we hope these voices, stories and tidbits of advice shared within this issue inspire you, but we remind and implore our fellow students to seek out and create opportunities for themselves. Regardless of what your major is or what your dream job is, whether you're in the final semester of your degree or simply trying to get through another semester, there are pathways available for you to explore outside of what you have already planned out. Let 2025 be the year where you challenge yourself to go outside of what you know and pursue something new because you never know what that may lead to—take that class that you think is interesting even though it doesn't fit into your career goals, ask that prof that question that interested you but doesn't necessarily help you in your assignments for the class, apply for that job or internship that you think you have no chances of getting because you don't meet every requirement—the worst thing that can happen is you get a no.

Your time at university is not only about going to class and getting good grades but more importantly, it's the ideal environment to make connections and create pathways to success for yourself.

— Maggie Hsu
***Gauntlet* Editorial Board**

MASTHEAD

Editor-in-Chief: Nazeefa Ahmed
eic@thegauntlet.ca

News Editors: Vama Saini
Jill Reeves
news@thegauntlet.ca

Opinions & Humour Editor: Josie Simon
opinions@thegauntlet.ca

Arts & Science Editor: Ansharah Shakil
arts@thegauntlet.ca

Sports & Lifestyle Editor: Maggie Hsu
sports@thegauntlet.ca

Voices Editor: Reyam Jamaleddine
voices@thegauntlet.ca

Visuals Editor: Daman Singh
visuals@thegauntlet.ca

Layout Editor: Pavni Bakhshi
layout@thegauntlet.ca

Volunteer Coordinator: Dianne Miranda
volunteer@thegauntlet.ca

Online Editor: Masoud Karimi Fatemi
online@thegauntlet.ca

Business Manager: Gurman Sahota
business@thegauntlet.ca

Contributor:
Marvellous Chukwukelu //

Furor Arma Ministrat
Room 319, MacEwan Students' Centre
2500 University Drive NW
Calgary, AB T2N 1N4
http://www.thegauntlet.ca

The *Gauntlet* is the official student newspaper of the University of Calgary, published monthly throughout the year by the *Gauntlet Publications Society*, an autonomous, incorporated body. Membership in the society is open to undergraduate students at the U of C, but all members of the university community are encouraged to contribute. Stories under the Opinions and Voices sections contained herein are those of the individual writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of the entire *Gauntlet* staff. Editorials are chosen by the majority of the editorial board. The *Gauntlet* is a forum open to all U of C students but may refuse any submission judged to be racist, sexist, homophobic, libelous, or containing attacks of a strictly personal nature. We reserve the right to edit for brevity. Grievances regarding the *Gauntlet* follow a three-step process which requires written decisions from the Editor, the GPS Board of Directors, and the Ombudsboard. The complete Grievance Policy is online at: thegauntlet.ca. The *Gauntlet* offices are located on Treaty 7 land.

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Cover Photo by Daman Singh

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NEWS »

Editors: Vama Saini & Jill Reeves
news@thegauntlet.ca
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MANDATORY NON-INSTRUCTIONAL FEES »

SU calls for transparency in MNIF reporting amid regulatory changes

Vama Saini
News Editor

caption

DAMAN SINGH

The University of Calgary has introduced significant changes to its reporting on Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIFs). These changes were introduced in response to government requirements, effective Mar. 1, 2023. According to the university, these updates were designed to align reporting with provincial standards, incorporate plain language and improve accessibility for students.

"The new MNIF reporting template was introduced in response to student concerns raised during the 2023–24 Tuition and Fee Consultation process (TFCC)," the university stated. "We consulted with Students' Union (SU) and Graduate Students' Association (GSA) student leaders starting May 4, 2023, when the first meeting about the updated reporting process occurred."

The updated format was finalized at the Aug. 31, 2023, TFCC meeting, with input from both SU and GSA representatives.

The 82nd SU is advocating for greater transparency in the university's financial reporting practices, particularly concerning MNIFs. SU Vice-President External Mateusz Salmassi expressed concerns about the lack of detailed reporting on how these fees are allocated, affecting students' ability to understand where their money is being spent.

"The larger issue that we're looking at has to do with transparency and reporting, which has been a years-long issue, both before and after the changes," Salmassi said.

Direct vs. Indirect costs

Deputy Provost Robin Yates explained that MNIF reporting now separates direct and indirect costs, offering clearer insights into expenditures. Direct costs include salaries, wellness programs, and equipment, while indirect costs—calculated using a standardized 40 per cent allocation formula — cover expenses like maintenance, utilities and administrative support.

"The 40 per cent allocation aligns with financial reporting practices at U15 institutions and international funding agencies," said Yates.

According to Salmassi, this figure is based on a research overhead formula designed for projects funded by private industry—a calculation he argues is inappropriate for student-facing services.

"We don't believe that's appropriate for student-facing departments," Salmassi said. "If the university can calculate specific indirect costs for their commercial tenants, then they can find a way to do the same for student-facing offices."

Yates emphasized that the university subsidizes MNIF-funded services, as fee revenues do not cover the full cost of delivery.

Detail in performance metrics

One notable change involves scaling back detailed performance metrics. Yates clarified that this decision, made in consultation with previous SU and GSA executives, aims to prioritize meaningful measures of service quality over metrics that may not reflect the student experience.

"Counting how many times a student picks up the phone doesn't necessarily indicate good service," Yates explained. "Instead, enabling students to find answers efficiently via websites or instant messaging better reflects high-quality service."

Yates said that this shift allows staff to focus resources on improving services rather than tracking data deemed less relevant to students, according to previous consultations.

While this change, according to Yates, was intended to enhance clarity, Salmassi believes the new system lacks the necessary granularity to provide meaningful insights to students.

"In order for the SU to participate in meaningful consultation, the university should infuse every MNIF report with performance data," Salmassi said. "It's not enough to tell us what departments receive funding. You have to show us whether students are actually using the services and whether they're effective."

He cited the example of MNIF reports from the 2021–2022 academic year, which included performance metrics like the number of advising appointments completed by the Office of the Registrar. This data is no longer provided, with the university citing the administrative burden of tracking such details.

"We partly understand the university's concern there. Tracking how many emails a department sends doesn't tell students much about performance, but other metrics, like attendance at career workshops, can paint a picture of value for students," Salmassi added.

Post-Secondary Student Mental Health

One of the SU's concerns involves how the Post-Secondary Student Mental Health (PSMH) Grant is accounted for in MNIF reports. This nearly $1 million annual grant is intended to fund mental health services for students.

The university has clarified its approach to reporting the grant, stating that none of the funding is reflected in MNIF reports.

"The institutional commitment to mental health and well-being for students and staff is expansive and multifaceted, with resources allocated through various funding mechanisms with distinct reporting requirements," said the university.

The university explained that the PSMH Grant is reported separately to the province through a dedicated process to ensure compliance with provincial guidelines.

"In the 2023–24 academic year, $0 from the PSMH Grant was used to directly support activities listed in the MNIF report. As a result, grant revenues and expenditures associated with this funding are not included in the MNIF report," stated the university. "This approach ensures transparency and clarity in financial reporting while adhering to provincial reporting requirements for the PSMH Grant."

Salmassi questioned this separation, emphasizing that without including grant revenues in MNIF reports, it becomes difficult for students to verify whether their fees are appropriately justified.

"Provincial guidelines are clear: you can't charge more for MNIFs than what you spend on specific goods and services. That means you have to include other revenue when calculating to see if you break even," Salmassi said.

Yates acknowledged these concerns and committed to providing clarification.

"We're fully compliant with provincial requirements and exceed them in several areas," Yates said.

He highlighted the companion document provided alongside MNIF reports to help students understand fee structures and expenditures.

The current SU continues to advocate for improvements to MNIF reporting. According to Salmassi, this includes embedding performance data into reports and providing a clearer breakdown of expenses and revenue. While some improvements have been made in the past, he emphasized the need for continued progress.

"Students are charged so much every year in tuition and fees," Salmassi said. "It's your money—you worked hard, or your parents worked hard for it. You deserve to ask questions and ensure it's being spent on what you need most."

Learn more about how MNIF's reporting on their website.

ARTS & SCIENCE »

Editor: Ansharah Shakil
arts@thegauntlet.ca
@GauntletUofC

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES IN HEALTH »

ACHRI continues to pave the way for research in pediatric and health

Hannah Caparino
Arts and Science Assistant

The Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute (ACHRI) works in collaboration with the University of Calgary towards research in children's health. The research that is taking place at the hospital involves students and supervisors both working towards understanding children's health and wellness. Julia Klenin, a project manager with ACHRI, and Omar Kinawi, a student rep for the Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute Trainee Association (ACHRITA), both spoke with the *Gauntlet* about current research and programs.

"We work towards facilitating research in child health and wellness," said Klenin. "Researchers across U of C and various disciplines that work on child health related projects and ... provide support rather to these trainees that work with these researchers. So these trainees are considered ACHRI trainees".

ACHRI has seven primary programs of research including programs like child brain and mental health, as well as childhood cancer and blood disorders. Alongside being a student representative for ACHRITA, Kinawi is also doing research in the neuroscience program while also providing insight for how ACHRI can support students who are passionate about research by allowing mentors and supervisors to guide trainees and develop their own goals.

"I look at stroke in newborns, but within the scope of ACHRI there are so many different research goals and so many different projects under this umbrella of child health and wellness," said Kinawi. "So the other nice benefit is there's a lot of room for students to pick their own lane to what they want to look at collaboration with ACHRI with their own labs and supervisors."

Through ACHRI, students will be exposed to a working environment that will allow them to engage with other researchers, patients and supervisors. While there are the few challenges like scheduling or struggling to balance other commitments, both Klenin and Kinawi emphasize ACHRI's vast support network by offering services to continue motivating all students and members.

Another aspect that both speakers emphasize about ACHRI is the process of outlining and reaching specific goals, especially by forming connections and a healthy environment to foster inclusivity and accountability when conducting research.

"I think between your committee and your supervisor, there's a really strong sense of mentorship," Kinawi said. "Everyone is dedicated to helping each other succeed and so it goes beyond focusing on the current research, but also just getting people to where they want to be and creating that inclusive and motivating atmosphere where everyone has each other's back."

Alberta Children's Hospital DAMAN SINGH

To become involved with ACHRI, Klenin reviewed how undergraduate students can start their research journey by applying for summer research programs, scholarships, and various kinds of funding. ACHRI provides students with the opportunity to carry out their own individual research projects, giving them the chance to expose themselves to an active setting.

Within the trainee community people can contact members of ACHRITA and join the newsletter or stay updated through the events page, where news about upcoming social and networking events can connect the community with other researchers and students with similar goals and experiences. More information and details about ACHRI can be found on their website.

THE REALITY OF ART »

Arts Commons director delves into the realities of working in the arts

Ansharah Shakil
Arts and Science Editor

The Multi-venue arts centre, Arts Commons, is home to many of Calgary's much-loved arts companies, including Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and Theatre Calgary. In an interview with the *Gauntlet*, Assistant Director of Production at Arts Commons, Kellie Knight, expanded on what it's like to work in an arts career in Calgary.

"I like that Calgary is a big enough city that we get a lot of different things [and] diversity, but I do like the fact that it is still a small enough town that it has a good [theatre] community ... to help rally and support," Knight said.

A day in the life in the arts depends on the position, but for production managers, revolves around tasks like scheduling, contracting, crewing, budgeting, billing and invoicing, all transferable skills for corporate jobs.

"It all sounds super boring in that way, but you also are working with [shows] to help make sure it's successful," she said. "We sometimes will have film shoots that happen in the building [as well]. Even if you don't go into theatre later [these] are all skills you can take into whatever industry you end up working in."

With a family background in music, Knight grew up around shows before transitioning to management.

"I love being part of the creation process, I love figuring out that puzzle, helping designers create their dreams. I am not a designer but you tell me what you wanna do and I'll figure out how to make it a thing," she said.

Knight encouraged students to see different kinds of shows at Downstage, One Yellow Rabbit, or Vertigo Theatre, among others, to get different perspectives.

"[The] beautiful thing about seeing shows [is that they] are a commentary on society and the world around you," Knight said. "It helps introduce you to different perspectives, new worlds. [It's] what makes us human."

And as Knight continued, the arts are important not only for their own sake but for the fact that art and music do help with subjects like science and math. The training involved for Knight's role includes licenses and certificates common in construction, working with weapons and props and technical computer work, not to mention the general teamwork, communication, collaboration and problem-solving that goes into shows.

CIFF 2024 held at Jack Singer Concert Hall, Arts Commons DAMAN SINGH

While working as a production manager for the film and theatre program at UCLA, Knight knew one student who was a Physics major and a Computer Science major, and explained that though he's now successful in that field, his time backstage helped him to exercise his analytical, scientific skills creatively.

Knight advised students looking to pursue a career in the arts to come in open-minded and ready to try anything.

"Everyone wants to be an actress, [so] try the lighting for a show, try directing, try crew," Knight said. "Not only because, let's be honest, how much of the population becomes successful actors, but also because I think it makes you a better actor if you understand what is happening around you. If it scares you, try it."

Find more about upcoming events and opportunities at Arts Commons on their website.

A SWIFTY IN THE INDUSTRY »

A look at the music industry with Seraphina Ellen

Ilana van der Merwe
Arts and Science Assistant

Seraphina Ellen performing at The Red Room, Vancouver. Dec 6. 2024. MACKENZIE THRASHER

Local musicians, students and Swifties alike recognize the name Seraphina Ellen—better known simply as Seraphina. With her career catching the eyes of thousands over TikTok, Seraphina's voice has become known as 'Calgary's Taylor Swift'.

However tied her platform is to the ultra successful musician, Seraphina like many other growing musicians, had to take initiative in order to make a name for herself in the music industry. She provided insight on the music industry through the *Gauntlet* for those considering paths similar to hers.

Opening up about the realities of performing, Seraphina emphasized the importance of self-empathy.

"Most importantly, I have learned that it is okay to suck at stuff and then get better... It doesn't matter how much you improve, there are still going to be people saying 'find something else'," Seraphina said.

Her positive outlook on setbacks has made her platform a welcoming place for a highly supportive audience. Throughout her conversation with the *Gauntlet*, Seraphina's gratitude to her followers proves her to be a musician who truly cares for the community around her.

"[I] think in today's day in age, my music would not exist without those [social] platforms. Without creating the relationship I have with the people watching my videos, things would be much more difficult," she said.

Seraphina emphasized the impact a well-utilized social media platform can hold for musicians trying to manage the weight of entering the industry themselves.

"[Social media] helps fund all that I do. All the live streams that I do, which is about three to four two hour live streams a week, help me fund my singing lessons. That helps me offset some costs," Seraphina said.

As a student musician, Seraphina shared that one of the largest challenges other young musicians may face is finances.

"I guess the main thing I struggle with is funding it. It is expensive to release music and it is expensive to put on shows and go to gigs. When you are starting out, not everyone will pay you," Seraphina said.

Secondarily to finances, Seraphina disclosed some of her struggles finding the time as a musician to prioritize things in her life other than music.

"[It is hard] finding the energy to do everything. When you are a small artist you don't have a manager booking events, you have to make your own costumes while having a job and funding it all... It's difficult to balance music, school and friends and family and work," Seraphina said.

The silver lining Seraphina sees in this highly involved career path is all the experience she is able to take in.

"[Music] lets me be multifaceted. It lets me do all the things I enjoy through a creative outlet that allows me to practice and see improvement. I get to make costumes, I get to learn to dance, sing, event planning, travel," Seraphina said.

Seraphina will be performing at Schulich Soundstage open mics on Jan. 22 and 31, as well as presenting her rendition of the Sera's Tour on Jan. 18 at Kingsway Mall in Edmonton. To keep up with her career, follow her socials (@seraphinaellen).

Seraphina Ellen performing at The Red Room, Vancouver. Dec 6. 2024. MACKENZIE THRASHER

"MOST IMPORTANTLY I HAVE LEARNED THAT IT IS OKAY TO SUCK AT STUFF, AND THEN GET BETTER... IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH YOU IMPROVE, THERE ARE STILL GOING TO BE PEOPLE SAYING 'FIND SOMETHING ELSE'," SERAPHINA SAID.

VOICES & FEATURES »

Editor: Reyam Jamaleddine
voices@thegauntlet.ca
@GauntletUofC

JOIN A CLUB »

Club's Corner: How The Mustard Seed U of C empowers students through leadership and service

Reyam Jamaleddine
Voices Editor

Inspiring change through U of C clubs

JULIEANNE OLDREIVE AND THOMAS OLDREIVE

For many students at the University of Calgary (U of C), the rising cost of living is a burdening challenge. Juggling between tuition increases and the looming costs of housing, while balancing a budget can be overwhelming while pursuing a demanding degree. Facing these challenges can lead students to feel lonely, stressed and lost. Within the student community, there is a hub of opportunities that can alleviate the pressures of loneliness while also fostering personal and professional growth.

Whether it's joining clubs, or taking advantage of on-campus resources, students can find ways to save money, contribute to an overarching problem and gain valuable skill sets. Opportunities that foster growth and community can eliminate feelings of hopelessness in students. Such opportunities include volunteering, which assists in improving physical and mental health as well as providing a sense of purpose.

One example of an opportunity-driven volunteering resource on campus is the Mustard Seed U of C, a student-led initiative that incentivizes student leadership and community engagement. Through on-campus and off-campus initiatives, this club creates opportunities for students to make a difference.

"As a club, we aim to aid the Mustard Seed organization, which is mainly based in Alberta. It is an organization aimed at reducing poverty and homelessness in our cities. So they provide emergency support through housing, food, shelter, and we as a club fundraise and volunteer for them," said Cecilia Chen, President of the Mustard Seed U of C, in an interview with the *Gauntlet*.

"It's also about bringing the campus together and a community that everybody can enjoy," added Cassidy Kreutzer, Vice President of the Mustard Seed U of C.

Through meal prepping, sorting donations and serving meals to those who are in need, the club ensures that students who are seeking tangible hands-on volunteer experience have ample opportunities and resources to engage in meaningful experiences off-campus as on-campus volunteering opportunities are mainly fundraising-focused. From organizing bake sales to on-campus photo booths, those who are unable to or prefer to remain on campus have a variety of volunteering opportunities available.

"Most of our success stories come from our fundraising efforts. We do bake sales, raffles and things like that to raise money to give directly to the Mustard Seed. The Mustard Seed itself has an Instagram and it's always nice to see how they run their events and how our money has helped them to run these events," said Kreutzer.

Although the majority of the events that take place on campus are focused on fundraising, the club is implementing a new variety of on-campus volunteering opportunities for students.

"We're starting to do on-campus volunteering events alongside our fundraising events. So instead of just being at a table for a sale of some kind, we're also trying to have more hands-on events where we're trying to make the candy grams that we sell, or we also try to collaborate with other clubs, we just collaborated with a club to make essential item bags to give out, to donate to the Mustard Seed so they can give them out," said Kreutzer.

These opportunities and experiences go far beyond academic achievements, as they encourage empathy and a sense of social responsibility which can extend far beyond a student's university years.

Volunteering experience for this club isn't fixed, as students are presented with the opportunity to develop their skillsets, network with peers and maintain lasting connections as well as grow into leadership roles.

"Members that start as general members and are passionate about the Mustard Seed Club and what we do, apply to become executives. It really shows initiative and it shows leadership," explained Kreutzer.

Through a variety of volunteer opportunities, this club ties together a community of students who share the values of helping people as well as fostering their individual growth. Although the main mission is to assist the city's Mustard Seed organization and be a valuable member of the overall community, this club also ensures that student volunteers who join and contribute strengthen their skills and have rewarding experiences.

"It's just an amazing way to get to know more people and to make more friends that have the same kind of passions and ideals as you and it's also a great learning experience just to help on a team," said Kreutzer.

The Mustard Seed on campus is just one of the many clubs that offer students volunteering experiences. There are many clubs and groups that provide students with the tools they need to thrive. In addition to creating and implementing experiences for the campus community, volunteering or working for initiatives that aim to support students facing challenges creates a student-led community of support.

To learn more about the Mustard Seed U of C go to their Instagram page. To learn more about student opportunities and clubs on campus, go to the Students' Union clubs list.

> ***"IT'S JUST AN AMAZING WAY TO GET TO KNOW MORE PEOPLE AND TO MAKE MORE FRIENDS THAT HAVE THE SAME KIND OF PASSIONS AND IDEALS AS YOU, AND IT'S ALSO A GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCE JUST TO HELP ON A TEAM," SAID KREUTZER.***

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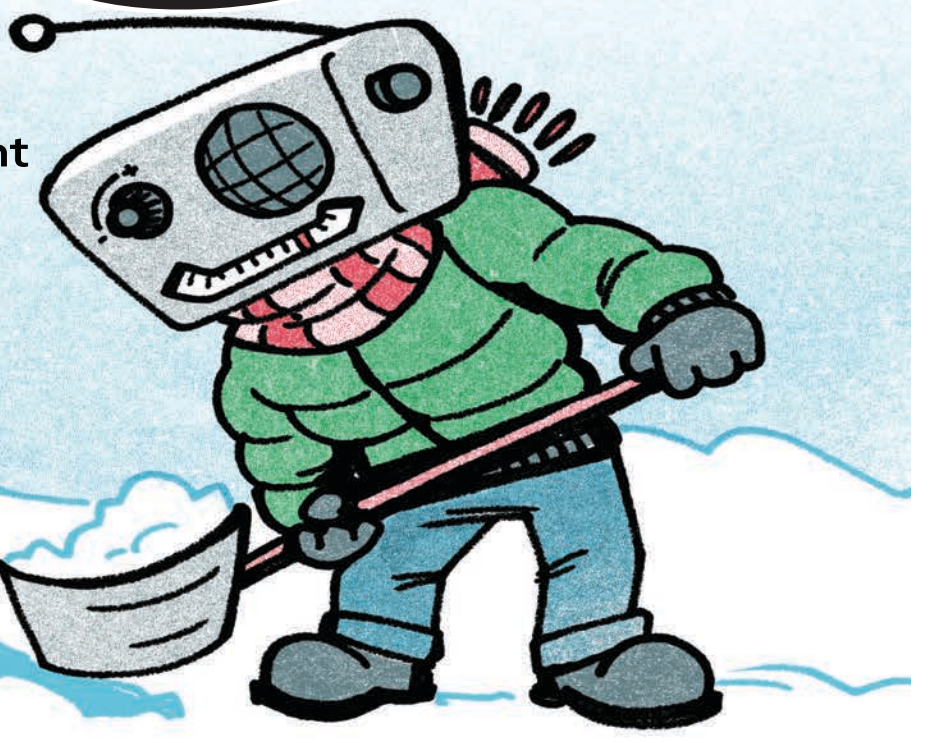

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HOUSING CRISIS »

Understanding the high demand for University of Calgary's on-campus housing

University District (2025) DAMAN SINGH

Nazeefa Ahmed
Editor-in-Chief

With growing demand for on-campus housing, the University of Calgary's Residence Services is working to address challenges as waitlists climb and affordability becomes a concern for students.

According to Statistics Canada, the Average Residential Rent in Calgary went from $1,347 per month in 2022 to $1,462, increasing by 8.50 per cent. This is in addition to students paying 25 per cent higher rent than other renting demographics, according to a 2022 Utile report.

With University of Calgary's student housing ratio falling below the national average and residence hitting capacity for the past two years, it raises the question: how did we get here?

The high demand for on-campus housing

The University of Calgary Residence Services can house just over 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students. With approximately 37,000 students, the university has a 1-to-12 housing ratio, which is lower than Desjardins' calculated 1-in-10 housing ratio for Canadian students overall.

"A lack of safe and affordable housing can also deter potential international students from pursuing post-secondary education in Canada. This can have the unintended consequence of reducing the pool of skilled workers our country needs for future economic growth," reads a statement from the Desjardins report.

The occupancy rate for University of Calgary Residences was 95 per cent for the 2023-24 academic year and 97 per cent for the Fall 2024 term. To maximize space, Residence Services doubled up rooms, creating approximately 150 additional spaces this year. However, Shane Royal, director of Ancillary Services, recognizes this as a short-term solution.

"We did sign an agreement with the Aloft hotel, so that we have 51 spaces in the hotel that students live in for the next few years," saidRoyal.

The University is considering building additional infrastructure, given its goal of increasing total enrolment by 10,000 and graduate enrolment by 7,000 by 2030.

"It's a symptom of lack of planning, a lack of oversight and not listening to students in the broader community for the past many decades, when they've said that we need a greater housing supply in the city," said Students' Union Vice-President External Mateusz Salmassi.

How Residence Services Work

Residence Services falls under the umbrella of Ancillary Services, which also includes the Bookstore, Unicard, Food Services, Accommodation and Events, parking

> **"ACCORDING TO STATISTICS CANADA, THE AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL RENT IN CALGARY WENT FROM $1,347 PER MONTH IN 2022 TO $1,462, INCREASING BY 8.50 PER CENT. THIS IS IN ADDITION TO STUDENTS PAYING 25 PER CENT HIGHER RENT THAN OTHER RENTING DEMOGRAPHICS, ACCORDING TO A 2022 UTILE REPORT.**

and transportation. These business units support one another as they are entirely self-funded and cannot receive support from grants or tuition.

"We have to generate all our own revenue through the services we provide and cover our costs that way," said Royal. "The surplus revenue gets directed to reinvest in capital projects. Sometimes it's residence-heavy; sometimes we have to renovate the dining center for food service. It just depends year to year."

Ancillary Services is part of the university, but its distinction lies in funding.

"The university is not allowed to allocate the funding they receive to ancillary services, because that funding is intended to support education," said Royal.

The institution is eligible for the Apartment Construction Loan Program (ACLP) as it as a student housing component, but has not borrowed from the program to date.

"We get mortgages on our buildings, and we get loans through the provincial government," said Royal. "So we're just assessing what the appropriate loan mechanism will be for our next set of buildings when we do go forward with building them, whether that [program] will be an option, or whether it's going to be through the through the provincial government."

Calgary will receive $228 million in funding from the Housing Accelerator Fund, which will help build 35,000 new homes. However, Conservative party leader Pierre Pollievre aims to end the $4 billion if elected to office.

Fees and Affordability

When deciding on fees, Residence Services works to balance operational costs, property taxes and utilities with affordability. Smaller increases are applied to entry-level units, while steeper increases affect more spacious units.

For example, the annual fee for a four-bedroom shared apartment in Cascade Hall rose by 7.68 per cent between 2021–22 and 2024–25, while the cost of a single room on the seventh floor of International House increased by 30.44 per cent.

"So we've been cognizant of trying to keep options for those individuals who are truly looking for more affordable options," said Royal. "We've done smaller increases on those units to support those, and where we've been a bit more aggressive is on some of our single units."

To support student housing further the SU is asking the province for a $250 million housing fund to support the development of on and off campus developments. The fund would provide a subsidy per square foot, which would support rapid development of residencies to support students.

"Provincially [the recommendation] comes out of a Desjardins report which states that Canada's housing market is the worst among the global north for students, and that there needs to be more investment capital provided from provincial governments," said Salmassi.

The SU 2024 Annual Survey finds 27.34 per cent of students spending between $1,000 and $1,999 on monthly rent or mortgage. This number excludes other fees such as internet or phone costs. Salmassi states that the rising cost of housing exacerbates other pressures students feel.

"The cost barrier to entering university has now in jumped significantly, because now, aside from tuition, lack of employment, opportunities other cost of living pressures students have to contend with the fact that even if they have the money, they might not be able to get to access shelter nearby."

> **"IT'S A SYMPTOM OF LACK OF PLANNING, A LACK OF OVERSIGHT AND NOT LISTENING TO STUDENTS IN THE BROADER COMMUNITY FOR THE PAST MANY DECADES, WHEN THEY'VE SAID THAT WE NEED A GREATER HOUSING SUPPLY IN THE CITY," SAID STUDENTS' UNION VICE-PRESIDENT EXTERNAL MATEUSZ SALMASSI.**

Housing Demand, Allocation and University District

The U of C offers guaranteed housing for first-year students as long as they apply by May 1, which is typical of most institutions. The remaining units are allocated through a lottery to students who apply by February 10.

"We feel that's the most equitable way for individuals that want to live with us," said Royal.

The number of first-year students in residence reached a record 1,267. However, the demand for residential units on campus has led to waitlists in the hundreds.

"You know they're on the wait list for a few weeks. Others I know will be on the wait list until the beginning of the term," said Royal.

When asked how Residence Services prioritizes students on the waitlist, Royal stated that the position indicates the likelihood a person will secure housing on campus.

"We communicate where you are on the wait list so that people have an idea. If you're 12th on the wait list, you're gonna get in. If you're 910th, we recommend you look for alternate housing," said Royal.

> **"SO WE'VE BEEN COGNIZANT OF TRYING TO KEEP OPTIONS FOR THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE TRULY LOOKING FOR MORE AFFORDABLE OPTIONS," SAID ROYAL. "WE'VE DONE SMALLER INCREASES ON THOSE UNITS TO SUPPORT THOSE, AND WHERE WE'VE BEEN A BIT MORE AGGRESSIVE IS ON SOME OF OUR SINGLE UNITS."**

However, Salmassi believes that the waitlists exacerbate uncertainty and stress for students.

"I think that the long wait list creates a deep uncertainty and worry for prospective students coming to the U of C," said Salmassi.

"As recently as five to six years ago, students who wanted to come to U of C would, without much stress, apply to on-campus residents or find a rental off campus but near, but nearby. Those days are long gone," said Salmassi, citing the competition, cost barrier and as some reasons campus housing has been less accessible.

Additionally, Salmassi believes that the University of Calgary missed out on creating affordable housing in University District.

"While it's understandable that the university is doing everything it can to increase revenue and profit, especially in an environment where the provincial government has slashed lots of money from from the university, it's shameful that there hasn't been more thought put into ensuring that university district actually serves university students," said Salmassi.

The SU believes that there should be dedicated student units and developments in the district.

"We want to see students living in the communities that that they would like to live in in communities that are closer to the university and throughout the city," said Salmassi.

Renovations and Improvements

Residence Services prioritizes approximately six projects annually to ensure building spaces are modernized and up to standard.

"We're doing a $15 million renovation of all the washrooms," said Royal. "Sometimes it's elevators, sometimes it's roofs, other times it's new furniture. We just replaced all the furniture a couple of years ago in Cascade Hall. We're also replacing all the flooring and all the bathtubs are being converted. Every year, we do a variety of projects within the residence community to support those buildings."

Mental Health Services and Employment Opportunities

Residence Services' Wellness in Residence program now has a support advisor specifically for students in residence.

"Whereas before [students] would just go to the university wellness resources, now they have access to something that's dedicated to that community," said Royal, emphasizing the importance of availability and specificity of care.

Residence Services also supports students through employment opportunities as community ambassadors. Every floor of a residence building has one ambassador, and those applications open annually.

"We typically hire around 80 positions, with the final number dependent on the number of students living in residence," said Royal.

More information about Residence Services can be found on the University of Calgary website.

> **"WHEREAS BEFORE [STUDENTS] WOULD JUST GO TO THE UNIVERSITY WELLNESS RESOURCES, NOW THEY HAVE ACCESS TO SOMETHING THAT'S DEDICATED TO THAT COMMUNITY," SAID ROYAL, EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF AVAILABILITY AND SPECIFICITY OF CARE.**

SPORTS & LIFESTYLE »

Editor: Maggie Hsu
sports@thegauntlet.ca
@GauntletUofC

A RISING STAR »

From setbacks to success: Owen Antoniuk's story of perseverance

Maggie Hsu
Sports and Lifestyle Editor

Owen Antoniuk, Dinos, Sept. 22 2024 CHRIS LINDSEY

The path of a professional athlete is rarely linear. Behind the highlights and accolades are moments of resilience, reinvention and grit that often get overshadowed by the glamour of the milestones to celebrate. Every athlete's journey to greatness has been shaped by moments of adversity and it's these trials and tribulations that often create the most compelling stories in sports.

Dinos' soccer forward Owen Antoniuk knows this truth all too well. The third-year midfielder was recently drafted by Calgary's professional soccer team, Cavalry FC in the second round of the 2025 CPL U SPORTS Draft. While Antoniuk's stats from this past season with the Dinos have undoubtedly caught the eye of the reigning Canadian Premier League (CPL) champions, his path to this moment was anything but straightforward. In fact, this is not his first stint in the CPL either.

Born and raised in Calgary, Antoniuk's soccer journey began in Alberta's fiercely competitive and robust youth soccer programs. He developed his skills with Calgary Blizzard SC and Calgary Foothills SC, earning recognition early on. By age 12, Antoniuk was representing Canada internationally at the U12 Danone Nations Cup, a prestigious international tournament, in 2014. And by 15, he would earn himself an invitation to a training camp for the Canada U15 team in 2017 where he would go on to attend the Canada Soccer U15 Showcase that same year.

"It was very competitive ... there was always a rivalry with Edmonton teams, even at 10 years old. But [soccer] is massive now with the demand for playing and all these new facilities," Antoniuk reflected on his youth soccer career in Alberta with the *Gauntlet*.

In 2018, Antoniuk took a significant step by joining the Whitecaps FC Academy Centre in Calgary. This nationwide program connects young players with elite coaching and training, preparing them for the professional stage. His dedication paid off when he signed his first professional contract with Whitecaps FC 2 in 2022.

Antoniuk made his professional debut in the MLS Next Pro League with the Whitecaps on Mar. 26, 2022, against Houston Dynamo 2, netting his first professional goals two weeks later on Apr. 10 against Portland Timbers 2. Antoniuk's path to the pros was charting upwards. Yet, as promising as his start was, Antoniuk faced a career-defining challenge when he was loaned to Atlético Ottawa of the CPL for the remainder of their 2022 season. Upon returning to Vancouver, he would learn that the Whitecaps were releasing him, forcing him to re-evaluate his path moving forward.

"I was disappointed," said Antoniuk. "But I was happy that I was moving on." He emphasized how crucial it was to step out of familiar systems to continue growing. "You have to get out of your comfort zone to improve. I never would have gotten to where I am today without making those sacrifices and those moves."

Determined to rebuild, Antoniuk joined Windsor City FC in League1 Ontario (L1ON) for the 2023 season. There, he rediscovered his rhythm, scoring 13 goals in 20 matches. The following year, a sense of home drew him back to Calgary, where he signed with Calgary Foothills FC in League1 Alberta. Antoniuk immediately dominated as a rookie, finishing the season as the league's top scorer with 10 goals in 10 games played.

Beyond the field, Antoniuk took another bold step—enrolling at the University of Calgary as a first-year student at age 21. After leaving home at 16 to pursue a professional career, school felt like a safe option for Antoniuk who had made his first attempts at pursuing his passion at a higher level.

"As a kid, you're more eager to think 'I want to go to Europe [to play]' but it's not really realistic," Antoniuk shared a hard-truth he had to face. "Coming back to school, yes you're playing at a different level, but you're getting an education. With the [CPL] Draft available now and it's a very good path."

Antoniuk's decision to pursue higher education has only strengthened his game. In his first full season with the Dinos, he tied for the conference lead in scoring with eight goals in 11 games, helping the team to an impressive 7-2-5 record.

"Don't be afraid of dropping down a level," Antoniuk advised future players with a similar path to his. "You're getting school done which is way more important than these little pro contracts and then you're still available to make it professionally. There's not really a cut off line."

Now, Antoinuk prepares to train with Cavalry FC in hopes of earning a roster spot for the 2025 CPL season. He approaches the opportunity with humility and determination.

"It's not up to me," Antoniuk expressed when asked about his next steps with Cavalry FC, mirroring his reinvented approach to his professional career. "But it's up to me in terms of work rate and working hard."

Whether or not he secures a roster spot with the Cavalry or returns to the Dinos with newfound skills to share with his team for the 2025 season, Antoniuk's journey is far from over. His story is a powerful reminder that setbacks are not endings but opportunities to rise stronger—a lesson that resonates far beyond the world of sports and serves as a reminder for his fellow students who may not balance athletics but other challenges from our daily lives.

> ***"DON'T BE AFRAID OF DROPPING DOWN A LEVEL," ANTONIUK ADVISED FUTURE PLAYERS WITH A SIMILAR PATH TO HIS. "YOU'RE GETTING SCHOOL DONE WHICH IS WAY MORE IMPORTANT THAN THESE LITTLE PRO CONTRACTS AND THEN YOU'RE STILL AVAILABLE TO MAKE IT PROFESSIONALLY. THERE'S NOT REALLY A CUT OFF LINE."***

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HOW TO GET A JOB »

Your step-by-step guide to navigating the job application process

Maggie Hsu
Sports and Lifestyle Editor

Centre for Career and Personal Development (2025), MSC 188 DAMAN SINGH

Navigating the job market and searching for a job or internship can be an overwhelming journey, but breaking it down into manageable steps and preparing yourself ahead of time can make the process more approachable. Whether this is your first full-time role, co-op placement or a change in industry, this guide will help you through the application process with confidence. Plus, we've included expert insights from a career advisor at the U of C's Centre for Career and Personal Development (CCPD).

Step 1: Read the job description

The foundation of a strong application starts with understanding the job you're applying for. Harrison Yeung from the CCPD emphasizes the importance of thoroughly analyzing job postings and highlighting the key skills and experiences employers are looking for.

"Scroll all the way to the bottom because that's where the qualifications are," Yeung advised. "Then circle back to the top where they give us the responsibilities [of the role]."

Job postings often include a long list of skills that employers are looking for in a candidate which can feel overwhelming and demoralizing if you read one skill that you don't meet. Instead of trying to address every point, focus on patterns in these skills and prioritize the most important qualifications to ensure your application aligns with the employer's needs from this role.

"This skill set or theme keeps popping up," Yeung explained. "For example, if Python is mentioned multiple times, it's likely a core requirement for the role."

Step 2: Craft a tailored resume

Think of your resume as your personal marketing document. While it might seem easiest to make one resume that covers all of your skills and experiences to send to every single job with quantity taking priority over quality, it's better to tailor your resume to each role in order to stand out.

"Not targeting the resume is probably the biggest pitfall a job seeker will run into," Yeung warned. "If you send a general resume, employers won't see how you meet their specific needs."

It's understandable that it can be very time consuming to create a resume for every single job. A tip Yeung has is to save time by creating an industry-focused resume. Using these industry specific resumes as a template, you can then go in to make small changes for each job, adding or tweaking bullet points to reflect the specific skills or experiences you identified in the previous step.

Also, don't discount the value of your school work (projects, assignments and research), extracurricular activities or volunteer work. Did you take on a leadership role? What did you contribute? This coursework can highlight hands-on skills that you haven't officially gained through a job.

Step 3: Writing a cover letter

While not every job asks for a cover letter, putting the time and effort into writing one can help you stand out as not everyone writes one. A well-crafted cover letter lets you elaborate on points that you couldn't fit on your resume and shows your passion for the role.

"Instead of listing skills, share examples of how you used them in real-world scenarios," Yeung explained, including examples like coordinating a fundraising campaign or managing a social media strategy.

Step 4: Preparing for the interview

Congratulations! You booked the interview! Here's your chance to make a strong impression.

Preparation is key here. "Know yourself and know the role. If you know what drives you and why you're interested [in the role], it's easier to connect your passion and skills to the role," Yeung said.

Practice, practice, practice. Whether it's having a friend mock interview you, recording yourself answering potential questions or writing down your answers, preparation helps you manage nerves and structure your responses.

Step 5: Making the most of your internship or job

You did it! You got the job!

How can you make the most of this opportunity? Once you've secured a role, especially an internship or co-op, focus on approaching this as a learning experience with valuable knowledge to gain.

"Do a job diary," Yeung said. "Note what you've accomplished day by day. This helps you track achievements and articulate what you've gained. By the end of your term, you'll have a clear record of achievements to add to your resume."

This is also a great chance to network within the organization.

"Talk to people in other departments to make connections. When roles open up in those areas, you won't be a stranger," Yeung suggested.

By having these chats, you'll gain an understanding of the company's culture and values while establishing relationships that can help you stand out when it comes to applying for these jobs. This proactive approach can turn a temporary role into a stepping stone for future opportunities.

Supplementary tips: Using your network and resources available to you

Networking and leveraging available resources can expand your opportunities. LinkedIn is an invaluable tool if used effectively.

"Send personalized messages when connecting," Yeung said. "Explain why you're reaching out and be genuine in your request—ask for advice or a short meeting to learn more about their industry."

Career fairs are another opportunity to connect with industry representatives but they can be difficult to navigate as there will be hundreds of others like you who are looking for the same roles as you. Yeung and the CCPD have advice for this too.

"Arrive early to avoid chaos and have quality conversations. Research which employers will be there and make a list of priorities [to visit]," said Yeung.

For first year students, start early and don't wait until your final year to start thinking about what you want to do once school it's done. CCPD is available for all students at all phases of their lives to provide guidance and advice and the earlier you start, the easier it is to intervene and make changes. But it's definitely not too late for upper-year students and recent graduates.

"U of C doesn't stop supporting their students after graduation. Alumni career services are available to help you find your path." Yeung reminds new graduates who may be having troubles in their job search.

Starting a job search is intimidating but you're not alone. Breaking down the process into these steps and knowing that resources to help are available to you can help you approach the process with more confidence.

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POLITICAL CRISIS ALL AROUND »

Trudeau's resignation and rising geopolitical storm ahead of Trump's inauguration

Gurshaan Kaur Rai
Volunteer

After nearly a decade in power, on Jan. 6th, 2025, Justin Trudeau stepped down from his term as the 23rd prime minister of Canada and leader of the Liberal party. A historical announcement occurred outside the Rideau cottage residence, where Justin Trudeau explained his resignation and prorogation of the parliament until March 24th.

Alongside the prorogation of parliament in Canada, Donald Trump will be inaugurated as the 47th president of the United States on January 20th. Across Canada, premiers like Danielle Smith question Justin Trudeau's decision to resign and how this impacts the geopolitical climate of Canada leading up to the inauguration of Donald Trump.

In his historical announcement, Justin Trudeau stated that "this country deserves a real choice", further explaining how 'internal battles' within the Liberal party have played a part in the pressure to step down.

As such, measures for a new leader for the Liberal party will commence and a federal election must occur before or on Oct. 20, 2025.

These internal battles within the Liberal party were evident much before the resignation of the prime minister, with Chrystia Freeland resigning on December 16th, 2024 from her position as the minister of finance and deputy prime minister of Canada.

Freeland explains her resignation's links to the Trump threat as, "Our country today faces a grave challenge. The incoming administration in the United States is pursuing a policy of aggressive economic nationalism, including a threat of 25 per cent tariffs".

What is claimed by Justin Trudeau to be "internal battles" has now extended into the broader economic and political relations amongst the United States and Canada, with Donald Trump's inauguration on the horizon.

Prior to this, Donald Trump has made several statements upon Canadian and United States relations. Justin Trudeau's decision to step down leaves the next leader of the Liberal party to deal with negotiation of tariffs with the Trump administration.

Alberta's premier Danielle Smith explains how Trudeau's resignation leaves Canadians in uncertainty and to quickly call an election, and "give Canadians the opportunity to pick a party and a leader to represent their interests at this critical time for our nation".

Progroment of parliament has rarely occurred in Canada, thus Justin Trudeau's recent resignation amidst Trump's inauguration creates a grey area within the political climate. When will the next leader of the Liberal party be elected amidst tariff threats and prorogation of parliament?

Uncertainty arises as a placeholder for Justin Trudeau is yet to be found within the Liberal party and tariff threats are imposed upon Canada within this transition. Justin Trudeau's resignation in the current political climate leaves several questions and conflicts for his successors.

The next leader of the Liberal party of Canada would be dealing with the upcoming federal election, alongside the impacts of Trump's inauguration and tariff threats made thus far.

With former decisions made by MP John Willamson in charge of a standing committee to host a non-confidence vote toward the Liberal government on January 7th. In attempts of the Conservative party of Canada allied with the NDP and Bloc Quebecois to bring down the Liberal Party of Canada, they have "no confidence in the Prime Minister". Trudeau responded to this by prorogation of parliament which last occurred in Canada in 2008 with Stephen Harper's Conservative government.

A new leader of the Liberal party would have to deal with the aftermath of the prorogation and the end of the NDP-Liberal merger, weakening their resolve in the 2025 election unlike prior elections where the NDP and Liberal party stood together to form a minority government.

With Donald Trump making statements of Canada and the United States to join forces, alongside threats of annexing Canada, claiming to acquire Canada through "economic force", the next leader of the Liberal party will have to consider decisions of retaliation and what negotiation looks like between the two countries.

Trudeau states on X in response to Trump annexing Canada, "there isn't a snowball's chance in hell that Canada would become part of the United States".

These "internal battles" extend beyond Justin Trudeau's resignation speech to battles that will be fought by the Liberal party and its new leader leading up to the federal election this fall. With Trump's inauguration on January 20th, the Liberal party of Canada faces the reality of the geopolitical climate in electing a new leader amidst prorogation of parliament.

Justin Trudeau (left) and Donald Trump (right)

NAZEEFA AHMED

SCAPEGOATING »

Immigration isn't the problem: Canada's job market needs fixing

Josie Simon
Opinions and Humour Editor

Many Canadians blame immigrants for our job market problems, but recent research tells a different story. The real problem lies in how we fail to use immigrant talent effectively. Data shows that our assumptions about immigration's impact on employment are often misguided.

Canada desperately needs more houses built, yet immigrants rarely work in construction or trades. Only 25 per cent of recent immigrants work in these jobs, compared to 35 per cent of Canadian-born workers. This gap has existed for years and shows no signs of closing. It directly contradicts the common belief that immigrants are taking jobs from Canadians.

The technology sector tells a different story. Recent immigrants are five times more likely to work in computer and information systems than Canadian-born workers and are twice as likely to be engineers. These aren't cases of displacement—they're examples of immigrants filling crucial gaps in our workforce. Many of these positions would remain empty without them, hurting our economy's growth.

The real tragedy lies in how many skilled immigrants can't find work in their fields. In Toronto, the unemployment rate for recent immigrants is 10.92 per cent, while for Canadian-born workers, it's only 5.56 per cent. This disparity makes no sense, considering that over half of recent immigrants have university degrees, compared to only 32.6 per cent of Canadian-born citizens. We're actively wasting the talent we've invited to our country.

This misuse of immigrant talent comes with a steep price tag. Canada loses $30 billion annually—two per cent of our GDP—because we won't let qualified people work in their fields. This isn't just about fairness; it's about economic common sense. We're throwing away billions in productivity and innovation at a time when we can least afford it.

The timing of this waste couldn't be worse. Baby boomers are retiring, and birth rates continue to drop. Toronto alone needs to fill 519,881 jobs in the next five years. By 2031, one in three Canadian workers will be foreign-born. These aren't just statistics—they're a wake-up call. We need these workers and we need them working at their full potential.

Our broken systems create this problem. We demand "Canadian experience" but won't give immigrants their first Canadian job. Our credential recognition process moves at a glacial pace. Professional networks remain largely closed to newcomers. We've created a system that takes highly skilled professionals and forces them into survival jobs while claiming we have labour shortages.

Implications of immigration on the Canadian job market NAZEEFA AHMED

The data consistently shows that immigrants don't compete with Canadian-born workers—they complement them. They fill gaps in our workforce and bring the skills we desperately need. Instead of blaming immigrants for job market problems, we need to fix the systems that prevent them from contributing fully to our economy.

The solution requires several changes. We need faster credential recognition, better paths to employment and more value placed on international experience. We must help immigrants build professional networks and get that crucial first Canadian job. Most importantly, we must stop wasting the talent we've invited to our country.

In today's global economy, skilled workers have choices about where they go. If Canada wants to stay competitive, we must use all our talent effectively. That means helping immigrants succeed in their chosen fields. Everyone in Canada benefits when they can fully use their skills and education. The choice is simple: we can blame immigrants for problems they didn't create or fix the systems that prevent them from helping us solve our real labour market challenges.

BOSS BABY »

How to write a résumé that only your mom would love

Ayesha Kamran and Rabia Salman
Volunteer

Are you struggling to find a job? Is the adult world becoming too difficult to navigate? Do you want to put your best foot forward in the soul-sucking, self-esteem-destroying corporate world? Then look no further! Here are five tips for writing the perfect, mother-approved resume.

Tip 1 - References section: The people that tell the hype tales

Avoid adding random ex-employers as your references and instead, add your "trusted adults"—remember stranger danger. For example, your kindergarten teacher who cheered you on as you mastered the alphabet or your grade one math teacher who smiled when you thought one plus one was 11. Don't forget to mention your most important reference, your number one Hype Queen—mom. Pro tip: add cute pink hearts around her name.

Tip 2 - Add your Spotify Wrapped: The most ideal representation of you

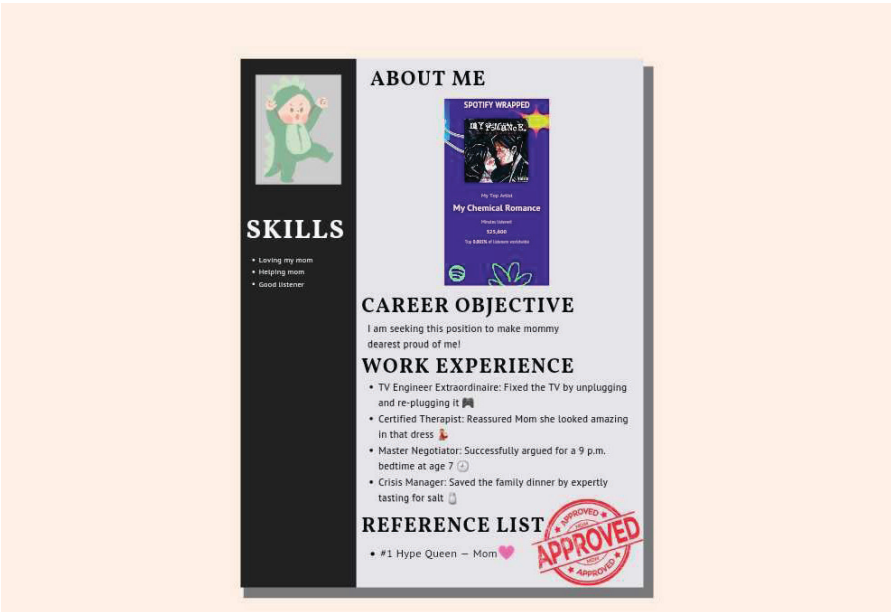
Your Spotify Wrapped is the most important annual performance review you get as a person. Flex it on your resume to show your utmost love for country and church music (mom's favourite genres). Example: "Spotify says: This listener falls in the top 0.01 per cent of listeners of 'Songs That Play When Mom Cleans the House'". This guarantees you the "Mom Approved" badge.

Tip 3 - Forget a professional photo, add your cutest baby picture

Find mom's favourite photo from that cringey baby album she shows everyone—preferably a candid shot of you with smashed cookies everywhere—and add it to your resume. Who doesn't love a cute baby picture? Impress employers with the ultimate seal of approval from mom. As a bonus, add 'Certified Cookie Monster' as a credential.

Tip 4 - Your career objective: Making mom proud

Be honest about your motivation: you're seeking this position to make mommy dearest proud! Mention that your first paycheck will go toward a new speaker for mom's late-night WhatsApp video sessions. After all, the whole neighbourhood deserves to share in her 2 a.m. social media discoveries.



The "mom" approved resume MICHAEL SARSITO

Tip 5 - Experience? Plenty!

Look at yourself through your mother's eyes! Remember that time you fixed the TV by unplugging and replugging it? Congratulations, you're an engineer. Or when you reassured your mother, she didn't look fat in that dress while being reminded of Willy Wonka? You're both a therapist and a liar—highly desirable workplace traits!

We hope these tips help you navigate the adult world. Don't forget that your mother is holding your hand every step of the way. But, if these tips don't land you a job, try finding your father, who went to get milk 10 years ago and ask him instead.

OFFICE SIREN? MORE LIKE OFFICE MENACE »

Which fictional character are you in the workplace?

Josie Simon
Opinions and Humour Editor

1. Your coworker keeps stealing your lunch from the break room fridge. You:
A. Replace your sandwich with one laced with mild laxatives while documenting their bathroom breaks
B. Write passive-aggressive notes with smiley faces while plotting their downfall
C. Eat everyone else's lunch in revenge and blame it on the rats
D. Calculate the exact caloric value they've stolen and present them with an invoice
E. Buy the entire restaurant chain that made the sandwich and fire them as a customer

2. During performance reviews, you:
A. Present a detailed dossier of everyone who's wronged you this quarter
B. Maintain your cheerful facade while your eye twitches uncontrollably
C. Show up drunk with a PowerPoint full of memes
D. Bring a 400-page statistical analysis of why you deserve a raise
E. Remind everyone about that time you saved the company (and casually mention you could destroy it)

3. When someone uses Comic Sans in a presentation, you:
A. Add them to your carefully curated enemies list
B. Smile politely while changing their computer's default font to Wingdings
C. Make all future presentations in crayons out of spite
D. Give an hour-long lecture on font psychology and its correlation with criminal behaviour
E. Buy Microsoft and eliminate Comic Sans forever

4. Your approach to office birthday celebrations is:
A. Carefully noting who doesn't sing along for future reference
B. Leading the song with dead eyes and a frozen smile
C. Using the cake knife in concerning ways
D. Calculating the productive hours lost to celebrations and presenting monthly reports
E. Making everyone watch a biopic about your own birth

Results

Mostly A's: Stewie Griffin
Your plotting skills are matched only by your spreadsheet prowess. Every minor slight becomes an elaborate revenge scheme. Future CEO material, assuming the company survives your rise to power.

Mostly B's: Dark Hannah Montana
You've perfected hiding murderous thoughts behind a pop star smile. Your diary is half glitter, half evil schemes. Living the best of both worlds until judgment day.

Which fictional character are you in the workplace? MICHAEL SARSITO

Mostly C's: Chaotic Homer Simpson
Your problem-solving method is "breaking things until the problem gives up." The office safety manual is basically your autobiography at this point.

Mostly D's: Evil Sheldon Cooper
Your brilliant mind is a weapon of mass destruction. You don't just correct people—you destroy their will to speak. Your organizational skills are terrifying, and your lab notes read like villain origin stories.

Mostly E's: Megalomaniac Tony Stark
You solve minor inconveniences by buying entire companies. Your ego needs its own zip code, and your solutions always involve unnecessary acquisitions. At least the office coffee is premium since you bought Starbucks.

COMIC »

Dianne Miranda
Volunteer Coordinator

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