

P: I'm Patience Adamu

K: And I'm Kurtis Vermont. And this is The Drip, a podcast about political decision making during a racial revolution - **sponsored by Fido Mobile!**

P: Stay tuned as we talk Canadian news and Black issues on a regular basis

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P: On this week's episode, we discuss some of the top headlines from the week of April 10th, including:

- Doug Ford makes good on promise to cut the gas tax
- The Ontario NDP and Liberals spar for the progressive vote
- Canada's record unemployment rate and rising interest rates

- Mary Anne Chambers becomes the University of Guelph's 10th Chancellor
- Another unfortunate and untimely passing happens in Grand Rapids, Michigan

... And plenty more.

To kick off our Politics segment:

Well, as you know, we pay particular focus to federal issues from a Black, millennial perspective on this podcast. But with Ontario's election slated to begin in just three weeks, we thought it pertinent to pivot, and start discussing Doug's reelection bid.

With that said, let's take a look at some key headlines since the beginning of the month to highlight how the election is shaping up.

Doug Ford Cuts the Gas Tax

Last week I told you that Ford's government was considering cutting the gas tax. On Thursday, they passed legislation to make it a reality.

- It means that as of July 1, the gas tax would be reduced by 5.7 cents per litre and the fuel tax by 5.3 cents per litre until December
 - [From the Ontario site](#): On April 14, 2022, the [Tax Relief at the Pumps Act, 2022](#) received Royal Assent. This means the gas tax will be reduced by 5.7 cents per litre and the fuel tax by 5.3 cents per litre from July 1 until December 31, 2022.
- Interestingly enough, the government had apparently put money aside to make this a reality
- It will cost Ontario's coffers \$645m, for 6 months, for \$5.7 at the pump.
 - Looks like hollowing out the bureaucracy to me...
- As Ontario Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy sees it, "Ongoing supply chain challenges and geopolitical conflicts are pushing up the cost of living from gas to groceries." - which is true

- He continued, "With these added pressures, families and businesses need extra help to keep costs low. That is why our government brought forward legislation to provide tax relief at the pumps and put money back into people's pockets."
- His announcements comes as many of us pay some unheard of amounts and the pumps
- This will be the first time that Ontario reduced the gas tax in over 30 years.
- Ford first promised to cut the gas and fuel taxes in the 2018 election - by 10 cents a litre
- He and his goons--I mean party--at the time said it would be accomplished by doing what? Scrapping our province's cap and trade system with Quebec and California meant to reduce our emission in lock step with the largest subnational jurisdictions...
- But when the system was scrapped, the federal carbon tax kicked in for us, which rendered the 4.3 cents savings null and void
- Ford tried to fight the carbon tax in court, and thank God, he lost
- Last fall he promised to cut the remaining 5.7 cents, but back tracked because of outcry about the cost!
- But he's doing it now in response to the high levels of inflation being felt both here and around the world.
- Good move?
- https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-gas-tax-1.6407385?fbclid=IwAR0rZp4orlpFkz1SmaX04ptGpZxb_B8OKob0kiSPvv07e0XTlwwyZex2QGk

Jumping to our next political story:

The NDP takes strategic shots at the Liberals to shore up votes

- With just 3 weeks before the Ontario election campaign begins, party leaders on the left have started taking shots at each other while making plays for their opponent's base.
- The audacity!
- Trusted poll aggregator 338Canada has consistently had Ford's government hovering around 38%, putting them in majority territory
- They've been less consistently about who is in second place, which explains why the shots have begun
- Del Duca has clearly made the party competitive again since it lost party status in the 2018 election, but he hasn't done enough to pull away from Horwath's NDP
- That's why Andrea's trying to change that narrative by shooting her shot at Liberal voters
- In what she calls a "straight up" appeal to voters, she said "voting NDP is the way to prevent Ford from being re-elected as the premier. "I'm asking folks who may have decided in the past to vote Liberal to keep Conservatives out to recognize that this time, that's not the strategy. This time, that strategy will split the vote and cause Doug Ford to come up the middle."
- She argues that she's in a better position to build from the 40 seats she already has, rather than the 26 she'll end up with after June 2nd if the polls hold

- For his part, Ontario Liberal Leader Steven Del Duca responded saying 'shhhh, don't listen to the noise', also he won't be pitching strategic voting any time soon.
- He said "You're not going to hear me talk about strategic voting. You're not going to hear me talk about anything other than our team and our ideas."
- He also argued that strategic voting isn't something that most voters care about, even though there are organizations who's MO is all about strategic voting - known organizations like LeadNow, or new organizations like Not One Seat.
- And those orgs have proven themselves quite effective before, including in helping stop Stephen Harper's Conservatives in 2015.
- What do you think Patience? Do you think progressive voters should back the NDP over the Liberals in key ridings?

[dialogue]

- Well, the two progressive leaders may not see eye to eye on strategic voting, but they kinda do on policy
- Case in point, this week both of them held events to mark Equal Pay Day by revealing related campaign promises.
- Horwath [announced a plan](#) to shore up the child-care system by promising a minimum wage of \$25 an hour for early childhood educators and \$20 an hour for other daycare workers.
- For his part, Del Duca [announced a number of items aimed at working women](#):
- including \$10-a-day before- and after-school care
 - For context, Ontario's recent agreement with the federal government for \$10 per day child care applies only to kids aged five and under.
- The Liberals would also provide a parental leave top up
 - so right now parents can take 12 months of EI parental leave and spread it over 18 months. The Liberals would top up the final 6 month period so the parent gets the full EI leave benefit.
- and bring back pay transparency legislation
- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-election-ndp-liberal-pc-horwath-del-duca-doug-ford-1.6416912?fbclid=IwAR3GWwYX0nwnV89SMGCufDdRuO0g3QtKaGqjBy4jBMgBLPH3HNIQTekHwiU>

Jumping to our Canadian Economy:

Canada's economy is lit right now, can we maintain it?

- According to Statscan data, the unemployment rate fell to its lowest point in March since 1976, falling from 5.5% to 5.3% after adding 72,500 jobs.
- Driving those gains were 24,500 women over 55 who found work, and 35,300 core-aged men between 25 and 54 taking work too, although primarily part-time.
- Statscan said the gains were concentrated in Ontario and Quebec, particularly in Construction and Natural Resources
- What's better, economists say there may be room for the unemployment rate to fall even further since oil producing parts of the country haven't seen full rebounds yet

- Since hitting a peak of 1.5 million in April 2020 at the onset of COVID, the number of people wanting work but not actively looking has fallen to 377,000
- That's basically the same number of people that were looking for work in March of each of the three prior years before 2020
- When one drills down into who these people are that aren't working, we find that:
 - Just over one-quarter didn't look because of an illness or disability.
 - **A further one-fifth were part of a group waiting for a recall or reply from an employer, or who didn't think there was anything available.**
 - Nearly an additional fifth pointed to personal and family responsibilities for why they weren't working.
- For the record, our tight labour market meant average hourly wages were up to 3.4% year-over-year in March, up from 3.1% in February.
- If only that were keeping up with inflation of 5.7%, BUT HEY!
- The Bank of Canada increased interest rates this week too, with hopes of changing that.
- Canada's overnight interest rate now sits at 1%.
- The increase, in concert with other governments, may have an effect. May.
- https://www.investmentexecutive.com/news/industry-news/unemployment-falls-to-5-3-as-72500-jobs-added/?fbclid=IwAR2pRecbVQtGyigGTgW3fSk7BTkWKPYwKwHdOwsWiXdYkShYq_5_JCdq-s
- <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2022617155548>
- <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220408/dq220408a-eng.htm>

Blackity Black Black:

Mary Ann Chambers becomes the 10th Chancellor of the University of Guelph

- Dr. Chambers was unanimously elected Chancellor by the University's Senate during its April 7 meeting - and is the first Black woman to serve as Chancellor of the university - Lincoln Alexander was their first Black person to serve from 1991 to 2007.
- After immigrating to Canada from Jamaica with her husband and two young sons in 1976, Chambers held progressive roles with Scotiabank and eventually served as senior vice-president. She took early retirement in 2002 and ran for public office the following year.
- She was elected to the Ontario legislature as a Liberal in 2003 and appointed minister of training, colleges and universities and then minister of children and youth services.
- A graduate of the University of Toronto, Chambers has received honorary doctorates from U of G, the University of Toronto, York University and Lakehead University.
- Among her honours, she was named to the Order of Ontario and has received the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee and Diamond Jubilee medals, the Prime Minister of Jamaica's Medal of Appreciation, a University of the West Indies Vice-Chancellor's Award and a YWCA Toronto Woman of Distinction Award.
- Chambers is currently a governor of Canada's International Development Research Centre, a senior fellow at York University's Glendon School of Public and International Affairs and is the special advisor for the City of Markham's anti-Black racism strategy.

- Chambers has served on the governing council of the University of Toronto and on the boards of not-for-profit organizations including Cuso International, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, the Project for the Advancement of Childhood Education, the United Way of Canada, United Way Toronto, YMCA Toronto and the Rouge Valley Health System.
- As chancellor, Chambers will preside at convocations, confer all University degrees, provide strategic advice to the president, and act as an ambassador. As the University's senior volunteer, she will also represent its interests to all government levels. The chancellor is also an ex-officio voting member of the University's Senate and Board of Governors.

<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2022/04/new-chancellor/#:~:text=Chambers%20as%20Chancellor,.Dr.,during%20its%20April%207%20meeting.>

World:

A black man, Patrick Lyoya is shot dead by police in Grand Rapids Michigan

- This story starts like many others have, with a traffic stop
- Everything went down on a April 4, when Patrick was pulled over for expired tags, when pulled over he got out of the car and refused to go back into the car after the police told him to
- He ran - no one knows why he ran, and now no one ever will
- After running the officer chased him and tried to tase him into submission.. no dice, they struggled for a bit with the officer finally on top of Patrick, pushing Patrick's face into the grass.. if you watch the video you can see a bit of struggle (as Patrick's face is being pushed into the grass) before the officer pulls out his gun and shoots Patrick in his head
- "This video was very difficult to watch," lawyer Ben Crump told a news conference on Thursday with the family, "because what you see in that video is unnecessary, unjustifiable, excessive use of fatal force. You see a police officer escalate a minor traffic stop into a deadly execution."
- Crump said the officer could have waited for backup once Lyoya ran but instead got "violent." He accused him of not following proper training by using the Taser while close to Lyoya, saying it was Lyoya's "natural instinct" to try to stop from being stunned.
- Grand Rapids Police Chief Winstrom said the fight over the Taser lasted about 90 seconds. In the final moments, the officer was on top of Lyoya, kneeling on his back at times to subdue him.
- As usual the officer is on paid administrative leave while the internal investigation happens but I think it's worth saying that the family is devastated that they left Congo as refugees only to come and have their son executed by police in the U.S. - so much for seeking refuge

<https://www.cbc.ca/amp/1.6420100>

Question for the Audience:

Canada's charter of rights and freedoms turns 40 today. Over the years, there have been clear social advances as a result of the introduction of the charter, especially for racial,

religious, and sexual minorities. One example, The biggest social program of all, Medicare, has survived court challenges. A law criminalizing the promotion of hate against minorities passed constitutional muster, but just barely. The Supreme Court even declared a constitutional right to bargain collectively in 2007, and to strike in 2015 after rejecting both ideas in 1987. What do you consider the most consequential outcome of the introduction of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms?

Outro:

K: You've just listened to episode 83 of The Drip, **sponsored by Fido Mobile!** And we're so thankful for their support, which amplifies important discussions like these in the fight against anti-Black racism. We're releasing pods on a regular basis, so subscribe to stay up to date.

P: You can also keep up with us on our Instagram and through our Patreon pages dedicated to the podcast. Follow us or Support us at thedripto. We love our many non-BIPOC listeners, but a message specifically to our Black listeners - we hope that you know that this is a safe space for you, so if you have any feedback or questions, feel free to SLIDE in our DMs and let us know what's up

K: We'd also like to give a special shout to Toronto's very own B.ONLOCATION for the sounds you're hearing now. You can find more tracks from him wherever you get your music. See y'all next time.

Notes and omitted stories: