

# ACTION REQUIRED ON HARASSMENT AND ABUSE OF JOURNALISTS

**WE ARE ASKING POLICE FORCES TO TAKE SEVERAL IMMEDIATE STEPS AND TO WORK WITH OUR ORGANIZATIONS TO COMBAT ABUSE**

*This is an excerpt of a joint letter signed by 45 media organizations and outlets, including Metroland. It was sent to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, cabinet ministers and other political leaders to demand action on the growing harassment and abuse of journalists in Canada.*

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

We are writing in relation to the increasing and alarming online hate and harassment targeting journalists and journalism as a profession. This is a global problem, which threatens not only the safety and well-being of journalists, but the proper functioning of democracy itself. Many countries are now working on plans to fight back. We are calling on Canadian police and policymakers to do the same.

For the most part, these attacks are aimed at racialized and female journalists who are experiencing an increasing number of target-

ed, vile threats of violence. The trend is clear. In a 2021 Ipsos survey of journalists, 72 per cent of respondents said they had experienced some form of online harassment. At the time, the Canadian Association of Journalists (CAJ) co-signed a statement with many Canadian media organizations, affirming that "there can be no tolerance for hate and harassment of journalists or for incitement of attacks on journalists for doing their jobs." Yet the problem grows. The volume and nature of the rhetoric in the recent string of attacks has caused many journalists, as well as their respective organizations, to fear for their safety.

We are asking police forces to take several immediate steps to address the current incidents and to work with our organizations to combat abuse of journalists and all victims of online hate and harassment.



SCAN THE CODE to read the full letter signed by 45 media organizations, including Metroland.

**YOUROPINIONS**

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## SNAPSHOT



Anna Drummond photo

A dragonfly explores Fallbrook Trail Ranch in Georgetown. Do you have a great local photo you'd like to share? Send it to sleblanc@metroland.com, along with a brief description.

## PRICES UP, SPENDING DOWN

**SURVEY REPORTS THAT 'CANADIANS ARE RESPONDING TO PRICE INCREASES WITH SPENDING DECREASES', WRITES PETER WATSON**



PETER WATSON  
Column

The reality is things are significantly more expensive than a year ago, and this is starting to take a toll on many Canadians.

A recent survey by Angus Reid Institute reported that "Canadians are responding to price increases with spending decreases."

Eighty per cent of Canadians have reduced their spending. This was done by reducing discretionary spending, delaying a major purchase, driving less and cutting back on travel and charitable donations.

People are also deferring

saving. That is understandable; you cannot save what you do not have. However, this will have negative implications down the road.

Almost 80 per cent of those surveyed feel grocery stores are benefiting from inflation by increasing prices more than necessary. Less than 10 per cent think that higher grocery chain profits are due to good management.

Three-quarters of Canadians are stressed about money, and over half the people surveyed by Angus Reid said they were not able to keep up with the rising

cost of living.

Inflation will eventually be controlled and return to the two per cent target set by the Bank of Canada. Try to manage your spending so you do not end up increasing your amount of debt.

*Peter Watson is registered with Aligned Capital Partners Inc. (ACPI) to provide investment advice. Investment products are provided by ACPI. ACPI is a member of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada. The opinions expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of ACPI. Only investment-related products and services are offered through Watson Securities of ACPI. Peter Watson provides wealth management services through Watson Investments. He can be reached at [www.watsoninvestments.com](http://www.watsoninvestments.com).*

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