

Sentencing for Walsh gas station owner convicted of uttering threats moved to September

Medicine Hat News

A Walsh gas station owner recently convicted of uttering threats in 2022 will be sentenced on Sept. 11 or face potential penalties for the delays, a judge determined Tuesday.

Anwar Kamaran pleaded not guilty to two counts of uttering death threats, but was found guilty of the summary offence at trial in Medicine Hat Court of Justice.

Sentencing has been delayed however, as defence attorney Cale Ellis-Toddington has sought copies of documents in previous court proceedings to certify the conditions of a probation order that forms part of the current offences.

Ellis-Toddington appeared Tuesday to request sentencing be put over until after the summer to obtain the documents and accommodate vacations of attorneys.

Crown prosecutors stated that earlier dates are available and the September date should be made pre-emptory on the defence.

That was accepted by Justice Grace Auger.

Kamaran was charged by the Redcliff RCMP on Aug. 3, 2022 with uttering threats against two males and thereby breaking conditions of his probation stemming from an assault charge in August 2020.

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MEDICINE HAT NEWS

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Published daily except Sunday and Monday by ALTA. NEWSPAPER GROUP LP. at The News Building, 922 Allowance Ave. SE, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada T1A 3G7; Second Class Mail Registration Number 0281 Return undeliverable mail, Canadian addresses to: 922 Allowance Ave. SE, Medicine Hat, AB, T1A 3G7

Local Journalism Initiative reporters Funded by the Government of Canada

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Doug Ford's remarks called 'dumb,' 'racist'

Some politicians tend to open their mouths and let words flow out without thinking. Some are gracious enough to apologize and rectify their mistakes but not Ontario Premier Doug Ford, who recently appeared to blame the Toronto antisemitic incidents on immigrants.

Whether the incidents are antisemitic or Islamophobic, they should be condemned by everyone and there is no place for them in Canada. But blaming immigrants for such incidents is ludicrous and unacceptable. If Mr. Ford had any evidence of who these immigrants are or to which community they belong, then he should as a good citizen provide the information to the authorities so they can be dealt with under the law.

Ford said people should not come to Canada if they're "going to start terrorizing neighbourhoods like this."

"You're bringing your problems from everywhere else in the world, you're bringing it to Ontario, and you're going after other Canadians. I got an idea: before you plan on moving to Canada, don't come to Canada if you're going to start terrorizing neighbourhoods like this. Simple as that. You want to come to Canada? You want to be a resident of Ontario? You get along with everyone."

These are harsh words accusing immigrants without any evidence by the premier of a province with the largest number of immigrants in Canada. So far, there is no indication from police that any of the suspects involved were



Mansoor Ladha
Mansoor's Musings

immigrants, as Ford appeared to suggest.

The unrepentant premier is reported to "stick with what I said" despite the uproar.

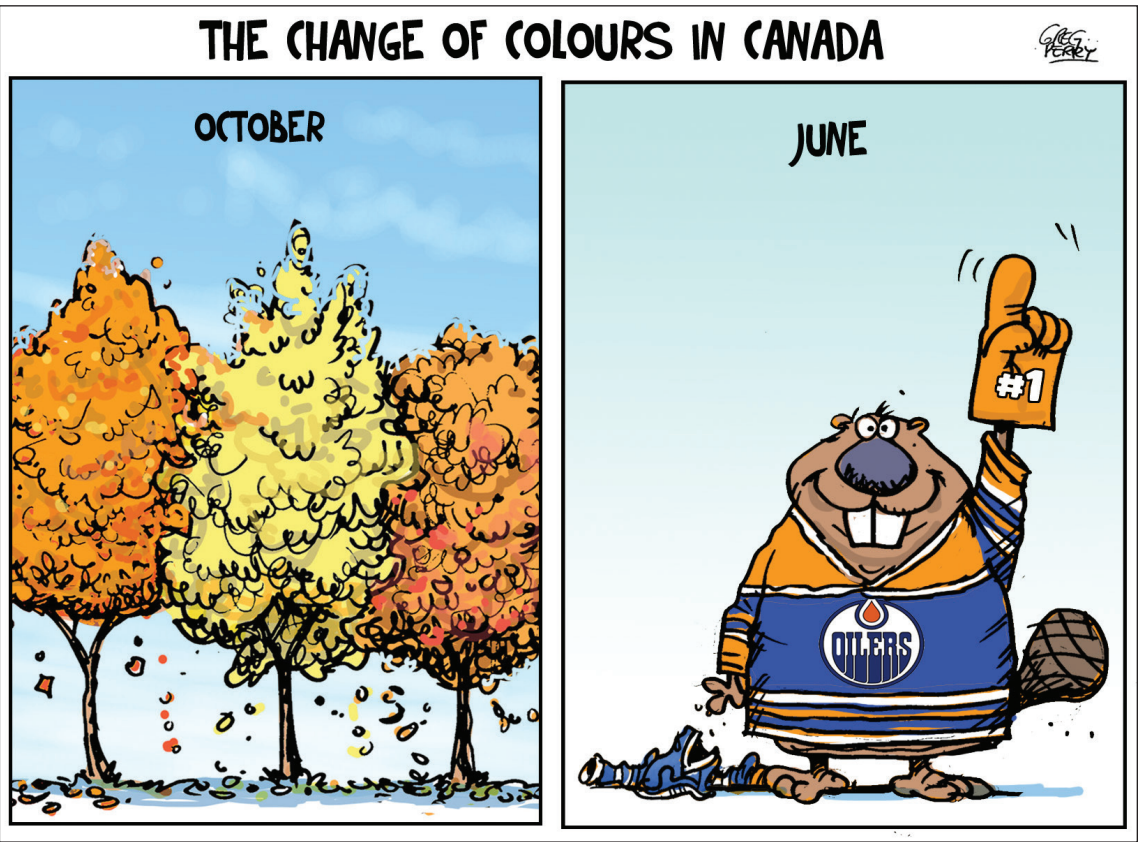
Ontario NDP Leader Marit Stiles urged Ford to "apologize" for his "racist" remarks.

"Fighting hate with hate has never worked. Fighting antisemitism with xenophobia won't keep communities safe," she said in a statement. "I'm appalled by the Premier's racist remarks. He should apologize."

Amira Elghawaby, Canada's special representative on combating Islamophobia, in a statement on X said: "Legitimizing irrational fears, scapegoating, or spreading unfounded conspiracies about immigrants, or any group, undermines social cohesion and safety. We can and should condemn antisemitism and the heinous acts against Jewish schools without fueling further hate and division."

Immigration Minister Marc Miller was equally upset, describing Ford's comments "dumb."

"It's a dumb thing to say, blaming immigrants. No one was blaming immigrants for the trucker convoy," Miller said at a



press conference in Montreal. "People have a right to protest when they do. There are legitimate forms, and there are certainly illegitimate forms. And those illegitimate forms certainly include targeting, the deliberate targeting of Jewish institutions."

"If you have issues with the Israeli government, taking on Jews in this country is not the solution. Frankly, if that's your answer, I don't want your vote," Miller said.

I wonder how Mr. Ford's would classify pro-Palestine protests so prevalent in university campuses in Canada, the U. S. and U.K.? Are the students who are protesting also immigrants?

This isn't the first time Ford has engaged in racist scapegoating. In 2023, he suggested that immigrants were to blame for Ontario's housing crisis, as he attempted to garner support for his Greenbelt land grab. In 2021, he suggested would-be

immigrants were coming to Ontario "to collect the dole"—an outdated racist stereotype—and refused to apologize.

In 2020, in the wake of George Floyd's murder in Minneapolis, which sparked worldwide protests, Ford claimed that systemic anti-Black racism doesn't exist in Canada.

There has been a rise in hate crimes in Canada, which has swelled in recent months amid Israel's ongoing conflict against Hamas, which began on Oct. 7, 2023. The number of antisemitic incidents in Canada more than doubled in 2023 compared with the year prior.

According to Statistics Canada in its annual look at police-reported hate crimes, since 2019, Jews have been the most targeted religious group based on police data, with 502 incidents in 2022.

Muslims are the second most targeted group, with 108 police-reported hate crimes in

2022. According to a November 2023 Senate report on Islamophobia, an additional 1,723 crimes were motivated by racial or ethnic hatred involving Muslims in 2021.

New figures released by Toronto police showed a 47 per cent increase in reported hate crimes in the city last year, with the Jewish community, 2SLGBTQ+ community, Black community and Muslim community being the most frequently victimized groups.

Instead of urging everyone to live harmoniously in Ontario, Mr. Ford has tarnished Canada's multicultural mosaic and blemished the country's record on diversity.

Mansoor Ladha is a Calgary-based travel writer and author of *Memoirs of a Muhindi: Fleeing East Africa for the West, Off the Cuff, and A Portrait in Pluralism: Aga Khan's Shia Ismaili Muslims*.

TNR update... or lack thereof

I have been asked countless times in the last few months what the status is on the Trap, Neuter, Release, or Return program for the feral cats in Medicine Hat.

You will remember that this began in June 2023 when I posted my tearful and angry video online depicting kittens with their umbilical cords still attached searching for their mother. So began my project of having an existing bylaw amended so we could humanely trap, neuter and then return the feral cats to the only community they know.

Between a city councillor who did not understand what feral meant, to countless meetings at city hall while it went back and

forth, to the bylaw finally being amended with restrictions placed on how we were to treat the cats. It is now one year later and we are still waiting on paperwork to be finalized.

To say I am frustrated is putting it mildly.

To add to my frustration, I did inquire about the status of the paperwork and I am paraphrasing when I say I was told to mind my own business. Cats and those who cannot speak for themselves, are my business.

In that year we have lost so many cats to suspected animal cruelty, sickness, multiple births with the mother or kittens not surviving, the list goes on. It is very frustrating and upsetting to

play the political game while these pets, through no fault of their own, are suffering.

You may be wondering why I continue to harp on this. Well, the answer is this, I am so tired of irresponsible pet owners not doing the one simple thing that will help the population, shelters and the community.

Have your cat spayed or neutered.

I saw a post on Facebook recently that indicated their pet having a litter was an accident. The only accident is you the owner not doing the responsible thing and having your pet spayed.

Whether you are a pet parent or a parent with a child liv-



Linda Tooth
Let's Chat

ing at home, would you not do whatever it took to keep them healthy? If they were being sexually active, would you not make sure they have access to birth control?

Realistically, nobody wants

their teenage child to be a parent, and kittens who are under a year old should not be a parent either. They do not have the maturity needed to look after their babies. They are babies looking after babies.

Bob Barker said it best with his closing line, "This is Bob Barker reminding you to help control the pet population — have your pet spayed or neutered" on the Price is Right.

I have slightly amended it to "Help me, help them. Please have your pet spayed or neutered."

Have a Meowtastic Day!

Linda Tooth is a communications instructor at Medicine Hat College

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