



Imprint

Your Stories, Your Voice

July 2025
Volume 2 Issue 12

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How does the political climate between the U.S. and Canada affect UW?

Tiffany Wen, Staff Writer

With the political climate of the U.S. created by President Donald Trump in his second term in office, how has it impacted Canada and UW in particular? Since the beginning of his second term in office, a multitude of controversial executive orders have been announced, including tariff implementations on virtually all Canadian goods, militarization of the U.S. border, and other policy changes that significantly harm DEI initiatives, immigrants, minorities, women, and the LGBTQIA+ community.

On a smaller scale, some students may be avoiding buying strawberries or U.S. imports because of tariffs.

On a larger scale, students may be changing life plans to accommodate for the new reality. Nina Difelice, a third-year psychology and sociology student, states: “It definitely has changed where and how I plan to continue my education. I would’ve loved to go to the [U.S.] for grad school, but with all the tensions [sic], I’m seriously rethinking.”

But what seems to be the logistical impact on UW as a whole? To start, travelling to the U.S. has proved

difficult for Canadians and inbound immigrants with tighter border control. Canadians and other foreigners that wish to enter the U.S. are reporting difficulties crossing the U.S.



border, and even being detained. For UW professors, the Canadian Association of University Teachers has advised against non-essential travel. This means that conferences, events, and research engagement may be attended less often by UW faculty to avoid potential travel complications or lack of desire to support the U.S. during this time.

Professor and associate dean of the faculty of arts, Katherine Acheson, has expressed concerns about the impact

of Trump’s presidency. While Acheson regularly attends conferences and visits family in the U.S., she states, “I am deeply alarmed about what is happen-

ing in the US in terms of militarization, civil rights, persecution of non-white people, and erosion of the rights of women and non-binary people.”

The last time Acheson was in the U.S. was earlier this year in March, when she attended a conference in Boston. “People we expected to be there weren’t, because they were concerned about getting through the border security with X for the gender of their passport or, more broadly, they felt sufficiently unsettled by events at that point that they decided not to come. I will not be travelling to the U.S. for professional or personal reasons for the foreseeable future.”

In addition to professors, varsity sports teams at UW may also be impacted.

Brian Bourque, head coach of men’s hockey and associate director of UW Athletics, has been leading varsity athletics since 2015. To him, what’s already been notably unique is having

“Having a streamlined process and pathway to practice [more easily and quickly] in Ontario, I think, will be beneficial over the course of the next few months or years.”

- Jenna Petker, director of health and physician recruitment from Greater KW Chamber of Commerce

the discussion around travelling to the U.S., when there previously was not an approval process and going south of the border was a “no-brainer.”

For each varsity team that wants to travel to the U.S. and compete, coaches have been requested to have a conversation with the athletes to see if they are still comfortable doing so. Based on the teams’ response, there would be further conversation as to whether to continue to travel or not.

Bourque and director of UW Athletics and Recreation Roly Webster are prioritizing engaging with coaches and athletes, “giving them comfort and support to go [to the U.S.] and support to not go.” It is made very clear to athletes that a decision not to go is supported and not penalized. Additionally, Bourque outlines the different scenarios, like if a student decided against going, “the team would [discuss] and ask, ‘should we go? We’re a team...’” He has also noted that there are other hockey coaches who have decided not to participate in competitions hosted by the National Collegiate Athletic Association due to the current situation, when they typically have in the past.

The coaches and teams would also plan and discuss what happens if someone were to be stopped at the border, in regards to situations like phone confiscation.

Interestingly, there may be some reverse impact as some athletes that previously decided to go to the U.S. may change their mind or even come back to UW. “Numbers are not massive but I wasn’t expecting a third-year player who is good to come back,” Bourque says. “[We]

can help but not now. There’s not enough space in the lineup and things need to be moved around.”

Similarly, CTV has reported an increase in American students’ interest to study in Canada. A UW spokesperson stated:

“The University of Waterloo has not seen an overall increase in student applications from the U.S. over the past year. However, some faculties, including engineering, have seen increased interest and applications from potential students. Anecdotally, we have seen an increase in U.S. visitors to the UW Visitors Centre on campus, and web traffic that originates in the U.S. has increased by 15 per cent since September 2024.”

With that being said, U.S. high-school students who are incoming first years to UW have not cited any political reasons for their choice.

Ethan Margolin, who currently resides in Maryland, will be joining the mechatronics engineering program at UW in fall 2025. For him, he applied because he was interested in the program. Accepting his offer came down to liking the campus, the co-op program, design teams, and the city itself, rather than the politics between the U.S. and Canada, which was not something he considered while applying. However, his perspective has shifted since Trump has taken office. “[Seeing] the Ivies lose federal funding makes me more confident about going to Waterloo,” he said, referring to top Ivy League universities like Harvard and Columbia University being threatened with losing federal funding.

Similarly, Luca Balenger, who moved from Canada to California when he was nine, has accepted his offer to computer engineering at UW.

Like Margolin, the politics between the U.S. and Canada were not a deciding factor, as he primarily considered Canadian tuition, co-op opportunities, and industry connections.

Aside from the impact on postsecondary institutions and the academic environment, changes in U.S. policy and uncertainty around critical infrastructure are also impacting the community as more initiatives aimed at U.S. professionals are announced. On June 5, Ontario's Minister of Health Sylvia Jones announced that the government would help fast-track U.S.-licensed healthcare providers to practice in Ontario. U.S.-certified doctors and nurses would be able to work in Ontario healthcare settings for up to six months before requiring registration with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario or the College of Nurses of Ontario.

Jenna Petker, director of health and physician recruitment from the Greater KW Chamber of Commerce, has seen inquiries from physicians south of the border who are looking to practice in KW. "In the last year, we've [had] more interest from U.S. physicians... many are Canadians who did their training in the US and are looking to relocate home," she said in an interview with *Imprint*. "The majority of them have ties to the community or are Canadian," she added, which means fewer immigration barriers for them to practice more easily in healthcare settings. "Having a streamlined process and pathway to practice [more easily

and quickly] in Ontario, I think, will be beneficial over the course of the next few months or years."

Linnea C., whose real name has been changed for privacy, is a UW graduate now working in the pharmacy division of Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto, also agreed that allowing U.S. physicians and nurses would help address community needs like the ongoing family doctor shortage. "I don't think there would be worse competition for doctors and nurses because we really are lacking those," she said, regarding the impact on the job market for local Canadians going into healthcare. She cited an acquaintance who needed a brain CT scan but the earliest appointment available would be in November, one of many stories of those who endure long wait times for appointments in public healthcare partly due to the lack of qualified healthcare professionals.

However, sufficient support and proper integration into the healthcare system would be crucial to making this work. "I'm concerned about the culture or mentality clash of US trained medical professionals like charging the most expensive treatment or [having a] money mindset...[the news] sounds great but the details of the execution [are] very important."

As politics and international relations continue to fluctuate, students, alumni, and faculty continue to reorient themselves and try to adjust to changes inside and outside UW. Only time will tell what the full extent of those changes will be.



Where to find some of the best trails in Waterloo Region

Carla Stocco, Staff Writer

Summer has finally arrived in Waterloo. As the days lengthen and formerly dark, chilly evenings are replaced by afternoons filled with warmth, sunsets, and birdsong, it is the perfect time to be outside, reconnect with nature, and get started on some adventuring.

There are plenty of benefits to hiking. Hike Ontario emphasizes how hiking remains an excellent means of reducing stress and reigniting our vitality, and is a natural kind of movement to the human body (over half of the muscles in the human body are meant for walking). It can also be an excellent and accessible means of getting a cardiovascular workout in. Health benefits aside, the chance to birdwatch, spot a deer, discover new plant or flower species, or even an opportunity to get away from the world of indoor screentime and reconnect with friends in a natural setting, can be refreshing and inspiring.

If you're looking for ways to get active and ditch the indoor screentime for some real-world exploring this summer, there are many options around UW to take a hike – who knows, you might even spot some unexpected wildlife.

Waterloo Park, Silver Lake Loop

Length: About two kilometres

Estimated time: About 30 minutes

Elevation gain: About 52 metres

Address: 50 Young St. W., Waterloo

Best time to visit: Year-round

Situated just past South Campus Hall, Waterloo Park is one of the most well-known locations to go for a hike. The loop overlooking Silver Lake offers the chance to spot mallards, geese, and if you're lucky, you might even spot a stork! The boardwalk overlooking sections of Silver Lake offers the chance to get closer to the water and experience the park from a different perspective, as you stand on a platform directly on the lake. With plenty of picnic tables around the park, there is also the option of bringing snacks with you on your hike, so you can refuel at a table later. This loop is considered an easy hike, given its shorter distance and low elevation.



Columbia Hills Loop

Length: About four kilometres

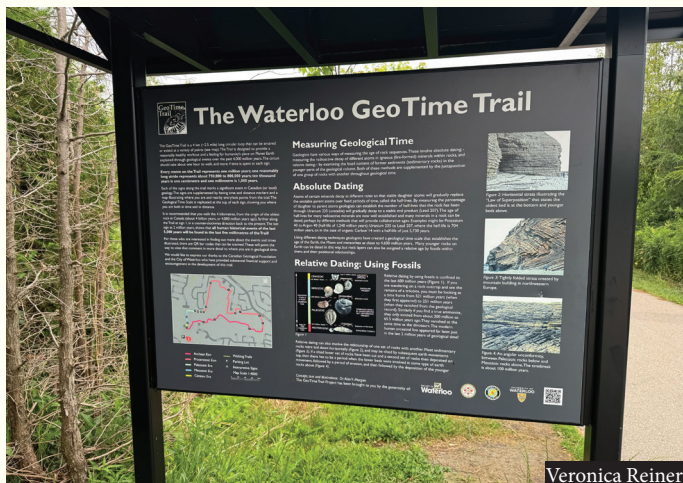
Estimated time: One hour and ten minutes

Elevation gain: About 140 metres

Address: 819 Columbia Forest Rd., Waterloo

Best time to visit: March - November

The entrance to this loop trail begins near a residential area at 819 Columbia Forest Rd. The trail is dog-friendly and offers scenic views of forestry and wildlife. With varying elevation and being a trail relatively close to the city, the Columbia Hills loop offers a break from the stimulation of city life and a chance to unwind in nature.



Veronica Reiner

GeoTime Trail

Length: About four and a half kilometres
Estimated time: One hour and fifteen minutes
Elevation gain: About 145 metres
Address: 594 Sundew Dr., Waterloo
Best time to visit: Year-round

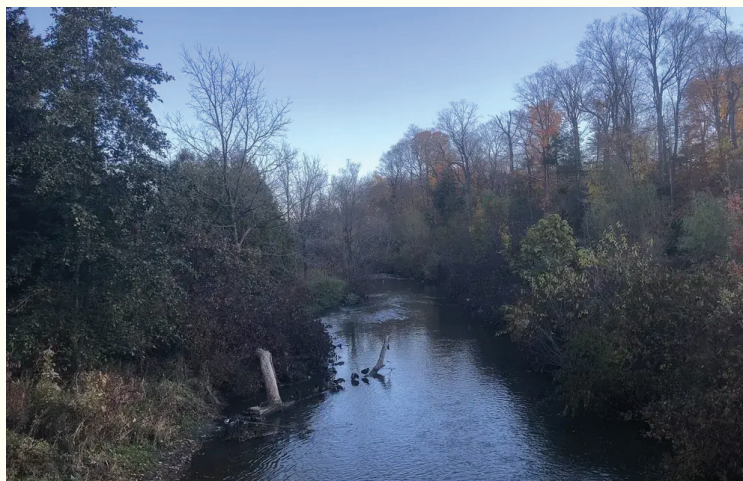
The GeoTime trail is a popular trail in the region for hiking and mountain biking enthusiasts, as well as anyone interested in birdwatching. The GeoTime trail is open year round and leashed dogs are welcome. What makes the GeoTime trail particularly intriguing is that it contains many interpretive signs throughout the route that detail the geological past of the City of Waterloo. Even more notable, “each meter of this 4½-kilometer (2.8-mile) trail marks one-million years of geological

history. Every millimeter represents 1,000 years.” Another fun fact about this trail that touches on UW history is that the trail opened (coincidentally) in 2007, which also happens to be UW’s 50th anniversary. As of press time, the GeoTime trail is closed by the city due to coyote sightings until July 17.

Forwell Trail to Hillside Reserve

Length: About three kilometres
Estimated time: 50 minutes
Elevation gain: About 77 metres
Address: 50 Blue Springs Dr, Waterloo
Best time to visit: March - November

The Forwell trail is perhaps a lesser-known trail in the Waterloo region, but definitely not one to be overlooked! It is considered an easy route and the entirety of the trail is paved. Cycling along this trail is common, so be aware of your surroundings if you’re on foot. For students who own a bike, the wide, paved trail makes cycling an excellent option if visiting this trail. Overall, this trail is a great option for those seeking a green oasis at the heart of the Waterloo region. With bridges overlooking several rivers and streams, as well as reported deer, groundhog, and fox sightings, this trail is sure to appeal to wildlife enthusiasts.



Health Valley Trail

Length: About three kilometres
Estimated time: 40 minutes
Elevation gain: About 59 metres
Address: Two main trail entrances: 3075 University Ave. in Waterloo and 35 Albert St. E. in St. Jacobs
Best time to visit: October (visitors state the changing colors of leaves at this trail as particularly lovely)

The Health Valley trail is classed as an easy trail, given its relatively low elevation and length, making it perfect for a walk on an active recovery day after a hard workout or if you’re looking for beginner trails in the region.



Via AllTrails

Kiwanis Park Loop

Length: About three kilometres

Estimated time: One hour

Elevation gain: About 123 metres

Address: 1,000 Kiwanis Park Dr., Waterloo

Best time to visit: Year-round

Looking for a park trail that is quieter and further from city traffic than Waterloo park? Consider visiting Kiwanis Park for a moderately challenging hike popular among bird watchers and runners. The trail is partially paved and leashed dogs are welcome.

Walter Bean Grand River Trail

Length: About eight kilometres

Estimated time: Two hours

Elevation gain: About 169 metres

Address: Entrance near University Avenue beside RIM Park and Grey Silo Golf Course

Best time to visit: March - October

Feeling ready to take on a more challenging hike? The Walter Bean Grand River trail is longer, with a higher elevation gain, making it a tougher trail to tackle. Its longer distance and higher elevation make it a great option for anyone seeking a higher-intensity workout. Leashed dogs are welcome. This trail is popular among runners, cyclists, and hikers alike, with great views of the grand river.



UW Outers Club

If you're interested in joining a club of like-minded students passionate about exploring the outdoors in the Waterloo region, consider joining the UW Outers Club. The club emphasizes getting outside during all seasons year-round, choosing to canoe, climb, kayak, or hike during the summer and when there's snowfall, they often go snowshoeing or skiing. If you're interested in joining the club, consider reaching out via email or Instagram:

Email: outersclub.uwaterloo@gmail.com

Instagram Handle: @wloo.outersclub

If you're feeling ready to start hiking one of the Waterloo region's many trails, consider bringing along a friend and making sure you come prepared with water and sunscreen. Whether you're looking for an easy trail walk with plenty of sights and sounds, or are looking for a trail that has a history and educational aspects involved, consider visiting one or several trails this summer.

From chill to champion: Free UW tools to boost your semester

Radha Vyas, Contributor



Being a student at UW is a full-on experience: from tackling assignments, juggling midterms, and chasing co-op applications to figuring out which Tim's line actually moves the fastest (pro tip: it's rarely the one you're in), it's easy to overlook some seriously useful free resources right at your fingertips. While free food during exam seasons is certainly appreciated, this guide focuses on the other essentials that can safeguard your GPA, finances, and well-being.

Academic and Learning Support:

Meet your personal success squad: the peer success coaches. Run by upper-year UW students through the Student Success Office, peer success coaching is a free service that offers one-on-one academic support both online and in person. Whether you need help with time management, note-taking, exam preparation, or building a personalized term-action plan, coaches are trained to guide you through it all.

Equally valuable is the Writing and Communication Centre (WCC) — your go-to for all things writing. Whether you're brainstorming a thesis, struggling with grammar, or prepping a lab report, the WCC offers one-on-one appointments (in-person or online), drop-in hours, workshops, and even asynchronous modules you can complete in your pajamas.

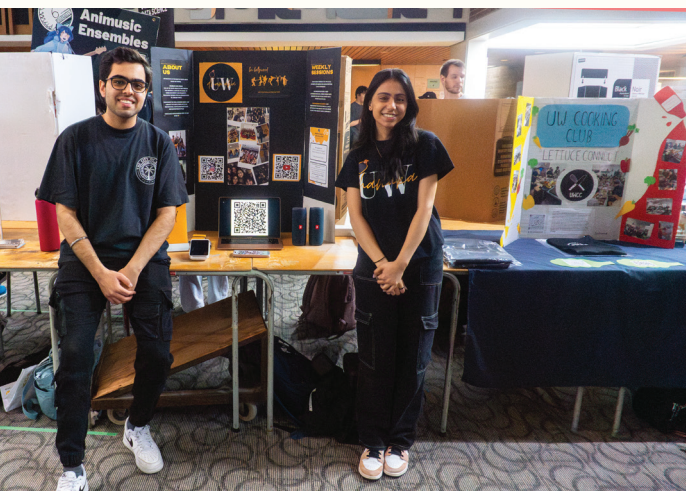
If your math or computer science classes have you stressed, don't worry — CEMC Courseware has your back. It was developed by Waterloo experts and offers interactive lessons, quizzes with instant feedback, practice problems, and enrichment challenges. It covers everything from grade 7 to grade 12 math and computer science topics like calculus, vectors, and Python programming.

Career and Professional Development:

Finding your footing in the job world can feel overwhelming. That's where the Centre for Career Development (CCD) steps in. Based out of the William M. Tatham Centre, CCD is UW's central resource for career exploration, career planning, and job readiness. They offer personalized one-on-one advising and drop-in sessions to help you sharpen your résumé, polish your cover letter, prepare for interviews, and explore your career goals. CCD regularly hosts free workshops and events that cover everything from professional headshots to skills identification.

Health and Wellness:

Taking care of your mental health is just as important as acing your next exam. Campus Wellness at UW provides free counselling services for all students, including those on co-op terms. These confidential sessions help students manage anxiety, depression, stress management, and more. Beyond counselling, Campus Wellness offers mental wellness workshops and group programs focusing on building resilience, mindfulness, and coping skills. Peer support initiatives allow students to connect with trained peers who can offer understanding and guidance from a student's perspective. Other Campus Wellness resources include online self-help tools and crisis support contacts to ensure you have help whenever you need it.



WUSA clubs and societies day in the SLC

Technological and Digital Tools:

As a UW student, you have access to a suite of essential digital tools at no cost! Student IT Services provides Microsoft 365 apps such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Teams, ensuring you have the software you need for assignments, presentations, and group projects. Additionally, UW offers LinkedIn Learning, an extensive online platform with thousands of video courses on software skills, professional development, and many more to count. UW students also have access to tech support through the IT Service Desk, where IT staff can get help with everything from software issues to device troubleshooting.

International Student Support:

Starting university in a new country can be daunting, but the International Experience team at UW is here to make the international transition as smooth as possible. They provide a broad range of services tailored to international students, including guidance on immigration, study permits, and work authorization to ensure your legal status is clear and maintained throughout your studies. Beyond paperwork, they organize social and cultural events designed to help international students feel at home on campus. The team also offers workshops on adapting to Canadian academic culture, managing homesickness, and connecting with local resources. Whether you have questions about Canadian banking, healthcare, or finding a community, the International Experience is a trusted resource to help you navigate campus life confidently.

Community and Campus Life:

Finding a sense of belonging on campus is key to a successful university experience, and the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) makes that easy with its vibrant ecosystem of over 200 student clubs and organizations. These clubs span a wide array of interests — from cultural groups celebrating diverse backgrounds and academic societies connected to your field of study to social clubs for hobbies like anime, K-pop, dance, debate, coding, and more.

Joining a club isn't just about having fun — it's a chance to build lifelong friendships, develop leadership skills, and connect with like-minded peers. Many clubs organize workshops, socials, volunteer events, and even competitions, helping you expand your network and explore new passions outside the classroom. Whether you're a gamer seeking guilds for esports, an artist wanting to collaborate, or a volunteer eager to make an impact, there's a community for you. If you can't find a club that matches your unique passion, WUSA encourages you and provides you with the resources to start your own club. WUSA provides support to help you start and manage your group — from securing meeting spaces and accessing funding opportunities to other helpful resources. So, whether it's a niche interest like a crochet and true crime podcast club or a fresh idea that hasn't hit campus yet, UW's campus culture is built to empower students to create and lead.

WUSA's five-year plan: A bold vision with fresh leadership

Radha Vyas, Contributor

As the previous Long-Range Plan (LRP) wraps up, the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) is gearing up for the 2025–2030 LRP. The plan was recently approved by the WUSA's Board of Directors on April 16 and will guide the organization's priorities over the next five years. Development of the plan began in August 2024, with the recruitment of at-large students to the LRP Committee and the initial groundwork for project planning. The process followed a four-phase structure. It starts with project setup and stakeholder engagement planning, followed by interviews and focus groups to gather insights, then drafting and refining objectives based on feedback, and finally submitting the completed LRP along with an internal operational framework to support implementation.

The 2025–2030 LRP is guided by a mission to serve, empower, and represent the undergraduate students at UW. This mission is operationalized through three foundational pillars:

- **Serve:** Ensuring accessible services, spaces, and supports that make campus life safer, more connected, and easier to navigate — from food and transit to events, businesses, and study spaces.

- **Empower:** Helping students grow their voice, leadership, and confidence through advocacy, self-representation, and support for clubs and communities.
- **Represent:** Making student needs and perspectives visible in decisions that affect them through strong governance, evidence-based advocacy, and partnerships across campus and beyond.

Advocacy Priorities

Building on the three pillars, WUSA has focused on advocacy efforts that reflect what matters most to students. Through campus-wide consultations, four key advocacy priorities emerged:

1. **Affordability and cost of living:** Addressing housing and food insecurity.
2. **Co-op and employment:** Enhancing co-op experiences and employment opportunities.



3. Mental health and wellness: Promoting mental health resources and support.

4. Academic quality and fairness: Ensuring academic fairness and high-quality education.

To address these issues, WUSA advocates at multiple levels — institutional, municipal, provincial, and federal. At the provincial level, WUSA works through the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) on issues like housing, mental health, and public transit. Federally, WUSA joined the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) in early 2025 after a year as an observer. Through CASA, WUSA meets with federal officials to raise student concerns and shapes national policy. Locally, they work with Waterloo region through the Town and Gown Committee to connect students with the broader community.

At the institutional level, WUSA's advocacy is guided by Annual Plan and LRP. Over the next five years, WUSA aims to improve co-op and employment programs, ensure the university can provide robust mental health services and uphold the delivery of high-quality, fair education for all students.

In addition to external advocacy, WUSA is also preparing to launch the second edition of the Change Engine — an initiative that empowers students to lead their own advocacy projects. The next competition is expected to take place this fall, with further details to be announced soon. Progress updates from the 2024 Change Engine winners are available in the 'Change Engine 2024: Milestone Update' on the WUSA website.

Strategic Objectives

To make this mission a reality, WUSA has outlined six strategic objectives that build on the momentum of the last five years.

- 1. Better understand what students need — and be known for it:** Deepening insights into student needs and formalizing WUSA's role as an expert on student experience.
- 2. Strengthen student trust, voice, and impact in WUSA:** Fostering deeper relationships between WUSA and students, rooted in openness, representation, and shared purpose.
- 3. Revitalize social life and belonging at UW:** The 2025–2030 LRP outlines a commitment to creating a more connected, joyful, and inclusive student experience through redesigned spaces and diverse event programming. While renovations to the SLC are underway, WUSA is also exploring new event offerings based on student interests. The plans include balancing large, high-energy events — such as concerts — with long-standing favourites like Sex Toy Bingo, BBQs, and Cultural Caravan. A survey conducted in fall 2024 through the Representative



Survey Platform (RSP) is also expected to inform future programming in collaboration with clubs, societies, and WUSA's student services.

- 4. Strengthen operational monitoring and student-focused partnerships:** Ensuring WUSA's operations deliver real value to members and exploring new models like student-run co-ops.
- 5. Be a place people are proud to work:** Creating a healthy, supportive, and growth-oriented work environment at WUSA.
- 6. Advocate for the collective interests of students:** Elevating WUSA's advocacy from responsive to strategic, shaping policies and systems that impact the student experience.

Measuring Progress

To ensure WUSA has the internal capacity to realize this ambitious plan, the organization has already undertaken a significant structural transformation. As of May 2025, a new governance model — developed from the 2022 review — has been implemented, including the creation of two Senior Director roles focused specifically on operations and outreach. Moreover, WUSA is committed to transparency and accountability, and has established clear mechanisms to track progress throughout the implementation of the LRP. Updates on Objectives and Key Results (OKRs) are communicated through multiple channels, including email newsletters, targeted member updates, and regular postings on WUSA's website. These are further supported by ongoing coverage on social media platforms such as Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook, helping students stay informed about key milestones and initiatives. In addition to these communications, WUSA fosters direct engagement by hosting open forums, town halls, and feedback sessions both virtually and in person.

These spaces allow students to ask questions, provide input, and stay actively connected. Progress itself is measured through strategic metrics that evaluate the effort behind initiatives (such as the number of workshops conducted), their effectiveness (for example, participant satisfaction), and financial outcomes (including cost savings).

To demonstrate real progress, WUSA held a general board meeting on April 16, where the board of directors provided a closer look at how the 2025–2030 LRP will move from vision to action. In the meeting, Alex Chaban, the board of directors (2024–2025) — lit up the room with excitement as he described the new LRP as more than just a document. “A huge part of this Long-Range Plan that I’m really excited for is the fact that it’s meant to be flexible — annual action plans and initiatives will feed into it, shaping clearer deliverables that then support our broader objectives,” he said.

As the conversation deepened, Muhammad Abbas Kanji, a Board Director (2025–2026), chimed in and asked: “How will students actually be able to track WUSA’s progress over the next five years?” In response, Ben Balfour, manager of strategy and transformation at Overlap Associates said: “The plan is built around clear key results. These key results will make it easy for students to understand WUSA’s priorities, monitor achievements, and see tangible progress throughout the plan’s lifetime. The new framework also aims to be highly accessible, helping students easily recognize how action plans and initiatives connect to long-term goals.”

Shaping Tomorrow, Together

While the LRP outlines WUSA’s internal vision, its true strength lies in student involvement. Every objective, key result, and initiative is rooted in student voices — and its success depends on your continued input. You can play an active role by joining upcoming forums and surveys, staying updated through WUSA’s official channels, and sharing your ideas and

“A huge part of this Long-Range Plan that I’m really excited for is the fact that it’s meant to be flexible”

- Alex Chaban, board of directors (2024–2025)

feedback. Students can use the general inquiries or feedback forms available on the WUSA website’s contact page. For more direct communication, students may email senior staff members including Melissa Thomas, Senior Director of Outreach and Engagement (mmthomas@wusa.ca), or Prashant Kumar Patel, Senior Director of Operations (p32patel@wusa.ca). Additionally, Vice-President Remington Zhi (vp@wusa.ca) is also available for student outreach. On campus, the Turnkey Desk in the SLC remains open 24/7 as a convenient point of contact for assistance and suggestions.



Via Freepik

“The new framework also aims to be highly accessible, helping students easily recognize how action plans and initiatives connect to long-term goals.”

- Ben Balfour, manager of strategy and transformation at Overlap Associates

Iconic Bomber bar will return to UW campus

Thea East, Senior Editor

While UW is well-known for having very dedicated students, it also has a reputation for a lackluster social life. Unbeknownst to many, the campus used to be home to the Bombshelter Pub, lovingly nicknamed the Bomber, that served as the place where UW students could let loose and have some typical college fun. The Bombshelter was a beloved bar located in the SLC that ran for more than 40 years before being shut down in early 2019. Now, six years after its doors closed and four years since WUSA announced their plans to renovate the space as a student lounge, the Bombshelter, in a new form, is finally returning to UW.

The Bombshelter's origins go back to 1968 when the Campus Center Pub, operated by the university, opened to students. Over the next eight years, there were attempts to change who managed the bar until 1976, when the Federation of Students signed an agreement to take over the pub from the university. It was during this shift in management that the name was changed to

the Orange Bombshelter, but this was shortened to just the Bombshelter four years later in 1980. Through the years, the bar has played host to different live performances such as the Arkells, USS, and Stereo Kid. Other events, such as trivia nights and Bomber Wednesdays, became popular among the student body and drew large crowds to the bar. The Bombshelter went through multiple renovations in the 2000s, with the patio being redone in 2008 and becoming the largest in the KW region. However, the bar did not remain financially viable, and the decision was made in 2018 to close the bar. The last major event was the New Year's Eve Party, which took place just weeks before the Bomber closed its doors for the last time.

Plans to give new life to the space have been in motion for the past few years, with WUSA announcing back in 2021 that they planned to renovate the space to add a second level, work stations, comfortable lounge seating, a bar, and a restaurant. Two years later, the

space officially reopened as the student lounge, but the construction and return of the bar had not yet been set into motion. Today, the space is now home to Smash-bites and has just recently been officially renamed as the Bomber,



Via @bombshelterpub/Instagram

a callback to the nickname students knew the bar by. When discussing the progress of the return of the bar, Damian Mikhail, the current WUSA president, said, “I think it’s fair to say that students have been wanting the Bomber to come back for quite a while now. I myself have been pretty frustrated by the fact that, it seems like for years we’ve been calling to kind of bring the Bomber back, or at least in some capacity, without it actually going anywhere.”

the renovations to start, which is why they just passed the budget required for the return of the Bomber at a recent board meeting. Mikhail emphasized the importance of ensuring, however, that Smashbites remains a part of the space due to its popularity and success among students since its arrival last year.

Along with the passing of the budget, the approval to renovate the space and add the second level was passed at this year’s Annual General Meeting (AGM).

However, this is not something that will be put into motion right away. Mikhail explained how students can expect the bar to be open and running in early fall as an interim Bomber, which students will have access to while they are working on expanding the space. There is currently no concrete timeline for when the renovations for the second level will be done. Moving forward, the space will still be available for clubs to book for events, and opportunities to experience the old Bomber bar will be made available to students. The WUSA president explained how they plan to organize a few late-night events a month where the bar and food will be open, but want to leave the rest of the time available to be booked out for other social events by clubs. This way, a “vibrant social space” can be prioritized and created, Mikhail said.

The importance of the return of the Bomber bar to campus is not only significant due to its long history with UW. Mikhail explained how he feels that UW is in great need of a space that does not feel like a purely academic setting for students to be on campus. “UW students are fantastic at turning every space into a study space, and it is important that we have study spaces, but it’s important that we also have spaces where students can hang out, have a drink, have some food,

and just have some fun.”

Timmy Wen, a UW alumnus who graduated in 2020, also agreed with the need for a spot on campus

Current state of the Bomber



Thea East


The WUSA president said that while he can’t speak to why it has taken so long for the bar to return, he and the recently elected new board are tired of waiting for

not dedicated to studies when he reminisced about his time at UW and his memories from the Bomber before it closed. “During the day you’d always have people sitting in the couches in that main area leading into the Bomber and they’d be crying over some assignment or something, but at night, especially during Bomber Wednesdays, that area would be crowded with a lineup to get into it, and you can tell people are a little drunk and they’re all here to have fun.”

Wen shared how Bomber Wednesdays were one of his favourite events to attend at the bar as they turned it into a club-like space for the night, giving students somewhere to go out that was closer than going to bars off campus. Additionally, students enjoyed using the space during the day to eat and hang out as it had a more relaxed atmosphere than other places on campus. Wen mentioned how much he loved the breakfast food at the Bomber and has many happy memories of going to the bar in the morning with his friends.

Another student who attended UW when the Bomber was open, Edward Lee, also shared that he liked having a bar and restaurant that was on campus, especially with the fun events that would be organized. However, he explained that he usually preferred heading somewhere else for drinks as other places had cheaper prices.

In the coming months, the Bomber is hoped to become the central social space on campus again, where students can temporarily put their notebooks and laptops away, Mikhail explained. The WUSA president expressed how he wants students to see campus not just as a place to study and learn, but to enjoy life as well. “Your university experience is so much more than just assignments and finals, right? It’s some of the best years of your life, and that’s what we’re trying to create on campus: a more vibrant social space, and that’s what the Bomber is.”



“Your university experience is so much more than just assignments and finals, right? It’s some of the best years of your life, and that’s what we’re trying to create on campus: a more vibrant social space, and that’s what the Bomber is.”

— Damian Mikhail, WUSA president

Opinion: Why young Canadians' political views are shifting

Jordan Bauman, Contributor

Political allegiances swing back and forth as we elect governments and eventually replace them. Although the Liberals won this year's federal election, it was not without a leadership change, a U-turn in policy, and some help from U.S. President Donald Trump. The most interesting part of Canada's recent shift to the political right is where it came from: young people.

As a high school student in 2021, the Liberals and NDP seemed to hold iron-clad support from my peers. Election results in that year from Student Vote Canada, an organization that runs mock federal elections for Canadian high school students, yielded a Liberal government with an NDP opposition. These two parties combined for 226 seats — a solid 2/3 majority. This year, I was shocked to learn that high school students elected a minority Conservative government. Conservative seats shot up from 88 in 2021 to 163 in 2025, while NDP seats plummeted from 108 to 13. Even those who voted Liberal supported a much more right-leaning party than its past incarnation. Overall, these results show a distinct shift to the political right among young Canadians. Why has this shift happened, and what does it mean for the future of Canada?

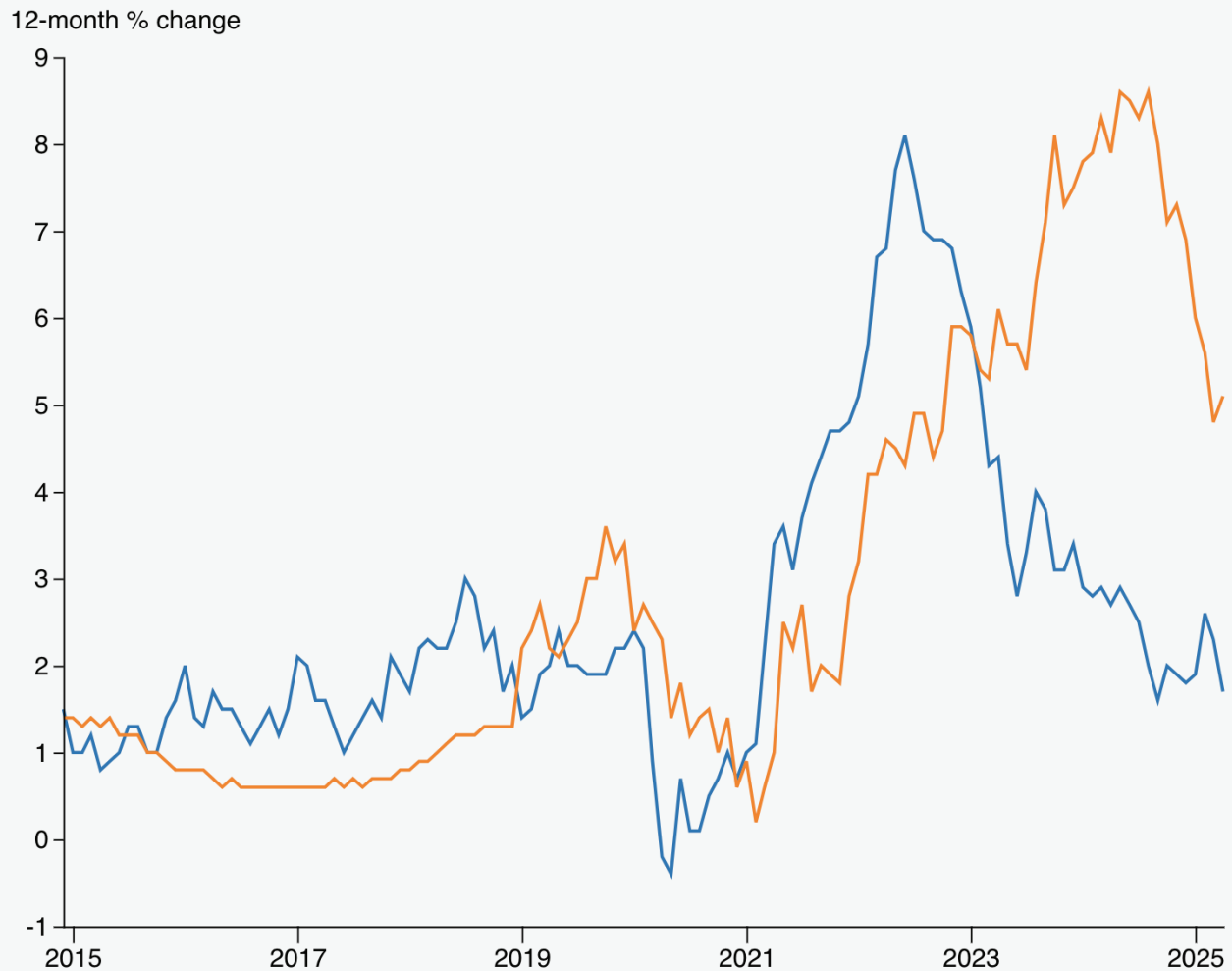
The most obvious explanation, and the one that holds the most weight, is an economic one. The cost of living has radically increased over the last four years. The Con-

sumer Price Index (CPI) from Statistics Canada illustrates the increasing financial plight of young Canadians. More specifically, prices for rented accommodation, a cost that is especially relevant for young Canadians, have remained elevated above pre-COVID levels. When you can't afford a home or struggle to pay your rent, it's hard *not* to want change. The Conservatives, more particularly Pierre Poilievre, picked up on this discontent and attracted young people who wanted change. Not only that, but the Conservative message, one where the government gets out of the way, was the kind of change people thought was needed. In the end, the arrival of Mark Carney, an economist by trade, may have helped to attract some voters back to the Liberal fold.

It's also reasonable to credit social changes for young people's shift to the right. Central to this argument is that young men are driving the rightward shift. Indeed, several polling agencies reported an opening chasm between young men's and women's voting preferences. The CBC cites an Abacus Data survey from late March 2025, which showed that men aged 30 and under were almost twice as likely to vote Conservative than women of the same age. Economics can only account for part of this difference: men and women face similar financial pressures. Instead, social factors must be at play.



Consumer Price Index



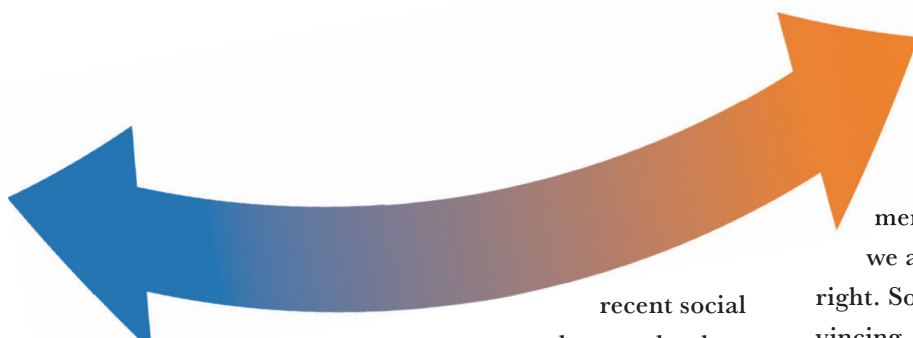
The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Canada from 2015-2025. The blue line indicates the overall CPI, and the orange line represents the rented accommodation sub-measure of the CPI.

Statistics Canada, Consumer Price Index Data Visualization Tool

I propose three perspectives for understanding the divergence between young men's and women's voting preferences. The first is a privilege-based explanation that is common to hear from the political left. Society has trended noticeably in a progressive direction. DEI policies, affirmative action, and social movements like #MeToo and BLM have created a more bias-conscious and equitable world where men have less of an advantage than they used to. A shift to the political right amongst young men may be a backlash to these changes and reflect a desire to see male

privilege restored. Although this argument holds some weight, I think it accounts for less change than you might think, especially in a Canadian context.

Instead, I'm inclined to think that the greater share of young men are tired of the left's social policies, not because of animosity towards women or minorities, but because they perceive an over-emphasis on progressive policies and see other issues as more pressing and relevant. Many young women care more about progressive social priorities, arguably because they want to maintain and grow the



men may be finding a home in religious circles, and as we all know, the religious demographic typically skews right. Some of my readers may not find this argument convincing, and that is fine. That said, it's something to keep an eye on.

Given all these varied explanations for the rightward shift of young Canadians, what can we conclude about the future of Canada? It may not be as progressive as we think. Let's not forget who we ultimately elected — a central banker who abolished the carbon tax. The political will does swing back and forth, even for young Canadians. Young Canadians are willing to guide the political discourse to the core, pressing issues, even if that means siding with Conservatives. We also see a gender gap forming across political lines. Will it persist? That depends on whether young women will feel that progressivism has gone far enough and whether young men will believe that the scales tip back in favour of caring about social progress rather than prosperity. We may also be witnessing a change in young people's motivation — a search for meaning in a secular culture.

Ultimately, as students at UW, we need to recognize these shifts and changes in our peers both on and off campus. There is a growing world of conservative young people both inside and outside of UW. If we are going to shape the future, it should be a future for all of us, even those who are not progressives. True inclusion looks like being able to engage in productive conversations with each other, even with those we disagree with. Hopefully, this article has been a helpful exercise in engaging with a new perspective.

Jordan Bauman is a third year psychology student at UW.

recent social
changes that have

worked in their favour. Men may not share the same perspective. Anecdotally, I have talked to several of my peers who believe that we have lost our way with DEI policies. They see these policies as necessary to some extent but perceive their present manifestation as over-the-top. In essence, when young people, especially young men, saw the forest fire that was a lack of job prospects, a very high cost of living, the overdose crisis, extraordinary immigration rates, and the like, they questioned the government's continued policies like lenient bail, open immigration, and the carbon tax. My peers were willing to prioritize change in these areas over progressivism. In fact, many of them seem to have drawn a connection between an over-emphasis on progressive policies and the aforementioned issues.

Finally, I propose another social motivation for the rightward shift, which I argue is distinct from those previous — a search for meaning. Bear with me. The past decade has not only given rise to stronger progressivism but also secularism. First, it was the New Atheism movement that worked to discredit belief in God and the practice of religion as irrational. Now, faith and religion are seen as vestiges of an oppressive social hierarchy. Despite these critiques, religion and belief in God give structure and purpose to many people's lives. I believe that young people have discovered what it's like to live without a higher meaning and have, as a result, become much more open to belief in God, practicing religion, or even just spirituality. In a culture that emphasizes other demographics, young



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If you are on TikTok, you've probably seen the viral hwachae (Korean fruit bowl) circulating the app. A variety of different fruit bowls like this are enjoyed across Asia. For instance, my childhood version of hwachae is a bowl of fruits, lychee jelly, sago, and coconut milk. This summery dessert will always evoke memories of my childhood — the sprinklers splashing while the sun is beaming, and the clothesline is swaying with the wind. Now, it is time for me to pass on this memory and recipe to you.

Tools

- A large bowl or container
- A cooking pot

Ingredients

- 1 ½ cups of coconut milk
- ½ - 1 cup of ice
- 1 cup of watermelon, diced
- ½ cup of mango, diced
- ½ cup of strawberries, sliced
- ½ cup of sago pearls, uncooked
- ½ cup of lychee jelly
- 1-2 tbsp of brown sugar (optional)

Instructions

1. In a pot of boiling water, pour in the sago pearls and let them simmer for 10 minutes on low heat. Stir occasionally until the water turns cloudy and starchy. After 10 minutes of simmering, turn off the heat and cover the pot for 5-10 minutes to let the remaining heat cook the sago pearls. Once the sago pearls are translucent, you can strain and rinse them under cold water.
2. In a large bowl or container, combine the coconut milk, ice, watermelon, mango, strawberries, cooked sago pearls, and lychee jelly. If you prefer extra sweetness, feel free to add the optional 1-2 tbsp of brown sugar. However, I recommend adjusting the sweetness after you have combined all the ingredients, as the lychee jelly and fruits tend to be sweeter. Gently stir the ingredients together and enjoy!

I hope that you can find some time during this summer to recreate this recipe, as this is one of my favourite desserts to enjoy in the hot weather. It is refreshing and light while keeping you cool and hydrated. You may store this in the fridge for up to two days. Enjoy!



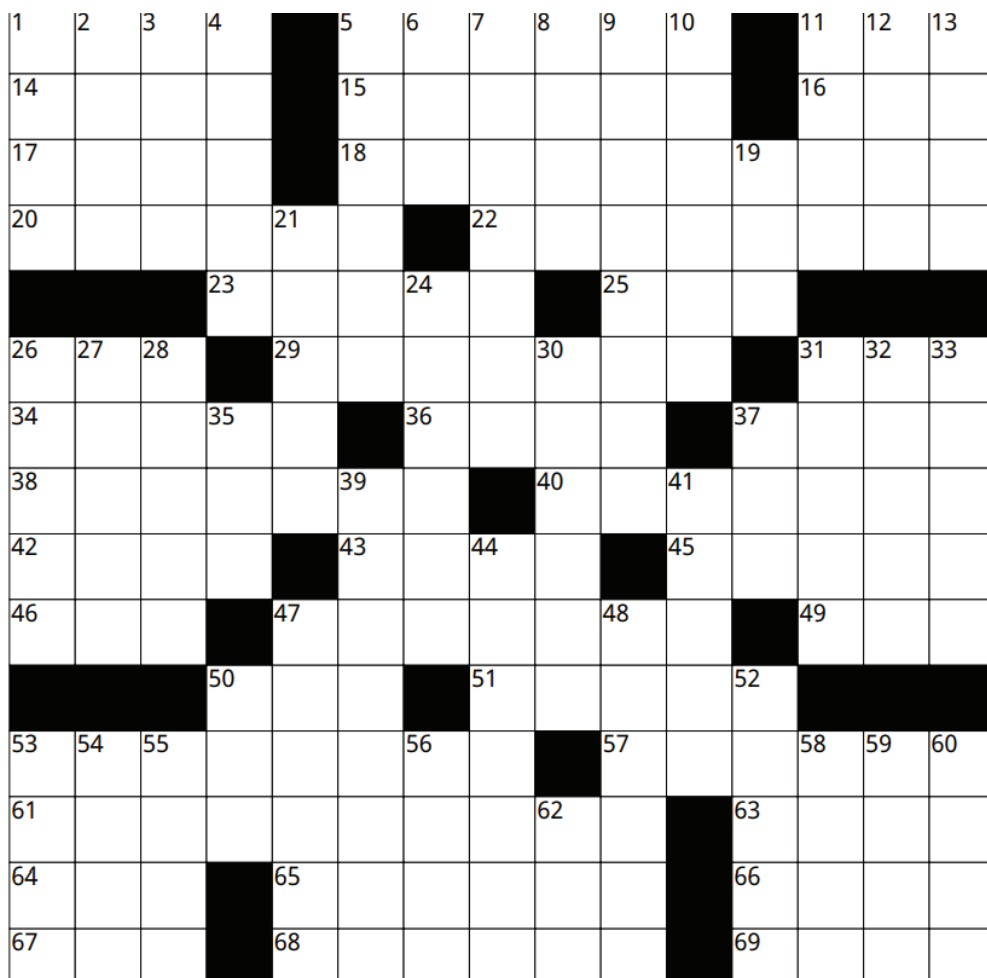
Ingrid Au, Contributor

July crossword

Zoe Cushman, Contributor

ACROSS

- 1 Temperate
 5 With 18A, the Latin name of the most iconic bird of UW campus
 11 Crazy, in French
 14 Singer India. ____
 15 Trojan War hero
 16 Occupational compliance concern (abbreviated)
 17 Young sheep
 18 See 5A
 20 Economical way to buy (two words)
 22 Pork style you might get in tacos (two words)
 23 Allude to (two words)
 25 ____! (popular free-to-play rhythm game)
 26 "Welcome to the Black Parade" band (abbreviated)
 29 Basis on which rent is typically due
 31 Recede
 34 Muse of poetry
 36 ____ de vivre
 37 Distinctive vibe
 38 Ontario's capital
 40 Medicine cabinet staple
 42 Amazes
 43 Parent's sister
 45 Unaccompanied
 46 UW BA that runs out of Renison (abbreviated)
 47 The Ontario Science Centre and Art Gallery of Ontario are two
 49 Microsoft file-transfer command
 50 Sweetie
 51 18th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
 53 Pentobarbital
 57 Dostoyevsky quote (two words)
 61 One side in a classic debate
 63 Opposed to
 64 A type of dessert or chart
 65 Ball pythons or hognoses
 66 Included on an email
 67 Hospital heart monitor
 68 John from long-running multimedia webcomic Homestuck
 69 Docile
DOWN
 1 West African republic



- 2 Tehran is its capital
 3 An arm or a leg
 4 Remove coding errors from
 5 ____ basics (two words)
 6 Mens ____ (criminal intent)
 7 Orange food colouring
 8 Agarwal, creator of 'The Password Game' and 'Absurd Trolley Problems'
 9 Future frogs
 10 ____ as pie (two words)
 11 Suffix with 'snooze-' or 'slug-'
 12 Location of horror-comedy podcast Camp Here and There
 13 Cold War power
 19 Initials of many US public colleges
 21 Iced tea flavour
 24 Some pears
 26 Lovers' lovers (abbreviated)
 27 What three is, as they say
 28 Magic: the Gathering cards with gold-coloured set symbols
 30 Temporary break
 31 Coins you could spend in Belgium or Finland
 32 Like pickle juice or the ocean

- 33 Scourges
 35 Rules for use (abbreviated)
 37 Feel unwell
 39 Teasing
 41 ____ deux (two words)
 44 Resembling mesh
 47 Whipped dessert
 48 Road in many cities (two words, abbreviated)
 50 "The Last of Us" network (abbreviated)
 52 Precise
 53 Casual refusal
 54 Musical written by Jorge Rive-ra-Herrans
 55 Compressed video format
 56 Run up ____ (two words)
 58 Ancient Peruvian
 59 Feature of a flower or wineglass
 60 Laundry company known for its 'Pods' product
 62 Poetic contraction

Crossword solutions are published on uwimprint.ca

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