



# CIRCUL8R

**No. 01**

OCTOBER 2026  
HALLOWEEN EDITION  
FREE MONTHLY MAILER

TORONTO CULTURE, CITY HALL AND THE FIGHT OVER YOUR TICKETS // FROM THE 808



A Circul8r comic-book issue

# KILL THE MONSTER!

**10 OF 22**

October events tie back to  
Ticketmaster or Live Nation

**16 POLLS.**

One leader. The race for  
mayor, by the numbers

Who owns the stage: the Live Nation ladder, 400 to 50,000 seats

The Ticket Monster check: every event, three boxes

Can Olivia slay it? The honest answer

Find the 8 spiders hidden in this issue

THE COVER IS A CARTOON. EVERYTHING INSIDE IS CHECKED AGAINST A SOURCE YOU CAN OPEN YOURSELF.

# HI, TORONTO.

**W**elcome to the first Circul8r mailer. Once a month we take everything the site tracked, from shows and polls to prices and city files, and give it room to breathe. Each issue picks a lead focus. October's is the one Toronto complains about most at parties: what it costs to see a show, and who's getting the money.

So we made it a comic. Mayor Olivia Chow, in 8-bit, against a robot spider built out of ticket stubs. It's a cartoon, and we want to say so up front. The comic asks the question. The rest of the issue does the reporting.

The vote is Monday 26 October. We cover the race the way we cover the monster: polls, records, the case for and the case against. Circul8r doesn't endorse candidates.

Every number in here carries a small superscript. It points to a numbered source at the back, and in the PDF it's a link. If something looks wrong, check it, then tell us at [contact@the808.org](mailto:contact@the808.org).

**CIRCUL8R // THE 808**

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## HOW TO READ THIS ISSUE

- ☒ A blue check means that part of a night out runs through Ticketmaster or Live Nation.
- ☐ An empty box means it doesn't.
- ☐ A question mark means we couldn't confirm it either way. It never counts against anyone.

**Damage ratings** and the monster's health bar are our call, for fun. The facts under them are not.

## SPIDER HUNT

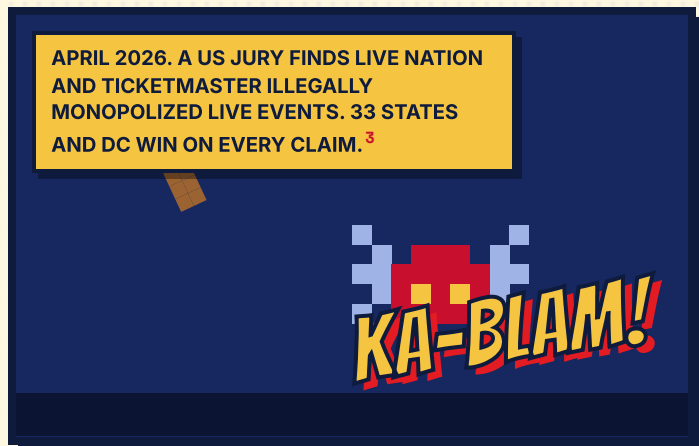
Eight tiny ticket spiders are hiding in this issue, one on each of eight different pages. The answer key is on the back cover, upside down.

# KILL THE MONSTER! CHAPTER 1

TORONTO, OCTOBER 2026. SOMETHING HAS ITS LEGS ON EVERY RUNG OF THE CITY'S STAGES, FROM THE 400-SEAT VELVET UNDERGROUND TO THE 50,000-SEAT STADIUM AT DOWNSVIEW.<sup>1,2</sup>



APRIL 2026. A US JURY FINDS LIVE NATION AND TICKETMASTER ILLEGALLY MONOPOLIZED LIVE EVENTS. 33 STATES AND DC WIN ON EVERY CLAIM.<sup>3</sup>



A SINGER STRIKES BACK. AFTER RESALE FOR OLIVIA DEAN'S TOUR HIT SEVERAL TIMES FACE VALUE, TICKETMASTER CAPPED IT AT FACE FOR THE WHOLE TOUR.<sup>4</sup>



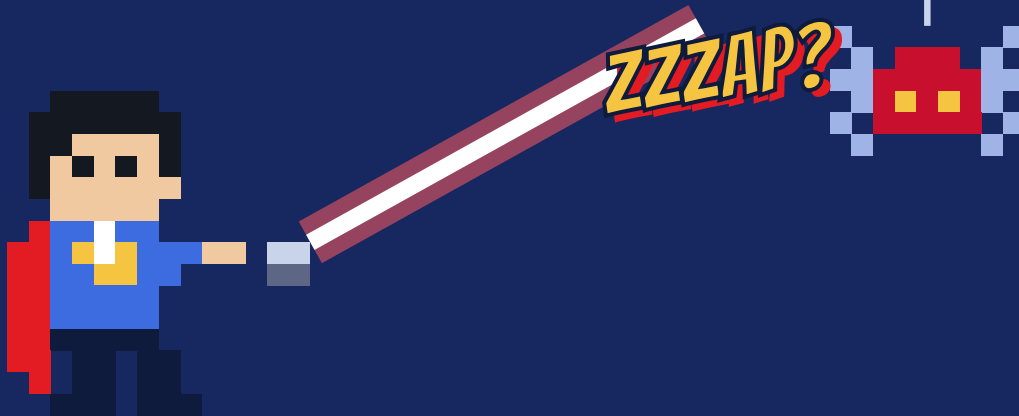
QUEEN'S PARK. ONTARIO MAKES RESELLING ABOVE THE ORIGINAL ALL-IN PRICE ILLEGAL. CRITICS SAY RESALE JUST MOVED INSIDE TICKETMASTER'S OWN SYSTEM.<sup>5,6</sup>



STILL STANDING. REMEDIES IN THE US CASE ARE STILL TO COME, AND LIVE NATION PLANS TO APPEAL.<sup>7</sup>



MEANWHILE, AT CITY HALL. HERO WANTED. RESALE IS PROVINCIAL LAW. CITY HALL'S NEAREST LEVER ON A NIGHT OUT IS THE TTC FARE TO GET THERE, WHICH CHOW FROZE.<sup>8,5</sup>



YOUR MOVE, TORONTO. 65 PEOPLE ARE RUNNING FOR MAYOR. ASK THE FRONT-RUNNERS ONE THING: WHAT WOULD YOU DO ABOUT WHAT WE PAY TO SEE A SHOW HERE?<sup>9,10</sup>

P1 CHOW? VOTE MON 26 OCT P2 BRADFORD?  
+ ALEXANDER AND 62 MORE

### THE SCORECARD

|                                  |                         |       |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| <b>33 US states + DC</b>         | Jury verdict, Apr 2026  | ■■■■■ |
| <b>Olivia Dean</b>               | Called it "vile", 2026  | ■■■□□ |
| <b>Premier Ford's government</b> | Resale cap, Apr 2026    | ■■■□□ |
| <b>US Justice Department</b>     | Settlement, Mar 2026    | ■■□□□ |
| <b>Competition Bureau</b>        | Drip-pricing fine, 2019 | ■□□□□ |
| <b>Sarnia's mayor</b>            | A letter, Dec 2015      | ■□□□□ |

Damage pips are our call, for fun. Each hit is detailed in the feature that follows.

### TO BE CONTINUED...

The comic is the pitch. Turn the page for the reporting: who owns Toronto's stages, what tickets cost, and why the monster is still at about 55% health.

# TICKETMASTER KILLS TORONTO

*Who owns the stages, what you actually pay, and what a US jury just found about the company that sells most of the city's tickets. The headline is our opinion. Everything under it is sourced.*

## 55,000

events Live Nation promoted worldwide in 2025

## 159M

fans at those events

## 646M

tickets through Ticketmaster systems in 2025

## 460

venues Live Nation owns, operates or holds a stake in

Live Nation worldwide, from its 2025 annual report.<sup>11</sup>

**S**tart with the ladder. A band coming up in Toronto can play the 400-capacity Velvet Underground, then the Opera House at around 900, the Danforth at 1,425, History at 2,553, the casino theatre at 5,000, the waterfront amphitheatre at about 18,000, and finally Rogers Stadium at 50,000. Every one of those rungs is owned, operated or exclusively booked by Live Nation.<sup>1,12,13,14,15,2</sup> The company that promotes the show often owns the room, and its Ticketmaster arm often sells the ticket.

It was built piece by piece. Live Nation already ran the amphitheatre and Echo Beach at Ontario Place when it took a majority stake in Toronto promoter Embrace in 2019, bringing in the Danforth and the Velvet.<sup>1</sup> History opened with Drake in 2021.<sup>13</sup> The

Opera House was bought in July 2023.<sup>12</sup> Rogers Stadium opened at Downsview in June 2025, and it's temporary, planned to run for about five years.<sup>2</sup> The amphitheatre, once Budweiser Stage, is now the RBC Amphitheatre, and it closes in 2028 for a rebuild that reopens it year-round in 2029.<sup>15</sup>

How many shows does Live Nation put on in Toronto each year? The company doesn't publish city-level counts. What it does publish is scale: 55,000 events and 159 million fans worldwide in 2025, with 646 million tickets running through Ticketmaster's systems.<sup>11</sup> The Globe and Mail reports it also books hundreds of concerts a year into independent Canadian venues.<sup>14</sup>

## The Live Nation ladder in Toronto: capacity, smallest to largest

|                           |                                                                                    |         |                                                |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------------------|
| Velvet Underground        |   | 400     | Live Nation, via Embrace <sup>1</sup>          |
| Opera House               |   | 900~    | Bought by Live Nation, July 2023 <sup>12</sup> |
| Danforth Music Hall       |   | 1,425   | Live Nation, via Embrace <sup>1</sup>          |
| History                   |   | 2,553   | Live Nation with Drake <sup>13</sup>           |
| Theatre at Great Canadian |   | 5,000   | Live Nation books it exclusively <sup>14</sup> |
| RBC Amphitheatre          |   | 18,000~ | Live Nation <sup>15</sup>                      |
| Rogers Stadium            |  | 50,000  | Owned and operated by Live Nation <sup>2</sup> |

Bar length on a log scale, so a 400-seat club still shows next to a 50,000-seat stadium. ~ means approximate. Echo Beach, also Live Nation, has no published capacity.<sup>1</sup>

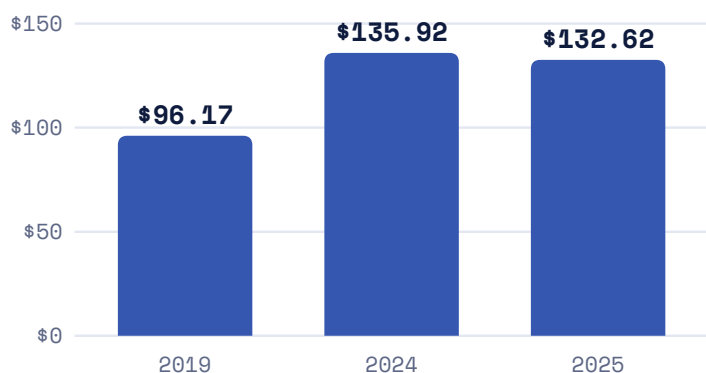
On price, the clearest data is industry-wide. Pollstar's average for the top 100 tours went from US\$96.17 in 2019 to US\$135.92 in 2024, then eased to US\$132.62 in 2025.<sup>16</sup> Maclean's puts the 2019–2025 rise at 37.2%, well ahead of Canadian inflation of roughly 21% over the same years.<sup>17</sup>

Toronto's sharpest example is Taylor Swift. Face values for her six Rogers Centre nights in November 2024 ran from \$160 in the 500 level to \$600 on the

floor.<sup>18</sup> Days before, the cheapest resale listings on Vivid Seats ran from US\$991 to US\$1,632.<sup>19</sup> Toronto Life put the expected economic impact of the six nights at roughly \$120 million.<sup>20</sup>

We couldn't find a reliable public record of what the same artist cost in Toronto across different tours, so Circul8r is starting one. Every issue, our Ticket watch logs the lowest listing for the same shows, and that history will build in these pages.

Average ticket, top 100 tours worldwide (US\$)<sup>16</sup>



**+37.2%**

Top-tour ticket prices, 2019 to 2025<sup>17</sup>

**\$160 → \$600**

Swift face values, Rogers Centre, 2024<sup>18</sup>

**US\$991+**

Cheapest Swift resale days before<sup>19</sup>

# THE LAW, THE COURTS AND THE FINE PRINT

**R**egulators have been circling for a decade. In December 2015 Sarnia's mayor, Mike Bradley, asked Queen's Park to cap resale at twice face value after Springsteen and Adele tickets went for three to five times face.<sup>21</sup> In 2019 Canada's Competition Bureau got Ticketmaster to pay a \$4.5 million penalty over drip pricing: advertised prices that didn't include mandatory fees.<sup>22</sup>

This year the hits got bigger. In March the US Justice Department settled its case before trial: a \$280 million fund, 13 exclusive booking agreements divested, fees capped at 15% of face value and the platform opened to competitors. Live Nation keeps Ticketmaster, and the National Independent Venue Association called the deal insufficient.<sup>7,23</sup>

The states kept going. In April, in Manhattan federal court, 33 states and DC won on every claim: Ticketmaster monopolized primary ticketing for major concert venues, and Live Nation monopolized large amphitheatres and tied promotion to amphitheatre use. The jury found fans were overcharged \$1.72 per ticket at 257 venues.

Remedies, possibly including a forced breakup, are still to come, and Live Nation plans to appeal.<sup>3,7</sup> Those were US claims about US venues.

Ontario moved the same month. Since late April 2026, Ontario's amended Ticket Sales Act caps resale at the all-in price the first buyer paid, fees and taxes included. It covers anyone who resells and any platform that facilitates it. Fines for ticket businesses run up to \$10,000.<sup>5</sup> Enforcement has been rough. In June the province put StubHub and SeatGeek on its Consumer Beware list for allegedly allowing above-cap listings, and as of mid-July no fines had apparently been issued. Regulations on proof of original price were still being written.<sup>24</sup> Critics also argue the cap pushed resale back inside Ticketmaster's own system, while dynamic pricing on first sales stays unregulated.<sup>6</sup>

**The other side.** Live Nation says it will appeal. Its CEO, Michael Rapino, has argued that concert tickets are still underpriced compared with sports. And the US Justice Department chose to settle rather than seek a breakup.<sup>7,3</sup>

| RESALE RIGHT NOW                                                                                                                                                         |            |                  |                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| SHOW                                                                                                                                                                     | DATE       | VENUE            | LOWEST LISTING          |
| Christone "Kingfish" Ingram                                                                                                                                              | Sat 10 Oct | Massey Hall      | <a href="#">US\$42</a>  |
| Doja Cat                                                                                                                                                                 | Wed 25 Nov | Scotiabank Arena | <a href="#">US\$115</a> |
| Olivia Rodrigo                                                                                                                                                           | Mon 26 Oct | Scotiabank Arena | <a href="#">US\$499</a> |
| Olivia Rodrigo                                                                                                                                                           | Tue 27 Oct | Scotiabank Arena | <a href="#">US\$538</a> |
| Lowest listing on TickPick, a US marketplace, read on Sun 4 Oct 2026; each price links to its listing. In Ontario, reselling above the original all-in price is illegal. |            |                  |                         |

## BOSS FIGHT: EVERYONE WHO'S SWUNG AT IT



### 33 US states + DC

Apr 2026

#### JURY VERDICT ■■■■■

A jury found Live Nation and Ticketmaster illegally monopolized live events. Remedies, possibly a breakup, are still to come.<sup>3</sup>

### Premier Ford's government

Apr 2026

#### RESALE CAP ■■■■□

Ontario made reselling above the original all-in price illegal. Critics say it also pushed resale back inside Ticketmaster's own system while primary dynamic pricing stays unregulated.<sup>5,6</sup>

### Competition Bureau

2019

#### DRIP-PRICING FINE ■□□□□

Ticketmaster paid a \$4.5 million penalty over advertised prices that didn't include mandatory fees.<sup>22</sup>

### Olivia Dean

2026

#### CALLED IT "VILE" ■■■■□□

After resale for her tour hit several times face value, Ticketmaster capped resale at face value for the whole tour and refunded the markups.<sup>4</sup>

### US Justice Department

Mar 2026

#### SETTLEMENT ■■■□□□

A \$280 million fund and a 15% fee cap, but Live Nation keeps Ticketmaster. Independent venues called it insufficient.<sup>7,23</sup>

### Sarnia's mayor

Dec 2015

#### A LETTER ■□□□□

Mike Bradley asked Queen's Park to cap resale at twice face value after Springsteen and Adele tickets went for three to five times face.<sup>21</sup>

## WINTER BOSS LEVELS

WHERE IT BITES HARDEST THIS SEASON

2025-26 season

### Leafs season tickets

#### UP TO 20-22% MORE

Upper-bowl seasons went from \$8,522 to \$10,396. The Leafs already charged the NHL's highest season-ticket prices.<sup>25</sup>

26-27 Oct

### Olivia Rodrigo, Scotiabank Arena

#### FROM US\$499 RESALE

Lowest TickPick listing when we checked. In Ontario, reselling above the original all-in price is illegal.<sup>26</sup>

Wed 25 Nov

### Doja Cat, Scotiabank Arena

#### FROM US\$115 RESALE

Lowest TickPick listing when we checked.<sup>26</sup>

Tue 29 Dec • two shows

### Trans-Siberian Orchestra

#### HOLIDAY ARENA SHOW

The holiday rock show plays Scotiabank Arena twice, per Songkick. Check the all-in price before you hit buy.<sup>26</sup>

5-31 Dec

### The Nutcracker, National Ballet

#### FROM \$72, SOLD DIRECT

The counter-example: the National Ballet says it is the only official seller of its tickets. No middleman.<sup>27</sup>

12 Nov - 3 Jan

### Distillery Winter Village

#### \$19.89 AT PEAK, FREE BEFORE 4 P.M.

Paid timed entry at busy hours, free on weekdays early in the season.<sup>28</sup>

## YOUR WEAPONS THIS WINTER

**Know the cap.** In Ontario, resale can't exceed the original all-in price, fees and tax included.<sup>5</sup> **Buy direct when you can.** The National Ballet sells its own Nutcracker tickets.<sup>27</sup> **Compare the all-in price.** The Competition Bureau has already fined Ticketmaster over prices that left out mandatory fees.<sup>22</sup> **Wait it out.** Resale for Taylor Swift's Toronto shows fell by up to US\$341 in the last 72 hours.<sup>19</sup>

# THE TICKET MONSTER CHECK

Every ticketed event we're tracking, broken into three questions. Who sells the ticket? Who owns the room? Who's promoting the night?

OCTOBER

45%

10 of 22 ticketed events; 5 unconfirmed

NOVEMBER

18%

7 of 9 ticketed events; 1 unconfirmed

DECEMBER

100%

1 of 1 ticketed events

One event so far. Treat it lightly.

A blue check means that part of the night runs through Ticketmaster or Live Nation: tickets sold on Ticketmaster or its TicketWeb, a venue Live Nation owns or operates, or a promoter that is Live Nation. One check makes it a monster win. Ticketmaster has been part of Live Nation Entertainment since 2010 and owns TicketWeb.<sup>29</sup> A question mark means we couldn't confirm it, and it doesn't count. TV, film, tech and election dates are left out, and months are counted by start date.

Two things stood out. Scotiabank Arena sells every show through Ticketmaster but is owned by MLSE, not Live Nation, so even Journey, promoted by Live Nation's rival AEG Presents, is a monster win on tickets alone.<sup>30,31,32</sup> And much of the arts world sells its own tickets: the COC and the Royal Conservatory use their own box offices, Massey Hall sells some shows itself, and five of the eight festivals we track use other platforms.

| DATE         | EVENT                                                            | TICKETS                                          | VENUE                                                         | PROMOTER                                                                | VERDICT                                   |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 3 Oct–18 Oct | <b>Cosi fan tutte</b><br>Canadian Opera Company                  | <input type="checkbox"/> COC box office          | <input type="checkbox"/> Four Seasons Centre                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Canadian Opera Company                         | <b>MONSTER-FREE</b> <sup>33</sup>         |
| 4 Oct        | <b>Gorillaz + Little Simz + Deltron 3030</b><br>Scotiabank Arena | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ticketmaster | <input type="checkbox"/> MLSE (Rogers)                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Live Nation                         | <b>MONSTER WIN</b><br><sup>30,31,34</sup> |
| 5 Oct        | <b>Teddy Swims</b><br>Scotiabank Arena                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ticketmaster | <input type="checkbox"/> MLSE (Rogers)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Not named                                      | <b>MONSTER WIN</b> <sup>35,31</sup>       |
| 6 Oct–10 Oct | <b>Toronto Indie Horror Fest</b><br>Various                      | <input type="checkbox"/> FilmFreeway / door      | <input type="checkbox"/> Eyesore Cinema                       | <input type="checkbox"/> The festival                                   | <b>UNCONFIRMED</b> <sup>36</sup>          |
| 7 Oct        | <b>Kelela: new avatar live</b><br>Danforth Music Hall            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ticketmaster | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Live Nation (via Embrace) | <input type="checkbox"/> Not named                                      | <b>MONSTER WIN</b> <sup>37,1</sup>        |
| 7 Oct        | <b>beabadoobee + Wisp</b><br>Scotiabank Arena                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ticketmaster | <input type="checkbox"/> MLSE (Rogers)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Not named                                      | <b>MONSTER WIN</b> <sup>38,31</sup>       |
| 8 Oct        | <b>Bahamas</b><br>Massey Hall                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ticketmaster | <input type="checkbox"/> Massey Hall charity                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Live Nation                         | <b>MONSTER WIN</b> <sup>39,40</sup>       |
| 9 Oct        | <b>Pat Metheny</b><br>Massey Hall                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Not confirmed           | <input type="checkbox"/> Massey Hall charity                  | <input type="checkbox"/> MODO-Live + The Infidels Jazz                  | <b>UNCONFIRMED</b> <sup>41</sup>          |
| 10 Oct       | <b>Christone "Kingfish" Ingram</b><br>Massey Hall                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ticketmaster | <input type="checkbox"/> Massey Hall charity                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Live Nation + Toronto Jazz Festival | <b>MONSTER WIN</b> <sup>42,43</sup>       |
| 11 Oct       | <b>Dusky</b><br>Standard Time                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Not confirmed           | <input type="checkbox"/> Standard Time                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Not named                                      | <b>UNCONFIRMED</b> <sup>44</sup>          |
| 14 Oct       | <b>Beck: Ride Lonesome Tour</b><br>Massey Hall                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ticketmaster | <input type="checkbox"/> Massey Hall charity                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Live Nation                         | <b>MONSTER WIN</b> <sup>45,46</sup>       |

| DATE          | EVENT                                                                           | TICKETS                                                                                   | VENUE                                                         | PROMOTER                                           | VERDICT                     |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 14 Oct–18 Oct | <b>Toronto After Dark Film Festival</b><br>Various                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Eventive                                                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Cineplex + CineCycle                 | <input type="checkbox"/> The festival              | <b>MONSTER-FREE</b> 47      |
| 15 Oct–25 Oct | <b>Fall for Dance North</b><br>Various                                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ticketmaster (TO Live)                                | <input type="checkbox"/> City-owned St. Lawrence Centre       | <input type="checkbox"/> Fall for Dance North      | <b>MONSTER WIN</b> 48,49    |
| 18 Oct–25 Oct | <b>Toronto Cocktail Festival</b><br>Various                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Eventbrite                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Bars citywide                        | <input type="checkbox"/> The Alchemist Magazine    | <b>MONSTER-FREE</b> 50      |
| 19 Oct        | <b>Sylvan Esso</b><br>History                                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ticketmaster                                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Live Nation with Drake    | <input type="checkbox"/> We Are In The Future      | <b>MONSTER WIN</b> 51,13    |
| 22 Oct–25 Oct | <b>Opera Atelier: The Descent of Orpheus</b><br>Koerner Hall                    | <input type="checkbox"/> RCM box office                                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Royal Conservatory                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Opera Atelier             | <b>MONSTER-FREE</b> 52      |
| 23 Oct        | <b>The Tallest Man on Earth</b><br>Massey Hall                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Massey Hall box office                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Massey Hall charity                  | <input type="checkbox"/> We Are In The Future      | <b>MONSTER-FREE</b> 53      |
| 26 Oct–27 Oct | <b>Olivia Rodrigo + Wolf Alice</b><br>Scotiabank Arena                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ticketmaster                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> MLSE (Rogers)                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Live Nation    | <b>MONSTER WIN</b> 30,54    |
| 28 Oct–1 Nov  | <b>Toronto International Festival of Authors</b><br>Victoria University, U of T | <input type="checkbox"/> Ticket Tailor                                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Victoria University                  | <input type="checkbox"/> The festival              | <b>MONSTER-FREE</b> 55      |
| 29 Oct–1 Nov  | <b>Art Toronto</b><br>Annual art fair                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Tix123                                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Metro Toronto Convention Centre      | <input type="checkbox"/> Informa                   | <b>MONSTER-FREE</b> 56      |
| 30 Oct        | <b>Bensley + Delta Heavy</b><br>Venue TBA                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Tixr                                                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Warehouse TBA                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Destiny Events            | <b>UNCONFIRMED</b> 57       |
| 31 Oct        | <b>Loreena McKennitt</b><br>Massey Hall                                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Massey Hall box office, likely                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Massey Hall charity                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Massey Hall + Rubin Fogel | <b>UNCONFIRMED</b> 58       |
| 4 Nov         | <b>Journey</b><br>Scotiabank Arena                                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ticketmaster                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> MLSE (Rogers)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> AEG Presents              | <b>MONSTER WIN</b> 30,32    |
| 6 Nov–15 Nov  | <b>Royal Agricultural Winter Fair</b><br>Exhibition Place                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Horse Show on Ticketmaster; general admission on Tixr | <input type="checkbox"/> City-owned Enercare Centre           | <input type="checkbox"/> The Royal                 | <b>MONSTER WIN</b> 59,60    |
| 6 Nov         | <b>Skream</b><br>CODA                                                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TicketWeb (Ticketmaster)                              | <input type="checkbox"/> CODA                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> CODA                      | <b>MONSTER WIN</b> 61,29    |
| 11 Nov–21 Nov | <b>Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival</b><br>Venues TBA             | <input type="checkbox"/> 2026 seller not posted                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Venues TBA                           | <input type="checkbox"/> The festival              | <b>UNCONFIRMED</b> 62       |
| 12 Nov–3 Jan  | <b>Distillery Winter Village</b><br>Distillery District                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Its own site                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Distillery District                  | <input type="checkbox"/> The Distillery District   | <b>MONSTER-FREE</b> 63      |
| 15 Nov        | <b>Julia Jacklin</b><br>Danforth Music Hall                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ticketmaster                                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Live Nation (via Embrace) | <input type="checkbox"/> Not named                 | <b>MONSTER WIN</b> 37,1     |
| 16 Nov        | <b>sombr + Dove Cameron + Hannah Jadagu</b><br>Scotiabank Arena                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ticketmaster                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> MLSE (Rogers)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Not named for Toronto     | <b>MONSTER WIN</b> 64,31    |
| 25 Nov        | <b>Doja Cat</b><br>Scotiabank Arena                                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ticketmaster                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> MLSE (Rogers)                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Live Nation    | <b>MONSTER WIN</b> 30,65    |
| 27 Nov        | <b>Carl Cox</b><br>Rebel                                                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TicketWeb (Ticketmaster)                              | <input type="checkbox"/> PowerHouse / INK                     | <input type="checkbox"/> INK Entertainment         | <b>MONSTER WIN</b> 66,67,29 |
| 12 Dec        | <b>Wolf Parade + Destroyer</b><br>History                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ticketmaster                                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Live Nation with Drake    | <input type="checkbox"/> We Are In The Future      | <b>MONSTER WIN</b> 68,13    |

Promoters come from each venue's or tour's own listing. Being listed on livenation.com doesn't by itself make Live Nation the promoter, so we only checked that box where a venue or tour announcement said so.



# THE RACE FOR MAYOR

Olivia Chow is running for re-election against Councillor Brad Bradford, who gave up his Ward 19 seat to run, and former federal minister Chris Alexander, among 65 registered mayoral candidates. All 25 council seats and four school boards' trustees are also on the ballot. Several veteran councillors aren't running again, including Josh Matlow, Paula Fletcher and Gord Perks. <sup>9,10,69</sup>

## 16 / 16

published polls since  
December that Chow has led

## 48.8-39.0

Chow vs Bradford, average  
of the last five polls

## 4 FOR 4

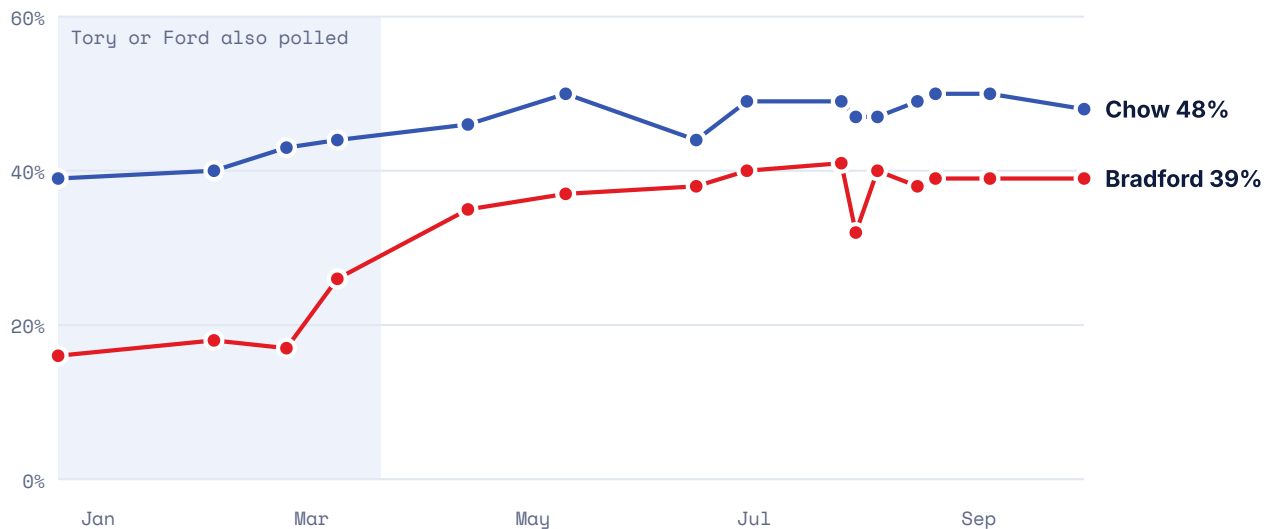
Toronto mayors who ran for  
re-election since  
amalgamation and won

## 49 / 45

Chow's approval vs  
disapproval, latest Liaison  
poll (was 52 / 42)

### Every published poll since December: Chow vs Bradford <sup>10,70</sup>

● Olivia Chow ● Brad Bradford



Early Bradford numbers are lower because John Tory or Doug Ford was also polled. Dates are fieldwork midpoints; the 30 Sep Liaison poll is dated by publication.

## WHO IS OLIVIA CHOW

**C**how arrived in Toronto from Hong Kong at 13 and has spent most of her adult life in its politics: school trustee, then 14 years on Metro and city council for the downtown wards, then eight years as the NDP MP for Trinity–Spadina.<sup>8</sup> Her partner in all of it was Jack Layton, the councillor-turned-NDP-leader she married in 1988. In 2011 Layton took the party to 103 seats and Official Opposition for the first time, then died of cancer that August.<sup>71</sup>

Her first run for mayor, in 2014, started as the front-runner's campaign. She led July polls at 40%, then faded to third behind John Tory and Doug Ford.<sup>72</sup> Nine years later she won the 2023 by-election with 37.17%, beating Ana Bailão, and took office in July 2023.<sup>8</sup>



A cartoon, not a likeness.

### 1957

Born 24 March in British Hong Kong<sup>8</sup>

### 1970

Moves to Toronto, age 13<sup>8</sup>

### 1985-91

Toronto Board of Education trustee<sup>8</sup>

### 1988

Marries Jack Layton, then a Toronto city councillor<sup>71</sup>

### 1992-2006

Metro Toronto, then City of Toronto councillor, downtown and Trinity–Spadina<sup>8</sup>

### 2006-14

NDP MP for Trinity–Spadina<sup>8</sup>

### 2011

Layton leads the NDP to 103 seats and Official Opposition for the first time; he dies 22 August<sup>71</sup>

### 2014

Runs for mayor; leads July polls at 40%, finishes third with 23.2%<sup>72</sup>

### 2023

Wins the June by-election with 37.17%; sworn in 12 July as Toronto's 66th mayor<sup>8</sup>

### 2026

Seeks a full term on 26 October<sup>18</sup>

## CHOW AND THE FORDS

**Rob Ford.** In 2014 Chow ran to replace him. As he returned to City Hall from rehab that June, she said: “Substance abuse is a disease, and he is sick. But Rob Ford needs to be replaced,” calling on voters to “democratically send Mr. Ford out of office.”<sup>73</sup> CBC reported she also took her criticism of him to international media.<sup>74</sup> Ford left the race that September after being hospitalized with an abdominal tumour, and his brother Doug ran in his place.<sup>72</sup> A decade later, in May 2024, Mayor Chow supported renaming Centennial Park Stadium after Rob Ford.<sup>8</sup>

**Doug Ford.** In the 2023 by-election the premier warned that electing Chow would be an “unmitigated disaster.” Within months they signed the New Deal for Toronto: the province took over the Gardiner Expressway and Don Valley Parkway and committed \$1.2 billion in operating money over three years plus \$300 million up front. The city also agreed to let the province proceed with its contested Ontario Place redevelopment, which includes a private spa and waterpark.<sup>8,75</sup>

**The friction never left.** Ford's government is removing the Bloor, Yonge and University bike lanes over the city's objections. Chow's response in August: "the premier his first job is to fight Trump," and bike lanes should be left "to the local community to decide."<sup>76</sup> Ford called her city-run grocery store idea

"the craziest idea."<sup>77</sup> Then, on 16 September, he said: "The mayor and I have a phenomenal relationship... She's doing an incredible job. So, read between the lines."<sup>77</sup> His office later said it was not an endorsement.<sup>78</sup>

## WHY SHE'S THE FAVOURITE

- **She has never trailed.** Chow has led all 16 published polls since December 2025, against Tory, Ford, Bradford and Alexander in every combination tested.<sup>10</sup>
- **Her number has risen.** From 39% in December to 47–50% in every poll since August.<sup>10</sup>
- **Incumbents win here.** Every Toronto mayor who sought re-election since amalgamation has won.<sup>79, 80, 81, 82</sup>
- **The premier isn't running against her.** "Unmitigated disaster" in 2023; "read between the lines" in 2026.<sup>77</sup>
- **A ground game.** Endorsed by CUPE Local 79, LiUNA Local 183 and the Toronto and York Region Labour Council.<sup>10</sup>

## WHAT COULD STOP HER

- **The city is split on her.** Approval 49% against 45% disapproval, slipping from 52/42. Liaison's David Valentin: "a lead can coexist with a much more divided assessment."<sup>70</sup>
- **Bradford is better liked.** The same pollster says his favourability beats hers. His problem is converting that into votes.<sup>70</sup>
- **Taxes and the budget.** Her first budget raised property taxes 9.5%, and the Globe reports a budget hole hanging over the race.<sup>8, 83</sup>
- **The gap moves.** CBC reported a six-point lead entering the final month, against nine to eleven in Liaison's latest polls.<sup>69, 70</sup>
- **Turnout is low and volatile.** Only 29.2% voted in 2022, the lowest since 1974.<sup>82</sup>

### RE-ELECTED INCUMBENTS SINCE AMALGAMATION

**2000**

Mel Lastman  
80.0%

**2006**

David Miller  
57.0%

**2018**

John Tory  
63.5%

**2022**

John Tory  
62.0%

### ALSO ON THE BALLOT

All 25 council seats and four school boards' trustees. Several veteran councillors aren't running again, including Josh Matlow, Paula Fletcher and Gord Perks. The province cut Toronto District School Board wards from 22 to 12 for this election.<sup>9, 10</sup>

*Circul8r doesn't endorse candidates. The case for and against are both built from published polls and records, and polls are snapshots, not predictions.*





# BEYOND THE BALLOT

STREETS // REMOVAL TENDERED

## BLOOR, YONGE AND UNIVERSITY BIKE LANES CLEARED FOR REMOVAL

The Ontario Court of Appeal unanimously overturned a July 2025 Superior Court ruling that had found the province's Bill 212 unconstitutional. That lets the Ford government remove about 19 km of bike lanes on Bloor Street, Yonge Street and University Avenue. On 1 Sep the province issued a request for proposals for contractors to start the work.

**The province's case.** Removal will ease congestion. The law is titled the Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act. The court said there is "no constitutional obligation to build bicycle lanes or to retain any that have been built."

**The other side.** The lower court had found removal would breach cyclists' Charter right to safety, and the applicants, including Cycle Toronto, may go to the Supreme Court of Canada. The City estimates removal will cost \$48 million, and Mayor Chow is negotiating alternatives with the province.

Jul 2025 Superior Court strikes down Bill 212 removals

14 Aug 2026 Court of Appeal reverses

1 Sep 2026 Province tenders removal work

84,85

TRANSIT // DELAYED

## THE ONTARIO LINE SLIPS TO THE EARLY 2030S

The 15.6 km subway from Exhibition Place to the former Ontario Science Centre will have 15 new stations. First announced for 2027, later pushed to 2031, its civil works are now "trending towards the early 2030s", per Metrolinx CEO Michael Lindsay. In February the province broke ground on a three-kilometre elevated stretch through the Don Valley, Flemingdon Park and Thorncliffe Park.

**The promise.** The province says it will put 30,500 more people within walking distance of transit, cut a Thorncliffe Park to downtown commute from 40 to 25 minutes, and ease Bloor-Yonge crowding by up to 22%.

**The caution.** Lindsay pointed to Eglinton and Finch: even once construction is done, testing and commissioning take time. Construction at Pape has already rerouted the 8 and 62 buses away from Hennick Bridgepoint Hospital.

2019-20 Announced with a 2027 target

Later Target moved to 2031

18 Feb 2026 Elevated section breaks ground

Now "Early 2030s"

86,87,88

LORE // CITY LORE

## THE HIGH PARK CAPYBARAS, TEN YEARS ON

In 2016 two capybaras escaped the High Park Zoo and set off a citywide hunt, with sightings reported across Toronto. It took close to a month to round them up, and the mayor of the day, John Tory, publicly applauded the zoo's recapture effort. In 2026 the caper became a video game: Capy Castaway, from indie studios Saffron Aurora and Kitten Cup Studio, has players guide a lost capybara off a replica of the Toronto Islands. It was slated to launch on Steam this summer.

2016 Two capybaras escape; about a month on the run

1 May 2026 Capy Castaway announced

Summer 2026 Slated for Steam

89,90

# FESTIVALS & BIG WEEKENDS

**14 OCT-18 OCT**
**Toronto After Dark Film Festival**

Scotiabank Theatre + CineCycle (129 Spadina) ·  
\$16.99 single · \$150-\$220 passes

The 19th edition of Toronto's genre festival grows from 10 to 14 features and adds a late-night series at CineCycle.<sup>91</sup>

- 5 More Minutes: the whole world stuck in a five-minute loop
- Frogman Returns: sequel to the 2023 found-footage cult hit

**MONSTER-FREE**
**15 OCT-25 OCT**
**Fall for Dance North**

Bluma Appel, Betty Oliphant, Jane Mallett theatres +  
The Citadel · \$25 per show + fees

Toronto's big contemporary dance festival, built around four signature programmes.<sup>92</sup>

- Legends (15-17 Oct): Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, plus Olympic ice dancer Tessa Virtue
- Heartbeats (17-18 Oct): street dance from Canada, Nigeria, the UK and France

**MONSTER WIN**
**18 OCT-25 OCT**
**Toronto Cocktail Festival**

Bars citywide · Gala at Waterworks Food Hall ·  
Tickets via The Alchemist Magazine

A week of crawls, a cocktail-paired brunch at Casa Madera and a gala with 25+ open bar stations.<sup>93,94</sup>

- Crawls in Little Italy, the Fashion District, Bloor West and Queen & Ossington
- Daily cinq à sept at Crybaby Gallery, Bar Banane, Mother and more

**MONSTER-FREE**
**28 OCT-1 NOV**
**Toronto International Festival of Authors**

Victoria University, U of T · Tickets on sale since August

The 47th edition of Toronto's flagship literary festival.<sup>55</sup>

**MONSTER-FREE**
**29 OCT-1 NOV**
**Art Toronto**

Metro Toronto Convention Centre, North Building ·  
\$35 advance / \$40 · opening night \$320-\$440

Canada's big contemporary art fair. The opening-night packages support the McMichael Canadian Art Collection.<sup>56</sup>

- Night Out (Fri/Sat after 6 p.m.): \$25 advance / \$30
- Premium Fair Pass: \$55 advance / \$60, with 11 a.m. entry

**MONSTER-FREE**
**6 NOV-15 NOV**
**Royal Agricultural Winter Fair**

Exhibition Place · Tickets at royalfair.org

The 104th Royal, billed as the world's largest combined indoor agricultural and equestrian show.<sup>95</sup>

- Chef's Table dinners and cooking classes with Michelin-starred chefs
- Royal Horse Show with a Longines FEI Jumping World Cup event

**MONSTER WIN**
**11 NOV-21 NOV**
**Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival**

Venues TBA · Tickets TBA

The 30th edition of Canada's largest pan-Asian film festival.<sup>96</sup>

**UNCONFIRMED**
**12 NOV-3 JAN**
**Distillery Winter Village**

Distillery District · Free before 4 p.m. · \$19.89 timed entry at peak

Toronto's Christmas market, with the tree lighting at 6 p.m. on 12 Nov.<sup>28</sup>

- Free all day Mon-Wed until 13 Dec
- New: a digital Nutcracker experience (separate ticket)

**MONSTER-FREE**



# THE CALENDAR

6 OCT ONWARD // A BLUE CHECK MARKS A TICKET MONSTER WIN

|                   |                                                                    |                       |                   |                                                                   |                       |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sat 3 Oct–18 Oct  | <b>Così fan tutte</b><br>Canadian Opera Company                    | STAGE <sup>94</sup>   | Thu 22 Oct–25 Oct | <b>Opera Atelier: The Descent of Orpheus</b><br>Koerner Hall      | STAGE <sup>101</sup>  |
| Tue 6 Oct–10 Oct  | <b>Toronto Indie Horror Fest</b><br>Various                        | FILM <sup>94</sup>    | Fri 23 Oct        | <b>The Tallest Man on Earth</b><br>Massey Hall                    | SOUND <sup>101</sup>  |
| Wed 7 Oct         | <b>beabadoobee + Wisp</b> ✓<br>Scotiabank Arena                    | SOUND <sup>26</sup>   | Mon 26 Oct–27 Oct | <b>Olivia Rodrigo + Wolf Alice</b> ✓<br>Scotiabank Arena          | SOUND <sup>26</sup>   |
| Wed 7 Oct         | <b>Kelela: new avatar live</b> ✓<br>Danforth Music Hall            | SOUND <sup>100</sup>  | Thu 29 Oct–1 Nov  | <b>Art Toronto</b><br>Annual art fair                             | ART <sup>94</sup>     |
| Thu 8 Oct         | <b>Bahamas</b> ✓<br>Massey Hall                                    | SOUND <sup>101</sup>  | Fri 30 Oct        | <b>Bensley + Delta Heavy</b><br>Venue TBA                         | SOUND <sup>106</sup>  |
| Fri 9 Oct         | <b>Pat Metheny</b><br>Massey Hall                                  | SOUND <sup>101</sup>  | Sat 31 Oct        | <b>Loreena McKennitt</b><br>Massey Hall                           | SOUND <sup>101</sup>  |
| Sat 10 Oct        | <b>Christone "Kingfish" Ingram</b> ✓<br>Massey Hall                | SOUND <sup>101</sup>  | Wed 4 Nov         | <b>Journey</b> ✓<br>Scotiabank Arena                              | SOUND <sup>26</sup>   |
| Sun 11 Oct        | <b>Dusky</b><br>Standard Time                                      | SOUND <sup>44</sup>   | Fri 6 Nov         | <b>Skream</b> ✓<br>CODA                                           | SOUND <sup>107</sup>  |
| Wed 14 Oct        | <b>Beck: Ride Lonesome Tour</b> ✓<br>Massey Hall                   | SOUND <sup>46</sup>   | Fri 6 Nov         | <b>Skeptak: The Fork and Knife out</b><br>Album release           | SOUND <sup>108</sup>  |
| Wed 14 Oct–18 Oct | <b>Toronto After Dark Film Festival</b><br>Various                 | FILM <sup>94</sup>    | Sun 15 Nov        | <b>Julia Jacklin</b> ✓<br>Danforth Music Hall                     | SOUND <sup>109</sup>  |
| Thu 15 Oct–25 Oct | <b>Fall for Dance North</b> ✓<br>Various                           | STAGE <sup>94</sup>   | Mon 16 Nov        | <b>sombr + Dove Cameron + Hannah Jadagu</b> ✓<br>Scotiabank Arena | SOUND <sup>26</sup>   |
| Thu 15 Oct        | <b>The Diplomat, season 4</b><br>Netflix                           | SCREEN <sup>102</sup> | Wed 25 Nov        | <b>Doja Cat</b> ✓<br>Scotiabank Arena                             | SOUND <sup>26</sup>   |
| Sun 18 Oct–25 Oct | <b>Toronto Cocktail Festival</b><br>Various                        | FOOD <sup>94</sup>    | Fri 27 Nov        | <b>Carl Cox</b> ✓<br>Rebel                                        | SOUND <sup>110</sup>  |
| Mon 19 Oct        | <b>Sylvan Esso</b> ✓<br>History                                    | SOUND <sup>103</sup>  | Sat 12 Dec        | <b>Wolf Parade + Destroyer</b> ✓<br>History                       | SOUND <sup>111</sup>  |
| Wed 21 Oct        | <b>The Terminal List, season 2 (all 8 episodes)</b><br>Prime Video | SCREEN <sup>104</sup> | Fri 18 Dec        | <b>Dune: Part Three</b><br>Theatres + IMAX                        | SCREEN <sup>112</sup> |
| Wed 21 Oct        | <b>Slow Horses season 6 finale</b><br>Apple TV                     | SCREEN <sup>105</sup> |                   |                                                                   |                       |

## LEAFS AT HOME IN OCTOBER

Tue 6 · Thu 15 · Sat 17 · Mon 19 · Thu 22, all at Scotiabank Arena.<sup>101</sup>

## GETTING THERE: THE TTC

- 1 Yonge–University** Ran all night for Nuit Blanche, every 15 min from 1:30 a.m. until regular Sunday service at 8 a.m.<sup>97</sup>
  - 2 Bloor–Danforth** Same overnight Nuit Blanche service as Line 1.<sup>97</sup>
  - 5 Eglinton** Open since 8 Feb 2026: 25 stations over 19 km. The western extension to Renforth is due by 2031.<sup>98</sup>
  - 6 Finch West** Open since 7 Dec 2025: 18 stops over 10.3 km. Frequency and travel times improved seven days a week from 6 Sep.<sup>99, 88</sup>
- Next schedule changes: Sun 1 Nov, then Sun 20 Dec.<sup>88</sup>



# RANKED

Three ranked lists, and only things that are out now with a real critics' score behind them. Anything still coming waits for next month.

## MUSIC

ALBUMS OUT NOW • RANKED BY C8 SCORE

| #          | ALBUM                                                                                                                                                                                   | CRITICS          | C8 / 5                                    |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>#1</b>  | <b>Broken Social Scene: Remember the Humans</b><br>Their first studio album in nearly a decade, back with You Forgot It in People producer David Newfeld, with Feist...                 | 8.5/10           | <b>4.29</b> <sup>113, 114</sup>           |
| <b>#2</b>  | <b>Band of Horses: Everything All the Time (20th Anniversary)</b><br>A 19-track expanded edition of the 2006 debut, with the band's 2005 tour EP plus demos, rarities and live cuts.... | 8/10             | <b>4.22</b> <sup>115, 116, 117, 118</sup> |
| <b>#3</b>  | <b>Jim Legxacy: black british music (2025)</b><br>Fifteen tracks mixing rap, emo, lo-fi and Afrobeat samples, rooted in Black London. Clash praises how it balances grief...            | 9/10 Clash       | <b>4.19</b> <sup>119, 120</sup>           |
| <b>#4</b>  | <b>The Antlers: Blight</b><br>A record about environmental collapse that grows from minimal arrangements into wide soundscapes. Spectrum Culture says...                                | 68%              | <b>3.98</b> <sup>121, 122</sup>           |
| <b>#5</b>  | <b>Death Cab for Cutie: I Built You a Tower</b><br>Their first album after two decades on Atlantic, and a divorce record. Kerrang! calls the best moments the band at its...            | 3/5              | <b>3.92</b> <sup>123, 124, 117</sup>      |
| <b>#6</b>  | <b>Dermot Kennedy: The Weight of the Woods</b><br>His third album, produced mainly by Gabe Simon, with uilleann pipes, concertina and a chamber choir. It went No. 1 in...              | 70 AOTY          | <b>3.76</b> <sup>125, 126, 127, 128</sup> |
| <b>#7</b>  | <b>Nia Archives: Emotional Junglist</b><br>A breakup album told in reverse, from numbness back through obsession to romance, over jungle breakbeats. Slant credits...                   | 79 AOTY          | <b>3.74</b> <sup>129, 130</sup>           |
| <b>#8</b>  | <b>Sylvan Esso: Ow ∞</b><br>The duo's fifth album, produced by Amelia Meath and Nick Sanborn. Treble hears their synth-pop turning more delicate,...                                    | Treble: positive | <b>3.61</b> <sup>131, 103</sup>           |
| <b>#9</b>  | <b>Gilla Band: Pugnello</b><br>The rare album both lists agree on. The Quietus ranks it first for September. Paste has it at No. 2 and calls it...                                      | #1 Quietus       | <b>3.41</b> <sup>132, 133</sup>           |
| <b>#10</b> | <b>Protomartyr: Hotel Usona</b><br>Urgent, political post-industrial rock that Paste says holds remarkable coherence across nine tracks.                                                | Paste pick       | <b>3.27</b> <sup>133</sup>                |
| <b>#11</b> | <b>Carly Rae Jepsen: Day and Night</b><br>Paste's top album of September, singled out for production it calls spatially and texturally interesting.                                     | #1 Paste         | <b>3.09</b> <sup>133</sup>                |
| <b>#12</b> | <b>Gracie Abrams: Daughter From Hell</b><br>Her third album, with Aaron Dessner returning as a collaborator. NME calls it "more plodding than enlightened" but...                       | Mixed            | <b>2.86</b> <sup>134, 135</sup>           |

### HOW THE C8 SCORE WORKS

C8 blends six things: what critics said (30%), fit with the taste profile (20%), originality (15%), emotional depth (15%), label (10%) and links to anchor artists (10%). Critic numbers are converted to a five-point scale; where an outlet gave no number, we scored from its wording, and the site says so on each card.

# MOVIES & TV

RELEASED TITLES · CRITICS' SCORE OUT OF 5

| #  | TITLE                                                                                                                                                             | CRITICS            | /5                                 |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| #1 | <b>Pluribus</b><br>Vince Gilligan's sci-fi drama stars Rhea Seehorn as a romance novelist who is one of the few people immune to an...                            | 100% first reviews | <b>5.00</b> <sup>136</sup>         |
| #2 | <b>Resident Evil (Zach Cregger)</b><br>Cregger's reboot holds 97% on Rotten Tomatoes from 91 reviews, the highest-rated video game adaptation on the site, and... | 97% RT             | <b>4.85</b> <sup>137,138,139</sup> |
| #3 | <b>Slow Horses, season 6</b><br>Gary Oldman's band of MI5 rejects, adapting the novels Joe Country and Slough House. Tom's Guide gave it 4.5/5 and one...         | 4.5/5 Tom's Guide  | <b>4.50</b> <sup>140,105</sup>     |
| #4 | <b>Lioness, season 3</b><br>Zoe Saldña, Nicole Kidman and Morgan Freeman return, with Ian Bohan joining as a Delta Force K9 handler. Rotten...                    | 82% RT             | <b>4.10</b> <sup>141,142</sup>     |
| #5 | <b>Digger</b><br>Critics are split. Tom Cruise's committed turn, Riz Ahmed and the production design get praise. The satire gets called...                        | 52% RT             | <b>2.60</b> <sup>143</sup>         |

Movies and TV: a Rotten Tomatoes percentage divided by 20; a score out of 5 used as given. Pluribus is scored from its first reviews.

# NIGHTS OUT

TORONTO LIFE'S BEST NEW RESTAURANTS OF 2026, IN ITS OWN ORDER

Toronto Life's 44th annual ranking, published 25 May 2026. <sup>144</sup>

|                                                                                                          |                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>#1</b><br><b>SEAHORSE</b><br>Summerhill<br>Seafood, with an oyster bar and seasonal fish              | <b>#2</b><br><b>BRASSERIE CÔTE</b><br>Annex<br>French bistro with global influences             |
| <b>#3</b><br><b>BAR EUGENIE</b><br>Harbord Village<br>Casual fine dining with Filipino-influenced plates | <b>#4</b><br><b>OLDESEOUL TAVERN</b><br>Beaches<br>Korean pub: burgers and creative small bites |
| <b>#5</b><br><b>PUNCH</b><br>Downtown<br>Indo-British cooking at Le Germain Hotel                        | <b>#6</b><br><b>THE ONDA</b><br>Wychwood<br>Japanese-Korean omakase at a nine-seat counter      |
| <b>#7</b><br><b>RADICI PROJECT</b><br>Little Italy<br>Italian-Japanese on College Street                 | <b>#8</b><br><b>N. L. GINZBURG</b><br>Little Italy<br>Italian-Jewish trattoria                  |
| <b>#9</b><br><b>SAMMARCO</b><br>St. Lawrence<br>Italian bisteccheria (steakhouse)                        | <b>#10</b><br><b>MOZY'S</b><br>Liberty Village<br>Fast-casual Iranian-Canadian charcoal chicken |

# THIS MONTH'S STORIES

The news we tracked on the site, each summarised in a few sentences and linked to where we read it.

CULTURE // 4 OCT

## NUIT BLANCHE TURNS 20

The free all-night art festival ran from 7 p.m. Saturday to 7 a.m. Sunday, with more than 70 projects under the theme "Tomorrow's Memories". Works ran from downtown and the waterfront out to Etobicoke and North York, including a floor-by-floor takeover of Old City Hall. Road closures around Queen and Bay were set to lift at noon Sunday. <sup>145,146</sup>

MUSIC // 5 OCT

## SKEPTA DATES HIS FIRST ALBUM IN SEVEN YEARS

Skept's The Fork and Knife arrives Friday 6 Nov on Big Smoke/Epic, his first album since 2019's Ignorance Is Bliss. Clash says it's about the Black British experience and immigrant identity. V13 says it draws on grime, garage, house and jungle. <sup>108,147</sup>

DEALS // 4 OCT

## LAST DAY FOR \$30 SEATS AT MASSEY HALL AND ROY THOMSON HALL

The venues' fall sale offers \$30 tickets to selected Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall shows, and two-for-\$30 at TD Music Hall. The discount applies at checkout with no code needed. It ends Monday 5 Oct at 3 p.m., and quantities are limited. <sup>148</sup>

MUSIC // 30 SEP

## THE PHOENIX IS MOVING TO PARKDALE

The Phoenix Concert Theatre plans to move from 410 Sherbourne St. to Parkdale Hall at 1605 Queen St. W., a venue that opened in the 1920s as the Parkdale Theatre. The Sherbourne building was sold for residential development in 2024. The Phoenix stays open through 2027 while the move happens. <sup>149</sup>

CITY // 30 SEP

## MAYOR'S RACE HEADS INTO ITS FINAL MONTH

Toronto votes on 26 Oct. The main candidates are Mayor Olivia Chow, Councillor Brad Bradford and former federal minister Chris Alexander, among 65 registered mayoral candidates. CBC reports Chow ahead by six points as the campaign enters its final month. A Liaison Strategies poll from 4–5 Sep had her at 50%, Bradford at 39% and Alexander at 10%. <sup>69,10</sup>

FILM // 30 SEP

## DIGGER LEANS INTO ITS BAD REVIEWS

Alejandro G. Iñárritu's Tom Cruise satire opened on 2 Oct with a 53% Rotten Tomatoes score and 44 on Metacritic. Instead of hiding the split, the marketing sets raves and pans side by side, pairing "baffling" with "brilliant", and tells audiences to decide for themselves. <sup>150</sup>

FILM // 20 SEP

## TIFF CROWD PICKS LA BOLA NEGRA

The People's Choice Award at the 2026 Toronto International Film Festival (10–20 Sep) went to La bola negra, directed by Javier Calvo and Javier Ambrossi. Peter Farrelly's I Play Rocky was first runner-up and Sian Heder's Being Heumann, the opening film, second runner-up. The festival added screenings at the John Bassett Theatre and launched a formal film market. <sup>151</sup>

TECH // 9 SEP

## APPLE'S FIRST FOLDABLE LANDS THIS MONTH

Apple's foldable iPhone Duo starts at US\$1,999 (\$2,999 in Canada), with a 7.6-inch inner screen and a 5.4-inch outer one. Pre-orders open Friday 16 Oct and it goes on sale Friday 23 Oct. Apple's release did not list Canadian pricing. <sup>152,153</sup>

TRANSIT // 6 SEP

## LINE 6 FINCH WEST GETS FASTER AND MORE FREQUENT

The TTC's September service changes improved travel times and frequency on Line 6 seven days a week, and added new overnight routes 345 Kipling and 373 Royal York. The next round of changes takes effect Sunday 1 Nov. <sup>88</sup>



# THE ZOO

Products, sales, and what your subscriptions cost now. Prices as the source listed them, in Canadian dollars unless marked.

## NEW ARRIVALS

PHONES • CAMERAS • AUDIO • WEARABLES

### PHONES

#### Apple iPhone Duo

**FROM \$2,999 (CA)**

Pre-order 16 Oct • on sale 23 Oct

Apple's first foldable. 7.6-inch inner screen, 5.4-inch outer. In Canada: 256GB... <sup>152, 153, 162</sup>

### PHONES

#### Samsung Galaxy Z Fold 8

**US\$1,899**

On sale

List price per What Hi-Fi?. TechRadar spotted it at US\$1,499.99 at Consumer... <sup>163, 164</sup>

### CAMERAS

#### Insta360 X6

**US\$699.99**

On sale

TechRadar: the most capable small 360 camera it has tested. <sup>164</sup>

### CAMERAS

#### Fujifilm Instax Pal 2

**US\$170**

New

A tiny retro digital camera with an optical viewfinder and a microSD slot. <sup>165</sup>

### CAMERAS

#### Camp Snap 110D

**US\$75**

New

Screenless 8 MP camera modelled on 1972 pocket film cameras, with five filters. <sup>165</sup>

### AUDIO

#### DJI Mic Mini 2S

**US\$18.95**

On sale

Compact wireless mic with many of the flagship Mic 3's features. <sup>164</sup>

### AUDIO

#### Bose Ultra Open Earbuds (2nd gen)

**US\$299**

New

Cuff-style open earbuds: louder, longer battery, wireless charging case. <sup>165</sup>

### AUDIO

#### KEF LS Luxe

**US\$799.99**

On sale

Rated 4.5 stars by TechRadar. <sup>164</sup>

### AUDIO

#### Sonos Ace Ultra

New

35-hour battery and double the noise cancellation, per Forbes. <sup>166</sup>

### AUDIO

#### Ikea Badkruka

**US\$60**

New

Cube Bluetooth speaker with optical and 3.5 mm inputs and a Spotify Tap button. <sup>165</sup>

### WEARABLES

#### Garmin Fenix 8 Pro MicroLED

**US\$1,599.99**

On sale

Rated 4.5 stars by TechRadar. <sup>164</sup>

### WEARABLES

#### Garmin Cirqa

**US\$199.99**

On sale

Activity tracker rated 4.5 stars by TechRadar. <sup>164</sup>

## PLAN CHANGES

NO PRICE CHANGE, BUT WHAT YOU GET IS CHANGING

Starts November

#### Xbox cloud gaming gets monthly hour caps

Unlimited cloud play ends: Essential gets 5 hours a month, Premium 10, Ultimate 15. Extra hours will be sold separately, at prices not yet announced. Game Pass prices are unchanged at \$13.99, \$17.99 and \$25.99. <sup>154, 155</sup>

From 29 Sep

#### Rogers adds Sportsnet+ NHL games to its TV packages

More than 150 Sportsnet+-exclusive NHL games, including Monday Night Hockey, are included at no extra cost for Rogers Plus and Ultimate TV customers. That's normally a \$12.99-a-month add-on. <sup>156, 157</sup>

From 9 Oct

#### Gemini's free tier loses Flash and Pro

Google's free Gemini tier drops to Flash-Lite, AI Plus loses Pro but keeps Flash, and AI Pro gains Deep Think. Prices are unchanged. Reports don't say whether Canada differs. <sup>158, 159</sup>

Confirmed July

#### Ottawa drops the streamer funding rule

Ottawa is scrapping the CRTC rule that made streamers put 5–15% of Canadian revenue into Canadian content, saying it wants to avoid subscription price increases. A replacement policy is still to come. <sup>160, 161</sup>

# FEEDING TIME

SALES WITH CONFIRMED DATES

## TUE 6 - WED 7 OCT

### Amazon Prime Big Deal Days

Amazon.ca · Prime members only

Starts 3:01 a.m. EDT on the 6th and runs two days in Canada. Deals reported at launch include a 15-inch MacBook Air at \$1,889.99 (was \$2,089.99) and a Shark Vertex Pro at \$219.99 (was \$599.99).<sup>167,168</sup>

## FROM THU 5 NOV

### Canadian Tire Black Friday deals

Canadian Tire · in store and online

Canadian Tire's Black Friday page says deals start Thursday 5 November. Black Friday itself is Friday 27 November.<sup>169</sup>

## FRI 27 NOV

### Best Buy Canada Black Friday

Best Buy Canada

Best Buy's Black Friday page names 27 November. It hasn't announced any early-sale dates yet.<sup>170</sup>

## FRI 27 NOV - SUN 6 DEC

### One of a Kind Christmas Show

Energycare Centre, Exhibition Place

Toronto's big makers' market. Opens 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on the 27th, with a late night to 11 p.m. on Thursday 3 December. 2026 ticket prices aren't posted yet.<sup>171</sup>

# PRICE HIKES

WHAT WENT UP FOR CANADIANS THIS FALL

Streaming · Bills from 22 Sep

### Sportsnet+

~~\$29.99/MO~~ → **\$34.99/MO**

Standard goes from \$29.99 to \$34.99 a month (\$249.99 to \$269.99 a year). Premium goes from \$42.99 to \$44.99 a month. Standard with Citytv+ goes from \$31.99 to \$36.99.<sup>172,157</sup>

Music · Announced 17 Jul

### Apple Music + Apple One

~~\$10.99/MO~~ → **\$11.99/MO**

Apple Music Individual goes from \$10.99 to \$11.99 and Family from \$16.99 to \$19.99; Student stays \$5.99. Apple One Family goes from \$28.95 to \$30.95, and Premier from \$44.95 to \$46.95.<sup>173,174</sup>

Phones · From 1 Oct

### Samsung Galaxy S26

~~\$1,249.99~~ → **\$1,399.99**

The base S26 256GB goes from \$1,249.99 to \$1,399.99. The S26+ and S26 Ultra also rise \$150, and the 1TB Ultra rises \$250. The S26 FE is unchanged. Reported by iPhone in Canada; Samsung hasn't commented.<sup>175</sup>

Wireless · Reported 6 Oct

### Bell bring-your-own-phone plans

~~\$60/MO~~ → **\$70/MO**

Essential 60GB goes from \$60 to \$70. Canada-US 100GB goes from \$70 to \$75, and Unlimited Canada-US-Mexico from \$85 to \$90. Unlimited Global stays \$100.<sup>176</sup>

Consoles · From 1 Sep

### Nintendo Switch 2

~~\$629.99~~ → **\$679.99**

The console's Canadian price went up \$50 on 1 September.<sup>177</sup>

## HOLDING STEADY IN CANADA

- **Netflix Canada.** No change since January 2025: \$7.99 with ads, \$18.99 Standard, \$23.99 Premium. The March 2026 increase was US only.<sup>178</sup>
- **Apple TV (US only, for now).** Apple raised Apple TV to US\$14.99 in the US on 28 August. Canada was still \$14.99 CAD that day, and no Canadian change has been announced.<sup>179,180</sup>
- **Disney+ (US only).** US prices rose 23 September, with existing subscribers moving from 21 October. No Canadian change has been reported.<sup>181</sup>

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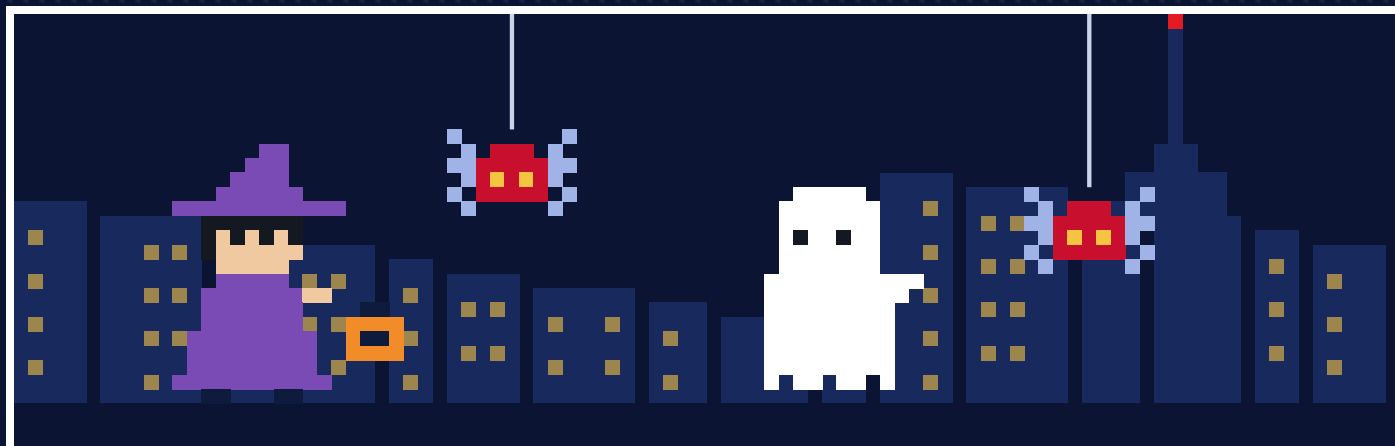
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## NEXT MONTH

# ISSUE 02 LANDS IN NOVEMBER.

New lead focus, new comic, the Ticket watch log one month longer, and the Ticket Monster check for November and December. The results of the 26 October election will be in by then.

Read it live at [circul8r.the808.org](http://circul8r.the808.org). Write to [contact@the808.org](mailto:contact@the808.org).

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