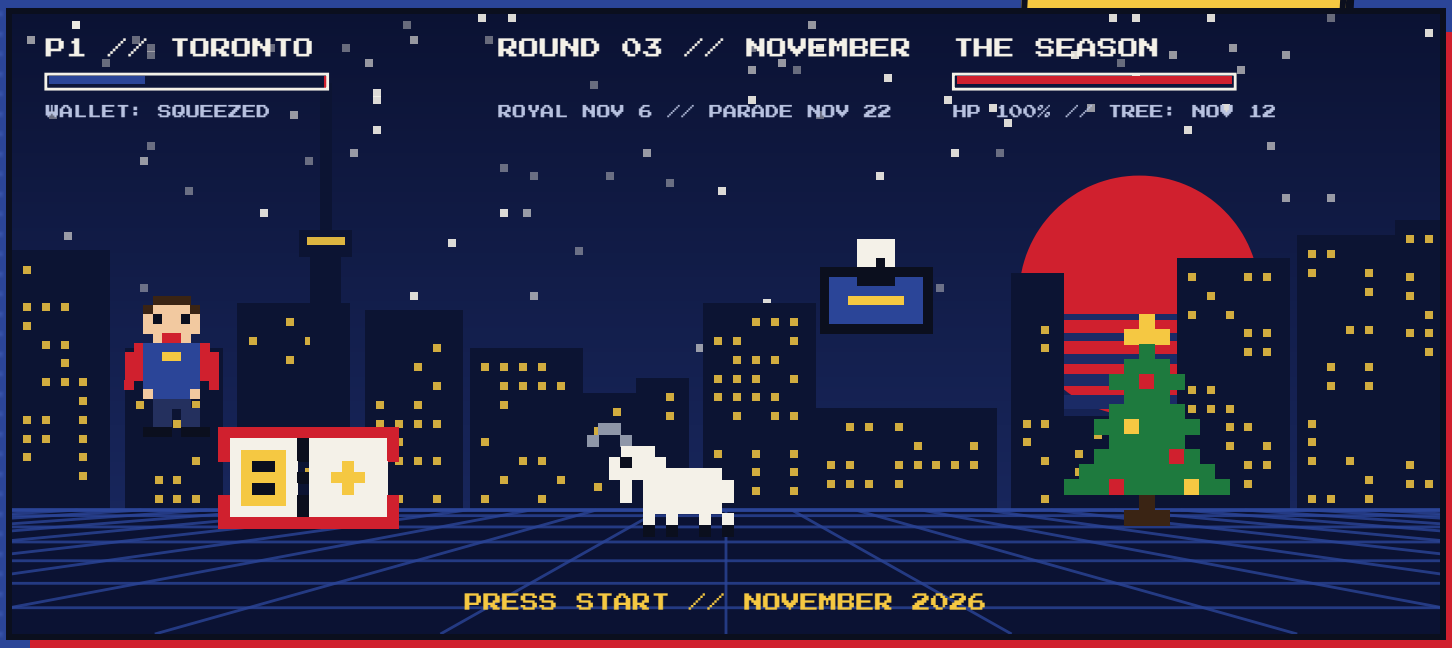
CIRCUL@R

TORONTO CULTURE, CITY HALL AND THE NIGHTS WORTH GOING OUT // FROM THE 808

NOV 2026
ISSUE 02
THE HOLIDAY SQUEEZE
FREE MONTHLY MAILER



A Circul&r comic-book issue

THE $100 NIGHT OUT

$1.12
a ticket: what a jury says fans overpaid

NOV 12
the Distillery tree lights up

The $100 night out: tickets, a verdict, a cap
Four more years: what Toronto voted for
November, unwrapped: goats, a parade, a tree
This month's other stories

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

LIVE // ◆ Chow's second term ◆ Rate hike ◆ Ottawa invests in Cohere ◆ Kawhi's back in red

HI, TORONTO.

Welcome to the November Circul8r. Holiday season starts now, and so does the scramble for tickets. Three features, one comic, and a month planned in order.

Our lead follows the money in a night out: a U.S. jury that called Live Nation a monopoly, and a new Ontario law that caps resale at the original price. Then we look back at the vote that gave Olivia Chow a full term, and forward to a November with goats, a parade and a tree lighting.

New this month: every feature ends with a CONNECTED box linking related stories here and in our four sister mailers. Every number carries a superscript that points to a source at the back. Tell us what we got wrong at contact@the808.org.

CIRCUL8R // THE 808

THIS ISSUE IN NUMBERS

$132.62
US avg. top-100 tour ticket, 2025

$216.13
US avg. stadium ticket, up 18.3%

$1.72
U.S. jury's overcharge per ticket

$250K
top fine under Ontario's resale cap

From Pollstar data, NPR and Digital Music News.[1,2,3]

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- Sources: check our work 16

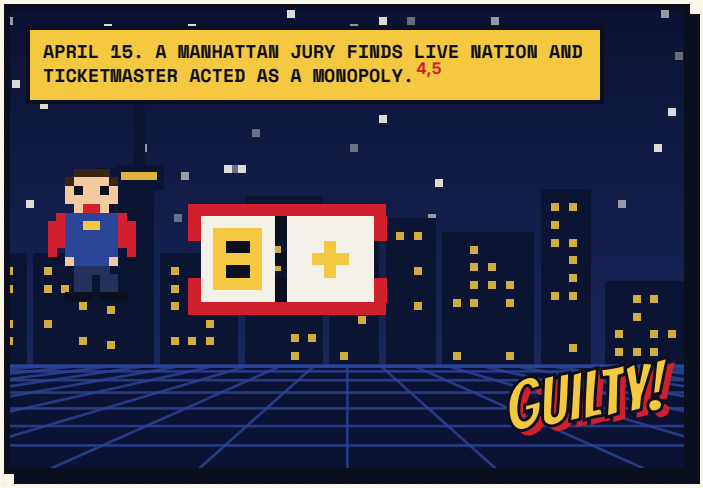
HOW TO READ THIS ISSUE

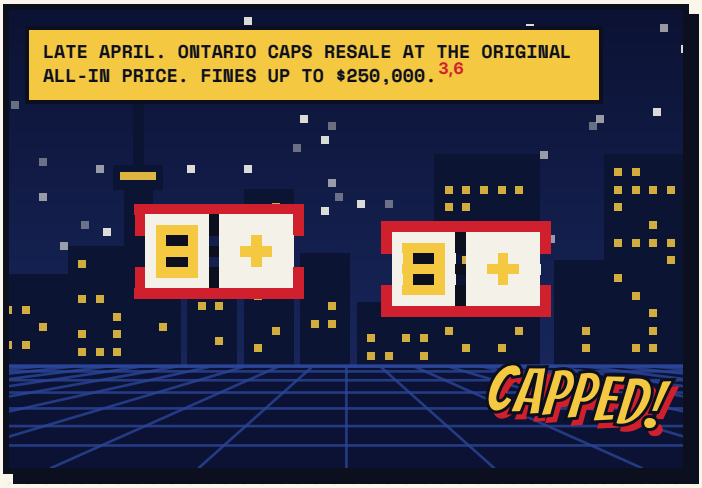
- ☑ A blue check means it's confirmed and on the calendar.
- ☐ An empty box means it's pending or already done.
- ⍰ A question mark means we couldn't confirm it.

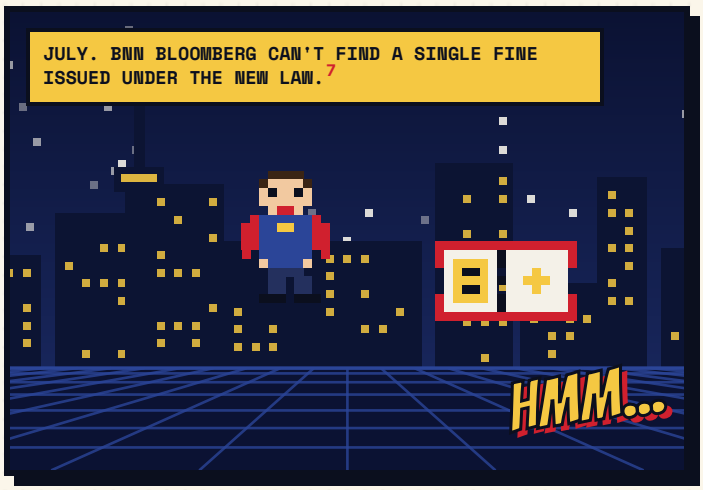
The 808 take is our opinion. The facts under it are not.

CIRCUL8R COMICS PRESENTS

THE TICKET! CHAPTER 3









THE SCORECARD

☑	**Live Nation verdict**	Apr 15, monopoly
☐	**Remedies / breakup**	Pending
☑	**Ontario resale cap**	In force
?	**Fines under the cap**	None reported
☑	**The Royal**	Nov 6–15
☑	**Santa Claus Parade**	Nov 22

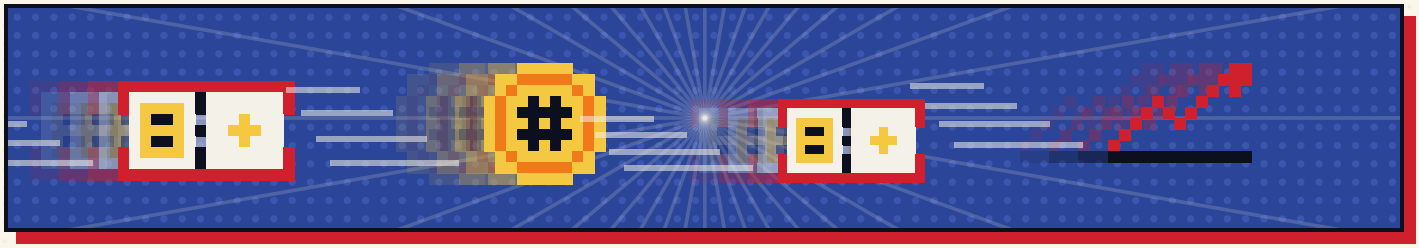
Checks, boxes and question marks are explained on page 2. The comic is a cartoon; every caption is sourced.

TO BE CONTINUED...

The comic is the pitch. Turn the page for the reporting, the numbers behind every panel, and our take.

THE $100 NIGHT OUT

Holiday ticket season starts now. A jury, a new Ontario law and a lot of fine print decide what you'll pay



$132.62
US avg. top-100 tour ticket, 2025

$216.13
US avg. stadium ticket, up 18.3%

$1.72
U.S. jury's overcharge per ticket

$250K
top fine under Ontario's resale cap

From Pollstar data, NPR and Digital Music News.[1,2,3]

Start with the number everyone in the concert business watches. Pollstar's year-end analysis puts the average ticket for the world's top 100 tours at US$132.62 in 2025.[1,10] In 2019 it was US$96.17.[11] It peaked at US$135.92 in 2024 and dipped slightly last year,[1] but the trend line still runs one way: up roughly 38% in six years.

The averages hide where the pain is. Stadium tickets averaged US$216.13 in 2025, up 18.3% in a single year.[1] Even the smallest rooms, venues of 750 people or fewer, rose 11.1% to an average of US$34.74.[1] And that's before fees: a New York ticket-fee report cited in the same roundup put primary-market fees at an average of 28.65% on top of face value.[1]

So when you plan December, the Nutcracker, a hockey game, a holiday show, the question isn't whether it's expensive. It's who gets the extra money, and whether anyone is doing anything about it. This year, for the first time in a long time, the answer to the second part is yes.

THE VERDICT

On April 15, a federal jury in Manhattan found that Live Nation and its Ticketmaster subsidiary illegally monopolized major parts of the live music business. Jurors answered yes to every liability question on an 11-page verdict form[5,12] after about four days of deliberation, following a trial of nearly five weeks.[4,13]

The jury found fans in 22 states were overcharged by US$1.72 per ticket.[2,4] That sounds small, until you multiply it by the number of tickets Ticketmaster sells. Live Nation's own estimate puts the single-damages figure below US$150 million, which a court would triple.[2] The company says it has already set aside US$280 million under its separate settlement with the U.S. Justice Department.[13]

What happens next is the important part. Judge Arun Subramanian will decide remedies, and the states that went to trial want structural ones, including separating Ticketmaster from Live Nation.[12] Live Nation says the verdict "is not the last word" and is challenging both liability and damages.[13] NPR's headline captured the consumer reality: a jury declared a monopoly, but ticket prices aren't dropping just yet.[2]

That case is American. But Ticketmaster sells a lot of Toronto's tickets too, through Ticketmaster Canada,[14] so what a U.S. judge orders about how the

company operates could still reach your seat here.

ONTARIO'S CAP

Closer to home, Ontario did something no other province has done. As part of its 2026 budget bill, Bill 97, the province amended the Ticket Sales Act so that a ticket can't be resold for more than the total price paid in the original purchase, including taxes and fees.[3,6] It took effect in late April.[6,14] Fines can reach $250,000.[3]

This is the second time Ontario has tried. A Liberal government law in 2017 would have capped resale at 50% above face value; the Ford government scrapped that in 2019 before it took effect.[14,15] This time the government went further, and Digital Music News called it the most aggressive resale law in North America.[3]

The rollout has been messy. Ticketmaster began delisting non-compliant resale listings almost immediately.[14] FIFA pulled Toronto World Cup seats from its resale marketplace.[16] But Global News reported that StubHub kept selling some Ontario tickets above their original price,[17] and by July BNN Bloomberg could find no sign of any fines being issued.[7] One reason, an expert told BNN: a resale site often can't tell what a ticket originally cost, because it wasn't sold there.[7]

There's also a group the law hurts. Season-ticket holders, who used to resell a few games at a markup to cover the rest, told The Canadian Press they now have to sell at face or take their chances with unprotected sales on social media.[18,19]

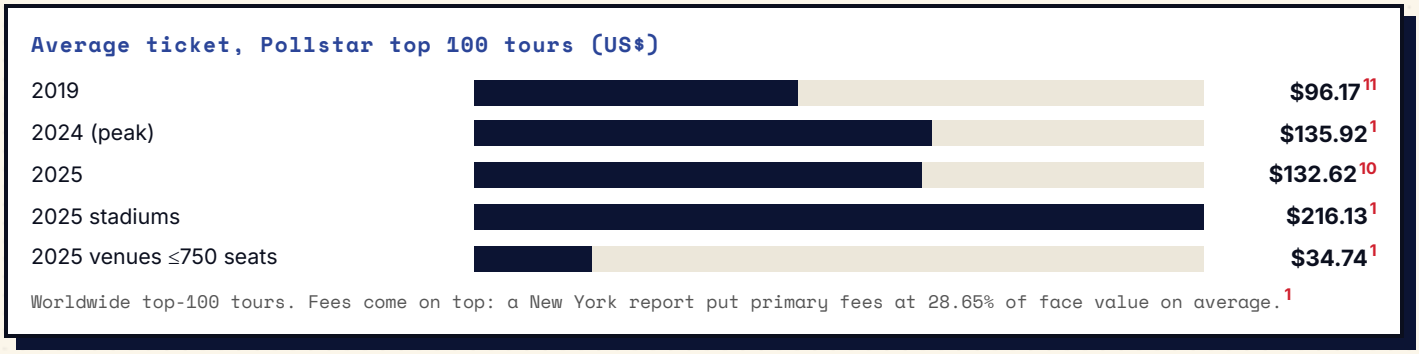
THE HOLIDAY MATHS

Even the free stuff has a price now. The Distillery Winter Village requires tickets at peak times, starting at $16 plus HST and service fees this season.[9] Last year general admission was $15.[20] The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is folding admission to the Royal Horse Show into every Dining Series ticket this year,[21] which is a nicer way of saying the premium tier got more premium.

None of this is a scandal. It's just how a night out in Toronto adds up: a base price, a fee, a tax, a transit fare, and drinks priced for a city where the Bank of Canada has just raised rates for the first time since 2023.

WHAT YOU CAN ACTUALLY DO

- **Buy at the source.** The Ontario cap protects you best when you buy from the primary seller or from a platform that shows the original price.
- **Read the all-in total.** Ontario's cap is based on the full original price, fees included, so compare totals, not headline prices.
- **Be careful off-platform.** The cap pushed some sellers to social media and street sales, where you have no protection if a ticket is fake.
- **Report it.** If you see an Ontario event listed above its original price, the province says the cap applies to every platform.[22] The government has said it will name businesses it fines.[23]



Who's doing what about ticket prices

Where	What	Status
U.S. states	Jury finds Live Nation-Ticketmaster monopoly	☑ Verdict Apr 15
U.S. court	Remedies, possible breakup	☐ Pending
Ontario	Resale capped at original all-in price	☑ In force since April
Ontario	Fines issued under the cap	⍰ None reported by July

From Manatt, Pollstar, TicketNews and BNN Bloomberg.[5,6,7,13]

THE 808 TAKE

Toronto loves going out, and it's getting priced out of it a few dollars at a time. A jury verdict and a provincial cap won't fix that by Christmas. But for the first time in years, the people who set ticket prices have to explain them to a judge and a regulator. If Ontario wants its cap to matter, it needs to show it can enforce it. A law with no fines is just a suggestion.

READ THE ORIGINAL REPORTING // OPENS IN YOUR BROWSER

Pollstar: 2025 year-end business analysis
news.pollstar.com ↗

Voxbooster: Live music statistics 2026 (Pollstar, NITO data)
voxbooster.com ↗

NGPF: Average ticket price across the top 100 tours
dev3.ngpf.org ↗

CONNECTED // ALSO IN THE 808 FAMILY

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The Hormuz tax
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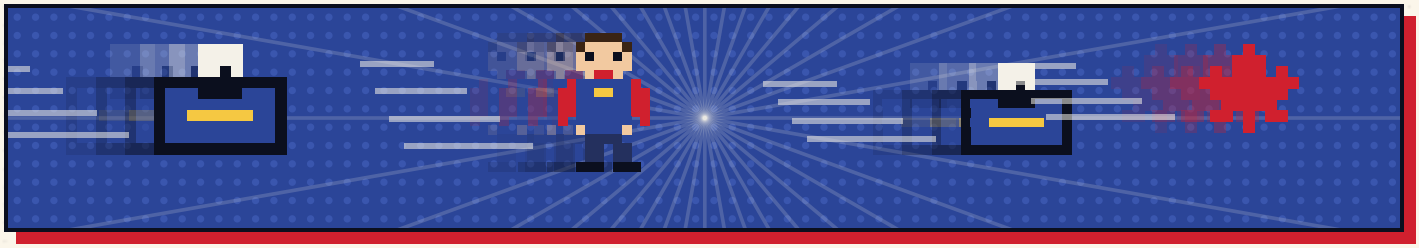
THE TICKET SQUEEZE
The crawl
SP&RTS · P.12 →

CITY HALL // THE MANDATE

STOP 2 OF 3

FOUR MORE YEARS

Toronto handed Olivia Chow her first full term. Here's what the city voted for, and what it means for the way we live



532,201	54.2%	222,550	~130K
votes for Chow: a Toronto record	Chow's share; Bradford 41.1%	advance votes, also a record	Chow's margin of victory

From NOW Toronto and CTV News.[24,25]

It took until 9 p.m. to get the first numbers out of Toronto on Monday, October 26. Long lines at some polling stations held results back, according to CP24 and BNN Bloomberg.[26] When the count came, it wasn't close. Olivia Chow won a second term as mayor, and her first full four-year term.

THE RESULT

With all the votes counted, Now Toronto reported Chow at **532,201 votes, or 54.2%**, against **41.1%** for her main challenger[24], Ward 19 (Beaches-East York) Councillor Brad Bradford. CTV News put Bradford nearly 130,000 votes behind.[25]

That's a record. According to Now Toronto, it's the most votes any mayor has ever received in Toronto's history, and nearly double the 269,372 votes Chow won in the 2023 by-election.[24] It also reverses a slide in turnout over the previous three mayoral races.[24]

It's a comfortable margin for a race InSauga described as looking like a toss-up in the days before voting.[27] The turnout signals were there early: a record 222,550 people voted in the six advance days from October 6 to 11, compared with 129,745 in 2023.[24]

WHAT CHOW RAN ON

Her campaign centred on affordability, according to CP24.[28] One of her headline promises was expanding the Toronto School Food Program to every public school.[29] Chow was first elected in a 2023 by-election after John Tory resigned, so this is the first time she's won a full mandate.[29]

Bradford conceded on election night.[28]

HOW IT'S BEING READ

Not everyone sees a mandate for more of the same. In a commentary for The Hub, the result was framed as four more years of disorder and decline, pointing to rising property taxes and worsening conditions in the city.[30] CTV News' election-night analysis came at it from the other direction, with one observer saying turnout was the first, second and third explanation for Chow's win.[25] Both readings will shape how council treats her agenda.

THE REST OF THE GTHA MOVED TOO

- **Mississauga:** Alvin Tedjo defeated incumbent Mayor Carolyn Parrish.[26]
- **Brampton:** Patrick Brown was re-elected.[26]

- **Hamilton:** Keanin Loomis won the mayoralty, with incumbent Andrea Horwath finishing third, according to the CP24-CTV election desk.[31]

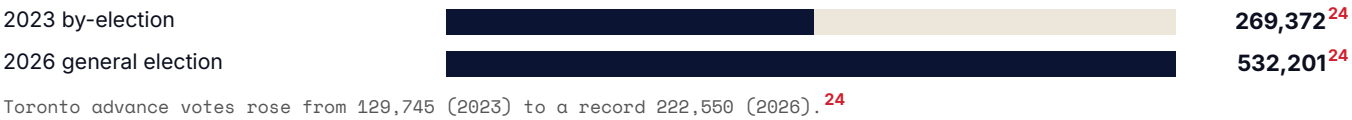
WHY THIS MATTERS FOR CULTURE

Municipal elections rarely get talked about as arts stories, but the city is one of the biggest funders of local culture through the Toronto Arts Council, festivals, libraries and permits for everything from Nuit Blanche to your neighbourhood street party. That's why the Toronto Arts Foundation published an open letter about the arts during the campaign and an election toolkit for voters.[32] Arts Near You: Toronto also ran an interview in which Chow talked with CANNOPY about what's working in the city's arts scene and what isn't.[33]

Here's what to watch for over the next four years:

- **The 2027 city budget.** It's where arts and festival funding actually gets decided.
- **Live music venues.** Toronto keeps losing small rooms to rent and redevelopment. Any city action on venue protection or permitting matters.
- **School food and the cost of living.** Not an arts issue, but it shapes how much families have left over for going out.

Olivia Chow's vote, then and now



Toronto advance votes rose from 129,745 (2023) to a record 222,550 (2026).[24]

The GTHA's mayors after October 26

City	Mayor-elect	Note
Toronto	Olivia Chow	☑ Re-elected
Mississauga	Alvin Tedjo	☑ Defeated Carolyn Parrish
Brampton	Patrick Brown	☑ Re-elected
Hamilton	Keanin Loomis	☑ Incumbent Horwath third

From BNN Bloomberg and CP24.[26,31]

THE 808 TAKE

A mayor who wins the most votes in the city's history has a mandate, and a city facing a rate hike, a trade war and an affordability crunch needs one. The test for Chow's second term is whether "affordable" also includes affordable to go out, to make art and to keep a small venue's lights on. We'll be watching the 2027 budget line by line.

READ THE ORIGINAL REPORTING // OPENS IN YOUR BROWSER

BNN Bloomberg: Live election updates
bnnbloomberg.ca ↗

NOW Toronto: Record number of voters for Chow
nowtoronto.com ↗

CTV News: Five takeaways from Toronto's election
ctvnews.ca ↗

CONNECTED // ALSO IN THE 808 FAMILY

CHOW'S MANDATE

The crawl

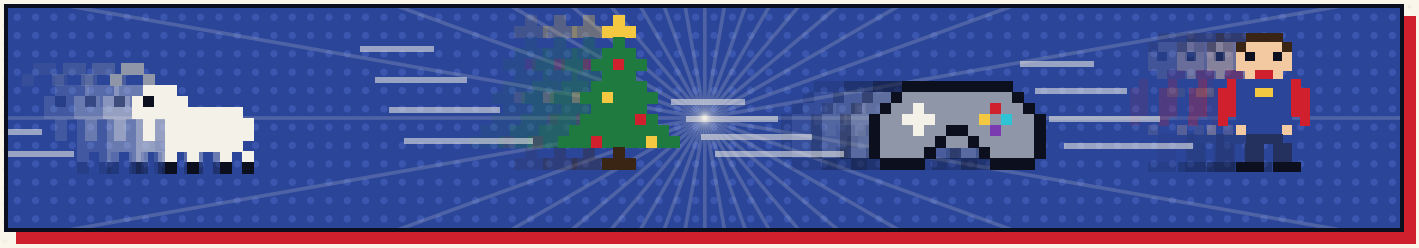
P&LITICS · P.12 →

OUT AND ABOUT // NOVEMBER

STOP 3 OF 3

NOVEMBER, UNWRAPPED

Goats, a parade, a tree lighting and a launch day: Toronto's month, in the order it happens



10
days of the Royal, Nov 6–15

17TH
season of the Distillery Winter Village

122ND
Original Santa Claus Parade, Nov 22

$16
Winter Village tickets from, plus HST and fees

From The Royal, CNW and Todocanada.[8,9,21,34]

November in Toronto has a reputation as the grey month between Halloween and the holidays. It doesn't deserve it. The clocks went back on November 1, the city's biggest fairs and markets open over the next three weeks, and the month's most-hyped release lands mid-week. Here's the plan, in order.

NOV 6–15: THE ROYAL

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair returns to Exhibition Place for ten days, from November 6 to 15.[21,35] It has been held there since 1922,[36] and it calls itself the largest combined indoor agricultural fair and international equestrian competition in the world. That's a big claim, but the Exhibition Place listing makes it too.[35]

This year's official ambassadors are Sugar and Spice, twin Angora goats owned by longtime exhibitor Becky Vissers.[21] You read that correctly. The Royal Horse Show returns with its entertainment line-up, and the closing day, Sunday November 15, is Western Day with the Royal Rodeo.[21]

The useful change for 2026: every Dining Series ticket now includes admission to the Royal Horse Show.[21] If you were going to do both, that's the bundle to buy. Exhibition GO station is right there, so skip the parking.

NOV 12: THE TREE LIGHTS UP

The Distillery Winter Village, Toronto's original Christmas market, opens for its 17th season on Thursday, November 12.[8] The Christmas tree lighting is at 6 p.m. on opening night.[8] It runs every day until January 3, closed Christmas Day.[8]

The new attraction is The Immersive Nutcracker, an indoor experience in the Fermenting Cellar.[9] Tickets are required during peak periods and start at $16 plus HST and fees;[9] check the calendar before you go, because weeknights are the easy win. Take the 504A King streetcar to the Distillery Loop.[37]

Our **lead story** ↗ has more on why going out costs what it does. The short version: book early and read the all-in price.

NOV 19: VICE CITY

Grand Theft Auto VI launches worldwide on PS5 and Xbox Series X|S on Thursday, November 19.[38] It's not a Toronto event, but it will empty a few offices and fill a few bars. If you're planning a launch night,

Platforms ↗, our games mailer, has the full countdown, the money behind the game and what to expect on day one.

NOV 22: THE PARADE

The Original Santa Claus Parade rolls through downtown on Sunday, November 22.[34] This will be its 122nd edition, according to Todocanada's listing,[34] which makes it one of the oldest parades of its kind anywhere.[39] It's free. The Holly Jolly Fun Run, a festive 5K, kicks things off the same morning.[40] Pick your spot on the route early, bring a thermos, and check the TTC for diversions.

BOOK NOW FOR DECEMBER

The National Ballet of Canada's *The Nutcracker* runs at the Four Seasons Centre from December 5 to 31.[41] James Kudelka's version has been a Toronto tradition since 1995.[41] If it's on your list, this is the month to buy. Remember Ontario's new resale rules: nobody can legally resell you a ticket to an Ontario event for more than its original all-in price.[22]

CITY HALL HOMEWORK

Olivia Chow's second term now moves from campaign promises to a budget. If you want a say on property taxes and transit spending, watch for the city's 2027 budget consultations. Our feature on the election, **Four more years ↗**, has what voters asked for.

Toronto's November, in order

When	What	Status
Sun, Nov 1	Clocks fell back; Art Toronto's last day	☑ Done
Fri, Nov 6 – Sun, Nov 15	Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Exhibition Place	☑ Confirmed
Thu, Nov 12, 6 p.m.	Distillery Winter Village tree lighting	☑ Confirmed
Sun, Nov 15	Western Day and Royal Rodeo	☑ Confirmed
Thu, Nov 19	Grand Theft Auto VI launches	☑ Confirmed
Sun, Nov 22	Original Santa Claus Parade, 122nd	☑ Listed
Dec 5–31	The Nutcracker, Four Seasons Centre	☐ On sale now

From The Royal, CNW, Gurugamer, Todocanada.[8,21,34,38,41]

THE 808 TAKE

The best of a Toronto November is either free or close to it: a parade, a tree lighting, a fair with goats. Do those first. Then pick one paid night out, book it now while you can still compare prices, and don't let the grey month talk you out of leaving the house.

READ THE ORIGINAL REPORTING // OPENS IN YOUR BROWSER

CNW via Cantech Letter: The Royal returns Nov 6–15
cantechletter.com ↗

Exhibition Place: Royal Agricultural Winter Fair 2026
explace.on.ca ↗

Toronto Tourism: Royal Winter Fair guide
torontotourism.org ↗

CONNECTED // ALSO IN THE 808 FAMILY

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Eighteen days to Vice City
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THE CRAWL

THIS MONTH'S OTHER STORIES

Everything else we tracked, each summarised in a few sentences. Tap any card to read the original story in your browser.

NO. 01 // THE CRAWL

CHOW'S SECOND TERM

Olivia Chow won on October 26 with 532,201 votes, the most any Toronto mayor has received.[24]

READ IT ON NOWTORONTO.COM ↗

NO. 02 // THE CRAWL

RATE HIKE

The Bank of Canada raised its rate to 2.50% on October 28, the first increase since 2023.[42] If you have a variable-rate mortgage, check your next payment. P8LITICS has the full story.

READ IT ON STORIES.TD.COM ↗

NO. 03 // THE CRAWL

OTTAWA INVESTS IN COHERE

The federal government will take a stake of up to $1.6 billion in the Toronto-founded AI company.[43] The 808 Brief explains what it buys.

READ IT ON PM.GC.CA ↗

NO. 04 // THE CRAWL

KAWHI'S BACK IN RED

Leonard returned to the Raptors this season, though left-knee swelling is expected to sideline him for several weeks.[44]

READ IT ON BOLAVIP.COM ↗

NO. 05 // THE CRAWL

SEASON-TICKET SQUEEZE

Ontario's resale cap means Leafs and Raptors season-ticket holders can't resell above the original price.[18] SP8RTS has more.

READ IT ON BNNBLOOMBERG.CA ↗

NO. 06 // THE CRAWL

ART TORONTO WRAPS

Canada's biggest art fair closed November 1 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.[45]

READ IT ON BLOGTO.COM ↗

NO. 07 // THE CRAWL

GTA VI LANDS NOVEMBER 19

Platforms has the countdown.[38]

READ IT ON GURUGAMER.COM ↗

NO. 08 // THE CRAWL

HOLIDAY MARKETS

The Distillery Winter Village opens November 12 with a 6 p.m. tree lighting.[8]

READ IT ON NEWSWIRE.CA ↗

NO. 09 // THE CRAWL

CRAVE'S BIG WEEK

Jared Keeso's new Crave original *I Kill the Bear*, a six-part comedy about a family of film-set bear wranglers shot in Sudbury, premieres November 6.[46] *Canada's Drag Race* season 7 lands November 19 and *Yellowjackets* season 4 on November 20.[47]

READ IT ON IPHONEINCANADA.CA ↗

NO. 10 // THE CRAWL

NETFLIX DOUBLES UP

Black Doves season 2 and the Canadian series *North of North* season 2 both arrive November 5; *The Altruists* follows November 19.[48]

READ IT ON IPHONEINCANADA.CA ↗

NO. 11 // THE CRAWL

PRIME GOES BACK TO MIDDLE-EARTH

The Rings of Power season 3 starts November 11, *Madden* with Nicolas Cage lands November 18 and *Blade Runner 2099* November 25. The Raptors' November 20 game in Detroit streams there too.[49]

READ IT ON IPHONEINCANADA.CA ↗

NO. 12 // THE CRAWL

DISNEY+ THIS MONTH

All's Fair season 2 opens with three episodes November 4, and *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* season 3 premieres with two on November 20.[50]

READ IT ON IPHONEINCANADA.CA ↗

NO. 13 // THE CRAWL

WHAT THE STACK COSTS

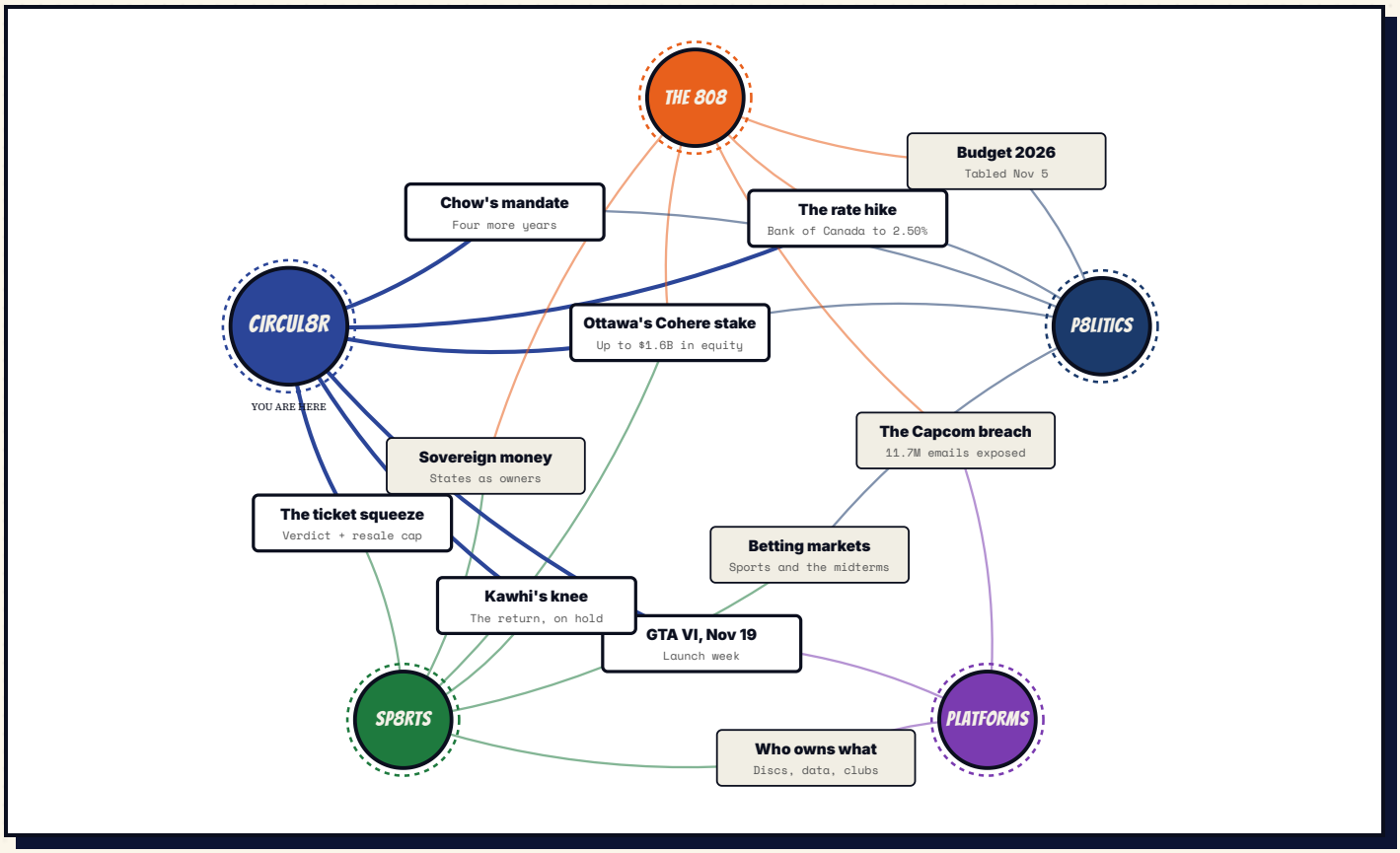
Netflix's spring U.S. price hike didn't apply in Canada.[51] Across the 10 biggest services, Canadian prices rose an average of 7% in 2025, and ad tiers save about 42% versus ad-free.[52]

READ IT ON MOBILESYRUP.COM ↗

THE WIRE // CONNECTIONS

FIVE MAILERS, ONE MONTH

The same stories ran through all five of our mailers in October. Here is how they connect. Bold lines are this issue; tap a box or a chip to jump.



THE RATE HIKE

- P8LITICS · The Hormuz tax · p.4
- CIRCUL8R · The $100 night out · p.4
- CIRCUL8R · The crawl · p.13
- THE 808 · The crawl · p.13

OTTAWA'S COHERE STAKE

- THE 808 · Ottawa buys a seat at the AI table · p.4
- SP8RTS · Sovereign stakes · p.7
- P8LITICS · The crawl · p.12
- CIRCUL8R · The crawl · p.13

SOVEREIGN MONEY

- THE 808 · Ottawa buys a seat at the AI table · p.4
- SP8RTS · Sovereign stakes · p.7

THE TICKET SQUEEZE

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BETTING MARKETS

- SP8RTS · The exchange will see you now · p.4
- P8LITICS · The crawl · p.12

GTA VI, NOV 19

- PLATFORMS · Eighteen days to Vice City · p.4
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KAWHI'S KNEE

- SP8RTS · The crawl · p.12
- CIRCUL8R · The crawl · p.13

THE CAPCOM BREACH

- THE 808 · The crawl · p.13
- PLATFORMS · The crawl · p.12

CHOW'S MANDATE

- CIRCUL8R · Four more years · p.7
- P8LITICS · The crawl · p.12

BUDGET 2026

- P8LITICS · Budget week · p.9
- THE 808 · The crawl · p.13

WHO OWNS WHAT

- PLATFORMS · Owning nothing · p.9
- SP8RTS · Sovereign stakes · p.7

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Every superscript number in this issue points here. In the PDF, each one is a link. 52 sources in all.

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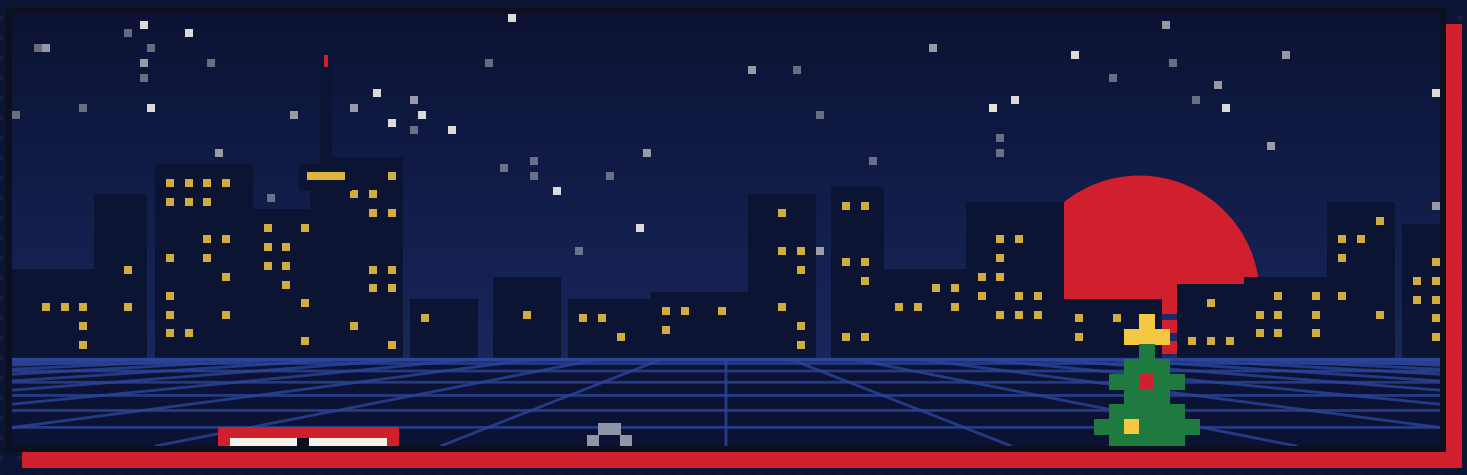
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