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# HEAD OF THE CHARLES RECAP



**BOB LIU**  
SENIOR EDITOR

Every year the picturesque Charles River in Boston transforms into the largest rowing regatta in the world. With thousands of boats and hundreds of clubs coming from 5 continents, it garners an average of 100,000 spectators every day from Oct 18-20. Yet the journey begins much earlier, on the docks of the recently constructed Lindsay Boathouse which was only completed a year ago. From August 24, contending rowers engaged in a two week long selection period, with plenty of both on land and on water testing, ensuring the final fourteen selected represents the cream of the crop of UCC rowing. The Charles candidates were put through a battery of fitness and testing trials, including a grueling six-kilometre erg test. The main test, however, was seat racing. Candidates were split into two boats, racing side by side. Rowers alternated between boats until the fastest combination was identified. Through this process, UCC's Charles Four and Charles Eight was named. The twelve rowers and two coxswains would train 16 hours a week: 2 hours per day from Tuesday to Friday, 4 hours per day on the Weekend, and finally Monday as a rest day. In preparation for the Head of the Charles,

the Fall 14 would race at the Head of the Welland Regatta as well as the Head of the Trent Regatta. During the Head of the Welland, the Charles 4+ finished second and the Charles 8+ finished third, both in the U19 category. Both crews would take the lessons learned and insights gained into the Head of the Trent regatta the following weekend, the Charles 4+ would take a spectacular first place finish in U19 and the Charles 8+ placed an honorable 4th in the Masters category. The Head of the Trent regatta featured one of the most unique challenges in any Head race, with a narrow 400 meter canal zone where passing is forbidden and crews jockeying for position prior to the canal's entrance. Both of these regattas yielded invaluable insights for both crews, and in culmination to the Head of the Charles, the Charles 4+ as well as the Charles 8+ applied the newfound information during practice and engaged in multiple race simulations. The training everyday was rigorous and demanding for both the rowers and the coxswains, and as Boston neared, the practices occurred in almost complete darkness. As the Head of the Charles weekend finally approached, both crews were beyond excited. On Thursday, the fall 14 were flown to Boston in order to make the final preparations for what is the biggest race of our lives. Thursday and Friday allowed both crews to make a total of 3 practice rows up and down the Charles, allowing the rowers and the coxswains to familiarize themselves with the course. The course is demanding like no other, the sharp and winding turns coupled with facing 89 other boats in their respective events, both crews would need all the practice they could muster. As the day of the race approached, the weight of the event truly got to everyone: the countless early mornings, the sacrifices each and every member made, all comes down to a grueling 17 minutes. By the end of the day, each stroke had marked a remarkable dawn for Upper Canada Rowing. The UCC Charles 4+ finished an amazing 17th place, a 26 place improvement from 2023. Meanwhile, the Charles 8+ had one of the most remarkable finishes in the recent 20 years at the Charles, with every member happy with the effort they had put in all season. Notable alumni such as John Liu (Class of 2024), and many more also raced throughout the weekend. The UCC Charles 4+ and Charles 8+ would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the

coaches and faculty advisors that accompanied us this season. Director of Rowing Manny Azarcon, volunteer coaches Michael Carmichael (Class of '97) and Dane Halkiw (Class of '19), along with faculty advisors James Weekes and Jessica Rezu-nyk played an integral role in the teams development this season, something we could not have done without. It is the collective effort of everyone, from coaches, to rowers, and parents, that helped to shape the new golden era that UCC rowing is entering into.

## Coaches' Comments:

Michael Carmichael (Class of '97) Coach of the Charles 8+

**What do you think about the team's preparation this year compared to previous years?**

This year team was more dialled in and connected as a singular unit. Some may say "totally locked in with +1000 Aura".

**How did you see the team grow over the season?**

A high-performance team grows as a unit. Everyone starts to expect more from themselves AND from each other. As focus and effort increase, so does intensity. Some might say the growth witnessed is "maturity", however I recognize it to be a team 'coming together'.

**What are the key takeaways from this year's regatta that could help us prepare better for next season?**

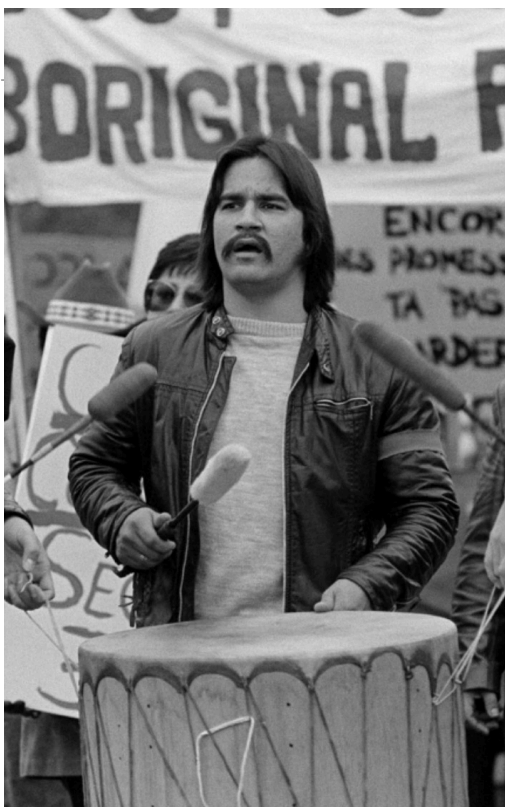
Channel nerves and excitement into focus and effort at the end of the oar. Everyone you're racing against feels the same way – the opportunity is in how you process it vs. how they do.

**Are there specific areas you would prioritize for improvement going into future races.**

More. You always have more. More effort. More Focus. More support for your teammates. For any race in a crew boat. The crew wins together, so work at giving "more" in every sense of a member in a crew.



# SLOW PROGRESS TO RECONCILIATION



ETHAN FREI  
STAFF REPORTER

Canadian policies and societal attitudes towards Indigenous justice have seen significant evolution over time, which has been influenced by increasing Indigenous empowerment and activism. Policies have changed to be more inclusive of Indigenous peoples, and to recognize the history of assimilation and cultural genocide

imposed upon them. While progress has been made, said progress has been slow and systemic barriers still exist that continue to hinder equitable outcomes for Indigenous peoples.

In the recent decades, significant reforms have been made surrounding Indigenous rights. There has been an increase in awareness about the unjust treatment of the Canadian government to Indigenous peoples. Legal cases such as the Calder case in 1973 and the Tsilhqot'in decision in 2014 have helped to recognize Indigenous claims to land (Seymour-Hourie).

The work of the Truth and Reconciliation commission between 2008 and 2015 also brought attention to the cruel and inhumane residential school systems (Taylor). The commission would also help lay the framework for reconciliation initiatives, and how Canada can normalize good relations with the Indigenous peoples.

While there have been significant advancements, there are still barriers that hinder further progress for Indigenous peoples. Indigenous peoples often lack social upward mobility, facing high rates of incarceration and poverty. Indigenous people also have lower life expectancy than non-Indigenous populations, higher incidence of disease, and many more problems (Durie).

These issues are often due to colonial policies that marginalized Indigenous communities, and these issues still impact

Indigenous peoples today. There is still no clear solution for these problems, and how they can be tangibly addressed. As of October 2024, progress on Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action is slow. Only 13 of the 94 calls have been fully implemented, and this slow pace of improvement has frustrated many Indigenous leaders and activists ("Progress Too Slow on Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, Advocates Say - National | Globalnews.ca").

The incremental change brings to light the importance of keeping the promises made by the government. Paying lip service to the Indigenous people does not change their struggles in society; rather, the government needs to take more actionable steps to ensure the calls to action are being fulfilled in a timely manner.

Despite these challenges, Indigenous activism continues to play a vital role in developing equitable reforms and reminding the government of its promises (Rights). Various movements like "Idle No More" show the determination of these communities in their reclamation of sovereignty. The persistence in the voices of Indigenous people demonstrates the need for true reconciliation (Idle No More). To achieve meaningful change, the government must go beyond policy adjustments and address the systemic inequities within Canadian institutions. Only then will we be able to move forward and ultimately closer to a fully just, inclusive and equitable society.





# INTERVIEW WITH JONATHAN ERLICHMAN '08



**CYRUS SARFATY**  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Professional sports are constantly evolving. The shift away from 'innings eaters' in baseball has increased reliance on teams' bullpens. Fights have gone way down in hockey over the past few decades. The three-point revolution has prompted dramatic shifts in basketball strategy, from the professional level down to elementary school. To gain an insider's perspective on the importance of statistics in the operation of sports teams, I reached out to the first-ever Major League Baseball analytics coach, **Jonathan Erlichman '08**. From 2013 until this past summer, Erlichman has been in integral part of the Tampa Bay Rays organization, playing a key role in its recent stretch of postseason success amid a shoestring budget.

**Cyrus:** Take us through your journey from UCC to your position now, as you know, one of the foremost analytics coaches in pro sports.

**Jonathan:** Well, I got interested in base-

ball from the analytics side first. My parents gave me *Moneyball* to read. It came out when I was about 13, so I got interested from that side first. And then I read a lot of blogs on baseball analysis, a bunch of books on *Baseball Prospectus*, stuff back in the day, Tom Tango's blog... then I went to Princeton and majored in math there. I spent more time just, you know, learning about baseball and doing research. And eventually, I tried to see if I could break into the field and I ended up getting an internship with the Commissioner's Office one summer, and then with the Blue Jays after I graduated, and then another internship with the Rays after that. I ended up spending 12 seasons there in total as an analytics coach before transitioning to a front office position last year.

**Cyrus:** Yeah, that's awesome. If you were a coach for the Rays in 2020 were you invited to the All Star Game in 2021?

**Jonathan:** Yeah, so we were there in 2021. The coaching staff of the two World Series teams get to go to the All Star Game, so that was a pretty cool experience. Not that there's anything really to do from a game strategy perspective for that, but it was cool to meet some of the star players and other teams there. And [Guardians manager] Terry Francona was the guest coach that [Rays manager Kevin] Cash invited. So I met him there as well.

**Cyrus:** That's so cool. I know you were heavily involved with the Rays' recent streak of *Moneyball*-like postseason appearances. I think it's wild that every year the team almost seems to lose half of its core, and then, somehow improves— you're talking about Snell, Morton, Adames, Meadows, Margot, Arozarena, Glasnow... without revealing too much, how is this possible?

**Jonathan:** Well, with the resources we had, it was important to think differently from the rest of the league in order to be successful. At the end of the day, we won a lot of games over this recent stretch because our players are really talented. And, you know, I think we have had an environment that allows us to combine all the information we had in ways to help

with our player evaluation, while easing all that on the player development side to help our players become the best versions of themselves.

**Cyrus:** Yeah, in my opinion, I feel like your recent stretch may have done 'Moneyball' better than the Oakland A's in '02; they actually had some solid names on the roster, whereas the Rays rely more on talent acquired from trades and international free agent signings. Were you inspired by *Moneyball* in this approach?

**Jonathan:** Yeah, I mean, I think the idea of taking a research-oriented viewpoint and trying to figure out the right questions to ask and what questions aren't being answered is important. Then, how can we answer those better and better understand different layers of the game? I think that sort of approach has always stuck with me.

**Cyrus:** You mentioned that now you're working with the Pittsburgh Penguins. Do you feel that analytics is different in hockey than in baseball? Definitely the idea of sports analytics stemmed from baseball, and I assume that there isn't the same level of advanced metrics in the NHL as MLB.

**Jonathan:** Yeah, the available data is behind where baseball is at, although it's really starting to catch up. Recently, the league has three years of player tracking data that's available to all the teams, for example. So that's similar to the original Statcast systems put out by MLB back in 2015, so that data set's starting to grow. And, you know, in terms of quantifying the game, I mean, it's obviously a different game with different challenges. There's certain sets of stats in baseball that don't exist in hockey, but that's also, you know, that's the challenge and the opportunity is to try to better understand all of that.

**Cyrus:** As the analytics coach, what is your day-to-day? Are you actually walking up to players and telling them to increase their launch angle? Or do you report to the manager with your discoveries?



# INTERVIEW WITH JONATHAN ERLICHMAN '08

I mean, I wouldn't say there was a typical day, and it evolved over within seasons and also over the course of different years. One part of the role was just to be a resource available to the rest of the coaching staff in terms of the data we had available. And another one was just to be able to provide a different and outside perspective on the way that we train, the way we structure our days, and to be able to provide a different perspective on how to do that. So, you know, it really varied between these. But, you know, I would spend time in the batting cages at times and spend time with the pitchers during sides at times. I'd be in their advanced meetings before series.

**Cyrus:** How much say did you have in the idea of like, the opener? Did that come from the analytics side, or is that more of a front office decision?

**Jonathan:** No, I mean, at the end of the day, all those decisions are the manager's to make. I think the idea of using pitchers

in untraditional ways has been around for a while in the game and in the industry. And, you know, I take credit to Cashy for, you know, putting together a system that worked well.

**Cyrus:** Are there any specific mathematical concepts you learned either in high school or college that you noticed hadn't yet been applied to baseball statistics that you kind of helped introduce to the Rays?

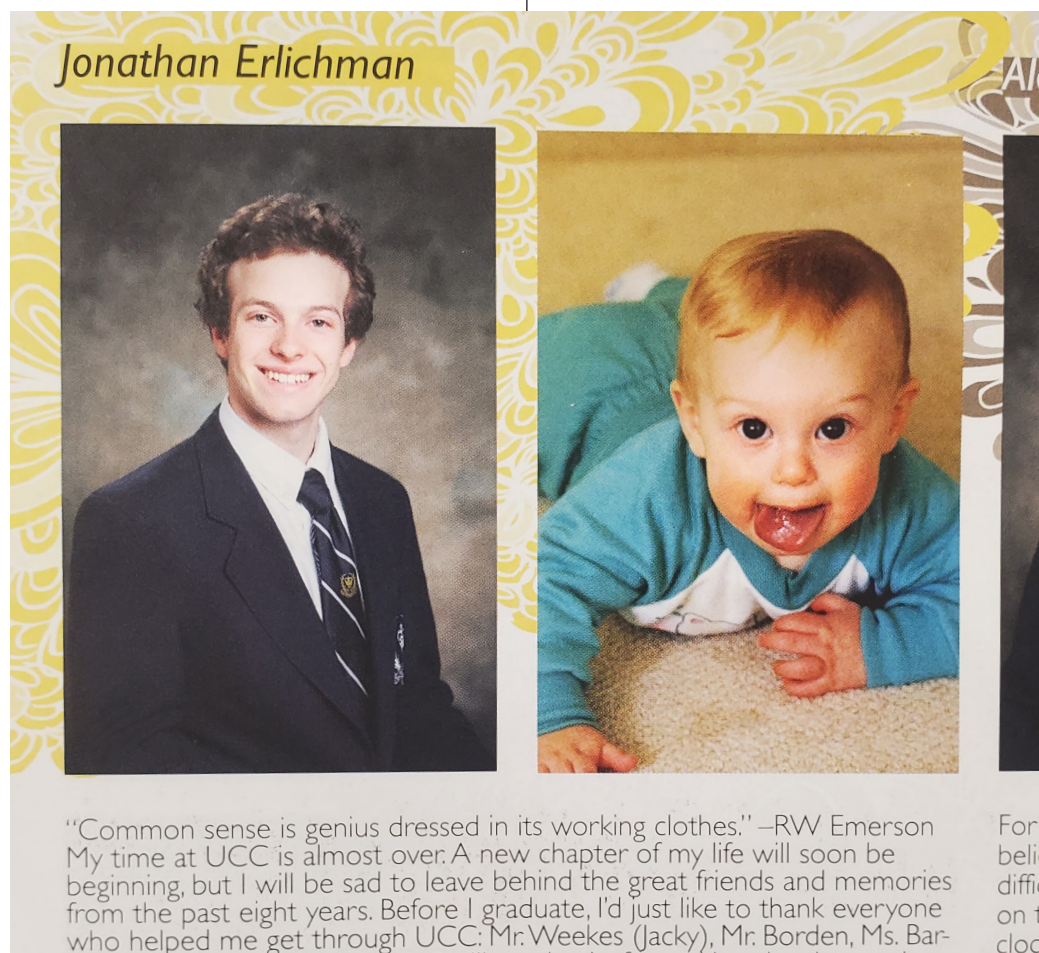
**Jonathan:** No, I think you're really piggybacking on a lot of, you know, foundations that were laid by people you know, earlier within, within the baseball research community. Like I said, you know, I learned a lot from reading Baseball Prospectus, both their books and also the research on Tom Tango's blog, so a lot of the foundational principles are pretty similar when it comes to how to do research and how to set up problems.

**Cyrus:** Do you remember your IB courses? The three HLs and the three SLs?

**Jonathan (laughs):** Math and Physics were two of the higher levels. Chemistry and Economics were in there somewhere... then I guess English and Spanish were the other two.

**Cyrus:** If you give any tips to like-minded students at UCC, what would it be?

**Jonathan:** I think the biggest thing would be just to learn about the research process and get your hands dirty. Especially now in baseball, there's such rich data sets available to the public—Baseball Savant in particular—at the play-by-play level, the pitch-by-pitch level, and some of the more player-movement-based Statcast metrics. So you know, if you're able to think about questions you have about the game, think about ways to potentially solve and answer those questions, there's the ability for people in the public domain to do research that maybe ten years ago was only available to people working for teams.





# UCC'S TOTEM POLE WAKE-UP CALL



**MATTHEW LI**  
GUEST REPORTER

You may remember a presentation made last September by Ms. Tanz at Norval about a Totem Pole being removed from our outdoor campus. Briefly, this operation was carried out after an investigation by the Truth & Reconciliation Council found that the pole was not carved by Indigenous artisans and did not accurately represent local Indigenous cultures. For us, the problem seems resolved, now to be documented and stored away in the UCC archives. But what was the problem? Who raised it and how did we go about it? And why was it a problem that matters?

Totem Poles are only an art form of First Nations peoples on the Northwest Coast of Canada. They are carved by designated families, made from red cedar, and can serve to document families, events, or those who have passed. The red cedar tree carries practical and symbolic significance for these communities: it is

malleable and rot-resistant, and possesses supernatural and medicinal qualities. Elaborate ceremonies are performed prior to the felling of the tree and the erection of the finished Pole. In short, although Totem Poles do exist out of the western provinces, it is jarring to find one on our Norval campus.

The catalyst for the investigation of this pole, then, was a series of miscellaneous conversations, some of which were prompted by Indigenous-centric programming at Norval, leading to a proposal by the Council to the Senior Leadership Team to learn about the pole's history and decide a course of action. There was little delay in its approval, and with research it became clear that the pole did not belong here. It was carved by the Halton Wood Carver's Guild – which did not include Indigenous members – on the occasion of the Prep School's centennial anniversary in 2002. Along with other festivities at Norval, including horse wagons, the pole was fashioned out of a discarded telephone pole (not of red cedar) in a live carving demonstration. The symbols on it were simply drawn from a book.

The inappropriate nature of this pole is indisputable, as it misrepresents a symbol that enables Indigenous nations to enrich and distinguish themselves. However, I'm more interested in why only certain Indigenous people can carve "authentic" poles. Why can't every member of a culture practice a tradition of the culture?

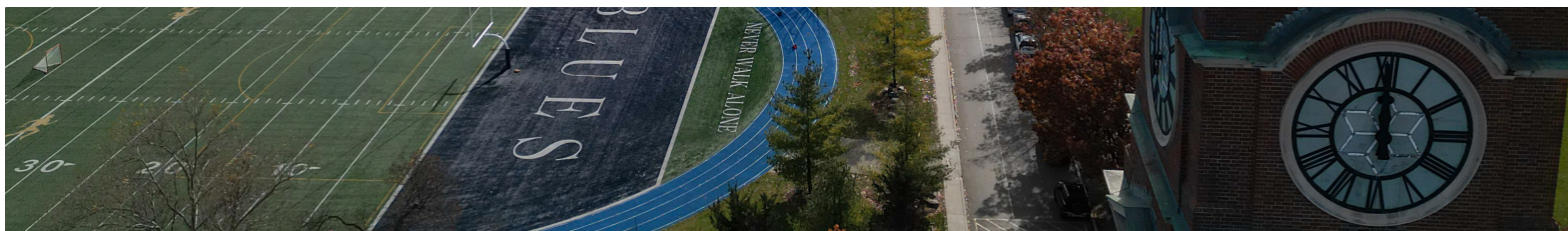
Firstly, Totem pole carving is exclusive for practical reasons. "Carvers understand how to work with the grain of the tree and how to use the grain and colouration of the wood to evoke movement and emotion in the carving." The exclusivity here aligns with that in many other fields. We trust certain individuals, experts, to perform certain activities as they hold more knowledge and are thus more capable. Dentists (not any doctor) fix our teeth and climatologists (not any scientist) provide the most reliable information on our climate. Totem pole carvers are experts

in Indigenous nations, meaning they hold the same authority over knowledge such that even Totem poles carved by Indigenous non-carvers are considered "inauthentic."

However, the maintenance of this hierarchy of expertise within communities is noteworthy: carvers generally originate from the same family. The explanation for this is that in order to acquire the practical knowledge necessary to become an expert, one must start learning at a young age. The exclusivity of knowledge due to hereditary reasons is therefore justified by the practical reasons. This layering further reinforces the esteem of the carvers. Yet one must be wary of jumping to conclusions as Indigenous notions of expertise and its determinants are different from that of Western society. Nevertheless, the process through which knowledge became authorised for only certain people reveals fascinating things about Indigenous culture.

Back to the Norval pole. To the uninformed, it looks inconspicuous enough to be assumed authentic. So why does the school painstakingly search for its origins? It has to do with the recognition that our own history is plagued by colonialism, and that historic wrongs are present insults if left unattended. At heart, we want to avoid double standards. If on one side we install Indigenous art murals and read Land Acknowledgements, on the other side we should be mindful of what we put on display. If on one side we invite Indigenous Elders to host boat building activities with us, on the other side we should make sure they are represented accurately on our campus.

What other historic relics, remnants of grand projects in a past society when multiculturalism has yet to be embraced, exist at UCC? What other installations must we re-identify, re-examine, and "uninstall"? Perhaps if we aim to continue our reconciliation and pluralism agenda, the very roots of the school must be tended to.



# IS AN EARLY ELECTION A GOOD BET FOR FORD?



**FERRARI ZHANG**  
JUNIOR EDITOR

Rumors abound in both the media and among opposition leaders that Premier Doug Ford may be considering an early election as soon as spring 2025. However, both recent trends and historical precedent suggest that calling an early election could be a risky move for him.

## General Trends & Policy Blunders

To borrow a Gen Alpha phrase, most sitting governments facing re-election worldwide this year were “cooked”, either toppled or heavily damaged. In Canada alone this year, the provincial government in New Brunswick was toppled and two others, in S.K and B.C were on the brink. There are two main reasons for this.

First, most of these governments have had the unfortunate timing of holding office in the post-COVID era. Crime rates are rising across the board, especially in Canada, and essentials are growing increasingly unaffordable. For instance, food prices have spiked, costing the average four-person household an additional \$300 this year. Housing costs are so high that only 20% of people in their 30s feel

confident they will ever own a home. While not all of these issues fall under provincial jurisdiction, public perception is that governments are failing to adequately address them. Ontario is no exception. Ford’s housing plan, for example, has missed expectations, with the province building houses at less than half the rate required to reach its goal of 1.5 million homes by 2031.

Secondly, several of these governments have made controversial decisions. Blaine Higgs’s administration in New Brunswick required parental permission for children under 16 to use preferred pronouns, sparking accusations of anti-LGBT bias and leading to one-third of his caucus resigning in protest. On the other end of the spectrum, David Eby’s government in B.C. legalized all hard drugs, a move that failed to reduce overdose rates and caused outrage in affected communities. Ford is also facing backlash: in 2022, he was found to have allocated environmentally valuable Greenbelt land to developers close to his administration, triggering an ongoing RCMP investigation and tanking his personal popularity, which has remained near 30% in the past year.

Notably, this wave of anti-incumbency affects leaders across the political spectrum, from the B.C. NDP to the Democratic Party in the U.S., the U.K. Conservatives, and even Saskatchewan’s conservative party. Hence, Ford should not count on federal Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre’s popularity to bolster his own standing. Ontario premiers, in particular, have historically lost their positions for seemingly minor reasons. For example, in 1948, Premier George Drew, an Old Boy and former member of the debate team, lost his own seat of High Park to an anti-alcohol campaigner despite leading the Ontario P.C. to a third term in office. Drew went on to lose two more elections as federal Progressive Conservative leader.

Considering both these things, Premier Ford stands much more to lose than to gain from an early election, with a clear risk of unexpected defeat.

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## Canadians Vote Strategically

Since Part A has shown that current governments have a path to losing

re-election, especially this one in Ontario, Part B will draw a path to victory for either the Ontario Liberal Party (OLP) or the Ontario New Democratic Party (ONDP). It appears the ONDP may have a slight advantage despite polls currently favoring the Liberals.

The ONDP benefits from a key factor: not being called the Liberals. Any association with Justin Trudeau can be a burden - just ask BC’s Kevin Falcon, whose party, previously called the BC Liberals, collapsed after rebranding as BC United. Kathleen Wynne, the former OLP Premier, also brings lingering political baggage; by the time she left office, only 14% of Ontarians approved of her. The ONDP, in contrast, lacks the same negative associations and, as the Official Opposition, can better position itself as a fresh alternative.

How could the ONDP win? Key point: Canadians tend to vote against parties more than for them. When voters feel apathetic, the 60% who typically oppose the sitting government split their votes across opposition parties, preventing any one party from winning outright. However, when voters dislike the government strongly enough, a large portion of that 60% vote strategically, rallying behind one opposition party and causing its support to skyrocket. So, unless a party’s support regularly exceeds 50% - as Ford never has - even a sizeable poll may prove unreliable.

For instance, John Rustad, the leader of the previously-unknown BC Conservatives, closed a 10-point gap with the aforementioned BC NDP within one month by attracting strategic anti-NDP voters, despite not being especially popular himself. Similarly, if campaigning brings anti-Ford voters together around the ONDP, Ford could unexpectedly find himself among Ontario’s unemployed.

## Conclusion

Ultimately, Ford’s government is in a precarious place, and a history of unseating Ontario premiers could pose significant risks. But this analysis is not just for him. Hopefully, it offers you a clearer picture of how voter sentiment shifts and the factors that could shape Ontario’s political future. Thank you for reading!