In what’s shaping up to be the biggest auto industry shake-up of the decade, Volkswagen’s (VW) emissions scandal has—by this point—obliterated over 30 billion USD of the company’s shares, and forced CEO Martin Winterkorn to resign.

In late September, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revealed that VW cars being sold in the US were rigged with stealth software that allowed the cars to “cheat” emissions tests. In what has been dubbed a “defeat device,” the software signals to the car when its emissions are about to be tested; upon receiving the signal, the car shifts gears, so to speak, and begins to run cleaner than it would during ordinary use. This allows the cars to pass emissions tests while emitting more pollution than the legal limit. In some cases, VW cars were revealed to be emitting forty times the allowable amount.

As legal loopholes go, the “defeat device” is quite clever. It could be argued that the system wasn’t breaking any regulations, just evading them.

Initially, the EPA indicated that the “defeat device” had been installed in 482,000 of the cars that VW had sold in the US, but it wasn’t long before the company admitted that eleven million of their diesel cars across the globe had similar software installed. To put that number in perspective, eleven million cars amounts to approximately twenty-five percent of VW’s vehicles worldwide.

Maybe more than any other automaker, German-based Volkswagen has a reputation for reliability, trustworthiness, and—increasingly—environmental responsibility. This is perhaps why the initial backlash against VW has been immediate and unequivocal.

In this Issue…

NEWS
Syrian War .................................................. 3
OPINION
Sustainable Development Goals ..................... 9
ARTS & CULTURE
Netflix Guide ............................................. 10
SPORTS
NHL Free Agents ....................................... 14

» see VOLKSWAGEN, page 15
CIBC Run for the Cure 2015
Osgoode Women’s Network raises $3,760

OWN ran for the Cure and raised $3,760! The OWN Executive would like to extend a HUGE thank you to everyone who participated in some way, shape or form with this year’s CIBC Run for the Cure 2015. As a student club at Osgoode, we were able to raise $3,760, which surpasses last year’s fundraising efforts by over $1,000! $317 was raised from the jars we passed around to the first year classes alone! Across Canada, the Run for the Cure raised an estimated $21.5 million, bringing us that much closer to finding a cure. So, once again, thank you to everyone who participated! Our next big community initiative will be our clothing drive during the week of October 26th. During the clothing drive, we will be collecting gently-used professional clothing for the organization, Dress for Success. We have partnered with Goodmans LLP who is helping to coordinate the event and recruit other firms. So far, a number of firms, have generously agreed to make donations, including: Goodmans, Fasken Martineau, Davies, BLG, Bennett Jones, Stikeman Elliot and Cassels Brock. We hope that the Osgoode staff, faculty and student body will also help out as well by bringing in their previously owned professional attire during the week of October 26th! We will have a clothing donation box situated outside of the admissions office (across from the library doors) during that week.

Thank you again for helping us in our drive towards maintaining and increasing our commitment to community initiatives.

With gratitude,

Your 2015-2016 OWN Executive

Photo credit: Osgoode Women’s Network
Russia Further Complicates War in Syria

As many people have already heard, Russia has joined the war in Syria, where Russian warplanes have carried out air-strikes on opponents of President Bashar al-Assad. This recent addition to the four year civil war in Syria has added new elements, which continue to further the suffering for many civilians.

Russia claimed that they are targeting the Islamic State (IS) and “other terrorists” when on 30 September, Russia’s parliament approved a request by President Vladimir Putin to launch airstrikes in Syria. This is the country’s first intervention in the Middle East in decades, which leads one to ponder what their real intention behind their involvement in Syria is.

Presidents Putin and Assad have been long-standing political allies, and most are aware of this relationship; however, Mr. Putin said Russia was acting “preventatively, to fight and destroy militants and terrorists on the territories that they already occupy, not wait for them to come to our house.” A poor argument given the applicability of that argument to many other war-torn countries, which have yet to see a Russian intervention.

Not to mention the context of the relationship between Putin and Assad, which includes historical ties between the two countries, and Syria containing the last Russian naval base in the Middle East. Russia has also blocked numerous resolutions critical of Assad at the UN Security council, and supplied weapons to the Syrian military—this current Russian intervention only continues and further solidifies the relationship between the two as political allies.

The Russian Defence Ministry originally said the first strikes targeted only the jihadist group IS, which controls large parts of Syria and is fighting both government and rebel forces. The next day, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov clarified that the air campaign was targeting “all terrorists” in Syria, and not just IS. His ministry said a report by the Syrian Civil Defence rescue organization of 33 civilian deaths on the first day of the airstrikes was “false.”

Even more interesting is the fact that the US and allies have noted that the strikes are occurring in places where IS has little to no presence. Alternatively, the strikes are aimed at rebels backed by Gulf Arab and Western states who are advancing on Latakia province, which is the core of Assad’s Alawite sect. The political dimensions behind Russia’s intervention shine through, providing much more plausible reasoning, rather than fear of terrorists attacking Russia.

The reaction from Syria seems to be divided, where some have hope for Russia to end this agonizing situation, and others fear their situation has just gotten worse. Opposition activists have expressed alarm over the effect this Russian intervention will have on civilians. Khaddair Khushify, an activist in northern Homs province, stated to the New York Times, “If these raids continue this way, Russia will kill a larger number of civilians than Bashar did in four years.” The reality is that Russia’s intervention arises out of selfish reasoning, and the Syrian civilians are secondary thoughts, at best, to the existent political battles.

The US are all but impressed with this new addition to the war in Syria. US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter said Russia was “pouring gasoline on a fire.” He went on to warn that Russia “risks escalating the civil war in Syria—and with it, the very extremism and instability that Moscow claims to be concerned about.” The US does not seem to be accepting of the Russian argument indicating their only intent is to fight terrorism, which is interesting given the US not too long ago was utilizing the same arguments for their own Middle East interventions. However, the most important aspect of this situation is the high human costs—more than 250,000 Syrians have been killed and a million injured. At least eleven million others have been forced from their homes, four million have fled abroad, and we continue to hear their horror stories as they embark on the journey of their lives. It is a sad reality that these lives are not the priority, and instead protection of political alliances reigns supreme. The Russian intervention in the Syrian war not only illustrates this point, but also serves to demonstrate that the instability within Syria will most likely continue.

“The political dimensions behind Russia’s intervention shine through…”

Sprout hairclips.
The New Old City Hall Mall
Will an iconic piece of Toronto architecture turn into a shopping centre?

NADIA ABOUFAIRRIS › OPINIONS EDITOR

LAST YEAR IN Professor Berger’s criminal law class, a few friends and I went down to Old City Hall for the afternoon to watch bail court for an assignment. A few of us had never entered the building before, so we were pretty excited to see what it looked like, and since the facade of the Old City Hall is pretty remarkable, we had high hopes. Hopes that were dashed, as we sat in the base-

ment of the building, in a waiting room of crumbling plaster lined with scotch taped scraps of paper. Our hopes were further dashed as we entered into the bail courtroom, which had no ceiling beyond a network of pipes and exposed wires running through the room.

There are parts of the once magnificent interior that can still impress, such as the grand staircase, the original mosaic floor, and the lavish use of marble. This is a building that cost two and a half million dollars to build when the cornerstone was laid in 1891. In the past decade, the city has spent more than a few millions to renovate the exterior of the fantas-
tic Romanesque Revival building created by E.J. Lennox (who is probably best known as the archi-
tect of Casa Loma). But the interior of Old City Hall has seen much better days, and to be honest, probably deserves a little more dignity than the administrative mish-mash of plaster partitioning, ugly fluorescents, and “no photography” signs that litter the walls. The city of Toronto seems to agree, and has already given notice to the provincial government that it is not looking to renew the lease that expires at the end of 2016. Meanwhile, the city also hired a real estate bro-

kerage firm, Avison Young, to prepare a report on the building and conduct a “highest and best use” analy-
sis for what can be done with the property. That report, which can be viewed online in its entirety if you are into that sort of thing (as I clearly am), first suggests, quite reasonably, that the city should extend its lease to 2021, giving the province time for a new courthouse to be built. It then goes on to say that the highest and best use for the property would be “conversion to a retail centre that contains a mix of food service, leisure, event and civic uses.”

Immediately, a thousand voices across the internet screamed. “A MALL?” they exclaimed, shaking their heads in disbelief, “How shameful! It should be a museum!” No doubt these knee-jerk reactions are exactly why I decided to read the actual report and not just the internet comments from a few opinion pieces in newspapers. Nowhere in the report does it say “let’s make the whole thing a mall.” In fact, quite a lot of discussion is given to the idea of creating a city of Toronto museum either in the courtyard (which is now a parking lot and loading space) or elsewhere onsite. Don’t get me wrong, as a former art history student I am obsessed with museums. But turning the entirety of the building into a Toronto histori-
cal museum is somewhat unrealistic—the building is quite large and needs a fair amount of income to be maintained. But the idea that the building will turn into a new Eaton Centre is probably a bit of a stretch, considering that Old City Hall has been a national heritage site since 1989, and therefore would be difficult to overhaul in any significant way.

The report does a good job of analyzing the com-

peting objectives of the potential project—maximizing assets, respecting the heritage of the building, attracting a mix of tenants, and, interestingly, an emphasis on unfettered public access. I find this enthralling because a lot of the complaints people have about turning the space into a retail-centre mention the space shouldn’t be used for “private” purposes, such as stores. But as the building stands now, it is pretty inaccessible to the average person, requiring a fairly invasive security check to enter, prohibiting photography, and having large areas of the complex completely closed to the public at all times. Imagine instead a building where tourists and Torontonians alike can walk into the great hall and admire its architecture, take pictures of its restored stained glass, grab a bite to eat, head to the museum courtyard, and purchase some Toronto souvenirs. I do not think that this would be disrespecting the origi-
nal idea for the building to be a grand monument to the city. And it would certainly be a hell of a lot better use for the place than a condominium or a hotel.

Among retail space, office use, and a technology and innovation centre, the report also lists “post-secondary education” as one of the possible tenant uses of the building. I mean, I’m not implying that we should move all of Osgoode Hall Law School down there, but how cool would it be to have some class space in a heritage building that served as the city’s civic centre for a hundred years? Sign me up for “The History of Canadian Law” taught at the New Old City Hall Mall.

Photo credit: Aaron Lynett / National Post
Anishinaabe Law Camp 2015
The Stories Behind Law

Allison Grandish > Contributor

From 10 September to 13 September, approximately forty students and faculty members from Osgoode Hall Law School traveled to Neyaashiinigmiing (Cape Croker), about four hours north of Toronto. Professor Andrée Boiselle worked with John Borrows, his daughter Lindsay Borrows, and their community, the Chippewas of Nawash, to organize the camp and welcome us to Neyaashiinigmiing. Our teachers, meanwhile, came from throughout Neyaashiinigmiing and other areas within Anishinaabe territory. All of our instructors and organizers brought their unique experiences and specialties to provide a multi-faceted journey through Anishinaabe law.

The purpose of the camp was to provide an opportunity for students to learn on the land, engage with Anishinaabe legal traditions, and be introduced to Anishinaabe research methodologies. Rather than learning in a classroom through lectures, we participated in community-based teaching. Our instructors shared their experiences of learning Indigenous law and, to illustrate their journey, led us through a group activity in which we collaborated to address a legal issue through the approach used in Anishinaabe legal pedagogy—taking a story and interpreting it to determine what legal principles it proposed. Throughout the weekend, discussions of the protocols involved in components of the camp revealed the extent to which Indigenous traditions were woven into facets of the trip that I myself may have taken for granted. The most marked example was the procedures involved in observing the sacred fire and respecting the traditions that go into building and maintaining it. We also had the opportunity to converse with local and guest teachers during meals and our spare time, allowing students to discuss particular areas of personal interest related to Indigenous law. Elders and community members welcomed us into an exploration of Indigenous legal traditions and pedagogy by sharing their own stories, which both deepened our understanding of the material and illuminated the significance of what we were learning.

John Borrows told us a story of creation to begin his discussion of constitutional law. Accustomed to regulations, statutes and judicial interpretation, it was difficult for me to understand the connection at first. But as we delved further into that form of legal pedagogy, I developed a deeper appreciation for the truths woven into stories that are passed down and shared. We also learned how narratives are constructed. A speaker went through the frustrations of having treaty rights recognized with regards to the Bruce Peninsula.

He told us about willing deceptions and hapless ignorance in his journey to have the rights of his community respected. Another speaker showed us wampum belts, which detailed various treaties and seemed to track the history of agreements.

What I took from the experience was a humbling understanding of what the law can do when it twists and contorts to tell a story that suits one side’s understanding. During our final dinner our host spoke to us about the impact of residential schools, a shameful history inexorably woven into Canada’s national identity. It was a sobering reminder of why it was important for us to participate in the camp and to gain an understanding of where one can learn more about that area of law and that part of our history.

Beyond the pedagogy, participating in the experience was powerful because it connected students to each other. Away from Osgoode, with its veneers and machinations, the camp created a venue in which we were all safe in feeling open with each other. I’m a naturally reclusive person, but I discovered peers who share my interests and peers who are so different that we couldn’t help but click. Over coffee we laughed about pub night shenanigans and confessed the overwhelming sense of responsibility that comes with practicing law. Would we work against systemic barriers to justice, or become cogs? What would it mean to transcend what we understand the law to be? Being welcomed into the space imbued us with a humbling sense of both gratefulness and responsibility. I can’t speak for my fellow attendees, but I feel that the dedication and passion of our hosts inspired us to treat the learning experience as a starting point.

Before leaving we sat around the sacred fire as it burned to embers, sharing our reflections. The common theme, beyond how grateful we were to be part of the experience, was a shared desire to learn more about the intersections between Indigenous law and what we hope to practice, to be conscientious about how our approach to practice may serve to unite communities or reinforce systemic oppression, and to remain committed to the values that drove us to law to begin with.

Thumbs up

Strategic voting in the Federal Election.
Introducing the Access to Justice Research Network

NICOLE AYLWIN & LISA MOORE ›
CANADIAN FORUM ON CIVIL JUSTICE

The Canadian Forum on Civil Justice (CFCJ) is a national non-profit organization that is dedicated to access to justice research and advocacy. The CFCJ was founded in 1998 and moved to Osgoode Hall Law School at York University in 2011.

Earlier this year the CFCJ launched the Access to Justice Research Network (AJRN), an interactive online platform that invites the discussion and dissemination of research and news related to access to justice issues in Canada and abroad.

Access to justice issues have frequented academic, legal, political and mainstream debates for many years yet, until now, there has been no identifiable, central platform in Canada where a wide range of justice stakeholders can exchange research and resources, raise questions, and share ideas and concerns about access to justice issues. As Slaw blogger Karen Dyck notes, there is “… innovation in access to justice happening everywhere…but there is] little evidence of either coordination or collaboration toward what seems to be a common goal.”

In response to this need to coordinate and centralize access to justice related research, news, data and discourse, the CFCJ launched the AJRN. Comprised of a website and listserv, the AJRN coordinates the circulation of exciting new access to justice work happening across the country.

How does the AJRN work?

The goal of the AJRN is to stimulate dialogue and knowledge exchange as well as to build ties among access to justice researchers across the country.

It is an interactive space that counts among its members, researchers, policy makers, legal professionals and other justice stakeholders committed to A2J. The AJRN has two parts:

An email listserv that allows members to easily connect and/or collaborate with other subscribers, and engage in dialogue around critical A2J issues.

A website (www.ajrn.org) that acts as a “clearinghouse” for research and resources related to A2J. While the website is curated by the CFCJ, the site’s content is largely user-generated so the listserv provides a medium for an open exchange of links and papers that are then shared publically on the AJRN website.

The AJRN currently exists as a prototype with an established mandate to:

Provide a medium for the timely transfer of access to justice research and findings to legal scholars, lawyers, policy makers and A2J stakeholders.

Serve as an organized database for content and publications on access to justice issues.

Create an accessible forum for conversations and knowledge exchange on access to justice matters.

What topics are addressed through the AJRN?

The AJRN already boasts an impressive array of resources on online dispute resolution, legal service delivery, innovative partnerships and collaborations, legal education, alternative dispute resolution, and many more. Some of the more recent posts deal with poverty law, health literacy and legal capability, and the post-election debate over legal aid in the UK.

The AJRN welcomes network members to circulate:

• Research papers
• Policy reports
• News articles
• Links to websites
• Calls for papers, and
• Any other resources they think will enhance work in the A2J arena.

The disclaimer, of course, is that the resource should be related directly to A2J!

The ultimate goal of the AJRN is to create a community of justice stakeholders who are committed to improving access to justice in Canada. The move to create the AJRN and the launch of its prototype has been supported by a generous grant from the Law Foundation of BC/Legal Services Society Research Fund.

Please join us as we work to build a vibrant and energetic A2J Community! We look forward to connecting with you to share, discuss and collaborate on access to justice issues!

To join the listserv, send an email to communications@cfcj-fcjc.org with “AJRN subscribe” indicated in the subject line.

To follow the AJRN blog, visit the website and click the “Follow” button on the site’s landing page.

For general information about the AJRN, visit the website at: ajrn.org

*Parts of this article originally appeared online at www.slaw.ca*
Canada and Refugee Rights 
Where do we actually stand on the issue?

IMELDA LO › CONTRIBUTOR

Canada likes to pride itself for being progressive on refugee issues, but is it really as kind and open to refugees as we would like to believe?

The saddening story of Alan Kurdi has raised some doubts about Canada’s self-image. Tima Kurdi had attempted to sponsor her brother Mohammed and his family to come to Canada, but did not have enough money to bring Abdullah, her other brother. As a result, they had to wait, despite the dangers of their current situation. However, due to changing circumstances, Abdullah and his family could no longer afford to wait and joined thousands of other refugees by boat to Europe. In a cruel twist of fate, Abdullah was the only survivor—his wife and children drowned. His son Alan’s corpse was photographed at a popular tourist beach in Bodrum, Turkey. His small body lifeless and limp, Alan could have easily been asleep. But like his mother and brother—and thousands of other migrants—he is dead, one of the many victims of First World indifference.

In Europe and in Canada, refugees have mostly been seen as someone else’s problem. Under Stephen Harper’s Conservative government, the media has continued to parrot that Canada “remains a model of humanitarian action” and that we are “the most generous country to refugees in the world.”

In reality, however, Canada’s refugee policy is not as generous as it may initially appear. Red tape and the spectre of “incomplete applications” have made it especially difficult for refugees to come to Canada, leading to disastrous consequences, as in the case of the Kurds. Especially since the Conservative government passed Bill C-31 in 2012, Canada has become increasingly hostile to refugees. According to Citizenship and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney, C-31 was designed to “combat human smuggling and to ensure that the asylum system is ‘fast and fair.’”

Framed as a way of protecting Canada from “criminals” and “unfounded refugee claims,” the law required mandatory detention for refugees deemed “irregular arrivals,” including children, although this was later struck down by the Federal Court. Accordingly, costs from detaining migrants, immigrants and asylum seekers have exploded over the last couple of years. Especially disturbing is the high number of children in detention. Based on the statistics, between 196 and 287 people below the age of seventeen have been detained with their parents or family between 2010-11 and 2013-14 with an additional seventeen to thirty-one detained without adult accompaniment during the same time intervals.

The way Canada has treated refugees has also come under scrutiny, especially in the case of thirty-nine-year-old Abdurahman Ibrahim Hassan, a diabetic, mentally ill Somali refugee who died in prison. Hassan had severe schizophrenia and had been accepted as a refugee in Canada in the mid 1990s. In 2012, after an assault conviction, he was jailed and because he was deemed a threat to the Canadian public, he was incarcerated and subject to deportation to Somalia. He had little to no prospect for release.

Hassan is only one example. According to the University of Toronto Faculty of Law’s “We Have No Rights” report, seven thousand migrants were incarcerated in Canada last year alone. Many of these migrants are extremely vulnerable and are already suffering from mental illness, as exemplified by Hassan. Uday, for example, also has schizophrenia. In his case, he had no criminal record but was detained for nearly three years in two maximum-security Ontario jails because the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) was not able to confirm his country of origin or his identity. As such, they determined that he was a risk to the public. After being released, he has been recognized as de facto stateless.

To this day, he remembers how detention had negatively impacted his mental health. While incarcerated, he and the others “had no rights at all [and] they treated us like garbage.”

As lawyers in training, we should be concerned about this refugee crisis, especially as it relates to access to justice for marginalized communities and the relationship between legal red tape and the disastrous circumstances it can affect in people’s lives. As Dean Sossin has made clear in his announcements, the Osgoode community has already begun to show interest in responding to the crisis. There have been members raising money for tents and train tickets in Hungary, as well as others who have been offering pro bono legal services in Toronto. Our university, along with other GTA universities, has also begun to raise funds for sponsorship and have committed to supporting volunteers. As students, we can do much to promote change and awareness about the current refugee crisis, not only in Canada, but also on the international stage.

This article was published as part of the Osgoode chapter of Canadian Lawyers for International Human Rights (CLAIHR) media series, which aims to promote an awareness of international human rights issues.

Website: http://claihr-osgoode.weebly.com/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/claihr-osgoode

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**THUMBS UP**

Hilary Clinton opposing TPP trade deal.

† Photo credit: Associated Press
Enforcing International Climate Debt
Feasible or Impossible?

OYEYINKA OYELOWO | STAFF WRITER

During the past decade there have been significant developments in the field of international environmental law due to the factual understanding that environmental issues transcend national borders and legal systems. However, the scientific uncertainty about the long-term effects of international environmental risks often allows nations to justify postponing compliance with international environmental law. Nonetheless, examples of environmental damage are inarguably real; they include acid rain, biological diversity loss, endangered habitats and species protection, environmental disasters, global climate change, global environmental markets, hazardous waste management, ozone depletion, and unsustainable development.

Is it increasingly feasible that states could be regulated by other states for causing climate change overseas? Should lawsuits based on constitutional rights to a healthy environment, strict liability for environmental harm, or any number of other legal principles exist? Richer and industrialized nations have contributed largely to environmental damage, which poorer, smaller, and underdeveloped countries will have to cope with, despite having fewer resources to do so.

"Climate debt refers to a state’s excessive use of a shared atmosphere and climate system…"

Environmental Disasters Professor Harris Ali at York University calls this the “free-rider” problem. The free-rider dilemma hinges upon the collective nature of environmental problems, “free-riders” refer to states that will not implement environmental protective measures and continue to pollute—causing harm to the common and shared space of our Earth. “The person producing the pollution is not responsible for paying the environmental costs associated with the pollution; so they are getting a free ride,” says Professor Ali.

This has been the driving force for the creation of regulations and treaties such as the Kyoto Protocol and the Montreal Protocol. Countries such as India, China, and the United States have been hesitant to sign the Kyoto Protocol, a treaty which seeks to regulate worldwide carbon dioxide emissions. This is the ultimate tragedy of commons in environmental law—where there is no authoritative body that has the jurisdiction to regulate, monitor, and enforce environmental policy in different sovereign nations. Furthermore, Professor Ali argues that there are conflicting interests between politics and economics. Countries may be hesitant to implement environmental policies that would affect their industries and costs of production. “The state is always caught in a catch-22 situation, because they need industry to get the money to do what they want to do and votes from the people,” he says; “they are always walking a delicate balance and in the end the environment is sacrificed.”

In recent history there have been some success in at least one area of international law governing the regulation of environmental pollution. The Montreal Protocol, which called upon sovereign states to end the production and utilization of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) is an example that international law can sustain environmental protection.

Recently, Canada’s Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq announced that Canada plans to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 30% below 2005 levels by 2030 through regulatory actions. Canada’s ambitious target is much like those of other major industrialized countries and this target was submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change this summer.

But this raises questions about how much of an impact such regulations will make on Canada’s “climate debt.” Climate debt refers to a state’s excessive use of a shared atmosphere and climate system, requiring poorer states to pay to mitigate a crisis they did little to cause (an emissions debt), and the damages and costs caused by climate change, requiring poorer states to adapt to the negative effects (an adaptation debt).

This is precisely why there should be a policy of monitoring and publicizing violations of international environmental law. Disclosure of informational policy focused on elucidating environmental violations would be more cost effective.

Australia has become a climate change “free-rider”, according to former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. Photo credit: Robin Westenra

Leona Aglukkaq prods provinces for better greenhouse gas numbers. Photo credit: Huffington Post.ca
ON SEPTEMBER 25, the United Nations affirmed the Sustainable Development Goals ("SDGs"), a fifteen-year plan to end poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation. Officially titled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and set to come into effect on 1 January 2016, the SDGs replace the Millennium Development Goals ("MDGs") that expire this year. Notably, the SDGs form an expanded plan of action for global development with a set of seventeen goals and 169 targets, a substantial increase from the MDG’s set of eight goals and twenty targets.

There are many key differences in scope and content between the SDGs and MDGs. Some of these changes are from improvements in the field of global development, with researchers and policymakers becoming more experienced after implementing both successful and unsuccessful strategies to meet the MDGs. Others reflect an increased awareness of different global actors and interests, some of which were ignored or inadequately addressed when creating the MDGs. And still others reflect the increasingly interdisciplinary approach to sustainable development, acknowledging that fields like biology, environmental science, urban development, and engineering all play a role in creating sustainable systems.

One important topic of interest in the field of global development involves health. Since the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights enshrined “the enjoyment of the highest standards of health” as a fundamental human right, health has had a prominent feature in most global development frameworks. In the MDGs, however, health played a particularly prominent role. Three of the eight MDGs focused specifically on health outcomes, which were the MDGs to reduce child mortality (MDG 4), improve maternal health (MDG5), and combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases (MDG 6). And some of the other MDGs, such as the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, the achievement of universal primary education, and the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, can improve population health by affecting important social determinants of health.

In the new SDGs, health is addressed in one SDG out of seventeen. Importantly, the third SDG, which is to “ensure health lives and promote well-being for all at all ages,” has thirteen key targets that create a more comprehensive framework for addressing health. Some of these are updates on previous goals regarding maternal and child health as well as certain infectious diseases. But they also include entirely new targets to strengthen the treatment of substance abuse, to promote mental health and well-being to tackle certain non-communicable diseases, to address illnesses from hazardous environmental pollution, and others.

What is important to consider, however, is whether health will be adequately prioritized in the new SDG framework, especially since important MDG health targets were met in part because of concerted global efforts to address these issues. To focus on just MDG 4, the global under-five mortality rate dropped from ninety to forty-three deaths per 1000 live births between 1990 and 2015, and the total number of under-five deaths declined from 12.7 million to almost 6 million since 1990. These are great improvement to child mortality, and they are a result of focused and specific projects. One notable example is the Muskoka Initiative, which was focused specifically on health outcomes, which were the MDGs to reduce child mortality (MDG 4), improve maternal health (MDG5), and combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases (MDG 6). And some of the other MDGs, such as the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, the achievement of universal primary education, and the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, can improve population health by affecting important social determinants of health.

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What to Watch this Week
A Netflix Guide to Shaking an Early Fall Cold

KATHLEEN KILLIN › ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

With the chilly weather and the beginning of cold and flu season upon us, many of us are hunkering down, spending more time indoors and doing what some of us do best – “Netflix and chill”. Like my colleagues who have reviewed television in other excellent articles within this issue, I too have decided to write about what is on our favourite streaming site that I watched over the weekend.

LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT

Drama
Starring: Mariska Hargitay, Ice-T, Kelli Giddish, Danny Pino, Raúl Esparza
Created by (the legendary) Dick Wolf

A tried and true, oldie but goodie, Law & Order: SVU always provides for good entertainment, with guest stars from your other favourite shows (keep an eye out for Orange is the New Black spot-tings in SVU season sixteen), cross over episodes with Chicago PD and strong leadership by Olivia Benson. Netflix has the most recent four seasons and provide viewers with a quick and easy way of catching up for the seventeenth season that has recently started this fall. SVU is a go-to show when you don’t want to think about what to watch. It will always provide for fantastic dramatic entertainment. Dun Dun.

THE SEARCH FOR GENERAL TSO

Documentary
Directed by Ian Cheney

I stumbled upon this documentary after losing the rock paper scissors match my boyfriend and I have for who choses what to watch (I had my eye on The Mindy Project, he said for us to check out this), and I am happy to say (just this one time) that I lost. The documentary explores the origin of General Tso Chicken; and a little spoiler alert, General Tso Chicken is actually not traditionally Chinese cooking (shocking!). Rather, it is the concoction of a Taiwanese chef in upper Manhattan during the mid 1960s in an attempt to appeal to American taste buds. The film travels from the United States to Asia in an attempt to find out who General Tso actually was and how his name came to be on every Chinese restaurant menu on this side of the Pacific. Through a series of interviews, director Ian Cheney addresses deeper issues faced by Chinese immigrants to the United States during the twentieth century and how local Chinese organizations assist immigrants to find work primarily in restaurants. During one of the interviews, the owners of a Chinese restaurant in Missouri claim that after visiting their restaurant and tasting their deep-fried chicken in the 1970s, McDonalds executives created the Chicken McNugget. This film is an excellent range of history and culinary appreciation in one. I would suggest, however, not to watch it on an empty stomach as I can guarantee you will be ordering delivery ten minutes in.

NARCOS

Drama
Starring: Wagner Moura, Boyd Holbrook and Pedro Pascal
Written by: Chris Brancato and directed by Jose Padiilha

After much encouragement from my little brother, I decided to start the series Narcos – a drama following the life of Pablo Escobar during his climb to power within the Colombian drug cartel and the explosion of the cocaine industry during the 1980s. An American Drug Enforcement Agency officer, who relocates to Bogota in an attempt to curb the import of cocaine globally and capture Escobar, narrates the series and provides a look into relations between the American and Colombian military and governments. What I appreciate the most is that it is primarily in Spanish, with genuine actors who speak the language. Interestingly, the episodes are also sprinkled with real life footage of specific events that coincide with the plot line. Narcos is not for the faint of heart, it is brutal, bloody, and gives an insight into the ruthlessness of the drug cartels. Currently, one ten-episode season is on Netflix, with episodes being on average an hour long, and season two being released next year. This is not necessarily a binge watch show that leaves you hanging at the end of each episode. So yes, you can rip yourself from the screen and go to class.
TV L Rev
A bi-weekly roundup of legal television

WEEK OF 28 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER

HENRY LIMHENG › STAFF WRITER

Welcome to TV L Rev, a bi-weekly review column of scripted legal television shows currently airing. Lawyers and shows about them are an enduring staple of television content. Spanning genres from serious dramas to comedies, there is always a legal show somewhere on television. There appears to be something inherently dramatic about the legal profession, the often cited “courtroom drama” where conflict is naturally found. There are many juicy ideas inherently in law: lawyers as both heroes and villains, the murky idea of “justice,” and a stage where battles are fought with wits and words over brawn. That said, most legal shows are rarely about the law and legal peculiarities, but rather about the human actors behind them.

Anyway, less pondering the cultural significance of legal TV and more reviewing.

Being relatively early in the new TV season, heavyweights <em>Suits</em> and <em>The Good Wife</em> are yet to come back to the airwaves leaving, only two relative newcomers to hold down the fort.

Beware mild spoilers for <em>How To Get Away with Murder</em> and the <em>The Grinder</em> below.

**How To Get Away With Murder**

*Airs: Thursday, 10pm – CTV; ABC*

<em>How To Get Away With Murder</em> (HTGAWM) returns for a second season. A modest success in its first season with praise for its diverse cast and lead performance by Emmy-winner Viola Davis, the show involves a disparate group of first year law students interning with their intimidating criminal law professor, competing with each other for classroom glory and, oh yeah, trying to get away with a murder.

Full disclosure, I have only seen the first few episodes the first season, so I’m jumping into the second season without the entire context.

**Episode 1 – It’s Time To Move On**

It’s probably impossible to summarize the plot given the multilayer conspiracies going on, but here’s my best shot: the convoluted story picks-up soon after the end of the last season, the group has seemingly gotten away with covering up a murder for the time being (success measured by framing an innocent person and causing someone else to get murdered) and Professor Keating (Viola Davis) is trying to return a semblance of normality to the shaken-up group… while covering up yet another murder.

The main plot of the first episode is spent exploring character threads, and a side-plot of the crew stealing the clients of a high-profile murder case using less than ELGC-approved methods. And instead of drawing out the mystery behind the murder that occurred at the end of last season, the killer is revealed in episode one and instead the show sets up its season-long mystery as a dramatic flash-forward of— dun dun dUN professor Keating being left for dead, bleeding out with a gunshot wound.

HTGAWM is a show I want to like more, primarily because it’s about law students. Not the best episode for new initiates as the story chugs forward seamlessly from the previous season, making a Netflix catch-up mandatory to get the full enjoyment. That said, the commitment to breaking conventional TV diversity and the overly serious tone with the over the top plot, makes the show an entertaining if not a particularly intellectual watch.

**The Grinder**

*Airs: Tuesday 8:30pm – CityTV; Fox*

The Grinder is a new legal comedy premiering this Fall. It stars Fred Savage (best known for playing the sick kid in the <em>Princess Bride</em> movie) playing Stewart Sanderson as a young Idaho lawyer who has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the law, but is a terrible courtroom advocate because he lacks self-confidence. Rob Lowe (best known most recently for playing Chris Traeger on <em>Parks and Recreation</em>) plays Dean Sanderson, Stewart’s charismatic older brother, who played an uncompromising lawyer on a popular TV show for many years. The premise is that Rob Lowe decides he can translate his television lawyering skills to help his brother, the real lawyer, in his cases, much to Stewart’s annoyance.

**Episode 1 – Pilot**

The pilot sets up the premise; Dean’s show has just ended and he’s feeling a little bit aimless so decides to visit his extended family in Idaho. Stewart is feeling inferior because everyone likes Dean better, and the only thing he has going for him is that he’s a lawyer, and Dean only plays one on TV. Stewart is less than thrilled when Dean starts encroaching on his turf by involving himself in the case. Ultimately Dean bails Stewart out during a trial and the brothers learn they might just be able to get along.

I found the premise to be fresh: the irony of a
A TV Series Review
The Borgias

ANTHONY CHOI | STAFF WRITER

Originally Aired On: Bravo!, Showtime
Series Length: 3 seasons, 29 episodes

Set during the turn of the 16th century, The Borgias follow the rise and fall of the notorious, Rodrigo Borgia, and his family, whose very name became a byword for depravity, nepotism, and corruption. The series begins in 1492, immediately following the death of Pope Innocent VIII, and sees Cardinal Borgia (played by the ever fantastic Jeremy Irons) manoeuvre his way to the office of the Vicar of Christ and become Pope Alexander VI through a series of bribes, alliances, and other political machinations. The rest of the show then details he and his family’s struggles to maintain and expand their newfound power in a world of shifting alliances against enemies both internal and external, including subversive and ever-ambitious cardinals, rival ruling families such as the Sforzas, and even the mighty Kingdom of France itself.

The acting, writing, costumes, and settings of the show are simply marvellous. The plot advances at a fairly brisk pace with action always around the corner, leaving audiences hungry for the next turn of events. The story remains relatively true to the actual history, which itself oozes of political intrigue and drama. Any deviations from the source material are usually made in good taste and preserving the believability and plausibility of each character’s motives, actions, and any resulting chain of events. Costume and set designs are top notch, rivaling Hollywood productions in quality and authentically replicating the clothing and settings of the period, with only very minor exceptions (such as the unlikely homogeneity of soldiers’ accoutrements during this time period, which appears to be a common issue among many historical shows—but that’s just me admittedly being unnecessarily nitpicky).

In terms of acting, Jeremy Irons in particular does a fantastic job as Rodrigo, playing him as a cool, calculating, and bitingly sardonic Pope, who inwardly struggles between what appears to be a genuine aspiration to uphold the moral sanctity and uprightness demanded of his position and the base desires and ambitions for himself and his family. This is not to say that Irons’ Rodrigo is always the “coolest cucumber” in the room, as he also possesses a fiery temper that can be downright terrifying, particularly in situations when his Papacy or his family are at stake. Indeed, Irons’ performance provides the necessary complexity required of one of the most controversial characters of Renaissance Italy.

The rest of the cast also delivers a solid performance. Colm Feore plays an ever implacable and self-righteous Cardinal Giuliano Della Rovere (an apt characterization for the man who would be later known as the “Warrior Pope”), who is the primary arch-nemesis of the Borgia family and who appears to make it his very purpose to destroy and overthrow Rodrigo. While this portrayal may appear to be a seemingly one-dimensional caricature, it certainly is understandable given that the real Della Rovere instituted a number of policies against the Borgia family following his ascension as Pope Julius II that suggested that the enmity transcended beyond mere rivalry. Indeed, on the day he became pope, he declared that:

“I will not live in the same rooms as the Borgias lived. He [Alexander VI] desecrated the Holy Church as none before. He usurped the papal power by the devil’s aid, and I forbid under the pain of excommunication anyone to speak or think of Borgia again. His name and memory must be forgotten. It must be crossed out of every document and memorial. His reign must be obliterated. All paintings made of the Borgias or for them must be covered over with black crepe. All the tombs of the Borgias must be opened and their bodies sent back to where they belong— to Spain.”

Not surprisingly, no Borgia ever again rose to a position of prominence from that point onwards.

Ultimately, The Borgias is a show for both history lovers and drama addicts alike. In particular, if one is a fan of shows such as Game of Thrones, House of Cards, Rome, The Tudors, or Boardwalk Empire, then The Borgias will definitely be right down one’s alley. And as an added bonus, there is also a European production of the very same story (unsurprisingly titled, Borgia) if ever one finishes The Borgias and is suffering from the post-viewing withdrawal typical of finishing an outstanding television series. All in all, most definitely recommended.

Photo credit: Amazon.com
A Concert Review: Destroyer
Live at the Danforth Music Hall, 30 September 2015

On 24 August, Destroyer released Poison Season on Merge Records, a modest four and a half years after the release of Kaputt. With a jammed-packed schedule of dates all across North America, Destroyer’s tour in support of the album looks gruelling. The band stopped into Toronto’s Danforth Music Hall on September 30th and I was lucky enough to be in attendance.

Destroyer is Dan Bajer. Dan Bajer is Destroyer. Bajer has been releasing music as Destroyer for almost 20 years. The only constant over those twenty years has been his voice. A seemingly infinite number of musicians have played with Bajer on Destroyer albums. He goes out of his way to defy classification, ensuring that each album is distinct from anything he has ever released before. Even with all this change, picking out a Destroyer song, wherever it is played, whatever album it is on, is easy. Bajer’s voice is too identifiable. And that is a by no means a bad thing. Bajer has a unique way of delivering his lyrics: sharp, quick, and insightful bursts. The words are articulated so well that at times it is as if he is speaking and not singing. Bajer acknowledges having had a strong affinity for how Lou Reed used to deliver his lyrics.

Although Destroyer has no shortage of outstanding records, its listenership reached a new peak after the release of Kaputt in early 2011. Kaputt was a staple on Top 10 lists on all the major music publication’s year end reviews. What did Destroyer do to follow up the success of Kaputt? They released an EP called Five Spanish Songs, which is exactly what you would think it is: five spanish songs. The EP was brilliant and beautiful, but releasing a foreign language EP to follow up a massively successful album is a move only Dan Bajer could imagine. In a press release before the EP’s release, Bajer wrote: “It was 2013. The English language seemed spent, despicable, not easily singable. It felt over for English; good for business transactions, but that’s about it. The only other language I know is Spanish...” It is blatantly obvious that Bajer is not concerned with his number of fans. It is refreshing to see an artist be themselves and have no concern for the expectations of fans and critics.

Destroyer walked on stage with 9 musicians, including Bajer. After a quick welcome wave, the band jumped right into “Bangkok”, a song off the new album. It was slow and seductive to start until it finally exploded into an ocean of sound with every musician contributing. It was a perfect opener. For the slowburner “Girl in a Sling” a 10th musician, Bajer’s sister, came on stage to add violin. Nine musicians wouldn’t cut it.

My ears, along with the ears of everyone else at the Danforth, were treated to sheer musical bliss for 90 minutes. The instrumentation on each song was lavish to the point where you wished you could hop on the groove and go for a ride. When the trumpet and saxophone got into full swing a good song instantly became a great song. The setlist was comprised largely of songs from Poison Season and Kaputt. When playing “Poor in Love”, off Kaputt, Bajer looked at the audience while pulling at his hair and sang “I was poor in love / I was poor in wealth / I was ok in everything else there was”. In turning a phrase, Bajer is a genius; no other artist can say as much by saying so little. My favourite Bajer lyric is on “Savage Night at the Opera” where he sings “It’s not a war until someone loses an eye.” There is just something oddly amusing about that line. I was absolutely delighted when the band began playing “European Oils” from Destroyer’s Rubies released in 2006. This was the first Destroyer song I ever heard so it was very

“My ears [...] were treated to sheer musical bliss for 90 minutes.”

Destroyer performing “European Oils” at the Danforth Music Hall. Photo credit: Justin Philpott

> see CONCERT REVIEW, page 18
The Long Hot Summer

KAREEM WEBSTER › STAFF WRITER

“Here it is, the groove, slightly transformed. Just a bit of a break from the norm…”

OSTALGIC, ISN’T IT? Next May will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the timeless single that still gets airplay on the radio. Of course, I’m referring to “Summertime,” the g-funk-inspired melody from DJ Jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince. Next summer may be a break from the norm.

The free agency class of 2016 has the potential to be one of the hottest periods in recent NHL history. There are superstars, stars, good players, and guys that can give teams on the brink of contention the right piece to flourish among pending unrestricted and restricted free agents. Keep in mind that these players can sign an extension with their respective teams before 2016 (Brent Seabrook signed an eight-year extension with Chicago in September).

With two playoff appearances in the last eleven seasons, Leafs fans are yearning for a break from the norm (of futility). Two general managers and coaches later (yes, I’m counting Horachek), the Buds are looking to start from scratch. Brendan Shanahan and newly hired Lou Lamoriello lead the front office and coach Mike Babcock will hopefully have this team in playoff contention by 2017 (no pressure, of course). Regardless, expectations aren’t (that) high for the team this season.

That does not mean that we can’t look ahead. The Leafs have quite a few players coming off the books after this season, thereby opening cap space to sign a major free agent or two, potentially. The Leafs will have a bevy of draft picks in 2016, and if they land some solid free agents, this team can be a whole lot better a whole lot quicker.

Two words for you: Steven Stamkos. One more word for you: superstar.

Arguably the league’s most exciting goal scorer, and if the Lightning are unable to get to him to re-sign, oh boy, he will probably have twenty-nine teams harassing his agent. If Toronto is somehow — by some miracle — able to land the heir to Alexander the Great, then we can assume that we will become a beacon to other free agents who have been dissuaded from signing here.

I know, the Leafs probably will not get Stamkos, but it is not inconceivable that Toronto (or a Canadian city) is a desirable destination for him. As the old adage goes, never put all of your eggs into one basket.

Remember, this a fantastic free agent class.

Below are several free agents that Toronto can realistically target, in a robust free agency class of 2016:

**Centres**

ANZE KOPITAR

Standing at 6’3,” Kopitar is a two-time Stanley Cup winner with Los Angeles. He is one of the league’s premier playmakers, finishing in the top ten in assists last season. In addition to that, he can play on the defensive end and has helped return the Kings to the glory days of Gretzky with perennial contention. Rumour has it that Kopitar and the team are not seeing eye-to-eye in terms of figures for his re-up, and as unlikely as it seems, perhaps he’s looking to other teams to provide him with that extra financial security. The Leafs could definitely use his two-way services. Kopitar is still in his prime, and a five or six year deal would not be too exorbitant, depending on the yearly salary.

ERIC STAAL

A change of scenery is always good. Look at what it did for Tyler Seguin—a player much younger than...
Governments across the globe are beginning investigations, customers have begun to file class-action lawsuits, and the US Department of Justice is considering pressing criminal charges. On 8 October, VW's US representatives were summoned to appear before Congress. VW is setting aside approximately 7.3 billion USD to cover the costs of the scandal, but the EPA has stated that VW's violations of the Clean Air Act could lead to over three times that amount—18 billion USD—in fines.

With its stock plummeting and its directors in crisis, VW is recalling the eleven million vehicles for a refit; however, experts say that refitting the cars will likely decrease their efficiency and performance. The CBC reports probes are now being sent to other major auto manufacturers, including BMW, Chrysler, GM, Land Rover and Mercedes-Benz.

Volkswagen's attempt to evade regulations through legal loopholes is more than a mere point of interest for the legal community. The scandal raises serious issues: business ethics, the importance of regulation, the fragility of public trust, whether the legal community demands a higher standard of ethical behaviour than strict adherence to the role of zealous advocate.

VW is currently denying any knowledge of who is responsible for the software, but Don Pittis correctly observes that this is not the result of one "rogue engineer." This was a strategy designed to duplicitously evade standards regulations that were implemented across entire production lines, affecting cars produced as far back as 2009. Winterkorn may be telling the truth when he denies that he was responsible for this idea or its execution, but it is clear that many, many individuals in the company are implicated in the scandal. The question for many is, were VW's lawyers as in the dark as VW's directors claim to be? If they weren't, what kind of sanctions might they be facing, if any, for providing the legal backdrop against which unethical behaviour took place?

No investigation of VW has taken place yet, let alone of its lawyers, but as law students, the story is reminiscent to many as an Ethical Lawyering hypothetical.

The question of, "What does this mean for lawyers?" can be answered with another question: "Whose lawyers?" With class action suits already begun in Canada and the US, and more sure to follow in Europe, consumer-side litigators' futures look rosy; however, the situation might look different for VW's legal team, and the question of what this means for the legal profession remains unanswered.

Whose responsibility is it to understand that there are interests other than the bottom line? Does this fall to a business, or its legal team, or does the ethical dimension simply fall to the side, irrelevant?

Unfortunately for VW, its consumers are less than pleased. A court has yet to find VW's behaviour illegal, but people are having no problem deciding it's unethical. This is not the first time this type of technology has been used to evade emissions regulations. Both Caterpillar and Volvo have been dinged for it in the past, but bounced back relatively unscathed. However, for a company that prides itself on its environmental standards, and who makes claims to consumers about its adherence to those standards, the taint of hypocrisy is injurious. VW has suffered an enormous blow to its reputation and much of its consumer goodwill has vanished, as many purchasers specifically chose VW cars for environmental reasons.

Environmental scientists agree that climate change is the most significant threat to the human population in the 21st century. With a global public increasingly concerned about air pollutants and greenhouse gases, perhaps the days when companies can emerge unscathed from a scandal like this are over.

It's early days yet: trust has been broken, money has been lost, and at the outset, it seems like a short-sighted gamble might have cost VW its reputation. But mistakes are endemic in the auto industry. Certainly other auto manufacturers have been held liable for production issues that weren't just "honest mistakes": in 2012, for example, Hyundai-Kia was slapped with a $1 million fine for misrepresenting the fuel efficiency of its cars.

It’s too premature to say what the outcome of the emissions scandal will be. Public pressure is fuelling Volkswagen's tailspin, but public pressure is only as powerful as public memory. When it comes to climate change, however, the stakes are high—and the idea that corporations (or their lawyers) simply don’t have responsibility in this area might be running on fumes.◆

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Law around the world
nortonrosefulbright.com
Climate debt

> continued from PAGE 8

than enforcement. Mary Ellen O’Connell, Research Professor of International Dispute Resolution, argues in *Enforcement and the Success of International Environmental Law* that environmental law is “less well-suited to enforcement that other areas of international law.”

Damon Matthews, a researcher at the Concordia University in Montreal, recently published a study in *Nature Climate Change*, where he attempts to quantify the amount of climate debt different nations owe to our planet.

Matthews says the United States has benefited economically from polluting the global environment and the costs are experienced by countries across the globe. Even though China has a bad reputation for carbon emissions due to being one of the world’s biggest production giants, Matthews argues that the United States is largely responsible for emitting huge amounts of carbon. He estimates that the “United States is a clear leader among debtor countries, with historical CO2 emissions that consistently exceeded the world per-capita average.”

However, the United States is also among several countries that have donated money to the UN Green Climate Fund (GCF) —to help with the cost of climate adaptation and damages in vulnerable countries. Though critics argue the funding—valued at approximately ten billion dollars—does not cover the immense damage caused by environmental pollution, the Green Fund is a seemingly positive step in the right direction for international environmental law.

The UNGCF was created as a financial tool of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2011. Its role is to make financial contributions to attaining the environmental mitigation and adaptation goals of the international community in developing countries.

Furthermore, the recently successful Dutch class action emissions case is a significant step forward in a nation’s legal recognition of policing emission targets. Dutch Law firm Pulussen Advocaten used the research of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as evidence. IPCC is a group of scientists, supported by the UN, which urged all countries to meet specific emissions targets to help fight global warming.

The Dutch emissions case win in court, coupled with the implementation of the UN’s GFC fund, signifies a strong recognition of the costs of climate debt, and an attempt by the international community to control environmental damage before it’s too late. ◆

**THUMBS DOWN**

Donald Trump’s continued flirtation with a US presidential run.

ActionAid activists call for countries to pay their climate debt. Photo credit: actionaid.org
Development goals

an agreement between G8 nations to address MDG 4 and MDG 5 by spending $5 billion between 2010 and 2015 in order to reduce maternal, infant, and child mortality in developing countries. This project, along with other UN initiatives such as the Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health, were key in achieving large strides in the health MDGs.

One can wonder whether these same large-scale initiatives can be created for the new SDG 3, especially because much more needs to be done to fully achieve the new targets for this goal. That is, the global funding and financial support system may fragment along disparate interests, preventing cooperation. After all, not all of the targets in SDG 3 are as globally valued and prioritized in development agendas as MDG 4 and MDG 5. Certainly, not all countries want to invest in projects to, for example, address road traffic accidents or strengthen tobacco regulations. And creating sweeping initiatives to address only a handful of targets out of almost two hundred, which itself falls under just one out of seventeen total SDGs, may raise less political capital than with the MDGs, acting as disincentives to global political collaboration.

These criticisms do not mean that the SDGs should not be supported. The expanded purpose of the new SDGs is necessary to combat the multiplicity of different problems facing the future sustainable development of the world. Certainly for the third SDG, the new targets properly spotlight the important disease burden of different injuries and non-communicable diseases. Countries can fall into a false sense of complacency just because of improvements to maternal and child health, ignoring the persistent health needs of other populations and perpetuating poor health outcomes for marginalized communities.

Overall, the newly-passed SDGs were passed unanimously, but not without some pause from both developed and developing countries over how these new targets will be financed and resourced. Talks between countries over these new support systems for tackling the development goals under the new framework, as well as over which targets they should prioritize in their agendas are already under way. However, only time will tell if the global community can come together to work cooperatively in order to develop in a healthy, sustainable and equitable manner.

This article was published as part of the Osgoode chapter of Canadian Lawyers for International Human Rights (CLAIHR) media series, which aims to promote an awareness of international human rights issues.

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THUMBS UP

Nuit Blanche surviving without Scotiabank.

Photo credit: GlobalSolutions.com
Concert review

> continued from PAGE 13

don't talk to the audience. It was all about the music. I would describe the band's performance as 'workmen-like.' Bejar didn't play an instrument during the concert. During the instrumental sections of the songs he crouched down into a squat, took a drink of Stella Artois, and basked in the beauty of the music he created. The packed Danforth was buzzing from the opening note until the last. I was lost in the music for the entire set, nothing else ever entered my mind.

Destroyer's encore was the 9-minute "Rubies" from Destroyer's Rubies. It is a great comparison of how Destroyer's songs have changed over the years. "Rubies" is lyrically dense with Bejar just spewing out words. Nothing is left unsaid. With Kaputt and Poison Season, less is more when it comes to the lyrics. However, Bejar still manages to pack an overwhelming amount of meaning into his concise lyrics.

On the whole, Poison Season is darker and less poppy than Kaputt. It features an abundance of dazzling string arrangements which did not feature on Kaputt. The trumpet on the Springsteen-esque "Dream Lovers," the most poppy song on the new album, gave the crowd at the Danforth a extra shot of energy. A charming rendition of my favourite song off the new album, "Times Square" came in the middle of the set. It contains the most memorable lyric on the new album: "Writing on the wall / Wasn't writing at all". "Times Square" appears on Poison Season three times in three very different styles. Apparently Bejar couldn't decide which version he liked best.

In interviews, Bejar says there was a plan to record Poison Season live in studio. This is in direct contrast to Kaputt, where the songs were tracked and layered instrument by instrument. As a result, all of the new songs come across naturally streamlined for live shows.

Bejar considers himself an artist first and foremost. He would likely cringe at being labelled a rockstar or singer/songwriter. He is one of the few artists working today to include poetry in his lyrics. Bejar believes that art exists because words are not enough to express all of our emotions. In interviews he can come across as pretentious, dull, and a little fed-up. His physical appearance is one notch above what would be expected of a hobo on the street. That is Bejar's whole persona. It is as if he wants you to believe he is a tortured artist who spends his solemn days writing poetry, engaged in philosophical debates and musing on the shortcomings of the world. And maybe he does. I don't know. But I can see why he may initially rub some people the wrong way. For me, his music contains a poignancy and intellect that is absent in most popular music today, and this is enough to overlook any shortcoming. ♦

This week's best legal moment:

Both shows were light on legal content and focused mostly on the character drama, but in HTGAWM there's a scene of Asher (Matt McGory) turning down sexy times to study for a "CivPro" exam. Real law students say "CivPro"; so realistic!

Rankings (Graded on the Osgoode Bell Curve):

HTGAWM episode 1: A
The Grinder episode 1: B+

TV L Rev

> continued from PAGE 11

lawyer on TV complaining that legal television is inaccurate is too delicious to not appreciate. There were a few moments that made me genuinely chuckle and the entire case appears to have a real energy. I would say this definitely worth a look especially if you’re in for some less serious melodrama than you would get from HITGAWM. My one complaint would be on the more technical side, the editing and certain framing of scenes felt janky. ♦
**Hockey**

» continued from PAGE14

Staal and with a different style of play but someone who showed potential that seemed to hit a wall in his former team. At Staal’s age, I don’t think that he would have a breakout season in Toronto but he wasted many years in his prime in Carolina. He has been injured a lot but the time away from such a violent, physically taxing sport is sometimes a blessing as it allows the body to compete a little longer. He also has a Stanley Cup ring and a championship background is something that the Leafs need. As maligned as Staal may be, a short, frontloaded deal might not look that bad, depending on the yearly figures.

**Forwards**

**MILAN LUCIC**

Another player with a Stanley Cup on his resume (trend), this player was traded to the Kings in the summer in a move lauded by hockey experts, with some now regarding Los Angeles as a contender for the Cup after last year’s disappointing season. Lucic is a young player with a chip on his shoulder. That is a very dangerous combination. He should have a very productive campaign this season with Kopitar, Jeff Carter, and an inspired Kings club.

**KYLE OKPOSO**

This player was muddled in depth on a very bad Islanders team until a couple of seasons ago. John Tavares was scary good last season and Okposo showed his worth to the team as well. Okposo’s best campaign came in 2013. Last season, he was off to a promising start but he encountered some injuries. The Leafs could benefit from this young winger.

**Defensemen**

**DUSTIN BYFUGLIE**

One of the best two-way players in the league. One of the best offensive-defensemen who has been playing hard for a mediocre team for the majority of his career. By the way, he is also a Stanley Cup Champion. Byfuglien is a no-nonsense guy and leaves it all on the ice. Plus, he’s ridiculously big. Standing at 6’5”, he is no joke and would be a great enforcer for the Blue and White. His value to the Jets at this point cannot be overstated. This is one player who brings the stats and intangibles to the ice.

**KEITH YANDLE**

Another fantastic defenseman that the Leafs could use to bolster their lineup. Yandle was one of the top playmakers on Arizona and was then traded in a major deal to the Rangers last season. His defense was criticized, especially near the end of his tenure with the Coyotes, but he is still in his prime and this season is motivated to earn that new contract. He is known as a great player during the power play and can hopefully return to his glory days in 2016.

This list is obviously not exhaustive; however, it does serve as an idea of what 2016 has to offer. How realistic is it that any of these players find themselves signing a deal to play for the Buds? Only time will tell. This season should be exciting, however the chips may fall. The rumours will start to percolate the locker rooms of teams that are struggling. Players will evade questions relating to their impending free agency.

Who’s to say that the Leafs won’t land Stamkos and another player? This is no pipe dream. Not anymore. This club is making changes to the culture. Shanhy, Lou, and Babs are the architects of a capital project to revitalize the ruins of Toronto hockey.

Clubs go through periods of decline and prosperity—’tis the nature of professional sports. The Leafs have been in a rut for decades. The Jays are booming. The Raptors are booming. Toronto is changing. The Leafs will create a new norm. It’s coming. The spark will be lit next summer. ♦

Toronto Blue Jays are the 2015 AL East Champions.
The Davies summer experience?

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