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CUPE EMPOWERMENT DAY

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St. Catharines, Ont., holding community meeting after industrial explosion that killed worker

Explosion and fire at Ssonix Products facility on Keefer Road killed 37-year-old worker Ryan Konkin



[Bobby Hristova](#) · CBC News · Posted: Mar 05, 2023 4:00 AM EST | Last Updated: March 5



Worker injured at St. Catharines GM plant airlifted to hospital



23 people taken to hospital after workplace exposure to hydrochloric acid in St. Catharines discharged



Natalia Sepulveda Lastra

24-year-old widow of Ryan Konkin



I lost my fiancé in January

CONTRIBUTORS

OPINION

Mourning the dead and fighting like hell for the living

With this provincial government, it seems like luck is all we have when it comes to whether workers will come home alive or safe, Patty Coates and Natalia Sepulveda Lastra write.

By Patty Coates , Natalia Sepulveda Lastra

Friday, April 28, 2023 | ⌚ 3 min to read

Inspections down dramatically since 2017

[Ministry of Labour data](#) shows the number of inspections conducted to identify overall workplace violations such as wage theft has dropped significantly in recent years, from 3,500 in 2017 to 215 last year.

The number of prosecutions for employment standards violations also dropped to 34 from 233 over the same time period.

In a statement, the ministry said its employment standards officers have supported the government's pandemic response over the past two years, including "providing essential businesses with compliance assistance" and enforcing lockdown regulations.

"While the number of inspections the ministry has been able to complete has been impacted by the pandemic, we have continued to investigate every claim and review every complaint reported to us."

EDWIN



PRATIBHA



NATASHA



GURINDER



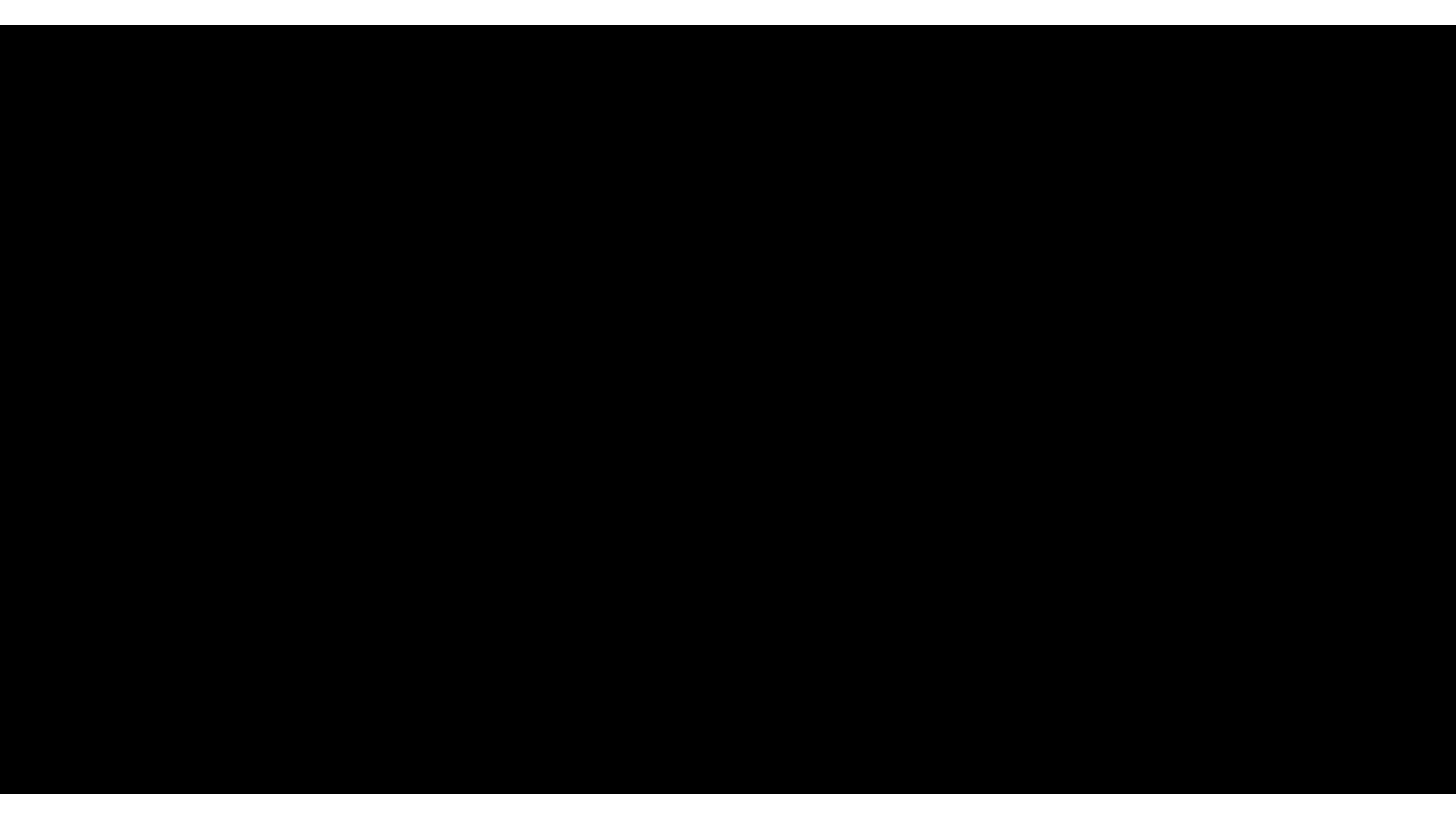
TIANA



MARCOS












Heat stroke kills bakery staffer

DARREN YOURK

PUBLISHED AUGUST 9, 2001

This article was published more than 22 years ago. Some information may no longer be current.

 COMMENTS

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A Weston-owned Barrie, Ont., bakery is under investigation by Ontario's Ministry of Labour after the death Monday of a 44-year-old worker.

Autopsy results released yesterday say Kim Warner died of heat stroke.

Cathy Walker, the health-and-safety director of the Canadian Auto Workers union, which represents the Crissa Bakery's 50 to 60 workers, said the CAW held a meeting with the workers on Saturday after receiving a number of complaints about poor working conditions at the plant.

DEATH INVESTIGATION

UPS driver dies day after turning 24; family warns other delivery workers of heatstroke concerns

On average, over 600 people die from complications related to extreme heat each year in the United States.



Wednesday, July 6, 2022



LOS ANGELES -- The family of a UPS driver in Southern California believes he died from heatstroke after finishing his last delivery just a day after turning 24 years old.

Esteban Chavez Jr., of Downey, a city in Los Angeles County, was delivering packages in the Pasadena area on Saturday, June 25, when he collapsed.

Records show Pasadena hit temperatures in the upper 90s on that day.

According to the family, Esteban apparently passed out in his truck in the early afternoon.

News

Construction worker dies of heatstroke, investigation reveals

By Maia Foulis

22 Mar 2022 / Share



The *Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail* (CNESST) – the organization which administers Quebec's health and safety plan – has revealed the results of its investigation into the workplace death of Jean-Charles Junior Wapistan.

Wapistan, a manual faller for construction firm Tawich inc., died of heatstroke on August 17, 2021, on a worksite in Micoua-Saguenay.

On the day of the accident, Wapistan was at the worksite and was busy clearing space for a future 735 kV electrical line. Working with two other employees, he needed to cut, delimb and fell the trees with a chainsaw, manually skid and then pick up the branches.



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First Name




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nluckhardt@widowsofasbestos.com [Switch account](#)



 Not shared

* Indicates required question

Name (if you want to disclose)

Your answer




...for every 1
Celsius degree
increase in
temperature,
younger
workers were
1% more likely
to be injured.

Greenhouse worker: *My young colleague did not drink enough and fainted. She revived in a few minutes, and then we called a family member to come and bring her home, because we knew she was in no condition to drive herself. We had minimal training in identifying and dealing with heat stroke, heat exhaustion, dehydration and related illnesses. In hindsight, we should have called an ambulance for our colleague.*

Elementary school teacher: *My school has no air conditioning. My job involves being on my feet for most of the day in order to give the best instruction to my grade one students. This is challenging at the best of times, but this June I was in my third trimester of pregnancy and the heat came close to causing emergencies. By the last week of school, I was 33 weeks pregnant. By the end of most school days, I felt dizzy, nauseous, and ready to faint.*

Delivery worker: *Delivering by bicycle or walking in the heat for extended periods of time and repeatedly suffer severe heatstroke, working while experiencing dizziness and nausea, having to pay out of pocket for supplies to try to treat heatstroke and dehydration. I'm on my own when this happens, my app bosses like UberEats and Skip the dishes don't offer any support. On days when I get heatstroke and can't work the following day I just don't make any money."*





If Monte McNaughton wants to improve the workers' compensation system, he must consult with injured & ill workers.

Tell McNaughton to reject the KPMG recommendations:
ofl.ca/action/reject-... #OnLab #OnPoli @ONIWG



CONTRIBUTORS OPINION

Injured workers under threat again

Workers' advocates write about new barriers injured Ontario workers will face if the Ford government legislates recommendation in a new report.

By Patty Coates , John Bartolomeo , Chris Grawey , Maryth Yachnin

Friday, June 2, 2023 | 2 min to read



A wreath from Hamilton and District Injured Workers sits in front of the monument at city hall dedicated to those killed or injured on the job. Pending WSIB changes are threatening to make the lives of injured workers worse, warn the authors.

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'We screwed up:' WSIB to pay out \$42M after coding error shortchanged 100,000 injured workers — for 20 years

In apologizing, WSIB president and CEO Jeff Lang says workers 'have a right to be frustrated' after a software glitch shortchanged tens of thousands by as much as \$40,000.

By Josh Rubin Business Reporter

Wednesday, September 13, 2023 | 3 min to read

Article was updated Sep 13, 2023



READ THE CONVERSATION(44)



Hamilton

Hazardous waste plant, directors face 84 charges after explosion killed worker in St. Catharines

Ryan Konkin, 37, died after the Jan. 12 explosion



[Samantha Beattie](#) · CBC News · Posted: Sep 08, 2023 11:23 AM EDT | Last Updated: September 8



St. Catharines firefighters work to extinguish a fire after responding to an explosion at Ssonix Products on Jan. 12, 2023. (Tara Walton/Reuters)

New Brunswick

Supervisor guilty of criminal negligence in death of teenage worker on Fredericton job site

Michael Henderson died working for Springhill Construction at sewage plant



[Aidan Cox](#) · CBC News · Posted: Jun 05, 2023 11:27 AM EDT | Last Updated: June 5



Court of King's Bench Thomas Christie convicted Jason King on Monday of criminal negligence causing the death of Michael Henderson. (Ed Hunter/CBC)

Ryan's spirit lives on at café trailer he dreamed of opening

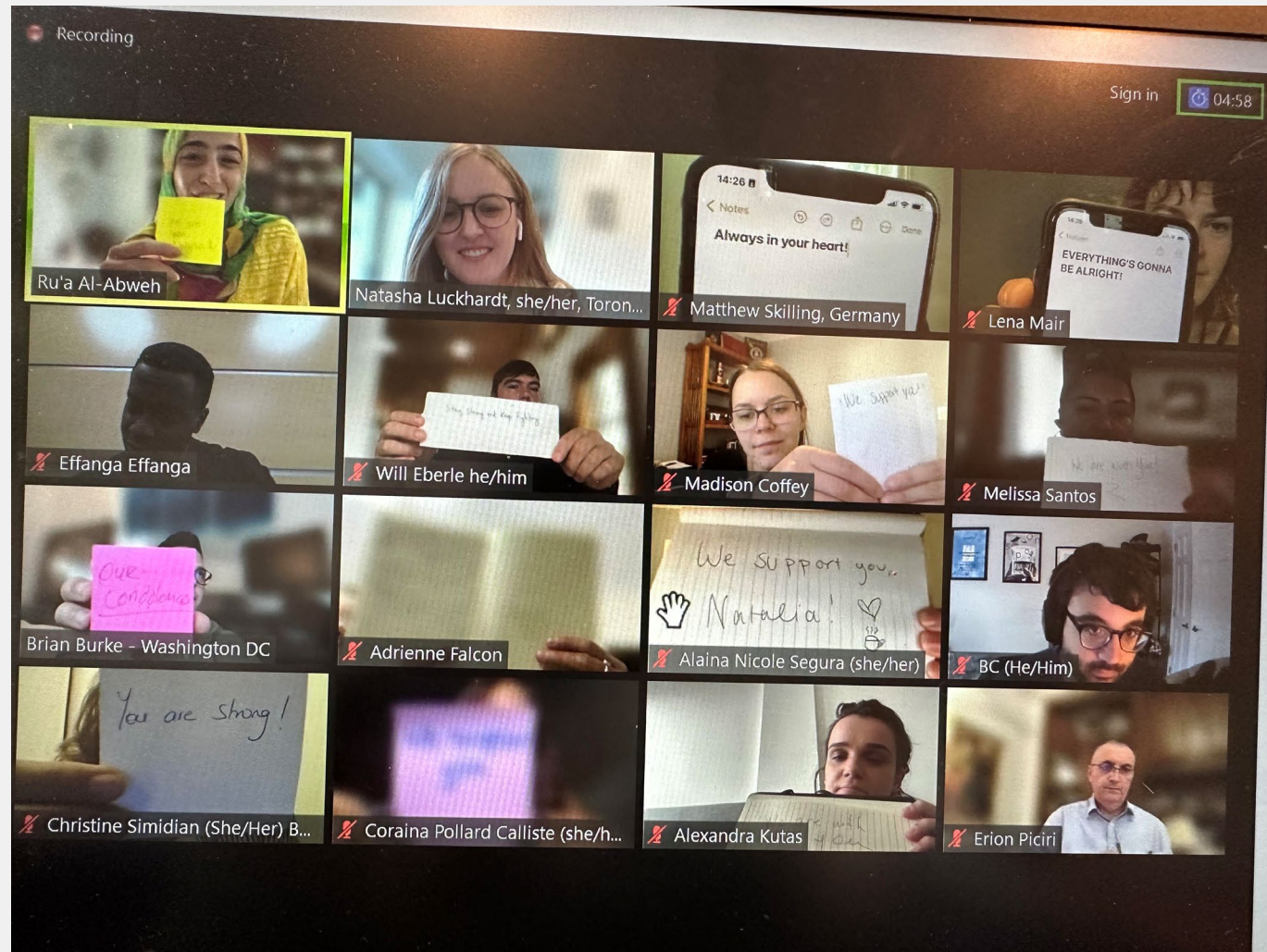
Fiancée of man killed in industrial explosion honours memory of Ryan Konkin



By Paul Forsyth Niagara This Week - St. Catharines

Sunday, June 4, 2023 | 2 min to read





Female cancers less funded, researched

CANCER FROM C1

They'll know more once they do a biopsy and MRI to double check it hasn't spread into the muscle or other organs. It's grade one. The uterus acts as a container so it's unlikely to spread. I'm shocked. This is extremely rare for someone so young and healthy with no symptoms. There is an extremely high five-year survival rate for uterine cancer."

The mention of survival rate was when I realized tears were streaming down my face. My mind was blank and my face was wet. All of the information was flooding in too quickly. "What do you mean preserve my uterus?" is one of the questions I asked. An image of my uterus in an iodine-filled jar came to mind.

"They give you hormones to restore the lining so that you can hopefully carry your baby, if the cancer hasn't spread too deep ... Or, if you decide your health comes first, you can remove your uterus and look into other options."

I'm sure she said other less alarming things and that she was just laying out my options. But that was what stuck: preserving my uterus and that putting my health first could mean removing it. It wasn't cancer that scared me — I knew I

to genuinely communicate. Even the doctor had to pause to take a collective breath.

A week later, I still had that light blue surgical mask in my pocket. I'm not sure why I didn't throw it out, and I knew it from the others stuffed in there by its pale hue.

Every conversation with family in recent years always included the "name game." After years of playing it, we finally decided: Leo for a boy, Nel for a girl. I love any girl's name that could end in a playful 'ie.' Nellie will be her nickname, I thought.

The double-barrelled surname was always a back and forth, with me not backing down.

Simon always joked about wanting to have four kids; he was the eldest of four himself. I was always an adamant two, with the possibility of adopting a third. I'm passionate about my work so the thought of being pregnant for four years and on maternity leave for four more seemed like a huge sacrifice.

Now I was looking into the possibility of sacrificing — or preserving — my uterus, and nothing seemed more silly than to worry about work, or anything for that matter. My eight-year window to be able to have kids was now shuttered. And our jokes about our dogs being our children seemed less funny and our conversations about double-bar-



At 32, I am looking into the possibility of sacrificing — or preserving — my uterus, writes Natasha Luckhardt.

Based on the research out there, the risk factors for uterine cancer are obesity, older age (post-menopausal), no history of pregnancy, a high-fat diet, hormone therapy for breast cancer, more years of menstruation, changes in hormones and polycystic ovary syndrome, or an inherited colon cancer syndrome called lynch syndrome. Other than never being pregnant before, I had zero attributing factors.

The symptoms can be bleeding between periods, lower abdominal pain or cramping, pain during bowel movements or intercourse, weight loss, lack of appetite and difficulty breathing — none of which I had other than my usual endometriosis pain once a month.

A 2015 cohort study was conducted in Taiwan that found a potential increased risk of developing endometrial cancer later in life for those diagnosed with endometriosis. But like endometriosis and endometri-

No blood work or routine checkups would indicate that anything was wrong in my body. I even had blood work done a few days before. All I wanted to do was hug her.

I was overcome by a strange calm as we left the appointment. For a chronic worrier who had two heart procedures before 30, it felt like this was the diagnosis I was always expecting.

But as we drove on the straight road home I turned to Simon and said, "I don't want to always be scared. I don't want to always be the victim. That grows tiring for people." For people, I really meant it would grow old for him. Never, he said.

When we got back home, we sat with each other in the sun on the lawn at the bottom of the garden — the last sliver of sun for the day. Even though I was worried in the world that we had before that day floated away and we sat in silence listening to the birds.

No one tells you how much lo

No one tells you how

