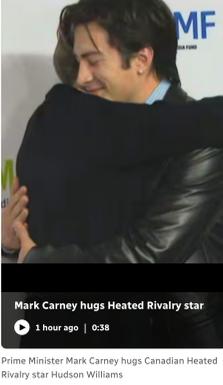


RECAP ENTERTAINMENT

Prime minister meets Heated Rivalry stars, pays tribute to hit show 'that could only be made in Canada'

Updated 27 minutes ago

Steamy Canadian series about love between hockey rivals has become global sensation



Mark Carney hugs Heated Rivalry star Hudson Williams

The Latest

- Prime Minister Mark Carney met some of the stars of Heated Rivalry tonight at a gala in Ottawa to promote the Canadian film industry.
- Canadian actors Hudson Williams and Sophie Nélisse, who play Shane Hollander and his on-screen girlfriend Rose, respectively, appeared on the red carpet with the prime minister and his wife Diana.
- Carney, who has seen five episodes of the show, gave a speech describing the series as a triumph in an "increasingly dangerous, divided and intolerant world."

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The producers of Heated Rivalry on why their show has become such a streaming sensation



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Why Heated Rivalry with viewers

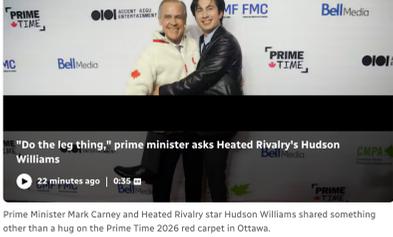
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Canada's latest Heated Rivalry fan happens to be the prime minister

Sarah Petz



Prime Minister Mark Carney and Heated Rivalry star Hudson Williams shared something other than a hug on the Prime Time 2026 red carpet in Ottawa.

The stars and creators of the wildly popular show *Heated Rivalry* were the centre of attention at a gala in Ottawa tonight to promote the Canadian film and TV industry.

On a red carpet for the event, Prime Minister Mark Carney got the chance to meet Hudson Williams, who plays one of the closeted professional hockey players the show centres on.

He was all smiles when Williams presented him with the jacket resembling the now-iconic Team Canada fleece Williams's character wears, and immediately pulled it on over his black suit.

Inside, Carney praised the show's creators, showrunners and stars for its reach, its Canadian roots and its 2SLGBTQ+ story, giving Tierney props for deciding to make the show in Canada after American studios had asked him to "tone it down."

"So Jacob did the right thing. He did the smart thing. He came home to Canada," he added.

"He came home to a nation that celebrates what makes us different."

This page is no longer being updated, but you can read more of our *Heated Rivalry* coverage [here](#).



1 hour ago

'This was the point,' Tierney says of arena kiss scene

Catharine Tunney

Towards the end of the panel, the group on stage watched *that* kiss scene. Featuring Wolf Parade's *I'll Believe in Anything*, it shows characters Scott Hunter and Kip Grady kissing on the ice in front of a packed arena. Tierney got choked up talking about it.

"I mean, this was, you know, this was the point. This was to give people this moment that you don't get when you're a kid, right? Like, you don't get this," he said.



1 hour ago

Bhiana Schmunk



From left: Panel moderator Lainey Lui, Brady, Tierney, Nélisse and Williams. (CBC)

Storrie is not in attendance tonight, for those keeping an eye out.

Williams recently told *Wonderland Magazine* that he and his co-star are trying to avoid making every media appearance together so they can forge their own identities and careers.

"We don't want to be the Olsen twins ... People want to see us front row together all the time, but we actively avoid that, because it starts to feel like branding," said Williams, who was interviewed by Nélisse.



2 hours ago

Williams on filming the club scene

Catharine Tunney



Williams during tonight's panel. (Catharine Tunney/CBC)

On filming the dance floor scene, where Shane and Ilya lock eyes across a club, Williams said he can't keep his eyes open for long and was told he looked "creepy" in the first few takes.

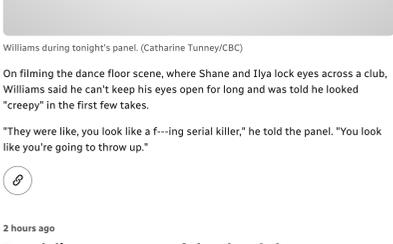
"They were like, you look like a f---ing serial killer," he told the panel. "You look like you're going to throw up."



2 hours ago

Panel discusses some of the show's key scenes

Catharine Tunney



Williams, right, and co-star Connor Storrie in a scene from "Heated Rivalry." (HBO Max via The Associated Press)

The event has now transitioned to a panel discussion about certain scenes from the show, including bathroom fellatio and the iconic club scene. (Williams bobs his head along to *All The Things She Said* by t.A.T.u., a remix of which plays during the scene in Episode 4.)

Tierney notes how weird it is to be having this discussion in a giant room.



2 hours ago

Catharine Tunney

Carney's biggest laugh comes when he jokes that, as a politician, he's not past taking credit for the show.

"I greenlit this!" he said to loud cheers.



2 hours ago

Sarah Petz

Carney also gave Tierney props for deciding to make the show in Canada after American studios had asked him to "tone it down."

"What's the point in that?" Carney asked with a wry smile.

"So Jacob did the right thing. He did the smart thing. He came home to Canada," he added.

"He came home to a nation that celebrates what makes us different."



2 hours ago

PM pays tribute to show

Catharine Tunney

Inside the gala, Carney takes the stage thanking Heated Rivalry's creators, showrunners and stars.

Because of them, he jokes, "cottage season" will have a whole new meaning.

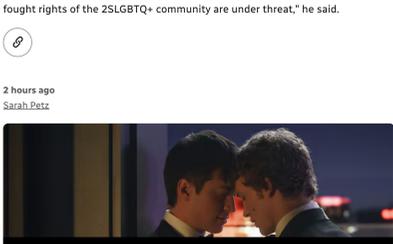
He then turned to the story's two main characters: Shane and Ilya.

"They're also two young men who are terrified of being their fullest selves. And we live in an increasingly dangerous, divided and intolerant world and the hard-fought rights of the 2SLGBTQ+ community are under threat," he said.



2 hours ago

Sarah Petz



Jacob Tierney and Brendon Brady are in Ottawa for Prime Time 2026. CBC's Sandra Abma was there and breaks down what they had to say.

Brady and Tierney, the show's co-creators, arrived on the red carpet earlier to cheer from the crowd. Tierney said he could not have anticipated the runaway success of the show.

"I mean, if you told me six months ago, I would not have believed you," Tierney told reporters.

"It can be slightly overwhelming ... we are definitely surprised."



2 hours ago

Catharine Tunney

The hosts of tonight's event joke that the two most popular men in Canada — Carney and Williams — are here at the Prime Time event.

The room is packed; it's standing room only. And so far the night is a love-in for the breakout show, with praise for its reach, its Canadian roots and its 2SLGBTQ+ story.



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