

SAYING GOODBYE

Family, friends and high-profile figures attended the funeral of Canadian businessman and 'city builder' Joseph Rotman on Friday, **IN3**



INSIGHT

> BOOK EXCERPT

A hit to the heart

Despite his notorious life, Canadian Mob boss **Vito Rizzuto** wasn't prepared when his eldest son, **Nick**, met a violent end

PETER EDWARDS AND ANTONIO NICASO

In their new book, *Business or Blood*, veteran Toronto Star reporter Peter Edwards and author Antonio Nicaso focus on Vito Rizzuto, once Canada's most powerful Canadian Mafia boss. Edwards, who specializes in organized crime and justice issues, and Nicaso, an expert on organized crime, chronicle the events leading up to Rizzuto's imprisonment in Colorado in 2006 and the unravelling of his empire.

Rizzuto was agonizingly far from his Montreal home when he learned of the murder. Violent death was a fact of life in his world, no more out of place than the slaughter of chickens and cattle on a farm. Murder had been necessary for Vito's family to rise to power in Montreal's underworld, and murder helped them expand that power and make money beyond his ancestors' wildest dreams. And murder — three, in fact, that Vito had a hand in 28 years earlier — explained why he was stuck in a prison cell in the dusty former cowboy boom town of Florence, Colo., about an hour and a half south of Denver. That said, no murder that the mobster had ordered, witnessed or committed in his 63 years of life readied him for what the prison chaplain had come to tell him: this time, the bullet-scarred corpse was that of his own eldest child, Nick Rizzuto Jr.

A prison guard that day — three days after Christmas, 2009 — witnessed something that people who knew Vito well could not imagine: the face of Canada's top Mafia don contorted with pain and shock. Life as a perpetrator didn't mean Vito knew how to assume the role of a victim. Blindsided by the news, he didn't cry. No one ever talked of Vito crying. But Vito was stunned and hurt and desperately needed to plan his next move. Vito always had a next move.

First, he should go to the funeral. That meant he needed to approach authorities — the same people he had spent his life deceiving — and ask for permission to leave the prison and cross the border. The prospect of asking anyone's permission for anything served as another reminder of how far he had fallen.

REVENGE continued on **IN4**

PETER EDWARDS PHOTO/NURI DUCASSI ILLUSTRATION

> CITY LANDSCAPE

United — mostly — we stand

Data collected through the Star's Political Sentimeter finds Torontonians have way more in common than they think

JENNIFER BILL
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Men in Toronto are more likely than women to believe that marriage is still an important institution. The city's youth are significantly more politically radical than their elders. The Danforth and Davenport neighbourhoods are the city's most left-leaning, while

the most right-leaning are all in Etobicoke. And the most prevalent ideology in Toronto is Social Democratic Left.

Political scientists at Vox Pop Labs have arrived at a detailed picture of Toronto's political landscape — including some surprising results — after nearly 60,000 Torontonians offered their perspectives on a wide range of issues in a 15-minute scientific survey on thestar.com.

The Political Sentimeter, launched by the Star in November and created by Vox

Pop Labs, identified eight ideological types in Toronto, ranging from the Post-Materialist Left to the Steadfast Right.

The tool poses a series of provocative values questions and then assigns respondents to the ideological group that best represents them.

The data collected has enabled political scientists to analyze the city's ideological makeup in new ways.

IDEOLOGY continued on **IN4**

