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THE HILL TIMES

TWENTY-EIGHTH YEAR, NO. 1423

CANADA'S POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2017 \$5.00

News Public Service

'Nation builder' Gina Wilson striving for civil service where indigenous are 'respected and included'



Gina Wilson, an associate deputy minister for public safety, is being honoured in Ottawa Wednesday by the Famous 5 Foundation, which works to inspire and commemorate Canadian women. *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright

BY MARCO VIGLIOTTI

A self-described indigenous activist, Gina Wilson never envisioned herself turning to the "dark side."

Offered a job with the federal government, long-held as an oppressive force against indigenous people like her, she sought out the

guidance of her mentor, activist and Order of Canada recipient Maggie Hodgson, who urged her to consider the opportunity.

Fast-forward 20 years and Ms. Wilson has become, in a way, the public face for indigenous opportunity in the federal civil service.

"I had no inclination to work for the federal government before I actually did. It was by sheer luck and circumstance that I ended up working for the federal government," she told *The Hill Times*.

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News Conservative Leadership

CPC membership debacle: Tamil Conservative Party members feel unjustly called out

BY CHELSEA NASH

Several Tamil Conservative Party members are urging the Conservative Party of Canada to continue its investigation into the disallowed memberships it dis-

covered, and to ultimately release the names of those responsible.

Roshan Nallaratnam, who ran for the Conservative Party in the 2015 federal election but lost to

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News Environment

Proposed navigation bill reforms amount to broken campaign promise: advocacy group, NDP

BY MARCO VIGLIOTTI

Critics are accusing the Trudeau government of breaking another high-profile campaign promise, after the Liberals on the House Transport Committee voted against recommending the repeal of Harper-era reforms that dramatically reduced the number of waterways under federal oversight.

"We were really disappointed to see the recommendations. It really

goes against what the Trudeau Liberals were saying leading up to the election," said Emma Lui, national water campaigner with the Council of Canadians, a pan-national social justice advocacy group.

"We're seeing the Trudeau government carry on the Harper legacy of how they're protecting water, in that essentially they're not."

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Feature Diplomatic Circles

Chinese ambassador says human rights, democracy shouldn't factor in trade deal

BY CHELSEA NASH

China's new ambassador to Canada, **Lu Shaye**, disagrees with his counterpart **John McCallum** when it comes to including mention of human rights in a free trade agreement between the two countries.

Just last week, Mr. McCallum said human rights would be part

and parcel of a potential free trade agreement between Canada and China, as reported by the Canadian Press. Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** backed the statement up, saying it was his intention to "grow our economy and defend our jobs" while also "standing up for" Canadian values and principles.

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HEARD ON THE HILL

by Marco Vigliotti

Canadian rockers Sloan to headline parliamentary reception in May



Rockers Sloan will headline the third annual parliamentary reception for the Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada on May 16. *Promotional photo*

Legendary East Coast rockers **Sloan** and up-and-coming Quebec songstress **Charlotte Cardin** will headline the annual Hill reception next month for the group representing the performing rights of musicians and publishers.

The Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN), which boasts some 130,000 members, is hosting its third annual parliamentary reception on May 16 in the East Block courtyard, weather permitting.

"We're really pleased that for Canada's 150th birthday we'll be entertained by the band who sings about living the rest of their lives in Canada," quipped **Greg MacEachern**, senior vice president of government relations with Environics, in reference to a lyric from Sloan's early 2000s hit song *The Rest of my Life*.

SOCAN is actively registered to lobby the federal government under three Environics consultants, including Mr. MacEachern.

Hailing from Halifax, Sloan broke into the Canadian music scene in the early 1990s with an edgier rock sound that morphed into a more melodic tone later in the decade.

The band is likely best known for swaggering hits *The Good in Everyone* and *If It Feels Good Do It*, as well as the moodier *The Other Man*, and arena rock staple *Money City Maniacs*, a ubiquitous feature of hockey games in Canada during the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Ms. Cardin began her entertainment career as a model before winning acclaim as a contestant on TVA singing competition, *La Voix*.

She released her debut EP, *Big Boy*, in 2016, with the song *Les écharde* being a shortlisted finalist for the SOCAN Songwriting Prize.

The EP featured songs in English and French.

Former Pence adviser partners with Impact

A former staffer for U.S. Republican vice-president **Mike Pence** has partnered with an Ottawa-based lobbying shop to provide strategic advice on Canada-U.S. relations.

Bill Smith, an ex-congressional staff member and former chief of staff to Mr. Pence, has joined Impact Public Affairs as an adviser, the firm announced last week.

Mr. Smith is currently the president and CEO of government relations and strategic communications firm Sextons Creek, which boasts offices in Washington, D.C., and Indianapolis.

He will assume the role of adviser for U.S. relations with Impact in addition to his work for Sextons Creek.

Ottawa-based Impact is touting the arrangement as an exclusive strategic partnership focusing on Canada-U.S. advocacy efforts.

Mr. Smith spent over 20 years working in Congress, including serving as chief of



Bill Smith, former chief of staff to U.S. vice-president Mike Pence, has formed a 'strategic partnership' with Ottawa's Impact Public Affairs. *Photograph courtesy of Impact Public Affairs*

staff to Indiana Republican Congressman **Dan Burton** from 1983-1989.

In 2000, he was the campaign manager for Mr. Pence's successful campaign for an Indiana seat in the House of Representatives.

After the campaign, Mr. Smith served as Mr. Pence's chief of staff from 2001 to 2013. During this span, he also served as a senior advisor to the House Republican Conference, the name of the GOP caucus in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Smith followed Mr. Pence back to Indiana when the latter successfully ran for governor of the state. He then served as Mr. Pence's chief of staff for his two years as governor before stepping down to form Sextons Creek.

Impact president **Huw Williams** said he "learned a great deal" from Mr. Smith when he worked under him as a summer intern in Congressman Burton's office some 30 years ago.

"The Canada-U.S. trade relationship has never been more important," Mr. Williams said in a statement.

"Bill will offer Canadian clients a wealth of knowledge in understanding and advocating at both the executive branch and within the U.S. Congress."

In a statement, Mr. Smith said it's an honour to join the "respected and award-winning" team at Impact, adding that he expected the collaboration between the firm and Sextons Creek to mirror the close working relationship between trusted and reliable allies, Canada and United States.

Impact also has offices in Montreal and Toronto.

Maple Leaf Strategies adds former PC cabinet minister

With the Ontario Progressive Conservatives on the upswing, a Toronto-based lobbying outfit has recruited an ex-Tory cabinet minister to join its team.

Former labour and transportation minister **Brad Clark** has joined Maple Leaf Strategies' Toronto office as a principal, the firm announced last week.

"Brad has over 20 years of experience in executive management, public affairs, communications, government relations, resource development and public relations, and has managed significant change in municipal governance and the Ontario transport sector," said Bliss Baker, a partner at the firm, in a statement.

"Brad's diverse background will further expand the firm's expertise in infrastruc-

ture, transportation and sustainable development and add to our client offering."

Maple Leaf Strategies also has offices in Ottawa, Calgary, Winnipeg, and Vancouver.

Mr. Clark was first elected to the provincial legislature as a Progressive Conservative candidate in the 1999 election, representing the suburban Hamilton riding of Stoney Creek. He bested his Liberal opponent by over 2,000 votes.

In 2001, he was appointed minister of transportation by then-premier **Mike Harris**. He was then shuffled over to the labour portfolio when **Ernie Eves** succeeded Mr. Harris as premier in 2002.

He lost re-election in 2003 to local journalist and Liberal candidate **Jennifer Mossop** by more than 5,000 votes, as the PCs were booted from office after eight years in power.

Mr. Clark then switched to local politics, and won a seat on Hamilton City Council in 2006 by narrowly defeating an incumbent councillor.

He represented Ward 9, which includes parts of his old Stoney Creek riding.

Mr. Clark ran in the 2011 federal election as a Conservative but lost to NDP incumbent **Wayne Marston** in the Hamilton East-Stoney Creek riding.

Byelections maintain the status quo

There were no surprises in the five federal byelections on Monday, with none of the contested seats coming close to switching hands.

The Liberals easily held on to long-time stronghold Ottawa-Vanier, a riding that captures a wide area just east of Parliament Hill, with candidate **Mona Fortier** capturing more than 50 per cent of the vote, outpacing NDP candidate, ex-federal lawyer **Emilie Taman**, daughter of renowned Canadian jurist **Louise Arbour**.

The Grits also easily kept GTA stronghold Markham-Thornhill, won by former Trudeau appointments director **Mary Ng**, and solidly red Montreal riding Saint-Laurent, won by political neophyte, 26-year-old teacher **Emmanuella Lambropoulos**.

Ms. Ng won over 51 per cent of the votes cast, while Ms. Lambropoulos took 59 per cent.

Out west, Conservative candidates **Stephanie Kusie**, a former diplomat, and businessman **Bob Benzen** easily won the ridings of Calgary Midnapore and Calgary Heritage, respectively. Both candidates won upwards of 70 per cent of the vote.

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Morneau posts photo of him greeting Justin's dad



Finance Minister Bill Morneau, far left, stands on as Pierre Elliott Trudeau, father of the current prime minister, greets well-wisher in the House in 1981. *Photo courtesy of the Twitter account of Bill Morneau*

Finance Minister **Bill Morneau** (Toronto Centre, Ont.) took to social media last week to share a photo of him meeting what he described as his political inspiration, late prime minister **Pierre Elliott Trudeau**.

"If public service is contagious, I think I figured out who I caught it from, back

in 1981. #FlashbackFriday," he posted on Twitter alongside a photo of him in the House foyer near the former Liberal prime minister, who, of course, sired current Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** (Papineau, Que.).

Mr. Morneau would have been either 18 or 19 at the time of the photo.

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CANADIAN TO BELIEVE,
IF MY EXPERIENCE JUSTIFIES
ME IN BELIEVING, THAT
CANADIANS ARE BEST
SERVED BY CANADIANS.”**

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News



Peter Julian pictured at the first NDP leadership debate on March 12 at the Delta Hotel in Ottawa. *The Hill Times* photograph by Sam Garcia

Peter Julian: a Westerner with strong ties to Quebec

Peter Julian believes his lifelong history with the NDP, combined with his 'bold' policies, is why he should be the next leader of the party.

BY CHELSEA NASH

What you might know about NDP MP Peter Julian is he's a lifelong New Democrat, who hopes to persuade his party to vote for him to be the next party leader.

What you might not know about Mr. Julian (New Westminster-Burnaby, B.C.) is he's really good at basketball.

That's according to Peter Stoffer, a former NDP MP from Nova Scotia. While Mr. Stoffer isn't supporting any candidate in this race so far, he has known Mr. Julian since he was first elected in 2004.

Mr. Stoffer said he was "immediately impressed" with the rookie, who was 41 at the time. (Mr. Julian is now 54).

"What impressed me right off the bat," he said, "is here's this kid from B.C. who speaks perfect French." He later described him as the "most bilingual" candidate in the race, something that could give him an advantage in Quebec.

Mr. Julian didn't pick up his French off the streets of Burnaby, B.C., however. He owes his fluency to spending years in Quebec building up the NDP base in the province.

The candidate described the NDP surge, known as the "orange wave," in Quebec during the 2011 election as the highest point in his long career with the party that he joined at the young age of 14.

Mr. Julian described the moment, which he had worked on with both the late Jack Layton and current leader Tom Mulcair, as "that breakthrough from the NDP being a strong regional party to a national force."

The lowest point in his forty-some years with the NDP

also had to do with Quebec: in 1993, the NDP no longer held enough seats in the House of Commons to be recognized as an official party. It couldn't afford to sustain an office in the province.

But Mr. Julian was so committed to making the NDP and Quebecers part of the same team that he gave up his apartment, and moved into the NDP's office. He taught English in Quebec during the day, and slept on the office floor at night.

"We had to go through a rough period," he said, describing why he took such drastic measures to keep a regional office open. "Everybody made the sacrifices they could to keep the party going."

His commitment to building the party in Quebec was what earned him endorsements from four Quebec colleagues early on in the race, including MP Pierre-Luc Dusseault (Sherbrooke), Quebec caucus chair Robert Aubin (Trois-Rivières), and MPs Brigitte Sansoucy (Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot) and François Choquette (Drummond).

That kind of dedication, Mr. Stoffer says, is what makes him think the party "can't find a harder working" person to lead them.

"Peter won't sleep until everybody else goes to bed," he said.

While Mr. Stoffer said the two might disagree on policies, Mr. Julian's commitment to being a social democrat is something he admires.

"I think it's his care," he said. "We always say in the NDP and social democratic circles, it's not about [an individual], it's about us. [Peter's] love of the country, his love of bringing people together to find common cause... that's what links us all together."

Themes of "hope and hard work," might sound like a famil-

iar slogan to followers Canadian politics, as it was the message Mr. Trudeau touted during the last election.

Mr. Julian, who during his time as NDP House leader had a reputation of being a bit cut and dry, doesn't exactly compete when it comes to charisma and celebrity, two things which happen to be strengths of the current prime minister.

But Mr. Julian, Mr. Stoffer, and MP Erin Weir (Regina-Lewvan, Sask.) all dismissed this as a potential weakness.

"So what? You think John Diefenbaker was charismatic? Too much is focused on how you look before the television. If that's how we're going to vote for people, we're doomed," Mr. Stoffer said.

Mr. Julian said he's not a celebrity, and he knows it. He hopes to mobilize supporters with "a vision of tomorrow, not a popularity contest." He believes his policies, which he says offer a real alternative to the current government, are already inspiring supporters who voted Liberal in 2015, but are disappointed with the outcome.

Mr. Stoffer, who could generally be considered a more right-leaning New Democrat than some of his former colleagues, does disagree with some of Mr. Julian's proposed policies, like his opposition of the Energy East pipeline, for instance.

But Mr. Julian believes that oil should be refined within Canada, and then exported, not the other way around. He is against any pipeline that transports raw bitumen (unrefined oil from the oil sands) outside of the country, because it unnecessarily heightens the risk of messy spills in Canada.

That said, Mr. Stoffer said he is confident Mr. Julian would not have made a mistake that some

NDP members think was critical to its demise in the last election: announce it was going to balance the budget, allowing the Liberal Party and Justin Trudeau (Papineau, Que.) to outflank them on the left.

To the left or right? Julian's direction for the NDP

When asked what direction he thinks the NDP ought to go should he win the leadership, Mr. Julian said he doesn't think there's a contradiction between being fiscally responsible and taking the party to the left.

What he wants to do is "invest in people," and ensure that the country's top earners are taxed at a higher rate to "pay their fair share," and are prevented from evading tax payments. Mr. Julian wants to eliminate offshore tax havens and shelters, and take that money to invest in colleges and trade schools.

Reducing or eliminating tuition at these institutions would be part of "a system that directly addresses poverty by allowing even poor Canadians to access college and trade school."

Mr. Julian said he thinks he's struck a chord so far.

"I think there is a real hunker across the country for real meaningful substantive change," Mr. Julian said in a phone interview Monday. "Mr. Trudeau understood that, because he talked vaguely about change in the last election. But now we're seeing that by change meant more of the same."

Mr. Julian said the party needs to be "bold." When asked what prompted him to enter the leadership in the first place, he responded excitedly: "Oh! [Because] we absolutely have to be bold."

Climate change, for instance, is an "absolute reality" that needs to be paid "more than lip service."

Last week, he announced the "Just Clean Energy strategy" in Regina, shortly after he was endorsed by Mr. Weir.

The strategy proposes multi-billion-dollar investments in "clean research" and "renewable energy" that would be financed in part through the elimination of oil and gas subsidies. The idea would be to invest in renewable tech and energy, first in Saskatchewan and Alberta, to address any job losses caused by the eventual phase-out of the oil sands.

"Other countries are doing it and they are very prosperous as a result," Mr. Julian said.

Mr. Weir, who has known Mr. Julian for "several years" before his own election in 2015, decided to endorse him fairly early in the race because he believes he can "translate our social democratic values into specific solutions."

As for the LEAP Manifesto—an ideological document that has dogged the NDP since it was first brought to the convention floor last year—Mr. Julian is on the fence. He said he's "glad we're discussing it," and while he agrees with some parts, he disagrees with others.

This is another thing Mr. Stoffer takes issue with: "on the LEAP manifesto, the one thing I'm looking for is are you in favour of it, yes or no," the former MP said.

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Anti-globalist movement hasn't hit Canada yet, public opinion poll suggests

Most of those surveyed supported free trade and international institutions like the UN.

BY PETER MAZEREEUW

Don't expect to see any "Canada first" slogans bandied about by in-the-know politicians here because Canadians by and large support international trade and governance, a recent poll suggests.

More than half of respondents to a January survey of 1,501 adults agreed with statements supportive of free trade and participation in international organizations, while a much smaller minority agreed with negative statements on those subjects.

The survey was conducted online by Toronto public opinion research firm Pollara Strategic Insights between Jan. 25 and 30. The firm was aiming to see whether Canadians had been caught up in the anti-trade and anti-globalist sentiment seen in the United States, United Kingdom, and Europe, said Craig Worden, Pollara's executive vice-president. Leading politicians in those places have recently spoken out against, variously, the European Union, United Nations, NATO, and Trans-Pacific Partnership, NAFTA, Canada-Europe and U.S.-Europe trade deals.

On free trade, respondents to the poll were asked which of two statements best represented their views on the economy and trade: "Free trade agreements are good for Canada, and we should sign onto more free trade treaties to increase our access to other countries' markets for the goods and services sold by companies in Canada. This will bring more economic growth and jobs to Canada," or "Free trade agreements are bad for Canada, and we should restrict or cancel our current free trade treaties and stop signing new treaties. This will encourage companies in Canada to stop moving jobs to other countries, and instead hire more Canadians to create more of their products and services here."

Sixty-two per cent of respondents agreed with the pro-trade statement, while 15 per cent agreed with the anti-trade statement, and 23 per cent said they were unsure.

Quebec respondents were the most likely to favour the pro-trade statement, at 70 per cent, versus 10 per cent for the anti-trade statement and 20 per cent unsure. Support for the pro-trade statement was weakest among Manitobans, at 47 per cent, versus 20 per cent opposed, and 33 per cent unsure.

Both men and women were significantly more likely to support the pro-free trade statement, though women were more likely, at 29 per cent, to say they were not sure, versus 17 per cent for men. There was no significant difference in the responses between age brackets. The weakest support for the pro-trade statement was among those earning less than \$50,000 per year, at 52 per cent. Twenty-one per cent of respondents in that income bracket supported the anti-trade statement, and 27 per cent said they were unsure.

This is likely no surprise to Ottawa's political strategists. Both the Liberal and Conservative parties have for the most part embraced free trade in recent history. The previous Conservative government under Stephen Harper threw its weight behind numerous trade and investment negotiations during its nine-year tenure, and the current Liberal government has championed "progressive" free trade as a pillar of its effort to raise Canada's profile in the world.

The New Democrats have taken a more nuanced position on free trade in recent years, supporting it in principle but opposing or criticizing the deals completed by the other parties.

Respondents were also asked which of a pair of statements about Canada's involvement in multilateral organizations, like NATO and the UN, best represented their views: "It is good for Canada to be a member and participant in as many global organizations as possible—so that we can enjoy the peace, stability, co-operation, integration, and reduced borders that these multi-country organizations and governments provide their members," or "It is bad for Canada to be a member and participant in global organizations—because they do not fairly deliver the benefits they promise and we increasingly give up more of our national sovereignty and decision-making authority to these multi-country organizations."

Seventy-one per cent of respondents said they supported the pro-globalism statement, versus 10 per cent for the negative statement, and 19 per cent who said they didn't know. Support for the anti-multilateral statement was twice as strong among men, at 14 per cent, than women, at seven per cent, while support for the positive statement was almost even at 71 and 70 per cent, respectively. The remainder, 14 and 23 per cent, said they were unsure.

Support for the pro-multilateral statement was strongest in B.C., at 75 per cent, and



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau visited Strasbourg, France to address the European Parliament in February, after it voted through the Canada-EU trade agreement. Seventy-one per cent of respondents to a recent Pollara poll said they supported a pro-globalism statement, versus 10 per cent for a negative statement. PMO photograph by Adam Scotti

weakest in Saskatchewan, at 64 per cent. Support for the negative statement was strongest in Alberta, at 14 per cent, and weakest in the Atlantic region, at six per cent.

Fifty-four per cent of respondents said they support both the pro-trade and pro-multilateral statements, while just six per cent said they supported both the anti-trade and anti-multilateral statements. Thirty per cent said they were unsure to both.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (Papineau, Que.) has touted himself as a champion of multilateralism, declaring that "Canada is back" in the world after winning government in 2015. The Stephen Harper Conservative government was less enthusiastic about the United Nations than Mr. Trudeau, while his government's embrace of other multilateral institutions was a mixed bag.

The Pollara survey showed that Canadians haven't yet been caught up in the isolationist wave that helped bring Donald Trump to power in the U.S. and spurred the European Brexit in the U.K., said Mr. Worden. However, the 23 per cent of respondents who indicated they didn't have an opinion on

free trade is a sign that those who support it can't get too complacent, he said.

Many polls present respondents with shorter, yes-or-no style questions. The Pollara poll instead tried to present both sides of the debates around globalism and free trade, to see which appealed more to Canadians, said Mr. Worden.

The individuals who completed the online survey were selected at random from a group of several hundred thousand Canadians who have signed up to take surveys with AskingCanadians, an organization that offers reward program benefits such as Aeroplan Miles to members.

Online surveys are not considered by pollsters to be truly random. A random sample of the same number of individuals, such as one conducted by phone, would yield a margin of error of 2.5 per cent, 19 times out of 20, for the Canada-wide numbers, while regional breakdowns within the poll, using smaller samples, would have margins of error of between 4.9 and 9.8 per cent.

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Proposed navigation bill reforms amount to broken campaign promise: advocacy group, NDP

Liberal MP Sean Fraser says recommendations balance the need for 'efficiency and the promotion of projects, and the need to protect navigation.'

Continued from page 1

On March 23, the Liberal-majority House Transport, Infrastructure, and Communities Committee tabled in the House its report on the Navigation Protection Act, which regulates travel along Canadian waterways.

The study was prompted by concerns from the Liberals about sweeping changes to the Act made by the former Conservative government, which reduced the number of water bodies under federal protection from thousands to just the listed 97 lakes, 64 rivers, and three oceans.

The legislation, known as the Navigable Waters Protection Act prior to the Conservative amendments, had previously deemed any water body deep enough to float a boat or vessel of any kind as navigable, and thus deserving of federal protection.

The Conservatives justified the reforms as crucial to cutting burdensome red tape, especially for municipalities and Canadians pursuing small projects on designated waterways, such as wooden docks.

However, the Council of Canadians and other opponents argued the reforms allow pipelines or electricity transmission lines, among other disruptive projects, to be constructed along most waterways in the country without any sort of oversight from Ottawa.

In the 2015 election campaign, the Liberals repeatedly pledged to restore environmental protections eliminated by the Harper government, while also raising concerns about sparse consultations with affected stakeholders and First Nations.

But the Liberal majority on the committee recommended no alterations to the list of protected waterways.

Instead, Grit members called for measures to make it easier

for Canadians to petition for additions to the list, and recommended the establishment of a Transport Canada tribunal to adjudicate complaints related to all Canadian waterways.

"It's a very stark broken promise from the Trudeau Liberals," Ms. Lui said of the recommendations.

Liberals recommend maintaining existing schedule, better communication

Transport Minister Marc Garneau (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Westmount, Que.) was tasked in his mandate letter from the prime minister after the 2015 election with reviewing changes to the Act, with the purpose of restoring lost protections and incorporating modern safeguards.

The Liberal government announced last June that it would launch a comprehensive review of Canada's environmental agencies and regulations, including the Navigation Protection Act.

Mr. Garneau separately asked the House committee to conduct its own review of the Act, which it opted to pursue last fall over the protests of Conservative members who objected to what they viewed as executive overreach into parliamentary business.

A request for comment from Mr. Garneau was passed on to Transport Canada.

Spokesperson Natasha Gauthier said the department is reviewing the recommendations and would respond within 120 days of the tabling of the report.

"The recommendations will inform future decisions; however, it's too early to indicate what changes will be made," she said in a statement.

Liberal MP and committee member Sean Fraser (Central Nova, N.S.) said he's "very pleased" with the findings of the report, arguing the recommendations effectively balance the need for efficiency and strengthened safeguards.

"We recognize there's some efficiencies that come with maintaining a schedule of listed waterways but we want to ensure that every Canadian on every waterway has the ability to challenge any actions that infringe their common law right to navigation," he said in reference to the ability to add new waterways and the



Liberal MP Sean Fraser, right, defended the Transport Committee recommendations while Conservative member Kelly Block, left, said she felt 'partially vindicated' by the study, but worried that Transport Minister Marc Garneau might opt for more substantial reforms. Photos courtesy of the offices of Kelly Block and Sean Fraser

creation of a complaints tribunal.

Regardless of legislation, Mr. Fraser said Canadians still retain the common law right to navigate, but argued that complaints are currently funnelled through a lengthy and unwieldy litigation process "completely out of access" for most.

He also cited concerns from municipalities and others about potential procedural headaches if the government reverted to the old floating standard.

For example, projects constructed on dry waterbeds only filled during the spring runoff or floods would be subjected to environmental assessments under the pre-reform act, he explained.

In recognition of these sorts of issues and legitimate threats to navigation, Mr. Fraser said the committee opted to maintain the existing schedule system but

allow respondents to either lobby for new waterways to be added or to raise individual complaints through a streamlined, more responsive system.

In his dissenting opinion, NDP committee member Robert Aubin (Trois-Rivières, Que.) depicted the recommendations as another broken promise from the Liberals, and called for the complete restoration of all protections eliminated by the Conservatives.

"Despite their opposition to the Conservative policies and a campaign promise to reinstate the protection measures, the Liberals have once again shown they cannot be trusted," reads the NDP's dissenting opinion.

"We were disappointed to see that the Liberal MPs are recommending that the federal government maintain the schedule, which will keep 99 per cent of lakes and rivers unprotected."

Mr. Fraser countered that eliminating the Conservative reforms would leave in place a problematic legislative structure that saw the unnecessary "mixing" of navigation and "certain essential environmental protections," which belong in different legislation such as the Fisheries Act.

"By making the recommendations that we have made, we have landed on a spot that balances the need for efficiency and the promotion of projects and the need to protect navigation," he said.

But Ms. Lui pointed out that pollution and other forms of environmental degradation impact the flow of marine traffic, and hailed the Act as uniquely positioned to address these issues.

"It's the federal government's responsibility to protect water in different ways, and navigation and protecting navigable waters is one of them," she said.

"There is no other legislation that would do that."

In their dissenting opinion, Conservative committee members called the findings of the majority report "disingenuous" and unreflective of the testimony it heard from presenters, as well as full of problematic contradictions.

For example, the Tories slammed the proposed tribunal as a "backdoor" tool to eliminate the legislated schedule of protected waterways that the Liberals argued should be maintained.

Conservative MP and committee member Kelly Block (Carlton Trail-Eagle Creek, Sask.) said while the report put forward recommendations largely supportive of keeping the Act as it is, questions persist about what Minister Garneau will do with this report because instructions in his mandate letter "contradict the recommendations" made by the Liberal members.

"The testimony we heard during this brief study confirmed that the changes made to the NPA (Navigation Protection Act) were sound public policy," she told *The Hill Times*.

"I feel partially vindicated because the concerns raised were more focused on the process than the product."

Ms. Block said although the study was solely conducted to fulfill a Liberal campaign commitment, it was "useful" because it confirmed that "very real issues existed" for municipalities seeking to build critical infrastructure in a reasonable timeframe.

The other recommendations in the committee's report focused on improving the level of consultation and communication between the federal government and lower orders of government, as well as affected stakeholders and First Nations.

It also called on the government to examine ways to protect navigation along waterways crossing traditional Aboriginal lands, and to ensure the inclusion of the federal Transport Ministry in the decision-making process for environmental assessments of pipelines and electrical transmission lines that cross navigable waters.

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Conservative leadership candidates at the Manning Centre debates in Ottawa. From left: Andrew Scheer, Kevin O'Leary, Rick Peterson, and Maxime Bernier. *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright

CPC membership debacle: Tamil Conservative Party members feel unjustly called out

Politically involved Tamils say if the party doesn't release names of those responsible, it reflects poorly on entire community.

Continued from page 1

Liberal Bill Blair (Scarborough Southwest, Ont.), and Raj Subramaniam say the recent membership fraud debacle in the Conservative Party leadership race reflects poorly on the entire Tamil Canadian community, and is discouraging to Canadian Tamils who want to get involved in local politics.

Mr. Subramaniam, who once ran for city councillor in Markham, said he considers the association of the Tamils with membership fraud,

without specifying who is responsible, to be "punishing the entire Tamil community."

It's something he feels "awkward" about, he said, because "as a Canadian, we want to make changes too."

Last month, leadership candidate Kevin O'Leary released a statement alleging "backroom organizers [were] committing widespread vote rigging and potentially breaking our electoral and financing laws to try to buy a leadership victory."

Following Mr. O'Leary's allegations, *The Huffington Post Canada* reported that "the alleged scheme involves Tamil field coordinators in the Toronto-area." *The Globe and Mail* also referred to Tamil organizers, but both reports indicated that the Tamils allegedly involved in the illegitimate memberships were supporting Maxime Bernier's campaign.

But some Tamils involved with the Conservative Party say that's

just not enough information, and that the association of Tamil Canadians with the membership fraud, without naming individuals, is detrimental to the political involvement of Tamils in Canada.

That's why they want the party to further its investigation into the matter to find the people responsible, and then make that information public.

"It's an insult to the entire community," Mr. Nallaratnam said. "A lot of people work hard to involve themselves in Canada's democratic process, and then there might be one or two kind of black sheep who're trying to do dirty games."

"The party needs to get deeper. They have two IP addresses. The party should definitely come out and say these are the individuals [responsible]."

'Home country' politics

Mike Coates, Kevin O'Leary's campaign manager, said in an interview last week that he "un-

derstands" the point of view of the Tamils who feel they have been caught up in the fray.

Mr. Coates said Ron Chatha, who was the person who alerted the O'Leary campaign to the membership troubles in the first place, ended up getting "calls from people in communities that he's in, thanking him for doing it because so many new Canadians just want to play a role in our democracy."

The problem, Mr. Coates said, is "you have a lot of old time, traditional Canadians who take advantage of the way politics was played back in their home country."

"They don't want to be used that way," he added.

Mr. Nallaratnam said that's exactly what happens: some political organizers within the community take advantage of the way politics is done in India, or Sri Lanka.

Mr. Nallaratnam pointed to one of the key Tamil organizers working for Mr. Bernier's campaign: Babu Nagalingam.

He said Mr. Nagalingam has a reputation for making promises he has no ability to keep.

"This is not Sri Lanka, this is not India, stop with your dirty games," he said.

Mr. Nagalingam responded by email to the allegation by saying "I can't not tell people to be involved. They need to be inspired."

Mr. Nallaratnam also criticized Mr. Nagalingam for working for the Liberal candidate Mr. Blair in the last federal election, and now aligning himself with the Conservative Party again. Mr. Nallaratnam was running against Mr. Blair.

Mr. Nagalingam said, "the community is motivated by actions not blind partisan allegiances."

Mr. Nagalingam said the Tamil community was mobilized not by promises he made, but by candidates who had shown their commitment to the community. He pointed to Mr. Blair and Patrick Brown, the Ontario PC leader who mobilized the Tamil community in 2015 to support him in his leadership bid, as having done just that. But in the federal leadership race, he said Tamil Canadians were not rallying behind any one candidate.

"Frankly, there is not a giant Tamil involvement in this federal leadership as there is no Bill Blair or Patrick Brown," Mr. Nagalingam said.

Mr. Nagalingam also said the 1,351 memberships the party found to be illegitimate could not have come from the Tamils supporting Mr. Bernier, because at that point, those memberships had not yet been submitted.

Party looks to Chief Electoral Officer for help with investigation

Conservative Party spokesperson Cory Hann said the Conservative Party has done what it can do internally, and has completed its review of "potential ineligible membership purchases." The 1,351 memberships it found to be disallowed were purchased anonymously through two IP addresses, and not purchased by the individual members themselves.

The money the party received as a result of these illegitimate memberships (a minimum of \$20,200 if all the memberships

were one-year memberships) was handed over to the Chief Electoral Officer, he said.

"We're not able to trace beyond the IP address, and so the party has reached out to the Office of the Commissioner of Canada Elections offering to provide any additional information that they may require or need," Mr. Hann wrote in an emailed response to questions.

iPolitics reported that Elections Canada confirmed its involvement in the investigation, though it did not offer further comment.

O'Leary camp wants rivals to release membership numbers to look for discrepancies

Since the initial allegations were released by Mr. O'Leary's campaign, the deadline for candidates to sign up new members—March 28—has come and gone. While some leadership candidates have publicly said how many members they signed up, the majority of the 14 candidates are keeping that information to themselves.

That prompted Mr. O'Leary's team to once again issue a statement, this time urging his fellow candidates to release the number of members they signed up as soon as possible.

The reason for this ask is to make sure there's no discrepancy between candidates' claims about memberships, and the official membership numbers that the Conservative Party will likely release at the end of April or beginning of May, says Mr. Coates.

"It's a good way to hold everyone to account," he said. "Transparency. There's nothing else like it. Tell the truth, put the number out there," he urged other candidates.

If there's a discrepancy in the numbers, then that will say a lot to Conservative members, he added.

Mr. Hann said "there's a lot of processing and reviewing that still has to happen" before the membership numbers can be released. This isn't out of the ordinary, though, as he pointed to 2004, when the final membership number was not released until about two weeks prior to the leadership vote.

Mr. O'Leary says he has signed up more than 35,000 memberships. Mr. Bernier has not said how many new members he had signed up during the course of his campaign. Other candidates, like Erin O'Toole, are keeping those numbers to themselves as well.

Michael Chong says he signed up 17,000 new members. Kellie Leitch lays claim to 30,000-plus new members, and Lisa Raitt says she has signed up more than 10,000 new members. The numbers cannot be verified, and some have said they should be taken with a grain of salt.

When Mr. Hann was asked whether or not the party would be reviewing memberships as they came in for fraud, he said "the party regularly reviews memberships to ensure they are within our rules."

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PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY BY
HILL TIMES PUBLISHING INC.
246 Queen Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5E4

PUBLISHERS Anne Marie Creskey,
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Editorial

Liberals’ new housing plan a good start

The Liberal government should be applauded for promising to tackle affordable housing in its latest budget, but only time will tell if it can deliver what’s been promised.

Budget 2017 announced a National Housing Strategy, including \$11.2-billion over 11 years to build and renovate affordable housing units. Nearly half of that will go into a National Housing Fund, to be administered by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and doled out to do everything from building new housing to keeping rents low and making existing units more energy efficient.

The National Housing Strategy also included \$300-million for housing in Canada’s North; \$225-million for housing for indigenous people living off-reserve; \$2.1-billion for preventing and reducing homelessness; about \$300-million for the CMHC and Statistics Canada to improve the way they keep data on housing; and \$202-million to make “surplus” federal land and buildings available to affordable housing providers.

Lobby groups including the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Canadian Housing and Renewal Association, and the NDP, have called for a National Housing Strategy for more than a decade. With overheated housing markets in some of Canada’s most densely-populated cities, the time is right.

About 235,000 people use homeless shelters every year in Canada, according to a report last year from advocacy group Raising the Roof.

“...Many families are forced to live in overcrowded, sub-standard housing and regularly make the choice between paying the rent and feeding the kids,” it said.

However, so-called “national strategies” can be hard to pin down for those looking for tangible results, and 11 years is an eternity in politics. There is a good chance that some of the ministers and staffers who drew up this plan won’t be in politics, let alone power, during the final years of the National Housing Strategy.

This Liberal government has shown no compunction with repurposing money allotted by its Conservative predecessor, or even its own previous budget. There are no guarantees that the National Housing Strategy will deliver all of the money, let alone results, promised over such a long period of time.

Journalists and housing advocates would do well to inform voters heading to the polls in 2019 what has been delivered and accomplished through the National Housing Strategy already by that time, instead of focusing on promises of bigger and better things with another Liberal mandate.

Still, the easiest path for the government would have been to point to the deficit and ignore calls for more affordable housing altogether. Those who live in sub-standard housing, or struggle to find a home at all, have been made to wait before.

Letters to the Editor

Health deduction increase unfair

After 30 years of a most fulfilling service with Canadian Heritage-Multiculturalism, I suddenly had a severe stroke in the workplace. I was diagnosed with terminal cancer, with six months to live. After a brain surgery to assist in an extension in life, I miraculously got a second chance, and a needed medical retirement from the department.

Over the past 20 years in retirement, I have paid a regular and a reasonable amount for my federal government public service medical insurance. Now, the fed-

eral government has modified the deductions to increase, on a 50/50 cost sharing basis beginning in 2018.

Is this the way to treat retirees, who gained a health benefit for having faithfully served the federal government and the public? I leave the Members of Parliament to compare it with their benefits, and to make their own judgments on this basic matter in retirement.

Roman Mukerjee
Ottawa, Ont.

Site C dam won’t harm Wood Buffalo

Re: “Is Wood Buffalo National Park’s world heritage status in jeopardy?” (*The Hill Times*, March 27, p. 11). During a three-year federal-provincial environmental assessment process, B.C. Hydro commissioned studies from leading scientific researchers to evaluate the potential downstream effects of Site C.

The studies concluded that Site C would have no measurable effect on the Peace-Athabasca Delta (PAD), which is located 1,100 km downstream of the project.

An independent joint review panel agreed and stated: “The panel concludes there would be no effects from the project on any aspect of the environment in the Peace Athabasca Delta, and a cumulative effects assessment

on the PAD is not required.”

We’re disappointed that the report on the UNESCO Reactive Monitoring Mission chose to disregard this evidence.

The joint review panel report on Site C detailed the potential adverse effects of the project—and this culminated in more than 150 legally-binding federal and provincial conditions of environmental approval—however, the panel was clear in its conclusion that Site C would not affect the Peace-Athabasca Delta.

Dave Conway
Community relations manager, Site C
B.C. Hydro
Prince George, B.C.

Experience shows need for ombudsperson with teeth

Re: “If human rights ombudsman is created, learn from experience” (*The Hill Times*, March 22, p. 17). There are numerous assertions in Pierre Gratton’s opinion piece on the need for a human rights ombudsperson for the extractive sector that deserve a critical response. I will focus on misleading claims made in just one paragraph. Mr. Gratton questions the need for an ombudsperson given the existence of a CSR counsellor for the extractive sector. While it may have new marching orders from the government, the CSR counsellor does not have a “new mandate,” as Mr. Gratton claims, but rather the same order-in-council mandate that informed the former failed CSR counsellor, who was unable to resolve nearly all of the cases brought before her, and had no powers to independently investigate complaints or recommend remedy for harm done.

Mr. Gratton further asserts that the push for an effective ombudsperson rests on only four cases, three of which are currently before Canadian courts. This is willful ignorance. Mr. Gratton should at least familiarize himself with a recent report by one of the law professors whose opinion piece in *The Hill Times* sparked Mr. Gratton’s response. Professor Shin Imai’s report on violence, including deaths and rapes, associated with mines owned by 28 Canadian mining companies in 14 Latin

American countries, while only a sample of such cases globally, is ample evidence of the need for an effective ombudsperson. In fact, Mr. Gratton might consider that, were such an ombudsperson in place, there may be less need to bring cases before Canadian courts.

Finally, Mr. Gratton mentions that Barrick Gold is “working with” victims of its operations to provide remedy. Mr. Gratton refers to women who were raped by mine security guards at Barrick’s Porgera joint venture mine in Papua New Guinea, a perfect case in point. If we had had an effective ombudsperson in place, perhaps Barrick would not have been able to deny the rapes for years before being forced to take action. And if we had an effective ombudsperson in place now, perhaps the 119 indigenous rape victims from Porgera, who believe they received inequitable remedy from Barrick in return for signing that they wouldn’t sue the company, would have a place to file a complaint in Canada, rather than having to bring their complaint to a UN body, as they have recently done.

Yes, we need to learn from experience, and experience speaks loudly in favour of a strong independent ombudsperson for the extractive sector.

Catherine Coumans
Mining Watch Canada
Ottawa, Ont.



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DELIVERY INQUIRIES

circulation@hilltimes.com
613-288-1146



Published every Monday and Wednesday by Hill Times Publishing Inc.

246 Queen Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5E4
(613) 232-5952
Fax (613) 232-9055
Canadian Publications Mail Agreement No. 40068926
www.hilltimes.com

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Comment

Mosul getting bloodier as Daesh mission extended

With atrocities mounting, Canada will have to decide what its soldiers are fighting for.



Scott Taylor

Inside Defence

OTTAWA—Last Friday, Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan made the long-anticipated announcement that Canadian troops are extending their mission to battle Daesh evildoers (aka ISIS or ISIL). The official news release was a very craftily-worded document that attempts to weave through the complexity of the current conflict: “Canada remains committed to defeating Daesh and responding to the needs of the people who have been displaced or devastated by war in Iraq, Syria and the region,” reads the opening sentence. In this case the word *region* is used in lieu of the name Kurdistan, which is where Canadian combat troops and our military field hospital are currently located. But no one can officially admit this because Canada’s current foreign policy supports a unified Iraq once the Daesh evildoers have been defeated. This is of course not the intention of the Kurdish fighters that our soldiers are currently “advising and assisting” in the bloody battle to recapture the city of Mosul from Daesh.

Those Kurds proudly fly the flag of Kurdistan above their vehicles and outposts, and their leaders have openly stated they will not return to Iraq or submit to the authorities of the regime in Baghdad. Senior Canadian officers took the bizarre decision to have our special forces trainers wear the flag of Kurdistan on their uniforms despite the fact it is the symbol of an unrecognized, breakaway state. Not to mention the fact that this symbol on our soldiers’ sleeves runs completely counter to our stated objective. Again, the official announcement was extremely careful not to mention what our soldiers’ extended mission is hoping to achieve. Instead, it simply repeats what our contingent is fighting against—and that is, of course, Daesh evildoers. The battle is now centred on Mosul, one of two remaining Daesh strongholds in Iraq. By all accounts, Daesh is putting up one hell of a fight. The offensive to liberate Mosul began last October and in five and a half months of combat, the U.S.-led allied coalition has only recaptured two thirds of the city. The cost in casualties has also been high for the allies, with an estimated 5,000 allied Iraqi soldiers killed or wounded to date. The progress made thus far is in large part due to the fact that the allies can call upon a vast air armada led by the U.S. — and to which Canada contributes air-to-air refuelling and reconnaissance aircraft. The loose coalition of Iraqi ground troops, including the Canadian-trained Kurds, is also estimated to outnumber the die-hard fanatical Daesh by 10 or 15 to one. To put Daesh resistance into context, it should be recalled that when the U.S. invaded Iraq in 2003, they routed Saddam’s 300,000-strong army and captured the entire country in less than six weeks. During that one-sided campaign, the original U.S.-led four-country coalition killed an estimated 30,000 Iraqi soldiers for the loss



Two CH-146 Griffon helicopters take off from the flight line near Camp Érablé, Iraq during Operation IMPACT on February 20, 2017. Photograph courtesy of the Department of National Defence

of only 172 allied dead. As the current Iraqi coalition force fights its way into the narrow congested streets of western Mosul, the U.S.-led airstrikes have only intensified. It is estimated that more than 2,000 allied bombs were dropped on Mosul in the month of March alone. Given the densely populated and steadily decreasing territory held by Daesh, these air attacks have been taking an alarmingly increased toll on innocent civilians. One incident on March 17, initially denied but subsequently admitted to by the U.S. Air Force, resulted in the death of more than 130 Iraqi civilians in a single errant airstrike.

In addition to the mounting loss of civilian life, there have also been reports of atrocities committed by Iraqi coalition troops against suspected Daesh sympathizers. So while our government announced a 90-day extension to the current deployment, the situation on the ground only continues to get murkier and bloodier. Pretty soon Canada is going to need to determine what our soldiers are fighting for—not just what they are fighting against. And that isn’t going to be easy. Scott Taylor is editor and publisher of Esprit de Corps magazine. The Hill Times

‘Couch jihadis’ aren’t always terrorists in waiting

The fact that employees at a Montreal airport had their security clearances revoked shows that the security system was working.



Phil Gurski

Security

Some potentially disturbing news on the terrorism front came out the other day in Canada. According to reports, employees at Pierre Elliot Trudeau airport in Montreal (it used to be called Dorval) had their security

clearances revoked over concerns that they had become “radicalized”. The men had access to restricted areas, one had talked about emulating the 2015 Paris attacks, and yet another posted pro-Islamic State material on Facebook. All in all, a scary event. Still, this story is both less serious and more serious than it might have appeared at first. Whatever the real threat posed here, as I shall try to outline, it did not warrant the shrill Cassandra-like statements made by some politicians and pseudo experts. It is my experience that the words of politicians and senior officials, especially on national security issues, are sometimes ill-considered and unhelpful, spreading fear rather than confidence. On the plus side, there is no evidence, at least not in the public domain, that any of these men were engaged in planning an attack at the airport. They certainly appear to have been radicalized, and that is serious, but people often make the inaccurate leap in assuming that radicalization inevitably leads to violence. Nothing could be further from the truth. In my experience the vast majority of people who hew to violent ideologies never act on their ideas. We used to call them “couch jihadis” at CSIS. Talk, after all, is cheap. I do think that these people have to

be investigated, but we cannot make the mistake of labelling everyone with an extremist idea a dangerous terrorist. More worrying are the potential holes in the security screening process that may have been exposed in this incident. Although this particular case may not have been an example of problems with the system, it is still worth explaining how the whole thing works. CSIS is responsible for recommending whether or not an individual needs a certain level of security clearance to access certain information or certain sensitive sites (of which the inner workings of an airport most assuredly qualify). What most people probably do not realize is that CSIS advises on security clearances, it does not grant them. Those agencies asking for a clearance for an employee or applicant usually accept CSIS’s advice, but they can move on without doing so (at least that is how I understand the process: I never actually worked in security screening). Secondly, some whose applications have been denied can appeal (and have appealed), seeking to know why. This places the government in a hard place, as the information used to determine eligibility is usually secret. Lawsuits have been started and it would not be ridiculous

to think that the government could cave to prevent long, drawn out and expensive legal proceedings, not to mention the exposure of classified intelligence. Thirdly, a security clearance cannot be a static process. Those with access to sensitive material must be examined regularly to determine if any changes have occurred that may affect one’s right to a clearance. All this requires time and money. A security review is exactly what appears to have happened at Pierre Elliot Trudeau, meaning that the system is working as it should. We cannot take airport security lightly. A Russian airliner leaving Egypt that was brought down in October 2015, killing all 224 aboard, may have been subject to a bomb placed in the hold by an airport worker. The threat is thus not merely theoretical. Airport employees must be subject to stringent security reviews, and those who fail must have their access removed. At the same time, however, let’s not overreact to an incident that may not have been as serious as it was made out to be by some. We have enough real plots without inventing others. Phil Gurski worked for more than 30 years in intelligence and is the author of Western Foreign Fighters.

Comment

Byelections, filibusters, and other godsend in boring April



The government's pledge to legalize marijuana, and the continued police enforcement of anti-pot laws in the mean-time, remain controversial issues for some Canadians. *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright

Marijuana legalization and the Conservative leadership candidates give us something to speculate about.



Tim Powers
Plain Speak

OTTAWA—Canadian politics is pretty damn boring right now. Call that an uncomfortable truth for a column writer as I sit here trying to pick a riveting subject to engage you, the reader.

How about something on those recent byelections? No. Can you spell lame? I always love those byelection stories and how the contests themselves represent some greater meaning. Yah! Whatever! If the key element of the coverage is a particular opposition party's share of votes grew, that is bound to bait clicks. Not.

Byelections as mini-referendums on the government are another favourite tale. Usually of the tall tale variety! Byelections may be about more local issues and personalities, though it was interesting to see Prime Minister Justin Trudeau campaign in Alberta, where Jason Kenney and Stephen Harper's old seats were up for grabs. PMs usually stay away from byelection campaigning to avoid the story being about the mini-referendum gone wrong. Perhaps that is the most exciting thing that happened in the lead up to the most recent contests.

Other than ardent political watchers and people who are paid to care most, Canadians forget about the byelection and the outcome as soon as it is done. But, damn, it makes good copy in quiet April. The media industry is in decline, so someone needs to write about it to keep collecting a cheque.

Another not-so-exciting topic is the big dust up in the House of Commons over the Liberals' attempt to change parliamentary procedure around sitting days, Question Period, and god knows what else. Much filibustering happening this week as the opposition tries to stop the Liberals from limiting their fun. Filibust? It is no filet mignon. But it is what passes for "where's the beef?" in Parliament.

Being open and transparent only works, I guess, if it is on your terms. That, at least, is what the Conservatives and New Democrats are suggesting of the government Liberals. A ratings driver it is not, but who knows, it might allow the Tories and Dippers to raise a few bucks off their supporters who get appalled by just seeing Justin Trudeau's name in print.

What is that you say? Another opinion piece on the Tory leadership race? Kevin O'Leary, Maxime Bernier, Brad Trost, and Kellie Leitch do just say the darndest things. Too bad Art Linkletter is not with us anymore; he could moderate the best debate adhering to that wonderful kids' show theme. Though expecting Mr. O'Leary to attend might be a bit much, as he probably has a Shopping Channel gig south of the border.

As the excitement mounts as we get closer to the voting period, rumours swirl that the Liberal government may legalize marijuana sooner than 2018 to keep the nation chill. Here is a bold prediction—and I haven't even had a draw yet—the winner of this race is not likely to be leader of the Conservatives in four years time. Unless the winner is Erin O'Toole or Andrew Scheer, nobody else will likely be given a second chance should they fail in defeating Justin Trudeau.

Now the one story that is interesting is the one on the apparent forth-coming marijuana legislation and supposed national legalization of weed by July 1, 2018. Next year, Canada Day will be brought to you by Doritos. Once we move beyond government spin and agenda setting, it will be vital to see the federal government's proposed plan to make this happen. Having been in Atlantic Canada last week, it seems many governments are themselves trying to come to grips with how everything—from, distribution, to abolition for some members of the public—will work. The euphoria of it happening could be overtaken by the reality of making it work. But that can't be written about now because, lo and behold, we have nothing to spark up.

Yup, the best I can do this week are limp weed jokes. God isn't it great to live in Canada?

Tim Powers is vice-chairman of Summa Strategies and managing director of Abacus Data. He is a former adviser to Conservative political leaders.

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HEALTH Diplomats

Trudeau leads Liberal apathy towards House

The Liberal wish list for Commons reform appears intended to make it more convenient for the government.



Chantal Hébert

Inside Politics

Justin Trudeau does not much like the House of Commons and the feeling is mutual.

This is not a statement on the people who sit alongside or across from the prime minister, or the latter's feelings toward them.

A majority of MPs owe their seats to Trudeau's campaign skills

and they are grateful to him for that. Most opposition members do not wake up at night to hate the current prime minister. On both sides of the Commons, some save their most negative feelings for colleagues of their own party.

No, this is really about the venue itself—a stage for which Trudeau's affection seems inversely proportional to his love of rallies, parades of all kinds, and even the most contrarian of town halls.

In opposition as in government, Trudeau has never quite managed to command the attention of the House in the way that he often does in an unscripted format. It may be that he never bothered to try.

Even in his early days as opposition leader, he did not have a lot of time for the mini-dramas that tend to grip the attention of Parliament Hill insiders.

While Thomas Mulcair systematically dominated Question Period, and earned kudos for his performance, Trudeau was content to achieve the required minimum to stay on the radar.

Today, it is Mulcair who is on the way out and Trudeau who is half way into a majority man-

date. His House performance in his new role as prime minister has been consistent with his daily performances as opposition leader.

What agitates the Commons is often unrelated to what drives the mood of the country. That's a disconnect that political leaders (and those who are paid to report on them) lose sight of at their own peril. But Trudeau is at risk of going to the other extreme.

Possibly because he earned poor marks for his spotty attendance in the House over his first year in office, the prime minister has been more assiduous in question period since the new year. He is often there in body only.

Trudeau rarely engages with the opposition in a meaningful way. For the most part he speaks past his critics' arguments. The attentive hearing he affords those who challenge him in town halls does not extend to opposition Parliamentarians. When not on his feet, Trudeau can be the picture of adolescent boredom.

Trudeau leads by example. His attitude has filtered down the Liberal benches. They are filled with rookies who won seats for the first time in 2015. One of them—

Bardish Chagger—serves as the government's house leader. She has perfected the art of delivering unhelpful answers with a smile.

Another is Finance Minister Bill Morneau. If cardboard cut-outs could speak, he might have one take his place in question period. On budget day he told me he feels that what happens in the Commons is, for the most part, destined to never make it out of the bubble. Like his leader, he does not see the point of putting a lot of energy in his parliamentary game.

All of which brings one to the wide-ranging House reforms the Liberals have recently brought forward under the guise of what they call a discussion paper.

For the four opposition parties the proposals add up to a heavy-handed bid to erode their already limited capacity to hold a majority government to account.

There is a bit of verbal inflation at play here. Some of the government proposals used to be championed by Conservative MP Michael Chong as part of a bid to breathe more life in Canada's parliamentary democracy.

But overall, the spirit that seems to have presided over the drafting of the Liberal wish list is a desire to make the House function in a more convenient manner for the government.

In opposition, Trudeau would have fought many of the proposals tooth and nail.

The Liberals already enjoy the powers of a majority on the basis



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has not been at his best in the House of Commons, and his attitude has filtered down the Liberal benches, writes Chantal Hébert. *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright

of a minority of the votes cast in the last election. It does not help that they apparently feel no obligation to seek, if not unanimity, at least a multi-party consensus before changing the way the House operates.

Only a governing party that is tone-deaf to the mood of the House would have initiated such a sensitive discussion in this way so soon after having led the opposition down the garden path on electoral reform. In this instance, the tone-deafness is deliberate.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer for *The Toronto Star*. This column was released on April 1.

The Hill Times

Budget shows signs of life for international development

We still have a ways to go to meet the goals of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.



Darren Schemmer

Budget 2017

While waiting for the federal government's new international assistance policy, we can see some clues about it in the recent federal budget.

Canadians interested in reducing global poverty were disappointed most by the numbers. There was no increase for international assistance, nor was a plan announced for future increases. Canada's official

development assistance as a percentage of the wealth we produce is just over a quarter of one per cent, a near record low and half of its record highs in the 1970s and 1980s.

The lack of new funds may be understandable given the context. The federal government has an unexpectedly high deficit to contain. It also has not yet settled on a number of new policies. In addition to a new international assistance policy, related policies such as defence and innovation are pending. It could be considered prudent not to commit more funds amid such uncertainty.

The budget refers to "international assistance" rather than "official development assistance." Some worry that this leaves the assistance budget open to purposes other than the "central focus on poverty reduction" in the Official Development Assistance Accountability Act of 2008. However, the budget states that the new international assistance policy "will outline how Canada can best refocus its international assistance on the poorest and most vulnerable."

More positively, it's clear that our federal government knows that international assistance is only one way to reduce poverty. The commitments to promote

free trade, to accept refugees, to join the international Arms Trade Treaty, to ease restrictions on apparel imports from least-developed countries and to deploy up to 600 military personnel to a United Nations peace operation all demonstrate that the stated "whole-of-government approach ... upholding Canadian values" is action as well as words.

As well, the budget repeatedly connects global stability and prosperity to Canadian stability and prosperity. International assistance is not a gift; it is in our self-interest as well. The new international assistance policy may emphasize interdependence further, as the budget states it will "help realize tangible progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." The goals of the 2030 Agenda apply to all countries, including Canada. Goal 10, for example, calls on us all to "reduce inequality within and among countries." Goal 13 calls on us all to "take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts."

Thematically, the budget is explicit that "International assistance (will be) focused on women and girls to strengthen their empowerment and protect their rights." This is backed up by recent spending announcements of \$20-million to five international

organizations who lost their official American funding and a \$650-million envelope to address gaps in sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Geographically, fragile states and regions continue to draw attention. There is a \$1.6-billion whole-of-government commitment (i.e., more than aid) to Iraq, Syria and affected neighbours. A new Canadian military deployment to a UN peace operation is widely expected to be in a francophone country in Africa. The budget also specifically mentions Ukraine and Haiti.

Canada will be joining the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank by depositing \$256-million over five years, will amend legislation to "facilitate Canada's ongoing effective membership" in the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, and contribute \$804-million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Some evidence shows that multilateral institutions are less influenced by short-term political considerations, so their programs lead to more effective poverty reduction than national programs do. However, multilateral institutions consume additional administration costs as they supervise other organizations that do the actual fieldwork. They also carry

no flag, so many people do not recognize that they are funded by taxpayers of supporting countries like Canada.

If a greater share of the existing budget is channelled through multilateral institutions, fewer funds will be available for bilateral programs designed by the Canadian government. At a time when Canada is seeking a seat on the UN Security Council and when many countries are specifically seeking Canadian models and advice, it will be important for our government to leave sufficient budget room to respond directly to requests for assistance.

In a restricted budget context, it is also important to mobilize Canadian civil society if we really want to demonstrate that "Canada is back." Without a new international assistance policy, the budget may not be very inspiring on its own. More than 10,000 Canadians participated in consultations. Millions more Canadians voluntarily donate to international development. There is pent-up interest across the country to know how our federal government will support the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Hopefully, we won't wait much longer for the full picture.

Darren Schemmer recently returned to Vancouver after a 25-year career in the federal public service working on international development and foreign affairs, including as a senior executive and high commissioner. He now works as a management consultant and he is a fellow with the Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

The Hill Times

Advantage: Xi Jinping

on tweets and alternative facts, but on the preponderance of empirical evidence from which we can possibly glean the true significance of what's unfolding behind the daily circus.

In the current public state of the relationship between the United States and China, we have, on the one hand, a belligerent president of the United States who seems inclined to be "tough on China" over its \$350-billion trade surplus with America, its dumping of cheap steel and its reluctance, so far, to neutralize belligerence and possible nuclear threat from North Korean dictator (or, as John McCain put it recently, "Crazy fat kid") Kim Jong-Un.

On the other hand, we have—what with all the overwhelming anecdotal evidence that the 2016 presidential election may have really been one long, real-life Austin Powers acid hallucination of stunningly overt spy craft, and the fact that this administration seems to view the basic requirements of democratic governance, including the truth, as optional—the lingering suspicion that something is not quite right.

In the case of current U.S. relations with China, the suspicion stems from the fact that, despite Trump's rhetoric on China, he has executed a number of measures that seem to be manifestations of

his protectionist, climate-change-is-a-Chinese-hoax, America-first-ism but which actually hugely benefit China both economically and geopolitically. This theory was most recently presented in a column by *The New York Times*' Tom Friedman last week, subtly titled, "Trump is a Chinese agent," which may or may not have been an example of Swiftian irony, given the kicker. "The only other explanation is that he's ignorant and unread...without any thought to grand strategy," Friedman concludes, "Surely that couldn't be true?"

Measures taken by Trump amid much nationalistic swagger and aggressive tweeting that actually benefit America's geopolitical rivals include: the effective torpedoing of the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal, a move that forfeits U.S. economic influence in Asia; a rollback of U.S. leadership on climate change so flagrant it actually included the use of coal miners as human props; and the extermination of American soft power through the political marginalization and proposed financial embolization of the State Department.

Meanwhile, America's traditional role as the indispensable nation that could exercise moral suasion on questions of rights and democracy with the economic and military leverage to back it up has been compromised by a

post-truth messenger presiding over a cavalcade of daily inanities in a world where power has been redefined by borderless cyber-operations and interests, apparently, are murky.

Will human rights — including the surveillance-enabled harassment and jailing of journalists, lawyers and activists, the surveillance-enabled harassment of Tibetan community leaders and cultural figures, the crackdown on NGOs, for starters — be raised at Mar-a-Lago? Probably not by a leader who values stability, order, and control over liberty, and sees democracy as an existential threat. And probably not by one who defines journalists as enemies of the people.

At the World Economic Forum in Davos in January, President Xi reportedly stole the show with a

keynote that presented China as the free-trading, climate change-innovating, globalist among major powers and himself as the open, sophisticated grown-up at the table. "As the Chinese saying goes," he said, "people with petty shrewdness attend to trivial matters, while people with vision attend to governance of institutions."

It's a reassuring, if incomplete, narrative. And it wouldn't have seemed plausible at any other moment in recent U.S. history.

Lisa Van Dusen, associate editor of Policy Magazine, was a Washington columnist for The Ottawa Citizen, Washington bureau chief for Sun Media, and international news writer for Peter Jennings at ABC World News Tonight, as well as an editor at AP in New York and UPI in Washington.

The Hill Times

MONTREAL—The president of the United States will be meeting with the president of China Thursday and Friday at Mar-a-Lago, the new weekend White House.

That's the face-value lead about Donald Trump and Xi Jinping meeting face-to-face for the first time since Mr. Trump's previously imponderable ascension to the most powerful office in the world. But, as with so much of what Donald Trump does, there's the administration narrative and there are the subtitles based not

U.K.'s existence at risk as runaway Brexit train gathers speed

Nine months after the country voted in a closely-contested referendum to go its own way following nearly half a century as part of the European bloc, British Prime Minister Theresa May on March 29 delivered a letter to Brussels kick-starting divorce proceedings.

The rules provide for a two-year negotiating process, but it is now clear the talks are unlikely to be finished within that time frame. And working out a new relationship between Britain and the EU, if things get that far, could prolong for a decade the deep uncertainties here over the economy, trade, citizens' freedom of movement, social benefits, security, and foreign ties.

Speaking in Parliament, a grim and exhausted-looking May sought to put the best face on her country's leap into the unknown. Brexit will be an opportunity to build a "stronger, fairer Britain," she said, adding repeatedly that post-Brexit it is her aim to establish a "deep and special" relationship with the EU.

That has to be seen as desperately wishful thinking in as much as Britons and Europeans are badly split on the most basic issues on which discussions of any future ties will hinge.

Brexit is above all about immigration, in particular, the desire in Britain to end the right under EU

rules for eastern Europeans within the bloc to move to, and work, in the U.K. But freedom of movement within the EU is a fundamental principle. So as long as May sticks to the current plan to clamp down on immigration to Britain, there is no reason to think Brussels negotiators will agree to accommodate the British in key areas such as tariff-free trade access to the EU's 500-million-strong market.

Thanks in part to Mark Carney, who as head of the Bank of England paved the way for lower interest rates in the wake of the referendum, the predicted immediate economic slump did not happen.

But the outlook for the medium- and long-term is completely up in the air. Many economists say exiting the EU will be a lasting blow to the economy, undermining goods producing industries and wiping out opportunities for British professionals in finance, education and other services.

Fear of what all this will eventually mean to Britons' job prospects, national wealth, worker rights, and standard of living are widespread.

On the political side, leaving the European bloc is straining ties that have held England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland together.

Scottish leader Nicola Sturgeon has set in motion a constitu-

tional standoff with May by moving to hold another referendum on Scotland's separation from the U.K. The aim of nationalists would be to keep their country in the EU after independence.

But May, who must approve Sturgeon's request before Scots could hold such a vote, has been saying it's inappropriate to begin talks about another referendum while Brexit negotiations are underway.

Scotland voted overwhelmingly against Brexit, which Sturgeon derides as a "reckless gamble" with the potential to damage the Scottish economy. A referendum is unlikely before 2019 at the earliest, but some believe any continued intransigence on May's part will only stoke support for Scottish independence. In the 2014 vote, 44.7 per cent voted for Scotland to leave the U.K. while 55.3 per cent opted to stay in.

The looming departure from the EU has also contributed to political turmoil in Northern Ireland, raising urgent questions about the viability of the hard-won, fragile peace process that ended decades of sectarian violence there.

A majority of voters in Northern Ireland rejected Brexit, and concerns about leaving the EU have fuelled support for Sinn Fein, the major Catholic national-

ist party favouring unification with Ireland.

Sinn Fein is calling for a referendum on separation from the U.K., and its power-sharing arrangement in the Northern Ireland legislature with Protestant politicians with ties to pro-Brexit British Conservatives has broken down.

Prime Minister May, who once opposed Brexit, says her aim is to ensure that all residents of her country will be better off when the whole episode is finished. But the challenges of unwinding 44 years of integration with Europe cannot be overstated. And, taking everything into account, it seems highly likely that Brexit will take the U.K. with it, along with May's political career.

Les Whittington is an Ottawa journalist and a regular contributor to The Hill Times.

The Hill Times

OTTAWA—Forget about the potential impact of Brexit on Britain's economy. The bigger question is whether the United Kingdom can manage to survive the coming upheaval at all.

British media are in a frenzy over everything to do with the decision—set in stone last week—to break with the other 27 European Union member states.

Trump talks big, but coal is dead

It just doesn't make economic sense to mine it and use it as an energy source anymore—government intervention or not. Coal is dying as a major energy source in the U.S.

no matter what Trump does, and even he cannot make it economically attractive to build new ones. (Only nine per cent of American coal-fired plants were built in the past quarter-century.)

Coal is by far the most polluting of the fossil fuels, producing twice as much carbon dioxide as gas does for the same amount of energy, but that alone wasn't enough to turn the energy industry against it. It's the cost per kilowatt-hour of electricity that matters, and coal has simply been overtaken by cheaper forms of energy.

Even in India, the most heavily coal-dependent of the big economies and a country with vast amounts of coal, solar

energy prices are now on par with coal. Sheer inertia means that India will go on expanding coal-fired generation for a few more years, but its National Electricity Plan projects no further increase in coal-based capacity after 2022. King Coal truly is dead.

You don't need good intentions to do the right thing for climate safety any more, just common sense. From fuel efficiency in automobiles to replacing coal-fired plants with natural gas or solar arrays, saving money goes hand-in-hand with cutting emissions. The economy is not your enemy; it's your ally. So Trump won't do nearly as much harm as people feared.

President Obama promised last year to cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by about 26 per cent from the 2005 level by 2025. About half of that 26 percent cut would have come in Trump's first and maybe only term (2017-20), so say 13 per

cent. The U.S. accounts for 16 per cent of global emissions, so do the math: 13 per cent of 16 per cent equals about two per cent of global emissions.

That's what would be at stake over the next four years if Trump's presidency stopped all the anticipated reductions in greenhouse emissions that Obama based his promise on—but it won't. A lot of those emission cuts are going to happen anyway, because they just make economic sense. At a guess, around half of them.

So how much damage can Trump do to the global fight against climate change over the next four years? He can keep global emissions about one per cent higher than they would have been if the United States had kept its promise to the Paris conference. And that's all.

Gwynne Dyer is a United Kingdom-based independent journalist.

The Hill Times

LONDON, U.K.—“My administration is putting an end to the war on coal,” said Donald Trump, surrounded by the usual gaggle of officials and (in this case) coal miners, as he put his super-size signature on the Energy Independence Executive Order. But coal is dying as a major energy source in the United States for reasons far beyond the reach of executive orders.

“The miners are coming back,” Trump boasted at a rally in Kentucky last week. But no less an authority than Robert Murray, founder and CEO of Murray Energy, the biggest United States coal company, promptly rained on his parade. “I suggested that [Trump] temper his expectations,” he said. “He can't bring them back.”

Trump's executive order is not just about coal, of course. It's a frontal assault on all the Obama-era regulations that aimed at curbing climate change. But while it will slow the decline in U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, it will not have a major impact on global emissions.

That is partly because the U.S. accounts for only 16 per cent of global emissions. Compared to China's 29 per cent, it doesn't matter all that much, and China remains committed to big cuts.

In January, China scrapped plans for 104 new coal-fired power plants, and it intends to invest \$361-billion (equal to around half the U.S. defence budget) in renewable energy between now and 2020. The Chinese government is spending that kind of money because it is rightly terrified about what global warming will do to China's economy and, above all, to its food supply.

Like the Indians, the Europeans, and pretty much everybody else, the Chinese remain committed to the climate goals agreed at Paris in December 2015 even though the United States has defected. Their own futures depend on meeting those goals, and they know that the American defection does not destroy all hope of success. Globally speaking, it's not that big a deal.

It would seem like a much bigger deal, however, if they were not confident that American greenhouse gas emissions will continue to decline under Trump, though not as fast as they would under a less ignorant and less compromised administration. Coal provides an excellent example of why.

In 2009, when Barack Obama entered the White House, coal provided 52 per cent of U.S. electricity. In only eight years, it has fallen to 33 per cent, and the decline has little to do with Obama's Clean Power Plan. First, cheap gas from fracking undercut the coal price, and then even solar power got cheaper than coal—so 411 coal-fired plants closed down, and more than 50 coal-mining companies went bankrupt.

Half the 765 remaining big coal-fired plants in the United States were built before 1972. Since the average age when American coal-fired plants are scrapped is 58 years, half of them will soon be gone

Opinion

Budget 2017 a win for low-energy, affordable housing

Demonstrating the political will to spend on energy efficiency, and not just regulate, sends a message to the marketplace.



Ian Cullis, Karen Tam Wu

Budget 2017

With the new federal budget, Canada’s government is sending a strong signal that it intends to follow through on its commitment to curb carbon pollution from our homes and buildings. Investments in energy efficiency are peppered throughout the 2017 budget, supporting the transition to a low-carbon building sector as outlined in the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change.

Although the dollars won’t flow until next year, the commitments are significant. Funds are earmarked for the delivery of energy efficiency programs (\$67.5-million over five years), increasing the use of wood in mid-rise buildings (\$39.8-million), new building codes to guide construction of new net-zero energy ready buildings, and energy efficiency upgrades for existing buildings (\$182-million over 11 years), and Natural Resources Canada’s work on reducing carbon pollution from government buildings and vehicles (\$13.5-million over five years). These investments are in addition to any financing for low-carbon building projects that may come from the Canada Infrastructure Bank (\$5-billion over 11 years), or the \$2-billion Low Carbon Economy Fund to be disbursed to the provinces and territories over the next five years.

By focusing on social housing, the budget also signals a resolve to ensure energy efficiency will benefit all Canadians. The government promised \$11-billion over 11 years for affordable housing. Of this, \$5-billion will go to the new National Housing Fund. Administered by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the fund will provide low-cost loans for renovating existing housing units and constructing new affordable housing. Investing in social housing will spark innovation and accelerate the uptake of low-carbon buildings.

The budget emphasized energy efficiency as a specific goal for existing housing. This is key for low-income Canadians. People living in social housing stand to benefit the most from more affordable utility bills, but may not



Housing utility bills can represent a major portion of the income of low-earners, a cost that energy-efficiency renovations can help to lower. *The Hill Times* photograph by Kristen Shane

possess the means to make their homes more energy efficient. At least one million Canadians spend more than 10 per cent of their income on utility bills. For comparison, the average Canadian spends two per cent.

The National Housing Fund should help address this imbalance. Loans will support renovations to improve energy efficiency. According to the Pembina Institute’s research, energy efficiency upgrades could lower utility costs by up to half. Such renovations also rectify discomfort and health issues associated with cold air drafts, moisture, and mould.

Construction of new affordable housing and helping “improve the quality and condition of affordable housing” are goals of the fund. This represents an opportunity to build new housing to net-zero energy ready standards, to which the federal government is steering all new construction by 2030. Net-zero energy ready homes use so little energy that they could generate the equivalent of their annual energy consumption with renewable sources, such as solar panels. Such low-carbon homes are more comfortable and durable, healthier, and more affordable to heat and maintain.

Energy efficiency renovations and low-carbon building standards aren’t necessarily cutting-edge, but they still aren’t the norm. Opportunities to test and refine energy-saving solutions provide a working lab, classroom, and marketplace in which trades, professionals, suppliers, and manufacturers can hone their skills, knowledge, and products. This is how solutions that can be applied across the country are identified.

Demonstrating political will and commitment to invest in innovation, not just regulation, sends an important message to the marketplace: this is the future

of the building sector. This message, coupled with the promise of a growing market for low-carbon buildings, drives early adoption, because industry has the certainty needed to attract private investment.

This year’s budget recognizes that the low-carbon building sector is an important part of

Canada’s growing clean economy. Indeed, every \$1-million invested in energy efficiency creates 13 jobs, and \$3-million to \$4-million in economic growth. By improving health and well-being, lowering utility bills, and boosting local jobs and innovation, a more energy efficient building sector promises to benefit all Canadians.

Karen Tam Wu is the director of the Buildings and Urban Solutions Program at the Pembina Institute, a non-profit think-tank that advocates for strong, effective policies to support Canada’s clean energy transition.

Ian Cullis is the director of asset management at the B.C. Non-Profit Housing Association.

Week Ahead in Committees

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

- The **Senate Human Rights Committee** will meet at 11:30 a.m. at Room 9, Victoria Building, to continue its study on the issues relating to the human rights of prisoners in the correctional system. It will hear from officials from the Parole Board of Canada and the St. Leonard’s Society of Canada. It will be televised.
- The **Special Senate Modernization Committee** will meet at 12 p.m. at Room 257, East Block, to consider methods to make the Senate more effective within the current constitutional framework. It will hear from Lord Norton of Louth and Lord Wakeham DL, who both sit in the British House of Lords, and Meg Russell, director of the constitution unit in the department of political science at University College London. It will be televised.
- The **Senate Subcommittee on Diversity** will meet at 2:30 p.m. at Room 172-E, Centre Block, to examine the findings contained in the fifth report of the Senate Administration’s Advisory Committee on Diversity and Accessibility and issues of diversity in the Senate workforce. It will hear from several members of the Senate administration staff. There will be an audio broadcast.
- The **House Citizenship and Immigration Committee** will meet at 3:30 p.m. at Room 415, Wellington Building, to continue its study on immigration consultants. It will hear from Jacobus Kriek of consultancy firm Matrixvisa and from attorney David Nurse, as well as individuals Wensi Zhang and Qiufang Mo.
- The **House Public Accounts Committee** will meet at 3:30 p.m. at Room 253-D, Centre Block, to consider the main estimates 2017-18: Vote 1 under Office of the Auditor General, the report on plans and priorities 2017-18 of the Office of the Auditor General, and the 2015-16 performance report of the Office of the Auditor General. It will hear from Auditor General Michael Ferguson and several officials from his office. The meeting will be televised.
- The **Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee** will meet at 4:15 p.m. at Room 257, East Block, to study Bill C-37, An Act to amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and other

Acts. It will hear from officials from the Province of British Columbia and the City of Vancouver, as well as experts and advocates from the Canadian Nurses Associations, Recovery Ottawa, Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, and the British Columbia Centre on Substance Use. It will be televised.

- The **Senate Social Affairs, Science and Technology Committee** will meet at 4:15 p.m. at Room 2, Victoria Building, to study Bill S-5, An Act to amend the Tobacco Act, Non-smokers Health Act, and consequential amendments to others. It will hear from representatives from the Tobacco Harm Reduction Association of Canada, Non-Smokers’ Rights Association, the Canadian Convenience Stores Association, and National Coalition Against Contraband Tobacco. It will be televised.
- The **Senate Banking, Trade, and Commerce Committee** will meet at 4:15 p.m. at Room 9, Victoria Building, to study the development of a national corridor in Canada to facilitate commerce and internal trade. It will hear from Chris Bloomer, president and CEO of the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association, and former Conservative cabinet minister David Emerson, who conducted the government-initiated study of the Canada Transport Act.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

- The **Senate Fisheries and Oceans Committee** will meet at 8:30 a.m. at Room 9, Victoria Building, to continue its study of Bill S-203, An Act to amend the Criminal Code and other Acts (ending captivity of whales and dolphins). It will hear from two professor specializing in marine mammals and a researcher from the Vancouver Aquarium. It will be televised.
- The **House Government Operations and Estimates Committee** will meet at 8:45 a.m. at Room 425, Wellington Building, to continue its review of the Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act. It will hear from officials from the Office of the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner of Canada before meeting privately to discuss the instructions of drafting a report.
- The **House Status of Women Committee** will meet at 8:45 a.m. at Room 420, Wellington

Building, to proceed with its study on the economic security of women in Canada. It will hear from officials from the United Steelworkers union, the Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec, and the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Canada, as well as members of the Company of Women and the Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Women.

- The **House Health Committee** will meet at 11 a.m. at Room 253-D, Centre Block, to discuss Main Estimates 2017-18: Votes 1 and 5 under Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Votes 1 and 5 under Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Votes 1, 5 and 10 under Department of Health, Vote 1 under Patented Medicine Prices Review Board and Votes 1, 5 and 10 under Public Health Agency of Canada. It will hear from Health Minister Jane Philpott, deputy minister Simon Kennedy, and the heads of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Public Health Agency of Canada, as well as a vice-president of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. It will be televised.
- The **House Transport Committee** will meet at 11 a.m. at Room 420, Wellington Building, to discuss aviation safety. It will hear from representatives of the Air Transport Association of Canada, the Canadian Business Aviation Association, Air Canada Pilots Association, the Air Canada Component of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Union of Canadian Transportation Employees, and Unifor president Jerry Dias, as well as Justice of the Court of Queen’s Bench of Alberta, Virgil P. Moshansky.
- The **Subcommittee on International Human Rights of the House Foreign Affairs and International Development Committees** will meet at 1 p.m. to hear a briefing on the human rights situation in Venezuela. It will hear from a member of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the National Assembly of Venezuela and Montreal West municipal councillor Maria Margarita Torres.
- The **House Access to Information, Privacy, and Ethics Committee** will meet at 3:30 p.m. at Room 420, Wellington Building, to discuss the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act. It will hear from three lawyers specializing in privacy and information.

Wrestling with war and peace at the Vimy Ridge memorial

What makes a good war memorial? Is it simply an admonition to go to war ‘Never Again,’ or can we the pay the peace message forward in some way that will actually stop us from slaughtering yet another generation?

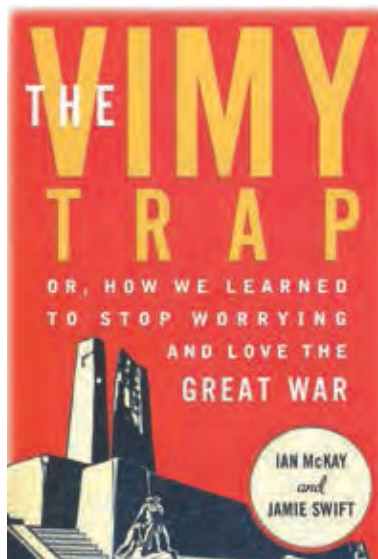


Jim Creskey

Vimy 100

Last week, I sat on a Via Rail train heading to Toronto, reading a copy of the timely and well-considered book, *The Vimy Trap: Or, How We Learned to Stop Worrying and Love The Great War*, by Ian McKay and Jamie Swift.

About halfway through the trip, near Kingston, I felt a poke in the elbow and, looking over my shoulder, I saw a friendly whiskered man who was pushing another book in my direction.



The Vimy Trap: Or how we learned to Stop Worrying and Love The Great War By Ian McKay and Jamie Swift. Published by Between The Lines, Toronto 2016.

“Here,” he said. “Here’s my Vimy book. You can have this copy.”

I thanked the man, not knowing what else to say, and went back to reading *The Vimy Trap*.

Later in the trip, around Cobourg, I thumbed through the book that was given to me. It was called, *Valour At Vimy Ridge*, and the writer, seated behind me, was Tom Douglas. When I gathered up the presence of mind to talk with him, he told me that he was a former Canadian Press rewrite editor who once worked for then-Veterans Affairs minister Bennett Campbell in the Pierre Trudeau government.

Even 100 years after the First World War battle, and 6,000 kilometres away, Canada isn’t that far from Vimy.

The question that remains is what we do with that memory. Is it a memory that helps us forge new paths to peace, or one that we use to militarize Canada and create myths of the birth of some kind of warrior nation? Turns out it’s both, and *The Vimy Trap* does an admirable job of charting both courses, some of them mutually exclusive, some proceeding in tandem.

There is little doubt that many of the veterans who returned from the sickening ditches filled with rotting corpses during the world’s first industrialized killing spree brought home the message of “never again.”

But if you read Canada’s Citizenship Guide, first published in 2009—the booklet that new immigrants must study in order to pass the citizenship test—Vimy get a mention that strongly suggests it was somehow the birth of a nation.

In the section that mentions Vimy Ridge, the guide quotes an unnamed Canadian military officer who once said, “In those few minutes I witnessed the birth of a nation.”

Are nations “born” like babies by a battle, or a stroke of the pen in a Confederation agreement or a repatriated Constitution? Or are they the sum total of a country’s collective deeds and misdeeds?

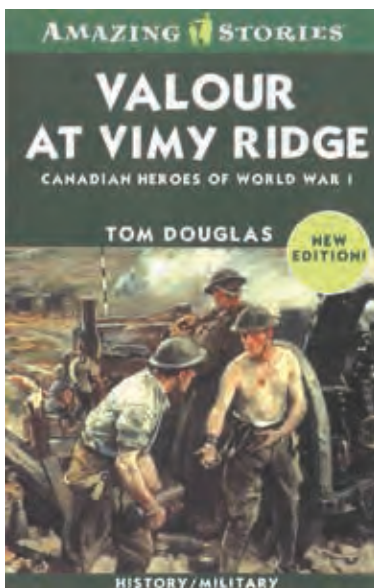


For What? by the Group of Seven’s Fred Varley, who was an eyewitness to the First World War, can be seen at the Canadian War Museum. Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

McKay and Swift help sort out this question with good writing and admirable research.

Then there is the Vimy memorial itself, 10 kilometres north of the French city of Arras, unveiled in 1936.

What makes a good war memorial? Is it simply an admonition to go to war “Never Again,” or can we the pay the peace message forward in some way that will actually stop us from slaughtering yet another generation?



Valour At Vimy Ridge By Tom Douglas. Published by James Lorimer, Toronto, 2007.

“[Prime minister William Lyon Mackenzie King], who orchestrated the Vimy memorial, recoiled from the notion that Canada was born on Vimy Ridge,” writes McKay and Swift. “That the country had secured its independence and freedom through the exercise of military might.”

But he was not one of those one-sided peaceniks who were victims of “an instinctive loathing of military men.”

“King was intent on seeing the war as one in which self-sacrificing Canadians give of themselves so that war might be forever abolished,” continues McKay and Swift. Canada’s 10th prime minister made it clear that the Vimy memorial constructed on land ceded to Canada by France would place a special emphasis on “the futility of war.”

“From his perspective the Canadian state should express its sympathies with ‘the fallen’ and their families—while conveying the principal message that war is ‘a miserable failure.’”

But that quest for peace in the years following the war began to change during successive generations along with different interpretations of the Vimy battle and the war itself. How that happened is presented in McKay and Swift’s *Vimy Trap* almost as if it were a smart crime, procedural with the clues along the trail. Some clues lead from militaristic churchmen who become pacifists; others to popular writers like Pierre Berton and Timothy Findley, to respected historians like Tim Cook, to Ottawa’s Canadian War Museum, to the “bellicose” Harper government.

History, especially military history, is often rewritten to bolster sagging public opinion and open the public purse to military spending. Incredible though it is, peace is a harder political sell.

What makes a good war memorial if peace is again the goal? It’s not so much the architecture—although both Vimy and Canada’s National War Memorial, also conceived and built in Mackenzie King’s time—are admirable in that respect. Compared to the recent toy-soldier contraption that is supposed to commemorate the war of 1812 from a knoll in front of the East Block, they both inspire rather than pander.

But critical questions of war and peace press on us today even more than they did in 1917.

If ever there was the idea of a just war, that time is over. Modern war memorials will now have to commemorate the fallen civilians, noncombatants, women, children and the elderly who die in appalling numbers. From Iraq and Afghanistan to Yemen and Syria, civilians are on the front lines.

“For What?” is the title of Fred Varley’s famous painting of the WWI trenches. It was a fair question in 1917. It is even more meaningful today.

It is worth mentioning that the book given to me on the train—Tom Douglas’ *Valour at Vimy Ridge*—ends with a compelling collection of letters sent home during the war from Private Ronald MacKinnon to his sister and father.

Wounded at Ypres, Private MacKinnon is first sent back to a “rotten camp” in Sussex, England where he points out that “Our officers seem to be afraid of the Imperial Authorities and nearly all the towns around here are “out-of-bounds” to us.”

Returned to France when he is healed, MacKinnon’s last letter is dated April 6, 1917.

“This is Good Friday so I had a good feed of eggs,” he wrote, “as I will not be in a place where I can get them on Sunday.”

A letter that Private MacKinnon’s father sent from Canada the day before April 5, 1917 “was returned unopened in June. On the envelope was inscribed: ‘Deceased. Killed in Action 9-4-17.’” Ronald MacKinnon was buried in the Bois Carré British Military Cemetery on the lower slope of Vimy Ridge.

The painting, *For What?* by the Group of Seven’s Fred Varley—who was an eyewitness to the war—can be still seen at the Canada War Museum. It’s worth a visit.

Jim Creskey is one of the publishers of *The Hill Times*.
The Hill Times

Opinion

The future of polling lies in social media

Artificial intelligence can track changes in public opinion in a way that telephone polls cannot.



Erin Kelly

Public opinion

Social media isn't just a broadcast technology, it's also a polling technology; one that is far superior to any other on the planet today, including the telephone.

So why does the Canadian government continue to use telephone polling to find out what the citizenry is thinking? Why haven't public servants progressed to new tools for polling, as have the governments of France, the United Kingdom, and even municipal governments in Canada?

Last month, the Privy Council Office and Forum Research agreed to a \$312,000 one year polling contract to conduct a weekly rolling survey of Canadians. PCO decided to limit itself to telephone surveys, however, telephone polling has so many problems that many governments have stopped using it. Consider the following:

- Fewer than 10 per cent of respondents will agree to participate in a telephone survey. This creates what scientists call opt-in bias.

- Low opt-in rates force pollsters to over-sample minority demographics. Since opt-in bias tells us they are likely outliers to begin with, this leads to a very distorted view of public opinion.

- Merely posing a question to respondents creates question bias.

- Small sample sizes are not representative. The government's rolling survey will sample 500 people a week. That is not enough to tell us what people across the country, from every region, language, and socio-economic group think. Not even close.

- Rolling or windowed surveys are controversial because they are trying to mimic longitudinal studies which survey the same people over a longer period of time. With new technology, there is no need for this mimicry. Real longitudinal studies are already possible, for a fraction of the cost the government paid for this substitute method.

The 2015 Canadian federal election provides a good illustration of how telephone polls can lead to wrong insights, and cause politicians and policymakers to make the wrong decisions.

Polls released a week after the viral release of a photo of the body of three-year-old refugee Alan Kurdi washed ashore in Turkey showed



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has earned a reputation as one of the world's most social media-savvy leaders. *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright

a drop in Conservative support. The media assumed that the drop in support was due to Kurdi's death, and "social media listening" on Twitter seemed to confirm this. Tweets about Kurdish and Syrian refugees increased 300-fold, as did criticism of the Harper government, which had been slow to let refugees into the country.

What Harper, the media, and just about everyone else failed to recognize was that the fall in Conservative support had nothing to do with Alan Kurdi's death. The day before Kurdi drowned, Statistics Canada published a report saying that Canada had entered a technical recession. It was this report, and not the drowning, that caused the fall in Conservative support. People who voted for Harper did so because they believed him to be a good steward of the economy. They were not concerned about his policies on refugees.

Conservatives supported taking a cautious approach on immigration. And all those anti-Harper Tweets? This is a perfect example of why social media listening doesn't work. Listening is not the same as sampling. Listening is over-represented by certain demographic groups, so you need to correct for this through sampling.

Our artificial intelligence (AI) showed those anti-Harper Tweets came from committed supporters of the Liberals and NDP. They were never going to vote for Harper in the first place. How do we know this? Because like so many elements of democracy, traditional public opinion polling has been overtaken by technology. The gap between technological adoption among consumers and technological innovation among pollsters has contributed to a parade of polling debacles, whereby election eve numbers and actual election results are wildly divergent.

AI is able to analyze the same people over the whole year. It knows where your true colours lie, and it doesn't need to ask.

It was the Harper government's overreaction to the refugee issue that cost them the election. The Conservatives, in order to defend their refugee policy (which their supporters weren't asking them to defend in the first place), went overboard, promoting fears about Muslim immigration with the "barbaric cultural practices" tip line. This over-reaction turned the soft Conservative support away.

Because AI works 24 hours a day, it is able to see, up to the minute, when public opinion changes. It was able to distinguish between reaction to the Statistics Canada report and the photo of Alan Kurdi.

With phone polling, if you are not asking the right questions, you have no chance of getting the right answers. Furthermore, the phone pollsters were questioning people when emotions were running high. The AI, by contrast, can analyze the same people all year, and can predict how things will settle after immediate tragedies have passed.

We now have the ability to call up social media pages randomly the same way that we used to randomly dial telephone numbers. To be clear: We're not talking about web panels. Web panels are even worse than telephone polling for gauging public opinion. Samples garnered from web panels are neither randomized nor controlled—two necessary pre-conditions for interpreting public opinion. I am talking about randomized, controlled samples of social media users. This new technology is called Conditional Independence Coupling (CIC).

CIC (pronounced "kick") was invented in 2012 and has been used successfully to predict over 100 elections and referendums around the world, including

the recent Trump election in the United States, BREXIT, and the Canadian Federal Election in 2015. CIC does not require opt-in and it does not require the pollster to ask any questions (that's the beauty—the information is already there). Consider the following advantages of using randomized, controlled samples from social media:

- Engagement score. CIC can tell us what percentage of the population is discussing a particular topic without being prompted. For example, if I call someone and ask "What do you think of the Islamophobia motion (M-103)", the respondent will give me an answer even if, previous to this call, she didn't care about it at all. With CIC technology, we can gauge how important a topic is to Canadians, without asking them.

- Large sample sizes. We have a Canadian sample of 75,000 Canadians. Compare that with the sample of 500 the government's rolling survey is using.

- No opt-in bias. Privacy is meticulously protected, no names collected, only demographic information. The AI can map the demographics to the census to ensure a perfectly representative sample—no weighting required.

- No question bias. No questions are asked. Instead, the CIC algorithm is able to interpret what is being said to answer the questions posed to it—naturally and without biasing the sample.

Back in August, 2016, when media commentators were poking fun at Donald Trump for alienating black and Hispanic voters, our company published a report showing the opposite—that support for Donald Trump was growing in exactly these demographics the pundits thought he was losing. Because the stereotype of the Trump voter was so negative (sexist, racist, lower class),

people were unwilling to admit to pollsters on the other end of the telephone that they were going to vote Trump. It was unpopular to admit such things in polite company. But online, our AI could see differently.

Not everyone participates in social media, and social media is overrepresented by some demographic groups—like young people. But there are enough people on social media that we can get a representative sample of the population. Not everyone has a telephone landline either. Consider that, since 2010, there are more people with a social media account than with a telephone. This is why we sample. Sampling ensures that we have enough people in each demographic to accurately assess public opinion. Contrast this with social media listening, where companies listen to everything that is said. This is bad, because, for example, one-third of all posts are made by bots. And many lobbyists are paid to Tweet, distorting results like we saw in the 2015 Canadian election.

The whole impetus for the populism movements taking shape around the world is that citizens do not feel they are being heard. It is still true that if you want to effect change in our society, you have to be well-heeled and organized. Policy is being made by special interest groups, lobbyists, and big business. We want to make it possible for policymakers to hear what citizens are saying, so that policy reflects the needs of real people.

Erin Kelly is president and CEO of Advanced Symbolics, an Ottawa-based company that uses artificial intelligence (AI) for public opinion research.

This article was adapted from a version published in the March/April issue of Policy Magazine.

‘Nation builder’ Gina Wilson striving for civil service where indigenous are ‘respected and included’

‘I found that I was actually able to have more influence and make more changes within than I was outside the federal government,’ says the high-ranking indigenous public servant.

Continued from page 1

“I have never regretted that decision, I found that I was actually able to have more influence and make more changes within than I was outside the federal government.”

As the associate deputy minister for public safety, Ms. Wilson, an Algonquin, is the highest ranking indigenous woman in the federal public service, and has emerged as a designated champion of indigenous employees within government.

On Wednesday, she’ll be feted as a “nation builder” at an event at Ottawa’s Rideau Club organized by the Famous 5 Foundation, which works to inspire, educate, and commemorate Canadian women.

Ms. Wilson said she still hears concerns and skepticism from indigenous people about joining what is sometimes depicted as “the other side” or the “dark side.”

But she said that as a senior bureaucrat with roughly two decades in the workplace, she can speak from experience about the wealth of opportunities for indigenous peoples in the federal government.

“The federal government is a large employer and there are many, many opportunities for indigenous peoples in the federal government and in all facets,” she explained.

Ms. Wilson began her career as a social development worker in the First Nations community of Kitigan Zibi in western Quebec, located near Maniwaki, about 130 kilometres north of Ottawa.

She was the executive director of health and social services in the community, and later became director of the Wanaki Treatment Centre.

She then joined the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) as a senior manager and worked as chief of staff to then-national chief Ovide Mercredi before leaving for the civil service in 1996, where she served for five years as the director general, aboriginal affairs, with the Correctional Service of Canada, which manages federal prisons.

Ms. Wilson credited her decision to first consider working for the federal government to a desire to continue working and living in the national capital area, and noted that she was protesting the policies of the federal government as a member of the AFN when the job opportunity presented itself.

During her time in the civil service, she has worked for Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAC), Indian Residential School Resolution Canada (IRSR), Employment and Social Development Canada, the Privy Council Office (PCO), and Public Safety.

As director general of engagement with PCO in 2005, she organized a First Ministers meeting.

The following year, Ms. Wilson was appointed as the assistant deputy minister with IRSR, and her office oversaw the co-ordination of events leading to then-prime minister Stephen Harper’s historic apology in June 2008 to the indigenous people who suffered through the residential school program, according to her biography on the Public Safety Canada website.

She later held an assistant deputy minister position with INAC and associate deputy minister position with Employment and Social Development Canada before being appointed associate deputy minister with the Public Safety department in July 2015.

And last summer she performed a traditional smudging ceremony at an event for National Aboriginal Day attended by senior cabinet members and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (Papineau, Que.).

In her various roles, Ms. Wilson said she has been able to “translate” the realities of indigenous peoples and communities for public servants to help with programming, and to inform the advice they provide to political and government leaders.



Gina Wilson, an associate deputy minister for public safety, is being honoured in Ottawa Wednesday by the Famous 5 Foundation, which works to inspire and commemorate Canadian women. *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright

Conversely, she said she’s been able to use her position to explain to indigenous communities the machinery of government.

Indigenous people underrepresented in senior management

Ms. Wilson said the ultimate goal of her efforts is to transform the public service into a more hospitable place for indigenous employees.

“The objective behind the work that I do, being a champion for indigenous federal employees is...to create a public service where indigenous peoples who are seeking and living a public service career are respected and included,” she said.

But while Ms. Wilson has managed to work her way through the ranks, the upper echelons of the public service remain largely white.

As a whole, the federal government employs a disproportionately large share of indigenous people.

Indigenous people made up 4.6 per cent of federal civil servants in 2014-15 compared to 3.3 per cent employed in similar roles in the broader Canadian economy, according to the 2016 annual report on the public service prepared by the clerk of the privy council.

People with indigenous identity made up 4.3 per cent of the Canadian population in the 2011 census.

However, indigenous people only make up 3.4 per cent of those in executive positions in the public service compared to 5.2 per cent in the national workforce, statistics show.

Indigenous people held a slightly larger share, 3.7 per cent, of executive roles in government in 2013-14.

A 2013 Senate report on employment equity flagged limited

advancement for indigenous people in the public service as problematic.

The report pointed out that indigenous people in government are “overrepresented in the lowest salary ranges and underrepresented in senior management.”

It goes on to state that the indigenous people are concentrated in departments serving their communities, and are leaving the federal public service at a “greater rate than they are being hired.”

Ms. Wilson pointed to the number of indigenous people in executive positions as something that needs to be “aggressively improved,” but said her deputy minister colleagues are “increasingly interested” in the issue, and are seeking out strategies to bolster the numbers.

“I’m one of the very few [indigenous] senior public servants, I would definitely appreciate seeing more of us,” she said, noting the number of talented and experienced indigenous people working in the private sector.

According to Ms. Wilson, the government is doing a fairly good job at attracting young indigenous applicants, though retaining them has proven problematic, with many leaving for other opportunities.

When asked why this was happening, she cited a “lack of understanding” of indigenous people and issues, and their “diverse perspectives” among those in the public service as a significant challenge.

In the face of these challenges, and emboldened by renewed reconciliation efforts, the focus on indigenous employment efforts has turned to fostering welcoming, respectful, and inclusive workplaces, she said.

“I know that for the federal public service, in that spirit of reconciliation, that we want to take actions to welcome, include, and demonstrate respect for First Na-

tions, Inuit, and Metis people, and create workplaces that are welcoming in that regard,” she said.

“If people don’t feel understood, they don’t necessarily feel connected to their workplace.”

As part of efforts to foster greater understanding, she noted that the Canada School of Public Service is developing an indigenous online learning service, the first section of which is already up and running.

The program, she said, allows public servants the opportunity to learn about indigenous history, culture, and values, and impresses upon them the contributions made by indigenous people.

While Ms. Wilson said her role within government has allowed her to wield greater influence, she acknowledges that it hasn’t always been easy for a self-described activist who holds strong beliefs, though she maintains she has always done her job diligently.

“As a public servant, I’ve always aimed to provide governments with the best public policy advice,” she said.

“I’ve often given just as many options as I could, and recommended certain advice that I felt was right, and a number of times those decisions are not necessarily taken, but I don’t think I’ve ever become...discouraged by that.”

Ms. Wilson said she’s always been interested in influencing government decisions, but especially preventing poor decisions, an important role that often goes unrecognized.

Over the years, she said she has advised ministers, deputy ministers, and other senior leaders against certain decisions and for the most part, her advice has been taken.

“There’s a tendency that the right thing to do does come back in ways, in shapes, in forms,” she added.

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DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES

by Chelsea Nash

Chinese ambassador says human rights, democracy shouldn't factor in trade deal

The newly arrived ambassador says changing Canadian public opinion of China will be one of his biggest priorities during his mandate in Ottawa.

Continued from page 1

Mr. Lu was firm in his opposition to this idea, however.

"I think it's an insult to democracy and human rights to take them into negotiations. If so, people will ask how much democracy and human rights cost," the ambassador said in an interview at his embassy on Monday. He spoke via a translator.

Mr. Lu, who arrived in Canada on Feb. 28, said he considered the proposition of including "non-trade factors" in a free trade agreement to be "unfair."

China has offered to enter into trade negotiations with Canada for years, and the Liberal government agreed to enter into exploratory talks towards a deal in September of last year.

Mr. Lu outlined "advancing talks" on the free trade agreement as one of his main priorities while posted here, so as to "create more favourable conditions to expand our trade."

While Mr. Lu may have different opinions than his counterpart in Beijing, Mr. McCallum, he said Mr. McCallum's posting to China, as Canada's former immigration minister, was significant for the Canada-China relationship, and "the right choice." He said Mr. McCallum has a "very good understanding" of Mr. Trudeau's position on China.

Mr. Trudeau has made an effort on the foreign affairs file to engage with countries such as China, and Russia. While Canada might disagree with human rights practices in these countries, Mr. Trudeau maintains that engagement is the best way to get a message across.

This may prove to be a difficult task, however, given the clear contradiction between Mr. McCallum's wish for human rights to be addressed in a trade deal, and Mr. Lu's outright rejection of such an idea. It's also not the only area in which they disagree. Mr. McCallum said on Monday that Canada and China are a "long, long" way off from an extradition treaty, as reported by *The Globe and Mail*.

Mr. Lu maintains that an extradition treaty between the two governments would be mutually beneficial. On the Canadian side, China's human rights record is a problem. Canada has a policy in place that prevents it from releasing foreign fugitives

to countries that use capital punishment, torture, or other inhumane ways of punishing criminals.

Canada has sent prisoners back to China when the government was assured there would be no human rights abuses.

"We shouldn't refuse judiciary and law enforcement, even though we have different judicial systems," Mr. Lu said.

But while Mr. McCallum works on improving Canada-China trade relations and tries to advocate for human rights in China, Mr. Lu says he will be spending a good chunk of his time in Ottawa "to introduce Canada [to China] in an objective manner, and seek their support."

He said while Chinese and Canadian relations have become stronger in recent years, and that is generally reflected in the "mainstream...sometimes the negative voice sounds louder."

Since his arrival, Mr. Lu said he's noticed Canadians sometimes wonder why China cannot "act the same as Canada."

Mr. Lu said his time spent as vice-mayor of the Chinese city Wuhan led him to understand the complexities of "managing affairs" in a country as big as China. "It demands wisdom," he said. "Based on the national conditions of China, it doesn't work if we just follow foreign examples."

He also said that while human rights and democracy might not be the same as they are in Canada, critics of the Chinese government should compare today's China with China twenty years ago. Over the past two decades, China has been able to drastically reduce its poverty rate, for instance, nearly eliminating urban poverty.

Aside from having been a vice-mayor, Mr. Lu has also held multiple positions in the Chinese department of foreign affairs, including most recently, as director general for the bureau of policy research for the



Chinese Ambassador Shaye Lu, who arrived in Ottawa on Feb. 28, is a bit of a history buff. *The Hill Times* photograph by Sam Garcia

foreign affairs office of the Communist Party of China. He has also served as ambassador to Senegal. His arrival at the end of February marked his very first visit to Canada.

So far, he said he finds Ottawa to be "very fresh," and not too noisy. "It snows a lot," he said with a smile, something that is not common in Beijing. But he is looking forward to enjoying Ottawa's other seasons.

Mr. Lu admits his English is not the best, which is why he conducted his interview via a translator. He is more comfort-

able in French, though he prefers Chinese.

He is busy settling into Ottawa with his wife, **Liwen Wang**. The couple has one son, who is currently studying history at school in China. Mr. Lu's son seemingly takes after his father, who also admits he enjoys history. Currently, he is studying Canadian history in his spare time, and hopes to visit Ottawa's many museums and galleries when he has some time off from meeting and greeting Canadian government officials, academics, journalists, and fellow diplomats.

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Status of Bills

HOUSE OF COMMONS

- S-2, Strengthening Motor Vehicle Safety for Canadians Act (second reading)
- C-5, An Act to Repeal Division 20 of Part 3 of the Economic Action Plan 2015 Act, No. 1 (second reading)
- C-7, An Act to Amend the Public Service Labour Relations Act, Public Service Labour Relations and Employment Board Act, and others (RCMP union bill) (consideration of amendments made by the Senate)
- C-12, An Act to Amend the Canadian Forces Members and Veterans Re-establishment and Compensation Act (second reading)
- C-17, An Act to amend the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (second reading)
- C-21, An Act to amend the Customs Act (second reading)
- C-22, National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians Act (report stage)
- C-23, Preclearance Act (committee)
- C-24, An Act to amend the Salaries Act and the Financial Administration Act (second reading)
- C-25, An Act to amend the Canada Business Corporations Act, Canada Cooperatives Act, Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act, and Competition Act (committee)

- C-27, An Act to amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985 (second reading)
- C-28, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (victim surcharge) (second reading)
- C-32, An Act related to the repeal of section 159 of the Criminal Code (second reading)
- C-33, An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act (second reading)
- C-34, An Act to amend the Public Service Labour Relations Act and other Acts (second reading)
- C-36, An Act to amend the Statistics Act (committee)
- C-38, An Act to amend an Act to amend the Criminal Code (exploitation and trafficking in persons) (second reading)
- C-39, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (unconstitutional provisions) (second reading)
- C-42, An Act to amend the Canadian Forces Members and Veterans Re-establishment and Compensation Act, the Pension Act and the Department of Veterans Affairs Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts (second reading)
- C-43, An Act respecting a payment to be made out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund to support a pan-Canadian artificial intelligence strategy (second reading)

SENATE

- S-3, An Act to amend the Indian Act (elimination of sex-based inequities in registration) (committee)
- S-5, An Act to amend the Tobacco Act and the Non-smokers' Health Act (second reading)
- C-4, An Act to Amend the Canada Labour Code, Parliamentary Employment and Staff Relations Act, Public Service Labour Relations Act, and Income Tax Act (third reading)
- C-6, An Act to Amend the Citizenship Act (third reading)
- C-16, An Act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code (committee)
- C-18, An Act to amend the Rouge National Urban Park Act, Parks Canada Agency Act, and Canada National Parks Act (second reading)
- C-30, Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement Implementation Act (committee)
- C-31, Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (committee)
- C-37, An Act to amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (second reading)



HILL CLIMBERS

by Laura Ryckewaert

Central NDP staff changes include new videographer

A number of staffing changes have taken place in the NDP's caucus research office in recent months.

The NDP has undergone a healthy handful of changes to its central staffing roster on the Hill in the last few months, including the recent hiring of a new videographer, **Geoff McCaldin**, who's marking his first day on the job April 3.

"The videographer is really just a part of building our direct communications team, just being able to communicate with a greater diversity of more engaging products," **Riccardo Filippone**, director of strategic communications to the NDP leader, told *Hill Climbers*.

Up until now, the caucus didn't have a videographer on staff, and graphics and writing have essentially been the "limit" of what the NDP caucus has been able to do in terms of online communications products, he said.

"Being able to film reaction from caucus members, to film events, to create explainer videos, to react to issues and communicate on stuff that we're working on and our position on issues, that'll be a big support and expansion of our capacity on the team for sure, and a really important one," said Mr. Filippone.

Having moved to Ottawa to work for the NDP fulltime, Mr. McCaldin was previously working as a freelance videographer in Montreal, and worked on contract for the party during its 2015 election campaign.



Nasha Brownridge, pictured on Parliament Hill, is now a media logistics officer for the NDP. Photograph courtesy of Facebook.

There are also plans to hire a second graphic designer to support the NDP caucus soon, who will work alongside current graphic designer **Reg Albino**. Mr. Filippone oversees direct communications, media, as well as policy and research in his role, meaning director of media **George Smith** and director of policy and research **Tim Howlett** both report to him.

A new policy adviser is expected to be hired soon to replace former policy adviser

Emilie Grenier, who left at the beginning of March after roughly five years on the job. Ms. Grenier was first hired to work as a policy researcher for the NDP in 2012 when it was the official opposition.

Nasha Brownridge is now a media logistics officer for the NDP caucus, having joined the team in February to replace **Karyne Vienne** who had left the office the month before.

Ms. Brownridge had previously been a member's assistant to NDP MP **Linda Duncan**, who represents Edmonton-Strathcona, Alta., since November 2015. She also previously worked as a parliamentary assistant to former NDP MP **Jonathan Genest-Jourdain**, who was defeated in the 2015 federal election, and has been parliamentary affairs and policy adviser in the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, among other past experience, as indicated by her LinkedIn profile.

Pierre Michaud is now working as a translator for the NDP caucus, replacing **Anaïs Navarre** who left the Hill back in October. Meanwhile, the hunt is currently on to hire another new translator to fill a void left by the departure of **Katelyn Sylvester**, who'd been working for the NDP on the Hill since the fall of 2011.

In more belated news, around the start of the New Year, **Rick Devereux**, who had been director of operations for the NDP on the Hill, moved over to work at party headquarters as director of leadership, with the ongoing leadership race set to end this fall. Also a number of months ago, **Danielle Dalzell** replaced **Sam Dinicol** as a senior writer for the NDP on the Hill.

As with all parties in the House, the NDP's central caucus staff, working under the leader's office and research bureau, are heavily integrated and work out of offices at 202 Sparks St., as well as the leader's office in Centre Block.

Each recognized party in the House of Commons is allocated a budget to run both a leader's office and a caucus research office, which supports MP by providing information on bills and other issues before the House, as well as various communications products, among other things. For 2016-17, the NDP was given \$1,693,297 for its research office, dubbed NDP caucus services, and \$2,059,807 for its leader's office.

Ray Guardia is chief of staff to outgoing NDP Leader **Thomas Mulcair**, aided by three chiefs of staff: **Jordan Leichnitz**, **Lucy Watson** and **Chantale Turgeon**. **James Smith**, **Sarah Andrews** and **Mélanie Richer** are all caucus press secretaries.

Other central NDP staffers include: **Ève-Laurence Gasse**, political researcher; **Orian Labrèche**, political researcher; **Omar Sabry**, issues coordinator; **Angela Rickman**, issues coordinator; **Myriam Legault**, French writer and translator; **Sonja van Dieen**, coordaintor officer; **Rosalie Boutilier**, correspondence coordinator; **Shawn Sutherland**, correspondence officer; and **Cédric Williams**, national and regional caucus coordinator for logistics.

There's also **Frank Galloro**, IT officer; **Adrian Morrison**, financial coordinator; **Carlos Martinez**, human resources coordinator; **Don Gauthier**, IT coordinator; and **Tanya Fredette**, training coordinator.



NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair speaks with media on the Hill. Along with recent hires, a number of upcoming staff additions are in the works. *The Hill Times* Photograph by Jake Wright



NDP director of strategic communications Riccardo Filippone, left, pictured with director of media George Smith. *The Hill Times* Photograph by Jake Wright

Former PMO aide Lecce now Ontario PC candidate

Stephen Lecce, a former aide to Conservative prime minister **Stephen Harper**, was officially nominated as the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party's candidate in King-Vaughan, Ont. last week.

Mr. Lecce was named the party's candidate for the upcoming 2018 provincial election on April 2, while former Conservative MP **Susan Truppe** was named the Ontario PC candidate for London North Centre, Ont. and **Aris Babikian** was named the official candidate for Scarborough-Agincourt, Ont., as recently reported by *iPolitics*.

In a press release from Ontario PC leader **Patrick Brown** on April 2, Mr. Brown congratulated Mr. Lecce on his nomination and noted the "wealth of experience" he brings.

"Stephen has been an advocate for free and fair elections abroad, and served as an official observer during the 2014 Tunisian election. Closer to home, he's remained active in the Italian-Canadian community while working to get youth involved in the

Royal Canadian Legion," read the statement, which also said Mr. Lecce "has deep roots in his community."

Mr. Brown is also a former Conservative MP, having represented Barrie, Ont. in the House of Commons from 2006 to 2015.

Mr. Lecce was first hired to work as a communications strategist in Mr. Harper's office as Prime Minister in 2010, and before that had been president of the of Western University's Students' Council, his alma matter. Later in 2010, Mr. Lecce took leave to work on then-Conservative Party candidate **Julian Fantino**'s heated by-election bid in Vaughan, Ont., his home riding. In 2011, Mr. Lecce was made deputy director of communications in the PMO. He was promoted again in early 2014 to the role of director of media relations to Mr. Harper.

A number of other former Conservative staffers are working for Mr. Brown as leader. That list includes former Harper PMO director of issues management **Alykhan Velshi**, who is now Mr. Brown's chief of staff, and deputy chief of staff **Paul Hong**, a former senior policy adviser to **John Baird** as foreign affairs minister, to name two.

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PARTY CENTRAL

by Shruti Shekar

Music, glamour, mini quiches highlighted during JUNOs weekend

It was JUNOs weekend in Ottawa, meaning the downtown core was buzzing with energy, music, and of course, lots of parties.

You would think that by Sunday even music-lovers would be in laundry-mode, relaxing at home. Nope. That afternoon the Sir John A. MacDonald Building was filled with nearly 200 guests, including Parliamentarians, authors, musicians, industry leaders and more.

Hosted by the Canadian Independent Music Association (CIMA) and Association québécoise de l'industrie du disque, du spectacle et de la vidéo (ADISQ), the afternoon event brought many people to network, chat, and meet with Canadian Heritage Minister **Mélanie Joly**.

"It's extremely important to have a strong independent producer industry in Canada and I'm happy to see that French and English are both side-by-side working together," a casually dressed Ms. Joly said to me, before addressing the crowd. She briefly talked about her time in Florence, Italy and the importance of showcasing creators for Canadian society locally and internationally.

I briefly chatted with **Donna Murphy**, vice-president of operations at CIMA, **Derek Andrews**, chair of the World Music Advisory Committee and **Yasmina Proveyer**, a music manager about why having this event was important for those in the music industry.

"The opportunity for the JUNOs and [the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences] to be in Ottawa helps the cultural politics of the music industry get on the radar of the government," Mr. Andrews said.

"I think there are a lot of people here who are influential in developing Canadian music and it's great the minister will be here to meet those people."

And just my luck, the one time I decided to eat lunch before heading to an event and the majority of the hors d'oeuvres were vegetarian. They tiny delights ranged from little pieces of toast with tomato mousse and herbs to petite quiches to shrimp and chicken on skewers.

Red and white wine, as well as beer were all on hand and free—a great refreshment for the amazing weather that finally came to Ottawa.

I bumped into some familiar faces including **Emily Rowan**, practice lead of government relations at Engineers Canada, and **Sean Casey**, vice-president of cultural industries at Global Public Affairs, who was chatting away with **Christine Michaud**, director of communication for Ms. Joly.

From Global Public Affairs, **Michael Dietrich** was also present, as well as **Ben Carr**, director of parliamentary affairs for Ms. Joly.

Other staffers were also enjoying the music and food, including **Elvanee Veeramalay**, member assistant to Conservative MP **Pat Kelly**, who was chatting with **Flutura Mazreku**, executive assistant to Conservative MP **Randy Hoback**.



Yours truly taking a selfie with Canadian Heritage Minister Mélanie Joly.

Between all the mingling, I noticed Liberal MPP **Marie-France Lalonde** and **Solange Drouin**, vice-president of public affairs of ADISQ, before I had a brief chance to talk to **Stewart Johnston**, president of CIMA, and **Eric Baptiste**, CEO of the Society of Composers, Authors & Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN).

"We are a community of communities and we come together at events like this to be part of the fellowship that we are," said Mr. Johnston, who added it takes a diverse group of composers, singers, writers, labels, recorders and management companies to come together to create music that Canada is well known for around the world.

Mr. Baptiste added that "the business is an ecosystem and the strength of every element of the ecosystem is very important at SOCAN we represent songwriters and publishers, but it's very important the record labels—major and independent—are healthy and it's important to highlight this here in Ottawa during JUNOs weekend."

I had a chance to chat with **Sky Bridges**, CEO of Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, and **Carole Vivier**, CEO and film commissioner of Manitoba Film and Music.

Before jetting off to take in some of the gorgeous weekend weather, I quickly spoke with NDP MP **Pierre Nantel** and Ind. Senator **René Cormier**.

Shruti Shekar is the editor of The Lobby Monitor, owned by Hill Times Publishing.
sshekar@lobbymonitor.ca
The Hill Times



Solange Drouin, vice-president of public affairs at ADISQ, speaking at the afternoon event.



Mr. Johnston, president of CIMA, speaking at the afternoon event.



Ind. Sen. René Cormier with NDP MP Pierre Nantel.

The Hill Times photographs by
Andrew Meade and Sam Garcia



Global Public Affairs' Sean Casey chatting with Christine Michaud, director of communications for Ms. Joly.



Environment Minister Catherine McKenna walking the red carpet Sunday night at the JUNOs at the Canadian Tire Centre.



Gov. Gen. David Johnston looking sharp smiling for the cameras at the JUNOs red carpet Sunday.



Eric Baptiste, CEO of SOCAN (left) with Stewart Johnston, president of CIMA (right).



Liberal MPP Marie-France Lalonde listening to Ms. Joly giving remarks at the CIMA & ADISQ event.



Global Public Affairs' Michael Dietrich, with his guest Dana Logan at the JUNOs networking event.



Donna Murphy, vice-president of operations at CIMA (right), Derek Andrews, chair of the World Music Advisory Committee, and Yasmina Proveyer, music manager (left) at the event.



Flutura Mazreku, right, executive assistant to Conservative MP Randy Hoback and Elvanee Veeramalay, member assistant to Conservative MP Pat Kelly, both sharing a laugh.



Sky Bridges, CEO of APTN with Carole Vivier, CEO of Manitoba Film and Music.



Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson smiling at the red carpet during Sunday night's JUNOs.

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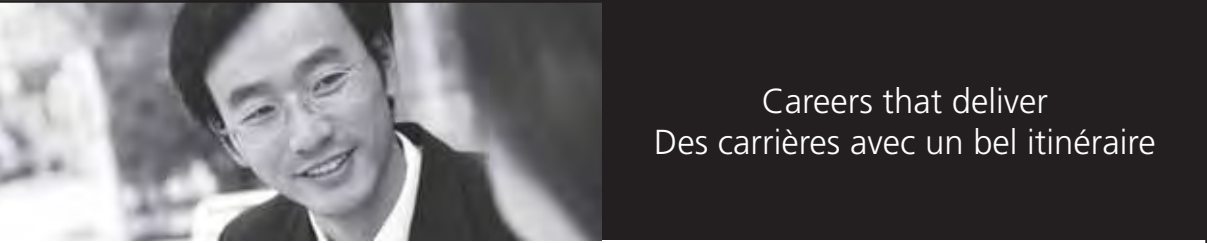
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Feature Events

PARLIAMENTARY CALENDAR



Broadbent Institute hosts Progress Summit April 5-7

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

Liberal Caucus Meeting—The Liberals will meet in Room 237-C Centre Block on Parliament Hill. For more information, please call Liberal Party media relations at media@liberal.ca or 613-627-2384.

Conservative Caucus Meeting—The Conservatives will meet for their national caucus meeting. For more information, contact Cory Hann, director of communications, Conservative Party of Canada at coryhann@conservative.ca.

NDP Caucus Meeting—The NDP caucus will meet from 9:15 a.m.-11 a.m. in Room 112-N Centre Block, on Wednesday. Please call the NDP Media Centre at 613-222-2351 or ndpcom@parl.gc.ca.

Bloc Québécois Caucus Meeting—The Bloc Québécois caucus will meet from 9:30 a.m. in the Francophonie room (263-S) in Centre Block, on Wednesday. For more information, call press attaché Julie Groleau, 514-792-2529.

The 15-Year Experiment: An Update on the Afghanistan Reconstruction Effort—The University of Ottawa presents a conversation with John Sopko, SIGAR (Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction) for the United States. April 5. 1-2:30 p.m. 120 University Pwt., Faculty of Social Sciences University of Ottawa FSS 5028.

Famous 5 Speaker Series—Gina Wilson, Public Safety Canada's associate deputy minister, the most senior First Nations woman in the government of Canada, will be celebrated as a nation builder. Wednesday, April 5, 5:30-7:30 p.m., the Rideau Club, 99 Bank St., Ottawa. Tickets \$25, plus GST. eventbrite.ca/e/an-evening-with-gina-wilson-tickets-32701616415

The Harper Factor, Panel Discussion and Book Signing—Co-editors Jennifer Ditchburn and Graham Fox will read from their book, *The Harper Factor*, on Wednesday, April 5, at 7 p.m. in the MacOdrum Library at Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Dr., Ottawa, as part of the Ottawa International Writers Festival. The panel discussion will be hosted by professor Susan Harada, associate director of Carleton's school of journalism. She will be joined by panellists Derek Antoine, instructor at Carleton's school of journalism and Paul Wilson, associate professor with Carleton's political management program.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

Bacon & Eggheads Breakfast—The Partnership Group for Science and Engineering presents a talk, 'Building a Climate-Smart World: How Development Research Helps the Global Population Adapt to Climate Change,' with Robert Hofstede, International Development



Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould is set to receive the Indigenous Women in Leadership Award from the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business on April 6 in Toronto. *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright

Research Centre. Thursday, April 6, 7:30 a.m., Parliamentary Dining Room, Centre Block. No charge to MPs, Senators, and media. All others, \$25. Pre-registration required by Monday, April 3, by contacting Donna Boag, PAGSE page@rsc-src.ca or call 613-991-6369.

Investing in Canada: A Long-Term Infrastructure Plan to Build the Canada of the 21st Century—The Economic Club of Canada presents Infrastructure Minister Amarjeet Sohi. Thursday, April 6. 7:45-9 a.m. Chateau Laurier, 1 Rideau St., Ottawa. Breakfast will be served. Members \$89 per seat; guests \$110. economicclub.ca.

Broadbent Institute Progress Summit—The Broadbent Institute will host its annual conference, with the theme "Change the Game." Speakers include journalist and activist Desmond Cole; Sandy Hudson, co-founder of Black Lives Matter-Toronto; and more. April 5-7. Delta Ottawa City Centre, 101 Lyon St. N. For registration details, see: broadbentinstitute.ca/summit2017.

Indigenous Women in Leadership Award and Key-note—The Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business will present this award to Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould in Toronto, April 6 at the Design Exchange. 5:30-9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Breakfast Invitation: Future of News—Following the release of *The Shattered Mirror* in January, the Public Policy Forum continues the conversation on the future of news and democracy with a breakfast session on Friday, April 7, with Emily Bell, founding director, Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia University. She will be interviewed by Edward Greenspon, president of the PPF, about her new research on the rise of the fake news ecosystem, the role of Facebook's algorithmic changes and the surge in AI-based misinformation campaigns. The interview will be followed by a Q&A session. 7:45-9 a.m. Centre Block Room 256-S, Parliament Hill. \$20-\$35. Register via: eventbrite.ca/e/the-future-of-news-and-democracy-in-canada-breakfast-event-tickets-32962832720.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

2017 CFHS National Animal Welfare Conference—The annual Canadian Federation of Humane Societies National Animal Welfare Conference features speakers and dozens of different animal welfare topics, helping to further professionalize the sector, build knowledge and set the agenda for Canada's humane movement for the year to come. April 8-11, 2017. The Westin Ottawa, 11 Colonel By Dr. conference.cfhs.ca.

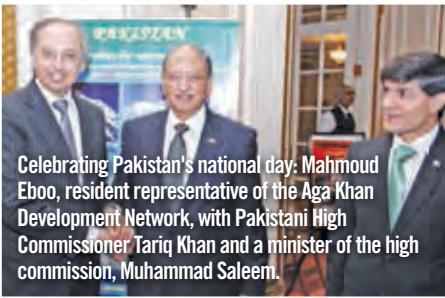
MONDAY, APRIL 10

House, Senate Sitting—The House and Senate are sitting April 10-13. They break April 14-28 and resume sitting May 1-19 (the Senate's first fixed sitting day is May 2, and last is May 18).

Continued on page 23

Pakistan throws a party at the Chateau

The Hill Times photographs by Sam Garcia



Celebrating Pakistan's national day. Mahmoud Eboo, resident representative of the Aga Khan Development Network, with Pakistani High Commissioner Tariq Khan and a minister of the high commission, Muhammad Saleem.



Ambassador of the Philippines Petronila Garcia with Mr. Khan at the Chateau Laurier on March 23.



Mr. Khan with Conservative MP Robert Kitchen.



A good number of diplomats filled the room to celebrate their colleague's culture, including newly arrived Indian High Commissioner Vikas Swarup.

Luck o' the Irish: Ireland's national day bash



Saint Patrick's Day was celebrated in diplomatic circles on March 21 at the Irish ambassador's residence, and featured a performance by a harpist in a green dress.



Irish Ambassador Jim Kelly greets Koviljka Spiric, the ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Mr. Kelly with Slovenian Ambassador Marjan Cencen.



The High Commissioner for Saint Kitts and Nevis Shirley Skerriitt-Andrew chats with Costa Rican Ambassador Roberto Dormond and the High Commissioner of Cameroon, Solomon Azoh-Mbi.



New Zealand High Commissioner Daniel Mellsop, with Anne Martin, and her spouse, Mr. Kelly, and Jane Hooker, Mr. Mellsop's spouse.



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PARLIAMENTARY
CALENDAR



Washington Post
cartoonist to
speak at May 2
press freedom
lunch

Continued from page 22

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

Life and Health Insurance Industry Advocacy Day—CEOs representing Canada’s life and health insurance industry will be in Ottawa to meet with Parliamentarians about issues of importance to Canadians, such as access to affordable prescription drugs, investing in Canada’s infrastructure and international trade. For more information, contact Susan Murray (smurray@clhia.ca).

Michael Healey’s 1979—Canada’s Shaw Festival is set to co-produce a new production of *1979* by Michael Healey with Ottawa’s Great Canadian Theatre Company. The play takes us back to the eve of former prime minister Joe Clark’s minority government’s defeat in a non-confidence motion. It’s a fast-paced satire incorporating political heavyweights and influencers of the era. The production will rehearse at Shaw Festival, premiere in Ottawa at GCTC and tour back to Shaw as part of its 2017 season. The Ottawa component will run from April 11 to 30, 2017. Tickets for Ottawa’s production on sale: 613-236-5196 or gctc.ca.

Canada Arab Business Council Annual Business Forum & Gala Dinner—Trade Minister François-Philippe Champagne will be the keynote speaker. Among the Arab delegates, Algeria will be well represented by the largest business delegation ever to visit Canada led by the president of Algeria’s Business Leaders Forum, Ali Haddad. Hilton Lac Leamy, 3 Boulevard du Casino, Gatineau, Que. The day begins at 7:15 a.m. with a networking breakfast and opening remarks, a speech by former Bank of Canada governor David Dodge, and panel discussions. Mr. Champagne speaks at 8:20 p.m. during the gala dinner. CABC members: \$275, non-members: \$350 + HST. Register via eventbrite.ca/e/canada-arab-business-council-annual-forum-and-gala-dinner-tickets-32086491560.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

Liberal Caucus Meeting—The Liberals will meet in Room 237-C Centre Block on Parliament Hill. For more information, please call Liberal Party media relations at media@liberal.ca or 613-627-2384.

Conservative Caucus Meeting—The Conservatives will meet for their national caucus meeting. For more information, contact Cory Hann, director of communications, Conservative Party of Canada at coryhann@conservative.ca.

NDP Caucus Meeting—The NDP caucus will meet from 9:15 a.m.-11 a.m. in Room 112-N Centre Block, on Wednesday. Please call the NDP Media Centre at 613-222-2351 or ndpcom@parl.gc.ca.

Bloc Québécois Caucus Meeting—The Bloc Québécois caucus will meet from 9:30 a.m. in the Francophonie room (263-S) in Centre Block, on Wednesday. For more information, call press attaché Julie Groleau, 514-792-2529.

Bank of Canada Release—The bank is expected to make its latest interest rate announcement as well as publish its quarterly Monetary Policy Report. 10 a.m.

Former Parliamentarians—The Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians’ 12th annual Douglas C. Frith Dinner will take place on Wednesday, April 12 in the ballroom of the Fairmont Château Laurier hotel from 6 to 9:30 p.m. The guest speaker, Pierre Pettigrew, will speak about “The future of Globalization and Canada’s Place in the Emerging World Order.” For additional information, please call the CAFP office at 613-947-1690.

Day of Pink Gala—Celebrate queer and trans women at the Day of Pink Gala, hosted by the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity. Award presenters and hosts include MPs Randall Garrison, Sheri Benson, Hedy Fry, Catherine McKenna, Randy Boissonault, and others. April 12. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Horticulture Building, Lansdowne Park, 1525 Princess Patricia Way, Ottawa. Free. RSVP via ccgsd-ccdgs.org.

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

Diplomatic Hospitality Group—The Canadian Federation of University of Women’s Diplomatic Hospitality Group in Ottawa invites diplomats, their spouses/partners, and their families to this event. Enjoy a day of history and nature in the Ottawa Valley. This outing will feature a visit to the Diefenbunker Cold War Museum and Aquatopia Lunch. 3929 Carp Rd., and 2710 March Rd., Carp. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. A nominal fee will be charged to help cover costs.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

Earth Day 2017 with David Suzuki, Ian Hanington, and Leanne Betasamosake Simpson—The Ottawa International Writers Festival presents this talk Saturday, April 22, at 6:30 p.m., Christ Church Cathedral, 414 Sparks St. Tickets: general \$35; reduced \$20; and free for members (\$5 more at the door). writersfestival.org.

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

Canada’s Infrastructure Outlook—The Ottawa Economics Association (OEA) invites you to a luncheon event featuring Glenn Campbell (executive director, Canada Infrastructure Bank Transition Office, Infrastructure Canada) and Jordan Eizenga (partner, infrastructure M&A, Deloitte LLP). Join the OEA for a panel discussion on Canada’s infrastructure needs, the government’s infrastructure investment plan and the role of the Canada Infrastructure Bank. Members: \$50 prepaid on-line/\$80 at the door; Non-members: \$75/\$100; Student members: \$25/\$30 (online prices are exclusive of HST). Tuesday, April 25, 11:45 a.m., Chateau Laurier Hotel, Laurier Room. Details and registration via cabe.ca.

TUESDAY, MAY 2

Ottawa Press Freedom Luncheon—Ann Telnæs, *The Washington Post’s* Pulitzer prize-winning cartoonist and president of the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists, will be the keynote speaker at this year’s World Press Freedom Day luncheon and awards presentation. Telnæs will speak on “Donald Trump’s Dysfunctional Relationship with the Press: A Cartoonist’s View.” The annual luncheon, hosted by the Canadian Committee for World Press Freedom, in partnership with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, recognizes the ongoing struggle for journalistic freedom by honouring winners of the annual Press Freedom Award and International Editorial Cartoon contest. Tuesday, May 2. 11:30 a.m. Fairmont Château Laurier Hotel ballroom. Tickets: \$65, or \$120 for two. https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/19th-annual-world-press-freedom-day-awards-luncheon-tickets-32899334796

Vision Forum—May 2. To celebrate the launch of Vision Health Month, visit the Vision Health Forum for some light refreshments, interactive displays, and mini vision expo. The Canadian Association of Optometrists, Canadian Council of the Blind, Foundation Fighting Blindness, and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind will be hosting the Vision Forum. 4-8 p.m., Room 256-S, Centre Block. For questions or to RSVP, contact Laurence Therrien: optometrists@tsa.ca or 613-241-6000, ext. 226.

THURSDAY, MAY 4

Bacon & Eggheads Breakfast—The Partnership Group for Science and Engineering presents a talk, ‘Next-Generation Technologies for Tomorrow’s Crops: Getting to the Roots of Global Food Security’ with Leon Kochian, University of Saskatchewan. Thursday, May 4, 7:30 a.m. Parliamentary Dining Room, Centre Block. No charge to MPs, Senators, and media. All others, \$25. Pre-registration required by Monday, May 1 by contacting Donna Boag: pagse@rsc-src.ca or call 613-991-6369.

MONDAY, MAY 8

Our Whole Society: Religion and Citizenship at Canada’s 150th—May 8-9, St. Paul University, Ottawa. At Canada’s 150th, we need to discover a new way of talking, thinking, and acting together so that Canada’s religious diversity can become a resource for our collective advancement. Building on years of experience in interfaith and religious-secular dialogue, this conference will convene a range of fresh perspectives around the themes of Reconciliation, Immigration & Refugees, and Solidarity in Diversity. Speakers include: John Ralston Saul; John Borrows; Rita Chahal; Andrew Bennett; Douglas Sanderson; Ingrid Mattson; Howard Adelman; Karen Joseph; Bishop Mark MacDonald; Palbinder Shergill; and Martin Mark. To register: interfaithconversation.ca/2017.

TUESDAY, MAY 9

Global Impact Soiree by the Canadian Council for International Co-operation—On the occasion of Canada’s 150th anniversary, the Canadian Council for International Co-operation is hosting the Global Impact Soirée, an inspiring social event to highlight the achievements of our colleagues, community, and country. May 9, Museum of Nature, 4th floor gallery. Tickets, early bird special \$50 until April 15, include gourmet food and one drink ticket. Regular price \$65. Attire: cocktail/black tie. globaldev150.ca/global-impact-soiree.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

Politics and the Pen—Politics and the Pen, the annual fundraiser that brings together federal politicians, writers, diplomats, and notable arts and business leaders to support the Writers’ Trust’s mandate to advance



Natan Obed, centre, president of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and Perry Bellegarde, right, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, will be among the speakers at this year’s Progress Summit put on by the Broadbent Institute at the Delta Ottawa City Centre hotel, April 5-7. They are pictured with Nunavut Premier Peter Taptuna at last December’s First Ministers’ Meeting in Ottawa. *The Hill Times* photograph by Sam Garcia

and celebrate Canadian writers and writing will happen Wednesday, May 10, at the Chateau Laurier hotel. The evening will end with the \$25,000 Shaughnessy Cohen Prize winner for the best political book of the year. Nominees: Kamal Al-Solaylee for *Brown: What Being Brown in the World Today Means (To Everyone)*; Christie Blatchford for *Life Sentence: Stories from Four Decades of Court Reporting – Or, How I Fell Out of Love with the Canadian Justice System (Especially Judges)*; Ian McKay and Jamie Swift for *The Vimy Trap: Or, How We Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Great War*; James McLeod for *Turmoil, as Usual: Politics in Newfoundland and Labrador and the Road to the 2015 Election*; and Noah Richler for *The Candidate: Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail*.

MONDAY, MAY 15

Donner Prize—The award for the best public policy book by a Canadian will be announced in Toronto at the Donner Prize’s Gala evening. The Donner Prize encourages and celebrates excellence in public policy writing by Canadians and the winner receives \$50,000 while the other nominated authors receive \$7,500. The shortlist will be announced in April and the winner will be proclaimed at a gala dinner on Monday, May 15. Last year’s winner was Donald Savoie’s *What Is Government Good At? A Canadian Answer*. For more information, contact the Donner Prize manager Sherry Naylor at 416-368-8253 or sherry@naylorandassociates.com.

TUESDAY, MAY 16

Society of Composers, Authors, and Music Publishers of Canada—The Society of Composers, Authors, and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN) invites all Parliamentarians and staff to come celebrate Canadian music talent at a reception on May 16 on Parliament Hill. 5:30-8:30 p.m. The event will showcase music performances from English and French top-chart artists.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

Canada Grows On Trees: Celebrating Canada’s Sustainably Managed Natural Resource, Forests—The Forest Products Association of Canada will be hosting a cocktail reception on May 17, 5:30-7:30 p.m., in the Laurier Room at the Château Laurier in Ottawa. For more information or to RSVP, please contact nleboeuf@fpac.ca.

THURSDAY, MAY 18

U.S. Tax Reform and Canadian Competitiveness—The Ottawa Economics Association (OEA) invites you to a luncheon event featuring Jack Mintz, president’s fellow, School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, and national policy adviser, EY Canada. Jack Mintz will present his views on U.S. tax reform, Canadian competitiveness, and what needs to be done to improve private investment in Canada. Members: \$50 prepaid on-line/\$80 at the door; Non-members: \$75/\$100; Student members: \$25/\$30 (online prices are exclusive of HST). Tuesday, April 25, 2017, 11:45 a.m., Chateau Laurier Hotel, Laurier Room. Details and registration via cabe.ca.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

Bank of Canada Release—The bank is expected to make its latest interest rate announcement. 10 a.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 25

Diplomatic Hospitality Group—The Canadian Federation of University of Women’s Diplomatic Hospitality Group in Ottawa invites diplomats, their spouses/partners, and their families to this event, with the theme Historic Ottawa. It will feature a visit to the Billings Estate Historic Site, 2100 Cabot St., Ottawa. 10 a.m.-noon. A nominal fee will be charged to help cover costs.

SATURDAY, MAY 27

Conservative Party Leadership Convention—The Conservatives will elect their next leader on May 27, 2017. The party is urging Conservative Party members to buy memberships or renew them in order to vote. For more information, contact Cory Hann, director of communications, Conservative Party of Canada, at 613-697-5614.

SUNDAY, MAY 28

NDP Leadership Debate—The party will hold a debate in Sudbury. 2-3 p.m. Cambrian College. In order to vote for the leader, you need to become a member of the NDP no later than Aug. 17. Online voting begins Sept. 18 and a leader will be announced no later than Oct. 29.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

CANSEC 2017—This is an annual showcase of technology, products, and services for land-based, naval, aerospace, and joint forces military units. Organizers say this two-day event is the largest and most important defence industry event in Canada. Until June 1. EY Centre, 4899 Uplands Dr., Ottawa, Ont. defenceandsecurity.ca/CANSEC2016/cansec/Overview.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1

A Collaborative Roadmap for Canadian Parliamentary Reform—Michael Chong, Scott Simms, and Kennedy Stewart, will launch their book at Ben McNally Books, 366 Bay St., on June 1 in Toronto. The book is called *Turning Parliament Inside Out: Practical Ideas for Reforming Canada’s Democracy*. Author proceeds will go to Samara Canada.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

Parliamentary Press Gallery Dinner—Press gallery members are urged to bring their favourite Parliamentarian to this annual event. Saturday, June 3. Canadian Museum of History. The evening will begin with a reception in the River View Salon at 5:30 p.m. The dinner will be held in the Grand Hall at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$113 per person. Part of the ticket price will go to a donation to a charitable organization to further journalism. Tickets will be limited to a total of four per active member.

TUESDAY, JUNE 6

Diplomatic Hospitality Group—The Canadian Federation of University of Women’s Diplomatic Hospitality Group in Ottawa invites diplomats, their spouses/partners, and their families to this event, with the theme Canada’s First Capital. It will feature a visit to Kingston, including a bus tour, cruise, and lunch. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. A nominal fee will be charged to help cover costs.

Great Canadian Debates: The Government Must Act to Save Journalism in Canada—The Macdonald-Laurier Institute presents this debate between former *Toronto Star* publisher John Honderich (for) and Postmedia columnist Andrew Coyne (against). 7 p.m. June 6. Barney Danson Theatre, Canadian War Museum, 1 Vimy Pl., Ottawa. Tickets: \$25-\$20. macdonaldlaurier.ca.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7

APEX Symposium 2017: Celebrating Leadership, Innovation, and Diversity—APEX, an association representing the interests of the 6,400 federal executive community across Canada, is holding its flagship annual professional development and networking symposium. Speakers include: Salim Ismail, a Waterloo grad and global ambassador at Singularity University; Zabeen Hirji, chief human resource officer with the RBC, who will participate in a panel discussion on diversity and inclusiveness in the workplace; and Michele Maheux, chief operating officer from the Toronto International Film Festival, who will participate in a panel session on what it takes to be a top employer in Canada. The symposium invites participation from the public, private and academic sectors. June 7 and 8, Shaw Centre, 55 Colonel By Dr., Ottawa. For more information: apex.gc.ca/en/services/symposia

The Parliamentary Calendar is a free events listing. Send in your political, cultural, diplomatic, or governmental event in a paragraph with all the relevant details under the subject line ‘Parliamentary Calendar’ to news@hilltimes.com by Wednesday at noon before the Monday paper or by Friday at noon for the Wednesday paper. We can’t guarantee inclusion of every event, but we will definitely do our best.

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