BACKBENCHERS

Former NDP MP Wendy Lill is the writer behind CBC Radio's Backbenchers.
Heard on the Hill p. 2



Twitter matters and even more so in Election Campaign 2011. ***p. 2***

TWITTER

SPEAKER

Here's to you, Mr. Milliken. House Speaker Peter Milliken left the House of Commons with a little more dignity. ***p. 8***



American political satirist Stephen Colbert, host of his smash show The Colbert Report, poked fun at Canadian politics last week. ***p. 2***

COLBERT



THE HILL TIMES

TWENTY-SECOND YEAR, NO. 1082 | CANADA'S POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT NEWSWEEKLY | MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2011 $4.00

Tories running leaner war room, focused on winning majority

This election campaign's war room has 75 to 90 staffers, with the vast majority handling logistics of the Prime Minister's tour.

By KRISTEN SHANE

The Conservatives are running a leaner war room and a national campaign made up mostly of campaign veterans, some in new roles, whose goal is to persuade Canadians to re-elect a "solid, stable Conservative government" to continue Canada's economic recovery or risk a coalition government headed by Liberal Leader **Michael Ignatieff**.

Please see story on Page 6

ELECTION CAMPAIGN 2011

Prime Minister Stephen Harper on the hustings



Conservative Party of Canada Photo

Bonjour Québec: Prime Minister Stephen Harper, pictured in Quebec, last week on the campaign trail.

Lobbyists 'pissed' they can't work on election campaign, say it's against their Charter rights

Lobbying Commissioner Karen Shepherd tells lobbyists that working on a political campaign advances private interests of public office holder.

By BEA VONGDOUANGCHANH

Lobbyists are "frustrated" they can't work on the federal election campaign but vow to speak out against a regulation that they think could be an unconstitutional restriction on their Charter rights.

Please see Lobbying on Page 16

Liberals put on game face in campaign, Donolo travelling with Ignatieff

One Grit said Bloc Leader Gilles Duceppe 'bailed out' Grit Leader Michael Ignatieff by calling Stephen Harper 'a liar,' in first week.

By BEA VONGDOUANGCHANH

Liberals claim they have the best war room so far during the 41st election campaign, but Conservatives are also taking note of the Grits' improved electioneering from their 2008 effort.

"Obviously the Liberals' game is better than it was the last time. That's not surprising. I mean, they've got some good people over there. They're to be commended," said Summa Strategies vice-president **Tim Powers**, a Conservative

Please see story on Page 7

NDP war room working 16 hour days, 'surviving on caffeine and adrenaline'

'They have a few surprises up their sleeves for Day minus 10 and down,' says Robin Sears.

By JESSICA BRUNO

On the third floor of a brick and mortar heritage building, at 279 Laurier Avenue West, a quick walk from Parliament Hill is the New Democratic Party's orange and green-splashed, eco-friendly, campaign hive.

Inside are 150 campaign workers, some paid, some volunteer (the campaign would not release the proportion of each), all working towards one goal: a federal NDP government, which may be unrealistic considering the party's at about 16 per cent in public opinion polls. But the party is

Please see story on Page 21

Coalition will be constant theme for Tories during election

Nanos poll last week shows fear of coalition not taking hold in voters' minds.

By TIM NAUMETZ

Experienced war-room Conservatives were rumoured last week to be in favour of dropping the hidden-agenda-coalition attack against Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff, but the young Turks won out and the relentless effort—sometimes appearing as just a few lines in one of Stephen Harper's lifeless speeches, sometimes in a blaring "COALITION WATCH" bulletin from Conservative campaign headquarters—will continue grinding away at Ignatieff until voting day.

Please see story on Page 15

MPs vow to quickly revive Copyright Bill in next Parliament

Some 40 bills died on the Order Paper when the government was defeated.

By BEA VONGDOUANGCHANH

Some 40 bills died on the Order Paper when the Harper government was defeated on March 25 in an historic contempt of Parliament vote, but political observers say the government's bill to update the Copyright Act was one of the most important ones.

Conservative incumbent Dean Del Mastro, who is running for re-election in the bell-whether riding of Peterborough, Ont., and who sat on the legislative committee studying Bill C-32, the Copyright Modernization Act, told *The Hill Times* that he is "disappointed" the bill died before an election was called,

Please see Legislation on Page 4

Publications Mail Agreement #40068926

FEATURE: BUZZ



HEARD ON THE HILL

BY BEA VONGDOUANGCHANH

Backbenchers, the CBC Radio show: 'one-third of MPs gone in four years, no pension, no fanfare, work too hard, drink too much, gain weight, go into debt, screw around and wreck marriages'!

For those who are missing all the drama on Parliament Hill (because there's not enough drama during an election campaign), they can tune into CBC's Radio drama series *Backbencher*.

The subtitle of the show is "One Woman's Journey Through the Snake Pit of Canadian Politics." Ouch.



Former NDP MP Wendy Lill.

Written by former two-term NDP MP **Wendy Lill**, *Backbenchers* is about a paramedic, Nellie Gordon, who represents the riding of East Nova. She decides to run for office on a whim and wins her seat. The drama series takes listeners into caucus meetings, committee meetings and the whole House of Commons experience from the fictional character of Ms. Gordon's perspective. Ms. Lill, a playwright, writer, historian, represented Dartmouth, N.S., from 1997 to 2004.

"Hundreds of elected representatives from different parties arrive in Ottawa after every election, sit up at the back near the gold curtains and provide the cannon fodder for democracy. Away from home, they are subject to great temptations, kept in check by fear, insecurity, half-cocked ideals and the lure of power," CBC's website says about the show.

"They spend up to two days a week in the air, moving regularly from the rarified ceremonious environment of the House of Commons to the hardscrabble reality of their riding offices. One-third of them are gone in four years at the whim of the voters. No pension. No fanfare. They work too hard, drink too much, gain weight, go into debt, screw around and wreck marriages. They struggle with stress, travel, loneliness, the complexities and the endless contradictions."

It's all portrayed in *Backbenchers*, which airs on CBC Radio One on Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. and again at 11 p.m.

"Life as an MP is a physical, mental and ethical workout—every day. And that's what this series is about, a view from the backbenches of the House of Commons; one woman's journey through the snake pit of Canadian politics," says CBC's website. The show is produced at CBC in Halifax, and the recording engineer is funnily enough, named **Pat Martin** (not the same NDP MP who's running for reelection in Winnipeg Centre, Man.).

Reach matters in election campaign on the Twitterverse

Twitter matters, and building networks will matter in this election campaign, says a new report by government relations firm Ensight Canada.

In its analysis of how Twitter was used during the release of the federal budget, Ensight said, "While Twitter may not count as many Canadian users as Facebook, we found that it is nonetheless home to a vibrant and highly engaged community of political observers and activists."

The report also said that "reach matters" and although the conversations on Twitter were "driven by a core group of activists and partisans," the potential reach and "reverberations" through the Twitterverse can make an impact.

"The parties that were most effective at mobilizing their supporters were able to expand their potential reach beyond their core network," the report said. "[NDP leader] **Jack Layton** demonstrated an impressive ability to have his message carried to a broader audience. If he can replicate his success during the election period, he may have an opportunity to engage in conversation with voters outside of the political community on Twitter."

Ensight mined the Twitterverse and read through 9,667 tweets on budget day, Tuesday, March 22. It found that Mr. Layton "reached 93 per cent of the NDP's entire potential audience"—that's 650 per cent more people than the entire Conservative caucus. Ensight calculated this by showing how many tweets Mr. Layton made (two) and then how many times it was retweeted (530) and found that he had the potential to reach 289,762 people through everyone's social network.

In comparison, Industry Minister **Tony Clement** tweeted once and that got retweeted seven times, reaching a potential audience of 17,401 people. Liberal deputy leader **Ralph Goodale**, meanwhile, tweeted six times on budget day. Those tweets got retweeted 122 times which garnered a potential audience of 113,991.

"If parties or politicians are unable to generate a significant amount of reverberation, it risks preaching to the choir. The result is the echo chamber effect," Ensight's report said. "In order to avoid wasting time and resources on a group of people who have already made up their minds, politicians must develop an ability to activate their supporters, so that these supporters in turn engage their personal networks. Those that can communicate across a variety of networks will get the most value out of Twitter."

Over on the media side, QMI Agency's **David Akin** tweeted 33 times, which got 95 retweets and 69,405 potential reach. The CBC's **Rosemary Barton** had 19 tweets, 73 retweets and a potential reach of 60,983. Fellow CBC tweeter **Kady O'Malley** made 44 tweets, got 97 retweets and had a potential reach of 54,378.



Twitter folk: CBC's Rosemary Barton and Kady O'Malley and QMI's David Akin.

Colbert pokes fun at Canadian politics



Courtesy of the Colbert Report

Hello nation: Stephen Colbert, host of *The Colbert Report*, had some fun last week on his show.

American political satirist **Stephen Colbert**, host of his smash show, *The Colbert Report*, poked fun at Canadian politics last week when he covered the collapse of the **Stephen Harper** government.

He joked that he wanted to see U.S. President **Barack Obama**'s state of the nation address "to get answers about the shocking regime collapse on everybody's mind." He went to a Fox News clip saying, "Canada's coalition minority government led by Prime Minister Stephen Harper fell today."

"The Canadian government has fallen!" exclaimed Mr. Colbert. He said it was a "chilling story" and that since the defeat, "marauding bands of rebel Inuit are storming Parliament on beaverback while embattled Prime Minister Stephen Harper orders Mounties to dump cauldrons of boiling maple syrup on them. It is the only story that anyone is talking about."

Cue loud, apocalyptic music. Mr. Colbert called his coverage of the Canadian "regime collapse" "Chaos in Chaonada."

He then said, "Nation, we've only begun to scratch the surface of this panic in the provinces. For more dramatic details let's go to the BBC."

An English BBC reporter is then heard saying, "Today a confidence motion simply confirms the conclusions of a group of MPs that on Monday found the minority Conservative government of prime minister Stephen Harper in contempt of Parliament failing to provide the estimated costs for a number of spending programs."

An unamused-looking Mr. Colbert then said they wouldn't need the dramatic graphic showing "Chaos in Chaonada" anymore and quickly moved on to other important news.

Are five-term Conservative MPs also 'passed expiry'?

Manitoba Conservative candidate **Shelly Glover** who is running for reelection in Saint Boniface, Man., got into trouble on the first week of the campaign, calling on Liberal MP **Anita Neville**, 68, to step down from the political race in Winnipeg South Centre. In response to a question from Global News about the neighbouring Manitoba riding who doesn't have a Conservative candidate, Ms. Glover said, "We need some fresh blood, we need some new people who have some new ideas and who are willing to stand up for their constituents. And I'm afraid Ms. Neville has passed her expiry date."

CARP, a non-profit organization representing issues affecting older persons, called Ms. Glover's comment ageist.

Susan Eng, vice-president of advocacy for CARP, called on Ms. Glover to apologize and retract her statement. "It does raise the question of whether Ms. Glover and her party are committed to the principle that people should be judged on their competence to do a job and not their chronological age," Ms. Eng said in a statement.

In her own statement, Ms. Glover clarified that she was "referring to Ms. Neville's performance as an MP, and only that." She also said, "Ms. Neville has ceased to be an effective representative of her constituents. I believe someone new, of any age, with new ideas would be a more effective representative for the people of Winnipeg South Centre."

The Liberals quickly responded, saying that Ms. Glover's comment was agism because there are several Conservative MPs who have been in Parliament longer than Ms. Neville, who was first elected in 2000. There are 17 Conservatives who were elected first in 1997, and running for re-election, including Prime Minister **Stephen Harper**.

Flanagan on Donner Prize short list

Former **Stephen Harper** adviser **Tom Flanagan**'s book *Beyond the Indian Act: Restoring Aboriginal Property Rights* has been shortlisted for the Donner Prize.

The other four finalists include: *Perverse Cities: Hidden Subsidies, Wonky Policy, and Urban Sprawl*, by **Pamela Blais**; *Le CHUM, une tragédie québécoise*, by **Robert Lacroix** and **Louis Maheu**; *Arrival City: The Final Migration and Our Next World*, by **Doug Saunders;** and *Oka: A Political Crisis and Its Legacy*, by **Harry Swain**.

The books represent the best in Canadian public policy.

"This year's selection addresses some of the most challenging issues in public policy; the authors are offering a national and international perspective, and policy suggestions that are provocative, timely and deserve further debate. In true Donner tradition, we look forward to an ongoing exchange of ideas," said **Allan Gotlieb**, chair of the Donner Canadian Foundation.

The $35,000 prize winner will be announced at a ceremony on April 27, hosted by former CBC *Politics* host **Don Newman**.

Aragon serenades Prime Minister Harper on campaign stop



Courtesy of Conservative Party of Canada

Oh, Maria! Stephen Harper with Maria Aragon.

Prime Minister **Stephen Harper**, pictured with 10-year-old YouTube sensation **Maria Aragon** in Winnipeg, Man., on March 29, watches as Miss Aragon played the keyboard and performed her viral rendition of Lady Gaga's *Born This Way*.

Mr. Harper sat smiling beside the young Filipino-Canadian chanteuse and **Laureen Harper** sat on her other side. While Miss Aragon belted out her song and flashed smiles at the two of them like a Las Vegas performer, the PM watched her intently. He looked a little uncomfortable and like he was trying to mouth the words. He later told her she was "fantastic."

Mr. Harper also played the Beatles' *Imagine* and sang a few bars while the 10-year-old sang.

Incidentally, Mr. Harper dropped into Miss Aragon's home for the photo-op in an effort to woo the Filipino-Canadian vote in Winnipeg.

bvongdou@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

porter

Getting to Halifax is smooth sailing with Porter.

When you fly Porter, the legendary Maritimer hospitality starts before you've even taken off. Breeze through check-in, drop anchor in the comfortable lounge, and then relax onboard with a glass of wine served up by our charming crew – so you arrive with the wind in your sails.

This is flying, refined.



Book online, call 1-888-619-8622
or contact your travel agent.

flyporter.com



All the bills: Government House Leader John Baird, pictured last week on the Hill with reporters.

Photograph by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*

MPs vow to revive Copyright Bill in next Parliament

Some 40 bills died on the Order Paper when the government was defeated.

Continued from Page 1

however, he also said the bill is a Conservative Party priority. If they win the election on May 2, the Conservative government will move quickly to reintroduce it, he said.

"If we want to maintain good trade relationships with the United States, if we want to be able to get a free trade agreement in place with the European Union, if we want to see the kind of growth in the knowledge-based economy that we believe is so important to Canada, then we have got to update the Copyright Act," Mr. Del Mastro said. "It's a priority, a priority for the Conservative Party and a priority for the Prime Minister. So we will move to try to pick up where we've left off and try to get the copyright bill passed. Obviously, if we have more Conservative members of Parliament, we should be able to move much more quickly."

The federal government introduced Bill C-32, the Copyright Modernization Act, in Parliament on June 2, 2010. It was the second bill the Conservative government has introduced in two years to make copyright reforms, and the third one since the previous Liberal government, in an attempt to implement World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) treaties and to bring copyright legislation up to date.

Bill C-32 was called for second reading in November, and is currently being studied at a legislative committee. There were 16 committee meetings before the bill died. If passed, it would've made changes to "better address the challenges and opportunities of the internet, so as to be in line with international standards"; "clarify internet service providers' liability and make the enabling of online copyright infringement itself an infringement of copyright"; "permit businesses, educators and libraries to make greater use of copyright material in digital form"; "allow educators and students to make greater use of copyright material"; "permit certain uses of copyright material by consumers"; "give photographers the same rights as other creators";"ensure that it remains technologically neutral"; and "mandate its review by Parliament every five years."

Prior to the bill going to the legislative committee, Mr. Del Mastro called for committee members to sit extended hours in order to fast track it through the Parliamentary cycle. Opposition parties declined to give consent to do that, however, leading the government to say that the Liberals, NDP and Bloc Québécois were delaying the bill.

Political insiders said last week the committee worked well, despite the partisanship that could be seen, and no matter which party wins the election, the new government should quickly revive the bill.

"I thought the committee was functioning at a very high level, given all the nonsense around them," one insider told *The Hill Times*. "So hopefully what will happen there is whoever forms the next government takes a look at the work that the committee has done to date because I think it was very valuable and probably introduce a bill that addresses the concerns to date and goes from there and then I think they can get through it very quickly."

After almost a decade and three governments, it should be passed by the end of this year if all parties can work together, insiders said.

"I think you can narrow down where you would start and incorporate a lot of what they heard at committee and that would speed the process up. I don't think that particular work will be wasted at all,"said one consultant lobbyist who has a client invested in the copyright amendments. "Now, if the government waits two years to introduce the bill again, it probably is wasted."

Mr. Del Mastro said the committee did hear some informative comments on how to tweak Bill C-32, largely related to unintended consequences. He said that the application of the bill needed to be aligned with its intent, and stakeholders who came before the committee pointed that out. It's something that the Conservatives will take into account if they do form the next government, he said. Meanwhile, he said he's heard from the Canadian Recording Industry Association as well as the Canadian Chamber of Commerce who've told him they hope the bill will be picked up where it was left off.

"[They have] certainly lamented the fact that the opposition decided to send us to an election without first passing this bill. I've heard those things and I think that largely it's a major loss for Canadians," he said. "Tens of thousands of jobs rest in the balance of us getting this bill passed. The investment in the knowledge based economy in this country is being held up by the fact that we couldn't get opposition parties to protect copyright in Canada."

Other significant legislation which died on the order paper include a slew of the Conservative government's law and order bills, as well as democratic reform bills never got past second reading. In the last week of the 40th Parliament, MPs and Senators were able to pass eight bills, including two private members bills. In total, 14 bills received royal assent in the dying days of the 40th Parliament.

The Conservative government was able to get 33 bills passed between October 2008 and March 25, 2011.

Tim Powers, vice-president of Summa Strategies and a Conservative strategist, said last week that MPs should've also passed the budget tabled in the House on March 22.

"I think that's essential. I think it was a pretty good budget," he said last week. "I think it doesn't help that we're spending $300-million on an election we don't need right now. I think there were some measures in there that would've been immediately helpful to Canadians, and instead, we're in the throws of an election because the opposition tried to take advantage of circumstances they felt benefited them, but I guess we will debate that over the next five or six weeks to determine what the public thinks."

Meanwhile, the House adjourned on Friday, March 25, the last supply day for the winter cycle, before supplementary estimates and interim supply for the public service could be voted on. After the House voted on the Liberal opposition day motion finding the Conservative government in contempt of Parliament, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, running for election in Calgary Southwest, Alta., moved to adjourn the House. That means that millions of dollars to run the bureaucracy was unable to be passed.

The longer it takes for Parliament to reconvene, the more difficult it is for the government to authorize spending in departments; but those with urgent requests are able to do so through orders in council which are approved by the Governor General "permitting the government to make charges on the Consolidated Revenue Fund not otherwise authorized by Parliament."

According to the House of Commons' online compendium, in order for the Governor General to approve special warrants, Parliament must be dissolved, a minister must show the expenditures are "urgently required for the public good," and the Treasury Board president must show that the expenditure has not already previously been approved and spent.

The compendium states that departments may only ask for special warrants between when Parliament was dissolved and 60 days after the fixed date for the election writ returns—in this case, between March 26 and July 1.

According to the *Canada Gazette*, Parliament is scheduled to return on May 30, but the date can be changed once a new government is formed.

The Hill Times

LEGISLATION WHICH DIED ON THE ORDER PAPER

HOUSE OF COMMONS

- C-4 Youth Criminal Justice Act Amendments Bill (committee)
- S-4 First Nations Matrimonial Rights Bill (second reading)
- C-5 International Transfer of Offenders Bill (report)
- S-7 Deterring Terrorism Bill (second reading)
- C-8 Canada-Jordan Free Trade Agreement Bill (report)
- C-10 Senate Term Limits (second reading)
- S-10 Penalties for Organized Drug Crime Bill (second reading)
- C-12 Increasing Seats in the House of Commons Bill (second reading)
- S-12 Federal Law-Civil Law Harmonization Act, No. 3 (second reading)
- S-13 Canada-U.S. Framework Agreement on Integrated Cross- Border Maritime Law Enforcement Operations (second reading)
- C-15 Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage in Case of a Nuclear Incident (second reading)
- C-16 Restricting Conditional Sentences Bill (committee)
- C-17 Investigative Hearing and Recognizance with Conditions Bill (report)
- C-18 Increasing Voter Participation Bill (second reading)
- C-19 Accountability with Respect to Political Loans Bill (second reading)
- C-20 An Action Plan for the National Capital Commission Bill (report)
- C-23B Reforming the Pardon System Bill (committee)
- C-25 Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act Bill (second reading)
- C-26 Amendments to the International Boundary Waters Treaty Act and the International River Improvements Act (second reading)
- C-27 Canadian Wheat Board Bill (second reading)
- C-29 Safeguarding Canadians' Personal Information Bill (second reading)
- C-32 Copyright Bill (committee)
- C-33 Railway Safety Amendments Bill (report)
- C-37 Citizenship Act Amendments Bill (second reading)
- C-38 RCMP Civilian Review Body Bill (second reading)
- C-39 New Parole Rules Bill (committee)
- C-41 Military Justice Bill (report)
- C-43 RCMP Labour Relations Bill (second reading)
- C-46 Canada-Panama Free Trade Agreement Bill (third reading)
- C-49 Preventing Human Smugglers from Abusing Canada's Immigration System Bill (second reading)
- C-50 Interception of Private Communications and Related Warrants and Orders Bill (second reading)
- C-51 Investigative Powers for the 21st Century Bill (second reading)
- C-52 Investigating and Preventing Criminal Electronic Communications Bill (second reading)
- C-53 Fair and Efficient Criminal Trials Bill (second reading)
- C-56 Preventing the Trafficking, Abuse and Exploitation of Vulnerable Immigrants Bill (second reading)
- C-57 Canada-Jordan Free Trade Agreement Bill (second reading)

C-60 Citizen's Arrest and the Defences of Property and Persons (committee)

LEGISLATION PASSED DURING THE 40TH PARLIAMENT

SENATE

- S-8 Selection of Senators Bill (second reading)
- S-11 Safety of Drinking Water on First Nation Lands (committee)
- C-54 Protecting Children from Sexual Predators Bill (committee)
- C-2 Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement Bill
- S-2 Protecting Victims From Sex Offenders Bill
- C-3 Gender Equity in Indian Registration Bill
- S-3 Tax Conventions Implementation Bill
- S-5 Ensuring Safe Vehicles Imported from Mexico for Canadians Bill
- C-6 2009-2010 Supplementary Estimates C Implementation Bill
- S-6 Serious Time for the Most Serious Crime Bill
- C-7 2010-2011 Interim Supply Implementation Bill
- C-9 2010-2011 Budget Implementation Bill
- S-9 Auto Theft and Trafficking in Property Obtained by Crime Bill
- C-11 Immigration and Refugee Protection Act Amendments Bill
- C-13 Fairness for Military Families on Employment Insurance Bill
- C-14 Fairness at the Pumps Bill
- C-21 Sentencing for Fraud Bill
- C-22 Mandatory Reporting of Internet Child Pornography by ISPs Bill
- C-23A Limiting Pardons for Serious Crimes Bill
- C-24 First Nations Certainty of Land Title Bill
- C-28 Fighting Internet and Wireless Spam Bill
- C-30 Response to the Supreme Court of Canada Decision in R. v. Shoker Bill
- C-31 Eliminating Old Age Entitlements for Prisoners Bill
- C-34 Museums Act Amendments Bill
- C-35 Crooked Immigration Consultants Bill
- C-36 Consumer Products Safety Bill
- C-40 National Seniors Day Bill
- C-42 International Flight Information Bill
- C-44 2010-2011 Main Estimates Bill
- C-45 2010-2011 Supplementary Estimates A Bill
- C-47 Second Budget Implementation Bill
- C-48 Protecting Canadians by Ending Sentence Discounts for Multiple Murders Bill
- C-55, An Act to amend the Canadian Forces Members and Veterans Re-establishment and Compensation Act and the Pension Act
- C-58 2010-2011 Supplementary Estimates B Bill
- C-59 Accelerated Parole Review
- C-61 Property of Officials and Former Officials of Foreign States

—Updated to March 25

Microsoft

Now we're talking private cloud, not just virtualization.

Windows Server is changing the conversation.

The virtualized server is a big deal.

It helps businesses, big and small, make IT more efficient.

But what comes next?

Enter the private cloud—a way to manage your infrastructure as a pool of computing resources to deliver your applications and best serve the ever-changing needs of your business.

Windows Server® Hyper-V® and System Center put you in control with complete end-to-end service management, as well as the ability to tap into the power of the public cloud.

And that's really the whole point of having a private cloud in the first place—control.

With the ability to run and manage multiple hypervisors, development languages and infrastructure platforms, Microsoft transcends those barriers to put the control in your hands.

Because the technology and vendors you use are there to serve your business needs, not the other way around.

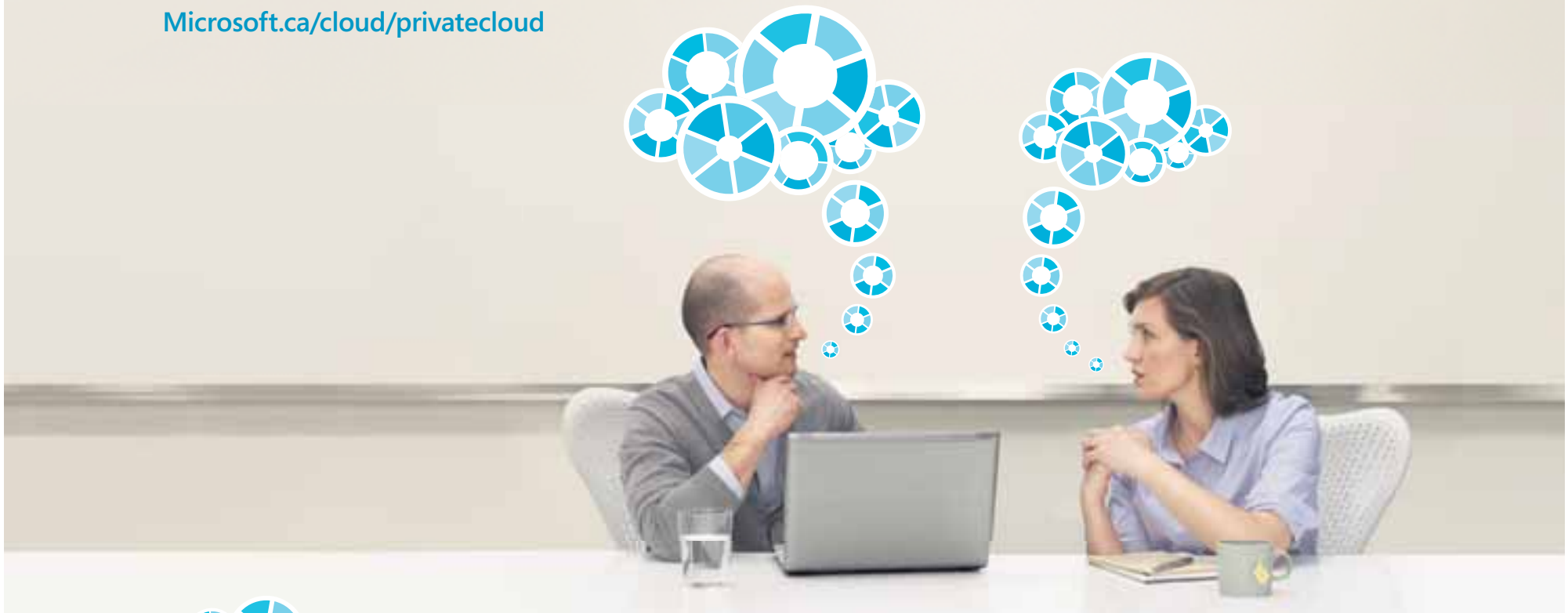
IT is no longer just about hardware. Or software. Or maintenance. It's about finding new efficiencies and new ways of doing things that help your company's bottom line.

So the less company brainpower you devote to fixing old things, the more you can dedicate to coming up with new things.

More computing power. And more available brainpower.

That's Cloud Power.

Microsoft.ca/cloud/privatecloud



Cloud Power

Windows Server® Hyper-V®

Tories running leaner war room, focused on winning a majority

This election campaign's war room has 75 and 90 staffers, with the vast majority handling logistics of the Prime Minister's tour.

Continued from Page 1

With the mastermind of the party's last two winning campaigns, Ontario Senator **Doug Finley**, stepping back from daily operations to focus on his ongoing chemotherapy treatments to fight colon cancer, he is available for advice as a 'chairman emeritus' but has largely passed the torch to the Prime Minister's former chief of staff **Guy Giorno** as national campaign chair, and the party's director of political operations **Jenni Byrne** as campaign manager. Mr. Giorno is likely focused more on strategy, while Ms. Byrne is overseeing candidates and other operational issues, said a Conservative source.

Both are campaign veterans. Mr. Giorno worked on scripting and tone in the 2008 election. Ms. Byrne helped run the war room with **Jason Kenney**, immigration minister and the Conservative incumbent candidate for Calgary Southeast, Alta. This year, Mr. Kenney is eating Tandoori lunch, watching World Cup cricket and mainstreeting with Conservative candidates in ethnically diverse ridings in the Toronto and Vancouver areas.

Back in the open-concept war room at 2713 Lancaster Rd. in Ottawa's east end, **Nigel Wright**, who started as Prime Minister **Stephen Harper**'s chief of staff in January, is acting as a senior adviser involved in major general decision-making, said Conservative sources speaking on background. The campaign itself wouldn't comment on staffing or other operational issues, spokesperson **Ryan Sparrow** told *The Hill Times* last week.

Communications, tour, and other campaign units each have their own cluster of desks in the war room. New this year, **Jason Lietaer** is running the communications shop. **Michelle Mackenzie** of the communications and government relations firm Enterprise Canada confirmed last week that Mr. Lietaer has taken an unpaid leave of absence for the campaign period from his job there as senior vice president of public affairs. Mr. Lietaer used to run the Conservative Resource Group, the caucus research bureau. He was also registered to lobby the federal government as a consultant with Enterprise's parent company Ensight Canada until 2008.

His team includes Mr. Sparrow, Human Resources Minister **Diane Finley**'s director of communications; **Alykhan Velshi**, who does the same job for Mr. Kenney; their director of communications colleagues **Chris Day**, who works for Government House Leader **John Baird**, and **Chisholm Pothier**, who spins for Finance Minister **Jim Flaherty**. PMO communications staffers **Emily Goucher**, **Carl Vallée**, **Kevin Ménard**, and **Mike White** are all also handling communications.

Many PMO staffers have taken leaves of absence to join the war room, said Conservative sources. Holding down the fort in the Langevin Building, where the PMO is housed, is policy director **Paul Wilson** who is acting chief of staff, issues management adviser **Chris Woodcock**, who is acting director of issues management, and the transportation minister's communications director **Nina Chiarelli**, who is acting communications director, Ms. Chiarelli said last week.

Back in the war room, **Ken Boessenkool**, senior counsel at the public affairs firm GCI Group, is doing event scripting such as giving the background briefing, preparing documents for distribution and otherwise organizing last Monday's family photo-op, March 28, and announcement on income splitting. He was involved in the 2004 and 2006 national Conservative election campaigns as well. Mr. Boessenkool was registered with the Lobbying Commissioner's Office as a consultant lobbyist from 2004 to 2010, according to the commissioner's website, on behalf of everyone from pharmaceutical giants to aerospace and energy firms. He is no longer listed as an active lobbyist.

Mr. Boessenkool, Mr. Lietaer, Mr. Sparrow and Mr. Velshi hold a daily conference call with Conservative strategists, spinners, and bloggers.

This campaign's Conservative TV pundits include former reporters-turned-Conservative-Senators **Pamela Wallin** and **Mike Duffy**, in addition to Mr. Lietaer.

Longstanding Conservative commentators continuing to spin during this campaign include **Chris Froggatt**, managing partner with National Public Relations; **Goldy Hyder**, general manager of Hill & Knowlton's Ottawa office; **Tim Powers**, Summa Strategies' vice president of communications; and **Yaroslav Baran**, principal at Earnscliffe Strategy Group. Mr. Baran, who in 2008 led party communications, said he's not involved this time in any formal capacity, but keeps contact with the campaign.

One Tory said **Mark Spiro**, founder of Crestview Public Affairs who was a federally-registered lobbyist in 2006 and 2007, is once again helping the Conservative war room's target seat management unit, as he was in the 2006 and 2008 campaigns. This time, however, he's dividing his time between Ottawa and Toronto, where he is also serving as manager of Ontario Progressive Conservative Leader **Tim Hudak**'s 2011 election campaign.

Dan Robertson, executive director of the Conservative Resource Group, is heading the Tories' advertising and social media strategy, which includes the website Ignatieff's Election, vilifying the Liberal leader, and Tory Nation, a Facebook-style site largely aimed at engaging volunteers and spurring donations from supporters. To fight the Liberals' rapid response Twitter account, Liberal Wire, Mr. Giorno, Ms. Byrne, Mr. Lietaer, Mr. Sparrow, Mr. Velshi, Mr. Robertson and Mr. Soudas have been pushing campaign messages on their own Twitter accounts.

At its core, Mr. Baran said, "This campaign, from the Conservative perspective at least, is about a pretty basic principle: it's about re-electing a solid, stable Conservative government to continue Canada's economic recovery. And the alternative to that would be a risky coalition headed up by Michael Ignatieff."

In that vein, the Conservatives are seeking to brand themselves as prudent and responsible economic stewards who will keep spending in check, however true that may be in practice, said Lethbridge College political scientist **Faron Ellis**, who has co-written chapters on Conservative campaigns in a series of books following recent Canadian elections. He holds a membership to several political parties including the Conservatives.

Mr. Harper is, significantly, openly talking about winning a majority, he said. "It demonstrates the incrementalism. Some would argue their vote imploded after they used the term in 2004 in the last couple weeks of the election. Over the space of the last six or seven years, they have step-by-step built up enough trust, as far as they're concerned, with Canadian voters, so they can get 39 per cent…or 41 per cent and potentially get a majority," said Prof. Ellis.

He agreed that campaign budget figures that University of Calgary political scientist **Tom Flanagan** told *The Hill Times* in 2008 made sense. Prof. Flanagan worked on the Conservatives' 2006 election campaign and managed Mr. Harper's 2004 campaign. Speaking from that historical context he said most full-time Tory staffers were paid for their work. Volunteers did tasks such as serving food, driving and running errands. It only cost about $400,000 to run the campaign headquarters. The biggest expense, taking up about 60 per cent of the budget, is advertising, TV advertising in particular. Direct voter contact and the leader's tour are the second and third biggest expenses. The Conservatives are this year able to spend up to about $21,025,793.18, according to Elections Canada preliminary figures released last week. A final number will be publicized closer to election day on May 2.



Photographs by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*

Conservative team: Nigel Wright, Guy Giorno and Jenni Byrne.

Conservative Party War Room

Address: 2713 Lancaster Rd., Ottawa

Chief: Guy Giorno

Staffers: Some of the senior staffers who are working in the Tory war room in Ottawa include: Jenni Byrne, Jason Lietaer, Ryan Sparrow, Alykhan Velshi, Emily Goucher, Chisholm Pothier, Mike White, Chris Day, Carl Vallée, Kevin Ménard, Ken Boessenkool, Dan Robertson, Nigel Wright, Mark Spiro, Bill Hawkins, and Ian Todd.

Total war room staff: 75-90

TV spin doctors: They include Sen. Mike Duffy, Sen. Pamela Wallin, Jason Lietaer, Dimitri Soudas

Campaign slogan: "Here for Canada"

Money: The maximum spending limit is about $21,025,793.18. It is estimated the Conservatives will spend the most on TV ads and other advertising. Direct voter contact and the leader's tour will also be large expenses.

Plane name: ScaremongAir

To get to that elusive majority, Mr. Harper is visiting swing ridings organized through national tour coordinators such as **Ian Todd**, a former chief of staff to Heritage Minister **James Moore** and current vice president of government and media relations for the energy company Enmax Corp. **Bill Hawkins**, PMO director of stakeholder relations and strategic planning, is in charge of secondary tour, which involves Cabinet ministers touring outside their ridings.

Criss-crossing the country with the Prime Minister aboard the reporter-dubbed "ScaremongAir" Conservative plane are journalists and a small but trusted staff including: PMO communications director **Dimitri Soudas** and press secretaries **Andrew MacDougall** and **Sara MacIntyre**. The PM's principal secretary **Ray Novak**, and deputy chief of staff **Derek Vanstone**, who normally stay in the shadows, have both started Twitter accounts to tout Tory messages on the hustings. Senator **Marjory LeBreton** is accompanying them as a senior campaign adviser. "She's a very well-regarded person and is a good, mature, calming influence on the road, and well-liked by the journalists," said one Conservative.

Among the new faces this year is the tour's wagonmaster, **Mike Beaton**. He's the man who keeps the Conservative crew running on time to catch every plane and bus ride. Mr. Beaton replaces his longtime predecessor **Dave Penner**, who rolled out of the PMO, where he was appointments director, to work for Canada Post last summer. Keeping the Tory torrent flowing, without losing a reporter or politico in the process is a hard job, but Mr. Beaton has experience. He shouldered the job alongside Mr. Penner during then-Canadian Alliance leader **Stockwell Day**'s 2000 election campaign. Tory friends said he's very organized and has a mind wired for operations and logistics.

There are some new faces in key campaign posts such as that of Mr. Beaton, Mr. Lietaer and Mr. Wright, replacing others who have left (**Ezra Levant** and **Kory Teneycke**, for instance, are gearing up to launch Sun TV News later this month so they aren't manning war room posts they did in past campaigns). But most changes represent familiar faces shifting roles, such as Ms. Byrne and Mr. Giorno.

That may be why another Tory said the Conservatives are running a leaner operation of between 75 and 90 staffers this year, with the vast majority handling logistics of the Prime Minister's tour. The NDP, by contrast, have more than 100.

The party has built up polling data, resources, personnel and experience since emerging in 2004 and fighting three elections in the last seven years.

Another person familiar with past campaigns who asked not to be named said Conservative polling was still being done nightly, as has been the case in the past, on a local basis. It is targeted to ridings the Conservatives know they need to flip to win a majority. It is through this process, for instance, that the party would keep track of whether their emphasis on an Ignatieff-led coalition is motivating voters to swing Conservative, said the source.

But an experienced campaign team can also have its downsides by way of skeletons in its closet. A former Tory staffer being investigated by the RCMP was removed from volunteering for the Conservative candidate in Edmonton-Strathcona, Alta. Another campaign worker in Montreal was axed after it was revealed that he was linked to a municipal fundraising scandal.

While they were removed, the Conservative campaign has not yielded to critics' calls to remove Ontario Senator **Irving Gerstein** and Sen. Finley from the campaign because they have both been charged with breaking electoral financing laws that stem from their work on the Conservatives' 2006 campaign.

Mr. Sparrow is also back this election doing communications after being suspended from a similar role in the 2008 campaign for emailing a reporter with a response implying that the father of a soldier who was killed in Afghanistan was motivated to criticize Mr. Harper because he was a Liberal supporter.

kshane@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

NEWS: LIBERAL WAR ROOM

Liberals pick up game in campaign, Donolo travelling with Ignatieff

One Grit said Bloc Leader Gilles Duceppe 'bailed out' Grit Leader Michael Ignatieff by calling Stephen Harper 'a liar' in first week.

Continued from Page 1

insider, adding that it's still early days and all political parties' war rooms are "even at the moment."

Liberal insider Warren Kinsella, who wrote a book about successful war rooms, said, however, that the Liberals were doing well the first week of the campaign. "I think that the Liberals—after the initial coalition statement stumble—are having the best week so far. A good war room wins by stomping all over the other guy's message of the day. Can anyone remember Harper's message of the day, for the past few days? You can't. Which tells you who has the most effective war room so far," Mr. Kinsella told *The Hill Times* by email.

Another Liberal insider described Prime Minister Stephen Harper as "stumbling out of the gate" and claimed the Conservatives have a lower chance of winning the election.

"I recognize the signs because it's normally what we do," the Liberal said. "I think he's on his heels a bit. There've been a few of these things that have got him off message. He's got a very short temper. So I'd say in the early going, things are going rather well for the opposition parties."

The Liberal insider said Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe was "fantastic" when he said, "Everybody wants to sleep with us, no one wants to marry us." The Liberal also said Mr. Duceppe "bailed out" Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff by calling Mr. Harper "a liar," regarding the 2004 coalition letter.

"Ignatieff was dancing around the coalition nonsense, and Duceppe blew it out of the water," the Liberal said. "I don't know what the Conservative message is but it's not getting through. So far, so good."

Mr. Powers rebutted that the Liberals have learned from the Conservatives' 2006 success with announcing policy every day and reacting quickly to the other parties.

"I think they'll continue to get a little bit more laudatory praise because the poll numbers being what they have been and the bar being set so low for Michael Ignatieff that walking and chewing gum looks like an electoral success at the moment," he said. "But as we get more into this, I think that bar will be raised for them as well."

The Liberals, meanwhile, were officially tight-lipped about their war room last week. Liberal sources said that basically the entire opposition leader's office has moved to the party's war room at 81 Metcalfe in downtown Ottawa. Mr. Ignatieff's chief of staff, **Peter Donolo**, is heading the war room, sources said, along with **Ian McKay**, the party's national director. **Pat Sorbara**, the OLO's chief operating officer is also said to be playing a major role at the Liberals' campaign headquarters, along with national campaign co-chairs Senator **David Smith** and **Marcelle Mersereau**. **Gordon Ashworth**, **Heather Chiasson** and **Jennifer Hartley** are also said to be working in the war room.

OLO director of legislative affairs **Jeremy Broadhurst** is also playing a significant role in the Liberal war room, as is **Kevin Bosch**, manager of the Liberal research bureau.

On Mr. Ignatieff's tour are Mr. Donolo, who sources said goes everywhere the leader does; Mr. Ignatieff's executive assistant **Gavin Menzies**, and OLO special assistant **Caroline Séguin**, who also worked the Liberal Express bus last summer.

Doing Mr. Ignatieff's communications while on tour are: communications director **Leslie Church** and press secretaries **Michel Liboiron** and **Dan Lauzon**.



Photograph by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*

The Chief: OLO chief of staff Peter Donolo.

A look at the Liberal Party Campaign

Address: 81 Metcalfe Street, Ottawa, Ont.

War Room: Senior staff include Ian McKay, Pat Sorbara, David Smith, Marcelle Mersereau, Heather Chiasson, Gordon Ashworth, Jennifer Hartley, Jeremy Broadhurst and Kevin Bosch, and others.

TV Spin Doctors: Susan Smith, Maurizio Bevilacqua, Scott Reid, Marlene Floyd and others.

On Tour: Peter Donolo, Gavin Menzies, Caroline Séguin, Leslie Church, Michel Liboiron and Dan Lauzon.

Campaign Slogans: "Can you trust the Harper government?" "Liberal Party of Canada: Canada's progressive, compassionate and responsible alternative."

Campaign Ads: "In this election, [insert location] has a choice to make. Stephen Harper wants to spend billions on fighter jets and billions in large handouts to corporations. I think those are the wrong priorities."

Campaign Strategy: Using social media to reach Canadians, getting Michael Ignatieff to as many events as possible to meet Canadians, playing on Prime Minister Stephen Harper's past record and explaining why Canadians should not trust Mr. Harper with another mandate.

Money: Liberals are expected to spend the maximum spending limit of $21,025,793.18

On the communications and media side at Liberal headquarters, the Senate opposition leader's communications director **Marc Roy** is heading up the media relations team as team lead. Working with Mr. Roy are: **Sarah Bain**, **Michael O'Shaughnessy**, **Kate Purchase** and **Marc Chalifoux**.

Media travelling with Mr. Ignatieff's campaign are paying a daily rate of $1,900, a weekly rate of $10,000 and $45,000 for the entire campaign. The fees include travel by bus and plane, meals and technical resources for filing rooms and buses but not accommodation and any meals not provided by the campaign.

While Mr. O'Shaughnessy said the Liberals do not comment on strategy, in a media handbook, the Liberals said they are finding "new and exciting ways to reach out to Canadians, members and donors and social media is a great way to do that." They are conducting telephone town halls and using their website to blog, post video, and tweet about the campaign.

The media handbook points out that Mr. Ignatieff writes his own tweets: "He has written 17 books, he doesn't need any additional help to write his own tweets."

The Liberals released their platform on Sunday, April 3, in Calgary, in a live-streaming virtual town hall.

The Liberals' pollster is Pollara.

bvongdou@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

POLITICAL REPORTING: ELECTION CAMPAIGN 2011

This campaign: it's about one man and how he's run the government

It's a Harperendum, a national verdict on this combative personality whose appeal can be figured mathematically.



BY TOM KORSKI

Is there anyone in Canada with no opinion of Stephen Harper?

He is praised as a blue-eyed crusader against Bolshevism, and cursed as a craven schemer who'd cheat at Monopoly. This is not a man who inspires indifference.

Apologists portray him as Everyman, but have to reach for it. "True, Stephen Harper is prime minister," as the *Toronto Sun's* Joe Warmington put it, "but he is also a dad. A husband. A guy who loves music and hockey."

Warmington attended a Tory photo-op at a Brampton, Ont., bakery. Apparently no one was roughed up. Harper "is getting better in unscripted real-life settings," Warmington marvelled.

This campaign is about one man, and how he's run the government. It's a Harperendum, a national verdict on this combative personality whose appeal can be figured mathematically.

One-third of voters like him, two-thirds do not, and in campaign after campaign 10,000,000 Canadians looked at the Prime Minister and could not bring themselves to vote at all, according to Elections Canada data.

Yet several media and pollsters forecast a wave of newfound affection will sweep Harper to a majority in Parliament.

The timing is odd.

Harper's second term saw Cabinet resignations, police probes, street riots, a contempt charge in Parliament, citation for election cheating in Federal Court, and broken promises on deficits, the GM bailout, Senate stacking and the Afghan war. After all this, Canadians are told Harper stands triumphant. Even critics are getting in on the act.

I want to commit this to paper before they try to bury the evidence.

Murray Dobbin, leftist pundit, writing in *The Tyee*, contemplated "the unthinkable Harper majority" and braced himself: "We have a rogue government run by a sociopathic, hateful prime minister who has deliberately poisoned our democratic system."

Harper, a passionless campaigner, inspires passion of all kinds.

The Globe's Ottawa bureau chief John Ibbitson cast him in a Churchillian profile: "On the big things, on the things that really count, Stephen Harper has governed well"; "Harper is the political leader who won the most on budget day"; "Canada is at the high-water mark"; and "Canadians are in a good mood right now."

Spring polling showed Conservatives with a 20-point lead. Pre-campaign surveys are reliably entertaining; an August 1993 Gallup poll rated Kim Campbell the best-liked prime minister in 30 years. Web-based polls are even more amusing. A CTV Ottawa survey asked, "Which federal party would you vote for?" and showed Conservatives with 68 per cent support. The party has not won 68 per cent support in Ottawa since 1877.

To now divvy seats on a pollster's say-so in a campaign just underway seems journalistically unsound. Yet Canadians were told:

- Harper has "a huge lead that puts the Tories close to winning majority government and leaves some Grits reeling" (*The Globe and Mail*, March 2);
- "Harper hits the campaign trail with the wind at his back…Liberals trail badly… Ethics issues and several others seem to have, if anything, helped the Tories" (*Toronto Sun*, March 24);
- Conservatives "would be poised to win a 'comfortable' majority if Canadians cast their votes now" (*Ottawa Citizen*, March 24);
- "Tories Set Sights On Majority" (*Maclean's* headline, March 19);
- "Stephen Harper's Conservatives are knocking on the door of an elusive majority" (*Toronto Star*, March 19).

Historic poll returns show familiarity in federal politics breeds contempt. In every peacetime election of the past century, incumbent governments seeking re-election lost seats two times out of three. It appears voters get tired of having them around.

Despite all these factors—century trends, a dreary term, the anti-Harper vote—the Prime Minister is hailed as masterful and his opponents as deranged for provoking an election in the first place. Cartoonist Michael de Adder, whose clients include *The Hill Times*, caricatured this campaign as a Liberal dive into an empty pool. A *Toronto Sun* editorial echoed the suicide theme in writing on Opposition Leader Michael Ignatieff: "His own people see him as weak. If we were his advisers, we'd be pulling the campaign bus over to the side of the road and looking for a high bridge from which to jump."

Another *Sun* pundit, Warren Kinsella, forecast an epic election result. "In federal Grit land things continue to go from bad to worse," he wrote. "Harper hovers at or near a parliamentary majority"; "Harper is now in a position to clobber his opponents"; "That's not an election, that's a massacre"; "Pushing for an election now is just plain dumb unless you're a Conservative"; and "It's looking like 1984 all over again."

Nineteen eighty-four was the year Conservatives won a 70-seat majority and 50 per cent of the popular vote. I can find no Conservative, in public or private, who believes there are millions of non-voting Canadians poised to shake off their indifference and rush the barricades for Harper.

In our country, people like the Prime Minister or they don't.

We already counted those votes.

And they don't tote up to a majority.

news@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

THE HILL TIMES

Published every Monday
by Hill Times Publishing Inc.
www.hilltimes.com
69 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5A5
(613) 232-5952 Fax (613) 232-9055
Canadian Publications Mail Agreement No. 40068926

Editor
Kate Malloy

Deputy Editor
Bea Vongdouangchanh

News Reporters
Jessica Bruno
Tim Naumetz
Kristen Shane

Photographer
Jake Wright

Editorial Cartoonist
Michael De Adder

Contributing Writers
Karl Bélanger
Richard Cléroux
Fred DeLorey
Christopher Guly
Greg MacEachern
Abbas Rana
Karine Sauvé

Columnists
Andrew Cardozo
John Chenier
David Coletto
Sheila Copps
David Crane
Brian Lee Crowley
Murray Dobbin
Greg Elmer
Graham Fox
Alice Funke
J.L. Granatstein
Éric Grenier
Dennis Gruending
Chantal Hébert
David T. Jones
Joe Jordan
Warren Kinsella
Tom Korski
Brad Lavigne
Denis Massicotte
Arthur Milnes
Sean Moore
Angelo Persichilli
Tim Powers
Ken Rubin
Rick Smith
W.T. Stanbury
James Travers
Nelson Wiseman

Director of Advertising
Don Turner
dturner@hilltimes.com

Advertising Coordinator
Andjelka Vidovic

Corporate Account Executives
Craig Caldbick
ccaldbick@hilltimes.com
Steve MacDonald
smacdonald@hilltimes.com
Martin Reaume
mreaume@hilltimes.com
Chris Eldridge
celdridge@hilltimes.com

Director of Reader Sales and Service
Ryan O'Neill
ryan@hilltimes.com

Subscription Sales
Brad MacDonald
bmacdonald@hilltimes.com
Brent McInnis
bmcinnis@hilltimes.com

Circulation
Heather Marie Connors
circulation@hilltimes.com

Finance and Administration
Tracey Brydges

Production Manager
Benoit Deneault

Design and Layout
Joey Sabourin

Internet Services Manager
Xinglin Zhang

Web Designer
Hao Guo

General Manager
Andrew Morrow

Reception
Alia Heward

Associate Publisher
Anne Marie Creskey

Publishers
Ross Dickson
Jim Creskey

The Hill Times also relies weekly on the valuable research of the Library of Parliament.

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40068926
RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO: CIRCULATION DEPT.
69 Sparks Street
Ottawa, ON K1P 5A5
e-mail: circulation@hilltimes.com

Please send letters to the editor to the above street address or e-mail to news@hilltimes.com. Deadline is Wednesday at noon, Ottawa time. Please include your full name, address and daytime phone number. The Hill Times reserves the right to edit letters. Letters do not reflect the views of The Hill Times. Thank you.

CMCA AUDITED
2010 Better Newspaper Winner

EDITORIAL

Here's to you, Mr. Milliken

House Speaker Peter Milliken, the longest serving Speaker in Canadian history with more than 10 years in the hot seat, that's 3,707 days, and first elected in the Class of '88, leaves Parliament a little more dignified today. After 23 years as the Liberal MP in Kingston and the Islands, Ont., and four terms as House Speaker, Mr. Milliken left the Speaker's Chair on March 25 with a bang after presiding over the non-confidence vote in the government.

His recent historic rulings gave Parliament back some of its respect and its bite. Three times in the last year, Mr. Milliken issued unprecedented rulings against the government for disrespecting the rights of MPs and the traditions of Parliamentary democracy.

He ruled last year the government had breached Parliamentary privilege when it refused to release Afghanistan detainee documents, forcing the government and the opposition parties to strike a deal. Last month, he again slammed the government for refusing to fully disclose the costs of its crime agenda, corporate tax cuts, and fighter jets, which led to the defeat of the government on March 25 and contempt in Parliament vote against the government. Mr. Milliken also ruled CIDA Minister Bev Oda breached Parliamentary privilege when she misled Parliament about an altered government document.

On the last day in the House, MPs, staffers and politicos lined the Hall of Honour, as Mr. Milliken walked in the Speaker's parade.

Government House Leader John Baird said on the last day of the House sitting, March 25, that the Speaker of the British House told him that Mr. Milliken was respected "as their leader and their inspiration as someone who has conducted himself very professionally," and "for a Canadian to hear that from a British Speaker is a pretty remarkable conclusion and assessment of your role as Speaker."

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff said, "he has been the voice of this House. You have inspired us—sometimes with kindness, sometime with firmness, sometimes with great conviction and emotion—to better understand the rules governing this House and Canadian democracy. If only for that, the country owes you so very much."

Bloc Québécois House Leader Pierre Paquette said Mr. Milliken's actions have been guided by his profound knowledge of the House and since 2004, Mr. Milliken's decisions have ensured the balance between Parliamentarians' rights and the government's prerogatives.

NDP House Leader Libby Davies, who joked that she hoped Mr. Milliken wouldn't be muttering "Order!" in his sleep, said it was because of his knowledge of "this place inside out and all of its strange practices that no one really understands but which, at certain moments, become important, even critical, to how we function and do our work for Canadians."

Mr. Milliken told MPs that it has "been a singular honour to serve in this position," and quoted Queen Elizabeth I who in an address to her subjects, said, "though God hath raised me high, yet this I count the glory of my Crown that I have reigned with your loves." He said, "When you elected me to this job, you raised me high in this House, but what has been the wonderful part about it is the affection and the respect that you have showered upon me since my first election."

Mr. Milliken affirmed the supremacy of Parliament, defended the House and leaves it with dignity.



LETTERS: TO THE EDITOR

Vital to have public debate on F-35s

Re: "F-35 development well-advanced," (*The Hill Times*, March 28, p. 8). I very much appreciated reading retired Canadian Forces colonel Laurence McWha's letter regarding my opinion on the F-35s from the prior week, "Bureaucrats, politicians share accountability for F-35 quagmire," (*The Hill Times*, March 21, p. 15). I believe it is vital to have a public debate on this program.

I was pleased that nowhere in his comments did he dispute any of my observations regarding the misinformation that is being communicated.

With regard to the Parliamentary budgetary officer, I contacted the office to better understand their statement "the F-35 is the only strike/fighter that can meet the specifications contained in the document as written."

They responded to me as follows: First, they recognized that as of today the aircraft is in a state of development and cannot yet meet the statement of requirements. Their observation was based on the eventual completion of the aircraft in accordance with its specifications.

Second, they stressed that they were making no judgment as to the aircraft's technical capabilities as to do so was outside both their mandate and competence.

Third, they confirmed to me that in no way were they endorsing the "statement of requirements." In fact, the words "as written" were intended to avoid the appearance of endorsing the content or the process by which the statement of requirements was prepared.

With regard to the Sikorsky Cyclones, I share Mr. McWha's frustration over the lengthy delays in the delivery schedule. However, as the auditor general recognized in her recent report on the Cyclones, this acquisition was done in an open, fair, and transparent manner. All that I have been advocating for is that such a process be followed in acquiring new jet fighters.

While there can be no guarantees, I am convinced that adherence to this process provides the highest likelihood that the men and women in the military will obtain the best aircraft at the best price.

Alan Williams
Ottawa, Ont.

(The letter-writer is a former ADM Materiel at DND. In 2002, he signed the memorandum of understanding committing Canada to the second phase of the Joint Strike Fighter program. He is now president of The Williams Group).

Don't want nasty, dirty campaign

Canadians, be aware. Shoving $300-million down the drain for an election nobody wants at this time is not an election for what is best for Canada and the fragile economic circumstances we are in today. It is a costly exercise to try to satisfy the overgrown egos from the opposition parties.

The coalition government rumours are hilarious. A legitimate coalition government is made up of the minority winner and one or more of the losing parties, like in the U.K, not three losing parties. That would be a coup d'état.

I just wonder if the opposition parties are bright enough to figure that out? They were not the last time around.

Be aware, however, that introducing yet another nasty campaign, American-style, is most unwelcome indeed. It would not surprise me in the least to see opposition leaders fall flat on their faces with one more fumble-bum attempt.

Gertie Pool
Abbotsford, B.C.

Nuclear power fraught with dangers and should never be used: reader

The catastrophic nuclear accident at Fukushima in the wake of the earthquake and tsunami may leave behind far more damage to Japan than the tsunami which caused thousands of deaths and injuries.

More than 200,000 people living close to the crippled nuclear plant have been forced to flee radiation leaks, while another 140,000 living inside a 30-kilometre isolation zone have been told to stay indoors. In many ways, Japan is facing a catastrophe not seen since the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Cities have seen their power cut. Japan's famed bullet trains face disruption. Supermarket shelves are being stripped bare of rice, bread, noodles and bottled water as people are resorting to hoarding. A gasoline shortage is causing disruption in transportation, making supplies uncertain. To complicate matters, radioactive contamination has been found in milk and river water. The Japanese are fearful of everything exposed to the environment. I have a personal issue with the Fukushima nuclear disaster. I bought tickets to visit Japan in the middle of April and had to reluctantly cancel my trip because of the nuclear accident.

The catastrophic nuclear accident at Fukushima shows Japan is paying for ignoring Chernobyl in the same way the Soviet Union paid dearly for ignoring Three Mile Island. After the 1979 near meltdown at Three Mile Island near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the Soviet authorities assured the world that such an accident was unlikely in the Soviet Union. In 1985, a year before Chernobyl, the officials at the plant were interviewed for an article in *Soviet Life*, (an English-language magazine for distribution in the United States) aimed at readers who had grown skeptical after the near meltdown at Three Mile Island.

Let's hope after the catastrophic accident at Fukushima, the Japanese will be finally moved by questions of safety. This applies to Ontario as well.

It is said nuclear weapons are too dangerous and should never be used. Similarly, nuclear power is fraught with too many dangers and should be used only sparingly. Three guidelines must be used for nuclear power: no nuclear plant should be built in earthquake-prone areas (this means the whole of Japan), no nuclear plant should be built near large urban areas and no public subsidies should be used to build any nuclear power plant.

If the market is allowed to determine the viability of nuclear energy, it will eliminate this costly source of power. One can only hope that before the next meltdown, the authorities around the world will finally recognize that when one is at the edge of a price, the only sane move is a step backwards.

Mahmood Elahi
Ottawa, Ont.

LETTERS: TO THE EDITOR

Not a Tory supporter here

Re: "We're headed into an unnecessary federal election," (*The Hill Times*, March 28, p. 11). I couldn't disagree more with Angelo Persichilli about the necessity of an election. From the Conservatives' "in-and-out" funding scandal, to their continuing efforts to block access to information, to their erosion of the democratic safeguards within our Parliamentary system, to their ignoring arm's length rules, to the purging of some top government officials, and finally to their misuse of public funds on partisan propaganda, there is much to go to the polls over.

Linda Leon
Whitehorse, Yukon

Should ballot question in election be: 'Who will give Steve the heave?'

The real ballot question is going to be this: Who do you trust to stand up against the neoconservativism that brought us the recession, the provincialism that is dividing Canadians, the continentalism that is stealing our birthright and our sovereignty; whom do you trust to stand up for our institutions, to allow Parliament and Parliamentary democracy to work? The answer is not the party or the politician whose disdain for Canada, democracy and Parliament arrogantly would replace "The Government of Canada," with "The Harper Government." The ballot question is: "Who will give Steve the heave?"

Brian Marlatt
White Rock, B.C.

(Brian Marlatt is the Progressive Canadian candidate in South Surrey-White Rock-Cloverdale, B.C.)

It's undemocratic to shut May out of TV debates

The media's decision to prohibit the Green Party leader from participating in the federal election debates is an undemocratic step backwards (given that the Green Party leader was allowed by the media to participate in the 2008 election debates).

As Democracy Watch proposed in 2006 when the Green Party leader was similarly barred from the debates, to match the legal threshold for political parties receiving the federal per-vote public financing, any party that obtains more than two-percent voter support in the previous election should automatically be allowed to participate in the next federal election debates, whether or not they have seats in the House of Commons.

If more parties than could fit in a meaningful debate qualified to participate (which is very unlikely), then multiple debates could be held in which smaller parties would be excluded some of the time. But five leaders debating is far from too many.

Clearly, the media cannot be trusted to uphold democratic principles when making decisions about election debates, and so other key, needed changes Democracy Watch also proposed in 2006 are to give the non-partisan Elections Canada the power and mandate to run the debates, and to require all main broadcasters to broadcast them as part of their license.

Duff Conacher
Coordinator of Democracy Watch
Ottawa, Ont.



Photographs by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*

Coalition? No thanks: Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff, NDP Leader Jack Layton and Bloc Leader Gilles Duceppe. A letter-writers says no thanks to a potential coalition between the three opposition parties.

Don't like a coalition, says reader

Re: "Coalition government 'perfectly legitimate,' say constitutional and Parliamentary experts," (*The Hill Times* online, March 29). Of course, it is "perfectly legitimate" to create a coalition.

You and everyone else seem to think you are addressing the question that is before the electorate.

That's not the question at all. The question is, "Do Canadians want this coalition: the one that includes the Bloc?" And you already know the answer to that. There were lots of polls on public opinion when it came up before.

This a legitimate coalition, but one which makes most Canadians want to vomit. You should be writing an article on this.

Brian C. Bailey
Cantley, Que.

Not happy about wasteful election underway

As an ordinary Joe who follows politics on a daily basis in this fine newspaper, I am appalled by the recent selfish decision by the Liberal Party to co-ordinate an election strategy with the NDP and the Bloc Québécois in order to topple the Harper minority government. Timing cannot be worse, as the proposed budget contains items which are purported to help the struggling families, stimulate the fledgling economy and to help immigrants, low income families, young families and students.

Unfortunately, we have the three opposition parties teaming up against the Tories for no apparent reason than personal gain; Ignatieff was set and poised to vote it down before he even read the fine details. Layton was waiting until the 11th hour to announce he, too, would be voting against it, because it only goes half-measure to address his concerns. Whereas Bloc leader Duceppe was set to vote against it from the get-go, just because the Bloc is an election ready whose primary goal is to send the message to voters back home in his province that "Canada as a federation doesn't work."

I am sorry to have my hard-earned tax dollars earmarked to the sum of $300-million to waste on negative attack ads and bombard Canadians with so much electioneering to turn them off political involvement. Too bad it's spent on an election campaign likely to result in either of two distinct outcomes: another minority government led by Harper (having to restack the legislative agenda after all bills die on the order paper, a likely waste of an enormous time and energy), or a coalition arrangement between Layton and Ignatieff, endorsed by Duceppe.

Steve Norris
North York, Ont.

Prime Minister Harper's government has contempt for democracy, says reader

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's administration is in contempt of democracy and the taxpayer. We have had three consecutive deliberately-fudged federal budgets: the first fudged by $10-billion (the phony sale of buildings); the second out $50-billion (the denial of the recession a year after it began sweeping the world); and the present budget that is wrong by about $40-billion (jets and mega prisons). Add to that the Conservatives' advertising scam, and public claims that the government of Canada is really the Harper Government.

Eugene Parks
Victoria, B.C.

Believe in what's right over what's profitable

Another federal election and another Canadian soldier dies in Afghanistan. Are we becoming complacent with the status quo in this country, Canada? Are we so beat down by constant political corruption, lies, scandals and daily oppression that we no longer feel the need to better ourselves?

Every single politician who has ever lied, stolen, voted for the party instead of the people or sold this country to the corporate elite rather than protect it for their fellow Canadian needs to be brought to justice. Our loved ones continue to be sent to die in a country diseased with corruption, poverty, and desperation in a decade long "unwinnable" war.

Who is going to stand up for the Canadians who aren't rich or don't live off the government gravy train? Who is going to tell the truth for once, not steal from the constituents, empower the meekest among us, or simply believe in what's right over what's profitable?

Jeff Leggat
Duncan, B.C.

Not listening to pundits on election coverage

Re: "Coalition government 'perfectly legitimate,' say constitutional and Parliamentary experts," (*The Hill Times* online, March 29). Osgoode Hall's Allan Hutchinson comments on any coalition government are embarrassing. An effective coalition is only effective if every party is unified in thought and action for consensus. But when one party's focus is to separate from the rest of the country, any sane thought about getting agreement on anything doesn't make sense.

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff says he isn't talking about a coalition, yet this is what this election is all about and he has forced a $300-million election onto Canadians.

Canadians should remember each broadcaster, reporter, so-called known pundit, and supposedly knowledgeable intellectual, only have one vote, just like we do. The pundits should let all their bluster blow in the wind.

Bruce Letendre
Peachland, B.C.

My trudge to polls may very well be an exercise in futility

On May 2, I will dutifully trudge to the poll, enter the polling booth, and mark my 'X' for the candidate of my choice, as I have since I was old enough to vote. That was back in 1945 when the Liberals, led by Mackenzie King, were re-elected, defeating the newly renamed Progressive Conservative Party led by John Bracken.

In recent years I've come to the realization that while some of the MPs we elect play a role in minor decisions made by government, it is the Cabinet that plays a leading role in making the major decisions. Members of the Cabinet are the target of intense lobbying by executives and leading Canadian enterprises. They maintain a force of several thousand lobbyists in Ottawa who meet with and entertain government representatives, their aides, senior civil servants, and their advisers. They represent the financial elite and their function is to influence government policy in favour of their clients and to maintain a constant vigil to ensure that the power and interests of their clients are not infringed.

It is my conviction that the major decisions in Ottawa originate in private corporate boardrooms. Parliament's role is to merely rubber stamp them and to create the illusion that power lies with the common people.

The reality is that if MPs did control Parliament, Canada's financial elite would not be able to use tax havens and loopholes to get away without paying their fair share of taxes; international petroleum corporations would not be getting away with scandalously low oil and gas royalties in Canada; social programs and infrastructure replacement would be adequately funded; foreign takeover of Canadian enterprises, land, and resources, would be banned; Canadian troops would not be playing a combat role in foreign countries; the export of military hardware would not be a major industry in Canada; ... and the list continues.

So, my trudge to the poll may very well be an exercise in futility.

William Dascavich
Edmonton, Alta.

COPPS'S CORNER: HARPER'S STRATEGY



Conservative Party of Canada Photo

He's the boss: Prime Minister Stephen Harper, pictured on March 31 in Halifax, on the hustings.

Someone needs to burst Stephen Harper's bubble

By refusing to answer more than five questions a day, the Conservative leader is showing the same contempt for the media that caused the election in the first place.



BY SHEILA COPPS

Someone needs to burst Stephen Harper's bubble.

By refusing to answer more than five questions a day, the Conservative leader is showing the same contempt for the media that caused the election in the first place.

And a tight-knit consortium of broadcasters is letting him get away with it.

Instead of restricting participation in debates by dumping Green Party Leader Elizabeth May, the broadcasters should be offering multiple platforms.

A series of informed, issues-based discussions would be a welcome change from the canned, one-on-one interviews designed to cast candidates in a certain light.

What self-respecting journalist doesn't cringe at the recollection of embarrassing CTV outtakes of former Liberal leader Stéphane Dion? They were strung together by head office and aired, against the objections of the reporter who conducted the interview.

Instead, debates offer an uncensored glimpse into the views of those seeking our support.

More than a quarter of a century ago, broadcasters actually sponsored four debates instead of two. Two sessions were devoted to women's issues, in recognition of the significant gaps in equality that existed in Canadian society.

Most of those gaps still exist. Canada has the dubious distinction of ranking 52nd in the world when it comes to the representation of women in the national Parliament.

At the very least, the presence of a female leader is an important signal to send to young Canadians about equal opportunity.

We constantly bemoan the lack of substance in the daily sparring of the House of Commons. But we replicate it during an election.

Most Canadians would benefit from a series of reasoned debates on a wide range of philosophical and policy viewpoints. Surely party platforms on pension reform, health care, jobs and justice are worth a couple of hours of extra television time.

A onetime replacement of *American Idol* or *Jeopardy* is surely a small price to pay in support of an informed electorate.

Instead, broadcasters' claim May's elimination apparently makes for better television. For whom?

If the national networks could muster a full women's debate in the last millennium, surely they can be just as creative in this one.

What prevents a debate on any of the multiple channels targeting female audiences?

Surely the voters are entitled to learn more about the details of a recent Equal Voice election survey into the nomination of women candidates across the country. Not surprisingly, only one party has failed to meet the EV target of one-third women candidates across the country—the Conservative Party.

Even the Tories have increased their number of women candidates to 24 per cent. But with only 20 per cent of these running in winnable ridings, a Harper victory would likely result in a decrease in the number of women in Parliament.

This might be pertinent information to digest before voting day, not after. Instead, we can expect a torrent of post-mortem coverage on Canada's sorry state when it comes to parliamentary equality.

Instead, a press release on women candidates merited little mention in mainstream media even though it goes to the heart of Canada's Parliamentary democracy.

EV, a non-partisan group promoting the election of more women to political office, lauded all political parties for increasing the number of women candidates. The Liberals, New Democrats and Bloc have all "nearly reached or exceeded Equal Voice's target of one third women."

According to executive director Nancy Peckford, a total of 24 per cent of confirmed Conservative candidates are women, up from 20 per cent in the last election, and Green Party women candidates are up one per cent to 30 per cent.

The organization also analysed the chances of victory in winnable ridings, an important measure of success. The Bloc Québécois is running more than one third women (approximately 36 per cent) in competitive ridings. "The New Democrats and Liberals are nearly on par with close to 30 per cent and 27 per cent respectively in potentially winnable seats for their parties."

These numbers mean an increase in support for all the opposition parties will mean more women in Parliament.

Conversely, a Conservative surge could actually result in a two per cent drop in the current number of women. Based on existing rankings, Canada would decline seven points to 59th in the world, with an increased Tory presence in Parliament.

Surely that is an issue that deserves some air time by all the leaders. Why not follow up on Harper's initial offer to participate in more than one debate.

Five questions a day simply doesn't cut it.

Broadcasters, burst the bubble.

Sheila Copps is a former Jean Chrétien-era Cabinet minister and former deputy prime minister.

news@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

POLITICAL ADVERTISING: ELECTION 2011

Political attack advertising, campaign spending next hot issues

No matter who wins this election the hot issue when it's over will be political advertising.



BY GERRY NICHOLLS

OAKVILLE, ONT.—Here's a guarantee. No matter who wins this election the hot issue when it's over will be political advertising.

More specifically, the issue will be, do we need more regulations and rules to control political advertising.

And for this we can thank the Conservative Party's pre-election negative advertising blitz which bombarded Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff to smithereens.

Proponents of more regulation will point out this Conservative media barrage gave the Tories an "unfair" advantage over their cash-poor Liberal opponents who couldn't afford to fire back.

So what will they suggest doing about it?

Well, we can expect a flurry of post-election editorials and commentaries from various Liberal-friendly media sources and from leftist activist groups demanding two "reforms."

First, the reformers will say we need to ban or at least restrain so-called "attack ads."

This will likely be a popular suggestion with many.

After all, there is undeniably a certain stigma associated with these kinds of ads along with a sense that they drive people away from the political process.

Green Party Leader Elizabeth May is already making this case. "I've personally been railing against attack ads for years," May recently told the media. "Attack ads work by reducing voter turnout and it's a cynical ploy that attacks democracy in a very fundamental way."

Interesting argument. But is May right about the harmful effects of negative ads?

Maybe not. One study, for instance, by the U.S.-based Cato Institute, showed that negative advertising was associated with a rise in American voter turn out. So perhaps we need more negative attack ads!

Besides, let's not forget the important question of free speech. Do we really want the state to regulate and control the content of political messages? Surely an outright ban on negative ads would violate the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

And more basically, how would you even determine what is and isn't a negative ad?

Sometimes it's hard to tell.

That's why it's better to let the political market place decide. If Canadian voters don't like negative ads they can simply vote against the party that's airing them. That's a lot easier than setting up some sort of "Negative ad Control" bureaucracy.

The second thing reformers will demand is a restriction on political spending outside the election campaign period.

Currently under the law political parties are limited as to what they can spend during elections, but between elections they can spend as much as they want.

Quebec Liberal Senator Dennis Dawson calls this a "loophole." That's why he was pushing a bill before the election call that would include outside elections expenses as part of the legislated limits.

We can expect he and others in Parliament will keep pushing his idea after the election with renewed vigor.

Says Dawson, "Do we want to be in permanent electoral mode as the Conservatives are trying to do, or do we want to preserve the Canadian tradition of having fair elections, where ideas prevail over money?"

Well, the answer to his question is that the real Canadian tradition is freedom. And freedom includes free speech and free speech includes spending money to express a political opinion.

The real question is why do we need to limit the spending of political parties either during or between elections?

Contrary to what Dawson is implying, money doesn't buy elections. Canadians make their decisions based on the facts, not on how much money a party spends.

That's why, if anything, we should scrap all spending restrictions.

Of course, that's never going to happen.

The best we can hope for is to keep the freedoms we currently enjoy.

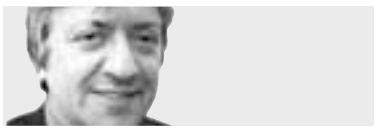
Gerry Nicholls is a political consultant and writer. www.gerrynicholls.com.

news@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

BACKROOMS: ETHNIC VOTE & ELECTION CAMPAIGN 2011

Liberal Party still taking so-called ethnic vote for granted

While in the past the 'ethnic vote' was almost exclusively influenced by Canadian events, today new immigrants, because of new technology and the ability to remain connected to the home country, tend to include events that are not necessarily related to their Canadian life into their decisions.



BY ANGELO PERSICHILLI

TORONTO—Political leaders are courting the so-called ethnic vote in this election, as they do in every election. Traditionally, this vote has gone predominantly to Liberal candidates, but lately the Liberals are experiencing some erosion.

The problems with the Liberals' "ethnic" stronghold started more than 10 years ago, but only in recent years have we seen the cracks widening even in traditional communities such as Italian Canadians. The defection of people such as Rocco Rossi, a former national director of the Liberal Party and a well-known Liberal stalwart, was just unthinkable only a few months ago. Rossi defected to the provincial Conservatives in Ontario. Likewise Tony Genco, the former Liberal candidate who ran against Julian Fantino in Vaughan, last week defected to support Fantino. Many times, multicultural candidates were overlooked or humiliated, but such sharp, immediate, and radical reaction was never seen in the past.

To understand, at least in part, the reasons for this new trend, it's important to analyse the reasons for the Liberals' strength with ethnic voters. The explanation is basically wrapped around two names: the political hatred for John Diefenbaker and the political love for Pierre Trudeau.

This was particularly true for the Italian, Greek and Portuguese communities that arrived in Canada when the Conservative government of "The Chief" was in power, the economy was in trouble, and there were some initiatives perceived to be against immigrants. Now those two leaders are gone and the new generation of Italian, Portuguese, and other ethnic communities have a foggy idea of those two leaders and what they were about.

The second element of this widening indifference is related to an immigration wave of new communities, a new political start and different political interests.

While in the past the "ethnic vote" was almost exclusively influenced by Canadian events, today new immigrants, because of new technology and the ability to remain connected to the home country, tend to include events that are not necessarily related to their Canadian life in their decision-making process.

The position of the Canadian government on issues related to the situation in the Middle East is influencing the vote in some multicultural communities more than the Canadian economy and other domestic debates.

Another important element is the activities of the new Conservative Party and of Minister of Immigration Multiculturalism and Citizenship Jason Kenney in certain communities. His role is paying some dividends and in this election the Tories can enjoy some results.

Furthermore, the new generations of so-called "ethnics" are not too attracted to the idea of multiculturalism, especially because they, rightly or wrongly, see it as a form of ghettoization more than inclusiveness. Younger generations are tired of being lectured by old-style politicians at ethnic banquet halls on weekends where they're told how proud they should be of their contributions to the success of this country.

The new generations don't like the "we" versus "them" and the old generation of politicians doesn't understand this. When I say "old generation of politicians" I'm not referring to their age, but their mentality.

And this point leads me into the fourth element of this increasing uneasiness of the new generation of immigrants with the Liberal Party.

There are two important elements that are increasingly playing an important role: entitlement and ignorance.

The so-called ethnic vote is taken for granted by the Liberals. They still believe that by only mentioning the name of Pierre Trudeau scores of votes will flow to their candidates. The most blatant of this obsolete and lazy attitude was displayed during the last federal byelection in the GTA riding of Vaughan and the way the Liberal Party handled the nomination of their candidate in the Mississauga East-Coooksville, Ont., riding left vacant by the retirement of Albina Guarnieri. There were 10 candidates ready to fight for the nomination when the party intervened basically appointing Peter Fonseca, the former minister in Dalton McGuinty's Ontario government.

We know how it ended up in Vaughan, a Liberal stronghold for more than 20 years is now represented by a Conservative.

I don't know what's going to happen in Mississauga, but the attitude of the "trombones" at the top of the Liberal Party is definitely not helping.

Angelo Persichilli is political editor Corriere Canadese, Canada's Italian-language daily newspaper based in Toronto.

news@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

GREEN FILES: ELECTION CAMPAIGN 2011

Northern Gateway: in whose interest?

Maybe it's time, instead, for Enbridge to stop getting its way on Parliament Hill. Maybe it's time for a real review of the pros and cons of an energy project before Ottawa tosses it an approval.



BY RICK SMITH

TORONTO—Enbridge has hit a unexpected wall of political opposition with its proposal to build a pipeline from the tar sands to Kitimat, B.C. and ship tar sands oil to Asia via supertankers. Enbridge will be seeking approval for the proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline from a joint review panel this year, but before anyone thinks this project is a foregone conclusion, let's explore the issues.

No. 1: Enbridge's safety record. The promise of pipeline companies everywhere (and nuclear plant owners as well, for that matter) is that everything is safe. Locals along the proposed Gateway route fear oil spills into important salmon-bearing rivers. And, if Enbridge's record over the past decade of a spill a week carries on, they are correct to be scared.

Enbridge's aging pipeline network snakes across the country and around the Great Lakes, and as we saw this summer when more than 800,000 gallons of oil spewed from a burst pipeline in Michigan into the Kalamazoo River, the impacts of a spill are devastating. And, that spill was hardly an 'accident'—Enbridge knew the pipeline had hundreds of defects and regulators had urged the company to fix it before the spill.

Number 2: In who's interest? *The National Post* reported that in an April 2010 editorial board meeting, Enbridge CEO Patrick Daniel claimed that the tar sands can help save the world's poor from energy shortages. From this perspective, Enbridge is being a noble global citizen by spurring increased tar sands production with Gateway and other projects.

Yet, last time I checked, it's the world's poor who are most at risk from the impacts of climate change. Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni has said that developed countries are "committing aggression" against African countries by causing global warming. I'd have more respect for a CEO who just told it like it is: we're in this for our own profit. Let's not try to dress that up.

Number 3: Would a pipeline be good for people in British Columbia? Now, admittedly I am not from B.C., but then again neither are any of the people on the joint review panel tasked with making the decision on Gateway. But, opinion polls have found that seven out of 10 British Columbians are opposed to the project, as are the Union of B.C. Municipalities and dozens of First Nations. Local fishing businesses have voiced opposition to tankers off the coast, fearing that a spill would destroy their livelihood. B.C. has spoken clearly, and so far Enbridge isn't listening.



Photograph by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*

It's the environment: Environment Minister Peter Kent, pictured on the Hill.

Number 4: The B.C. tanker ban. In late 2010, a motion passed the House calling for a legislated ban on tankers off Canada's Pacific Northwest coast, and two private members' bills have been introduced along those same lines. The aim of these is to prevent oil supertankers from navigating the treacherous and pristine waters in the region, protecting the coastal ecosystem and economy from an oil spill. A tanker ban would not, as some may suggest, impact existing shipping elsewhere in the country.

The Northern Gateway proposal isn't the only tar sands plan Enbridge is putting before the country this year. It is also planning to ask the NEB for permission to reverse a pipeline that currently brings oil from Montreal to refineries in Sarnia, forcing Ontario to become dependent on tar sands oil and possible bringing tar sands oil into Quebec for the first time.

Unlike the Gateway proposal, this one is so far flying under the radar screen, without a real debate in Ontario or Quebec about whether we want Enbridge to make this key decision about our energy future.

Given the degree of opposition Enbridge is facing, even if the NEB rubber stamps the project, the company could find itself fighting First Nations legal challenges for years. Maybe it's time, instead, for Enbridge to stop getting its way on Parliament Hill. Maybe it's time for a real review of the pros and cons of an energy project before Ottawa tosses it an approval.

Dr. Rick Smith is executive director of Environmental Defence (www.EnvironmentalDefence.ca). The views expressed here are his own.

news@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times



Immigration Minister Jason Kenney.

Photograph by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*

Canadian Diabetes Association

At the Tipping Point

Canada is not prepared to manage the growing diabetes epidemic that threatens the healthcare system, economy and health of millions of Canadians.

It's time to tip the course of diabetes in Canada.

To find out what needs to be done, consult our new report, **Diabetes: Canada at the Tipping Point—Charting a New Path**

diabetes.ca/dpr

The muddle of multiculturalism

The Conservatives' multicultural forays are obviously not part of the 'hidden agenda' of which the Liberals warned.



BY NELSON WISEMAN

TORONTO—The French president, the German chancellor, and the British prime minister have expressed widely publicized doubts about multiculturalism. Disparaging multiculturalism is not new and some Canadians, especially Quebecers, find fault with it. PQ MNA and former Cabinet minister Louise Beaudoin castigates it as "not a Quebec value" and Gérard Bouchard, co-chair of Quebec's commission on "reasonable accommodation," rejects it as a "non-starter" in his province. Multiculturalism, according to acclaimed novelist Neil Bissoondath, encourages the isolation and stereotyping of cultural groups while sociologist Reginald Bibby decries it as "mosaic madness."

Some excoriate multiculturalism for allegedly fostering tribalism; others laud it as societal cement.

Pointing proudly to Canada as the first country to adopt a multicultural policy in 1971, multiculturalism's boosters attribute to it the country's low level of ethnic strife and its high standing in the world. In this view, the peaceable Canadian kingdom is a trailblazer in managing cultural diversity, a model for others. Following Canada's lead, other states including Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, Australia, and New Zealand (France is a notable exception) have adopted policies that accommodate cultural differences.

Originally understood as referring to the celebration of diverse heritages, multiculturalism now is more likely associated with issues of equity and representation. Measures of the success of multicultural policy are the integration and prosperity of immigrants. Comparatively, immigrants feel accepted and attached to Canada; 84 per cent become citizens. In Britain, only 50 per cent do, in the United States, 40 per cent. The most eager to acquire Canadian citizenship are Africans and Asians, the least keen are Americans. If the past is a guide, recent hand-wringing about the yawning gap between the incomes of immigrants and native-born Canadians may be unwarranted. The earnings and educational attainment levels of second generation Canadians of families that arrived before 1981 exceed those of children of the same age of Canadian-born parents.

Whether this pattern has persisted for post-1981 immigrant families, most of whom are visible minorities, is an open question. Success will vary among groups—the Chinese will likely do better than the Latin Americans and the Africans.

Befuddlement respecting multiculturalism is rooted in different uses of the term. It has become a cipher, a coded symbol, often conveyed and received as a subliminal message. Indisputably, western states are increasingly polyethnic and multiracial. Within this decade, visible minorities will become the majority in Toronto and Vancouver.

Multiculturalism is also a resource; prime ministers on trade missions to Asia, for example, bring an entourage of Asian Canadian business leaders to grease the wheels of commerce. Now protected by the Constitution, multicultural communities may use the equality, fundamental freedoms, and multicultural sections of the Charter of Rights to advance their status.

Multiculturalism thus takes on a different hue in Quebec than in English Canada. The *Québécois* want immigrants not only to speak French but also to acculturate to Quebec's historical fabric—its distinctive literary, cultural, and philosophic traditions. Quebec is unapologetic about wishing to integrate and assimilate its minorities and the *Québécois* call this approach "interculturalism."

English Canadians in contrast have repressed their society's British roots and their historic identity as a British people. Where Quebec schools highlight Quebec's pre- and post-Confederation history, English Canada's schools studiously avoid British history and the story of English Canadians as a British people. English Canadians, once sentimentally and emotionally attached to the British Empire, longed for Canadian equality as a self-governing dominion, neither a ward nor a subordinate, within the Empire.

But now, more Canadians self-identify as being of French than of British ethnic origins, an indication that Canadians of British ethnic origins have buried their ethnic roots. Since 1991, respondents to the census can and many do identify their ethnicity as "Canadian." Many Canadians of British ethnic origins prefer to think of themselves as internationalist cosmopolites. Five decades ago, they abandoned the Union Jack on the Canadian flag and three decades ago, they jettisoned the very title of their constitution, the British North America Act.

Jason Kenney's Reform Party in the 1990s opposed government-sponsored multicultural programs and campaigned for dramatically reduced immigration levels. The Reformers lambasted multiculturalism and, like John Diefenbaker's Conservatives, rejected the idea of a "hyphenated" Canadian identity. Now, as Minister for Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, Kenney boasts of record immigration levels and assiduously courts ethnic fraternal organizations and their media. He will eat perogies for breakfast, curry for lunch, and won tons for dinner before he will be seen indulging in Yorkshire pudding or Welsh rarebit.

Last month at a Filipino-sponsored affair in Brampton, Kenney, cloaked in a robe and crowned on a throne, had a sash festooned across his chest proclaiming him the "King of Multiculturalism." In photos widely circulated by his office, original Reformer Stephen Harper appears in a Jewish skullcap and a white Sikh headcovering but not in tartan, kilt, or dancing an Irish jig. An evangelical Christian, we have seen him at mosques, temples, and synagogues, but not at church.

The Conservatives' multicultural forays are obviously not part of the 'hidden agenda' of which the Liberals warned.

Nelson Wiseman teaches political science at the University of Toronto.

news@hilltimes.com

The Hill Times

OPINION: THE ECONOMY & ELECTION CAMPAIGN 2011

Global competition for good jobs based on new ideas to become more intense as decade proceeds

Canada has to be ready. IRAP is one of the best vehicles we have to succeed in such a challenging world. Our future economy should be a top election issue.



BY DAVID CRANE

TORONTO—In a submission to the expert panel reviewing federal support for business research and development, Drew Burgess of JackTek Systems, an Alberta developer of high-tech oil field equipment, gives high praise to a federal program that he says played a key role in helping his company become a success.

Most small and midsize companies, Burgess says, don't have the resources to bridge the gap between technology development and commercialization, which is called the "valley of death" because that's where good ideas die if they lack the resources to bridge the gap.

Enter the Industrial Research Assistance Program or IRAP as it is known to the tens of thousands of small and midsize companies which have benefited from its support over the years. IRAP provides small and midsize companies with technical and business advice from its team of experts spread across the country, is a source of direct grants to help companies develop new technologies or improve their production processes, and has money as well to help companies hire bright young university graduates for innovation projects.

As Burgess put it in his brief, IRAP brought to the table "a highly dedicated and skilled group of 240 technical advisers" who help bridge the gaps at all phases of development, from early stage research to commercialization and deployment of new products. This expertise, along with funding support, increases the "success rate" for emerging companies, Burgess says.

And creating jobs, Burgess could have added because the new jobs we need in Canada will come from new ideas, whether through existing businesses pursuing new products or services or new companies doing this.

Burgess is far from alone in testifying to the value of IRAP in submissions to the task force. Research in Motion, now one of Canada's largest and most successful high-tech companies, told the panel it "helped incalculably by the federal and provincial governments," with IRAP and other programs playing "a key role in our success."



Photograph by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*

It's Jimmy: Finance Minister Jim Flaherty.

Probably no Canadian has a better grasp on how to launch and grow technology companies than Terry Matthews, whose Wesley Clover investment company currently has a portfolio of 22 public and private technology companies, a number of which were founded by Wesley Clover.

IRAP, the company told the expert panel, "has been highly successful and helpful to technology SMEs. But IRAP is seriously under-funded and spread very thinly across every technology sector and every geography." And that's a big problem for Canada's economic potential.

The level of funding provided to IRAP for direct contributions to companies in the 2011-12 fiscal year is estimated to be $72.7-million, which will be well below the level of need. This compares with $69.1-million in 2007-08 and $70.7-million in 2008-09, so that adjusting for inflation, the Harper government is actually cutting its budget. For the past two years, funding has been higher due to economic stimulus funding—to $162.2-million in 2009-10 and $152.6-million in 2010-11. That funding is now over.

"At the historic funding level, IRAP funds are completely committed within about three months of the start of each fiscal year," the Wesley Clover submission said. "The real need, rather than $80-million a year, is actually closer to $450-million a year."

In his recent budget Finance Minister Jim Flaherty did allocate another $37-million, over three years, to IRAP to be used, with Canada's colleges, to help SMEs adopt information technologies."

But this is part of the federal digital strategy and does not strengthen IRAP's core mission.

Underfunding is not the only challenge facing IRAP, and through IRAP, Canada's entrepreneurial community. John McDougall, the new president of the National Research Council, which is home to IRAP, says IRAP "should also align strategically" with NRC priorities. This would be a huge mistake if it means IRAP is to be a vehicle to promote certain industries over others. The great strength of IRAP has been its grass roots culture, with the needs of entrepreneurs rather than Ottawa bureaucrats driving where the funds should go. There are thriving businesses across Canada which have benefitted because IRAP was there to meet their needs and help solve their problems.

After the election it may be time to take IRAP out of the NRC and give it an independent agency status, like the existing granting councils. And it is imperative, given Canada's needs to foster a much stronger pace of innovation in small and midsize businesses—as well as to grow a new generation of large-scale businesses—to seriously increase its base funding so that good ideas for future wealth creation and jobs have greater chance of crossing through the "valley of death" to commercial and jobs success.

The global competition for good jobs based on new ideas will only become more intense as this decade proceeds. Canada has to be ready. IRAP is one of the best vehicles we have to succeed in such a challenging world. Our future economy should be a top election issue.

David Crane can be reached at crane@interlog.com.

news@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

OPINION: HUMAN RIGHTS MUSEUM & ELECTION CAMPAIGN 2011

Museum for Human Rights 'Canada's museum'

CMHR's 12 galleries should be thematic, comparative and inclusive, and no gallery should elevate any community's suffering above all others.



BY LUBOMYR LUCIUK

KINGSTON, ONT.—It's Canada's first national museum outside the capital region. That's fine.

It's at The Forks, in Winnipeg. Great.

It's called the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

Alas, it's not actually that. Instead it's shaping up as a museum focused on the *Shoah*, Jewish suffering in the Second World War.

If this were a privately-funded project that would be fine. But, since March 13, 2008, the CMHR has become a national institution funded from the public purse. Already over-budget, and having failed to secure its projected donations, its ongoing operating costs will be borne by those who pay taxes. As that includes me I reckon I have a stake in what this museum is all about. As you can probably guess I'm out of sorts, possibly because I'm sure I've been had.

Like many, I took the now late-Israel Asper at his word when he claimed, on May 29, 2003: "This museum will be totally apolitical and antiseptic in terms of trying to preach a message of one kind of inhumanity over another." I also reckoned that his daughter, Gail, and the executive director of The Asper Foundation, Moe Levy, meant it as they rebroadcast that soothing message. For example, on Jan. 9, 2004, in *The Winnipeg Free Press,* they affirmed the CMHR would not promote any "hierarchy of suffering." Nor, they claimed, would any community be "asked to contribute any specific amount in order to tell their story" since professionals working in "close consultation with all of the groups whose stories will be told," would be responsible for the museum's contents.

Furthermore those planners had "inclusiveness" mandated as their guiding principle. So when, March 31, 2008, the Ministerial Advisory Committee headed by Winnipeg's own Arni Thorsteinson tabled its report with then Canadian Heritage minister Josée Verner, I swallowed the Pablum, mollified by Table 7 which detailed how Canadians rank-ordered the subjects they wanted addressed, as follows:

Aboriginal (First Nations):	16.1%
Genocides:	14.8%
Women:	14.7%
Internments:	12.5%
War and Conflicts:	8.7%
Holocaust:	7%
Children:	5.9%
Sexual Orientation:	4.9%
Ethnic Minorities:	3.8%
Slavery:	2.9%
Immigration:	2.6%
Charter of Rights:	2.3%
Disabilities:	2%
Universal Declaration of Human Rights:	1.8%

That was a very reasonable list, more or less ordered as I'd rank themes relevant for inclusion in any human rights museum, anywhere. You'd think the CMHR's trustees would honour this instruction. They didn't. They probably always had a different agenda.

Evidence for that can be found in another "final" report, of the CMHR's Content Advisory Committee, submitted May 25, 2010. From sixth spot the Holocaust somehow got pushed up the list to pride of place, with its own privileged, permanent, and prominent central gallery. All other genocides and crimes against humanity, formerly in the No. 2 spot, were plunged into a "mass atrocities" zone. Native Canadians may have fared better. Whether aboriginals were going to have a gallery originally is not certain but now they might, although still slipping from poll position one to two since their stories will never get the same play as the *Shoah*. As the Assembly of First Nations has not uttered a word on the controversy over the CMHR's contents they must have been pacified with what they got. We weren't. And we said so, loud and clear.

Finally the other side replied, none other than Ms. Asper herself, interviewed recently by *Maclean's*. For her those who challenged the Asper vision of the CMHR are nothing but an "acrimonious" and "tiny minority," easily dismissed. Ouch, that hurts.

But is it true? UCCLA and the Canadians for a Genocide Education put her conceit to the test. We commissioned Nanos Research to include a question about the CMHR in a national survey completed in mid-March. The results show an overwhelming majority of Canadians, 60.3 per cent of women and men representing all age groups, all regions and all voter profiles, agreeing with our position that the CMHR's 12 galleries should be thematic, comparative and inclusive, that no gallery should elevate *any* community's suffering above all others. Who's the minority?

Now Ms. Asper was right when she said the Canadian Museum for Human Rights "is Canada's museum." It is. It's ours. Not hers. And Canadians have just told her and her friends—yet again—what we want included in our museum. Maybe this time she'll listen. But it doesn't really matter whether she does. We're sure the politicians will hear us. Soon enough.

Lubomyr Luciuk, PhD, is director of research for the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association and a 2010 recipient of the Shevchenko Medal. The Nanos Research survey question on the CMHR and related materials can be found at www.uccla.ca (under media releases).

news@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times



Photograph by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*

Contempt: Prime Minister Stephen Harper, pictured on the Hill just after his government was defeated in a contempt of Parliament vote, can dismiss ethical problems but they'll keep popping up, says Tim Harper.

Note to Harper: All politics is local

Tory plan to deal with rot at local level is to tell journalists travelling with the leader that he's not interested in answering questions about local issues.



BY TIM HARPER

Funny thing about problems with ethics and integrity.

You can dismiss them as the cut-and-thrust of the political game, shrug, change the channel and expect voters to forget.

But those ethics problems just keep popping up, sprouting like springtime dandelions between patio stones. If you fostered the atmosphere that allows those weeds to thrive, you should expect to be asked to explain.

Unless, of course, you are Stephen Harper.

During this campaign's first week, Harper first had to reluctantly deal with queries about Sebastien Togneri, a former Conservative aide under RCMP investigation, who was busy working for a candidate in a riding the party wants to win back in Edmonton.

Then, even more reluctantly, he had to deal with Giulio Maturi, the man linked to a Montreal fundraising scandal, who had landed as a Tory campaign manager even after—supposedly—ties between him and the party had been severed.

Luckily, the Conservatives had a plan to deal with any rot at the local level. The solution was to tell the journalists travelling with the leader that he wasn't interested in answering questions about local issues.

He's much more interested in the national scene, keeping his eye on the big picture, you know.

The Conservative leader is clearly not an adherent of Tip O'Neill, the legendary Massachusetts Democrat, who famously declared "all politics is local."

The Harper campaign has already decreed that the candidate will take only five questions per day from the poor sods imprisoned on their bus.

A scowl and a direction to call the local officials the next time an ethical matter pops up at the riding level will cost voters 20 per cent of their allotted daily complement of words from the man who wants to return to 24 Sussex Dr.

Those five questions, incidentally, are split between the country's two official languages, with the fifth reserved for a local reporter.

Harper is hardly the first front-runner to treat his interlocutors as pylons on his way to election day.

The impatient Jean Chrétien sprinted to three consecutive majorities by treating his daily, truncated encounters with the media like visits to the dentist.

Brian Mulroney denigrated his tormenters by accusing them of practising "gotcha" journalism at the expense of bigger issues.

But the Harper strategy—last Thursday he kept the media behind a G20-style fence in Halifax—is only the latest and most audacious ploy to scrape the ethical gum from the Conservative leader's shoes.

The Conservatives are counting on Canadians' visceral distaste for the "Ottawa babble" to shelter them from any voter anger. They are convinced that any lament for the erosion of democratic institutions in this country is an invention of the media in Ottawa, who, having given birth to it, feel responsible for keeping it alive.

Ethical breaches?

No one had ever heard of Bev Oda, the minister who was the target of one contempt motion, they will tell you.

An election spending scandal that has two Senators among four party officials facing charges that include jail time is likened to an administrative dispute.

An aide to Immigration Minister Jason Kenney breaking the rules after distributing a letter from the minister's office seeking partisan donations?

Already forgotten, they say.

When Commons Speaker Peter Milliken ruled the Conservatives breached Parliamentary privilege, Harper reacted with his infamous "you win some, you lose some."

Just part of "Parliamentary debate," he said.

His handlers will tell you that the party leader cannot be held accountable for thousands of Conservative campaign workers in 308 ridings.

Fair enough.

Maybe someone should find out for him and let him answer the questions.

Tim Harper is a national affairs writer for the Toronto Star. This column was released on April 1.

The Hill Times

OTTAWA outfront speakers series

A Reality Check on the F-35 Stealth Fighters

with Winslow T. Wheeler

Tuesday, April 5, 2011
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Ottawa Sheraton Penthouse, 150 Albert St.
Free admission

Winslow T. Wheeler is Director of the Straus Military Reform Project of the Center for Defense Information in Washington, D.C. For 31 years Wheeler has worked on national security issues for both the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) and members of the United States Senate.

RSVP: Rideau Institute at 613 565-9449, operations@rideauinstitute.ca

INSTITUT RIDEAU INSTITUTE

PHYSICIANS FOR GLOBAL SURVIVAL
MÉDECINS POUR LA SURVIE MONDIALE
CANADA

EMBASSY
CANADA'S FOREIGN POLICY NEWSWEEKLY



Publication Date: **April 25, 2011** // Booking Deadline: **April 20, 2011**
(Noon, Ottawa Time)

For more information or to reserve your government relations and public affairs advertising space, contact *The Hill Times* display advertising department at 613-232-5952 ext. 213.

THE HILL TIMES EMBASSY

NEWS: POLLING



Photographs by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*

The lay of the land: A Nanos poll for CTV and the *Globe and Mail* last week found that the Conservative Party has 39.4 per cent support among Canadians, the Liberal Party has 31.7 per cent, the NDP have 16.1 per cent, the Bloc Québécois have 8.5 per cent and the Green Party has 4.4 per cent. The undecided votes is still 20.5 per cent. The poll's margin of error is 3.2 per cent. Game on.

Liberals picking up support but it may not be enough to overtake Conservatives

Conservatives are not losing ground so much as people seem to be leaving the NDP because they think the only way of actually defeating the Tories is to vote Liberal.

Continued from Page 1

"I think the coalition issue will be a constant theme through this campaign, it's going to come, it's going to go, but I think it's going to be constant," Geoff Norquay, the veteran Tory commentator who has his share of campaigns under his belt, told *The Hill Times*.

It's unclear what was at the centre of the division, or how significant it was. Some strategists may have thought it makes Mr. Harper appear desperate and possibly afraid, others that it detracts from Mr. Harper's attempts to draw attention to the federal budget measures he ostensibly wants to use to attract enough support for a majority government. One person told *The Hill Times* there was an age divide.

"I think everybody has their opinions, but I haven't heard it described that way," said Tim Powers, the Summa Strategies lobbyist who is also regularly featured as a television guest pundit. "I think the juxtaposition is the coalition is seen as a real moving target."

Despite the apparent intention to continue the coalition scare, however, regular overnight tracking by Nik Nanos for CTV and the *Globe and Mail* throughout last week led observers and election participants to tentatively conclude that it wasn't taking hold in voters' minds.

By Friday, the Nanos poll, which has quickly assumed the position as leading indicator for the 2011 campaign, found the Liberal Party down slightly to 31.7 per cent support from decided voters. The Conservatives held steady at 39.4 per cent in the same poll, which has a margin of error of 3.2 per cent. York University political scientist Robert Drummond said the results showed that at least part of what the Liberals had hoped at the outset—that voters would warm to Mr. Ignatieff, repackaged from the aloof, intellectual, sometimes stern image he had only a year ago, once someone turned on the election campaign spotlight.

"I think it's inevitable in a campaign, you get an opportunity now for people to see more of him, and it may be an opportunity also to see more of the others, and I think it's likely he's going to pick up some support over the course of the campaign," Prof. Drummond said.

"Whether it will be enough to overtake the Conservatives or not, I don't know. In fact it appears the Conservatives are not losing ground so much as people seem to be, at least in some constituencies, leaving the NDP in the expectation that the only way of actually defeating the Conservatives is to vote for the Liberal candidate," Mr. Drummond added.

That perspective came, of course, from the other fascinating, slightly bewildering aspect of the Nanos polling, which found support nationally for the NDP sliding steadily from just more than 19 per cent the day Mr. Harper called the election to 15.9 per cent last Thursday night.

So much depends, naturally, on where the NDP support is dropping. The greatest plunge was in Atlantic Canada, where the Liberals were already strong, and the NDP numbers dropped to 15.9 per cent from 23.2 per cent. But the party dropped everywhere, including a plunge of more than four per cent in Ontario.

Prof. Drummond pointed out if that is accurate—Mr. Nanos cautioned the margin of error for the Ontario segment of his survey is nearly six per cent—it means the chances may be slimmer than Mr. Harper hopes of the Conservatives picking up seats in the area they desperately need: the City of Toronto, now known only as 416 in campaign and pollster jargon.

In the surrounding cities, the wider suburban region *Toronto Star* reporter and columnist Susan Delacourt first popularized as the 905 belt for its telephone area code, an NDP slide won't likely be much aid to Mr. Harper.

"I don't think in the 905 region, the region outside the City of Toronto proper, there's all that much support for the NDP," said Prof. Drummond. "What there is, is likely to remain fairly solid, because those are probably die-hard voters, they're not likely to be swayed. What one looks for in the 905 is whether people are shifting between the Liberals and the Conservatives, because that has been the pattern in most of those ridings."

And so, it may be, once the ballots are being marked, Mr. Harper's and Mr. Ignatieff's fate may be determined by the country's largest city, the one other regions of the country once loved to hate.

tnaumetz@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times



Lobbyists 'pissed' they can't work on election campaign, say it's against Charter rights

Lobbying Commissioner Karen Shepherd tells lobbyists working on a political campaign advances private interests of public office holders. Lobbyists call it unconstitutional.

Continued from Page 1

"I'm feeling frustrated by this because, you know, it borders on infringing on one's constitutional right to be able to work and be involved in the election process, which, of course, everybody has a democratic right to be able to do," said Public Affairs Association of Canada President John Capobianco, senior vice-president at government relations firm Fleishman-Hillard. Mr. Capobianco has previously run as a Conservative candidate in Etobicoke-Lakeshore, Ont., and is a long-time Conservative who has worked on other local campaigns for more than two decades

Government relations experts have been asking for almost a year now for a detailed clarification to a rule in the Lobbyists Code of Conduct which states that "political activities" could place public office holders in a conflict of interest. Rule 8 of the code governs "improper influence" and states that lobbyists "shall not place public office holders in a conflict of interest by proposing or undertaking any action that would constitute an improper influence on a public office holder."

In interpretation bulletins in 2009 and in 2010, Canada's Lobbying Commissioner Karen Shepherd noted that examples of a low degree of contact which would not be in breach of Rule 8 included: "voting in an election, placing a sign on a lawn, purchasing a ticket to a fundraising event such as a barbeque or golf tournament, or donating money to an election campaign within the limits established in the Canada Elections Act."

A medium degree of contact which "would increase the potential for a breach of Rule 8" includes: "being a member of a public office holder's constituency association or limited participation in a campaign for the election of the public office holder."

A close degree of contact which would put a lobbyist "likely in breach" include: "being a member of the board of directors of a public office holder's constituency association, or organizing a fundraising activity for the benefit of the public office holder or their constituency association, or chairing a campaign for the election of the public office holder."

Last week, in an email to all registered lobbyists in the Lobby Registration System, Ms. Shepherd said that during the current election campaign, lobbyists should keep in mind the code, and Rule 8.

"Working on a political campaign to support the election of a public holder is, in my opinion, advancing the private interest of that public office holder," she wrote.

Lobbyists last week told *The Hill Times* they interpreted that to mean that they could not do anything in an official capacity in any election campaign.

"This edict that came by the commissioner hit people like a ton of bricks," Mr. Capobianco said. "She's not being specific as to what kind of work on a campaign. It leaves a lot of doubt, so a lot of folks are choosing to stay out because they don't want to be in any contradiction with the rules."

Earnscliffe Strategy Group principal Michael Robinson, who has worked on Liberal campaigns for almost 30 years, told *The Hill Times* that because of the "lack of clarity" in the commissioner's interpretation of Rule 8, he's doing absolutely nothing this time around.

"I've been involved in every national campaign since 1972. It feels very strange not to be. I think a lot of people feel the same way," said Mr. Robinson, who's helped various Liberal leaders with debate prep. "Politics is something they have a passion for, politics is something they consider to be part of their contribution to the democratic and political system. People get involved in campaigns because they believe in the process and to not be able to because of the vagueness of Rule 8 is frustrating."

Another Liberal lobbyist, who was asked to be a regular talking head on political shows, but declined, said last week that lobbyists must err on the safe side and refrain from doing any work on any campaign.

"You're better off not even coming close to the line. So my advice to my lobby friends is stand down, take a break," said the lobbyist, who did not want to be identified.

Summa Strategies vice-president Tim Powers, a former Conservative staffer who has worked on national campaigns, is also sitting this one out. He said he's not doing anything officially for the Conservative campaign, but is commentating on various political panels as an individual.

"Beyond commentary, I feel somewhat hamstrung. Obviously I can donate, I'm still allowed I think, but actively involving myself in a local campaign is probably somewhat difficult to do, so it's frustrating. I think I'm not alone," he said. "Like many lobbyists, we pay our taxes, we create jobs, we work to try to provide for our families, and somehow we have a mark against us. I don't envy the lobbying commissioner. She does not have an easy job with the legislation that's there. I just think that over the next few years what people are going to have to look at is this antidemocratic or not, or at least the provisions related to lobbyists."

Self-employed consultant Gord McIntosh said last week, however, that lobbyists are "pissed" about not being able to participate, but that they will find ways to contribute because it's their democratic right to do so.

"Certainly lobbyists are not lending their name to anything. All she's [Ms. Shepherd] done is drive it underground. A lot of people are sitting on their hands."

Lobbyists said last week that the frustration with the situation comes from not having clear rules that do in fact draw a line.

One lobbyist said because Ms. Shepherd did not consult lobbyists on her interpretation, and because the Conservative government did not consult widely with those in the government relations industry when drafting the Federal Accountability Act, the regulations are "laughable."

"A lot of us are born working on campaigns and volunteering for campaigns. There are issues and circumstances where common sense prevails, being a campaign manager or being a paid staffer on a local campaign, we get that [we can't do that]," Mr. Capobianco said.

The Liberal lobbyist said that because of the vague interpretation, there are loopholes in it. For instance, the lobbyist said, some read Ms. Shepherd's interpretation as only applying to "designated public office holders," which means that lobbyists could work on campaigns for non-incumbent candidates.

"Essentially what this notice says is that you can go work for someone you're convinced that's going to lose, and you give your money to someone you're convinced is going to blow it all on not winning. So now we're in the realm of the ridiculous. This needs a revisit and their needs to be an analysis and discussion among people who are in this industry and the regulators," the lobbyist said, adding that even the provision allowing "placing a sign on a lawn" is vague because it doesn't say placing a sign on your own lawn.

"So I can be on a sign crew, couldn't I? I could go around placing it on all sorts of people's lawns. This is exactly what I'm talking about. They have got to get their head out of their ass and before they send out the interpretation bulletins, talk to someone who's done this," the lobbyist said. "The quickest way to find out whether your rules work is ask me, because I'll get around them in a second because I've been involved in election campaigns since I was two. They do not consult. Why? Because we're 'evil.' … If it wasn't so serious, it would be a Monty Python skit."

Meanwhile, the result of not having experienced campaign backroomers in this election will show, Mr. McIntosh said.

"I think you're already seeing it. I mean, traditionally political campaigns are run by a bunch of crazy enthusiastic kids and a few elders to sort of keep them in line from doing stupid things. Well, the elders aren't around. You're probably going to see some spectacular fuck ups," he said, noting that there's already been one in the Alberta riding of Edmonton-Strathcona in which former Conservative staffer Sébastien Togneri, who's being investigated by the RCMP for interfering in an access to information request, was found working on the campaign.

"Why would anybody with any brains have a guy who's under RCMP investigation working on their campaign? Give me a break. And force the Prime Minister to defend themselves on prime time TV? It's kind of stupid. Someone with an ounce of institutional memory and common sense would've said, 'No, that's not a good idea.'"

Both the Conservative and Liberal parties have said that lobbyists are not allowed on the campaigns, and mostly political staffers are running the war rooms. Ensight managing director Jacquie LaRocque, a former Liberal staffer, said last week that's the parties' personal choices and she understands why the lobbyists are being shut out.

"Those are rules, however unclear they may be, that lobbyists will abide by," she said. "There's a big difference this election, with folks who have been engaged for decades not even being able to knock on doors without fear of reprisal. … I think there's a feeling out there that people who are political and policy-oriented are having their hands tied by the ambiguity of the Rule 8 conversation and certainly some are finding it at times difficult to watch—but we will abide by the rules because it's not worth taking any chances."

Mr. Powers said that there were no registered lobbyists he knew of working in an official capacity for the Conservative Party campaign. The Halifax *Chronicle-Herald* reported last week that Ken Boessenkool and Jason Lietaer, are working in the Conservative war room. Mr. Boessenkool, who used to work for Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who's running for re-election in Calgary Southwest, Alta., as a senior adviser, is head of the war room, while Mr. Lietaer, former executive director of the Conservative Resource Group, is the party's campaign spokesperson. Both are former registered lobbyists, but neither are currently registered.

After Ms. Shepherd's email was circulated, the Liberals also replaced "a handful of campaign staff," the *Chronicle-Herald* said, including Atlantic tour director Chris MacInnes, a former Liberal staffer and currently registered lobbyist with South Shore Public Affairs, whom Leanne Dingwall replaced. Longtime Liberal strategist Herb Metcalfe, a registered lobbyist with Capital Hill Group, was also originally working in the party's war room but was asked to leave because of the Rule 8 provision.

Mr. Robinson said that parties of all stripes are losing out on "a great deal of experience among government relations practitioners that would be of value." Until the Lobbying Commissioner issues clearer guidance, Mr. Robinson said he will continue to push for it.

bvongdou@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times



Lobbying world: Lobbyist Gord McIntosh, centre, said last week that lobbyists are 'pissed' about not being able to participate in the election.





Not happy with lobbying commissioner: Tory John Capobianco and Liberal Mike Robinson, who have worked on many campaigns, aren't this time.

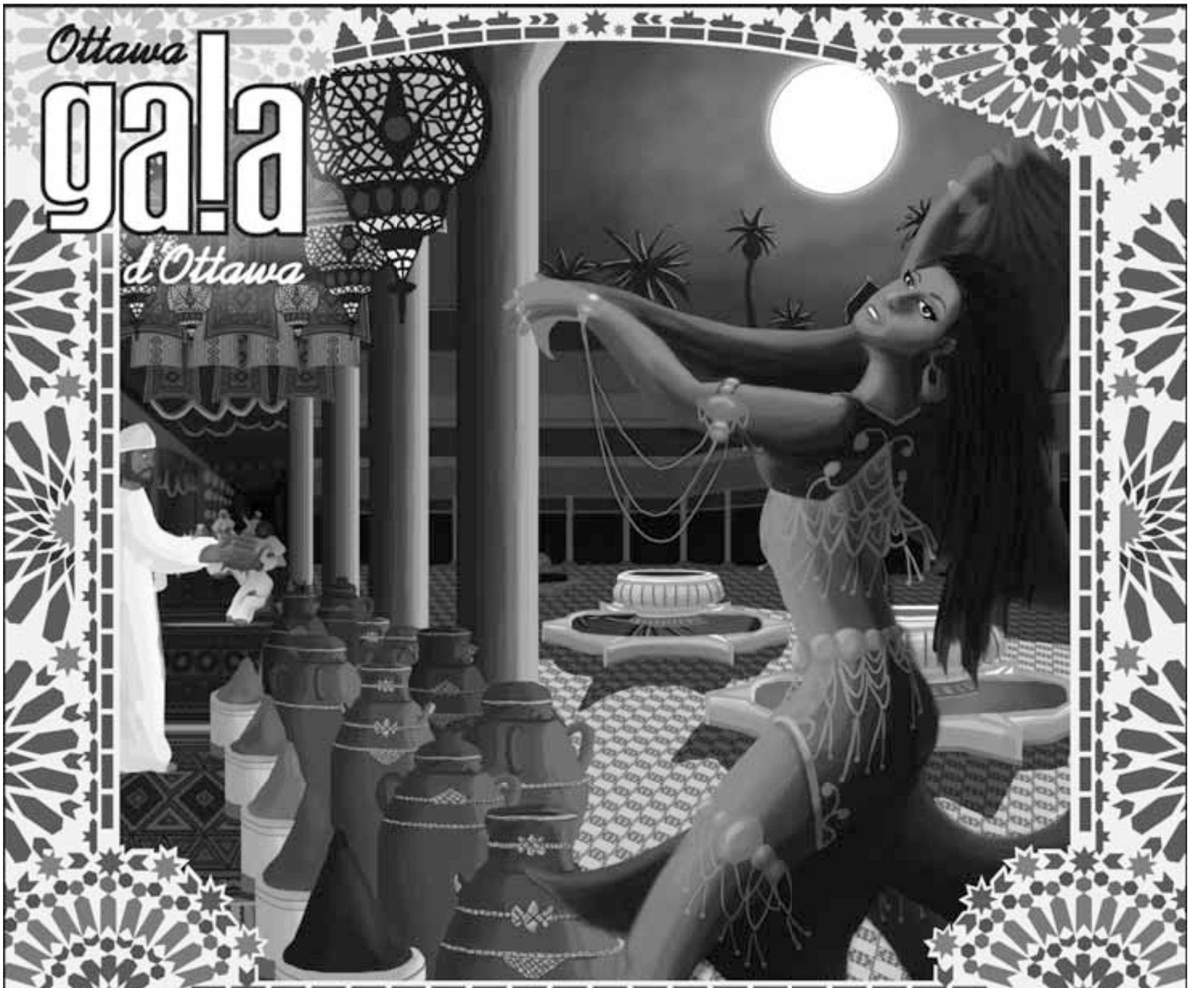


It's Tim: Tory pundit Tim Powers says he's not doing anything officially, but is commentating on various political panels as an individual.



Lobbyist: Ensight managing director Jacquie LaRocque, a former Liberal staffer, said however unclear the rules may be, lobbyists will abide by them.

Photographs by Jake Wright and Sam Garcia, *The Hill Times*



MIDNIGHT IN MARRAKECH

Be Seduced by the Mystique of Morocco

Black tie optional - Chic Mandatory

In support of the Ottawa School Breakfast Program

April 16, 2011 - 8PM to 2AM

For information and tickets: **www.ottawagala.com**

Presented By:

HOT 89.9 · Hill Times Embassy · the WIG · steak · Loblaw · CropLife Canada · Mxi Technologies · WINNERS · CIBC · Pond 11 · A · Ottawa Sun · ottawasun.com · Ottawa Citizen · Cielo CieloPrint.ca · Les Tuileries Bordeaux · 24H Ottawa · wall sound-lighting.com

Incumbent candidates in 'limbo' during election campaign

MPs continue to be paid during writ period, but have limited abilities to serve constituents. Meanwhile, the federal government takes on a 'caretaker' role.

By KRISTEN SHANE

Incumbent candidates during this election campaign acknowledge they are in a "limbo area" now that the House is dissolved, in that they walk a fine line between acting as MPs and candidates.

Legally, there are no members of the House of Commons after dissolution and the issuing of writs, according to a Library of Parliament analysis prepared for the 2008 election and available on Parliament's website.

Nevertheless, a 'deeming provision' in the Parliament of Canada Act says a person who immediately before dissolution was an MP continues to be a member of the House until the date of the next following general election, but this is solely for the purpose of salaries, benefits and certain other services. It may be somewhat confusing for MPs.

"I'm the MP for Charlottetown until Monday, May 2," said retiring Liberal Shawn Murphy last week. He said he's maintained staff in offices in both Ottawa and his Prince Edward Island riding during dissolution to serve constituents, and is still attending community events. He continues to be paid until May 1.

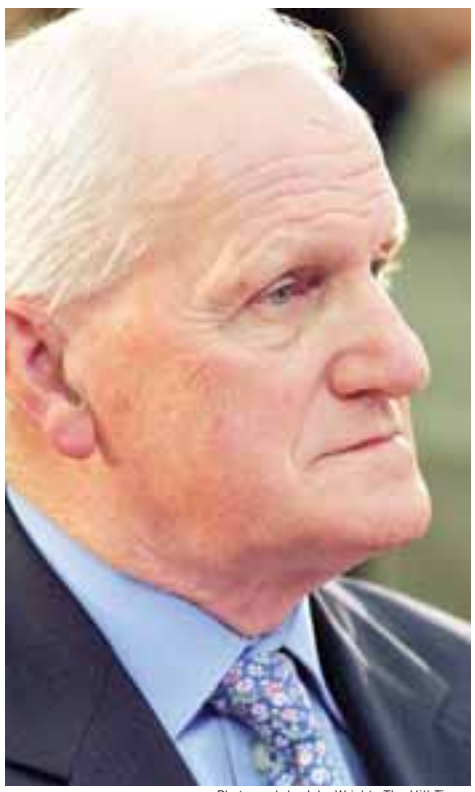
In continuing to act as an MP, Mr. Murphy doesn't have as much to risk because he is not seeking re-election.

NDP incumbent candidate Joe Comartin is seeking re-election in Windsor-Tecumseh, Ont. Although he might be an incumbent, he said he is not an MP, but a candidate now.

"Even though we continue to be paid as MPs, it's a bit of a limbo area that we operate in," he told *The Hill Times* last week from his campaign office. "There are very few things that we can do as an MP."

For instance, he said he can no longer attend and speak as an MP at citizenship swearing-in ceremonies in his border-city riding due to citizenship court policy. Last week, he attended a ceremony for long-serving RCMP officers in his region, but sat in the audience like everyone else as an observer.

Besides events, Mr. Comartin said he still visits his constituency office during the campaign a few times a week to deal with urgent or emergency matters only. While he would normally keep the equivalent of two and a half staffers there, during dissolution he only has one staffer working four instead of five days a week.



Photograph by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*

During an election the government retains full legal authority and has a duty to conduct necessary public business. Conservative candidate and Chief Government Whip Gordon O'Connor, pictured above, says his government is committed to the 'caretaker' convention.

"You've got to be very careful what you're doing," said Carleton-Mississippi Mills, Ont. incumbent candidate Gordon O'Connor, who retains his Cabinet post as the government Whip.

He said he deals with constituents during dissolution by putting them in touch with his administrative staff still working in his constituency office, who may go through bureaucratic government channels to help the person.

"You can act as an MP, but you can't act to your full capacity. Otherwise, you would have conflicts. We could have people making decisions that would affect the outcome of the next election," said Mr. O'Connor.

Incumbent members seeking re-election are not allowed to use Parliamentary resources to further their re-election. Speaker Peter Milliken sent a memo to all members and House officers March 29 reminding them of the rules during dissolution, as authorized by the Board of Internal Economy that he chairs.

In it, Mr. Milliken also specifies that any election-related work performed by MPs' or House officers' staff (including those in the OLO and party research bureaus) must be done outside of normal working hours, either in the evenings or on weekends or while on unpaid leave, or paid vacation or banked overtime (Cabinet ministers' staffers must only take unpaid leave if they work on campaigns).

During dissolution, incumbent members' pension contributions, health and dental benefits continue.

They must cancel all outstanding advertising commitments, and may not sign any new contracts, but may continue to draw from their office budget and petty cash. Many continue to run constituency offices, but often close their Ottawa bureaus. They cannot remove furniture or other House assets for election purposes. They must also host their own campaign websites. As of the dissolution date, March 26, no Ten Percenters are to be processed or distributed, and ones received before that date may be processed for only 10 calendar days following dissolution. Likewise, franking privileges and MPs' special bulk mailing rates expire 10 days in.

Each member is entitled to one return trip per week between Ottawa and their constituency, but will not be reimbursed for travel within their constituency or province or territory during dissolution. Mr. Comartin said, from his experience, incumbent candidates rarely use that travel allowance to its fullest extent.

Members who are not seeking re-election, such as Mr. Murphy, are entitled to two return trips between their constituency and Ottawa within 30 days after the election to wrap up affairs.

Mr. O'Connor said members confused about the rules have been phoning his Whip's office. He maintains three or four staffers there of the usual eight or nine, to deal with such concerns. He continues to be paid his regular Whip's salary (in addition to his MP's salary). Other House officers who also continue administrative duties during dissolution and keep being paid include the Speaker, deputy Speaker, leaders of opposition parties and opposition House leaders.

Most of those House officers who keep getting paid are members of the Board of Internal Economy, the secretive multipartisan governing body of the House that may continue to meet during the dissolution period.

Mr. O'Connor, one of the board's designated spokespersons, said last week that a request had been made for the board to meet last week. The Conservatives, he said, argued that the incumbent candidate board members carry on campaigning and not meet. He wouldn't reveal any more details as to who asked that the board reconvene and why.

Although much of their regular staff is hunkered down in party war rooms and on local campaigns, party research offices, opposition leaders' and House leaders' offices and all chief Whips' offices can continue to draw from their office budgets during dissolution. But they're not allowed to spend more than one-twelfth of their annual budgets for each full month between the dissolution and election day.

An NDP war room staffer, speaking on background because they didn't have spokesperson authorization, said last week that the party's caucus services office on Queen Street is only running with a skeletal administrative staff of about a handful of people to sort mail, pay bills and answer phones, for instance. There is no political work being done there. The other parties did not return calls about the status of their research bureaus during elections.

While incumbent candidates' roles are not as clear during an election, Cabinet ministers' roles are more black-and-white. They retain their status and continue to get paid for it.

Executive decisions may still be made. If, for instance, there is an emergency during an election then the Cabinet operations committee, chaired by Government House Leader John Baird, could be recalled to deal with it, said Mr. O'Connor, who is a committee member. Or, another relevant committee (foreign affairs or defence, for instance) may also be recalled.

A former deputy minister who spent time working in the Privy Council Office told *The Hill Times* that Cabinet meets once, maybe twice during dissolution so very few decisions are actually made.

"In fact, even the Clerk has the power to stop some decisions to go to Cabinet if there is a feeling that these decisions would provide an unfair advantage to the party," said the source.

Governments during dissolution periods are said to run in a 'caretaker' state. Cabinet members may be required to sign some administrative documents, said Mr. O'Connor.

He said his government is committed to following the so-called 'Caretaker Convention.'

Mr. O'Connor said ministers are briefed with "a piece of paper" on their capacities during dissolution.

"During an election the government retains full legal authority and has a duty to conduct necessary public business. However, by convention it confines itself to necessary public business—that is, matters that are either routine or too urgent to be postponed," Privy Council Office spokesperson Raymond Rivet told *The Hill Times* in an email last week.

"Deputy ministers are briefed on the principles governing election conduct and are responsible for advising ministers on these principles and applying them within their departments. Briefing material is confidential and therefore not for public distribution," said Mr. Rivet.

kshane@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

CANADIAN CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION



The Canadian Construction Association would like to introduce Mrs. Nadine (Dee) Miller as its 2011 Chair of the Board of Directors. Mrs. Miller was appointed during the CCA's Annual General Meeting held March 11.

Mrs. Miller is Vice President of British Columbia-based JJM Construction Ltd., a third-generation family-owned business involved in all aspects of construction such as heavy civil, structural, road building as well as marine construction and dredging.

Mrs. Miller served as Director and Chair of the BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association. At CCA, Mrs. Miller has served as First and Second National Vice-Chair, Honorary Secretary/Treasurer, Chair of the CCA International Business Committee and Co-Chair of the Membership and Promotion Committee.

www.cca-acc.com

Building Canada's Future…

CIVIL CIRCLES: BUREAUCRACY & ELECTION CAMPAIGN 2011

What happens to bureaucracy in an election

Some say it should be written down, but it boils down to preserving and promoting the culture of integrity within the public service.



BY JESSICA BRUNO

The rules that govern the federal public service during an election aren't written down anywhere, but maybe they should be, says **David Good**, former assistant deputy minister who has worked in the Privy Council Office and is a professor in the University of Victoria's School of Public Administration.

"One of the dilemmas is there are not really written-down rules. These are really a set of conventions, norms, standard procedures that have operated over a number of years that are quite informal and have not really been codified in any way," he explained.

Until such a rulebook is written, an intricate tradition of sanctioned activities govern the civil service, which continues to operate while politicians are out on the campaign trail.

"We should certainly be looking very much at whether they ought to be written down, said Mr. Good.

"It's something that could serve Canadians well. It would be useful for the media so that they understood what they were, and it would be useful for the opposition and political parties to understand what those rules were, and it would be useful for the public servants to understand what those rules are, and clearly for Canadians," he explained.

The United Kingdom, Scotland, and New Zealand have all taken steps to put their own rules to paper, Mr. Good noted.

Canada's civil service is governed by a central principle during election times: don't interfere, said **Alan Williams**, a past ADM and a current research fellow an Queen's University's policy school.

"The overriding central guideline is you don't want to be seen as having affected the election. … You don't want to do things to help or harm the government, you want to let things unfold without interference from the public service." he said.

To ensure the actions of the public service don't inadvertently effect Canadians' choices at ballot time, the public service does not hold outside consultations, release any unnecessary ads (that is why there are no more Economic Action Plan commercials) and postpones announcements until after the election, Privy Council spokesperson **Raymond Rivet** told *The Hill Times* via email.

"If it's a good announcement the government may benefit, if it's a bad announcement the government may be penalized," said Mr. Williams.

"It's a small price to pay for ensuring the integrity of the process and ensuring that you're doing things above board," Mr. Williams added.

For instance, the potentially explosive audit of former public sector integrity commissioner Christiane Ouimet's case history is currently being finished, but the results won't be made public until after the election, according to the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner's Office.

As Privy Council Clerk, **Wayne Wouters** has the power to stop any policy decisions which he feels would result in the government getting an unfair boost, according to one former Deputy Minister who worked in the Privy Council Office.

"The Clerk has the power to stop some decisions to go to Cabinet if there is a feeling that these decisions would provide an unfair advantage to the party," he said.

Some activities, such as signing routine contracts, continues, Mr. Rivet said.

"By convention, the government confines itself to necessary public business—that is, matters that are either routine in nature or urgent and in the public interest," he said.

"Public service support and departmental resources continue to be at the disposal of ministers for the purpose of departmental duties. Deputy ministers have a key role in ensuring the continuance of necessary government business and in supporting their ministers for this purpose," he explained.

To fund this work, the public service may have to rely on Governor General **David Johnston** until Parliament returns according to **Pierre-Alain Bujold**, spokesperson for Treasury Board Secretariat.

Usually, the departments are funded by the main estimates, which are annual spending bills that lay out the civil service's budget for the year. These are adjusted periodically by a series of supplementary estimates throughout the year.

Parliamentarians need to pass these plans before the departments have access to the money, and neither the main estimates 2011-2012, nor supplementary estimates 'C' from 2010-2011 made it through the House of Commons before the election was called March 26.

Without these funds, which total more than $250-billion, the departments that can't find the cash internally will have to rely on contingency funds, and if these run out, on a special warrant from the Governor General.

The GG can issue a special warrant for funds if "a payment is urgently needed for the public good," according to the House of Commons' manual on procedure.

It can't be used to pay for any new programs or activities, but simply to maintain the status quo.

In any case, the five or six weeks that Parliament is dissolved for an election is not usually long enough to cause a significant disruption in the federal public service.

"Our elections aren't that long so it's not like the sky is going to cave," said Mr. Williams.

As the public service avoids activities that would cast doubt upon its impartiality, it would be easy to assume that departmental workloads lighten up—but that's not always the case, said the former deputy minister.

"Where it gets a little easy is the actual operation of new things. In other words, you don't build things, you put them on the backburner at that time, which might as well be the case because there is a lot of other work that takes place," he said.

While the workload coming from ministers' offices and Members of Parliament dwindles and people head out of the office and out onto the hustings, the public service's policy and research activities ramp up.

"The main activity that's taking place now is the preparation for transition. This has a number of facets: PCO goes nuts during that period because one of the main functions of PCO is to ensure smooth transitions of governments," said the former deputy minister.

During the election, the Privy Council Office examines which party has a strong chance of forming the government and begins developing contingencies for implementing their platforms.

"One needs to look at the party platforms of the various governments so one is in a position to respond to their fiscal platform, respond to their policy platform, and move forward on the priorities and initiatives that have been identified in the election campaign by the various parties, should they form a government," said Mr. Good.

In a close election such as this one, where it is unclear which party may end up on top, the PCO and departments may work on parallel plans based on each of the parties, or combination of parties, that may end up governing.



Photograph by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*

Top bureaucrat: PCO Clerk Wayne Wouters.

"PCO and departments do the same thing, they analyse what has been said by the key potential governments in the campaign, and they deduce from those priorities, what are the impacts on their portfolios, what are the impacts on the potential government," said the former DM.

"The Liberal announcement to give [money to students in post-secondary education] would generate probably somewhere in the government a whole set of activities looking at: 'Well if he gets elected, how do we administer that? Who administers it?[...] How do we know who is a student and who is not a student?' All of this thinking will take place in the election period just to be ready," the former PCO DM said.

In the past, PCO Clerks have reached out to candidates to learn more about their priorities were they to get into office, he added.

Departments prepare briefs and set up meetings to get new ministers up to speed on their portfolio after they are elected, said Mr. Good. This would be done by deputy ministers, assistant DMs and associate DMs, as well as policy units.

The organizations also have to re-draft documents they have submitted to Cabinet in the last Parliament, said the former DM.

This is to comply with Cabinet confidence rules. When one government leaves power, the next does not have any access to their papers, so if a policy decision is yet to be made, a department would have to submit new versions of their papers.

The PCO also works hard on a "book" about fixing any problems in the machinations of government for the Prime Minister. It would outline potential changes to the organizational structure of departments and agencies, said the former DM.

The first 40 days of a new government after the PM appoints a fresh (or refreshed as the case may be) Cabinet are prime time for changes.

"That's a huge exercise that is led by the PCO in consultation with various departments," said the former DM.

It's a case of preparing for everything and being "the good Boy Scout" said Mr. Good.

"They need to serve the caretaker government so long as they are in power, they need to support the formation of the new government depending upon the results of the election, and then they need to be able to immediately serve the government of the day once the government has been formed," he said.

Campaigning ministers maintain varying levels of contact with their departments during an election, said Mr. Good.

They are usually called upon to make an average of three to five routine decisions during an election, the former DM said. They might pop into their departmental office once during a campaign to sign necessary documents.

Generally, they are less available to their departments as they campaign.

"You just try to make the best available of the situation, so when you know he's in town, if you can get him, fine, but if not, you use conference calls," said Mr. Williams.

While prep work is going on at the higher levels of the public service, for more junior-level public servants, it's work as usual, said Mr. Williams, but with an added dose of diligence.

"I think you're extra-hyper, extra-sensitive, to do things right, because you don't want to blow things, you don't want to create waves where none are expected," he said.

On a daily basis, "there's a general understanding on [public servants'] part that they need to maintain good quality service, they need to focus on their tasks," said Mr. Good.

At the same time, public servants could benefit from having those expectations written down clearly in a guidebook.

"In the transfer of one government to another […] there's risks that these different rules are going to be interpreted differently by different players. That could lead to unnecessary conflict, unnecessary uncertainty, and I think if they were more clearly laid out as to what these broad rules are, and more clearly understood […] we'd be in a better position and not run the risk of misinterpretations," he explained.

Mr. Williams is less certain that an elections rule book would be an effective way of managing the public service during elections.

"You have to be careful about that too, because if you put things down in writing, you can never put everything down in writing. So, someone can say, 'Oh, this isn't written down so I can do this,' " he said.

In the end, it boils down to preserving and promoting the culture of integrity within the public service, he said, a sentiment echoed by the other DMs.

Said Mr. Good: "The public service is professional and non-partisan and it's extremely important that it remain that."

jbruno@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

WANTED
7 HOMES THAT NEED ROOFING
7 homes in your area will be given the opportunity of having an INTERLOCK® metal roofing system installed on their home at a very reasonable cost. This lifetime product is capturing the interest of homeowners across the country who want to know this will be the last time they will have to re-roof their home. Your home can be a show place in your neighbourhood and we will make it worth your while if we can use your home.
1-866-805-7745 roofwanted.com

FEATURE: PARLIAMENT & ELECTION CAMPAIGN 2011

MPs not running in next election say goodbye to federal public life, 40th Parliament

By BEA VONGDOUANGCHANH

When Parliament dissolved on March 25, 17 MPs from the 40th Parliament said goodbye to political life. They are not running in this election. In total, they had a collective 253 years of experience, an average of 14.8 each. The following are short snippets of each MP's experience in the House, and a reflection of their years in what former Conservative MP Jay Hill says is "an honour, privilege and, most days, a pleasure" to have one of 308 seats in Canada's House of Commons.

Conservative MP Jim Abbott
Kootenay-Columbia, B.C.
First elected as a Reform MP in 1993
Last day in Parliament:
March 25, 2011



"I rise today to speak about the greatest job, the greatest people, and the greatest country. Being a Member of Parliament, we have access to decision-making and decision-makers, national and international. The experience of being a Member of Parliament is as big as this world."

Bloc Québécois MP Raynald Blais
Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Que.
First elected as a Bloc Québécois MP in 2004
Last day in Parliament:
March 25, 2011



"The most important thing I take with me, after being here for four years as the assistant to Jean-Yves Roy and as a member since 2004, is two words: respect and honour. I have always thought that no matter who comes to see us in our offices to ask for help, be it large or small … is treat the people who come to see us with respect, regardless of their political allegiance or their problem. The second is honour. It is an honour to have been able to represent the people of Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine."

Conservative MP Rick Casson
Lethbridge, Alta.
First elected as a Reform MP in 1997
Last day in Parliament:
March 25, 2011



"Representing this riding has been truly wonderful—and at times an awe-inspiring experience—I will always be grateful for having had this opportunity."

Conservative MP John Cummins
Delta-Richmond East, B.C.
First elected as a Reform MP in 1993
Last day in Parliament:
March 25, 2011



"Not long after I was elected, I had a significant decision to make and I looked to the hon. Ron Huntington, a former member of this place, for counsel. His advice was to choose not just what served my purposes that day but to choose what I would be comfortable with when I left this place. I have followed that advice. My hope when first elected was that when my time here was done the folks at home would say, 'He kept his word. He represented us well.' That remains my fondest hope."

Treasury Board President
Stockwell Day
Okanagan-Coquihalla, B.C.
First elected as a Canadian Alliance MP in a by-election in 2000
Last Day in Parliament:
March 25, 2011



"I close thinking of the words of my father, who passed away not that long ago. When we would go camping with him as kids and it would come time to tidy up as we packed up the tent, we would pick up all our stuff. However, there were times when he would tell us that there was some paper over there in the bush or there was an empty can over there by that tree and we would tell him that we had not put it there. He would remind us by saying, 'Always leave the campground in a little better shape than when you found it.' I hope I have been able to do that."

Liberal MP Raymonde Folco
Laval-Les Îles, Que.
First elected as a Liberal MP in 1997
Last day in Parliament:
March 25, 2011



"I wish to thank my leader, Michael Ignatieff, for his unshakable support. I also wish to thank the voters in the riding of Laval-Les Îles for their support over five elections."

Liberal MP Albina Guarnieri
Mississauga East-Cooksville, Ont.
First elected as a Liberal MP in 1988
Last day in Parliament:
March 25, 2011



"I think most every one of us comes here with the willingness to raise the potential of Parliament to change the lives of people. I look back on my years here and just about every fond memory comes from the many occasions when members from all parties banded together to support a cause or a bill. Sound and fury often drowns the more tender tones of consensus that I have been privileged to experience over the years."

Bloc Québécois Francine Lalonde
La Pointe-de-l'Île, Que.
First elected as a Bloc Québécois MP in 1993
Last day in Parliament:
March 25, 2011



She's "a great lady and a dear friend," says Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe.

Liberal MP Derek Lee
Scarborough-Rouge River, Ont.
First elected as a Liberal MP in 1988
Last day in Parliament:
March 25, 2011



It's "time to press the refresh button," Mr. Lee told media. He's leaving for "personal, political and other" reasons and wants to go back to being "a Scarborough guy in law and business."

Liberal MP Keith Martin
Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca, B.C.
First elected as a Reform MP in 1993, crossed floor to Liberal Party in 2004
Last day in Parliament:
March 25, 2011



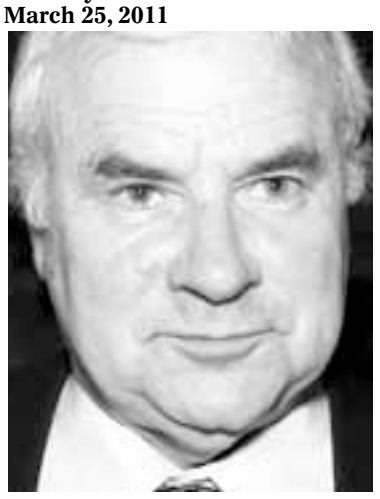
"I hope that at the end of the day we can work together. We have differences and we must have those knock-down, drag-out battles. Those battles must occur, but I hope that the serious and vital issues of our country will be dealt with, not only for the interests of our citizens here at home, but also for what happens half a world away."

Bloc Québécois MP Serve Menard
Marc-Aurèle-Fortin, Que.
First elected as a Bloc Québécois MP in 2004
Last day in Parliament:
March 25, 2011



"I will be 70 this fall. I am still in good shape, both physically and mentally, but at the dawn of a new decade, I can say my years are numbered. I would like to take a few of them, therefore, for the things I have always wanted to do but for which politics left me too little time. … I will be just as active, but less stressed out."

Liberal MP Peter Milliken
Kingston and the Islands, Que.
First elected as a Liberal MP in 1988
Last day in Parliament:
March 25, 2011



"I want to also thank all of you for having elected me so frequently as Speaker in this House. It has been a singular honour to serve in this position. I am always delighted with the support that I get during the elections, and of course elections are a real pain in the neck for Speakers, you have two every time. However, having been voted in, I do then have the pleasure of working with each one of the members. …

"When you elected me to this job, you raised me high in this House, but what has been the wonderful part about it is the affection and the respect that you have showered upon me since my first election."

Liberal MP Shawn Murphy
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
First elected as a Liberal MP in 2000
Last day in Parliament:
March 25, 2011



"I look back on the last 10-and-a-half years with many fond memories, dealing with great people and, most important, having the opportunity to debate and decide upon some of the issues, great issues, that affect our country. … Most important, I want to thank [my colleagues] for their friendship. I will miss this place. I will miss each and every one of them."

Bloc Québécois MP Christian Ouellet
Brome-Missisquoi, Que.
First elected as a Bloc Québécois MP in 2006
Last day in Parliament:
March 25, 2011



"I am proud of being a sovereigntist and proud of being a Quebecer and a member of the Bloc Québécois. … I leave very content with my time here and with having worked with a leader, the hon. member for Laurier-Sainte-Marie, who is both so exacting and so nice. I thank him for having made a place for me on his team."

NDP MP Bill Siksay
Burnaby-Douglas, B.C.
First elected as an NDP MP in 2004
Last day in Parliament:
March 25, 2011



"I will miss working in solidarity with dedicated people. The transgender and transsexual communities have taught me so much about our humanity and courage. I wish we had a bit more time. … My predecessor, Svend Robinson, once remarked that the highest duty of a member of Parliament was love. Love should be our daily agenda, a daring, justice-seeking and tender love. Some day, even here, we will find that path where all that we do we do for love."

Transport Minister Chuck Strahl
Chilliwack-Fraser Canyon, B.C.
First elected as Reform MP in 1993
Last day in Parliament:
March 25, 2011



"I will always be grateful to the Prime Minister who went out of his way to assure me that he not only wanted me to be a minister, but he was confident I could do the job. He appointed me right on the heels of my serious encounter with cancer, and his encouragement to me at the time was, 'Don't let people tell you that you can't still contribute—don't let them push you aside.' Cancer survivors need to hear words like that and they need to know in their heart that they are true. I thank the Prime Minister for those words. My health has been good ever since."

Conservative MP Greg Thompson
New Brunswick Southwest, N.B.
First elected as a Progressive Conservative MP in 1988, defeated in the 1993 election, re-elected in 1997.
Last day in Parliament:
March 25, 2011



"I want to leave on my own terms and with a good record. … I'm one of the few Members of Parliament who never had to take back a statement, who never had to apologize, and who never insulted individuals or groups in this country. I've always played by the rules that I believe elected politicians should play by, and I have been always very respectful of the political process."

bvongdou@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

NEWS: NDP WAR ROOM

NDP war room working 16 hour days, 'surviving on caffeine and adrenaline'

'They don't seem to have dropped the ball on anything as I have observed and I guess that is an indirect proof that they're doing things right,' says Robin Sears.

Continued on Page 21



Photograph by Ben Dickerson, for the NDP

Inside the war room: Under campaign director Brad Lavigne, 150 people work in the NDP war room.

definitely aiming to boost its 36 seat count in the House.

If the war room had a motto, it would be "Win! Jack as PM!" **Kathleen Monk**, the NDP's chief spokesperson, said last week off-the-cuff.

This winter, at an undisclosed cost, the NDP renovated its 10,000 square-foot war room, installing up-to-date video-conferencing technology, demographics software and revamping the office to make it more teamwork-friendly, according to the party. The NDP owns the building and leases out retail space.

The workforce is now organized into several themed "pods" or cubicle groupings, whose members are responsible for a different area of the campaign, including Outreach and Persuasion, Organization, Media, Tour, and Rapid Response.

"Rapid response is in charge of opposition research both on our opponents and on their platforms. They're responsible for both finding the stories that we want to push out and also for responding to our opponent's policy announcements or challenges," said Ms. Monk of the about eight-person team that is led by **Elliot Anderson**.

Mr. Anderson worked on the 2008 campaign, and with the Ontario NDP during non-election times.

The organization pod is led by **Nathan Rotman**, who ran for the party in 2000. He liaises with the ridings. The communications pod, under **Drew Anderson**, handles web design, ads, and the **Jack Layton** mobile phone app.

Ira Dubinsky, who was director of special projects for the NDP while Parliament was still sitting, is the tour director.

Criss-crossing the country on the NDP plane is **Anne McGrath**, who is the tour's political lead. Post-election 2008 she has been NDP leader Jack Layton's chief of staff.

Reprising her 2008 role as wagon master is **Sandra Clifford**. **Shay Purdy** is deputy wagon master. Also onboard is senior press secretary **Karl Bélanger** and tour press secretary **Jennifer Stewart**.

The chartered Air Canada jet is hauling Mr. Layton and the 15-member NDP team and 15 to 20 journalists, at a cost of $30,000 for each reporter for the entire election campaign, said Ms. Monk.

In charge of the budget is deputy national director **Chantal Vallerand**. Ms Monk confirmed the party plans to spend the maximum amount allowed under Elections Canada rules.

The preliminary cap is set at $21,025,793.18.

Overseeing the entire operation is campaign director **Brad Lavigne**, who has been the party's national director since May 2009. He has been credited with modernizing the NDP machine.

Mr. Lavigne is in constant touch with Mr. Layton and Ms. McGrath several times a day, said Ms. Monk.

"Communication is constant, and it is fluid, it needs to be," she said.

Past national campaign director **Robin Sears**, who led the NDP team in the 1980s, remembers those times when the leader was out of reach as nerve-wracking.

It "was very scary if you were in the middle of some crisis or some big issue," the current senior partner at consulting firm Navigator Ltd. recalled.

The Ottawa war room is now able to video-conference with their team on tour, and Ms. Monk said the teams talk by Skype each night to ensure they're all on the same message.

Joining war room regulars are staffers from the NDP's research bureau, who are coming in after work, on weekends and even using their vacation time to volunteer, Mr. Lavigne told *The Hill Times* in a recent interview.

Currently, Ms. Monk said she and most of the other war room staffers are working "at least" from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., "surviving on a lot of caffeine and adrenaline."

The rapid response and media teams have particularly long hours, though this has been true since the switch to the 24-hour news cycle, noted Ms. Monk.

At the same time, social media is making its mark on the campaign, noting there were more Canadian Facebook accounts than there were ballots cast in 2008.

To appeal to plugged-in voters, the party has a text-messaging service that allows users to get campaign information delivered to their phones. The Jack Layton app gives supporters an easy way to donate and track the campaign.

Ms. Monk said there have been thousands of downloads since it was launched March 23.

The party will also be doing electronic town halls and livestreaming rallies. The use of Twitter has also been ubiquitous both during this election and in the build-up to it.

During the 2008 federal campaign, Mr. Sears told *The Hill Times* the New Democrats needed to improve their ability to send out multiple, regionally-targeted, messages at the same time, a strategy the Tories were skilled at.

This time around, Ms. Monk said the campaign's 12 newly-created regional offices, staffed by a further 50 NDPers and located across the country, help to do that.

The regional offices can put out press releases and ads, and organize events, said Ms. Monk.

Mr. Sears said the parties are working to target their strategies at increasingly small portions of the electorate.

"The level of hyper-targeting and micro-targeting that is available to all the players today means you not only have to segment by riding, you have to segment by demographic group by riding. So the strategies are very different for who the enemy is, and who the ally is on a very narrow, fine, slice-by-slice basis," he explained.

During this election, this has been revealed in the NDP mantra that in the West, the only way to defeat a Conservative incumbent is with a New Democrat.

"Jack said […] the way to defeat the Conservatives is riding-by-riding, have a look at the candidates and decide who is best to defeat Mr. Harper. It's a statement of the obvious […] but as a glimpse of what really drives the strategy and tactics of the parties, I think it was quite a good observation," said Mr. Sears.

This message undermines the Liberal line that a Grit vote is a strategic one, while an NDP vote is a wasted one.

The main NDP message is fairness for middle-class families, a "classic NDP and Jack Layton" position, said Mr. Sears.

So far, Mr. Sears said he hasn't observed any major fumbles in the NDP campaign.

"They don't seem to have dropped the ball on anything as I have observed and I guess that is an indirect proof that they're doing things right," he said.

Still, the New Democrats face some familiar challenges in this election, said Mr. Sears.

"In a three-way race it's easy to be pushed out of the news, that's the major strategic challenge that every NDP campaign director and leader has going back to the beginning," he said.

The chatter last week about a two-man debate between Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff underscores that point.

The NDP are also continuing to promote Jack Layton as the core of the NDP brand, a tactic used in past elections, he said.

Mr. Sears said the present campaign reminds him of the 1988 election, his last as national director.

"You had a strong NDP leader, a relatively weak Liberal leader, and a strong Conservative leader," he said of the contest between Ed Broadbent, John Turner and Brian Mulroney.

On CTV's *Power Play* on March 31, CTV veteran political correspondent Craig Oliver also compared the current campaign to 1988, though in a less positive light for the NDP. He noted that in that year, political support on the left centred around the Liberal Party.

The NDP must also deal with the chronic loss of support in the move from the opinion polls and the ballot box.

"No one is more keenly aware of that closing day leakage problem," said Mr. Sears.

While declining to go into details, he said that the party will likely "find and announce a way of framing choice in the last week of the campaign that will be very helpful to their position."

"It wouldn't be fair to my former colleagues to give away any strategic secrets but I do think they have a few surprises up their sleeves for Day minus-10 and down."

jbruno@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

A look at the New Democratic Party's Campaign

Address: 279 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa.

Chief: Brad Lavigne.

War Room: Senior staff include Chantal Vallerand, Jess Turk-Browne, Brian Topp, Kathleen Monk, Ian Wayne, Elliott Anderson, Peter Puxley, Nathan Rotman, Ira Dubinsky, Drew Anderson, and Heather Wilson.

TV Spin Doctors: Kathleen Monk, Ian Wayne, Pierre Naud, Malaika Joseph, Pierre Ducasse.

On Tour: Senior staff include Anne McGrath, Sandra Clifford, Shay Purdy, Karl Bélanger, and Jennifer Stewart.

Campaign Slogans: "That's Canadian Leadership," "Here in [LOCATION] only New Democrats defeat Conservatives."

Campaign Ads: "Not So Great Canadian Moments," "Travaillons Ensemble," "That's Canadian Leadership."

Campaign Strategy: Run for Prime Minister and go head-to-head with Conservatives in ridings where the NDP came have come in second in the last election.

Money: The NDP are expected to spend the Elections Canada limit of $21,025,793.18.



APARTMENTS ALONG THE RIDEAU

211 Wurtemburg St.
WGSGrentals@urbandale.com
613-789-3805

Urbandale CORPORATION
VISIT URBANDALE.COM

FEATURE: SPIN & ELECTION CAMPAIGN 2011

The Spin Doctors

By Kristen Shane

"How much of an issue should the C-word, a coalition government, be during this campaign?"

Fred DeLorey
Conservative strategist



"The plans for the coalition were confirmed last week when Jack Layton's candidate in Elgin-Middlesex-London, Ont. dropped out of the race to support his coalition partner, the Liberal candidate.

"And despite his denials, Michael Ignatieff's secret plan to form a coalition with the NDP and the Bloc Québécois is now part of the official coalition platform. While Michael Ignatieff won't come clean about his secret plan during the election, the plan has been revealed by Section 1.4.11 of the Bloc Québécois's platform which reads:

"In the event of a Parliament with no majority, the Bloc Québécois reserves the right to support a coalition of political parties, as long as the respect of Quebec values is guaranteed," (p. 39).

"And in an interview with the *National Post*, Michael Ignatieff said he will oppose a Conservative budget even if Canadians re-elect Stephen Harper's Conservative government—clearing the way for Ignatieff to form a coalition with the NDP and Bloc Québécois.

"It is important for Canadians to know that on May 2 they will have a clear choice: a stable national Conservative government led by Stephen Harper, or a reckless unstable coalition government led by Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff and supported by the NDP and Bloc Québécois."

Greg MacEachern
Liberal strategist



"How much of an issue? Well I'm getting the impression that the Conservative leader's advisers wish they hadn't tried to make it so much of an issue. How often do you need to throw a boomerang to only get it back in the head before you drop the boomerang?

"Stephen Harper's attempt to keep the coalition front-and-centre seems silly in light of the definitive statement put out on the first day of the campaign by Michael Ignatieff, and even more so as Harper's actions and statements around his own coalition attempt back in 2004 continued to haunt him as the campaign kicked off.

"As well, while Ignatieff was being asked about the policies he was introducing, Stephen Harper's budget reannouncements were instead being lost in the questions still being posed to him about his coalition comments.

"There is an obvious need for an adult conversation about coalitions, in light of Canada's recent bout of minority governments, but unfortunately we'd need to make sure that there are actual adults in the room. Other countries such as New Zealand and England have rules around coalitions, so maybe it's time that Canada grew up and got its own set of guidelines."

Ian Wayne
NDP strategist



"The idea that a prime minister can get things done without cooperating with other parties is ludicrous, especially in this era of minority Parliaments. Stephen Harper seems to see politics just as a game, always looking for a tactical advantage. Instead of working with others to get things done for Canadians, Harper decided to play partisan games and provoke an election. Canadians are sick and tired of this kind of attitude and want a Parliament that will stay focused on them.

"While Harper plays these political games, he hopes you won't remember his record. He promised to clean up Ottawa, but instead he appointed party bagmen and failed candidates to the Senate. Members of Harper's Conservative campaign team are charged with breaking election laws and facing potential jail time. And the RCMP is investigating some of his insider friends for influence peddling and for blocking access to information.

"On election day, voters will get to decide what the next House of Commons looks like. Whatever the result, you can trust Jack Layton to continue to work with others to get results for Canadians.

"In fact, Layton has spent his whole career in public life working with others to get results for Canadians.

"That's why he has my vote for prime minister."

Camille Labchuck
Green strategist



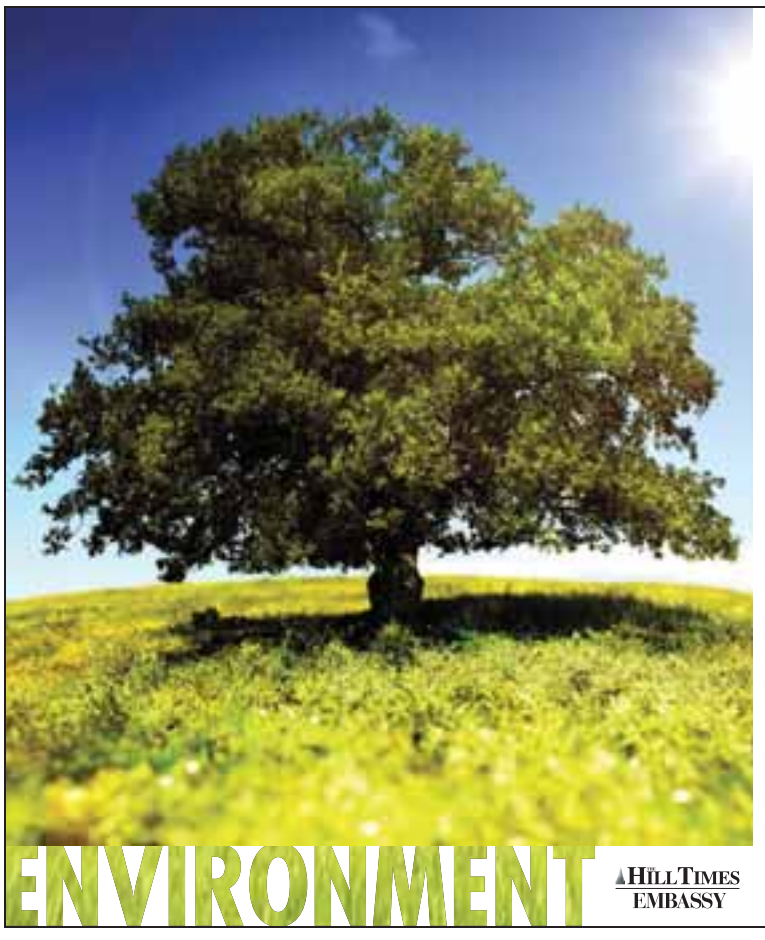
"The demonization of coalition governments deserves real attention. Our own Governor General, David Johnston, has made it clear that coalition governments are legitimate and democratic. Governing coalitions are how grown-up Parliaments best serve their voters. They embody the spirit of cooperation, something Canadians so desperately desire. After all, Canada is a coalition—a coalition of people with different values who all want what's best.

"But predictably, Stephen Harper has tried to paint coalitions as a toxic waste dump, misrepresenting the workings of our Parliamentary system along the way. He refuses to act in the broader public interest, preferring to scare voters into submission rather than offer real alternatives. And tragically, Michael Ignatieff has taken the bait and caved to Harper's rhetoric by ruling out a coalition arrangement.

"It's time to stop letting Harper's mud-slinging set the agenda. Developing friendships and building bridges is a good thing, yet Harper has been allowed to turn 'coalition' into a dirty word. Let's change the channel, and stop debating through his frame.

"Green parties participate in coalition governments in countries around the world, and Greens will always put cooperation and good ideas ahead of partisanship and attack-style politics. It's in the Greens' DNA to build alliances around our shared values, and that's what we will do. During the campaign, Canadians will learn that voting Green is the best way to signal displeasure with this angry fear-mongering, and force parties to focus on issues—such as youth employment, green jobs, health care, and seniors—that we all care about. "

Bloc Québécois strategist Karine Sauvé will return after the election.



ENVIRONMENT POLICY BRIEFING:
THE HILL TIMES

Publication Date: **April 11, 2011**
Booking Deadline: **April 6, 2011** (Noon, Ottawa Time)

The Hill Times will dig into the environment issue in this substantive policy briefing. We will focus specifically on the federal government's leadership on the environment. Where is it at?

We'll look at the federal government's leadership to date on tackling climate change and at its vision for the future.

We'll examine the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy's recently-released report on the issue and at the Senate's Energy Committee's investigation into energy issues.

We'll look at air and water quality; food safety concerns; biodiversity; and vanishing wildlife and habit issues.

ENVIRONMENT—CLIMATE SECURITY:
EMBASSY MAGAZINE

Publication Date: **June 15, 2011**
Booking Deadline: **June 10, 2011** (Noon, Ottawa Time)

Canada continues to view climate change as an economic issue despite the fact trade patterns will be affected, foreign investments will be threatened and the country will be inundated with climate refugees. That's not counting the potential geopolitical changes Canada will have to address, such as increased international activity in a thawing Arctic.

Embassy will look at the threats climate change poses for Canada, and what the country can and should be doing to prepare itself.

ENVIRONMENT—INTERNATIONAL:
EMBASSY MAGAZINE

Publication Date: **August. 17, 2011**
Booking Deadline: **August 12, 2011** (Noon, Ottawa Time)

Over the past few years, Canada's commitment to fighting climate change has been questioned, and the government has been heavily criticized at international negotiations.

The Harper government, in turn, cites the country's huge mass, growing population and economic integration with the U.S. for its policies.

We'll examine both sides of this debate, and try to chart a course that takes both realities into account.

For more information or to reserve your government relations and public affairs advertising space, contact *The Hill Times* and *Embassy* display advertising department at 613-232-5952 ext. 213

FEATURE: PMO & ELECTION CAMPAIGN 2011

Inside the PMO: Harper's 'not the dictator's he's made out to be'

Keith Beardsley, a former senior adviser and deputy chief of staff for issues management for current Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper, sheds some light on the PMO.

By KRISTEN SHANE

From how much control to invest in 'The Centre,' to how to deal with a crisis and pick a chief of staff, whichever federal party leader forms the next government could learn a lot from their predecessors.

Three former senior advisers in different Prime Ministers' Offices provided a glimpse into how today's PMOs are run during a free-wheeling panel discussion March 25 hosted by the Canadian Study of Parliament Group at the cavernous Government Conference Centre.

Speaking to more than 85 academics, public servants and former Parliamentarians were: Jodi White, a distinguished senior fellow at Carleton University and a former chief of staff to Progressive Conservative prime minister Kim Campbell; Eddie Goldenberg, a partner with Bennett Jones LLP and former senior policy adviser and chief of staff to Liberal prime minister Jean Chrétien; and Keith Beardsley, a partner with True North Public Affairs and former senior adviser and deputy chief of staff for issues management for current Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper (Calgary Southwest, Alta.).

Whoever forms government after the election May 2 will have to, within about 10 days, choose a chief of staff and a Cabinet. A prime minister should choose a chief who knows them well, said Ms. White.

"If I ever were prime minister, I would want someone who sort of fit me like a glove," she said.

That wasn't the case for her and Ms. Campbell. Ms. White had managed the campaign of Ms. Campbell's fiercest competitor for leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party in 1993, Jean Charest. Ms. Campbell won and chose Ms. White to lead her staff, although Ms. White said, "We were not really that close. We hadn't worked together."

Ms. Campbell named Mr. Charest to the key Cabinet posts of deputy prime minister and Industry minister. She seemed to want to show she was working to heal party wounds. It also made sense to keep rivals close to keep an eye on them. But in her case, said Ms. White, it turned out to be an "uneven relationship" and that was "awkward for both."

While the chief of staff is the "orchestra conductor," said Mr. Goldenberg, the heavy responsibility of being prime minister requires a full complement of strong staff support. A director of appointments, for instance, is key to organize order-in-council appointments so there is diversity among demographics and regions, he said. A gatekeeper for the prime minister has to be nice, because they have to say 'No' most times.

"There's nothing more important than the prime minister's time," said Mr. Goldenberg. If it's something a staffer can handle, they should.

Mr. Chrétien's communications shop was relatively small, he said. There was a press secretary, junior press secretary, translator, a person to write the least important speeches, two to three support staff and the communications director who coordinated the shop. The director met once a week with senior communications directors in the government, he said, not daily.

"You can't govern from the fringes. It only makes sense [to govern from the centre]," he said. But you can't run everything from the centre, he added.

"The PMO should not be a parallel Cabinet or public service," he said. It has to work with them, in certain respects, as a coordinator.

For instance, it's important the PMO coordinates ministerial travel abroad, he said. That lesson Mr. Chrétien's PMO learned on Sept. 11, 2001, when hijacked planes ripped into New York City's World Trade Centre towers and the Pentagon.

"People wondered why prime minister Chrétien didn't have a Cabinet meeting. He didn't have all ministers in town," recalled Mr. Goldenberg. Parts of the North American airspace were closed. The PMO had a policy to keep six ministers in town, but that day there were only two in Ottawa. Four are needed to sign orders-in-council, he said.

In coordinating government, delegation is extraordinarily important, said Mr. Goldenberg. He said Mr. Chrétien said ministers' role was to govern while the prime minister and PMO focus on managing the government's priorities. He told Mr. Goldenberg to focus on three or four big priorities, such as the country's post-recession finances and post-Quebec referendum national unity.

"The style of the PMO depends on the style of the prime minister himself," said Mr. Goldenberg.

From Mr. Beardsley's observations, outside of the PMO since mid-2008, the structure hasn't changed much. It was largely modeled after Mr. Harper's office when he was leader of the official opposition, said Mr. Beardsley.

He acknowledged the constant critique of Mr. Harper's PMO. "Yes, there's a lot of control from the centre," said Mr. Beardsley. He worked as chief of staff to a minister in Brian Mulroney's government in the 1980s and said he hardly ever got a phone call from the PMO.

But, Mr. Beardsley stressed, "[Mr. Harper is] not the dictator he's made out to be."

After taking his kids to school, Mr. Harper typically participates in a morning meeting with nine or 10 senior advisers, he said. They brief him on issues bubbling up in the media, mostly. Everyone has a chance to speak.



Photograph by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*

Power house: The Prime Minister's Office in the Langevin Building in Ottawa.

"You're free to criticize him," said Mr. Beardsley. He will listen. But the critic has to be prepared to defend his or her position because the PM loves to debate and will fight back.

When Mr. Harper came to power in 2006, it had been 13 years since the last Tory government. The skilled staff who knew how to run government then had largely moved on, said Mr. Beardsley. Running more than 20 ministers' offices and the PMO requires 400 to 500 staff. There was only a pool of about 200, with varying degrees of competency, to draw from pre-merger Reform and Progressive Conservative MPs' offices, he said. In a government largely run by amateurs, it was necessary to centralize power in the PMO.

Also, while some Progressive Conservatives had government experience, many Reform MPs didn't. They were "more free-wheeling," he said, and had been allowed to speak to the media more freely than the PCs. Mr. Harper risked an MP speaking out off-message unless he controlled the message well.

The Harper PMO focused on "process to the extreme," said Mr. Beardsley. As deputy chief of staff for issues management, he ran pre-QP ministerial practice sessions, starting at about 1 p.m. daily.

The advent of the BlackBerry also made it easier for the PMO to control the message, he said. When the Progressive Conservatives and Canadian Alliance merged in 2003, he said, it took about five minutes for his rapid response team to alert MPs of changes in an ongoing Question Period. Now, it's immediate. The PMO can change the question line-up, or substitute MPs from the outside in a way it couldn't do before the BlackBerry, said Mr. Beardsley.

While at the beginning of the Harper era, inexperience and a higher risk of being caught off-message contributed to increased PMO control, and technological advances sustained it, Ms. White said she's noticed more ministers in recent months appearing on political talk shows—a sign that central control might be lessening. If Mr. Harper retains power after May 2, it will be interesting to see whether his new chief of staff, Nigel Wright, loosens the reins, said Mr. Beardsley. "He goes back to the Mulroney years as well, where ministers had more freedom," he said.

Besides internal issues, the prime minister is also the leader of his party, and the key government spokesperson in federal/provincial and international relations. These are "non-discretionary" duties, said Mr. White. Even if her staff would have preferred not to send Ms. Campbell to a G8 meeting just after she became prime minister, they had little choice, she said. Ms. Campbell also met a new U.S. ambassador during her summer in office, and dealt with the inherited legacies of a tainted blood scandal and an expensive helicopter purchase. These obligatory issues take from the prime minister's discretionary time, which Ms. White said is "where the secret sauce is." The PM can use that time to differentiate him or herself from his or her predecessor and focus on personal priorities.

When MPs or Cabinet ministers make mistakes, it sometimes falls to the PMO to pick up the pieces. It's judged not on the crisis itself, usually, but how it handles it, said Mr. Goldenberg.

For instance, he recalled that when a newspaper article was published on a Saturday morning in 2002 detailing that the then-defence minister Art Eggleton had awarded an untendered contract to his former girlfriend, the PMO verified the story and within a couple days it had replaced him. Compare that quick finish, he said, to the saga over International Cooperation Minister Bev Oda's confusing statements to the House on who inserted the word 'Not' in a document that appeared to change the meaning of a CIDA funding commitment to the aid group Kairos.

Instead of nipping it in the bud early, the sore continued to fester on the back of the government, Mr. Goldenberg implied. Ms. Oda told the House Foreign Affairs Committee last fall that she didn't know who added the word. Then in February, before the House, she said she had directed it to be done. There was enough confusion over her statements that opposition members accused her of trying to mislead the House and the Speaker eventually ruled on the issue. Meanwhile, Government House Leader John Baird, who's running Ottawa West-Nepean, Ont., started speaking for Ms. Oda in QP on the matter. After generating months of headlines, Ms. Oda finally testified last month before the House Affairs Committee to explain that her chief of staff had inserted the word at her direction.

Mr. Beardsley said he understood what happened, as he said Ms. Oda "goes to pieces" when speaking publicly but is an otherwise effective minister. But as to how the government handled the issue, "Would I have done the same thing? Not necessarily," he said.

"I think they undermined her constantly," said Ms. White. The PMO should be building Cabinet ministers up by working to improve their weaknesses rather than pushing them down, she said. "I don't see that a lot," said Ms. White.

kshane@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

HILL TIMES CLASSIFIED

INFORMATION AND ADVERTISEMENT PLACEMENT: TEL. 613-232-5952, FAX 613-232-9055

0010 RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE

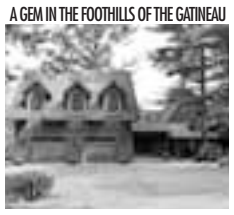
BRAND NEW CONDOS! $97K TO $240K

Near schools, hospital. Country living minutes from Ottawa in Kemptville! www.stanleyfieldvillage.ca (613) 369-8342. Sales centre 2961 Highway 43."

INVENTORY CLEARANCE!

New Quality Prefab Home Packages 50% OFF! 1030sf, Sacrifice only $13,975!! Originally $27,950 (other sizes) Factory Direct! Hundreds shipped! Spring/ Summer delivery. 1-800-871-7089.

A GEM IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE GATINEAU



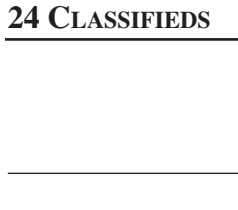
Custom built, all wood beam construction. Luxury finishes such as granite counter tops, Shaker style cabinets, old fashioned forged metal hinged windows, all stainless appliances. Two separate wings for total privacy, ideal for B.B. or exclusive nature Spa. Insulated 2 car garage. Roof re-shingled, 50 year warranty ! Visit www.enfincheznous.com -Michel Schreiner, Broker, Re/Max Direct Inc. mschreiner@videotron.ca or call (819)772-0203

BUNGALOW FOR SALE IN HULL (GATINEAU- PLATEAU DE LA CAPITALE)



Beautiful custom built, high quality, high efficiency, all brick bungalow. Kitchen refurbished in 2007 with granite counter tops and large island. Double plus garage with mezzanine, access to basement. Interlock drive for 5 cars+Winebago or 5th wheel. Economical energy costs ($2168). Owners retiring elsewhere. Visit www.enfincheznous.com -Michel Schreiner, Broker, Re/Max Direct Inc. mschreiner@videotron.ca or call (819)772-0203

CHELSEA



A most unique home surrounded by NCC forest parkland. Originally featured on HGTV's Homes by Design. Go to www.16keewatin.com Joseph Woods Real Estate Broker Century21 Macintyre Inc. 819-827-6373

LUXURY HOME BY OWNER



3,500sq.ft, Westboro, complete makeover - new windows & doors, ss appliances, plumbing, electrical, landscaping, insulation, kitchen, HVAC, front & back porches, wood fireplace, double lot (66'x99'). www.585churchill.com or 613-261-9020

MAGNIFICENT CUSTOM BUILT DREAM HOME



Min. to Champlain Bridge & Ottawa. Diplomats home on huge 10,000 Sq/ Ft lot. Romeo-Juliette staircase off foyer, 7 bedrooms/ 4 baths, independent laundry/mud room on main. Finished basement: large family room, play room, bedroom and Sauna. Beautifully landscaped, with inground pool, 2 terraces, triple garage, Interlock driveway. Visit www.enfincheznous.com -Michel Schreiner, Broker, Re/Max Direct Inc. mschreiner@videotron.ca or call (819)772-0203

0010 RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE

MAGNIFICIENT

4 bedroom, 4 bathroom post and beam WATERFRONT home offers spectacular views of the Ottawa River and Gatineau Hills. $899,900. MLS #783084. Jane Pick, Broker, Jon Pick, Sales Representative Royal LePage Team Realty. www.jjpick.com or (613)297-1251.

NEW DEVELOPMENT in the HEART OF WESTBORO



Chic 3 bed; 3 bath SEMIS designed with European Flair walk to River; Tansit; Restaurants, Boutiques. For information call ALISON DOBLE. Broker. Royal LePage Team Realty Brokerage. 613 831 9287. www.alisondoble.com

SPECTACULAR WATERFRONT DREAMHOME

Totally renovated with 150ft of shoreline on the St.Lawrence River. Breathtaking sunsets, 1 hour from Ottawa. www.11350Lakeshore.com Les Kovacs (613) 226-8790 Sales Representative, Coldwell Banker Coburn Realty Brokerage

0020 CONDOS FOR SALE

SPECTACULAR

2 bedroom penthouse condo apartment in Claridge Phase II with 300 sq.ft. terrace overlooking the market, Parliament and Gatineau Hills, available in the July/ August timeframe. We are motivated to sell and are negotiable on the price. Serious inquiries only please – contact Bob Woodard at 613.731.8689 or bobwoodard@rogers.com.

0030 CONDOS FOR RENT

2 BEDROOM CONDO- MONDRIAN

850 sq feet. large bedroom, 18"x10", 6 stainless steel appliances, hardwood, granite, great view of the city. $1950. 613-761-8096 or 613-736-3858. bbm012@gmail.com

BRAND NEW CONDO IN WESTBORO

2 bedroom, 2 baths, 6 appliances, hardwood, granite, View of Ottawa River. $1850+hydro. Call (613) 301-8366

EXECUTIVE

Fully furnished condo 1 bedroom Byward Market short- or long-term. Email 179GeorgeExec@gmail.com

NEW EDINBURGH

Terrific location- elegant 3 bedroom, 2 full baths. Beautifully renovated ensuite. 2 parking spaces, 2 patios, new windows. Walkout basement. Lots of storage space. Available June 1st. $2,500 + utilities. (613)868-1480

NEW LUXURY 1 BR + DEN

Rideau St/Market area. Pool, sauna, fitness centre. Parking optional. For rent May 1st. Claridge Plaza II. $1550. Call (613)851-9344.

OTTAWA WEST

Beautiful, large 1 bdrm, 2 bathroom; 9th floor, southern exposure; many amenities; private underground parking. No smoking/no pets. (1300/mo.+hydro) Contact: s.signorini@rogers.com or 613-277-9576

STEPS FROM VANIER PARKWAY

Excellent location close to shops, transportation. Lovely immaculate, two bedroom, includes parking and three appliances. Available May 1. $1200.00. WWW.homes-for-rent.com 613-288-1500

0032 TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT

CHAPEL HILL, EXCELLENT ORLEANS LOCATION

Lovely three bedroom, 2.5 bathrooms, appliances, gas heat, garage. Available immediately. $1400.00. www.homes-for-rent.com. 613-288-1500.

CHAPEL HILL, ORLEANS

Beautiful three bedroom close to parks, schools, shopping etc. 2.5 baths,family room, appliances,gas heat. Available Immediately. $1400.00. www.homes-for-rent.com. 613-224-7427

GLEBE

Townhouse 2 bed with family room. Available April 15 1y lease. Modern open concept. $2,600 per month. Brian Caughey Keller Williams Ottawa Realty Ltd. Brokerage 613.875.3395

MANOR PARK EAST

Beautifully appointed and immaculate two bedroom, 2.5 bathrooms, family room, garage. Available April 1. $1900.00. www:homes-for-rent.com. 613-288-1500.

0040 HOUSES FOR RENT

BARRHAVEN- IDEAL FOR DIPLOMAT

Fully furnished 4 bedroom, 2 bath bungalow. Utilities, cable, high speed internet extra $2,100 monthly. (613)884-1923. Available immediately.

CIVIC HOSPITAL

Charming and immaculate house on quiet street close to schools, Dows Lake etc. Three & one bedroom with new designer kitchen, family room, two full baths,appliances. Available immediately. $2450.00. www.homes-for-rent.com. 613-224-7427

DESIRABLE GLEBE

Very stylish four bedroom close to schools, shops etc. 2.5 baths,family room, appliances,gas heat. Available May 1. $2400.00. www.homes-for-rent.com. 613-224-7427

EXECUTIVE SINGLE RIVERSIDE QUNITERRA

4 bed,4 bath fin. basement near river,university, shops,airport. 15 minutes from downtown. Present tenant diplomat. Available March 15. $2200 a month. 613-822-2373

FOR RENT



Rockcliffe Mews upgraded detached home with 3 bedroom double garage $2,400/month p-lapierre@rogers.com

LOWERTOWN HERITAGE CLASSIC

$3900/ month - Tastefully restored, ideally located 19th century 'embassy row' landmark available furnished or unfurnished. View at http://sezlik.com Charles Sezlik, Sales Representative Prudential Town Centre Realty Brokerage Inc. 613 744 6697

MAGNIFICENT WATERFRONT PROPERTY FOR RENT

2,500 sqft. loft style home located on Gatineau River. Breathtaking southern views. Spacious, bright, open concept, quiet, private 3.5 acre lot on large waterfront. High vaulted ceilings with large windows. Two fireplaces (master bedroom & living room), 3 bedrooms with 3 full bathrooms, sauna. Large south facing deck. $1,800 + utilities, available immediately. Kirk.Nelson@hotmail.com or (819)778-6468

ROTHWELL HEIGHTS

4 Bedroom, 3.5 baths, 6 appliances. Hardwood and ceramic floors. Fully renovated, finished basement. A/C, gas heated, deck with large yard. $2,400. May 1st. (613)837-9992

0041 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

AMAZING CENTRETOWN 2 BEDROOM WITH SOLARIUM AND PRIVATE GARDEN- $1950

Luxury 1200 square foot 2 bedroom in 6 unit Centretown building in core. Large main bedroom with solarium and garden access. 13' ceilings and fabulous decor. Roman tub and separate shower. Well equipped kitchen, laundry and large living/dining area. Outdoor parking. Perfect for executive or diplomat. Lease preferred. Available March 1. Call 613-825-7232.

ROCKCLIFFE ARMS-124 SPRINGFIELD ROAD, OTTAWA

Spacious studio, 1 & 2 bedroom suites located near desirable Rockcliffe Park. Suites are large and bright with hardwood flooring. Well-maintained building, with utilities included. Call for viewing 613.688.2222 or www.osgoodeproperties.com.

50 LAURIER

CANAL-SIDE LUXURY FOR RENT

Furnished/Unfurnished suites
* 6 appliances including
* In-suite washer & dryer
* 24 hr. security/ concierge
* Pool/fitness

Drop by for a tour 8-5 p.m.

Phone: 613-563-8000
Email: info@50 Laurier.com
50 Laurier.com

0041 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

CUMBERLAND ST- 10 MINUTE WALK TO PARLIAMENT HILL

1 bedroom urban loft, furnished in chique, trendy building on the Byward Market close to shopping, Rideau Canal, Parliament, restaurants & transportation. Bright and cheery floor to ceiling windows. Balcony overlooking lush garden with reflective pool. 6 appliances + TV, hard wood floors. Elegantly furnished and finished in dark wood, California closets. European styled bathroom fully tiled. Non-smoking, no pets. Includes access to gym facility, social room, meeting room, snooker room. Patio & BBQ area. Camera security. Utilities separate: tenant pays heating, cable, wifi, telephone. Parking negotiable. $1750/ month. Telephone: 613 291-3878

DOWNTOWN OTTAWA

2 bdrms from $1975. Come home to a residence where everything reflects timeless luxury. The Juliana offers spacious rental suites with spectacular views of the city, Ottawa River, and Gatineau Hills from oversized balconies and the rooftop terrace. Short walk to Parliament Hill and the best shopping, dining and arts venues in Ottawa. Please call (613) 688-2222.

GOLDEN TRIANGLE-APTS. FOR RENT

2 Bedroom ($1,700), 1 Bedroom ($1,600) and Studio ($1,000) Victorian newly-renovated building across from tennis courts, close to Elgin Street shops and restaurants, and Rideau Canal. Close to public transportation and walking distance to Parliament Hill. Includes: hardwood floors, ceramic entrance, 3 stainless steel appliances, all new windows/doors, intercom, tenant controlled heat, coin-operated laundry, basement locker room, tenant pays hydro, parking available. Call for viewing 613-234-0473

SANDY HILL

Fabulous 2-3 bedroom with solarium and deck - $2,000 + hydro Luxury 2 bedroom apartment (can be converted back to 3) in century old 3 storey Victorian home next to embassies. Apartment is on 2 storeys. Fully renovated kitchen/ bathroom (high end appliances), laundry, formal living/dining area . Perfect for professional or diplomat. Available May 1st. 613-241-5812

0043 1 BEDROOM APARTMENTS FOR RENT

LOOK NO FURTHER. $900.00 CARLINGWOOD/FAIRLAWN.

Excellent location. New lower level one bedroom. Mature quiet neighborhood for mature quiet tenant, fully employed or studying. Separate, private entrance/ patio. Fully furnished. Utilities included. One plug-in outside parking available. Shared laundry. Details 613-725-1450.

0044 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS FOR RENT

PARKDALE/WELLINGTON

1 month free! March/April occupancies. $929 heat included. Call (613)728-8732

0050 FURNISHED RENTALS

CENTRETOWN

Beautiful furnished bachelor apartment, private entrance available May 1. $850.00 all inclusive. https://listings.och.uwaterloo.ca/Search/dresults.aspx?rid=31009

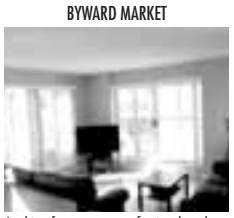
0055 FURNISHED CONDOS FOR RENT

FULLY FURNISHED CONDO

New kitchen & 2 new bathrooms. 2 bedrooms, 6 appliances, parking, security 24/7. Laurier West. (613)521-3941. $2195 all inclusive. avail. immediately

0060 SHARED ACCOMMODATIONS

BYWARD MARKET



Looking for a mature professional to share apartment in heart of Byward Market from April 1st. Courtyard entrance at 24 York St. Private bathroom. 1050 sq.ft. $1000 inclusive. (613)277-9383

HT work.ca



If you're ready to make a difference and discover your full potential, Canada Post delivers a variety of exciting and challenging career opportunities. As one of Canada's Top 100 Employers for four years in a row (2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010) we're committed to attracting, retaining and developing a winning team to realize our vision to be a world leader.

Officer, Government Affairs

Government Affairs at Canada Post is responsible for providing excellence in government relations' expertise to the Crown Corporation, and support and service to Parliamentarians. As a member of this dynamic team, you'll work strategically and collaboratively for both short-term and long-term objectives, liaise with Parliamentarians and inform them of changes in operations and other postal activities affecting their constituency. In addition, you'll also negotiate solutions to their concerns while respecting the Corporation's mandate, maintain an on-going visits program for Parliamentarians, and ensure corporate directives with regards to governmental issues are effectively handled and the Corporation presents a consistent image.

As an ideal candidate, you bring a college diploma or university degree in a related field, a minimum of 3 years' work experience in a political office, customer service, business administration, government relations, public relations or communications field, and excellent communication skills. Bilingualism is an asset.

Canada Post offers a competitive total compensation package (base salary, annual incentive program, comprehensive benefits coverage, vacation, leave and work options, and a choice between two retirement savings plans), as well as excellent career potential.

For more information or to apply online, check out the Canada Post careers site at: **www.canadapost.ca/careers**, and search for **Job ID J0111-0307**.

Si vous êtes prêt à découvrir votre plein potentiel et à faire la différence, Postes Canada vous offre une panoplie de possibilités de carrière excitantes et intéressantes. En tant que l'un des 100 meilleurs employeurs du Canada pour quatre années consécutives (2007, 2008, 2009 et 2010), nous sommes engagés à attirer et fidéliser les meilleurs talents, tout en développant leurs compétences, afin d'atteindre notre objectif de devenir un leader mondial.

Agent, relations parlementaires

Le service des relations parlementaires à Postes Canada est responsable de fournir une expertise en relations gouvernementales à la société d'État, ainsi qu'un soutien et des services aux membres du Parlement. Membre d'une équipe dynamique, vous travaillerez de façon stratégique et collaborative aux objectifs à court et long terme, communiquerez avec les parlementaires et les informerez des changements apportés aux opérations et aux autres activités postales ayant une incidence sur leur circonscription. De plus, vous négocierez des solutions aux préoccupations des parlementaires, tout en respectant le mandat de la Société, maintiendrez un programme de rencontres continues à l'intention des parlementaires et veillerez à ce que les directives de la Société portant sur les problématiques gouvernementales soient prises en compte de façon efficace et que la Société présente une image cohérente.

Vous possédez un diplôme collégial ou universitaire dans un domaine connexe et au moins trois années d'expérience dans une instance politique, en service à la clientèle, en administration des affaires, en relations parlementaires, en relations publiques ou en communication. Vous démontrez d'excellentes aptitudes pour la communication. Le bilinguisme est un atout.

Postes Canada offre un programme de rémunération total (salaire de base, programme de primes de rendement annuel, gamme complète d'avantages sociaux, vacances, régime de congés et choix de deux options de planification de la retraite), ainsi que d'excellentes perspectives de carrière.

Pour plus d'information ou pour postuler en ligne, visitez le site Web carrières de Postes Canada au **www.postescanada.ca/carrieres**, et faites une recherche par le **numéro de poste J0111-0307**.

CANADA POSTES POST CANADA

0130A VACATION RENTALS

WATERFRONT 3 BEDROOM SUMMER RESIDENCE FOR RENT

New Post & beam construction. 1 hour from Ottawa. $950 weekly. For photos go to: www.hlconsulting.net/escape/index.htm or for more info or reservations call 613.297.2592

0130A VACATION RENTALS

UNWIND AND ENJOY!



Two Bedroom Condo in Tremblant fully equipped for you to relax with spectacular view. Accommodate up to six persons. Access to bicycle path, walking trails, pool and spa. Spring/ Summer specials. Info: (819) 684-2446

0211 ARTICLES FOR SALE

National Teleconnect

Home Phone Service. No One Refused! Low Monthly Rate! Calling Features and Unlimited Long Distance Available. Call National Teleconnect Today! 1-866-443-4408. www.nationalteleconnect.com

STEEL BUILDING SALE

SPECIALS from $4 to $11/sq.ft. Great pricing on ABSOLUTELY every model, width & length. Example: 30x40x14 NOW $7995.00. End walls included, doors optional. Pioneer Steel Manufacturers 1-800-668-5422.

0211 ARTICLES FOR SALE

FREE UNLIMITED LONG DISTANCE

Home Phone & Highspeed. You're Approved! No Deposits, No Credit Checks. CALL Talk Canada Home Phone Today! Visit www.talkcanada1.com or Toll-Free 1-866-867-8293.

STEEL BUILDINGS

PRICED TO CLEAR - Holding 2010 steel prices on many models/sizes. Ask about FREE DELIVERY! CALL FOR QUICK SALE QUOTE and FREE BROCHURE - 1-800-668-5111 ext. 170.

0401 COMING EVENTS

HAVELOCK COUNTRY JAMBOREE
LIVE COUNTRY MUSIC & CAMPING FESTIVAL Aug. 18-21/11. ANNOUNCING Martina McBride, Billy Currington, Sawyer Brown and more, over 25 entertainers... TICKETS 1-800-539-3353 www.havelockjamboree.com.

0601 AUTOMOTIVE

MOTOR VEHICLE dealers
in Ontario MUST be registered with OMVIC. To verify dealer registration or seek help with a complaint, visit www.omvic.on.ca or 1-800-943-6002. If you're buying a vehicle privately,don't become a curbsider's victim. Curbsiders are impostors who pose as private individuals, but are actually in the business of selling stolenor damaged vehicles.

0825 MOVING AND STORAGE

CityPlus MOVING & STORAGE

CITYPLUS MOVING AND STORAGE
Free estimates, new & used moving supplies, local & long distance. Reliable movers. Agent for NorthAmerican Van Lines. 613-723-6040. www.cityplus-moving.com

0849 LEGAL SERVICES

CRIMINAL RECORD?
Guaranteed Record Removal since 1989. Confidential, Fast, Affordable. Our A+ BBB Rating assures EMPLOYMENT / TRAVEL & FREEDOM. Call for your FREE INFORMATION BOOKLET. 1-8-NOW-PARDON (1-866-972-7366) www.PardonServicesCanada.com.

0850 FINANCIAL SERVICES

500 LOAN, NO CREDIT REFUSED
Fast, Easy and Secure. 1-877-776-1660. www.moneyprovider.com.

AS SEEN ON TV
1st, 2nd, Home Equity Loans, Bad Credit, Self-Employed, Bankrupt, Foreclosure, Power of Sale and need to Re-Finance?? Let us fight for you because we understand - Life Happens!!CALL Toll-Free 1-877-733-4424 or www.callmortgagebrokers.com. The Refinancing Specialists (MortgageBrokers.com LIC#10408).

CRIMINAL RECORD?
Seal it with a PARDON! Need to enter the U.S.? Get a 5 year WAIVER! Call for a free brochure. Toll-free 1-888-9-PARDON or 905-459-9669.

DEBT CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM
Helping Canadians repay debts, reduce/eliminate interest, regardless of your credit. Steady Income? You may qualify for instant help. Considering Bankruptcy? Call: 1-877-220-3328 FREE Consultation Government Approved, BBB Member.

NEED A LOAN WITH BAD CREDIT?
Has your credit prevented you from getting a loan, buying a home or opening your own business? We can help you get up to $1 Million business or mortgage loan and up to $200,000 personal loan with interest rates starting at 2.9% APR offer. Bad credit okay. Apply now at www.uncreditloans.com or call 1(866)269-6631.

0920 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

LIVING ASSISTANCE SERVICES
www.laservices.ca/franchise is a ten year old non-medical agency providing superb care to seniors. Now franchising across Ontario. Contact p.mills@laservices.ca or 416-807-9972.

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR FUTURE
Invest 10 hrs/wk and build a serious business. You guide and train - no sales, no inventory, no risk. Great income! www.fromgreen2green.com.

0929 EMPLOYMENT

PROFESSIONAL TRUCK DRIVERS
RTL-WESTCAN GROUP OF COMPANIES - RTL-Westcan has openings for SEASONAL AND ROTATIONAL professional truck drivers to join our teams in various Western Canada locations. PROFESSIONAL TRUCK DRIVERS: Minimum 2 years' AZ experience; B-train experience/Extended trailer length experience; Liquid/dry bulk product experience is an asset; Clean driving/criminal record; Pre-employment medical/substance testing. We offer: $1,400 WEEKLY GUARANTEE (Anhydrous Ammonia Contract), Travel to/from employment location, Good Operations Bonus, Returning Bonus and more! Candidates for all positions APPLY ONLINE AT: www.westcanbulk.ca under the Join our Team section. Alternatively, e-mail careers@westcanbulk.ca or phone Toll-Free 1-888-WBT-HIRE for further details. Committed to the Principles of Employment Equity.

0929 EMPLOYMENT

10 AZ TEAMS NEEDED NOW
Our Company teams consistently earn $120-140,000 per year. Excellent Equipment, Waterloo Region Based, West Coast US Runs. Call 7 days per week 1-888-213-9401. www.transportjobs.net.

0929 EMPLOYMENT

HOMEWORKERS get paid daily!
Now Accepting: Simple Full/Part Time Data Entry & Online Computer Related Work is available. No fees or charges to participate. Start Today, www.ONWOC.com.

0933 CAREER TRAINING

LEARN FROM HOME
Earn from home. CanScribe Career College offers courses in Medical Transcription and Computers. Great work at-home opportunities. Enroll today! 1-800-466-1535. www.canscribe.com. info@canscribe.com.

1030 PERSONAL

CONNECT WITH YOUR FUTURE
Learn from the past, Master the present! Call a True Psychic now! $3.19/minute. 1-877-478-4410 (18+). 1-900-783-3800. Answers to all your questions!

1030 PERSONAL

DATING SERVICE.
Long-term/short-term relationships, CALL NOW. 1-877-297-9883. Exchange voice messages, voice mailboxes. 1-888-534-6984. Live adult casual conversations -1on1, 1-866-311-9640, meet on chat-lines. Local single ladies. 1-877-804-5381. (18+)

HT CLASSIFIEDS
613-232-5952



Find the perfect fit for your organization in our readership community

94,172
combined hard copy readers weekly

hilltimes.com
embassymag.ca

37,950
Average weekly web page views

THE HILL TIMES EMBASSY

For more information or to reserve your advertising space contact *The Hill Times* display advertising department at 613-232-5952 ext. 213

FEATURE: EVENTS

Jones to discuss track-two diplomacy with Iran



THE PARLIAMENTARY CALENDAR

MONDAY, APRIL 4

Track Two Diplomacy with Iran—Join guest speaker Peter Jones, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa, for a discussion on "Track Two Diplomacy with Iran: Are We Getting Anywhere?" Presented by CSDS and the Canadian Centre for Treaty Compliance. April 4,12:30-2 p.m. Alumni Boardroom, 617 Robertson Hall, Carleton University, 1125 Col. By Dr. 613-520-2600 ext. 6671 or csds@carleton.ca

Liberty's Trial: War & the Health of Democracy—Join guest speaker Ron Krebbs, University of Minnesota. He will discuss "Liberty's Trial: War and the Health of Democracy." April 4, 2 p.m. Free. Room 3120, Desmarais Bldg., 55 Laurier Ave. E., Ottawa, Ont. www.cips.uottawa.ca

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

The Shifting Winds of Globalization—Guest speaker Stephen Poloz, President and CEO, EDC, will discuss "The Shifting Winds of Globalization: What Next for Canadian Businesses?" Followed by a Q&A. Presented by the Montreal Council on Foreign Relations. April 5, 12-2 p.m. $70 members; $105 non-members. Ballroom, Centre Sheraton, 1201 Rene-Levesque Blvd., Montreal, Que. Register in advance. 514-340-9622 or www.corim.qc.ca

Global Energy Challenges—Guest speaker Dr. Frank Umbach, Centre for European Security Strategies (Munich-Berlin) will discuss "Global Energy Challenges and the Implications for the EU's Common Energy Policies." April 5, 3-4:30 p.m. Delegation of the European Union, 150 Metcalfe St., Suite 1900, Ottawa, Ont. RSVP to www.carleton.ca/ces/globalenergy

The Political Crisis in the Middle East and North Africa—Join Pierre Razoux, NATO Defence College, Rome, for a talk on "The Political Crisis in the Middle East and North Africa: Implications for NATO and its Partnerships." Presented by CSDS at Carleton University. April 5, 3:30-5 p.m. Alumni Boardroom, 617 Robertson Hall, Carleton University, 1125 Col. By Dr., Ottawa, Ont. www.carleton.ca/csds/

Best of the Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival—Some of the best environmental documentaries dealing with topics such as water exploitation, climate change and ecosystem protection will be screened at the Best of the Planet Environmental Film Festival. Each screening will be followed by discussions with guest speakers. April 5-8. $8-$10. Museum of Nature, 240 McLeod St., Ottawa, Ont. http://nature.ca

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

Lobbyists, Public Officer Holders and Conflicts of Interest—Join PAAC and Ontario Lobbyist Registrar and Integrity Commissioner, Lynn Morrison for an informative workshop—"Lobbyists, Public Office Holders and Conflicts of Interest: Staying Compliant with the Law." April 6, 8-9:30 a.m., $55 members; $65 non-members. Borden Ladner Gervais LLP, 40 King St. W., Toronto, Ont. Lana Deluca at 416-367-6341 or ldeluca@blg.com

NCC Annual General Meeting—The National Capital Commission invites members of the public to its AGM. The public Board of Directors meeting runs from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and from 1:30-3 p.m. The evening meeting will give members of the public a chance to share ideas and comments with NCC board members. 7 p.m. Remarks from the Chair and CEO; 7:45 p.m. Questions and comments. Agendas available online. 613-239-5000. canadascapital.gc.ca

Economic Prospects For Europe and the Future of the Union—Guest speaker Jens Larsen, Chief European Economist, RBC Capital Markets, will discuss "Economic Prospects for Europe and the Future of the Union." Presented by the Economic Club of Canada. April 6, 11: a.m.-1:30 p.m., $79. The Intercontinental Hotel, 255 Front St. W. www.economicclub.ca

Launch: CDHI Healthcare Policy Initiative—The C.D. Howe Institute is launching its Healthcare Policy Initiative—"Chronic Health Care Spending Disease: A Macro Diagnosis and Prognosis," with authors David Dodge and Richard Dion. April 6, 12-2 p.m., $69 members; guest $129. Rosewater Supper Club, Rosewater Room, 17 Toronto St., Toronto, Ont. www.cdhowe.org

Creating a Stronger North American Market for Natural Gas—Guest speaker David Goldwyn will talk about "Creating a Stronger North American Market for Natural Gas." Moderated by Don Newman. Presented by Canada 2020. April 6, 4-6 p.m. Chateau Laurier, 1 Rideau St. Ottawa, Ont. http://canada2020.ca/

The 3Ds, Diplomacy, Defence and Development—The National Capital Branch of the CIC presents a speaker event, "The 3Ds, Diplomacy, Defence and Development, Pillars of Foreign Policy: Time for Adjustments?" Speakers will be Derek Burney, former ambassador to the U.S. and chief of staff to the PM.; Paul Heinbecker, former foreign policy adviser to the PM and ambassador to the UN, and Sen. Hugh Segal, former chief of staff to the PM. April 6, 5:15 p.m. Rideau Room, Sheraton Hotel, 150 Albert St., Ottawa, Ont. 613-520-3916 or http://www.onlinecic.org/branches/ottawa

2011 Summit on the Future of Pensions—The Conference Board of Canada presents the "2011 Summit on the Future of Pensions: Rebuilding Pensions, Rethinking Retirement." April 6-7. The Sheraton Centre, Toronto, Ont. www.conferenceboard.ca

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

People Power and the Age of Social Media—The Centre for Global Challenges and the Graduate Students of the Glendon School of Public and International Affairs present a public dialogue between specialists, students and activists on "People Power and the Age of Social Media: Can Canadians Mobilize?" Guest speakers include Alex Himmelfarb, director of the Centre for Global Challenges and Breza Race, director, CANVAS. April 7, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. BMO Conference Centre, Glendon Hall, Glendon College-York University, 2275 Bayview Ave., Toronto, Ont. RSVP to conference.glendon@gmail.com

Book Launch: An Ounce Of Prevention—Sip on some choice wines accompanied by expert commentary by master sommelier John Szabo, while author Allan Bonner launches his book *An Ounce of Prevention: Negotiating Our Way Through Damage Control and Crisis Response.* April 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m. The Toy Factory, Liberty Village, 43 Hanna Ave., Suite 4112, Toronto, Ont. RSVP to 416-961-3620 or allan@allanbonner.com

2011 Vimy Reception—The Embassy of France, The RBC Foundation and The Vimy Foundation host the 2011 Vimy Reception with keynote speaker Gen. Rick Hillier. Event is by invitation only and sold out. 5:30-7:30 p.m. (To get on the waiting list, contact kkaufmann@vimyfoundation.ca) Embassy of France, 42 Sussex Dr., Ottawa, Ont. www.vimynfoundation.ca

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

94th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge—Encounters with Canada, the Army Cadet League and Veterans Affairs Canada present a parade, wreath-laying and candlelight procession in remembrance of the 94th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. April 8, 7 p.m. National War Memorial, Elgin St., Ottawa, Ont. www.vac-acc.gc.ca

The Rwanda Initiative Fifth Anniversary Celebration—A reception is being held this evening to mark the Rwanda's Initiative's 5th Anniversary. The program is now part of the broader efforts of the Centre for Media and Transitional Societies at Carleton University. The evening will feature a multimedia exhibition, a silent auction of photographs taken by the PhotoSensitive team, comments from past participants, a dance performance, and remarks by Quebec Liberal Sen. Roméo Dallaire. April 8, 7 p.m. Fenn Lounge, Residence Commons Bldg., Carleton University, 1125 Col. By Dr. (Photos can be previewed at www.photosensitive.com/drupal/projects/Rwanda) RSVP to rwandainitiative@gmail.com

Pakistan: A Hard Challenge for International Governance—Guest speaker Anatol Lieven, senior researcher, New America Foundation, will discuss "Pakistan: A Hard Challenge for International Governance." April 8, 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m. CIGI, 57 Erb St. W., Waterloo, Ont. www.cigionline.org

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

Screening: 3 Billion and Counting—The Free Thinking Film Society presents a screening of *3 Billion and Counting*, which takes an in-depth look at the killer disease malaria and the shortsightedness of governmental and environmental policies, like the 1972 ban of DDT. April 9, 7 p.m., $10-$15. Canada Aviation and Space Museum, 11 Aviation Parkway, Ottawa, Ont. http://www.freethinkingfilmfest.ca/



Photograph by Cynthia Münster, *The Hill Times*

THE RWANDA INITIATIVE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION—A reception is being held this evening to mark the Rwanda's Initiative's 5th Anniversary. The program is now part of the broader efforts of the Centre for Media and Transitional Societies at Carleton University. The evening will feature a multimedia exhibition, a silent auction of photographs taken by the PhotoSensitive team, comments from past participants, a dance performance, and remarks by Quebec Liberal Sen. Roméo Dallaire. April 8, 7 p.m. Fenn Lounge, Residence Commons Bldg., Carleton University, 1125 Col. By Dr. (Photos can be previewed at www.photosensitive.com/drupal/projects/Rwanda) RSVP to rwandainitiative@gmail.com

MONDAY, APRIL 11

Shawn A-in-chut Atleo to address Canadian Club of Toronto—Assembly of First Nations Chief Atleo will discuss "Working to Build a Stronger Country and a Better Future for a New Generation" at a luncheon today. April 11, 11:45 a.m., $65 members; $75 non-members. www.canadianclub.org

Wine and Cheese Fundraiser w/ author Terry Fallis—Join political satirist Terry Fallis at a fundraiser in support of Peter Tinsley, federal Liberal candidate for Prince Edward-Hastings. April 11, 6 p.m. Bay of Quinte Yacht Club, 86 Front St. S., Belleville, Ont. Contact Lenore Begley at 613-966-6661 or lenore@petertinsley.ca

Pharma Strategic Forum: New Alliances, Collaboration, and Open Innovation—The Conference Board of Canada presents "Pharma Strategic Forum: New Alliances, Collaboration, and Open Innovation." April 11-12. Radisson Hotel Admiral, Toronto, Ont. www.conferenceboard.ca

TUESDAY, APRIL 12

Televised Leaders' Debates—The broadcast consortium announced the TV debates will be on April 12 in English and April 14 in French. The executives, from CBC, CTV, and Shaw Media (Global Television and TVA), say they're following their 'journalistic principles,' and including only leaders who are represented in the House will be invited to take part.

Canadian Club Luncheon—Today's guest speaker is Hon. Michael Wilson, Chairman Barclays Capital Canada Inc. April 12, 12 p.m. $45.30 members; $67.80 non-members. Ballroom, Fairmont Chateau Laurier, 1 Rideau St., Ottawa, Ont. www.canadianclubottawa.ca

Carbon Capture and Storage Business Forum—The Conference Board of Canada presents "Carbon Capture and Storage Business Forum." April 12-13. Telus Convention Centre, Calgary, Alta. www.conferenceboard.ca

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

Dinner with Herb Gray—Karen McCrimmon, Liberal candidate for the riding of Carleton-Mississippi Mills hosts a dinner with Herb Gray. April 13, 6 p.m., $100. Irish Hills Golf and Country Club, 3248 Carp Rd., Ottawa, Ont. www.liberal.ca

Extraordinary Canadians—John Ralston Saul hosts the final installment of Penguin Canada Extraordinary Canadians series. The evening will feature Charles Foran on Maurice Richard, Vincent Lam on Tommy Douglas, and Andre Pratt on Wilfred Laurier. April 13, 7 p.m. $15-$20. Mayfair Theatre, 1074 Bank St., Ottawa, Ont. 613-562-1243 or www.writersfestival.org

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

Ready to Govern: Annual Fundraiser—The St. Paul's Federal Liberal Riding Association is holding a fundraiser with guests Carolyn Bennett and Marc Garneau. April 14, 6 p.m. $150-$250. Home of Michael MacMillan, 34 Warren Rd., Toronto, Ont. Contact: Howard Brown at 416-844-1180 or info@stpaulsliberals.ca

Here on Earth: A Natural History of Our Planet—The Writers Festival presents author Tim Flannery who will discuss "Here on Earth: A Natural History of Our Planet." Hosted by CBC's Lucy van Oldenbarneveld. April 14, 7 p.m., $10-$15. Mayfair Theatre, 1074 Bank St., Ottawa, Ont. www.writersfestival.org

The Life and Times of D'Arcy McGee—Join the McGee Band and author David Wilson for an evening of traditional music and readings from the speeches, letters and poetry of the Father of Confederation. Presented by the Museum of Civilization. April 14, 7 p.m. $5. Museum of Civilization, 100 Laurier St., Gatineau, Que. 819-776-7000 or www.civilization.ca

NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting—The NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting takes place in Berlin, Germany. April 14-15.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

Ottawa Gala—This annual social event in support of the Ottawa-Carleton Learning Foundation's School Breakfast Program is chaired by Transport Minister John Baird and hosted by the Fund for a New Generation. This year's theme will take you on a journey to Morocco with the theme Midnight in Marrakech. April 16, 8 p.m.-2 a.m. Government Conference Centre, 2 Rideau St., Ottawa, Ont. 613-864-6252 or www.ottawagala.com

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

B.C. NDP Leadership Election 2011—The B.C. NDP will hold its 2011 Leadership Assembly to replace Carole James who stepped down in December 2010. April 17. Vancouver Convention Centre, Vancouver, B.C. http://www.bcndp.ca/

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

How Business Leadership Can Save Universal Health Care—Join guest speaker Dianne Carmichael, president, Best Doctors Canada Inc. for a talk on "Reclaiming Our National Dream: How Business Leadership can Save Universal Health Care." Presented by the Economic Club of Canada. April 19, 7:45-9:30 a.m., $79. The Intercontinental Hotel, 225 Front St. W., Toronto, Ont.

Can Canadian Business Compete in a Globalized World?—Join guest speaker Robert Dutton, President and CEO, Rona Inc., for a discussion on "Can Canadian Business Compete in a Globalized World?" Presented by the Economic Club of Canada. April 19, 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. $79. The Intercontinental Hotel, Toronto, Ont. 225 Front St. W., www.economicclub.ca

Freedom of Information—Suzanne Legault, Canada's Information Commissioner will give a talk on "Freedom of Information in Canada." April 19, 6:30 p.m. Innis Town Hall, Toronto, Ont. www.cjf-fjc.ca

Town Hall Meeting with Mike Wallace—Conservative MP Mike Wallace (Burlington, Ont.) is holding a Town Hall Meeting to discuss federal issues being debated in the House of Commons. April 19, 7-9 p.m. Burlington Central Library, Burlington, Ont. www.mikewallacemp.com

The Parliamentary Calendar is a free listing edited by listings editor Alia Heward who can be reached at 613-232-5952, ext. 200. Information regarding political, cultural and governmental events should be sent to alia@hilltimes.com with the subject line 'Parliamentary Calendar' by Wednesdays at noon. Our fax number is 613-232-9055. We can't guarantee inclusion of every event, but we do our best.

alia@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times





OPINION: PARLIAMENT

The caretaker convention: what happens to federal government in an election

The caretaker convention exists because when Parliament is not in session, the people's representatives cannot hold the government to account for its expenditures.

By JAMES W.J. BOWDEN AND NICHOLAS A. MACDONALD

Now that Prime Minister Harper has advised Governor General David Johnston to dissolve Parliament, the caretaker convention applies to his government. On March 24, *The Toronto Star* ran a column entitled "Harper's powers to shrink" on the caretaker convention, but did not provide some important details. CTV News published an article the next day that also failed to address some key points.

The column highlights that during a conference earlier this year in Toronto on Canadian government, the existence of a "top secret" document produced by the Privy Council Office that codifies the caretaker convention came to light. In Westminster Parliamentary systems, this convention applies during the writ period after the prime minister advises dissolution and until the prime minister resigns or forms a new government following the election.

The caretaker convention stipulates that during an election campaign, the government does not take on major new spending that Parliament did not already approve, and limits the Crown prerogative on major appointments. The caretaker convention exists because when Parliament is not in session, the people's representatives cannot hold the government to account for its expenditures. During this time, the government carries out only routine spending and appointments necessary for the legal functioning of the country.

An Access to Information request to the Privy Council Office released the document, entitled *Guidelines on the Conduct of Ministers, Secretaries of State, Exempt Staff and Public Servants During An Election* from 2008. The document's provisions apply to the prime minister and all Cabinet ministers, who retain their positions until the prime minister resigns and advises the governor general to appoint a new government. Members of Parliament, however, cease to hold office upon dissolution. The *Guidelines* limit the government's power during an election, declaring that the "government should restrict itself—in matters of policy, expenditure and appointments—to activity that is: (a) routine, or (b) non-controversial, or (c) urgent and in the public interest, or (d) reversible by a new government without undue cost or disruption, or (e) agreed to by the opposition in those cases where consultation is appropriate."



Photograph by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*

Not in: While MPs are on the hustings, the federal government a caretaker.

The *Guidelines* and the *Manual of Official Procedure of the Government of Canada* that the *Star* story has mentioned are in fact two separate documents. The Privy Council Office published the *Manual* in 1968 at the direction of prime minister Lester B. Pearson, who then expressed his hope that it would "be of valuable assistance to my successors in the office of the Prime Minister and to all those directly responsible for the process of government in Canada." The *Manual* codified most of the constitutional conventions that underpin the Westminster system of government in terms of the Crown, Parliament, Cabinet, the public service, and the judiciary. It does not discuss the caretaker convention, which may have been less well-formulated in the 1960s. Unfortunately, over 40 years later, prime minister Pearson's wish has not been fulfilled.

James W.J. Bowden and Nicholas A. MacDonald are students of political science at Carleton University and co-authors of "No Discretion: On Prorogation and the Governor General," which appears in the Spring edition of the Canadian Parliamentary Review.

news@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times



AN EMBASSY POLICY BRIEFING

Publication Date:
April 13, 2011
Booking Date:
April 8, 2011
(space and creative deadline noon Ottawa time)

For more information or to reserve your advertising space in this issue, contact *Embassy* display advertising at 613-232-5952 ext. 213



2 complete pairs of glasses for the price of one!
Choose from the 2 for 1 selection.*

NEWLOOK eyewear

Kanata
45, Didsbury Road
(In front of Canadian Tire)
613.287.5665

Nepean
Bayshore Shopping Centre
613.829.4057

Merivale Rd. – E. of Clyde
613.226.1061

Orleans
Innes Rd - East of J. D'Arc
613.841.9944

Ottawa
O'Connor at Laurier
613.237.7270

Train Yards
613.688.5090

Rideau
137 Rideau St.
(Near Nicholas Street)
613.680.9371

Also in Gatineau
Le Plateau (Hull)
819.420.0988

Promenades de l'Outaouais
819.568.1918

www.newlook.ca 1 800 463-LOOK (5665)

*With the purchase of a complete pair of glasses including frames and prescription lenses with scratch-resistant treatment from the 2 for 1 selection, get a second pair of glasses from the 2 for 1 selection. Pay nothing for the lower priced pair. This offer is valid for a limited time and cannot be combined with any other discount or promotion. Frames for reference only. Details in store. Michel Laurendeau, optician.

Accord D Desjardins

Eye examinations on the premises by optometrists
Outside prescriptions accepted

Sparks Dental Clinic
Ottawa Downtown Core

COSMETIC DENTISTRY
- Resin bonding
- CEREC crowns, veneers (single visit)
- Implant prosthetic

LASER DENTISTRY
- Decay removal
- Treatment of sensitive teeth
- Treatment of cold sores and canker sores

LASER TEETH WHITENING (one hour in office appointment)
LASER GUM TREATMENT

GENERAL AND EMERGENCY DENTISTRY

INVISALIGN – invisible adult orthodontics

New patients welcome
Sit back, relax with our large selection of DVDs, CDs on office entertainment system



Allow us to pamper you at our 'dental spa' - Dr. Tanya Bracanovich & Associates
240 Sparks Street, Level A • (613) 232-1411 • info@sparksdental.com • Reserved Validated Parking

The next WIG thing



Listings, Music
Food, and More!

Free movie and concert tickets

thewig.ca

the WIG
THIS IS THE THING