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# THE HILL TIMES

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News NDP caucus

## NDP discord shows lack of focus, poor caucus management from leader Singh, say insiders

While MPs present a united front, party sources say Jagmeet Singh's punishment of veteran MP David Christopherson reveals poor communication and weak relationships with some in caucus. Backing off was the right first step to rebuilding trust.

BY SAMANTHA WRIGHT ALLEN

NDP leader Jagmeet Singh's clash with caucus last week reveals his team has neglected caucus management and good lines of communication that party sources say may have a lasting impact with an anxious caucus still getting to know their leader, who only recently made the jump from provincial to federal politics.



NDP leader Jagmeet Singh, seen entering a caucus retreat in January in Ottawa with press secretary James Smith, faced public backlash from his caucus after he stripped veteran MP David Christopherson of his committee vice-chair post for not voting in line with the party, but the group is now presenting a united front. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

Mr. Singh and NDP MPs are presenting a united front now after he reversed punishment of veteran MP David Christopherson for voting against the party. Mr.

Singh removed the Hamilton Centre, Ont., MP from his role as vice-chair of the Procedure and House Affairs Committee, prompting some members to openly dispar-

age the move as harsh and an overreaction. Mr. Singh ultimately reinstated Mr. Christopherson to

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News Liberals

## Put out to pasture or not proactive? Some longtime Liberals are feeling left out

Veteran Liberals are pushing back on the idea that older members are being overlooked, disputing the accusation ageism is behind some recent Trudeau gaffes.

BY SAMANTHA WRIGHT ALLEN

Justin Trudeau's Liberals are lagging in the polls thanks in part to what insiders see as self-inflicted wounds brought on by an inexperienced team and an unwillingness to lean on veteran party members—grumbles that have some slinging accusations of ageism.

But the claim that age might be a factor in the roles handed out by the Trudeau government doesn't sit well with some party faithful who dismiss the complaints as the kind of sour grapes

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News #MeToo & politics

## It will take more than a law to change 'archaic' Hill culture, says Senate sponsor of anti-harassment bill

Senators are split on whether the Red Chamber should follow in the House's footsteps with mandatory training.

BY CHARELLE EVELYN

Government legislation aimed at handling and preventing sexual harassment in federally regulated workplaces and Parliament Hill won't be enough to stop the longstanding problem,

says the bill's Senate sponsor, but it's a step in the right direction towards a much-needed change to the Hill's "very archaic" culture.

Bill C-65 is "not going to fix everything," said Independent Senator Nancy Hartling (New

Brunswick), "and it certainly won't fix people in the rest of society, maybe working in retail or food services. This is going to be step by step, piece by piece, but I think Canada is ready for cultural change. We have to catch up with it."

The culture on the Parliament Hill "is very archaic," Sen. Hartling told *The Hill Times* in an interview last month, adding that a large part of getting away from that will come from education about and awareness of the issues of harassment, as well as workplace bullying.

"Because any bill, whether it be anti-smoking, anti-this, anti-that, it doesn't just happen by a bill," she said. "It has to happen through cultural change and

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# HEARD ON THE HILL

by Samantha Wright Allen, Charelle Evelyn, & Shruti Shekar

## Catherine Tait named to 'dream job' as next CBC president

Catherine Tait was announced as the new president and CEO of the CBC on Tuesday, taking over as leader of the national broadcaster from Hubert Lacroix in July. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade



Heritage Minister Mélanie Joly unveiled the public broadcaster's newest leader Tuesday morning, announcing producer Catherine Tait as the incoming president and CEO of CBC.

Ms. Tait, 60, has a career spanning more than 25 years in the Canadian and U.S. film and TV business. She joins the CBC fresh off of her role as president of Duopoly, the independent film, television, and digital content company she co-founded in 2002 in Brooklyn, N.Y.

According to her Duopoly bio, Ms. Tait began her cultural policy career at Telefilm Canada and as Canada's cultural attaché to France.

Speaking to reporters Tuesday morning, Ms. Tait called the appointment her "dream job."

To lead an organization like the CBC is "enormous," she said. "We're the only broadcaster, I think, in the world, that broadcasts in two languages so that also is hugely exciting for me as an opportunity."

She ran the Independent Feature Project (IFP) in New York for six years, during which the Gotham Awards Independent Film Awards were created. She is also a founding partner of Hollywood Suite, "which has become the largest licensee of Canadian feature films in the country," according to a Canadian Heritage press release.

Ms. Tait's selection was driven by a nine-member advisory panel assembled last summer—led by former TV journalist **Tom Clark**—with the task of vetting potential appointees to the CBC board of directors.

Outgoing president **Hubert Lacroix**'s second five-year term ended Dec. 31, but Ms. Joly said last year that he, and other board members whose terms were expiring, would stay on until their replacements were appointed.

Ms. Tait is the first woman to hold the top spot at the CBC. She will start the job in July.

Ms. Joly also announced Tuesday the appointment of a new chair of the CBC board of directors, former *Montreal Gazette* and *Toronto Star* publisher **Michael Goldbloom**, and new directors **Suzanne Guèvremont**, **Guillaume Anioté** and **Sandra Singh**.

## Gerald Butts scores a spot to watch season premiere of *The Americans*

Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau**'s principal secretary managed to fit in a little fan fun during a recent trip down south.

**Gerald Butts** scored a spot at the season premiere of TV show *The Americans*, posting proof of the two tickets for the March 16 event at the Lincoln Center for himself and wife **Jodi Butts**. In its sixth and final season, the TV drama set during the Cold War tells the story of a married couple posing as an average American family but are actually Soviet KGB officers.

On March 17, Mr. Butts had some even better brag-worthy content: backstage access.

"So this happened, comrades," he posted on Facebook, with a photo showing the Butts couple beaming while flanked by cast leads **Keri Russell** and **Matthew Rhys**.

Mr. Butts frequently posts about his love for the show, declaring it better than *Mad Men* and "the best thing on television" over the last two years on Twitter.



Gerald Butts and his wife Jodi Butts, both pictured in the centre, are hanging out with lead actors of the U.S. TV show *The Americans* Keri Russell, left, and Matthew Rhys, right. *Photograph courtesy of Facebook*

## Senate to honour Famous Six on Equality Day

Six women who have been at the forefront of the fight for equal rights for Indigenous women will be honoured at a Senate event marking the anniversary of the equality provisions in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The six women are activists **Jeannette Corbiere-Lavell** and **Yvonne Bédard**, Liberal Saskatchewan Senator **Lillian Dyck**, Liberal New Brunswick Senator **Sandra Lovelace Nicholas**, activist **Sharon McIvor**, and author **Lynn Gehl**.

The event will "help raise awareness and celebrate Indigenous women leaders' relentless work in the quest for equality for Indigenous peoples." It will be hosted on Equality Day, April 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Aboriginal Peoples Committee Room, 160-S in Centre Block.

Section 15 of the charter came into force on April 17, 1985, three years after the rest of the document.



From left, Senator Lillian Dyck, Indigenous rights advocates Pamela Palmater and Sharon McIvor, and Senator Sandra Lovelace Nicholas. *Photograph courtesy of Senator Lillian Dyck*

Ms. Corbiere-Lavell, Ms. Bédard, and Ms. McIvor have all been behind landmark court cases challenging the provisions in the Indian Act that strip women and their descendants of their Indian status if they marry non-Indigenous men.

Sen. Lovelace Nicholas brought international attention to the issue when she took her petition over the Indian Act's discrimination to the United Nations, eventually leading to a change in law in 1985 that reinstated status to the first generation of people who were deemed ineligible. Ms. Gehl also waged a decades-long fight in the Ontario courts to register as a status Indian following the 1985 change after being deemed ineligible because of a perceived gap in her paternal lineage. She was finally granted status last year.

Sen. Dyck is currently the chair of the Senate Aboriginal Peoples Committee, and with Sen. Lovelace Nicholas led the charge against the government to further amend the Indian Act with Bill S-3 to remove all sex-based discrimination from the Indian Act.

## John Ivison and his wife were stranded in Morocco

What was supposed to be a trip to Scotland for a friend's wedding turned into an extended Moroccan getaway for the *National Post*'s **John Ivison** and his wife diplomat **Dana Cryderman** after their passports were stolen.

On March 26 Mr. Ivison posted on Facebook a photo of the couple standing on the beach—what they thought at the time would be their last day in Morocco.

"But fate had some lead in its boxing glove," he wrote. "Our passports were stolen on the road to Marrakech, we were forced to miss our flight to Scotland for [Jim Kerr's] wedding and we are now in Rabat trying to secure replacements."

"Still, nobody died and my beautiful wife and I are still very much in love after our latest vacation debacle—part deux, after missing our honeymoon flight."

Via email, Mr. Ivison told *The Hill Times* that **Emma Dillon**, formerly known as Emma Welford, was helping them.

"She has saved our bacon—former Hill staffer who is now putting us up in Rabat. I don't think we're making the wedding," Mr. Ivison said.

Ms. Dillon used to work as former Conservative natural resources minister **Gary Lunn**'s director of communications.

She also served as director of parliamentary affairs to former Conservative labour minister **Jean-Pierre Blackburn**, and first came on the Hill in 1997 to work for then-Progressive Conservative prime minister **Jean Charest**. She also used to be a Canadian diplomat and now works in Morocco as a country director for the International Republican Institute.

## Barrick Gold Corp.'s founder Peter Munk dies

Barrick Gold Corp.'s founder **Peter Munk** died at age 90 on March 28, drawing tributes in his honour from some high-profile politicians across party lines.

Former Conservative prime minister **Stephen Harper** said he was saddened to hear of the passing of Mr. Munk, who over the years donated nearly \$300-million to causes and institutions.

"Peter personified the realization of the Canadian dream: arrived in Canada as a refugee and built an impressive business and incredible philanthropic legacy. His life serves as an inspiration for us all," Mr. Harper tweeted March 28 in reference to Mr. Munk's journey fleeing Hungary with his Jewish family when the Nazis invaded and later ending up in Toronto in 1948.

Former Ontario NDP premier and later interim Federal Liberal Party leader **Bob Rae** called Mr. Munk "a truly remarkable man" with whom he had many "vigorous discussions."



Peter Munk, centre right, died March 28. He is pictured with Business Council of Canada CEO John Manley, left, former Conservative prime minister Brian Mulroney, and former Conservative foreign affairs minister John Baird, right. *The Hill Times* file photograph

"His generosity, imagination, and spark were extraordinary qualities," he tweeted March 28.

The University of Toronto was a regular recipient, including the \$35-million in 2010 to create his namesake Munk School of Global Affairs—the largest single gift for the institution at the time. He also donated more than \$175-million to the Toronto General Hospital, which created the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre in 1997.

Treasury Board President **Scott Brison** tweeted he was an "exceptional entrepreneur whose life embodied the Canadian dream."

The recognition for the billionaire philanthropist wasn't all glowing, with many calling attention to the global mining company's dubious record in some countries, including accusations of abuse in Papua New Guinea and Tanzania.

Several Canadian politicians have populated Barrick's advisory board, including former Conservative prime minister **Brian Mulroney** as current chair and former Conservative foreign affairs minister **John Baird** as a member. Former ambassador to the U.S. and Manitoba premier **Gary Doer** sits on its board of directors.

Barrick was the benefactor's "most significant venture," according to a company biography, built into the world's largest gold mining company in less than 25 years thanks to unconventional and innovative approaches born from his perspective as an industry outsider.

*The Hill Times*

### CORRECTIONS

- Re: "Legionella 'absolutely not' a risk for federal public servants, PSPC says, despite Ottawa firm's findings," (*The Hill Times*, March 28, p. 3). The story should have said that a Toronto cooling tower that was disinfected as a precaution was found with levels of 1,000 bacteria per millilitre, not 100. It also should have said that legionnaires' disease kills about one in 10 people who have it, not four in 10, as originally reported.

- Re: "Inaugural Women on the Hill shindig draws 500, and MPs from all parties," (*The Hill Times*, April 2, p. 17). Elizabeth Roscoe was misidentified as working for Earncliffe Strategy Group when she in fact works for Hill and Knowlton Strategies. Tonda MacCharles was misidentified as an event organizer, but was instead a speaker.





Ethics Commissioner Mario Dion and Lobbying Commissioner Nancy Bélanger recently signed an agreement to work together to teach Parliamentarians the overlapping ethics and lobbying rules. *The Hill Times* photographs by Andrew Meade

# Training needed to fill staff, MPs' blindspots on lobbying rules, say insiders

'If you want people to follow laws they should be fully trained,' says one watchdog, as lobbying and ethics czars agree to collaborate on education initiatives.

BY SHRUTI SHEKAR

Parliamentarians and their staff need basic training on lobbying rules to avoid scandals and unpleasant post-employment surprises, according to former politicians and insiders, who say many people are left woefully unprepared for the realities of the job.

That responsibility could be taken on by the new lobbying commissioner to conduct training sessions on the Hill, which would be in everyone's best interests, they suggest.

Duff Conacher, co-founder of Democracy Watch, said if Parliamentarians and their staff took some time to learn the rules the Liberal government wouldn't have made so many mistakes.

"Since the Liberals were elected, a significant percentage of scandals that have happened are from people who aren't paying attention to the rules. Like the prime minister taking a gift from the Aga Khan, it's just not paying attention to the rules," Mr. Conacher said.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau revealed on March 27 that he received an overnight bag from

the Aga Khan in exchange for a sweater he gave him for Christmas. The former ethics commissioner Mary Dawson found Mr. Trudeau had violated Canada's ethics rules when he and his family went on vacation to an island in the Bahamas owned by the billionaire Ismaili Muslim leader in December 2016. According to CBC News, the ethics office said non-disclosure of a gift in its registry is indicative of an unacceptable gift.

If the government wants to "avoid a scandal or the perception of a violation or an unethical situation," Mr. Conacher said learning the rules is an important first step.

The Lobbying Act and the Lobbyists' Code of Conduct govern lobbyists, while the Conflict of Interest Act governs Parliamentarians and their staff. The rules, however, overlap and have caused confusion for several years.

For example, rules on giving gifts related to receptions and lobbying events is an area straddled by both commissioners' offices, each with their own rules.

In an effort to help Parliamentarians and lobbyists understand the rules of the acts that govern them, newly appointed Lobbying Commissioner Nancy Bélanger and Ethics Commissioner Mario Dion signed a memorandum of understanding on March 22.

The MOU said it would "establish a framework to foster co-operation between the [ethics office] and the [lobbying office] on matters of education and outreach in order to provide guidance to public office holders and lobbyists in respect of their obligations under their respective

regimes and to ensure consistency, comprehensiveness and clarity in such matters."

Back in the winter and spring of 2016, former Samara Canada project manager and parliamentary intern Christina Vietinghoff conducted a survey of 28 chiefs of staffs and found that there were some gaps in knowledge when it came to the rules they're subject to under the Lobbying Act.

In a report published in the winter 2018 edition of the *Canadian Parliamentary Review* she said it was normal for staff and Parliamentarians to not know the rules shortly after a new government is elected, but said mandatory training was important for any MP and their staff.

Ms. Vietinghoff said she was surprised that two chiefs of staff weren't informed about the post-employment lobbying ban, which prevents senior staffers, ministers, and senior public officials from lobbying the government for five years after they leave their positions.

"Before conducting this research I thought some kind of training would be mandatory," she told *The Hill Times* in an email, adding that seven of the 28 responded to the survey. She noted that she only surveyed chiefs of staff because they are responsible for training in ministers' office and are also often targeted for lobbying.

Government Relations Institute of Canada (GRIC) president Philip Cartwright said exempt staffers and Parliamentarians should be made aware of the rules that could affect them, but noted that both Mr. Dion and Ms. Bélanger intend to offer more educational sessions than their predecessors.

According to the Lobbying Act, part of the commissioner's duties is to develop and implement educational programs "to foster public awareness of the requirements of the Act," especially for lobbyists, their clients and public office holders.

"[Ms. Bélanger] should organize events in one of the big rooms twice a year [on the Hill] and invite everyone," Mr. Conacher said. "It's almost no effort for her. ... If you want people to follow laws they should be fully trained."

He recommended that a judge or an RCMP officer be part of the training because they are involved in the prosecution process should there be a violation of the act or code. Training shouldn't be abstract or minimal, he added. He said Ms. Bélanger should create every possible scenario where a lobbyist could manipulate public office holders so there are practical examples that correlate to the rules.

The Office of the Lobbying Commissioner said in an email that Ms. Bélanger was "committed to enhancing transparency and accountability."

"One of her priorities is to increase engagement with all stakeholders," the office said, adding Ms. Bélanger has already met with her provincial counterparts, with GRIC, and the Public Affairs Association of Canada and "will soon be reaching out to the public office holders, including MPs and Senators."

The office said that it offers information sessions about lobbying and related requirements which are provided in the form of webinars, and in-person individual or group sessions.

## Knowledge gap a 'failure in the system,' says former Harper chief of staff

Guy Giorno, who spent five years as chief of staff to former prime minister Stephen Harper, said staffers and MPs will attend these sessions if they know the information imparted "will affect [their] ability to get a job" when they leave government.

"I've talked to many, many, many people in the government

who say 'but nobody told me this before I took the job,'" said Fasken Martineau lawyer, referring to the five-year ban.

"There is a failure in the system when people are not advised before they start a job what the consequences of taking the job is," he noted.

Liberal Senator Dennis Dawson (Lauzon, Que.), a former MP-turned-lobbyist, said when MPs are first elected, they and their staff get introductory training from their party's transition training team.

"It occurs a little bit during the initial transition of a government, but after that people start changing chiefs of staff, they start hiring [new people] and they don't go through that same approach of making them aware of the rules and the dangers in facing lobbyists," said Sen. Dawson, who was first elected in a 1977 byelection and represented the riding of Louis-Hébert, Que.

Sen. Dawson said in the Upper Chamber any concerns or lobbying-related questions would be directed to the Senate ethics officer or the caucus whip.

Jackie Choquette, a consultant at Hill and Knowlton Strategies and the former chief of staff to Ontario cabinet minister Yasir Naqvi from 2014 to 2016, said a good start would be to have some sort of basic training, something the Ontario provincial government already offers.

She said when she was a provincial staffer, the Ontario integrity commissioner trained staff every 18 months to explain the rules and expectations. She said she found the training "helpful in clearing up a lot of questions."

"To my knowledge, I think these were done less frequently with MPPs, as they would have had one-on-one meetings with the commissioner when they are first elected and have to file annual conflict disclosures," Ms. Choquette said.

She said expanding that type of training to staff on the Hill is a good beginning step especially because an MP's staff is in charge of arranging "nearly all" of the meetings for them—and a scheduling mistake could cause embarrassment.

As the lobbying commissioner, Ms. Bélanger's duties include requesting information from MPs to verify information disclosed in monthly communication reports filed by lobbyists on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month that detail lobbying activity.

"Each month, the office verifies a five per cent sample of monthly communication reports to ensure they are accurate and complete," the office said.

Former Liberal MP Joe Jordan, a senior associate with Ottawa's Bluesky Strategy Group, said if a staffer isn't aware of how the rules work, then they could get their MP into trouble.

"If staff books a meeting with the minister [and a lobbyist] and doesn't understand that meeting will be registered in a communications filing and posted on a public website, that's something they need to know," Mr. Jordan said. "As a responsible employee, you don't want to open your minister up to a situation they weren't expecting."

sshekar@hilltimes.com  
@shruti\_shekar



## News #MeToo &amp; politics

# It will take more than a law to change 'archaic' Hill culture, says Senate sponsor of anti-harassment bill

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willingness and political will of all who want to participate.”

Senators, though, are divided on whether to go one step further and, like the House of Commons, institute mandatory anti-harassment training for themselves and their staff.

Sen. Hartling's involvement with the bill began in November when Senator Peter Harder (Ottawa, Ont.), the government's representative in the Senate, asked her to sponsor the new legislation tabled by Labour Minister Patty Hajdu (Thunder Bay-Superior North, Ont.).

Bill C-65 adds sexual harassment to the section of the Canada Labour Code that deals with other harassment and workplace violence, and extends the same protections already allowed to employees in federally regulated workplaces to the House of Commons and the Senate.

“I've worked a lot with women's equality and issues with domestic violence and sexual abuse and things like that, and this seemed to be a natural fit for me,” said Sen. Hartling, a former social worker who once co-chaired a provincial minister's working group on violence against women.

When she arrived on Parliament Hill after being appointed to the Senate by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (Papineau, Que.) in 2016, Sen. Hartling said she noticed that Hill staff don't “really have the voice they need to have.”

The Senate, which has been no stranger to harassment and bullying complaints, is reviewing its harassment policy, which was last updated in 2009.

Last year, the Senate ethics officer suspended an investigation into allegations of workplace sexual harassment, harassment, and abuse of authority against former Conservative-turned-Independent Senator Don Meredith dating back to July 2015 “pending the outcome of an investigation into this same matter by another authority.” Mr. Meredith has denied the allegations.

Former Liberal Senator Colin Kenny, who retired early in January, was cleared of allegations of sexual harassment, workplace

harassment, and abuse of authority by an independent investigator in 2014.

In August, a spokesperson for the Senate's Internal Economy Committee told *The Hill Times* that the Chamber's HR department received three complaints of workplace harassment in the preceding two years.

Much like Sen. Hartling, Independent Senator Frances Lankin (Ontario) said that since her arrival on the Hill in 2016, she's had “a number of women staffers” come to her and “raise questions” about sexual harassment and bullying. She said many of them were looking for advice on how to engage with their harasser or on what steps to take, from someone with a background as an equality advocate.



Independent Senator Frances Lankin says the Senate should follow in the House's footsteps and require mandatory anti-harassment training for staff and Senators. *The Hill Times* file photograph

Though the Senate doesn't have anywhere near the amount of barriers that she faced as a woman in a traditionally male workplace when she was starting out in the workforce, she said, it's a “hierarchical institution” like the House of Commons or Ontario legislature where she served as an MPP and cabinet minister for 11 years, in that harassment and bullying have been overlooked for years.

The understanding and attention brought about by the constant #MeToo allegations of sexual harassment popping up in Canadian politics and beyond—four of the five parties with seats in the House of Commons are undertaking investigations into the

conduct of current and former MPs—has “created the conditions for us to look at this again,” Sen. Lankin said.

In the House, in-person anti-harassment training, facilitated by the House administration, was recently made mandatory for all MPs and their staff.

Sen. Lankin said she would support a similar move in the Senate.

“I don't know why we're not doing this together,” she said. “I don't think there's much difference in either of the chambers around these kinds of issues.”

Senators, their staff, and contractors, through the Senators' Office Management Policy, are required to comply with the Senate Policy on the Prevention and Resolution of Harassment in the Workplace, Senate spokesperson Alison Korn said in an email.

“As a reminder, and to update staff that the review is proceeding, the link to the policy was recently emailed to all at the Senate, including Senators' offices and Senate administration.” She added that training on the policy “is available to Senators and their staff and would be expected to form part of any revised policy approach.”

Independent Senator Yuen Pau Woo (British Columbia), agreed that a culture change is needed, on

Parliament Hill and everywhere else, but said he didn't want to pre-empt the work of the group reviewing the Senate's harassment policies when asked about mandatory anti-harassment training in the Red Chamber.

In addition to “look[ing] in the mirror from time to time,” Sen. Woo, facilitator of the Independent Senators Group, which holds a plurality of seats in the Red Chamber, said the ISG “respond[s] quickly to any even whispers of harassment.”

And while mandatory training is good, said Sen. Hartling, “it doesn't mean it changes people.” That's something that is “going to take cultural and institutional change over a period of time.”

## ‘I feel almost complicit,’ says ex-Hill staffer

Bill C-65 was fast-tracked to the House Human Resources Committee when the House returned from its Christmas break at the end of January. As part of the study, the committee held closed-door meetings in which members could hear personal experiences regarding harassment.

One person shared their experiences in an open session, former NDP staffer Beisan Zubi, who had previously written about her exposure to harassment on the Hill for *Vice*.



Independent Senators Group facilitator Yuen Pau Woo says the group reacts to ‘even whispers’ of harassment. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

“I think building culture is really difficult and it's also, I think, even harder to change a culture once you have a culture that is as pervasive as the negative culture on the Hill was,” Ms. Zubi told the committee on March 26.

It's a culture fed by alcohol, the normalization of aggressive and sexually predatory behaviour and partisanship, she outlined for the committee.

“I feel almost complicit in accepting my own mistreatment and how that acceptance could have created more abuse for women that came after me that are still on the Hill,” said Ms. Zubi, who worked on the Hill from 2011 to 2012 as a researcher and again for a few months in 2014 in the NDP leader's office. “The political partisanship that makes you feel like you're in a never-ending campaign makes the idea of launching a complaint against someone in a rival party automatically seem partisan and launching against

your own team seem treasonous.”

Both Ms. Zubi and fellow witness Hilary Beaumont, a *Vice* News reporter who spoke to more than 40 women over three months for an investigation of harassment on the Hill, echoed earlier issues raised with Bill C-65—namely that the proposed reporting structure won't make people want to come forward with complaints.

Under yet-to-be-determined regulations, people with complaints must first attempt to find a resolution with their employer. If it continues to escalate, a third party—referred

to as a “competent person”—will be brought in to investigate and report with recommendations.

The necessary culture change isn't going to happen when things start with the “bad idea” of having to go to one's supervisor at the outset of a complaint, said Kathleen Finlay, who heads the ZeroNow Campaign, which advocates for zero tolerance of sexual misconduct in the workplace.

This is not only because supervisors can often be perpetrators of harassment, but also because they're usually men, and there's the additional fear of “being branded a troublemaker, someone who doesn't fit into the organizational culture and therefore shouldn't be considered for advancement,” she said in an interview.

The ZeroNow Campaign submitted a brief to the Human Resources Committee outlining potential fixes to the bill, including removing a clause that allows the labour minister to refuse to investigate a complaint if it's deemed “trivial, frivolous, or vexatious,” along with a prohibiting non-disclosure agreements, and implementing a “hire us back” policy to return women to the workforce who have been forced out of the public service because of experiences with sexual misconduct.

cevelyn@hilltimes.com  
*The Hill Times*



Independent Senator Nancy Hartling is the Senate sponsor of Bill C-65, but says ‘cultural change’ and willingness to participate are required in addition to legislation to stop sexual harassment on Parliament Hill and in other workplaces. *The Hill Times* photograph by Charelle Evelyn



# Untapped horizons: inside the government's forward-thinking unit that helps Canada think (way) ahead

Policy Horizons Canada isn't well known, but its roughly 30-person team is looking to every eventuality to help prepare the country for disruptive technologies and international shifts.

BY EMILY HAWS

Hidden on the 15th floor of an Albert Street office tower is a government branch whose workers write on the walls and telecommute by robot. It sounds more like a tech start-up, but Policy Horizons Canada is tasked with thinking outside the box to take the extra-long view on issues that could affect Canadians 10 or 15 years down the road.

Policy Horizons Canada, which falls under the umbrella of Employment and Social Development Canada, provides research on what the future could look like in 10 to 15 years by identifying changes in the domestic and international environments that could affect government policy and programs and exploring how those changes may evolve and interact to create new policy challenges and opportunities.

The brightly coloured walls double as whiteboards used by the 30-person team to map out possibilities. The job requires creativity and imagination, and employees sometimes play board games during lunch. There is also a "win wall" of positive Post-it notes where they can celebrate any success.

Policy analyst Pierre-Olivier Desmarchais has telecommuted from Montreal for several years, his face appearing on an iPad mounted on a pole with wheels. The robot is about four feet tall, but Mr. Desmarchais is over six feet tall in person, which takes some getting used to when he's actually in the office.

Mr. Desmarchais said telecommuting via robot makes it "more fun when I'm [actually] in the office."

Policy Horizons began as the policy research secretariat in the Privy Council Office in 1996. According to Kevin Page—a former parliamentary budget officer who also had roles in the Department of Finance and the Privy Council Office during his nearly 30-year career as a public servant—there was talk in the mid-1990s of wanting to make government leaner, and departmental foresight offices were cut in favour of having one central agency.

The secretariat was rebranded as the Policy Research Institute in 2000 and six years later a steering committee of deputy ministers was formed to guide the institute's work. In 2006, the organization moved from under the PCO umbrella to ESDC, and in 2011 it was transformed into the current-day Policy Horizons.

Chaired by Employment and Social Development deputy minister Louise Levonian, the steering committee acts as Horizons' board of directors, and includes the secretary of the Treasury Board, the president of the Canada School of the Public Service, the chief statistician, and the PCO's deputy secretary of plans and consultations, among others.

"The committee will look at the strategic plan, look at the products produced and provide the overall direction," said Alexis Conrad, assistant deputy minister of ESDC's learning branch and the assistant deputy minister responsible for Policy Horizons. This includes approving research projects, although there is some level of autonomy, ensuring Horizons is "serving the whole of government and getting perspective from [everyone] rather than in a traditional department," he said. The office spends about \$3-million annually, Mr. Conrad said.

In 2015, Horizons published reports on how Canada could be affected as Asian countries develop their economic and social influence. In July, it posted an overview of behavioural insights, which inform governments by combining knowledge and research methods from psychology, neuroscience, and economics to design programs to achieve specific policy objectives.

Within the next month it is releasing Canada Beyond 150, a follow-up to its Canada@150 report. Published in 2009, Canada@150



Marcus Ballinger, a senior policy researcher at Policy Horizons Canada, says the future will be different and his work helps the government create the most favourable outcome. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade



This robot—an iPad mounted to a Segway-type contraption—allows Policy Horizons' telecommuting staff to feel more included in the organization even if they're not in the office. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade



The Win Wall at Policy Horizons Canada is filled with positive Post-it notes to bolster morale. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

looked at the bureaucratic skills needed in 2017, as identified by 150 early-career public servants.

Sponsored by the PCO, Beyond 150 will repeat the exercise with "around five early-career public servants and bring them in to understand foresight, strategic foresight thinking, and to develop engagement tools," said Marcus Ballinger, a senior policy researcher at Policy Horizons Canada.

Researchers are also keeping their eyes to the skies. For example, it's well known that autonomous vehicles will shake up the future of transportation policy, but what about flying taxis?

That's one of the "weak signals" Policy Horizons is looking at, Mr. Ballinger said, as the government think-tank scours various sources for signs of early system change.

"We've already been thinking through some of the things that could potentially happen in that space [with autonomous vehicles]," he said. "Weak signals might be flying taxis...they're actually testing them out in Dubai now."

## Organization certainly useful, but not necessarily influential: Kevin Page

Although the group has a strong mandate, Mr. Page said he is unsure of Horizons' relevance because it's hard to connect the group's work directly to the government's agenda. However, he supports the unit's work.

"To do big thinking about digital technology 10 to 20 years out and whether it will be an impact on the labour force, that's cool, but at some point that discussion has to impact some public service renewal or the government's science agenda, like [you have] got to get it down," said Mr. Page, now head of the University of Ottawa's Institute for Fiscal Studies and Democracy.

Mr. Ballinger said his work helps the government create the most favourable outcome.

The government creates policy based on the most likely future, but Horizons researches alternative futures and the possibilities of disruptive technology, geopolitical situations, and economic and social changes.

"If you're trying to prepare for the future and you only do forecasting or if you only do foresight, you only have half of the picture," said Mr. Ballinger. Knowing the range of possible futures means the government can effectively prepare.

The government may or may not be using Horizons' reports during cabinet discussions and papers, Mr. Page said, adding the public will never know how often it's referenced, since cabinet records are kept private.

Emilie Gauduchon-Campbell, a spokesperson for Families, Children and Social Development Minister Jean-Yves Duclos (Québec, Que.), said in a statement that because Policy Horizons looks so far ahead it cannot influence the

government's current policy.

There are also unexpected challenges when looking long term, Mr. Page said, such as the Phoenix pay system disaster that's left the majority of bureaucrats without correct pay for two years. Horizons' work on public service renewal probably didn't anticipate morale plummeting because bureaucrats can't depend on consistent pay, he said.

Mr. Ballinger said the reports Policy Horizons produces create "a framework in which specific policy initiatives are examined or considered, so we inform [the decisions] in some way."

The reports are definitely read and do have some influence in future policies, such as what the future of governance will look like, said Alex Wilner, a former Policy Horizons employee, who now teaches the strategic foresight discipline at Carleton University. It's hard to pinpoint recommendations that have been put into practice, but "it's setting up the mental model for being aware of the future and to be anticipatory in our core."

The government could look at what Horizons said about a given topic when it is mainstream, but ideally, he said, it would've absorbed the report when it came out and can now prepare.

"It's not a *Mad Max* world," Mr. Ballinger said. "I think you can just as easily have *Star Trek* as *Star Wars*."

ehaws@hilltimes.com  
The Hill Times



## News NDP caucus

# NDP discord shows lack of focus, poor caucus management from leader Singh, say insiders

Continued from page 1

the job, but the whole thing was seen as an unnecessary mistake that brought the party's dirty laundry into public light.

It came after other internal rumblings about Mr. Singh's handling of criticism that he may be too close to the Khalistan independence movement in India, and criticism from a former leadership rival that the party has been fixating too heavily on image and style.

Interviews with more than a dozen current and former MPs, party insiders, and analysts suggest greater concern than caucus is now publicly letting on. One insider described caucus as "anxious," but most party members interviewed expressed cautious optimism that the rookie leader has learned from the bump in the road over the Christopherson issue. Closer attention to the NDP caucus and relationship-building is necessary, many agreed, perhaps through the hiring of a caucus relations aide, while others say senior staff must step up their game and reach out for advice.

The unusually public backlash against a party leader from within caucus shows a lack of communication and poor planning all around, revealing caucus members don't know what's permitted and "what's a hanging offence," said one veteran insider who asked not to be named because of the sensitive topic of intra-party discord.

"The day you end up in a situation like this is the day that comes at the end of several weeks or months of your not having paid any goddamn attention to what's been developing around you because you haven't been looking. That's the cardinal sin," the insider said.

"This should have been anticipated and responded to in private weeks ago and wasn't," they said. "[Singh's team] needs to have some lessons in caucus management."

These kinds of things need to be discussed in caucus prior to any decision, said former NDP national director Karl Bélanger.

"What struck me was it seemed that members of caucus spoke out against the punishment were surprised how it proceeded," said Mr. Bélanger, adding what really matters is that caucus appears in agreement with Mr. Singh's final position and that the leader makes the "necessary course correction" now.

"It's a learning curve. There will be more bumps along the way. It's normal, but more than the problems there are at play I'm interested in the solutions brought forward."



Longtime MP David Christopherson was reinstated as Procedure and House Affairs committee vice-chair after some of his caucus mates publicly rallied to his defence. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

He and others said it's possible the group emerges stronger, given what some described a swift reversal of the decision.

One former NDP MP said punishing Mr. Christopherson for voting against the Liberals' Canada Summer Jobs changes could be regarded as a "very controlling measure," and it's not what they want to see in a leader.

"I think it's going to have lasting impacts. It gives an indication of the style of leadership that might be applied within the party now," said the former MP, who spoke on condition of anonymity to be as frank as possible. They said they were concerned but the assessment "could be alleviated" if Mr. Singh's approach changes.

## Singh may need to spend more time in Ottawa, not ruling out byelection run

The revelation of a lack of caucus confidence has raised questions about whether Mr. Singh needs to spend more time in the capital. He usually arrives in Ottawa Tuesday and is present for Wednesday's morning meeting with the 44-member caucus and afternoon questions from reporters in the House of Commons foyer. The rest of the week he generally spends on the road, meeting with Canadians at party-organized events across the country.

Former leader Thomas Mulcair (Outremont, Que.) told CTV's *Question Period* this week he thought Mr. Singh should seek

a seat in Parliament before 2019 and that caucus wants to get to know him better.

Analysts who spoke with *The Hill Times* didn't share that opinion, seeing Mr. Singh's choice to criss-cross Canada for Canadians to get to know him in the lead-up to next year's election campaign as a better option for the leader.

Mr. Singh has previously said he's not rushing his chance at a seat in Parliament. He indicated he may wait until the next general election in 2019, but would run in a byelection in a riding that "makes sense." This week his spokesperson played down a report he may run in Mr. Mulcair's riding, once he vacates it later this year, though didn't rule it out completely. Mr. Singh is also willing to consider running in an open seat won by the Liberals in 2015 in rural Quebec, Chicoutimi-Le Fjord.

Those could be tough seats for the NDP to win, however, analysts have warned, and the party would have a lot at stake putting its leader forward as a candidate. The Liberals used to hold Mr. Mulcair's riding for years, and Chicoutimi-Le Fjord is a tight race among several parties.

Better connections with his caucus in Ottawa is a must for Mr. Singh, who is an Ottawa outsider. Quebec lieutenant Alexandre Boulerice (Rosemont-La Petite Patrie, Que.) and other MPs acknowledged they may not have found that perfect mix quite yet.

"Maybe we need a more balanced approach about that. He

needs to spend some time with us," he said, adding "everybody's happy now."

Former NDP war room strategist Kevin Dorse said Ms. Singh could learn from former NDP leader Jack Layton's method. He, too, was elected the party's leader before getting a seat in the Commons. He constantly did caucus outreach, calling from the car between engagements and checking in with his MPs, Mr. Dorse said.

Mr. Bélanger said Mr. Singh needs to "strike the right balance" with his time.

"When caucus discontent is expressed, it is sometimes because those relationships and those lines of communication are not as fluid as they should be."

Some observers said there should be a person based in Ottawa with the ear of senior staff and the leader who has caucus management as their day job. Others said that discipline—and catching a hostile caucus reaction before it bleeds into news stories—comes from within caucus, from MPs in key posts, like whip Marjolaine Boutin-Sweet (Hochelaga, Que.), parliamentary leader Guy Caron (Rimouski Neigette-Témiscouata-Les Basques, Que.), and House leader Ruth Ellen Brosseau (Berthier-Maskinongé, Que.).

Though some of Mr. Singh's close staff members have Ottawa connections, many are also new to the federal fold. Nevertheless, no one interviewed said a staff shake-up is in order; what's needed is more a recalibration. Several analysts praised the work of Mr. Singh's team, including his chief of staff and former Layton speechwriter Willy Blomme.

## MPs insist that caucus is 'very happy'

While caucus is outwardly in complete support of the party leader, insiders say MPs are anxious.

Like his colleagues, NDP caucus chair Matthew Dubé (Beloeil-Chambly, Que.) told reporters last week caucus is "very happy" and "ready to move on" after a "productive" conversation between Mr. Singh and Mr. Christopherson.

NDP MP Tracey Ramsey (Essex, Ont.) said in an interview caucus morale is good, and the

Christopherson issue was an example of the "new rhythm of caucus" and not one of poor communications from the leader's office.

During a campaign stop in B.C. Mr. Singh said last week the difference of opinions expressed is "not a big deal."

"I'm not so arrogant as a leader to believe that once I make a decision, that's it," Mr. Singh said.

That's been the experience of his former campaign fundraiser Aaron Webber, who said Mr. Singh tends to make decisions with confidence but is also "not the type that isn't open to change."

While last week's misstep may not show arrogance from the leader and staff, the veteran insider said it is an example of "excess of pride and overconfidence."

Mr. Singh and second-place leadership candidate Charlie Angus (Timmins-James Bay, Ont.) are in need of immediate bridge-building, the insider added.

Last week when Mr. Angus spoke of "stunned" MPs and the "intense" fallout in caucus, saying that the leader was attending the Junos while MPs were learning of the punishment.

"It just doesn't look right," he told the *Globe and Mail* March 27.

The next day he was singing a different tune to reporters, giving the leader points for making the right decision, moving with speed, and addressing the issue.

"I think we need to build a stronger relationship working with the leader's team and caucus. I'm certainly confident that will happen," he said after acknowledging on the communication front "things could have been handled better."

Earlier this year, Mr. Angus deleted a tweet he posted criticizing his party for fixating too heavily on image and style.

In his experience, internal disagreements emerge in a particular environment, said Steve Moran, a former deputy chief of staff to Mr. Mulcair.

"I think this is partly evidence of a lack of focus," he said,

Former NDP MP Peggy Nash said caucus has to have meetings to get stuff out in the open.

"Nobody gains from any action that tries to weaken a leader."

swallen@hilltimes.com

The Hill Times



NDP MP Charlie Angus loudly objected to David Christopherson's punishment, but praised Jagmeet Singh's swift response to right the error. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade



# Put out to pasture or not proactive? Some longtime Liberals are feeling left out



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government is being criticized by longtime Liberals for turning its back on older and experienced party members, an oversight some have said smacks of ageism while others dispute the charge as nonsense.  
*The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

Continued from page 1

that always emerge when the government stumbles. Members of cabinet and staff in this government are younger partially because of Mr. Trudeau's (Papineau, Que.) gender parity promise, which most agree with and see as a positive—but the question is whether some with insight to offer are being deliberately shut out.

Interviews with about a dozen current and former Liberal MPs, staffers, insiders, and analysts over the past two weeks revealed divided opinions on the prime minister's approach, with some saying experience isn't valued enough by this Prime Minister's Office while others question the evidence for that assertion when plenty of ministers are long in tooth.

It's become a subject of conversation among senior members who "wish they were utilized more," said former Liberal MP Sheila Copps.

"There has been some frustration expressed that they—we—are seen as past our best-before date," she said. "Technologically, it's a different time. The whole way they campaign and the use of social media is something that has bypassed a lot of our generation."

Though it hasn't been her experience, it has been a recurring theme and while Ms. Copps said she sees good reason for the "generational change" happening on the Hill, those concerns shouldn't be dismissed.

"It's not a threat yet, but any good government stays on top of complaints and tweaks and changes itself accordingly. Nobody can be perfect," she said, noting a phone call can make a huge difference.

Two columns penned in recent weeks have prompted discussion and disagreement in political circles, suggesting a mood Liberals would do well to address, insiders agree.

"This is representative of a lot of people feeling left out,"

said former Liberal staffer Greg MacEachern.

Former staffer and Liberal candidate Andrew Caddell wrote in *The Hill Times* that "ageism on the Hill means that experience doesn't count for much" with this government, recounting his own experience. In an interview, he said he was pleased by the conversation it created and isn't bothered by those dismissing his worries.

"The proof [is in] the pudding," he said, listing a number of missteps like a Holocaust memorial plaque that failed to mention Jewish people. "Those mistakes wouldn't have happened if people had knowledge and the sense to challenge that."

*Toronto Star* political writer Susan Delacourt followed Mr. Caddell's comments with her own piece, observing age is "one of the rare forms of demographic discrimination that seems to be tolerated in the Trudeau government."

Both columns should be understood with timing in mind, said Mr. MacEachern, written as the Liberals weathered a dip in the polls and not long after a disastrous India trip drew weeks of scathing coverage and fodder for the Conservatives to attack Mr. Trudeau's judgment.

The January 2017 departure of former ministers Stéphane Dion and John McCallum bolstered some ageism fears, but the rest of cabinet make-up doesn't bear out that criticism, several argued. Older politicians with experience include ministers Ralph Goodale (Regina-Wascana, Sask.), Carolyn Bennett (Toronto-St. Paul's, Ont.), Marc Garneau (Notre Dame de Grâce-Westmount, Que.), Lawrence MacAulay (Cardigan, P.E.I.), and Jim Carr (Winnipeg South Centre, Man.). Some MPs who may have been overlooked in cabinet are nevertheless landing in key posts, including seven-term MP Wayne Easter as Finance Committee chair and David McGuinty (Ottawa South, Ont.) as chair of the newly formed National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians.

## No 'closed doors': MP Easter

Being overlooked isn't a huge concern among senior caucus members, though he has heard it discussed, said Mr. Easter (Malpeque, P.E.I.), adding "it's hard to find a balance," in cabinet.

"Every government has a lot of growing pains until things kind of settle out. I would say that's more what's happening than just [not enough] experience," said Mr. Easter.

"What I expect our regime is doing here is they're gaining experience in government as they go along," added Mr. Easter, who said he has no problem being heard. "I don't see any closed doors around here."

Other veteran Liberals disputed the characterization, too.

Peter Donolo, former communications director to Liberal prime minister Jean Chrétien, said he has "no such concerns" about the government made up of "qualified, committed people."

Eddie Goldenberg, who was a senior policy adviser to Mr. Chrétien, said it's not a problem for him, but he's also deliberately stepped back.

Often a downward dip in the polls leads to criticism, he added, and blame of the same people who were being given credit for everything that was going right.

"It's not really fair," Mr. Goldenberg said.

Former interim Liberal leader Bob Rae said he's always found the government open to his advice, including briefings on the Rohingya crisis as special envoy to Myanmar and other foreign policy matters.

Mr. Rae invoked a George Bernard Shaw quote, rejigging it to say that "if you keep playing, you won't be left out of the game."

"I don't agree with the premise about ageism," said Mr. Rae in an email. "I think sometimes people feel left out because they're waiting for a call. They'd be smarter to pick up the phone, and try to figure out how and

why the world is changing so fast."

Isabel Metcalfe, who worked as a support staff in former prime minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau's office, said the government inspires a certain type of support—and that's more likely to determine whether you're on the inside.

"If you want to be in the Trudeau team, you have to swim with them," she said, something she never had a problem doing. "I like their data, I like their energy, I like their fresh approach, I liked their really aggressive commitment to diversity, to feminism, to change."

At the grassroots level, Ms. Metcalfe said she hasn't seen ageism crop up as a concern, and, as a lobbyist observing work in committee rooms and MPs' offices, she said she sees a diversity in key positions, from cabinet ministers on down.

Others like Lisa Kinsella, who worked for Liberal Party leader Michael Ignatieff, recalled hearing when the government took office in 2015 they were looking for people under 40. Former Canadian diplomat Larry Lederman said there's "no question" it's a problem, pointing to two friends in their 50s and 60s who felt age was the reason they were overlooked. He's also heard the concern raised by others and while he acknowledged there is no proof, he saw recent gaffes as evidence enough.

"With inexperience you have cock-ups like you have with India," said Mr. Lederman, an assessment echoed by Ms. Kinsella.

There should be some folks with grey hair advising the prime minister, said Ms. Kinsella, who pointed to the communications failure during the "months-long Morneau issue" and the Aga Khan and India trips as "unnecessary self-inflicted wounds."

"Being a year and a half from the next election, it's important that if there are Liberals feeling disenchanted, the party should start working now to change that," said Ms. Kinsella. "These are the people who knock on doors, who raise money and who volunteer. You can't take them for granted."

Many doubted that disenchantment will put much of a dent in attendance at this month's policy convention in Halifax, as suggested by some Ms. Delacourt spoke with.

Jackie Choquette, a current lobbyist and former provincial Liberal staffer, said she has no trouble finding senior staff over the age of 40 in this government, pointing to a handful who have Mr. Trudeau's ear: principal secretary Gerry Butts, chief of staff Katie Telford and several ministerial chiefs of staff, including Marlo Reynolds, Julian Ovens, Jeremy Broadhurst, Rob Jamieson, and Geoffroi Montpetit.

Parliament Hill has long been a workplace best suited and populated by younger people, who are more willing to accept precarious work and put in the long, brutal hours, observers told *The Hill Times*.

"I have never seen anything, from any government, to make me believe this is by design," Ms. Choquette said.

swallen@hilltimes.com  
*The Hill Times*

## Status of government bills

### HOUSE OF COMMONS

#### Second reading:

- C-5, An Act to Repeal Division 20 of Part 3 of the Economic Action Plan 2015 Act, No. 1
- C-12, An Act to amend the Canadian Forces Members and Veterans Reestablishment and Compensation Act
- C-27, An Act to amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985
- C-28, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (victim surcharge)
- C-32, An Act related to the repeal of section 159 of the Criminal Code
- C-33, An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act
- C-34, An Act to amend the Public Service Labour Relations Act
- C-38, An Act to amend an Act to amend the Criminal Code (exploitation and trafficking in persons)
- C-39, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (unconstitutional provisions)
- C-42, Veterans Well-being Act
- C-43, An Act respecting a payment to be made out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund to support a pan-Canadian artificial intelligence strategy
- C-52, Supporting Vested Rights Under Access to Information Act
- C-56, An Act to amend the Corrections and Conditional Release Act and the Abolition of Early Parole Act
- C-68, An Act to amend the Fisheries Act
- C-74, Budget Implementation Act, 2018, No. 1
- C-75, An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Youth Criminal Justice Act and other Acts

#### Committee:

- C-59, An Act respecting national security matters
- C-62, An Act to amend the Federal Public Sector Labour Relations Act and other Acts
- C-65, An Act to amend the Canada Labour Code, the Parliamentary Employment and Staff Relations Act, and the Budget Implementation Act, 2017, No. 1 (harassment and violence)
- C-69, An Act to amend the Impact Assessment Act and the Canadian Energy Regulator Act, to amend the Navigation Protection Act
- C-71, An Act to amend certain acts and regulations in relation to firearms

#### Report stage:

- S-5, An Act to amend the Tobacco Act and the Non-smokers' Health Act
- C-21, An Act to amend the Customs Act
- C-47, An Act to amend the Export and Import Permits Act and the Criminal Code (amendments permitting the accession to the Arms Trade Treaty)
- C-48, Oil Tanker Moratorium Act
- C-57, An Act to amend the Federal Sustainable Development Act
- C-64, Wrecked, Abandoned, or Hazardous Vessels Act

#### Third reading:

- C-55, An Act to amend the Oceans Act and the Canada Petroleum Resources Act

#### Consideration of amendments made by the Senate:

- C-25, An Act to amend the Canada Business Corporations Act, Canada Cooperatives Act, Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act, and Competition Act
- C-49, Transportation Modernization Act

### SENATE

#### Second reading:

- C-50, An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act (political financing)
- C-51, An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Department of Justice Act
- C-58, An Act to amend the Access to Information Act and the Privacy Act

#### Committee:

- C-24, An Act to amend the Salaries Act and the Financial Administration Act
- C-45, Cannabis Act
- C-46, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (offences relating to conveyances)
- C-66, Expungement of Historically Unjust Convictions Act



EDITOR Kate Malloy  
MANAGING EDITOR Kristen Shane  
DEPUTY EDITORS Peter Mazereeuw, Charelle Evelyn  
ASSISTANT DEPUTY EDITOR Abbas Rana  
DIGITAL EDITOR Marco Vigliotti



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PUBLISHERS Anne Marie Creskey,  
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GENERAL MANAGER, CFO Andrew Morrow

Editorial

# Feds on the right track in setting timeline to eliminate TB by 2030

Amid the hullabaloo of the marathon votes that captured every political journalist’s attention a couple weeks ago came a government announcement that deserved more attention.

During the hardworking Indigenous Services Minister Jane Philpott’s one-hour “sleep-break” amid the 20 hours of votes on March 23, she stood alongside Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami chief Natan Obed to announce their goal to eradicate tuberculosis among Inuit in Canada’s North by 2030, and cut active TB rates by at least half by 2025.

The announcement wasn’t just lofty words. It was backed up by \$27.5-million over five years set aside in the 2018 budget for prevention, screening, diagnosis, and treatment.

The federal government also isn’t doing this alone. It is working with ITK, a national group representing Inuit in Canada, and local governments including the territory of Nunavut.

Plus, it’s encouraging that Ms. Philpott is not taking a narrow view of the TB problem in Canada’s North.

“It should never have taken us so long to get to this day and we are determined to move forward with a strategy that is both community-owned and community-driven and one that addresses the social determinants of health,” she was quoted as saying in a press release.

“Inuit leaders will hold Canada to account to ensure that TB, which is rooted in social inequity, is addressed completely and fully,” said Mr. Obed in the same release.

Ms. Philpott understands that the infectious disease thrives in the traditional territory of the Inuit, as it does in many developing countries—but not in the rest of Canada—because, as André Picard wrote in the *Globe and Mail* last week, “it is really a social disease, one that spreads and flourishes where there is poor housing, food insecurity, and poverty, which describes to a T the conditions in which many of the 65,000 Inuit live.”

Mr. Picard is right to say that it’s “unconscionable” that someone should die of a preventable and curable disease such as TB in a rich country such as Canada. Yet that’s what happened to 15-year-old Ileen Kooneeliusie in January 2017 and 14-year-old Gussie Bennett, another Inuit teen, this year.

There’s a legacy of colonialism intertwined with the TB story in Canada’s North, including that people infected with the respiratory illness were sometimes forcibly removed to the south for treatment, which has caused harm to communities in the same vein as residential schools.

The government is rightly tackling the root causes of the problem, including by earmarking \$240-million over 10 years in last year’s budget to improve housing in Nunavut.

These are good signs that the Liberals are on the right track. It’s time for Canadians to stop dying of this treatable disease, and for the government to follow its prescription to finally ensure this becomes a reality.



## Letters to the Editor

### Time for action, no more talk, to respond to missing and murdered Indigenous women

The CBC last year reported that it had added more names to its missing and murdered Indigenous women database.

When did it become normal for people to go missing in Canada, without a trace, without an all-out search, without outrage from the community?

How is this acceptable? How many inquiries do we need before some action

is taken? Why has no one been able to propose a plan for discovery?

We don’t need smoke and feathers. Canadians should demand action, not soon, but now. This is a national shame and the mother of all scandals.

**Sheila Mediena**  
Greater Montreal, Que.

## Official languages and the Canadian way

Last week, the federal government announced an extra \$500-million towards its new plan on official languages.

It is appropriate that the government takes strong initiative to advance the teaching of our two official languages, French and English.

When I arrived in Canada, with a strong English foundation, to graduate studies at the anglophone McGill University in Montreal, I soon observed in the early ‘60s, the “two solitudes” of the anglophones and francophones. It soon became obvious that there were not just two different main languages, but also their distinct cultures and ways of life.

Interestingly, through my university links, I met a bilingual Québécoise who became my wife, which then motivated me to learn French. While I primarily spoke English with my wife, I took the needed French courses, watched French

television, read French newspapers, and frequented francophone circles so that I soon acquired the second language, with much of the francophone mentality and way of life in Quebec.

Language and culture go well together. Similarly, the government should encourage the minority language of one of Canada’s first peoples, the Inuit, out of full respect for the underlying Inuit identity. In ceremonial fashion, the Inuit language may be used at certain formal moments in Parliament. The same may apply to First Nations’ languages. Here again, the use of all these languages is not just for information sharing. It’s also related to the underlying values and behaviour in promoting cultural diversity. Through language diversity and cultural sharing, we follow the Canadian way.

**Roman Mukerjee**  
Ottawa, Ont.

## Users deserve more blame in Facebook data-mining scandal

With the outrage and fury about the recent revelations around Cambridge Analytica’s breach of Facebook data, some calming is in order, with a view to putting the blame where it belongs: on subscribers.

This is not first time Facebook has been breached. It seems that users are sufficiently addicted to social media to risk being hacked, assuming they have safety in numbers if privacy controls fail, as they regularly do. EBay had 145 million accounts hacked, Ashley Madison had 32 million, Home Depot dealt with 56 million, and this is without getting into quasi-legal hacks by government agencies like the United States National Security Agency. The list is endless, and most have had a more significant impact on subscribers than being targeted to watch election propaganda.

Still, users volunteer private information about themselves knowing full well that a breach is probable, either not caring or in the hopes that their files can hide amongst the corpses of the mass-sacred data bits to survive unscathed. I would venture a guess that there is not one soul on Facebook who expected their data to be hack-proof.

From another perspective, there is little evidence that voters targeted by Cambridge Analytica would not have voted as they did anyway. It is well known that people seek out material that reinforces their views and resist material that might change their minds. If so, then the whole effort to influence votes would meet with very limited success and the joke would be on those who hired Cambridge Analytica.

One other aspect of this fiasco bears mentioning. Privacy has evolved into a one-way street protected by bureaucracy, as it is virtually impossible to protect through technology. Bureaucracy dictates that I can’t check to see if my wife is on the voters list, but somehow political parties and hackers have no trouble getting access to the whole list.

Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg’s apology for the breach is worth about as much as Remington apologizing for the mass killing at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Facebook, like a gun, is a tool. Safety precautions notwithstanding, how it is used is beyond the control of the maker.

**Kope Inokai**  
Toronto, Ont.

**EDITORIAL**  
SENIOR REPORTER Laura Ryckewaert  
NEWS REPORTERS Emily Haws, Jolson Lim, Shruti Shekar, Samantha Wright Allen  
PHOTOGRAPHERS Sam Garcia, Andrew Meade and Cynthia Münster  
EDITORIAL CARTOONIST Michael De Adder  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Christopher Guly, Leslie MacKinnon, Cynthia Münster  
COLUMNISTS Keith Brooks, Karl Bélanger, Andrew Caddell, Andrew Cardozo, John Chenier, David Coletto, Sheila Copps, David Crane, Jim Creskey, Darryl T. Davies, Murray Dobbin, Gwynne Dyer, Michael Geist, Greg Elmer, Riccardo Filippone, Alice Funke, Dennis Gruending, Cory Hann, Chantal Hébert, Joe Jordan, Warren Kinsella, Alex Marland, Gillian

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# Western leaders shouldn't throw stones from glass houses

Canada and other Western countries should review their own military records before casting a barrage of stones Russia's way.



Scott Taylor

*Inside Defence*

OTTAWA—The anti-Russian rhetoric and fear mongering in the West has reached fever pitch in the wake of the attempted assassination of former spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia.

British Prime Minister Theresa May expelled 23 Russian diplomats in retaliation for what she pronounced to be President Vladimir Putin's "despicable act." British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson took things even further when he drew parallels between Putin's present-day Russia and Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany in 1936.

Canada and more than 15 other Western countries followed the United Kingdom's lead in expelling diplomats from Russian embassies on their soil. The United States has booted out 60 Russians. Heather Nauert, a spokesperson with the U.S. State Department, denounced Putin's regime as having "tentacles...It's a beast from the deep sea."

In addition to the diplomatic response, NATO commanders are urging member states to bring more of their military units up to full combat capability. This is crazy stuff.

Nazi beasts committing despicable acts! Sound the alarm! Mobilize the militias!

Given the overwhelming combined military might of NATO's 29 member states, the current panic is akin to an elephant being terrified of a mouse.

It also seems just a tad over the top that there is such an emotional outpouring of grief for Skripal. After all, the man was a Russian spy who sold out his country to become a British double agent. His duplicity was discovered in 2004, and he was convicted and sentenced to jail in Russia in 2006.

In 2010, Skripal was released to the U.K. as part of a prisoner-spy swap. Why Putin's intelligence service would wait eight years to attempt to kill Skripal with a nerve agent remains a mystery.

However, as one who was weaned on the James Bond genre of spy movies, I would somehow suspect that the life expectancy of a traitorous agent would be shorter than that of someone who ripped off a Colombian drug cartel.

And Skripal is still alive. I hardly think the battle cry of NATO soldiers rushing into a Third World War would be "Remember Skripal!"

For Western democracies that take such pride in respect for the rule of law and the premise that an accused should be presumed

innocent until proven guilty, the rush to judgment in this instance is rather hypocritical.

Western media reports about serial killers and rapists are compelled to insert the word "allegedly" to describe an accused's criminal behaviour until those allegations are "proven in a court of law."

Yet in the Skripal case, as soon as it was pronounced by British authorities that the nerve agent employed in the March 4 attempted assassination was Novichok, the case was essentially closed.

At the time of writing, there was still no conclusive theory as to how the allegedly Russian-produced Novichok was administered to the Skripals, yet we are to believe that the Brits know with absolute certainty that it was Putin's hitmen that did it.

As for Putin's list of other "despicable" acts around the globe, perhaps Canada and the West should review our own resume before casting a barrage of stones. To wit, Russia has troops in Syria at the request of embattled President Bashar al-Assad. For the record, Assad's regime is still officially recognized as the government of Syria.

The U.S. has troops in Syria, illegally assisting anti-Assad militia.

Putin has provided weapons and advisers to pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine. Canada, the U.S., and other Western countries have provided weapons and advisers to Ukraine as a counter to the pro-Russian separatists. If taking sides in another country's civil war is despicable, then what is Canada doing there?

Putin annexed Crimea after a virtually bloodless occupation and a referendum. Terrible.

In 1999, NATO bombed Serbia for 78 days causing the deaths of hundreds or perhaps thousands of innocent Serbian civilians, and destroying billions of dollars worth of infrastructure.

NATO troops then occupied Kosovo and in February 2008, without any referendum, the U.S. redrew the map of Europe by recognizing Kosovo's independence.

Throw into the mix the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, the invasion of Iraq in 2003 and the Canadian-led NATO air campaign to depose Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. All three of those conflicts continue to rage in a storm of violent anarchy resulting in the death and displacement of millions of innocent civilians.

If Putin's actions are "despicable," how do we judge our own litany of recent failed military interventions? Good intentions gone bad?

Scott Taylor is the editor and publisher of *Esprit de Corps* magazine.

*The Hill Times*

## Vimy: a reminder to the world of the senselessness of war

A half-century later, with the death toll in Syria rising and the Korean peninsula coming dangerously close to nuclear war, it has to be asked whether the sense of horror that arose from the two world wars has been forgotten or faded to the point of near uselessness.



Les Whittington

*Need to Know*

VIMY RIDGE, FRANCE—It all started on April 9 at 5:30 a.m., now 101 years ago.

After weeks of furious preparation intended to give the

assaulting force a chance against an objective that had already cost 100,000 French casualties, the first wave of 15,000 Canadians began the effort to retake France's Vimy Ridge from the Germans.

The successful attack, which over four days involved four Canadian divisions fighting together for the first time, is of course an indelible part of this country's story.

The scale of the heroics and the sacrifice—3,598 Canadians dead and 7,000 wounded—is undeniable, even if the capture of the ridge meant little in the overall sweep of the First World War and the birth-of-a-nation myth so created remains a matter of debate a century later.

Either way, Canada's National Vimy Memorial rising majestically above the flat countryside on a nine-kilometre ridge near Arras in northern France is as powerful a monument as exists anywhere.

When I was first there in the late 1970s, the then-40-year-old structure was looking the worse for wear, with walls deteriorating and the elements gradually eroding the etched names of 11,285 Canadians who died in France in the war with no known graves.

In 2001, the federal government allocated \$20-million for a Vimy restoration, with the work completed six years later.

The gleaming white limestone structure, which commemorates the sacrifices of the soldiers

without overly emphasizing the supposed glory of war, is a fitting tribute to the Canadians who fought and died there.



Mounties bow their heads in front of the Canadian National Vimy Memorial in France during an April 9, 2017 ceremony to mark the centenary of the First World War fight in which nearly 3,600 Canadians died.

*The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade*

Reaching skyward above the ridge, the two pylons that form the central structure of the memorial are meant to symbolize Canada and France. But they are also evocative of the shell-pocked, jagged spires that, in the photos of the time, were the only remains of the ruined churches dotting battlefields around the region.

While not minimizing the ultimate price paid by the fallen soldiers it honours, the monument to my mind leaves no doubt about the scale of the human calamity in the mechanized slaughter

of the 1914-18 war. Out of about 625,000 Canadians in uniform, close to 60,000 died. Another 172,000 were wounded.

In all, about 17 million soldiers and civilians were killed in the war.

The death toll was very much on the mind of Walter Allward, the Toronto-born sculptor and memorial designer who created Vimy.

In a 1921 interview, describing a wartime dream that inspired the memorial, he spoke of "a great battlefield" where thousands of "our men" were "being mowed down by the sickles of death."

Then, in his tormented dream, Allward recalled look down a long avenue of poplars and seeing thousands of the dead "marching to the aid of our armies...without the dead, we were helpless."

"So I have tried," he said, "to show this in this monument to Canada's fallen, what we owed them and we will forever owe them."

Despite that immense sacrifice, the notion of the 1914-18 conflict as the war to end all wars was quickly proved fallacious. In the Second World War a little over two decades later, the butcher's bill was 60 million.

The size of the slaughter in these conflagrations in the first half of the 20th century awakened a widespread commitment to seek new approaches to global cooperation and conflict resolution, most notably

through the United Nations.

A half-century later, it has to be asked whether the sense of horror that arose from the two world wars has been forgotten or faded to the point of near uselessness.

The civil war in Syria, where 400,000 have perished, is a blot on humanity's moral record.

The cavalier attitude exhibited by several of United States President Donald Trump's senior advisers to the possibility of armed conflict on the Korean peninsula, which would likely kill hundreds of thousands of people in the region and risk a nuclear confrontation with China, can only be seen as shocking.

And in Europe, the long effort to foster unity, as opposed to divisive and potentially dangerous conflict, by binding countries together through the European Union, is being put at risk by fervent nationalist populism.

Looking back, the words of Canadian Justice Minister Ernest Lapointe, who officially opened the Vimy memorial in 1936, unfortunately seem a bit too idealistic. "The grandest tribute we could offer to Canadian soldiers," he told tens of thousands of spectators, "is to affirm that their sacrifices have contributed to the introduction into our civilization of its highest modern conception—that of universal peace founded on recognition of the basic right of people to life and justice."

But Vimy still stands as a powerful reminder to the world—and the many thousands who visit annually—of the human wastage and insanity of organized armed conflict.

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

*The Hill Times*



## Comment

# What would Martin Luther King think?

Fifty years after the civil rights icon was assassinated, it seems everything has changed except the timeless perversion of power.



Lisa Van Dusen

*What Fresh Hell*

On this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Reverend Martin Luther King's assassination, his memory somehow feels less like a testament than a question—less “Here's what he thought” than “What would he think?”

What would he make of the presidency of Donald Trump? King was not only a man of God but also a brilliant tactician who

clearly understood power and its uses better than most political figures of his time for having navigated its worst abuses. While nothing in his day quite resembled the bizarre, often inexplicable chaos of the present political moment in America, some of his views on power still apply.

“Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic,” he told the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1967. “Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love.”

As someone who risked his life for truth, he would probably laugh off the term “post-truth,” recognizing it as a contrivance by interests whose activities are so corrupt they need to be camouflaged by a perpetual inundation of lies. “I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality,” he said in his 1964 Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech. “This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.”

He never saw a tweet but he certainly, as someone who was under constant surveillance, knew how technology could be abused and weaponized. J. Edgar Hoover's FBI

used surveillance-enabled harassment and psychological warfare against King, including sending him vicious, anonymous hate-mail after his Nobel was announced.



Reverend Martin Luther King speaks at the Civil Rights March on Washington, D.C., on Aug. 28, 1963. U.S. Information Agency photograph by Rowland Scherman

So, he probably wouldn't be shocked at today's innovations in truth suppression, intimidation, and harassment.

What he might be shocked by is the objectification and dehumanization of individuals as our lives are translated into exploitable data patterns for political and social-engineering purposes. He might even suggest, given the degree to which privacy violation can degrade and imperil the lives of individuals,

groups, and democracy, that the covert collection and commodification of personal information be declared a crime against humanity under the classifications of

unlawful human experimentation and political repression.

“There is a sort of poverty of the spirit which stands in glaring contrast to our scientific and technological abundance,” he said in his Nobel lecture. “We have learned to fly the air like birds and swim the sea like fish, but we have not learned the simple art of living together as brothers.”

On that last point, he might marvel at the fact that people in

his own country are, after eight years of the first black president, still not quite having a national conversation about race. And then he might further marvel at the fact that every time someone starts one it seems to involve a white person asking a black person to prove that racism still exists instead of seeing that very reflex as proof that it does and skipping to the part where both parties tell the truth about what it feels like to live in the dynamic.

And if he happened to look at Canada, he'd see a country with a different set of baggage but the same need, caught between progress and the fear that gets activated when politics becomes a game of tactical division.

He could watch the video of Celina Caesar-Chavannes, a black Canadian MP, standing in the House of Commons and passionately proclaiming her dope braids as an intrinsic element of her identity and a form of freedom of expression, and smile. And then, roll his eyes at the trolls.

Lisa Van Dusen is associate editor of Policy Magazine and was a Washington and New York-based editor at UPI, AP, and ABC. She writes a weekly column for The Hill Times.

*The Hill Times*

## Time to stop funding Catholic school boards

I used to support Ontario's constitutional right to separate schools, but recent events in Ottawa have made me reconsider.



Andrew Caddell

*With All Due Respect*

OTTAWA—The passage of Easter and Passover, the most important days on the Christian and Jewish calendars, has led me to contemplate the role of religion in Canadian public life. While Canadian politics has not been infected with the sort of right-wing evangelism experienced in the United States, we remain a

country where church and state are not completely separate.

For one, our head of state, the Queen, remains the head of the Church of England. Second, the preamble to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms begins, “Whereas Canada is founded upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of law.” There is also protection for freedom of conscience and religion in Section 2 of the charter. And, of course, we have public funding for Catholic schools in Ontario, and to a lesser extent in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

In the past few weeks, an editorial and op-eds have appeared in *The Globe and Mail* and *Toronto Star* calling for the elimination or reorganization of public funding for Catholic school boards in Ontario. The arguments are familiar: in a modern society, there is no room for one religion (in this case, Catholicism) to be funded by the public purse.

In the provincial election of 1985, I was a Liberal candidate, and broke with my party to oppose the Progressive Conservative government's move to extend funding for Catholic schools from grade 10 to 13. I did so on the basis that such a change was not to be made by a declaration in the legislature (as

then-premier Bill Davis had done), but rather through consultation and detailed legislation.

Since then, I have supported Ontario's constitutional right to separate schools. Being familiar with the systems in Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador, I argued teaching religion in schools was a way of equipping students with a strong moral code. However, in the 1990s, the governments in St. John's and Quebec City applied for constitutional amendments to eliminate public funding for Catholic schooling.



Immaculata High School in Ottawa plans to build a new artificial-turf field that is prompting complaints from neighbours who feel they were not consulted. Photograph courtesy of The Mighty Quill

Recent events in Ottawa have made me reconsider my support. I attended a meeting of the Ottawa Catholic School Board, at which trustees discussed a controversial project planned for my neighbourhood in central Ottawa. The project, a \$2-million private-sector initiative to install artificial turf, would bulldoze a grass playing field, put rubber turf in its place, and surround it with lighting towers to allow play late into the night. Fences would be

erected to exclude local residents and their children, unless they paid for the privilege.

But the worst aspect of the entire episode was the arbitrary way the board acted, declaring the land “private” property, although its funding comes from public coffers; setting aside proper tendering procedures; and failing to engage in anything approaching dialogue. Polite words were spoken, heads nodded, thanks were expressed for concern, but nothing changed. It was a reminder that, in the ruthless realm of

ago rejected the injection of politics into religion. I was appalled a decade ago when a pro-Palestine priest at my church gave a sermon against Canada's support for the state of Israel, which bordered on anti-Semitism. I called him to account, reminding him Christ himself advised against mixing the spiritual with the political.

In a world of increasing relativism, there is strength in adhering to principles, and the pertinence of religious teachings of any faith should not be ignored. But some of those “principles” seek to exclude, rather than include people and their choices. And there is no question agnostics and atheists did not require a religious education to grasp what is right or wrong.

Conversely, if the principles taught in a confessional system of education fall on deaf ears of the very people who lead those institutions, then “do as I say, not as I do” is hardly a moral standard for others.

In today's diverse, secular Canada, one's faith is, and should be, a private matter with the appropriate constitutional protection. But public funds should not be directed to religious institutions on the pretense there is a hierarchy of values, especially if those institutions do not subscribe to the principles they claim to promote.

Andrew Caddell retired last year from Global Affairs Canada, where he was a senior policy adviser. He previously worked as an adviser to Liberal governments. He is a fellow with the Canadian Global Affairs Institute. He is also a principal of QIT Canada. He can be reached at pipson52@hotmail.com.

*The Hill Times*



# Kathleen Wynne's budget: 'it's free, so vote for me'

Hopefully the small bump in the polls the Ontario Liberals received after tabling their budget isn't a sign of the electorate's collective amnesia.



Tim Powers

*Plain Speak*

OTTAWA—Living in Ontario these days, it is hard not to feel the desperation of the governing provincial Liberals. Having been around politics for a long time, I have seen some pretty shameless

pandering done in the interest of getting re-elected by all political parties, but the Ontario Liberals might be taking it to new levels.

Premier Kathleen Wynne's re-election slogan ought to be "It is free, so vote for me." Except it never really is free, but why get distracted by reality. Wynne, an able and likeable salesperson, is hoping Ontario voters will join her in this land of distorted reality and not ask the obvious question: "Premier, your party has been in power for 15 years. How, all of a sudden, is it you are now promising to deliver all of this spending and 'free programs'?"

Before getting into a full-on rant, here is some context. Last week, the Ontario government brought down its budget. If you are a left-leaning Liberal or a red New Democrat, you could confuse it as being the best Christmas list ever. Never mind the fact the Liberals are going back into deficit to the tune of \$8-billion and Ontario has among the largest sub-sovereign debt burdens in the world. Shag that; let the sugarplum ferries dance in your head instead.

Oh yes, the budget. Among other things, the Wynne govern-

ment announced it was spending \$2.2-billion to launch free preschool child care for children aged two-and-a-half until junior kindergarten, expanding its OHIP+ pharmacare initiative to give free prescription medications to those over 65, and it is getting in the teeth-cleaning business. Specifically, the Liberals have promised a new \$500-million-a-year dental and prescription drug plan worth up to \$700 per year in benefits for a four-person family that doesn't already have dental or pharmacare coverage.

Ontario NDP leader Andrea Horwath must feel like she got mugged by the premier. A few days before the budget, she announced the NDP would make the largest investment in public dental coverage in Ontario's history. In full rhetorical flight she said, "that every senior can get the dental care they need, and every person on social assistance can get the dental care they need." Both Wynne and Horwath must have been thinking Ontario voters wouldn't give them a metaphorical kick in the teeth if they promised to look after their pearly whites.



Ontario NDP leader Andrea Horwath, left, must feel like she got mugged by Ontario Liberal premier Kathleen Wynne, right, writes Tim Powers, as both work to fend off PC leader Doug Ford, middle, ahead of June's election. *The Hill Times* photographs by Andrew Meade, Sam Garcia

One of the central themes around this June's Ontario election is likely going to be around affordability. That will mean different things for different voters, but here's the common-ground element: it is getting tougher on my wallet—where can I turn for help or relief? Wynne, and Horwath, will pitch that the provincial government has those healing hands that will make all that pain go away. The question is: do Wynne and the Liberals have enough credibility to make the sales-pitch believable?

Give the provincial government marks for having chutzpah. It is a pretty audacious thing to believe you can do a mind-meld on large swaths of the electorate, that they will suddenly forget the past, your record, and then come to the ultimate reckoning

you're the best thing for Ontario. One early poll after the budget suggested the Liberals got a small bump from their budget buy-off strategy. Hopefully that was an outlier and collective amnesia has not set in.

What an election this is going to be. Wynne promising manna from heaven, Ontario Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford offering vapour-thin platitudes, and Horwath hoping she doesn't get rolled by a Liberal every time she offers a saleable idea. Yet Wynne's "it is free, so vote for me" takes the cake as most outlandish political move in a long time.

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

*The Hill Times*

# Fate of 3,500 coal-power workers, and more, at stake with new 'just transition' task force

The task force will lay out a path to help Canada transition to the new, job-rich low-carbon economy.



Carla Lipsig-Mummé

*Labour*

It has been a long time coming. The Trudeau government is poised to launch Canada's first federal task force on a "just transition" for workers affected by policies intended to mitigate climate change. In this case, it's the government's plan to virtually eliminate traditional coal-fired electricity generation by 2030, which may put up to 3,500 coal miners and power workers out of work in several provinces.

The task force announcement comes more than a year after the

government declared its intention to phase out coal in November 2016. Since then, coal-dependent communities have been left wondering if they had been forgotten by the federal government, and labour leaders have been calling for action by Ottawa.

Establishing the Just Transition Task Force for Canadian Coal-Power Workers and Communities is more than good policy—it's good politics.

Policy-wise, the terms of reference released by Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna on Feb. 16 task the nine-member panel and two co-chairs with providing knowledge, options, and recommendations to the minister on implementing a just transition for workers and communities directly affected by the accelerated phase-out of coal-fired electricity in Canada. The federal budget included \$35-million to support those efforts.

Politically, by acknowledging and acting on the need for a just transition for coal miners and power workers, the government is helping to ensure that it continues to generate the social licence required to combat climate change, and to move the country down the challenging path to a low-carbon economy.

Public opinion currently supports climate change-fighting efforts, but if working people are left with greater economic insecurity than before, a backlash could

be generated—the same kind of backlash that generated millions of votes south of the border for Donald Trump and his anti-Paris Agreement stance. Nobody wants that.

In affirming this proactive approach, Ms. McKenna acknowledged in a statement that: "We know the environment and the economy go hand in hand, so we're committed to making that transition a fair one for coal workers and communities."

Members of the panel will have diverse backgrounds, including workforce development and sustainable development experts, a past executive from a major electricity company or utility, and a municipal representative appointed in consultation with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The five remaining members will be drawn from labour, including the Canadian Labour Congress, a provincial federation of labour, and three from unions representing affected workers.

It makes sense that there be strong representation from labour.

Unions support the kind of action that links reducing the greenhouse gases that cause climate change, with the growth of jobs that "green" work itself. Active workplace environment committees promote and practise conservation. Unions provide green education programs for their members, and have been on the front lines with allies in the envi-

ronmental movement demanding positive change. Recently, Canadian and European Union unions have begun exchanging "climate bargaining" clauses when negotiating with employers.

Unions have also been working closely with Canada's universities to research the best approaches to climate action in the workplace. The Adapting Canadian Work and Workplaces to Respond to Climate Change (ACW) project based at York University brings together 56 individual researchers and 25 partner organizations and unions in seven countries, and its ground-breaking research on the idea of "just transition" has been recognized by the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The world of work is both a major cause of climate change and a potentially powerful actor in slowing global warming. Unions and professional associations are very well placed for adapting work itself in order to mitigate greenhouse gas production.

Despite generating only 11 per cent of Canada's electricity supply, coal-fired electricity is responsible for 72 per cent of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity sector, which is Canada's third highest greenhouse gas-creating sector after oil and gas, and transportation.

This makes ending coal a good place to start. Achieving a

just transition to a low-carbon economy on that scale calls for strategic creativity in repurposing coal communities so that new enterprises are enticed to set up shop in a former coal region, creating a need for new and re-trained expertise.

Federal and provincial governments will need to contribute to every phase of these green transitions. It will take some years, but there are already models in Australia, Germany, and elsewhere, for transitioning not only fossil-fuel workers but also formerly fossil-fuel communities.

That's why this important first step will teach us a lot about how we can help workers and communities join the emerging renewable energy boon. The task force will hear from stakeholders from local communities, labour, industry, clean tech, finance, academics, and non-governmental organizations, and will make site visits to a representative number of facilities and communities that will be affected by the coal phase-out.

When the task force makes its recommendation in the fall, let's be ready to ensure that there is the political support to turn these ideas into action.

Carla Lipsig-Mummé is a professor of work and labour studies at York University, and winner of the 2018 Sefton-Williams Award for Contributions to Labour Relations. *The Hill Times*



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One of a kind Trappeur log home on 2 + private acres. Bright and spacious 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. Updated kitchen with high end appliances and porcelain flooring. Finished lower level with walkout to the landscaped backyard, patio and hot tub. Country living within minutes of city amenities



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Sales Representative  
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**2018 Walk for Dementia**

ON MAY 12, 2018

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Site Set-up: Friday

Depending on the role selected, shifts start at 6:30am or 7:30am and concludes at the end of the Walk at 1pm.

Please contact [walk@dsorc.org](mailto:walk@dsorc.org) to volunteer and be part of this amazing community event!

**WalkForDementia.ca**



# DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES

by Shruti Shekar

## Pakistan celebrates national day in Ottawa as MPs, Senators prepare to see country for themselves

Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen spoke at Pakistan's national day, while International Development Minister Marie-Claude cut the cake at Bangladesh's national day party.

Close to 300 diplomats and senior officials came to celebrate Pakistan's national day celebration at the Chateau Laurier, just before a group of MPs and Senators set out for Pakistan to foster closer ties.

On March 28, Pakistan's High Commissioner **Tariq Azim Khan** said that a seven-member cross-party delegation of Parliamentarians would be visiting Pakistan from March 30 to April 8. He added the "high commission has been working hard to bring the two countries together" to improve trade relations.

In 2017, trade between Canada and Pakistan totalled nearly \$1.2-billion, according to stats available through Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada.

This year will mark 70 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries that share mutual interests including climate change, security and defence, and trade and investment, according to Global Affairs Canada.

Mr. Khan, a political appointee who has been in Canada since 2015, thanked Canada for reducing the visa processing time for Pakistanis to come to Canada and noted that he hoped that people-to-people connection grows.

In 2015, more than 12,000 permanent resident visas were issued and more than 15,000 temporary resident, student, and work visas were issued, according to GAC. It notes that Pakistan is among Canada's top 10 sources of immigrants.

In his speech, Immigration Minister **Ahmed Hussen** said he was looking forward to building a stronger relationship with Pakistan. Standing next to him were Liberal MPs **Iqra Khalid** and **Rob Oliphant**, who represent the ridings of Mississauga-Erin Mills, Ont., and Don Valley West, Ont., respectively. They both have large Pakistani populations, and Ms. Khalid later told **Diplomatic Circles** that people in Mr. Oliphant's riding call him "Rob bhai," which means "Rob brother" in Urdu, Pakistan's official language.

In the crowd were representatives of several of Pakistan's bordering countries, including Indian High Commissioner **Vikas Swarup** and his wife **Aparna Swarup**, as well as **Shinkai Karokhail**, the ambassador of Afghanistan to Canada.

Diplomats from close surrounding countries were also at the shindig hosted in the ballroom of the hotel, including Iraq's High Commissioner **Abdul Kareem Kaab**, **Naif Bin Bandir Alsudairy**, ambassador of Saudi Arabia, and **Selcuk Unal**, ambassador of Turkey. Canadian chief of protocol **Roy Norton** was in the crowd, as well as **Karima Eboo**, the wife of **Mahmoud Eboo**, the Aga Khan Development Network's resident representative to Canada.

Many of the same envoys were also spotted at Bangladesh's national day event, which

was celebrated on March 26 at The Westin Hotel at the TwentyTwo rooftop event space.

There were more than 100 guests at the event and Bangladesh's High Commissioner **Mizanur Rahman** said he was pleased that Canada and his country shared 46 years of close diplomatic relations and hoped to grow the relationship in areas of trade and investment.

In 2017, bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Canada totalled nearly \$2.4-billion, according to stats available through Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada. Canada's main exports to Bangladesh include cereals, pulses, iron and steel, oilseeds, fertilizer, and technical instruments.

In her speech, International Development Minister **Marie-Claude Bibeau** talked about her visit back in November to the country that neighbours India and Myanmar, also known as Burma.

She noted that she had the opportunity to speak with Rohingya women seeking refuge in Bangladesh from the horrors they were experiencing as the humanitarian and security crisis in Myanmar continues to grow. The Rohingya Muslim community is one of the hardest hit groups in the country, along with other religious and ethnic minorities, and women and girls.

Since August 2017, more than 671,000 people have fled the destruction of their homes and persecution in Myanmar's Rakhine state. The United Nations described the exodus as ethnic cleansing. Last year Canada committed more than \$37-million in humanitarian assistance funding to support people in Myanmar and neighbouring Bangladesh affected by the violence.

Last October, Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** appointed former Ontario premier and MP **Bob Rae** as his special envoy to Myanmar. Ms. Bibeau said she was awaiting his report to "help us to inform our ongoing effort to respond to the needs of the Rohingya."

Mr. Rae released his report Tuesday and in a press release, Mr. Trudeau said that "Canada is determined to help respond to this crisis," and that recommendations in the report will be assessed to outline any "further measures we intend to take."

Mr. Trudeau added: "This report brings much needed awareness to the grave humanitarian crisis and gross violations of human rights faced by hundreds of thousands of people including Rohingya communities, other religious and ethnic minorities, and women and girls."

### New envoys arrive in Ottawa

Six new heads of mission presented their credentials to Governor General **Julie Payette** during a ceremony at Rideau Hall on March 27.

**Srdan Lalic** is the new ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina; **Josefina Vidal Ferreira** is the new ambassador of Cuba; **Viviane Laure Elisabeth Bampassy** is the new ambassador of Senegal; **René Koto Sounon** is the new ambassador of Benin; **Eugenio Maria Curia** is the new ambassador of Argentina; and **Maris Sangiampongsa** is the new ambassador of Thailand.

sshekar@hilltimes.com  
@shruti\_shekar

## Diplomats and their families take to the slopes

The Hill Times photographs by Sam Garcia



Saudi Ambassador and Ottawa Diplomatic Association president Naif Bin Bandir Alsudairy carves up the slopes March 24 at Mont Cascades Ski Resort for the ODA Ski Day.



New to Canada, Colombian military attaché Col. Jaime Humberto Correa Valencia, his wife Zulay Galvis and daughters Diana and Juanita.



Slovenian Ambassador Marjan Cencen, with Christopher Deitons and his dad, Latvian first secretary Marks Deitons.



Pakistani High Commissioner Tariq Azim Khan, Serbian Ambassador Mihailo Papazoglu, his son Kosta, Sara Drobova, her mother, Daniela Drobova, and father, Slovak Ambassador Andrej Droba.

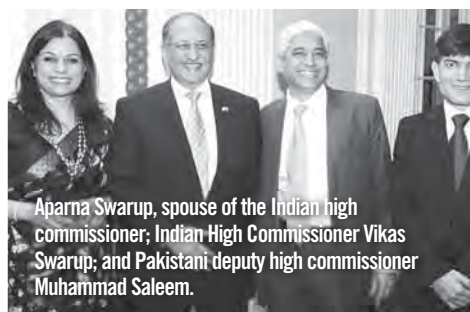
## Immigration Minister Hussen speaks at Pakistan Day



Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen laughs with Pakistani High Commissioner Tariq Azim Khan at Pakistan's national day reception March 28 at the Chateau Laurier.



Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Kareem Kaab, Nigerian High Commissioner Adeyinka O. Asekun, and Tunisian Ambassador Mohamed Imed Torjemane.



Aparna Swarup, spouse of the Indian high commissioner; Indian High Commissioner Vikas Swarup; and Pakistani deputy high commissioner Muhammad Saleem.



Qatar's Ambassador Fahad Kafoud, Kuwaiti Ambassador Abdulhamid Alfaiakawi, Mr. Kaab, and Sudanese Chargé d'Affaires Mahmoud Fadl A. Mohammed.

## International Development Minister Bibeau marks Bangladesh's national day



Bangladesh's High Commissioner Mizanur Rahman and minister Nayem Uddin Ahmed, with Canadian International Development Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau at Bangladesh's independence and national day party March 26 at The Westin.



Nishat Rahman, wife of the high commissioner, Ms. Bibeau, and Mr. Rahman.



Mr. Rahman, Constant Horace, ambassador of Madagascar, Ms. Bibeau, Egyptian Ambassador Motaz Zahran, South African High Commissioner Sibongiseni Dlamini-Mntambo, and South African minister Tanya Sefolo.





# U.S. ambassador to give Empire Club speech in Toronto April 4

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4

**The House Is Not Sitting**—The House is not sitting for the rest of the week and won't sit next week. It will resume sitting April 16 and sit every weekday until leaving for a one-week break from May 14 to 21. After returning on May 22, the House is scheduled to sit every weekday until adjourning for the summer break in late June. The Senate will largely follow the same schedule, though the Senate traditionally only sits Tuesday to Thursday, and is scheduled to break a week later in the spring, on June 29.

**U.S. Ambassador Kelly Craft Speaks at the Empire Club**—United States Ambassador Kelly Craft is set to speak on Building on the World's Best Friendship: Future Directions for the Canada/U.S. Alliance, at the Empire Club at a lunch event. Imperial Room, Fairmont Royal York Hotel, 100 Front St. W., Toronto. 12-1:30 p.m. (speech begins at 12:50 p.m.). Tickets \$95 via [empireclub.org](http://empireclub.org).

**Social Media and Democracy: What Can Be Done?**—The Public Policy Forum and the University of British Columbia School of Public Policy and Global Affairs will host a discussion with some of the world's leading experts on social media, including Ben Scott, a tech policy expert who has worked for Bernie Sanders, the Obama administration, and Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign; and Sue Gardner, the former executive director of Wikimedia Foundation. 4:45-7:30 p.m. \$5-10. National Arts Centre, Pacific Room, 1 Elgin St. Register via [ppforum.ca/event/social-media-and-democracy-what-can-be-done/](http://ppforum.ca/event/social-media-and-democracy-what-can-be-done/).

**THURSDAY, APRIL 5**

**An Evening with Justin Trudeau**—The Liberal Party of Canada is hosting this fundraiser with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. The Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre, 1088 Burrard St., Vancouver, B.C. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Media coverage is being facilitated for this event and the names of guests in attendance will be listed online within 45 days. Tickets: \$1,000 regular price; \$250 youth under 25. [events.liberal.ca](http://events.liberal.ca).

**FRIDAY, APRIL 6**

**FOI Friday with Kirsten Smith**—Join the Canadian Association of Journalists' Ottawa chapter to learn how to improve your use of the federal Access to Information Act. This session will focus on negotiating with ATIP officers and complaint investigators. The speaker is Kirsten Smith, one of Ottawa's most knowledgeable ATIP sleuths, digging up information for journalists, lawyers, and private companies. This free session is open to the public. Bring a tidy lunch. The event will be live-streamed on the CAJ's Facebook page. 12-1 p.m., National Press Building, 150 Wellington St., sixth floor.

**Closing the Gap: The Next 150**—Join Upstream for this event on exploration and action on reconciliation and health, to improve the health of Indigenous peoples and all Canadians. Speakers include author and journalist Tanya Talaga, Indigenous Services Minister Jane Philpott, and *Globe and Mail* columnist André Picard. Child care available. Hosted at the Westin Ottawa, 11 Colonel By Dr., on the evening of April 6 and all day on April 7. Register at [upstreamconference.ca](http://upstreamconference.ca).

**SATURDAY, APRIL 7**

**Columnist Jonathan Kay Speaks in Ottawa**—Peace, Order, and Good Government Canada presents columnist Jonathan Kay speaking on the topic "Why our intellectual class made Canada 150 the worst birthday ever." \$20 for members of POGG, and \$25 for guests. Doors open at noon. Talk begins at 1 p.m. Sandwiches and coffee will be served. Best Western hotel, 1274 Carling Ave.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 10**

**Reflecting on the Legacy of Chief Justice McLachlin**—This is a two-day conference at the University of



U.S. Ambassador Kelly Craft, right, is set to speak at the Empire Club in Toronto on April 4 on "Future Directions for the Canada/U.S. Alliance." *The Hill Times* photograph by Sam Garcia

Ottawa reflecting on the legacy of the longest-serving chief justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, Beverley McLachlin, who resigned last year after 17 years in the position. It will feature a keynote lecture by Brenda Hale, Baroness Hale of Richmond and president of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, and a fireside chat between former chief justice McLachlin and broadcaster Catherine Clark. The program contains 9.5 hours of substantive content and will run April 10-11. For more information and to register, visit [commonlaw.uottawa.ca/en/legacy-chief-justice](http://commonlaw.uottawa.ca/en/legacy-chief-justice).

**Marijuana in the Workplace: Are you Ready?**—With the legalization of recreational use of marijuana, are you ready to deal with possession, use, and impairment issues in your workplace? Labour and employment lawyers Stephen Bird and Russell MacCrimmon present this free seminar featuring best practices for managing the use of recreational and medical marijuana by your employees. Shaw Centre. 8 a.m., registration, networking, and complimentary breakfast. 8:30-10 a.m., presentation with Q&A to follow. To register, please visit [lawyersforemployers.ca](http://lawyersforemployers.ca).

**Addressing Rising Nationalism in Europe: Views from Germany's Green Party**—The German Embassy and the Global Centre for Pluralism present this talk moderated by Canadian Press Ottawa bureau chief Heather Scofield and featuring former German environment minister Jürgen Trittin. Global Centre for Pluralism, 330 Sussex Dr., Ottawa. Registration and breakfast at 7:45 a.m. Discussion, 8-9 a.m. Free. Please register by April 6 via [eventbrite.ca/e/addressing-rising-nationalism-in-europe-views-from-germanys-green-party-tickets-44551874857](http://eventbrite.ca/e/addressing-rising-nationalism-in-europe-views-from-germanys-green-party-tickets-44551874857).

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11**

**AI Augmented Government: Revolutionizing the Public Service**—The National Capital Region of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada invites you to an important discussion about how governments around the world are experimenting with artificial intelligence, with Neil Bouwer (Treasury Board Secretariat), Erin Kelly (Advanced Symbolics), and William D. Eggers (Deloitte Center for Government Insights). Bayview Yards, 7 Bayview Rd., 5:30-7:30 p.m. Register at <http://augmentedgov.eventbrite.ca>.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 12**

**Public Policy Forum 2018 Testimonial Dinner & Awards**—The dinner is a yearly reunion of Canada's "who's who" in public policy. Speakers include Bank of England governor Mark Carney, retired Supreme Court chief justice Beverley McLachlin, and veteran public servant Richard Dicerni. 5-9:15 p.m. Metro Toronto Convention Centre, 255 Front St. W., Toronto. For ticket information, see [ppforum.ca/events/testimonial-dinner-awards](http://ppforum.ca/events/testimonial-dinner-awards).

**Wonk Prom**—Get ready to polish off your glasses for Wonk Prom, the official after-party of the Public Policy Forum Testimonial Dinner. An annual celebration of politics, policy, and the people who make it happen, this year's party will raise funds to support Samara's research and programming. Steam Whistle Brewing, 255 Bremner Blvd., Toronto. 8:30 p.m. \$35 at the door or \$20 for low-wage attendees. Early bird tickets are \$25, while advance tickets cost \$30. For tickets, visit <https://wonk-prom.eventbrite.com>.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 13**

**Eighth Summit of the Americas**—The eighth Summit of the Americas will be held April 13-14 in Lima, Peru. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is likely to attend.

**A Perspective from the North: Commander JTF-North**—Brig.-Gen. Mike Nixon, commander of Joint Task Force

North, will speak at this event put on by the Conference of Defence Associations Institute. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Conference Room, Commissionaires National Office, 100 Gloucester St., second floor. \$40 per person, includes a light lunch. Register via [cdainstitute.ca](http://cdainstitute.ca).

**MONDAY, APRIL 16**

**Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting**—The United Kingdom will host the 53-nation Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) when leaders from all the member countries are expected to gather in London and Windsor. April 16-20. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is likely to attend.

**The House Is Sitting**—The House resumes sitting April 16 after a two-week break and sits every weekday until leaving for a one-week break from May 14 to 21. After returning on May 22, the House is scheduled to sit every weekday until adjourning for the summer break in late June. The Senate will largely follow the same schedule, though the Senate traditionally only sits Tuesday to Thursday, and is scheduled to break a week later in the spring, on June 29.

**China in the Arctic: What Does it Mean for Canada?**—The Conference of Defence Associations Institute and the University of Ottawa Centre for International Policy Studies presents two panel discussions. Speakers include Brig.-Gen. Mike Nixon, commander of Joint Task Force North. 1-4 p.m. University of Ottawa campus, FSS Rm 5028, 120 University Pvt.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 17**

**TD Presents: The Walrus Talks - The Indigenous City**—The Walrus Talks heads to the Canadian Museum of History for a discussion on Indigenous life in Canada's cities through culture, business, politics, and more. There will be seven speakers at the event, including Douglas Cardinal, Tanya Talaga, and Robert Jago. 100 Laurier St., Gatineau, Que. For event details and tickets, visit [thewalrus.ca/events](http://thewalrus.ca/events).

**Quantum Computing Event**—You've heard the term, but what does it really mean? Join the Canadian Club of Ottawa and David Cory, Canada Excellence Research Chair laureate from the University of Waterloo's Institute for Quantum Computing, to gain insight into the future of quantum and its applications. Chateau Laurier, 1 Rideau St., Ottawa. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Visit [canadianclubottawa.ca](http://canadianclubottawa.ca) for tickets.

**Canada's Airports Parliamentary Reception**—Join dozens of senior executives from Canada's airports for a parliamentary reception at the Fairmont Chateau Laurier, 1 Rideau St., Ottawa. 5-7 p.m. Parliamentarians and their staff are invited.

**Should the State be in the Newsrooms of the Nation?**—*National Post* columnist Andrew Coyne debates *Winnipeg Free Press* publisher Box Cox, chair of News Media Canada, on the merits of the federal government pledging \$10-million annually for five years to support local news media. Sponsored by the Canadian Committee For World Press Freedom in collaboration with Canada 2020. 7-9 p.m. Canada 2020 Studio, 35 O'Connor St., Suite 302, Ottawa. Admission free but advance registration with Eventbrite.ca required. To register, visit <https://t.co/VkLkmp6WyZ>.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18**

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

**Conservative Caucus Meeting**—The Conservatives will meet for their national caucus meeting. For more information, contact Cory Hann, director of communications with the Conservative Party of Canada at [coryhann@conservative.ca](mailto:coryhann@conservative.ca).

**NDP Caucus Meeting**—The NDP caucus will meet from 9:15-11 a.m. in Room 112-N Centre Block. For more information, please call the NDP Media Centre at 613-222-2351 or [media@ndp.ca](mailto:media@ndp.ca).

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

**Bank of Canada to Release Interest Rate Update**—The Bank of Canada will announce the overnight rate target today. The next full update of the bank's outlook for the economy and inflation, including risks to the projection, will be published at the same time.

**IoT613 Conference 2018**—The three-day conference brings together industry, government, academia, and more to help usher in a more cohesive Internet of Things (IoT) ecosystem to ensure a smarter, safer, and more connected future. Ottawa city councillor Tim Tierney will deliver the opening address, while Craig Hutton, director general, strategic policy and innovation, with Transport Canada, will be providing the closing keynote on April 19. April 18-20 at the Canadian Museum of History, 100 Laurier St., Gatineau. For more details and registration: [iot613.ca/2018-conference](http://iot613.ca/2018-conference).

THURSDAY, APRIL 19

**Liberal Party National Convention**—The Liberals will hold a national convention April 19-21, in Halifax, N.S. Featured speakers include a former top adviser to president Barack Obama, David Axelrod.

**Iran, the U.S., and the Regional Crisis**—Seyed Hossein Mousavian, a Middle East security and nuclear policy specialist at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, presents this talk about the complexities of the relationship between Iran and the U.S. The Group of 78 presents this talk. Knox Presbyterian Church, 120 Lisgar St., Ottawa. 7-9 p.m. Regular admission, \$10; unwaged/student, \$5. Online registration, or tickets will be available at the door.

**MONDAY, APRIL 23**

**"Tell Them We're Human:" What the Rohingya Crisis Tells us about the World and Canada's Foreign Policy Choices**—The Canadian International Council's National Capital Region branch presents Bob Rae, Canada's special envoy on the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar. 5 p.m. registration, reception, and cash bar; 6 p.m. presentation, discussion; 7:30 pm dinner (optional). Rideau Room, Sheraton Hotel, 150 Albert St., Ottawa. For a list of ticket prices and to register: <https://cic-ncbapr232018.eventbrite.ca>.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24

**CCSPA Government Breakfast Reception**—The Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association invites all MPs, Senators, and staff to its annual government breakfast reception. 7:30-9 a.m. Ottawa Marriott (100 Kent St.). Please RSVP to Nancy Hitchins at [hitchinsn@ccspa.org](mailto:hitchinsn@ccspa.org).

**Life and Health Insurance Industry Advocacy Day**—CEOs representing Canada's life and health insurance industry will be in Ottawa to meet with Parliamentarians about relevant issues of importance to Canadians, such as ensuring access to affordable prescription drugs. For more information, contact Susan Murray, vice president, government relations and policy, with the CLHIA at [smurray@clhia.ca](mailto:smurray@clhia.ca).

**Engineers Canada Reception**—Engineers Canada invites Members of Parliament, Senators, and their staff to a reception on Parliament Hill featuring a discussion on the public policy issues facing the engineering profession in Canada. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Room 216-N, Speaker's Lounge, Centre Block.

**Meet and Greet with new Power & Politics Host Vassy Kapelos**—Meet the new host of CBC's flagship political show *Power & Politics* at a reception hosted at the Rossy Pavilion in the National Arts Centre. 1 Elgin St., Ottawa. 7-9 p.m. RSVP to [rspv@cbc.ca](mailto:rspv@cbc.ca) by April 16.

*The Parliamentary Calendar is a free events listing. Send in your political, cultural, diplomatic, or governmental event in a paragraph with all the relevant details under the subject line 'Parliamentary Calendar' to [news@hilltimes.com](mailto:news@hilltimes.com) by Wednesday at noon before the Monday paper or by Friday at noon for the Wednesday paper. We can't guarantee inclusion of every event, but we will definitely do our best. Events can be updated daily online too.*

The Hill Times



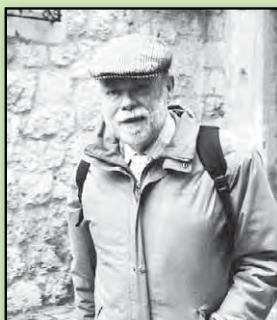




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Keynote Speakers: Jim Forest & Shad



Saturday, April 28, 2018  
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

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Tickets available through Eventbrite.com ([bit.ly/2BEZ4LS](https://bit.ly/2BEZ4LS)). General \$25/Students \$15.  
For more information contact Colette Halferty at [chalferty@henrinouwen.org](mailto:chalferty@henrinouwen.org), or 416-925-3745.

