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NEWS NDP LEADERSHIP

How long will 'lame duck' Mulcair stay on as leader?

Hard for him to remain leader for nearly two years: NDP MP Davies.

By **CHelsea NASH**

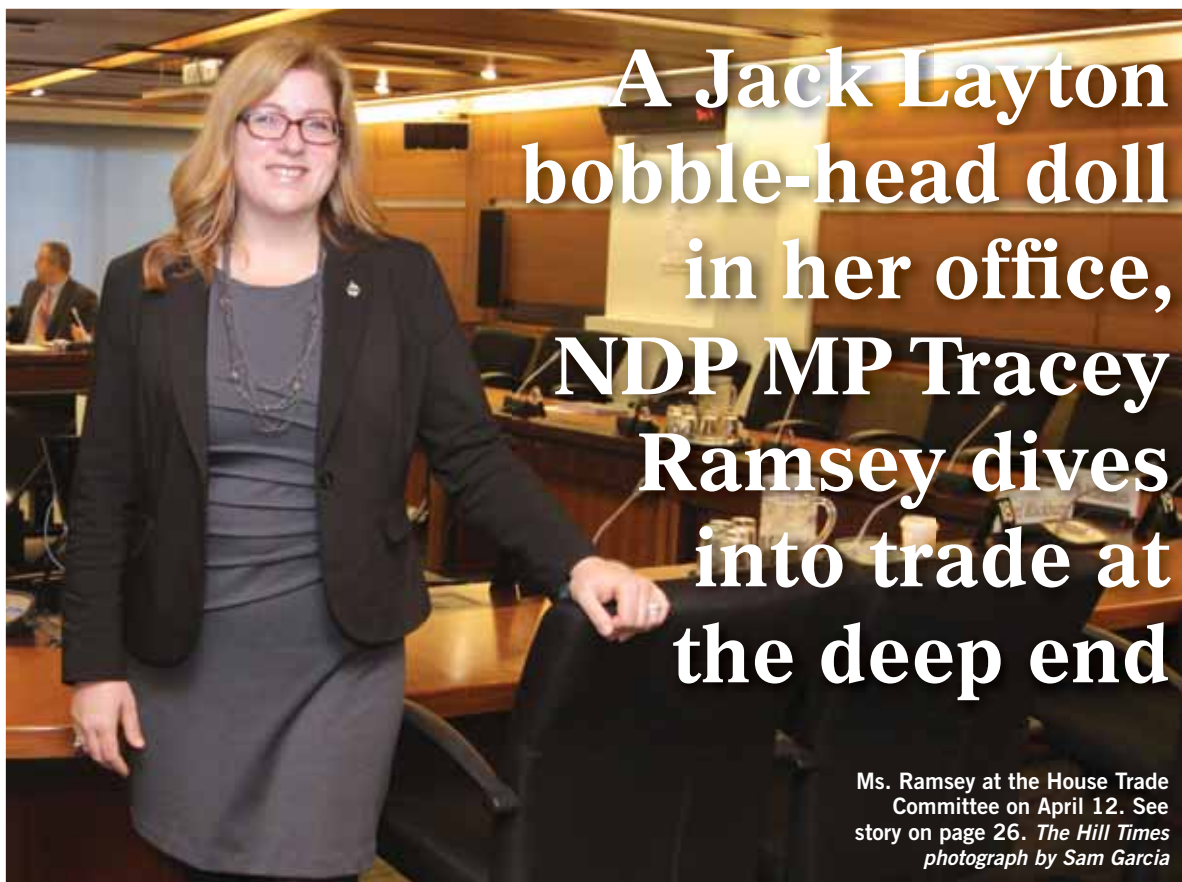
New Democrat Members of Parliament don't agree on whether Thomas Mulcair should stay on as leader for up to two years after he received only 48 per cent of votes from delegates at his leadership review on the weekend.

NDP MP Don Davies (Vancouver Kingsway, B.C.) questioned how Mr. Mulcair could remain leader for so long.

"The numbers are real," he said. "I think it's very difficult for a leader to continue on for a year and a half after they've received a delegate vote of 48 per cent."

Continued on page 4

NEWS HILL LIFE & PEOPLE



Ms. Ramsey at the House Trade Committee on April 12. See story on page 26. *The Hill Times* photograph by Sam Garcia

NEWS SPENDING

MP airline expenses plunge as reporting requirements beefed

By **TIM NAUMETZ**

Members of Parliament dramatically reduced spending on free air travel for return trips anywhere in Canada and also sharply curtailed hospitality expenses as the House of Commons expanded expenditure reporting requirements in the fallout over the 2013 Senate expense scandal, MP spending reports for the period show.

The number of "special" trips anywhere in the country, apart from regular trips between Ottawa and MPs' electoral districts, dropped 24 per cent from the fiscal reporting year of April 2013 to March 2014 to the fiscal year of April 2014 to March 2015, the reports show.

Continued on page 25

NEWS DEVELOPMENT

Face-time good, funding underwhelming, say aid groups

By **MARIE-DANIELLE SMITH**

Canadian international development organizations are buoyed by Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau's open door, though they'd like to see the government open its wallet wider.

Gillian Barth, CEO of CARE Canada, told *The Hill Times* she's met more often with the international development minister since December than she has in the last 10 years.

"[Ms. Bibeau is] definitely out and about, she's definitely, I would

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OPINION NDP LEADERSHIP

A movement in search of a leader: where does the NDP go from here?

Tom Mulcair isn't the man to lead a movement, and it's a movement his party is likely to need to challenge for power.

By **LES WHITTINGTON**

OTTAWA—I never understood why Thomas Mulcair kept saying, "When I'm prime minister" during last fall's election campaign. Whatever he was thinking, the smarmy, overconfident phraseology struck me as totally wrong—sym-

bolic of a tone-deaf campaign that finally caught up with him in the rejection of his leadership on Sunday.

Mulcair is a decent fellow who did well as an antagonist to Stephen Harper in the Commons. Some will say he was treated shabbily by his

Continued on page 11

NEWS PUBLIC SAFETY

Goodale keeping options open for CBSA oversight

By **PETER MAZEREEUW**

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale is leaving the door cracked open to new solutions for supervising the Canada Border Services Agency, amid calls from within the Senate, opposition, and civil rights and refugee groups for a different solution from the parliamentary oversight committee promised by the government.

The deaths of two immigration detainees in less than one week last month renewed long-standing calls for better oversight of the

Continued on page 24

MULCAIR'S UNDOING

Powers: Selfies and sunny ways win over curmudgeons **P. 11**

Hébert: An irrational road to nowhere **P. 10**

Richler: Mulcair casualty of NDP brash hubris **P. 18**



FEATURE BUZZ



Angela Bogdan, RHOMA president Sandelle Scrimshaw, Sharon Hapton, RHOMA program director Penny Reedie and past president Rick Kohler.



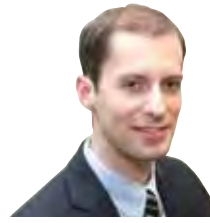
Volunteers made a lentil and Swiss chard recipe.



Ai-Ju Chang and Sunny Y.P. Sun from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.



Georgian Ambassador and ODA president Alexander Latsabidze and Georgian consul Ketevan Markozia.



HEARD ON THE HILL

BY PETER MAZEREEUW

Soup's on for Syrian refugees



Volunteer Catherine Wilde, Ms. Bogdan and Global Affairs Canada's Laurie Peters.
The Hill Times photographs by Sam Garcia

Public servants, diplomats, and Governor General **David Johnston** rolled up their sleeves last weekend to take part in a soup-making marathon for Syrian refugees in Ottawa.

The bigwigs were among about 200 people expected to help whip up batches of a lentil and Swiss chard concoction over the five-hour event, which is set to be repeated April 16. The goal is to deliver 5,000 servings of comfort food to some of the nearly 1,500 refugees who have been resettled in Ottawa after fleeing Syria.

The event was organized by the Women's Network at Global Affairs Canada, the Retired Heads of Mission Association and the Ottawa Diplomatic Association along with Soup Sisters, a non-profit organization that says it's "dedicated to providing comfort to women, children and youth through the making, sharing and donating of soup."

Canada's chief of protocol at Global Affairs, **Angela Bogdan**, set the wheels for the event in motion after hearing of similar events held in Calgary and Lethbridge, Alta., said Soup Sisters founder **Sharon Hapton**. Volunteers paid \$25 each to take part in the event in Ottawa, which was held at La Cité collégiale east of Vanier.

The recipe for the soup made Saturday came from a Syrian family in Calgary, and includes cumin, thyme, and parsley, said Ms. Hapton. It is also vegan and halal, as is the batch of vegetable soup that is set to be brewed up on April 16. The soup containers will include labels listing ingredients and heating directions in Arabic, she said.

The soup will be delivered to local resettlement agencies for delivery to or pick up by the refugee families. The Your Independent Grocer company has also donated freezer space to store some of the soup before delivery, according to **Paula Roy**, an organizer for the Soup Sisters Ottawa chapter.

Ex-MP publishes controversial book

Former Liberal MP **Gary Francis McCauley** published a book last week that's sure to generate a reaction from current and past members of the Canadian military. Titled *Fraud & Disability: The SNAFU at Veterans Affairs*, the 140-page book details countless cases of what Mr. McCauley considers bogus disability claims by current or former members of the armed forces and RCMP. One chapter he called *People Out to Screw the Department* details Mr. McCauley's opinions on post-traumatic stress disorder and some questionable-sounding claims—the names of claimants aren't included—related to PTSD he says came before him while he served on the Veterans Review and Appeal Board, which hears appeals over benefit claims denied by the federal government, in the mid-2000s.

Mr. McCauley, who represented Moncton, N.B. from 1979 to 1984, had previously published a pair of historical fiction novels based loosely on the experiences of his uncle, who served in the Second World War.

"That was my image of a veteran when I went to work for the Veterans Review and Appeal Board. I quickly learned that the people I was seeing didn't measure up to that image," he said in an interview.

Mr. McCauley said disability fraud among veterans and soldiers isn't scrutinized carefully enough in Canada, thanks to a culture of "mindless patriotism" in which criticism of the military is taboo.

"I think the politicians are as much in the dark as the Canadian public," he said.

The book can be ordered through its publisher, Thorny Issue Press.

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“Canadian law enforcement seizures of contraband tobacco routinely include high-powered weapons, hard and designer drugs, stolen vehicles and other merchandise, and lots of cash.”

- Christian Leuprecht, Smoking Gun: Strategic Containment of Contraband Tobacco and Cigarette Trafficking in Canada. MacDonald Laurier Institute, March, 2016 **

CASH, DRUGS & GUNS

“Police seized \$13.5 million worth of tobacco, more than \$3 million in U.S. cash, \$1.5 million in Canadian cash and more than 800 kilograms of cocaine”

- More than 60 arrested in huge contraband tobacco raids, Montreal Gazette, March 30, 2016***

THE HARD TRUTH

“The people on [First Nation] reserves “are being exploited” by criminal organizations”

- Canada’s flourishing contraband tobacco market helps fund overseas terrorism: report, Global News, March 30, 2016****

The Federal government needs to take action to stop illegal tobacco...Now!



*<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/pubs/tobac-tabac/tobacco-tabac-broch-eng.pdf>

**<http://www.macdonaldlaurier.ca/files/pdf/MLILeuprechtContrabandPaper-03-16-WebReady.pdf>

***<http://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/surete-du-quebec-involved-in-huge-contraband-money-laundering-raids>

****<http://globalnews.ca/news/2608297/canadas-flourishing-contraband-tobacco-market-helps-fund-overseas-terrorism-report/>

NEWS NDP LEADERSHIP

Mulcair looking at 'awkward two years'

Difficult for him remain leader for nearly two years: NDP MP Davies.

Continued from page 1

With a leadership convention potentially taking two years to come to light, he said the party would appreciate Mr. Mulcair using his abilities in the House of Commons for "some period of time," but likely not until the convention, for which a date has yet to be set.

"We have to have an interim leader now, whether that's Tom or someone else is a subject of discussion. In my view, it's going to be very difficult for Mr. Mulcair to stay on until our next permanent leader is chosen in a year and a half," Mr. Davies told reporters outside the Commons the day after the vote.

Other NDP MPs, though, suggested they felt differently.

"Anyone who is suggesting he shouldn't continue is in a sense saying the NDP shouldn't use one of its biggest assets in the House of Commons to hold the government to account. Who would not want to hold the government to account?" Peter Julian, NDP house leader (New Westminster-Burnaby, B.C.) told *The Hill Times*.

Erin Weir (Regina-Lewvan, Sask.) said he wouldn't see the vote as being against Mr. Mulcair as much as a vote for a new leader.

"I think that delegates, who represent party members, wanted a new leader in place for the 2019 federal election, but we're happy to have Tom Mulcair continue to lead us in Parliament for a while longer," he told *The Hill Times*.

"My sense is that many people who want a new leader for the 2019 federal election are still very impressed with Tom's performance in the House and would be happy to have him serve as a parliamentary leader for a few months or even a couple of years."

He said he thinks it's a very "exciting and encouraging thing" to have a leadership race in the works while Mr. Mulcair stays on as leader because "it's an opportunity to renew the party in preparation for 2019."

Mr. Mulcair was in the House of Commons speaking on his party's behalf in question period on Tuesday.

Mr. Julian said the sense at the convention was a positive one when Mr. Mulcair announced he would stay on as leader until the party selects a new one.

"I think you probably saw the response from delegates at convention. He was in front of the delegation, he said I intend to stay on until my successor is elected, and there was applause from the room. That there was a very good reaction from the folks who were at the convention and had just voted on his leadership," Mr. Julian said.

Political scientist Duane Bratt said Mr. Mulcair is now a "lame duck" and that he's going to have a "really awkward two years."

"He's just been disassociated from his party. I don't know how he can lead that party, even in an interim role, for up to two years.



Tom Mulcair speaks to delegates at the NDP convention on Sunday. *The Hill Times* photograph by Laura Ryckewaert



Delegates cast their ballots during the vote on Tom Mulcair's leadership review on April 10. *The Hill Times* photograph by Laura Ryckewaert



Grassroots protesters hold a sign that reads, 'For democracy and socialism back in the NDP' at the convention in Edmonton on April 9. *The Hill Times* photograph by Laura Ryckewaert



NDP delegates applaud Tom Mulcair before he speaks on April 10. *The Hill Times* photograph by Laura Ryckewaert



"Anyone who is suggesting he shouldn't continue is in a sense saying the NDP shouldn't use one of its biggest assets in the House of Commons to hold the government to account," says NDP MP Peter Julian. *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright



NDP MP Don Davies speaks to reporters about Tom Mulcair's leadership Monday outside the House of Commons. *The Hill Times* photograph by Chelsea Nash



Alberta Premier Rachel Notley speaks at the NDP policy convention. *The Hill Times* photograph by Laura Ryckewaert

He's not going to have any carrots and sticks in dealing with his own caucus. He's going to have no credibility when he's questioning the government," said the Mount Royal University professor.

"Mulcair is the leader of a third party, who has just been publicly embarrassed, publicly fired by his own party," he said. "He'd have been better off stepping down and bringing in a caretaker."

"The NDP has administration, but they don't have leadership," said Stephen Taylor, a former director of the conservative National Citizens Coalition.

While he said he does think the NDP is having a "crisis of conscience," he doesn't necessarily think Mr. Mulcair should resign at this point.

"It would seem like a continuity issue now if he were to step down," he said. "The party is looking to renew, I suppose, but I don't think that him administering the party up until that point is in conflict with that renewal."

On the note of "crisis of conscience," one thing that did come out of the convention that very well may shape the party's future is the disagreement between Premier

Rachel Notley's Alberta NDP and some within the grassroots of the party over her support for and their opposition to the development of pipelines and the oil industry. A policy document released by a group of authors, activists, artists, and others last year called the Leap Manifesto outlines environmental policies that go against Ms. Notley's views on pipelines and fossil-fuel use and had the Alberta NDP openly discussing cutting ties with the national NDP. Ms. Notley, though, told reporters Monday she wouldn't pursue calls to split from the federal party.

"Mulcair couldn't bridge those divides, that's why they got rid of him," said Mr. Bratt.

Mr. Davies said bridging divides is one thing he would like to see in the next leader.

"I would like to see a leader that can unite our party, that can bridge the different movements within our party from left to right. For example, I think we can have responsible resource development, and take the leadership role in climate change and the environment," said Mr. Davies.

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NEWS INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



International Development Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau walks with aid agency chiefs to a press conference Jan. 8. *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright

Face-time good, funding underwhelming, say aid groups

Major NGOs didn't make short list but still secured seat at meeting table, as minister embarks on policy revamp.

Continued from page 1

say, consulting most sincerely and seriously," Ms. Barth added.

Ms. Bibeau has held several roundtable discussions with non-governmental organizations since the Liberal government came into power, including one on international humanitarian aid, another on Canadian aid objectives and an unprecedented joint meeting with Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan on military operations and humanitarian aid.

Between five and 15 organizations were present at each meeting, Ms. Barth said.

"We are very encouraged," the Canadian Council for International Co-operation's Chantal Havard said in a recent interview.

"[Minister Bibeau] has indicated her interest in consulting more with organizations and engaging with stakeholders," Ms. Havard said. "There has been a recognition that we need to increase the aid budget, although there hasn't been any firm commitment so far."

Ms. Bibeau's press secretary, Bernard Boutin, said the minister has met with dozens of humanitarian and development-focused organizations "across the country as well as abroad."

That will continue as her office launches an "official consultation on Canada's international development policy," Mr. Boutin said. The 2016 federal budget says the government will review Canada's international assistance policy framework over the next year, and the outcomes will inform next year's budget.

Ms. Bibeau's ministerial mandate letter tasks her with "refocusing" aid toward the poorest of the poor, and with creating a "new policy and funding framework."

After years of stagnant aid budgets, the Liberal government this year set aside \$256 million over two years in new resources, but CCIC called that "disappointingly modest." It's been pushing the government to set a timeline to ramp up the aid budget to hit 0.7 per cent of gross national income, an internationally agreed target Canada's been urged to meet by the UN's secretary general.

CARE Canada called the budget boost "a step in the right direction."

Paradis praised

Mr. Boutin said the focus, for now, is "to consult broadly and to re-engage in a dialogue with development stakeholders."

Not everyone in Canada's development community sees this as a re-engagement, however. Most report having had a good relationship with the most recent international development minister under the Conservatives, Christian Paradis, though relations with the government were chillier before he took up the file in 2013.

"We had a very good relationship with him, no question about it. He...worked very well with the development community," said Ms. Barth. "Prior to Minister Paradis, it was a different experience. We certainly didn't have very many consultations. There

certainly weren't very many opportunities to meet."

"It was much easier to collaborate and engage with Minister Paradis. He was more available and open than his predecessors," Ms. Havard said.

Engagement to boost 'buy-in'

A ministerial briefing book obtained through an access-to-information request shows a short list of stakeholders bureaucrats recommended the minister contact within six months of taking office. She was sworn in Nov. 4, which puts the 180-day mark in early May.

It's only a short list, the document emphasizes.

Engagement, it says, "strengthens stakeholder understanding and buy-in to the government's international development agenda" and "informs the government policies, programs and activities that frame and deliver that agenda based on stakeholder input."

The usual suspects are there, well-funded and long-established groups like the Aga Khan Foundation, World Vision, the Red Cross and a variety of United Nations agencies.

Friendly governments are included too, such as the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, the European Commission and the United Arab Emirates, with which Canada entered into a "shared strategic agenda" on development co-operation in 2013. The UAE has ramped up its foreign aid in recent years, giving billions of dollars to recipients mainly in the Middle East and North Africa, and blowing past traditional Western aid donors like Canada in terms of money spent as a percentage of gross national income.

Three organizations associated with the private sector are included. There's the World Economic Forum and MasterCard, with which Canada partners on food security in Asia and financial inclusion programs, respectively. The third is the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, a big supporter of the development financing initiative announced by the Conservatives in their 2015 federal budget.

"Early engagement with the Chamber could help support the smooth implementation of the initiative," the briefing book says.

Some major NGOs not listed

CARE Canada didn't make the list of 27 entities, despite being one of the top recipients of government funding for humanitarian activities.

Neither did Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) nor the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, another notable partner and a participant in joint programming with the International Development Research Centre.

Claudia Blume, a press officer with MSF, confirmed its executive director has met with Ms. Bibeau.

"It doesn't concern me," Ms. Barth said in reaction to CARE Canada not being on the list.

"We obviously are at these tables," she said. "We are a very, very healthy partner and have been with them for quite a number of years."

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The Hill Times

AID GROUPS

Stakeholders on the minister's short list

Aga Khan Foundation Canada	Organisation internationale de la Francophonie
Australia	UN Development Programme
Canadian Chamber of Commerce	UN High Commission for Refugees
Canadian Council for International Co-operation	UNICEF
Canadian Network for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
Canadian Red Cross Society	United Arab Emirates
European Commission	United Kingdom
Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria	United States
Global Partnership for Education	World Bank Group
Grand Challenges Canada	World Economic Forum
International Development Research Centre	World Food Programme
MasterCard	World Health Organization
Micronutrient Initiative	World Vision Canada
OECD Development Assistance Committee	

NEWS TAX EVASION

Tory critic wants a reluctant CBC to hand over Panama Papers

Lebouthillier to travel to Paris to discuss financial data leak while CRA zeros in on the Isle of Man as a tax haven.

By CARL MEYER

The Conservative Party's national revenue critic is calling on the CBC to hand over its Panama Papers data to Canada's tax agency, something the Crown corporation is refusing to do.

Ziad Aboultaif (Edmonton Manning, Alta.) says information coming out of a mammoth leak of documents detailing a global transfer of wealth into offshore accounts is fair game for the Canada Revenue Agency to demand.

"If someone says, especially the media, 'I have something,'...I think they have to back it up," Mr. Aboultaif told *The Hill Times* in an interview.

"Maybe they have information the CRA doesn't have, and the CRA is asking for details, and I think they have the right to do so."

The tax agency has formally asked the CBC to hand over the information, the broadcaster reported April 11, but the CBC is refusing, saying it does not reveal its sources and pointing to a similar request in 2013 that it also rejected.

Mr. Aboultaif said press freedom can't always trump the public interest. "[If] it has to do with the public, public issues...I think they need to back it up," he said.

There are 350 Canadians in the database leak, CBC has said, citing an unspecified report. News articles indicate that the information in the leak comes from Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca. *The Hill Times* has not seen the documents and cannot independently verify the information.

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists is working with two Canadian news outlets, the CBC and the *Toronto Star*, as well as others around the world to process the cache of records into news stories.

The consortium has already rebuffed requests to release the data en masse, stating that while the Panama Papers reveal questionable activity by politicians, banks and celebrities, "other parts of the data are of a private nature and of no interest to the public."

One concern is that offshore accounts aren't necessarily illegal as long as the money is disclosed to the relevant tax authorities when necessary.

Minister to attend Paris meeting

National Revenue Minister Diane Lebouthillier (Gaspésie-Les Îles de la Madeleine, Que.) will travel to an OECD meeting



National Revenue Minister Diane Lebouthillier is travelling to an OECD meeting in Paris to discuss the Panama Papers. *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright.

in Paris on April 13 to discuss the fallout from the Panama Papers, said Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance François-Philippe Champagne (Saint Maurice-Champlain, Que.) Monday.

The leak is already shaking up global politics, with Icelandic Prime Minister Sigmundur Gunnlaugsson stepping down as controversy swirled around his offshore holdings, and British Prime Minister David Cameron facing calls for an inquiry.

Reports indicate the Royal Bank of Canada has also been named in the documents. The bank says it has "established controls, policies and procedures in place" to detect and prevent tax evasion.

In Ottawa, Ms. Lebouthillier outlined the agency's plan to put to work the \$444.4 million over five years that her government had already introduced in Budget 2016 to "crack down on tax evasion and combat tax avoidance."

"Most middle-class Canadians pay their fair share of taxes, but some wealthy individuals avoid taxes by hiding their money in offshore tax havens. This is not fair, and it needs to change," Mr. Champagne told reporters April 11.

The CRA will be using the money to better examine whole jurisdictions, starting with the Isle of Man. The Crown dependency in the Irish Sea saw \$860 million in electronic transfers in a 12-month period, said Mr. Champagne.

The CRA's choice of the Isle of Man as their first jurisdiction-wide target is notable as it is the same location named in another CBC investigation of the tax agency and auditing firm KPMG.

Other government initiatives include hiring extra auditors and specialists to go after "high-risk" individuals, and setting up an "independent offshore compliance advisory committee" to advise the minister and the CRA on "future strategies," said Mr. Champagne.

The Liberal Party committed in its election platform to direct CRA "to immediately begin an analysis and stronger enforcement of tax evasion."

Tax expert doubts effectiveness

The \$444.4 million is the "largest single investment in the agency's history," said Mr. Champagne. He predicted the agency will "identify and recoup \$2.6 billion in unpaid taxes over five years."

Others aren't so convinced. University of Ottawa law professor Vern Krishna said more money for the CRA won't necessarily help Canada track down tax dodgers.

"The question is not giving them economic resources, the question is how they're going to use that money to step up their tax avoidance initiatives, and whether they will use it effectively and efficiently depends upon factors that are not necessarily within their control," he said in an interview.

Mr. Aboultaif called the government's investment into an offshore tax evasion crackdown an "aggressive" move, and while

he said he believes it is a legitimate use of public resources, he also cast doubt on the return on investment.

"\$444 million is a big number, it's not a small investment. How much are you going to get back?" said Mr. Aboultaif. "The problem is you cannot anticipate how much money you will make out of such an investment."

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EDITORIAL SYRIAN REFUGEES

A parliamentary committee grapples with the question, does it matter where refugees come from?

The number of Syrian refugees admitted to Canada, as of last week, is 26,213, according to the Immigration Department's website. This number at once represents both an amazing achievement and a token of compassion. It is an amazing achievement because the new Liberal government was able to marshal government resources to achieve it as quickly as it did.

But it is also only a token because the need is so extraordinarily great. More than 43 million people worldwide are now forcibly displaced as a result of conflict and persecution in their countries, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

The UN lists on its website some of the countries that produce large refugee populations. They include Afghanistan (2.9 million), Iraq (1.8 million), Somalia (700,000), Congo (456,000), Myanmar (407,000), Colombia (390,000), and Sudan (370,000).

Canadian NGOs, church groups, and refugee lawyers who work daily with asylum seekers in Canada can tell you that the list goes on to a very great length. It includes Rwanda and Burundi, among other African countries, and even European countries like Hungary and Western Hemisphere neighbours like Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico.

Persecutions and death threats abound. Sometimes refugees are poor and in danger from civil conflict. At other times they are successful middle-class people whose integrity has put them on the wrong side of corrupt police, military, government officials, and organized crime.

The refugee story is multilayered but it has one thing in common: when legitimate refugees are accepted in Canada they regularly arrive here with strong sense of gratitude.

For this reason it was more than a little strange to read reports of members of the House Committee on Public Safety and National Security raising a stink about the reporting of the number of Syrian refugees who moved out of camp tents to Canada as opposed to those who came to Canada from outside camps. "Outside," it turns out, were makeshift apartments and other temporary dwellings, in some cases more tentative than having a place inside a camp.

Lurking behind the questions of where refugees came from was the suggestion that perhaps some refugees were not so deserving.

Rouba Al-Fattal, a part-time professor on Middle East and Arab politics at the University of Ottawa, spotted the implication and mentioned it in an op-ed in *The Hill Times* on April 11, writing that the question gave rise to comments that Canada's generosity was being abused.

Prof. Al-Fattal has learned from first-hand experience what many other Canadians are learning: a deserving refugee need not come from a camp.

For that matter, a deserving refugee need not come only from Syria. It's a lesson being learned across Canada daily as more refugee families become neighbours and friends.

It's a lesson that even appears to be part of a learning experience in parliamentary committees.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Columnists Dyer, Taylor both 'on the mark'

Re: "What would a Syrian peace deal look like?" (*Embassy*, April 6, p. 6) and "The pitfalls of training foreign fighters," (*Embassy*, April 6, p. 7). Both opinion pieces by Gwynne Dyer and Scott

Taylor are on the mark. How do we get the people forming government policy and action to pay attention to such words of wisdom?

Roland Trenaman
 Vancouver, B.C.

Israel's boycott makes sense: Lauer

Re: "Settlements aren't the obstacle—hatred of Israel is," (*Embassy*, March 2, p. 7). Israel's defenders in Canada like to pretend that Palestinians operate not on the basis of facts but emotions: they are irrational, almost genetically inclined to hate Israel.

Luckily for us, there is plenty of information out there to verify that the Palestinian anger is based on

Israeli actions: colonization in the occupied West Bank, the illegal blockade of Gaza and the intensifying discrimination against Palestinian Israelis.

Israel and its Canadian supporters clearly need help to overcome this denial. I think the boycott movement could be just the right therapy.

Martina Lauer
 Chesterville, Ont.

Canada's has an edge in China ties: Romain

Re: "China-focused think tank coming to Ottawa," (*Embassy*, April 6, p. 8). Tuesday afternoon, Professor Shi Xuehua of Carleton University's Confucius Institute lectured on China and Canada.

When the question, "Why didn't Canada join the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank?" was raised there, a member of the Canada-China Friendship Society replied, "Because the United States prevented it." Another member later added that after six months in government neither Prime Minister Justin Trudeau nor Foreign Minister Stéphane Dion had yet made any important moves toward the government of China.

Professor Shi made it clear that a window of opportunity still exists, and China

accepts Canada's good-neighbour relationship with the United States of America.

Holding up Adrienne Clarkson's book, Norman Bethune, I remarked Canada had an "edge" in establishing ties with China. In the book, Ms. Clarkson writes "[he is] the single most famous Canadian in the world, known to a billion and a half Chinese."

Left unsaid at Professor Shi's lecture, I recall at the launch of the book in 2009 in Ottawa (Rockcliffe) questioning whether Bethune became Canada's greatest missionary, and the former governor general magnanimously replying that she didn't necessarily mean a religious missionary.

Andrew Romain
 Ottawa, Ont.



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NOTE TO READERS

A letter from the publishers

Covering Canada's federal government like it was our hometown is where we have staked our claim. Now we're doing more of it.

Here's some background about the start of a second weekly print edition of *The Hill Times*.

When the word got out that this would happen there was a fair amount of media attention, mostly positive. Maybe the news was well received because our decision to increase our publishing frequency seemed counterintuitive in a time of newspaper contraction for so many urban dailies. It felt like a sunny story in a gloomy climate.

Some of the comment was positively heartwarming, like that of Carleton University journalism professor Randy Boswell, who was interviewed by *The Ottawa Business Journal*.

"I know that it sounds unusual, given all we've heard lately in the Canadian news industry, but *Hill Times* is a good model for the kind of news organization that can survive and poten-

tially thrive in this media landscape," he said. "A lot of news organizations would kill for the kind of loyalty and engagement that the people who subscribe to *The Hill Times* have."

The *Ottawa Citizen* reported that, "The second print edition [of *The Hill Times*] was announced on the heels of the launch of a new *Hill Times* website this week."

The website, by the way, now has a new foreign policy section, hill-times.com/global.

J-Source, The Canadian Journalism Project website, reported, "The new Wednesday edition of *The Hill Times* will have more political content but will still serve those interested in diplomatic and foreign affairs news."

In fact, we were learning that it was even more important for *The Hill Times* to connect the dots between foreign policy and federal politics.

In recent years, both political and civil service government were becoming much more vocal. In civil society and in lobby groups, there was also a new stirring. The capital had a spring in its step.

We could see that *The Hill Times* was going to have to expand its coverage of people, politics, and policy simply because there was more of it to cover.

Starting with this issue there are now *Hill Times* print editions twice a week and the news and opinion

that formerly distinguished *Embassy* over the past 12 years has now found a home in the expanded *Hill Times*.

The distinctive editorial voices and expertise have moved into a new, more spacious, home where the larger political conversation plays a bigger role.

Back in the days of the Mulroney government when the first issue of *The Hill Times* appeared, it seemed like a simple job to publish a newspaper. Now we know that the flagship paper must be an anchor for a host of other services. For *The Hill Times*, it's a member-access website, a daily briefing, and daily news updates. It's a public policy events division, *Hill Times Events*, and three highly-focused news and data services, *Parliament Now*, *The Wire Report*, and *The Lobby Monitor*. And it's a small but growing book publishing division, *Hill Times Books*.

But at the heart of it, covering Canada's federal government like it was our hometown is where we have staked our claim. Now we're doing more of it.

We think the Wednesday *Hill Times* with new features, columns, and new coverage will round out the week in politics and government at a time when the week has become much busier.

We await your feedback.
— Ross Dickson, Anne Marie Creskey, Jim Creskey



The Hill Times photograph by Jake Wright

INSIDE DEFENCE AFGHAN MISSION

We failed in Afghanistan, let's admit it

The Afghan army is in complete disarray, the Taliban is resurgent, the Islamic State has a foothold in the country, and schools are being closed.



SCOTT TAYLOR

OTTAWA—While Canada pulled the plug on the Afghanistan mission two years ago, the United States and a handful of other NATO countries have continued to provide a drip feed of life support to prop up the Western-installed regime in Kabul. No one even pretends that the current Afghan government has a democratic foundation.

When the election process in 2014 failed to produce a verifiable result, the U.S. brokered a power sharing arrangement wherein Ashraf Ghani would rule as president, and his rival, Abdullah Abdullah, would assume the newly fabricated post of national chief executive officer. Given that this not-so-dynamic duo are in cahoots with the same motley collection of warlords in top ministerial posts, they are as widely despised as the country's former president, Hamid Karzai.

To prop up this Kabul cabal against the steadily increasing threat from the Taliban, Al Qaeda and now Daesh (also known as the Islamic State, ISIL and ISIS), the U.S.-led international coalition continues to pour in weapons and trainers with the objective of making the Afghan security forces self-sufficient. This was of course the initial goal of the NATO International Security Assistance Force when it first deployed to Afghanistan more than a decade ago.

Back in those heady days, it was believed that within just three short years the international community could create a democracy, stage an election, build an Afghan army and withdraw all foreign troops by 2005.

Now, given the recent track record of the Afghan security forces in waging a counterinsurgency on their own, it would appear the U.S. would need to extend its military commitment well into the foreseeable future.

Throughout 2015 the Afghan military suffered horrific casualties and lost vast tracts of land to Taliban control. Contributing to the ineffectiveness of these Afghan units is the widespread unreported desertions, which results in the phenomenon known as ghost soldiers. The corrupt commanders continue to collect rations and pay for these non-existent troops. This proves ultimately problematic when those battalions, without full strength, are called upon to actually fight the insurgents.

One of the excuses offered by NATO trainers for their lack of success with the Afghans, and Canadian trainers used these same lines, is that they had to virtually build an Afghan military from scratch



Afghan national police and army personnel and U.S. army soldiers patrol in July 2009 in Zabul province, Afghanistan. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army

following the ouster of the Taliban in 2001. While that excuse might have been applicable in 2002, the fact is that the U.S.-led coalition has been arming, training and equipping Afghans, arguably the fiercest warriors on the planet, for 15 years without achieving success.

In 1914, when Canada heeded Britain's call to arms for the First World War, the number of regular soldiers in uniform was a mere 3,000. Just over four years later, at the signing of the armistice on Nov. 11,

1918, we had trained and equipped 620,000 citizen soldiers into what was considered to be the best shock army in the world.

In 1939, on the eve of the Second World War, Canada's military consisted of 4,500 members in the Permanent Force and a tiny underfunded militia. Less than six years later, at war's end, more than one million men and women had served in uniform, Canada had the one of the largest navies in the world, and arguably one of the most effective air forces on the planet. That is what you call building a military from scratch.

Of course the failure to create an effective security force in Afghanistan and thereby the failure to create a secure environment means that any of the so-called reconstruction successes that were achieved are being reversed. In late March the Afghan Ministry of Education admitted that, due to the escalating insurgency, 714 schools have had to close, leaving 2.5 million Afghan children without education.

In 2014, when Canada staged a day of honour on Parliament Hill to commemorate the 158 soldiers killed and 2,000 wounded during the 12-year commitment to Afghanistan, many pundits used that milestone to ask: was it worth it? This prompted the warmongering apologists to argue it was too soon to tell.

Well, 24 months later the Afghan army is in complete disarray, the Taliban is resurgent, Daesh has a foothold in the country, and schools are being closed. So no, our failure in Afghanistan was not worth the sacrifice in blood and gold. We failed.

Scott Taylor is editor and publisher of *Esprit de Corps* magazine.
The Hill Times

INSIDE POLITICS NDP LEADERSHIP

Mulcair's irrational road to nowhere

Tom Mulcair must be a glutton for punishment. Some even believe he could be amenable to being drafted to run for the job he just lost. That sounds crazy but no more so than some of the choices made in Edmonton this weekend. Rational calculations, as recent events have demonstrated, are not always at the root of political decisions.



CHANTAL HÉBERT

MONTREAL—By the time he stood at the podium to address the NDP convention Sunday morning, Thomas Mulcair must have known he was in deep and likely irreversible trouble.

It took little more than a minimum of political acumen to pick up the negative signals that preceded the vote on whether to seek a new leader. Mulcair did not lack for antennae in the corridors of the convention.

Upon arrival in Edmonton on Thursday, a longtime NDP insider told me Mulcair could hope at best to win the vote with 55 per cent. The support of such a slim majority of delegates would have left him well short of the mark he needed to reach to have the legitimacy to stay at the helm. Presumably, the outgoing leader had access to the same sobering assessments of his prospects.

If he ever had any illusions that the 70 per cent-plus confidence vote he was seeking was in the bag, he had to have lost them some time before he finally faced the music on Sunday.

As the convention progressed, Mulcair and his team must have noted that things were taking a turn for the worse. The momentum for a leadership campaign grew with every passing hour, with fewer and fewer New Democrats willing to challenge the case for replacing the leader.

A politician as seasoned as Mulcair wouldn't have thought a single speech would turn the tide or that the meandering address he was about to deliver was up to such a Herculean task.

It is even harder to imagine his inner circle did not at least present him with options that would have spared him a public humiliation and, possibly, left him with a shot at keeping his job.

In the weeks, days and hours leading up to the vote, Mulcair



NDP Leader Tom Mulcair and his wife Catherine Pinhas, pictured April 10 arriving at the convention. *The Hill Times* Photograph by Laura Ryckewaert

was still in control of his destiny. On the way to the podium, he still had course-altering alternatives at his disposal.

As late as last week he could have signalled his intention to oversee a 24-month transition to a successor. In the summer of 2002, then-prime minister Jean Chrétien did just that, setting a date for his retirement more than a year before his actual departure rather than fend off an attempt to drive him out at a Liberal national convention. That paved the way to a dignified exit.

Alternatively, there was a middle ground between losing the vote and stepping down to pre-empt it.

Even as late as Sunday morning, Mulcair could have regained control of the agenda by telling delegates he had resolved to ask the party to organize a leadership convention and planned to run for his own job.

After all, even in the best-case scenario, a decent score on the weekend would have signalled only the beginning of another campaign to survive another convention vote in two years. Would it have been worse to take on real-life rivals in a full-fledged contest than to spend the next few years fighting shadows?

Yes, former Tory leader Joe Clark and the Canadian Alliance's Stockwell Day both took that particular route and it led

them to a wall. But every situation is different. As the prospective leadership field looks now, Mulcair would have stood head and shoulders above the competition. As time went on this weekend, it became less and less clear what the NDP leader's end game was.

It would have made strategic sense for Mulcair to allow, as he did, events to take their course to their inevitable conclusion on Sunday if he has come to simply want to put the leadership chapter of his life behind him. But it seems the opposite is true.

Given the result of the vote, most party leaders standing in his place would have issued a terse farewell and been on their way to

pursue less thankless challenges. Instead he immediately offered to act as the party's caretaker for up to two years.

Mulcair must be a glutton for punishment. Some even believe he could be amenable to being drafted to run for the job he just lost. That sounds crazy but no more so than some of the choices made in Edmonton this weekend. Rational calculations—as recent events have demonstrated—are not always at the root of political decisions.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer for The Toronto Star. This column was released on April 12.

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PLAIN SPEAK NDP LEADERSHIP

Curmudgeons need not apply, it's selfies and sunny ways in 2016

Suffering fools gladly is a great skill in politics. But the crusty, cultish style isn't a big seller now.



TIM POWERS

OTTAWA—Curmudgeons need not apply. For some, having that disposition can be a badge of honour, but not so much if you are looking to win in Canadian politics in 2016 where selfies, sunny ways, and sizzle are currently preferred.

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair, like former prime minister Stephen Harper before him, becomes the second publicly perceived grumpy oldish guy to fall as party leader. The NDP leader was sent packing this past weekend in Edmonton where his party gave him a failing grade for leadership.

Mulcair, again like Harper, is obviously a smart and capable character. He is a seasoned politician unafraid to duck a fight or throw a punch. But he just took a body blow from his own party who felt it was time he was taken out of the ring.

What a difference a year makes? In 2015, Mulcair was the undisputed heavy weight champ of Question Period. Some good that did him! Now he is the guy questioning what the hell happened.

But should it be all that much of a surprise that time has been called on the NDP leader?

Suffering fools gladly is a great skill in politics. Sometimes you do have to pretend you really give a damn about certain things that you find silly or bore you to death. Neither Mulcair, nor Harper, are award-winning actors. The crusty, cultish style isn't a big seller now.

The outgoing NDP leader never seemed to have one constant and authentic public personality. In one role he was the prosecutor and chief in the House of Commons. At other times, he came across as the scolding dismissive parent. He tried to play the common man of the people, but folks just wasn't Mr. Mulcair. He sounded like an autocrat not a New Democrat.

Give him credit for trying. He deserves that. He would be found

innocent if charged with a lack of effort. His crime—being the wrong type of leader at the wrong time, were he contesting the Democratic primaries in the United States now he might look pretty appealing.

Mulcair mirrored former prime minister Harper in disposition and style. His actual competition turned out to be a dynamic likeable celebrity figure—Justin Trudeau. He was ill-equipped for that battle.

For years in public opinion surveys, the late Jack Layton used to be the federal politician Canadians most wanted to have a beer with. No such luck for Mulcair.

When our research firm Abacus last sampled Canadians on some more ephemeral things related to the federal party leaders—people wanted Trudeau to join their vacations, come with them to a movie, or babysit the kids. In more than 16 categories like these, Canadians preferred Trudeau on 10 occasions, Harper on five (good at giving the kids advice apparently) and Mulcair in one; yup he would loan you a \$100 but ironically his line of credit no longer works with the NDP.

The NDP's success in 2011 was real and Mulcair deserved ample recognition for that because of the significant breakthrough in Quebec where he was the most



NDP Leader Tom Mulcair pictured April 9, 2016, at the NDP policy convention in Edmonton. The NDP leader was sent packing this past weekend in Edmonton where his party gave him a failing grade for leadership, but Mr. Mulcair said he will stay on until a new leader is elected. *The Hill Times* photograph by Laura Ryckewaert

well-known New Democrat. Ongoing success though is about proper succession planning.

Federal political parties aren't great at preparing a path of transition. What's next, and the thorough planning that comes with that, is less important than who can win for us now. The NDP Mulcair inherited was Layton's party. It was shaped for and by him over nearly a decade. That said, Mulcair looked like a winner and a potential prime minister in 2012 for the delegates who selected him. Yet, in reality the political landscape was changing and not in the way the NDP calculated.

Mulcair was not able to find a comfortable place for himself and the NDP with Canadians the way they did in the previous election. Mulcair wanted to be prime minister—that was obvious. During the

campaign he even behaved like the previous one limiting access, taking few risks and managing every encounter. There's nothing wrong with a professional approach but if it seems off brand as it did it is hard to believe.

As Mulcair discovered in Alberta, the jury seems to be out if enough members of the NDP want to gain power. That is an identity crisis no leader, no matter how capable, could easily fix. He might end up being thankful it is no longer something he has to worry about.

Mulcair can step away now, knowing he gave it a good go and tell all his detractors to go to hell like a good curmudgeon would!

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OPINION NDP LEADERSHIP

A movement in search of a leader: where does the NDP go from here?



LES WHITTINGTON

Continued from page 1

party at the Edmonton convention. But that's hardly the issue. As leader, he squandered the federal NDP's best chance in many years to advance in an election.

And more to the point, Mulcair isn't the man to lead a movement, and it's a movement his party is likely to need to challenge for power.

Where all this will eventually take the NDP, of course, is completely up in the air after the stunning and divisive three days in Edmonton.

So now both the NDP and the Conservatives must find new leaders and devise a strategy and set of ideas to give them more relevance by 2019.

For the NDP, it may take months, or years, to gauge the fallout from the Edmonton gathering. It was Mulcair's bad luck to be subject to a leadership test at a

time when rabble-rousing Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders was sounding more like an NDP-er in the United States, of all places, than Mulcair himself.

On the face of it, the leadership vote was an emphatic rejection of Mulcair's attempt to position the NDP closer to the political centre.

But he appears to have been caught in an unexpected lose-lose situation by the LEAP manifesto. The proposed platform includes a rapid phaseout of fossil fuels (including no new pipelines) as well as an array of radical left-wing economic prescriptions. It dominated debate and seemed to galvanize delegates impatient with Mulcair's centrist tendencies.

Meanwhile, Mulcair's endorsement of LEAP (even if half-hearted) appears to have alienated some of the many Alberta NDPers in attendance who see it as an extremist (not to say hard-hearted) recipe for disaster for the oil and gas industry and its dwindling workforce.

The convention's adoption of the LEAP initiative was hedged. But coming after Alberta NDP Premier Rachel Notley implored her fellow party members to be more pragmatic in their approach

to the environment, it still seems to have created the kind of bad blood within the NDP that will not be easily overcome.

As to the future, Justin Trudeau and the Liberals proved you can throw out parts of the usual political playbook and still be successful at the ballot box. And, assuming the convention is an accurate indication, the NDP may head into the next election with a set of very radical policies.

There's a lot to be said for thinking big, of course. Incremental, safe approaches that miss the depth and urgency of problems can be a killer—just ask Paul Martin or Michael Ignatieff.

And you could argue that now is the time to overhaul the current system of democratic capitalism from top to bottom.

The North American economy has yet to fully bounce back from the global recession and is headed for years of likely lacklustre growth—thanks to a combination of deindustrialization, ageing populations and slowing productivity. The economic model spun out of the Republican-dominated U.S.—an approach founded on tax cuts, reduced social spending,

deregulation, and general obeisance to Wall Street and corporate America—has not worked.

The legacy includes the outsourcing of millions of jobs, the accumulation of unspeakable wealth in the hands of the very rich, a race to the bottom in policies meant to help average employees, underfunded public services, crumbling cities and fading middle-class prospects and hopes. In the U.S., this has spawned a widespread disgust with authority that has turned parts of the current presidential candidates' campaign into a nihilistic sideshow.

While Harper's program pointed Canada in the same direction, the results were not as pronounced as they have been south of the border. But the strategy and the trend lines—when it comes to income distribution, pro-business policies and wage stagnation—were there.

It stands to reason that many voters are tired of a political dialogue that has remained largely within the same limited centrist parameters for decades and more open to a party willing to champion some radical solutions when it comes to the economy, social

programs and the long-neglected challenge of climate change.

The Liberals tapped into this public discontent in the 2015 election. But it's questionable whether Trudeau's approach will be seen in the long run as dynamic enough to really make much headway on the deeply-entrenched problems faced by average Canadians.

Laudable as the Trudeau government's increased spending on infrastructure may be, for instance, it's not nearly enough to deal effectively with the current inadequacy of the country's highways, bridges and transit systems. And the Liberals' increased child benefits, while helpful, won't solve the problem of unaffordable child care.

Looking ahead for the NDP, a great deal will depend obviously on who wins the leadership contest, what kind of approach he or she takes and whether the party can keep the tensions over energy/environmental issues seen in Edmonton from evolving into a damaging long-term split.

There's also the question, in the end, of how receptive voters might be to the prospect of a radical leftist government in Ottawa and whether voters would ever trust their livelihoods and futures to the NDP. In the U.S., Bernie Sanders' appeal has surprised a lot of people, but so far he's still seen a long shot to win the Democratic nomination, let alone mount a credible run for the White House.

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS **EUROPEAN UNION**

Migrants, euro, Brexit: the EU at risk

Where Britain breaks trail, others might follow.



GWYNNE DYER

LONDON, U.K.—A recent headline on the leading French newspaper *Le Monde* said it all: “Migrants, the euro, Brexit: The European Union is mortal.” And it’s true, the EU could actually collapse, given one or two more years of really bad decisions by the 28 national governments that make up the membership.

The most immediate threat is Brexit (British+exit), the possible result of the yes/no referendum on British membership in the EU that is scheduled for June 23. Prime Minister David Cameron promised this referendum three years ago to placate an anti-EU faction in his own Conservative Party (Cameron himself wants to stay in the EU), but it is coming at a particularly bad time.

Cameron doubtless calculated that the referendum would produce a large majority for staying in, and force the nationalist “Little Englanders” in his own party to shut up for a while. But the vote is actually being held at a time when many English people are upset by the large flow of immigrants into the United Kingdom and blame it on the policy of free movement for EU citizens.

That is only half true: only half the foreign-born people settling in Britain are EU citizens who come by right. The rest are legal immigrants from other parts of the world, also attracted by the relatively prosperous British economy, and if the locals don’t like it they are free to change Britain’s own laws. But the half-truth that it’s all the EU’s fault has been vigorously promoted by the right-wing papers that dominate the British media scene.

The million-plus wave of refugees and economic migrants that has surged into the EU in the past year feeds the British panic even more, although Britain still controls its own borders and none of those migrants can enter the United Kingdom without London’s permission. The result is that the polls now show the “Leave” and “Remain” votes almost neck-and-neck.



The Brexit vote is coming at a particularly bad time for British Prime Minister David Cameron, says Gwynne Dyer. Photo courtesy of the UK government

The refugees and illegal economic migrants really are a problem for most other EU countries. The vast majority of them enter the EU through Greece and Italy, but they almost all want to travel on to the richer EU countries—which, with the admirable exceptions of Germany and Sweden, want nothing to do with them.

This is rapidly leading to a breakdown of the Schengen Agreement, by which all the EU members except the United Kingdom and Ireland abolished their border controls with other Schengen countries. New border fences are now springing up everywhere as EU members try to keep the migrants out.

Dissent with EU policies is growing as some Eastern European countries refuse to accept any refugees at all, and ultra-nationalist parties are growing in strength almost everywhere. In Hungary, and now in Poland, they have even come to power.

Then there is the euro, the common currency shared by 19 EU countries including all the big ones except the United Kingdom. It was a bad idea from the start, because a single currency without a single government behind it cannot deal effectively with big

issues like debt and inflation. It was bound to end up in crisis as the economies of the member states diverged—and they have.

The EU was transfixed all last year by the threat that Greece would crash out of the euro. The Greek crisis has been put on hold for the moment, but it is clear by now that Italy, Spain, and Portugal, at least, would also benefit from leaving the euro zone. This is a currency that has no future, although its demise is not necessarily imminent.

So: three separate problems, none of them likely to be fatal to the EU on its own. The EU survived with separate national currencies for four decades before it adopted the euro; it could do so again, although the transition back would be painful and probably chaotic. The Schengen treaty was a nice idea, but not essential to the Union’s smooth functioning. And Britain’s departure could be nothing more than a spectacular act of self-mutilation.

It’s the fact that all these crises are hitting together that endangers the EU’s very existence. The only immediate and certain consequence of Brexit would be Scotland’s secession from the United Kingdom (so that

it could stay in the EU), and nobody would have much sympathy for England’s post-Brexit difficulties. But the walk-out of the country with the EU’s second-biggest economy would trigger a political earthquake.

The various populations of the EU are seething with dissatisfaction about immigration and refugees, about the euro, about all the compromises and bureaucracy that must be tolerated to keep a 28-country “community” going. Mini-Trumps are cropping up everywhere, offering radical solutions that usually include an explicit or implicit commitment to leave the Union.

It could snowball. Where Britain (or rather, England) breaks trail, others might follow. We could end up with a severely shrunken EU, back down to the original six members plus a few others, while the countries of Eastern Europe try to get used to being once more the buffer between Russia and the West.

Gwynne Dyer is a United Kingdom-based independent journalist who writes a column for *The Hill Times*.

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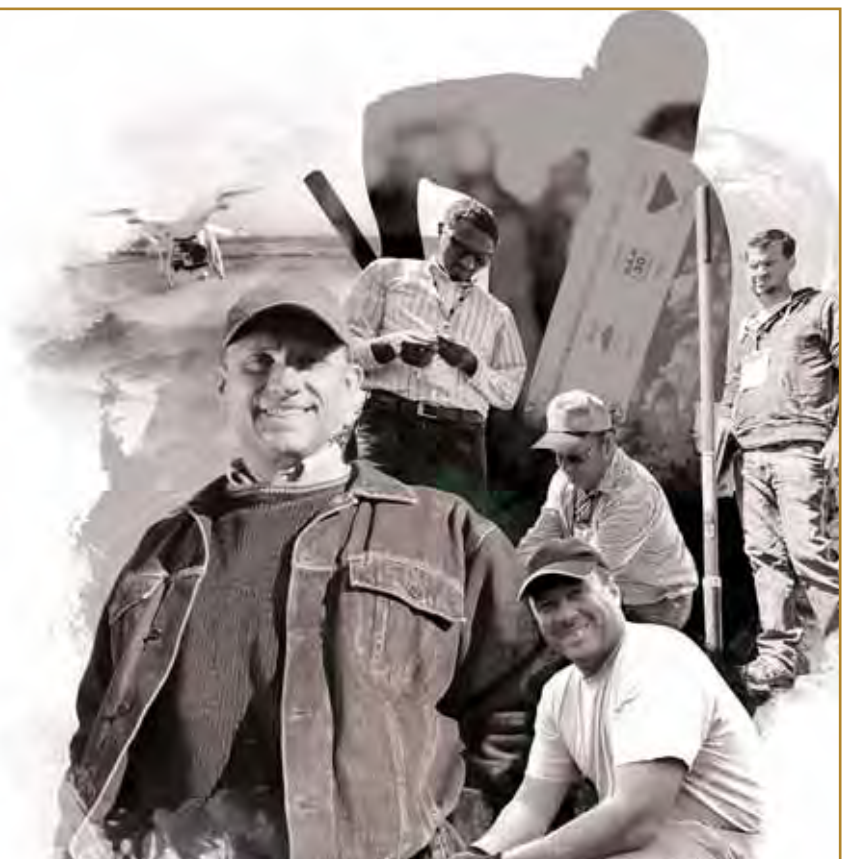
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OPINION NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Nuclear Security Summit: Is that all there is?

Government efforts to prevent a nuclear bomb explosion seem like an endless dance.



DOUGLAS ROCHE

When the recent 50-some-nation Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, aimed at stopping terrorists from obtaining nuclear materials, ended on a flat note, I was reminded of the torch singer Peggy Lee's famous song, *Is That All There Is?*

Standing in front of her blues band, Ms. Lee wistfully sang of clowns and elephants and dancing bears at the circus and then, when it was over, plaintively asked:

"Is that all there is?"

"If that's all there is, my friends, Then let's keep dancing."

Governmental efforts to prevent a nuclear bomb explosion somewhere seem like an endless dance.

In 2010, United States President Barack Obama initiated a series of summits of countries possessing nuclear reactors to minimize the risk of nuclear and radiological terrorism through national actions and international co-operation. The Washington summit was the fourth of these meetings, which have tightened the legal framework to secure civilian-based highly enriched uranium. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau attended.

The challenge to keep nuclear materials out of the hands of a Belgian-style bomber is daunting. The ingredients for a radiological dirty bomb are located at tens of thousands of sites (including hospitals and academic institutions) in more than 100 countries, many of them poorly secured and vulnerable to theft. President Obama warned that the danger of "madmen" setting off a nuclear device is "one of the greatest threats to global security."

Russia, U.S. at odds

Despite a clear analysis of the threat, the Washington summit offered no new firm commitments to ensure a global lockdown of nuclear materials, other than setting up a group of officials to work on the problem. They could not even agree on how to operate a shared global database to highlight existing vulnerabilities.

So we can justifiably ask: is that all there is?

Russia's absence at the summit vividly demonstrated its limited value. Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed that his refusal to attend was because his country was excluded from certain working groups at the summit. U.S.-Russian relations have been in crisis since Putin's annexation of Crimea. But the testiness started well before that event.

When I interviewed senior officials at the Department of Security Affairs and Disarmament in Moscow in 2011, I was told



Above, British Prime Minister David Cameron, French President François Hollande, U.S. President Barack Obama and other leaders of nuclear-armed states talk on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington on April 1. Photo courtesy of U.S. State Department/Ben Solomon

Left, an inert intercontinental ballistic missile at the Titan Missile Museum in Sahuarita, Ariz. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia/Aspersions

that U.S. insistence on building a missile-defence system in Europe, U.S. space weapons research, and the expansion of NATO up to Russia's borders made the Russian government fearful of American power. There'd be no more nuclear disarmament talks, director Mikhail I. Ulyanov told me. "Without nuclear weapons, we'd be toast."

This brings us to the main criticism of the Washington summit process: it did not address the huge stocks of highly enriched uranium and plutonium in military programs, specifically the estimated 15,000-plus nuclear weapons in existence, 95 per cent in the hands of the U.S. and Russia. Because the summit ignored the main places where bomb-ready material is stored, the meeting was, as John Burroughs, executive director of the New York-based Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy, wrote, "a strange spectacle."

New nuclear arms race under way

Moreover, all five major nuclear powers—the U.S., Rus-

sia, the United Kingdom, France and China—are at this moment boycotting a U.N.-sponsored diplomatic process in Geneva trying to establish a legal path to the elimination of nuclear weapons. With the support of 138 countries, the Geneva meetings are discussing legal measures and norms needed to maintain a world without nuclear weapons.

Why are the nuclear powers resisting discussions about how to start such negotiations? They do not want to be subject to a global law that would prohibit and eliminate the very weapons they deploy to maintain their power.

This "strange spectacle" exposes the wholly new situation confronting the nuclear disarmament process. Since the end of the Cold War, the framework of the nuclear disarmament debate has been in a downward context: in other words, discussing and negotiating reductions.

Suddenly, the ground has shifted. The debate is now about how to deal with the upward shift: the nuclear states' modernization programs, notably the U.S., which plans to spend \$1 trillion over the next 30 years on upgrad-

ing its entire nuclear arsenal. The U.S.-Russia relationship has become poisonous, conventional arms build-ups are taking place on the NATO-Russia border, trust has disappeared, and the nuclear negotiating process is frozen.

A new nuclear arms race is under way, but it is cloaked from public attention by the turmoil over dealing with terrorists, notably ISIS (also known as the Islamic State, ISIL and Daesh). Except for a little spotlight on the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goals, there is virtually no public discussion about how to achieve common security, the broad outlines of which were actually developed during the Cold War.

The public is faced with immense complexities and contradictions: the world is moving forward in many fields (science, medicine, agriculture, technology, communications), but backward in political co-operation. Who expresses a vision for peace today? We have entered a new era without a compass.

The humanitarian movement (Oslo, Nayarit, Vienna) has sprung up, making clear the "catastrophic humanitarian consequences" of

the use of nuclear weapons, and this has led to the Humanitarian Pledge, now signed by more than 120 states (but not Canada). The humanitarian approach may be our only hope. But, in the conflicted environment of today, it is having little effect on the institutional political systems.

It is all well and good to say that the abolition of slavery, colonialism and apartheid movements all went through periods of hitting an institutional wall before a gathering public opinion forced the institutional structures to yield, but the public at large is oblivious to the new nuclear arms race with the result that we are today witnessing not the institutionalizing of nuclear disarmament but the institutionalizing of nuclear weapons.

In the face of these dangers, we are certainly entitled to challenge the political leaders' current efforts to promote nuclear security: Is that all there is?

Douglas Roche is a former senator and former ambassador for disarmament. His latest book is *The United Nations in the 21st Century*.

The Hill Times

OPINION SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Think global, think local

Canada must act on the Sustainable Development Goals at home and abroad. Central to this is the need to fight poverty and exclusion in our own society.



UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speak to reporters on Parliament Hill in February. *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright

The connections across peoples and countries that characterize today's global challenges can only be ignored at our own peril. Inequality, poverty, financial instability, food insecurity, environmental degradation, and migration crises have tangible national repercussions but are global in nature. They transcend national borders and are affecting everyone everywhere.

The 2008 financial crisis, which was triggered in the United States and Europe, caused havoc in the lives of millions of ordinary people around the globe and its impacts are still being felt. The outbreak of civil war in Syria in 2011 has resulted in 13.5 million people needing humanitarian assistance

and a refugee crisis without precedent. Four of the nine critical systems that humanity needs to survive—including a safe and stable climate—have been compromised by unmeasured consumption and production patterns, with the potential to trigger irreversible and catastrophic changes to our planet that will spare no one, no matter where they live.

Lines between the local, national, regional and global are becoming increasingly blurred. And the international community has taken note. Last September at the United Nations, world leaders adopted The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a comprehensive and shared vision for how we can transform our societies and economies, while protecting the planet and its natural resources.

Over the next 15 years, the global community will be guided in its efforts to tackle pressing global challenges by 17 Sustainable Development Goals, covering everything from ending hunger and realizing women's rights and equality, to tackling wasteful consumption, ensuring vibrant and healthy oceans, and generating decent work for all. This new agenda is universal, applicable to everyone everywhere.

Canadians will need to increasingly integrate the national to the global, and the global to the national, in order to contribute to the achievement of the peaceful and prosperous world that these goals aspire to. Policy-makers, in government and elsewhere, need to become acutely aware of the interconnectedness of Canada's domestic policies with sustainable development in the rest of the world. The universality of the goals will require Canada to do three things: lead by example at home, provide innovative international leadership, and enhance its policy coherence.

Firstly, Canada must develop a strategy and action plan to implement the Sustainable Development Goals both domestically and internationally. Central to this will be bold action on tackling poverty and exclusion in our own society. Key issues such as violence against women, homelessness, income inequality, and deficient basic social services in First Nations communities must be front and centre as we use Agenda 2030 to set goals and targets at home.

Secondly, Canada must provide leadership on the multilateral stage to address the many global challenges that transcend national borders. These range from combatting climate change and inequality—in a world where 62 individuals have as much wealth as half of the world's population—to tackling tax evasion, an ever-pressing issue especially in the wake of the Panama Papers. To do so, Canada will have to set an ambitious international development policy, accompanied by enhanced funding for international co-operation efforts.

Addressing the global sustainable development agenda on these two fronts will be no easy task. In addition to financial and political backing, it will require increased policy coherence between domestic and international policies and practices, as well as across the whole range and levels of government.

This means, for example, that when we talk about human rights, we consider access to education in Canada by indigenous peoples alongside the promotion of pluralism abroad. When we speak of climate change, we consider our own extractive industries in Canada alongside investment in climate adaptation overseas. When we support inclusive growth, we consider those left behind by inequality in Canada alongside those affected by our trade and investment agreements in other countries.

It is a cliché that all politics is local. But it is a fact that the international is closer to home now than ever before. Dialogue between domestic and foreign policy-makers needs to ramp up if Canada is to live up to the challenges of our increasingly interlinked world. The marriage of *Embassy* and *The Hill Times* provides a timely platform for some of that dialogue to take place.

Julia Sánchez is the president-CEO of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation, Canada's national coalition of civil society organizations working globally to achieve sustainable human development. The Hill Times



JULIA SÁNCHEZ

The marriage of *Embassy* with *The Hill Times* this week is a fitting sign of our changing times. Irrespective of the reasons that drove the decision, the merger speaks to the inextricable linkages between the international and domestic spheres in policy and politics.



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OPINION FOREIGN AID

The other Syrian refugees

Not everyone wants to come to Canada, and not everyone can. The millions still in the Middle East need Canada's help in other ways.



JOHN LONGHURST

Wherever I went in Jordan and Lebanon last month while visiting refugees from Syria, I heard people express gratitude for what Canada had done in accepting 25,000 people from that war-torn country.

"Canada has a very good reputation here," one aid worker told me. But while so many feel good about how Canada responded to the needs of Syrian refugees, none of the Syrians I met expressed interest in coming here. Instead, they want to go home when the war ends to rebuild their lives.

They are people like the family of Ghassim al-Haraki, who live in Jordan's Za'atari refugee camp.

Ghassim, his wife, Lamya, and their four children have been living in the camp for three years. Life in the camp is difficult, he said. There is no work, and the one-room trailer they live in is cold in winter and hot in summer.

When asked if the family has hope for the future, Ghassim quickly replied: "The future is back to Syria."

But what about going to another country—like Canada? There was an emphatic "No!" from all members of the family.

Why not? The reasons came quickly: It's so far away, and they don't know the language, culture and customs.

Besides, said Ghassim, sticking his nose in the air and breathing deeply, "I can smell Syria from here."

I didn't know if that was really true. But the Syrian border was just a 10-minute drive away—maybe it was possible.

Then there was Fatima, a former teacher in Syria now living in Lebanon. All she wants to do is go back to being a teacher in her country.

"I miss teaching," she said, covering her face with her hands and sighing so deeply you felt that all the cares of the world were being exhaled from her body.

Fatima, a single woman, fled Syria in 2013. Her three brothers are missing because of the war. Now she lives with relatives in a single rented room in a house on a hilltop near Sidon.

As far as she knows, her house in Syria is still standing. But, she says firmly, it doesn't matter if it is destroyed or not.

"Even if my house is gone, I will pitch a tent in the front yard and start over," she said in a way that made everyone who heard her believe it to be true.

This desire to go home was echoed again and again as I visited the homes of Syrian refugees.

So does this mean Canada, and the Canadians who responded to sponsor refugees, shouldn't have brought so many here? Of course not—offering that kind of assistance was the right, decent and Canadian thing to do.

But the fact is that the majority of Syrians who need help are in the region. Currently, there are an estimated 4.8 million Syrians who have fled for safety in neighbouring countries. More than six

million are displaced within Syria itself. Many are unable to work, either because there are few employment opportunities in the camps, or because the governments of Jordan and Lebanon don't allow them to work due to high unemployment in those countries.

In Syria itself, fighting and internal displacement make it impossible for many people to earn an income. I heard that in one rural area farmers have not been able to harvest a crop for four years. People who used to grow food are now lining up for food aid.

For these people, refugee sponsorship is not an option. They don't want to come to Canada. And, even if Canada wanted to help in that way, it couldn't absorb that many refugees. Plus, taking more people would be bad for the future of Syria; they are needed to rebuild that country, once the war is over.

The Canadian government is to be commended for how it stepped up to sponsor 25,000 Syrian refugees. But with the majority of the need in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan



Ghassim al-Haraki with members of his family in their home in Jordan's Za'atari refugee camp. Photograph courtesy of John Longhurst

and other nearby countries, the government should also continue providing its important support for the many in desperate need of our help there.

Because that is also a good, right, decent and Canadian thing to do.

John Longhurst directs communications and marketing for Canadian Foodgrains Bank, a partnership of 15 Canadian churches and church agencies working together to end global hunger.

The Hill Times



INFRASTRUCTURE

THE HILL TIMES

POLICY BRIEFING

Publication Date: April 18, 2016
 Booking Deadline: April 13, 2016

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government is promising to make the New Building Canada Fund, which is heavily backloaded with more than 70 per cent of its funding locked away until after 2019, more focused and more transparent with clearer project criteria and faster approval processes. We look into this. The Liberals are also promising to spend \$20-billion over the next few years on infrastructure as part of its 10-year, \$60-billion election pledge. Is this enough?

We also look into the idea of creating innovation hubs in municipalities across the country; we look at Bank of

Canada Governor Stephen Poloz's statements on municipal infrastructure spending; we look at how northern finance ministers want infrastructure spending at the top the federal government's list; we look into Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale's promise to open the government's wallet to prepare for natural catastrophes; and we look into a C.D. Howe Institute report that wants the Liberals to break its election promises on creating the New Building Canada Fund and its promise to require cities to look for a private-sector partner to share the financial risks and windfalls of any infrastructure project.

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 EMBASSY

OPINION FOREIGN AID

Women peacebuilders need our support

If Canada is serious about developing a feminist foreign policy, it should fund grassroots women's peacebuilding.



IAN THOMSON

Canada's prime minister is a self-declared feminist. Much ink has been spilled about the gender parity of his cabinet. And two weeks ago at the UN Security Council, a top Canadian diplomat emphasized the crucial role of women in international peacebuilding efforts and the importance of supporting local women's organizations in conflict zones and fragile states.

Have we finally reached the tipping point when Canada will commit significant new resources to support women peacebuilders?

More resources are desperately needed to support women's civil society organizations and women human rights defenders. Despite recent research that proves that women's organizations and movements have been



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at a talk on gender equality at the United Nations in New York on March 16. UN photograph by Mark Garten

key drivers in defending human rights and promoting peace all over the world, the resources they receive worldwide are shamefully scarce and declining.

Peacebuilding processes are often dominated by men's voices and experiences. From 1992 to 2011, only two per cent of chief mediators and nine per cent of negotiators in peace processes were women. At the same time, studies show that peace processes that involve women are not only more equitable and inclusive, they are also more sustainable.

With support from the Canadian churches, KAIROS has been supporting grassroots women human rights defenders engaged in peacebuilding in some of the most protracted conflicts around the world.

In February, I returned to the Democratic Republic of Congo to visit Chantal Bilulu of the human rights group Héritiers de la Justice. She co-ordinates the KAIROS-sponsored legal clinic that since 2007 has assisted hundreds of women who are survivors of rape as a weapon of war. Chantal

and her small team of women's rights advocates, lawyers and paralegals document cases of rape and sexual violence, accompany women through the judicial process and help them to reintegrate into their communities.

The work is transformative in the lives of these women, as they regain their dignity and become trained advocates for peace and human rights. But the need is vast. The legal clinic is always overwhelmed with more women who need assistance than it can handle.

The Canadian government has invested \$18-million over five years in a UN-led project in Congo called Fight Against Impunity and Support to Survivors of Sexual Violence. This project helps a great deal, bringing mobile tribunals deep into rural areas. But it won't realize its full potential without additional support to local civil society groups like Héritiers de la Justice that are able to provide women with the human rights training and legal accompaniment needed to benefit more widely from the new tribunals. Funding grassroots efforts will yield huge dividends for the larger centrally administered project.

In January, KAIROS submitted a new project proposal to Global Affairs Canada seeking support for our partners' work on women, peace and security in Congo and four other conflict-affected states. There has been no response yet, but we remain hopeful. We are convinced that our approach and that of our partners will complement

and ensure the success of Canada's current development programming.

This month Parliamentarians are examining how well Canada is living up to its international commitments around women, peace and security. The House Foreign Affairs and International Development Committee is conducting a study at the prompting of MP Hélène Laverdière, the lone female voice on the 10-person committee. KAIROS is testifying this week to highlight how partnerships with civil society working at the grassroots has been a missing ingredient in the Canadian government's approach to date.

The committee's study is timely. Canada's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security expires this year and is up for review.

If Canada is serious about developing a feminist foreign policy, our government should export something different: ambitious new funding to support grassroots women's peacebuilding, which it praised at the UN Security Council. As Canada makes a bid for a seat at that table, we can distinguish ourselves by putting women at the centre of international peacebuilding initiatives and post-conflict development.

Ian Thomson is the Africa partnerships coordinator at KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives. KAIROS unites 11 national churches and religious organizations in faithful action for ecological and social justice.

The Hill Times



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OPINION CITIES

Canada can reverse city fragility around the world

What makes a city prone to instability is often surprising.



ROBERT MUGGAH

Port-au-Prince is a city on the edge. Six years after a devastating earthquake shattered the capital and left tens of thousands dead, the city is still in partial ruins. There are signs of progress in the city of roughly 2.2 million—newly constructed roads, hotels, and government buildings—but the recovery progress has been painfully slow.

And rather than giving rise to more inclusive urban planning, new slums have sprung up including Canaan-Jerusalem, a sprawling settlement on the outskirts of the city. Almost 80,000 people displaced by the disaster last year still lived in 105 sites scattered across the metropolis. It is an archetypal fragile city.

As odd as it sounds, Port-au-Prince presages the future of urban living for most of the world's population. The world is urbanizing at a blinding pace. The statistics are familiar. Cities are growing by roughly 65 million residents each year. At this rate, more than five billion people will live in cities by 2030.

But not all parts of the world are growing at the same pace. Tomorrow's turbo-urbanization will occur not in North America or Europe, but in the sprawling metropolises and slums of cities like Karachi in Asia or Dar es Salaam in sub-Saharan Africa.

Cities are impressive natural experiments. Some of them generate immense prosperity and progress. Others sputter and fail to lift off. All of them experience varying levels of fragility. Notwithstanding the resilience of city residents in places such as Port-au-Prince, their coping levels are stretched to the breaking point. And Haiti's capital is not alone: many cities in low- and middle-income countries are reaching a breaking point. Even mature megacities like Cairo, Los Angeles, and Paris are susceptible to fragility risks.

What makes a city fragile?

City fragility is easy to describe but difficult to define. It emerges when the social contract that binds municipal institutions and residents starts to unravel. When municipal authorities are unable or unwilling to deliver basic services to citizens (or worse, when they explicitly repress citizens), people lose confidence in their government.

In such situations, parallel forms of power—from violent extremists to organized crime and street gangs—emerge to fill the gap.

City fragility is further exacerbated by specific risk factors: the pace of urbanization, social and economic inequality, youth unemployment, poor access to key services, and low resilience to climate change and sudden onset disasters.

Some cities are evidently more fragile than others, including Aleppo, San Salvador and Mogadishu. But we know surprisingly little about how fragility is distributed.

One reason why we suffer from this knowledge gap is because there is no global data repository on cities. Surprisingly little is known about the world's 55,000 or so urban settlements.

Another challenge is that fragility is neither constant nor easily predictable. Ostensibly "stable" cities can exhibit destabilizing characteristics at the neighborhood level. Even cities like Brussels and Paris exhibit fragility zones such as Molenbeek and Bondy. The research shows that where social disorganization reaches a certain threshold, above-average crime and even radicalization and extremism can follow.

Comparing city fragility

What if it were possible to compare fragility risks across cities? A new digital platform developed by the Igarapé Institute and partners such as the United Nations University, the SecDev Foundation, and Global Affairs Canada can do precisely that.

The data visualization is based on a review of the science of urban instability and more than 100 datasets. While still a work in progress, it features data on 2,137 cities with populations of at least 250,000. The platform also includes a fragility scale (with 1 being low and 5 being high risk). The scale is based on 10 indicators that are statistically associated with city fragility. While still early days, some of the findings are instructive.



Makers of aluminium cooking pots work in the poor and densely populated Cité Soleil area of the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince in 2013. Photograph courtesy of UN/Logan Abassai

The data visualization shows how city fragility is not limited to poor countries. While urban fragility is concentrated in Africa and Asia, there even more cities ranking high on the fragility scale (scoring at least 4 or 5) in medium- and upper-income settings as in low incomes ones. Cities like Baltimore and Naples, for example, register comparable fragility scores to Cali and Cape Town.

Fragile cities also aren't restricted to countries affected by war. In fact, there were twice as many fragile cities on the fragility scale outside of conflict zones than in them.

And it isn't necessarily the largest cities that are most vulnerable to fragility. Instead, it is small and medium cities that are most susceptible. Just three megacities (more than 10 million residents) and three very large cities (with between five and 10 million people) are at high risk of fragility including Baghdad, Dar es Salaam, Johannesburg, Karachi, Lagos, and Shanghai.

But there are another 56 large cities, 42 medium cities, and 40 smaller cities that are also categorized as fragile.

The most rapidly expanding cities appear to be most at risk of fragility. Most of the world's cities are growing at between zero and three per cent. Yet the most at-risk cities are those that are growing at a pace of four per cent or more. Haiti's rate of urbanization is hovering at between 3.6 and four per cent. Associated risks are especially acute in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia where the vast majority of future city population growth is projected.

How to make cities safer

The silver lining is that city fragility is reversible. There are examples of the world's most violent and unstable cities, such as Ciudad Juarez, Medellin, and Sao Paulo, turning things around. Many

of the major cities in the United States also witnessed a dramatic fall in violent crime since the early 1990s, even if some of them registered a modest spike in 2015. There are important lessons from the Americas—a region that has gone through its demographic transition—that are applicable to other parts of the world where run-away urbanization is taking place.

A precondition to getting fragility under control is enlightened leadership, especially successive mayors who make a plan and stick with it. This is not as straightforward as it sounds. But when city leaders, business groups and civil society associations are able to work together to define common problems and develop data-driven solutions, safety often follows. And with improvements in real and perceived security comes a renewed trust in city institutions.

But caution: the fact is that many researchers are still struggling to fully understand what explains crime drops in cities, even in data-rich settings like Canada.

What are some of the proven ways to make cities safer and less fragile? For one, mobilizing more police and prisons is not the most cost-effective solution. Instead, cities that invest in focused deterrence often see pronounced reductions in crime and associated victimization. These effects are amplified when they also invest in positive police-community relations and participatory forms of governance in low-income communities.

Among the most powerful ways to turn things around is by investing in inclusive open spaces, predictable public transport and data-driven prevention, not least crèches for single mothers, conditional cash-transfers targeting low-income families and rehabilitation programs for at-risk young adults.

Canada has a unique opportunity to promote resilience in some of the world's most fragile settings. In fact, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities already is. With funding from Global Affairs Canada, the FCM is promoting economic policy in cities from Bolivia and Burkina Faso to Mali and Vietnam. The federation is also working with metropolitan Caribbean and Ukrainian partners to stimulate business investment. And it has worked with local authorities in Port-au-Prince and elsewhere to strengthen local democracy and development.

There are no simple solutions to dealing with city fragility. To turn sprawling cities like Port-au-Prince around, planning authorities, businesses and citizen groups need to come to grips with the risks associated with rapid urbanization, but also with the many available solutions.

The good news is that networks such as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities can potentially help empower citizens to make their cities safer and more livable. This in turn can reduce risks of violence and extremism. Mayors from successful cities are already sharing best practices to help struggling municipalities. There are exciting opportunities for Global Affairs Canada to amplify what works at home, abroad. In doing so, it could make a real dent on city fragility at a global scale.

Robert Muggah is the research director of the Igarapé Institute in Rio de Janeiro, and the SecDev Foundation in Ottawa, is a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Fragility, Violence and Conflict, and a fellow at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute. He'll be speaking on related themes at the Chicago Forum on Global Cities and a TED summit in Banff in June.

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OPINION **NDP**

Mulcair first casualty of NDP brash hubris

In one fell swoop, one man's political ambitions were dead, and the excitement, if not delirium, that drove the NDP since its impressive election in 2011 came crashing down to earth with one loud thud.



JEREMY A. RICHLER

TORONTO—A visibly shaken Tom Mulcair could not contain his disappointment when he failed to capture the confidence of a majority of the delegates at the NDP convention in Edmonton.

In the end, this decision was really the only logical conclusion for a party with high hopes of forming government that instead got clobbered in the last election. Although I did initially believe Mulcair was a fine parliamentarian who deserved a second chance, it soon became obvious that he could no longer cling to the helm of the NDP. As more of a hired gun than a tried and tested social democrat, he failed to deliver on the promise of bringing New Democrats into power. He simply is not the leader to renew the social purpose of a party that now once again finds itself bordering on the margins of the Canadian political landscape.

The wider lessons of this weekend's Edmonton results underscore the hubris that engulfed the NDP after its historic win back in 2011 clouded more rational judgment about prospects for power. Instead, the NDP lost connectivity with its grassroots and a genuine commitment to social democracy, all in a poorly-executed Machiavellian quest for power that simply did not materialize.

To understand the pitfalls of the NDP in this election, we need to juxtapose them against the party's triumphant feat during the 2011 Canadian federal election; perhaps the most lopsided results in our country's history. The Liberals were seemingly on the brink of elimination and the perpetual third party NDP, the one that had failed to receive official party status back in 1993, had now been catapulted into official opposition. Against this backdrop, the Conservative Party secured its much coveted majority government.

In the heat of a transformational election, what everyone seemed to forget was that the NDP did NOT win in 2011. It formed the official opposition, a breakthrough indeed, but the story of greater consequence was that the Conservatives formed a majority government. Indeed, Jack Layton inspired many and was, without a doubt, the most liked leader, but Stephen Harper won a majority government and in so doing steered the country further to the right than he could muster in the five years in which he ruled with a minority. In the end, the NDP did not even come close to winning the 2011 general election. This is a point that everyone seemed to forget, either by intention or mere shock at the lopsided results.

Election results must also be viewed in their larger historical context. Although the New Democrats were steadily progressing under the leadership of Jack Layton, gaining in prominence, and often leading in the polls in advance of last year's election, they



NDP Leader Tom Mulcair spoke to party members on April 10 before they voted on whether to seek a new leader. 'If you keep standing with me, then together, we will never stop fighting,' he said. *The Hill Times* photograph by Laura Ryckewaert

had still never formed a government. In other words, 103 seats was their high-water mark, an impressive feat given the party's distant second best performance in the 1988 federal election with only 43 seats. Yet, having never formed government before, and with an enduring Liberal brand that was showing new signs of life under the leadership of Justin Trudeau, the NDP smugly underestimated the Liberals and their capacity to vault from a distant third place to their peril.

And so they did. Once the writ was dropped, signs of a weak, underwhelming campaign were ever present. The New Democrats were so confident that they made it a choice between themselves and the Conservatives, ignoring the Liberals at every possible opportunity. The NDP were no longer running a campaign to be the conscience of Parliament, but rather to form the next government. This was laudable, but ignoring stiff opponents was politically dumb and reeked of arrogance. In a cynical lurch to the political centre, the NDP promised balanced budgets when the base was hoping for a more activist thrust. This promise was not red meat for the base, but more akin to stale breadcrumbs. Many of the rank and file in the NDP were deflated and disappointed.

Mulcair also simply did not run a good campaign. He often appeared stiff and impersonal. His centrist shift, for a party grassroots once more accustomed to democratic socialism than this bizarre "austerity light" platform, were not amused. This was just a cynical attempt to triangulate (i.e. to wed small 'c' conservative ideas in a format more amenable to the overarching progressive agenda, quite popular in the 1990s) without Bill Clinton's charm.

In his final speech to delegates, Mulcair was underwhelming and his body language seemed to suggest that he knew it. In the secret ballot, the delegates seemed to tell Mulcair "you're fired." Although delivered with greater humility than Donald Trump could muster, the verdict was in and it was both decisive and harsh. In one fell swoop, one man's political ambitions were dead, and the excitement, if not delirium, that drove the NDP since its impressive election in 2011 came crashing down to earth with one loud thud.

The wider lessons here for all of us to remember are that governments come and go and political preferences are volatile. Yet sweeping generalizations about the future are often baseless, borne of hubris, or as the NDP has recently found out, crushing and humiliating. The NDP will have its work cut out for itself in the weeks and months ahead, and it definitely faces an uphill climb with a popular Liberal government and prime minister Trudeau comfortably anchored in the centre-left of the spectrum. But don't count the NDP out just yet, as the universe unfolds in ways us mere mortals simply cannot predict, and never to everyone's liking!

Jeremy A. Richler is a Toronto lawyer that practices employment and corporate law. He is an active member of the Liberal Party and sits as a director on the Eglinton-Lawrence federal Liberal association.

OPINION FOREIGN AID

Why did the federal budget forget the world's poorest?

Buried in a technical annex there was a token aid increase of \$256 million over two years: Inadequate to even restore cuts imposed by the Harper government.



JOHN SINCLAIR

“Canada is back” is our message at the United Nations and in Washington, but on the ground in our priority aid-recipient countries, especially the least developed amongst them, “old usual” seems to be still the norm. Last month’s first Liberal budget speech did not even have a few token words about the promised mandate shift to a pro-poor approach in our development co-operation. Buried in a technical annex there was a token aid increase of \$256 million over two years: inadequate to even restore cuts imposed by the Harper government.

Of course these are also difficult times for Canadians, but the budget was bold in

its response: middle-class tax relief and infrastructure spending to keep the economy growing. The budget was commendably bold in its new agenda for our indigenous peoples, as we committed to finally tackle their “third world” conditions.

Domestically, Canada chose a sensible Keynesian approach with its \$30-billion budget deficit. But none of this went to the global bottom billion, the poorest, overwhelmingly in Africa and South Asia, that the international community, Canada included, promised to ensure were not left behind.

We need a bold response to their needs as fellow global citizens. Can we afford not to, morally or as international development actors?

The appropriate response is framed by the UN’s new Agenda 2030, with its Sustainable Development or “Golden Goals” and its “transformational” ambitions. This should be the template for future development co-operation, paralleling Mr. Trudeau’s strong commitment to our indigenous peoples. Indeed, the Agenda’s Universality Principle means Canada will soon be setting public targets for its own development goals, just as developing countries like Senegal and India.

So why the divergence in approaches, domestic versus global? The goodwill is there for sure, as demonstrated in our response to the tragic flow of refugees from Syria. But there is little evidence of practical change from old norms when it comes to development programming. Was the finance minister not hearing the right messages from his advisers and cabinet colleagues?

The budget failed to show the bold signal needed to demonstrate Canada was back for the developing world.

We must now hope a bolder message will emerge from the upcoming public consultations on a new co-operation policy and funding framework.

Canada’s future should no longer be tied to our traditional trading and investment partners. We are talking longer term, not the next two to three years. Today, economies are depressed almost everywhere: in Europe, the global south, even the United States. They will recover, but future global leadership will need to be shared. By Agenda 2030’s end date, China, India, even Brazil, will all be back as global drivers although being oil-rich will be of little benefit to us or even the Saudis. A new Canada, more economically self-confident, at ease with its indigenous peoples, with a more mobile and internationally adventurous population, will want new partners in a rapidly developing global south.

But to get there, Canada and Canadians need credibility as a partner. We should seek a stronger role in working with the increasingly diverse nations of the South. Its new mega-economies like India will soon far exceed our own in size.

However, the more fundamental challenge will be for the poorest and most fragile states. They want effective development at home more than aid. Our support should allow them to move beyond today’s frequent violence and human misery. The streams of desperate refugees in Europe will not be solved by more humanitarian aid. Sadly, we seem to lack a longer-term perspective; our responses are hesitant and temporary.

What should be the new paradigm for Canada in the global south? What actions should hopefully follow the anticipated consultations on a new development policy and funding framework?

This is an incomplete list of desirable responses:

- Agenda 2030 should be formally adopted as the framework for Canada’s re-energized, development co-operation program, followed quickly by new Agenda 2030-compliant country strategies;
 - Commit to reach the 0.15 per cent of the gross national income UN target for aid to least developed countries in 2016. Updating the priority country list to comprise at least 70 per cent of the least developed countries easily does this;
 - A medium-term aid commitment of 0.50 per cent of gross national income by 2020. This will match Canada’s level of aid effort of the ‘70s;
 - Build closer trusting development partnerships by enhanced decentralization;
 - Achieve meaningful policy coherence: require development perspectives be formally part of decision-making on new political and trade initiatives;
 - Respond to humanitarian crises with new money, not by diverting regular development programming;
 - Respect civil society organizations as development partners, not contractors;
 - Increase funding for public engagement in schools;
 - Restore for Canadians and our development partners the CIDA brand that they know and respect. This can be inside Global Affairs Canada;
 - Set a public, aspirational official development assistance goal of 0.7 per cent;
 - Require a strong development background in senior operational staff, especially new recruits and managers.
- Enhanced development co-operation is a sound investment by Canadians in global well-being and security. Their future is our future.
- John Sinclair is a Cambridge economics graduate who worked for many years as a senior official in CIDA and the World Bank. He is now a development commentator with the McLeod Group. He also teaches and writes blogs and op-eds, notably for The Hill Times, Ottawa U CIPS, and The Huffington Post.*
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OPINION CANADA-RUSSIA RELATIONS

'Responsible conviction' should not mean rapprochement with Russia

Dion says Canada will engage with its eyes open. Sounds like a wide-eyed kitten talking with a crazed bear.



OXSANA BASHUK HEPBURN

Under his regime, dozens of journalists and political activists have been murdered. His government has waged war in Ukraine and Georgia and obliterated Chechnya. It suppresses free press and opposition, propagandizes on RT, and assists autocrats in countries like North Korea and Syria. Russia destabilizes Europe and the Middle East. There is no contrition or letting up.

Rapprochement with Putin can't possibly be a Canadian value or bring positive results even if it's done with "responsible conviction." Without a willingness to change by Russia, talk and re-engagement—cornerstones of Mr. Dion's policy—become shameful capitulations to Canada's pro-Putin interests and their business-at-any-cost greed. When it comes to Russia, the minister's guiding principle for Canada to be "a fair-minded and determined peacebuilder" is misguided.

Regrettably, Canada's policy of engagement with Russia reads like the peace-at-any-price offer by Neville Chamberlain to Hitler. Ultimately, the appeasement led to the Second World War.

Re-engagement must not be one-sided. Russia must pay a price for the grief and destruction it has sowed. To have better relations with Canada, Mr. Putin's Russia must adhere to international law and agreements it has signed.

Mr. Dion argues that non-engagement with Russia did not help Ukraine or Canada in the Arctic. This is partially true. It would be beneficial to re-engage if Russia were a trustworthy neighbour. It is not. Canada's engagement was limited because Russia invaded neighbouring Ukraine, destroying life and property, demanding peace then breaking it in order to pursue its imperialistic objectives.

Meanwhile in the Arctic, it's flexing its muscles with some 30,000 personnel

Continued on page 21



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OPINION CANADA-RUSSIA RELATIONS



Regrettably, says Oksana Bashuk Hepburn, Canada's policy of engagement with Vladimir Putin's Russia reads like the peace-at-any-price offer by Neville Chamberlain to Hitler. *Russian President's Office photograph*

Continued from page 20

manoeuvres and building a fleet of 14 icebreakers. Is it preparing for more than just talk?

It's hard for me not to grimace at Mr. Dion's assurances that Canada will have its "eyes open" in re-establishing communications with Russia. The words conjure an image of a wide-eyed kitten discussing jurisdiction over the Arctic with a crazed bear.

Of course, Russia is happy to re-engage providing it's not at its own cost—even better if the talk ends punishing sanctions or at least halts any increases. The best scenario for Russia is engagement that allows it to pursue its own goals, as it did in Syria.

Russia commented on Mr. Dion's foreign policy. It blamed Canada for its "self-isolation" without taking any responsibility for the chaos that prompted it, and offered a threat rather than a thank-you for Mr. Dion's efforts: "unfriendly steps...will be met with resolve and reciprocity."

Since the Liberals were last in power, the world has destabilized significantly, much of it due to Russia's belligerence. Yet some high-profile Canadians with business interests in Russia or a desire to have them have urged Canada to re-engage. Such advice is self-serving, indeed dangerous to Canada, yet it has become Mr. Dion's policy. It is already being acted out.

Global Affairs Canada is engaged in a trade mission to Ukraine in concert with the Canada Eurasia Russia Business Association, a pro-Putin entity. It surprises me that Mr. Dion sanctioned a mission comprising pro-Russia interests to explore Ukraine's sensitive aerospace sector. Did his staffers forget Russia is waging war against Ukraine?

Meanwhile, the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce, which together with the Conference Board of Canada is managing a multi-million-dollar project to promote Canada's investment in Ukraine, is not involved in the mission.

Mr. Dion's foreign policy needs re-thinking.

Oksana Bashuk Hepburn, former public-servant policy adviser in the Canadian government and president of a consulting firm brokering interests between Canada and Ukraine, is a founding member of the Canadian Group for Democracy in Ukraine.
The Hill Times

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OPINION HUMAN RIGHTS

Irwin Cotler pursuing justice on a global scale

This human rights scholar and advocate of international note is both dedicated to a slate of human rights issues and is in high demand to speak and lecture all over the world.



ANDREW CARDOZO

OTTAWA—"Where are they now?" is frequent question about former Parliamentarians.

The answer for **Irwin Cotler** is that he is founding chair of the new Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, based in Montreal but national and in fact and international in scope. And not surprising. This human rights scholar and advocate of international note is both hugely dedicated to a slate of human rights issues and in high demand to speak and lecture literally all over the world.

First elected in a byelection in 1999, Cotler worked on various Foreign Affairs and Human Rights committees and was justice and attorney general in **Paul Martin's** government. He was a supremely qualified justice minister. But his work in human rights goes back to his youth. Having studied law, he was a political aide to **John Turner** when he was justice minister and was involved in various human rights causes through his academic career at McGill University.

Cotler's new centre is an international consortium of parliamentarians, scholars, jurists, human rights defenders, community-based organizations, and students working in "the pursuit of justice," dedicated to **Raoul Wallenberg's** humanitarian legacy.

Wallenberg, Canada's first honorary citizen, inspired an all-party Human Rights Caucus in February, with the help of **Irwin Cotler**. The MPs are Liberals **Anthony Housefather**, **Judy Sgro**, **Arif Varani**; Conservatives **James Bezan** and **Peter Kent**, NDP MP **Murray Rankin** and Green Party Leader **Elizabeth May**.

Cotler was also the focus of a gala event hosted by the Pearson Centre, which I head, in Toronto on March 31 and which I hosted, to launch the centre's "Pursuing Justice" project. Reflecting one of

his favourite Jewish sayings, "justice, justice, thou shall pursue," Cotler believes one must pursue justice justly. The event also served to raise awareness of the Raoul Wallenberg Centre.

A homecoming of sorts for justice pursuers and Cotler fans, the event saw a cast of the political and legal world. As one of the attendees, former Conservative minister **John Baird** noted, "there's **Olivia Chow**, me, and everything in between." The honorary chairs included former prime ministers **John Turner**, **Kim Campbell**, **Jean Chrétien**, and **Paul Martin**, with the event's co-chairs being Ontario provincial politicians **Sandra Pupatello** and **Monte Kwinter**.

Federal ministers who showed up included his long-time friend Natural Resources Minister **Jim Carr** who was his former law student, Environment Minister **Catherine McKenna**, and Indigenous Affairs Minister **Carolyn Bennett**.

In addition, there were several MPs: **Bill Blair**, **Ali Ehsassi**, **Anthony Housefather**, **Michael Levitt**, **James Maloney**, **John McKay**, **Marco Mendicino**, **Rob Oliphant**, **Kyle Peterson**, **Yasmin Ratansi**, **Ruby Sahota**, **Ramesh Sangha**, **Francesco Sorbara** and **Arif Virani**. Former Parliamentarians included **Bob Rae**, **Gerry Weiner**, **Maria Minna** and **Barry Campbell**. Other notables included **Dalton McGuinty**, **Margaret McCain**, **Roy McMurtry**, **Dwight Duncan**, **Charles Harnick**, **Chris Bentley**, and Israeli Ambassador **Rafael Barak**.

Provincial ministers present were Transport Minister **Steven Del Duca**, Attorney General **Madeleine Meilleur**, Innovation, Training, Colleges and Universities Minister **Reza Moridi**, and Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister **Yasir Naqvi**.

Despite the serious issues at hand it was an evening of great appreciation, and affection for a leading Canadian human rights advocate.

Indira Naidoo-Harris, a former television broadcaster and now MPP, conducted a dialogue with Cotler. It began with an overview of some of his past human rights work for prisoners, such as Nelson Mandela in South Africa, and **Natan Sharansky** in the Soviet Union. Cotler's work has gotten him expelled by repressive regimes, something he wears as a badge of honour.

Cotler is unmistakably positive and delighted about the tone of the new Trudeau government and spoke highly of the new Justice Minister **Jody Wilson-Raybould**. He addressed some of his important themes with Naidoo-Harris, including the primacy of the Charter of Rights and on the related matter he said, "women's rights are human rights. And there are no human rights without women's rights."



PHOTOGRAPHS BY MASSILIANO GALASSI



1. Former Toronto city councillor Ceta Ramkhalawansingh MP James Maloney, and Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr.
2. Irwin Cotler and Olivia Chow.
3. Roy McMurtry, Jacques Shore, John Turner, Dalton McGuinty, Liberal MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris, Mr. Cotler, Environment Minister Catherine McKenna, Mr. Carr, Sen. Art Eggleton, and Ramesh Sangha.
4. John Baird and Sandra Pupatello.
5. Sharon Sholzberg-Gray and Dalton McGuinty.
6. Jim Carr and Mr. Cotler.
7. Liberal MP Bill Blair, Adrian Macdonald, Tony Merchant and Liberal MP John McKay.
8. Anthony Housefather and Michael Levitt.
9. Ms. McKenna speaking to the crowd.
10. Marc Kealey, Mr. Turner, and MPP Monte Kwinter.
11. Jacques Shore and Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett.

One of his own high priorities continues to be the effects of repressive governments and the focus on political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in several countries around the world. He pointed to the Rwandan genocide and reminded the audience that that was an example of "the dangers of inaction in the face of injustice."

He addressed the urgent need to improve the status of indigenous peoples, repeated his 7Rs for the justice system which he instituted when he was minister:

recognition, respect, redress, over-representation (in the criminal justice system), responsiveness by governments, and finally reconciliation which can lead to the renewal of the nation-to-nation relationship.

He also urged the new government to return to a more open system of consultation and review of the appointment of the next justice on the Supreme Court and to fill the vacancy left by retiring **Thomas Cromwell**. The system he instituted for the Martin government was disbanded by the Harp-

er government which he feels is a disservice to the high court and openness in government.

After 16 years in Parliament, Cotler has launched his new career, although it's a lot like his old career, in Parliament and before that: pursuing justice in Canada and abroad! He's tilting at unpopular windmills and never backing down.

*Andrew Cardozo is president of the Pearson Centre and is an adjunct professor at Carleton University. Mr. Cardozo hosted the gala. news@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times*

OPINION DRUG POLICY

Canada on drugs at the UN: standing up for a long-overdue policy shift

Canada's statement read like a checklist of progressive drug policy positions.



RICHARD ELLIOTT

The applause persisted until the chair of the session eventually gavelled it to an end. The occasion? Canada's statement last month at the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in Vienna, where countries were negotiating the text of a declaration to be adopted next week at the UN General Assembly's Special Session on drugs (UNGASS) in New York.

The last time the General Assembly met on this issue was in 1998, when it absurdly declared it would pursue the goal of a "drug-free world," largely through yet more drug law enforcement. The reality, of course, is that we cannot end drug use, whether problematic or otherwise, through prosecution and punishment. Indeed, a growing number of states are starting to openly question the orthodoxy of drug prohibition and calling for reform, while some countries are simply moving ahead with sensible, evidence-based reforms to their domestic laws in order to better protect both public health and safety.

Sadly, at the CND in Vienna, a faction of states ensured that the document going before the General Assembly next week falls far short of the promised action-oriented program that will respond to the current realities of the "the world drug problem."

Hence, it was important that Canada's applause-worthy statement read like a checklist of progressive drug policy positions, reflecting many points Canadian civil society groups have been advocating for years.

It included support for "harm reduction"—a phrase too controversial to yet appear in a resolution from this UN body, and a phrase opposed by Canada in recent years, alongside the likes of Russia—including needle and syringe programs, supervised injection sites and expanded access to naloxone to prevent fatal overdoses. It also included support for drug policies based on evidence and human rights. Categorical opposition to the death penalty "in all cases, everywhere," including for drug offences.

And, to finish, a bonus: Canada's plan to legalize and regulate cannabis, aligning itself with the objectives of the international drug control treaties "wherever possible."

Those two diplomatic words speak volumes. They tell the world that Canada recognizes that it cannot be held back by an outdated and harmful international drug-control system. In staking out that position, Canada also sets an important international precedent, requiring further principled leadership in the months and years ahead.

Countries such as Uruguay (moving ahead with a national plan for a regulated cannabis market) and the United States (some states have legalized and regulated cannabis) continue to claim that there is sufficient flexibility in the international drug control treaties to permit their legal, regulated markets. While their initiatives are welcome and so far successful, such claims are a legal fiction.

Countries certainly do have some flexibility under these treaties when it comes to national drug laws. For example, countries are free to decriminalize the posses-



A worker at Tweed Marijuana Inc. tends to marijuana plants at the company's Smiths Falls facility in 2014. *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright

sion of any drugs (and not just cannabis) for personal use. Some countries (Portugal, Czech Republic, for instance) have done so to varying degrees, with positive outcomes for public health and order, including reducing HIV infections. In keeping with its newfound commitment to more evidence-based approaches to drugs, Canada should learn from those experiences and move forward with decriminalizing simple possession of drugs.

However, it isn't tenable, on any plain reading, to claim that that the treaties allow countries to go further by legalizing and regulating the production and sale of cannabis (for non-medical purposes).

This doesn't mean Canada should abandon its sensible plan to experiment with cannabis legalization and regulation. Continued prohibition makes little sense, and the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs is long overdue for revision.

Instead, even as we move forward with cannabis regulation domestically, Canada should work with other states, and with UN agencies, academic experts and civil society groups, to offer reasoned, credible proposals for treaty reform. This would be a major contribution, a step towards ending the costly so-called war on drugs that has ravaged public health, systematically

violated human rights and shattered millions of lives.

After a long silence, we've seen Canada applauded on the international stage. Health Minister Jane Philpott is set to lead Canada's delegation at UNGASS—a forum for Canada to demonstrate a principled commitment to public health, to evidence, and to human rights, plus leadership in reforming failed international drug treaties.

Richard Elliott is the executive director of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, a non-governmental human rights organization in special consultative status with the UN's Economic and Social Council.

The Hill Times

...AND THE BEAT GOES ON



PHOTOGRAPHS by JEAN-MARC CARISSE

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NEWS PUBLIC SAFETY

Goodale keeping options open for CBSA oversight

Feds stick to parliamentary committee as one answer, but won't rule out additional oversight bodies.

Continued from page 1

border agency, which grants its officers significant powers of arrest, detention, search, and seizure but is not supervised by any agency outside government.

A collection of refugee support groups and civil liberties organizations called for an oversight body with total independence from the government during a March 31 conference call with the press, and the federal NDP supports a similar solution.

Senate Liberal Wilfred Moore is also continuing to champion his private Senate public bill, s-205, to create an inspector general to review and report on the CBSA's activities to the government and to Parliament, and to investigate civilian complaints about the CBSA.

So far, the government has committed only to creating a committee of Parliamentarians from all parties to act as an oversight body for the CBSA and other intelligence agencies. Few other details have been released about that proposed committee. NDP public safety critic Randall Garrison (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke, B.C.) and spokesperson for Amnesty International Canada and the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group say this doesn't go far enough. The office of Mr. Goodale (Regina-Wascana, Sask.) says he is open to considering additional oversight for the CBSA.

"Minister Goodale has indicated that he is open to the consideration of review mechanisms for CBSA during our upcoming public consultations on national security," spokesperson Scott Bardsley wrote in an emailed statement, adding those consultations would begin in the "medium term."

"Furthermore, he has committed to introducing legislation by summer to create a committee of Parliamentarians with special access to classified information to review government departments and agencies with national security responsibilities—including CBSA," he wrote.

Mr. Goodale was unavailable to comment, but told The Canadian Press in January that "The subject matter is large, it's complex, the solutions aren't particularly easy to achieve. But our whole point in having consultations is to listen to what we hear. And if the messages indicate that something more needs to be done, obviously we would try to pursue that."

'They had nobody to go to'

Mr. Garrison and some civil society groups in Canada say the proposed Parliamentary committee alone wouldn't provide enough oversight of the CBSA, as any parliamentary group would be influenced by the government and party politics. The committee would be a "step forward," but



Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale 'is open to the consideration of review mechanisms for CBSA,' said a spokesperson. *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright

would likely be "weak and tentative, at best," if not complemented by a truly independent body, said Alex Neve, secretary general of Amnesty International Canada.

Sen. Moore said the parliamentary committee likely wouldn't dig into specifics such as complaints from individuals or families of individuals who felt they had been mistreated by the CBSA.

Sen. Moore tabled his bill—at the time titled s-222—after hearing multiple complaints from Canadians about the conduct of CBSA officials, and after the death in CBSA custody of Mexican national Lucia Vega Jimenez in 2013, one of now 14 immigration detainees to have died in CBSA care since the beginning of 2000. Ms. Jimenez's death was only made public after her family informed Canadian journalists.

"They had nobody to go to," said the Nova Scotia senator. "It was just absolutely wrong."

His bill is sitting at second reading in the Senate and was debated twice there last month.

Conservative public safety critic Erin O'Toole (Durham, Ont.) took a different line on CBSA oversight, saying no other watchdogs should be put in place until more is known about how the proposed parliamentary review committee would function. The government has not shared these details so far with the other parties, said Mr. O'Toole and Mr. Garrison.

CBSA inspector general

The inspector general proposed in Mr. Moore's bill would hold the same status in the public service as the deputy head of a department, and would be appointed by the cabinet to a seven-year term subject to approval via resolution by both chambers. The inspector general would have the right to access any information held by the CBSA, to summon officials and compel them to testify under oath, to make recommendations to the CBSA, and to require reports back from the agency on how it acts on those recommendations within a specified timeline.

The inspector general would have to consult with the minister's office before releasing its reports to ensure that no information would be made public that would violate cabinet confidence, client-solicitor privilege, cause harm to privacy or commercial interests, international relations or national security, or "any restriction on disclosure created by or under any other Act of Parliament."

However, the inspector general would be able to disclose that information if it was necessary to

carry out his or her duties, or the public interest clearly outweighed the potential harm, according to the text of Mr. Moore's bill.

That's not good enough for Mr. Garrison or some of the civil society groups that are calling for strong reforms to CBSA oversight. An inspector general as proposed by Mr. Moore wouldn't be far enough removed from government influence, said Mr. Garrison.

"It's not a solution to the problem we've been talking about," he said, adding that inspectors general do serve a useful purpose.

An oversight agency for the CBSA must have the power to act quickly when someone is being mistreated, not just write reports for publication later, Josh Paterson, the executive director of the BC Civil Liberties Association, told reporters during a March 31 conference call.

Mr. Paterson and representatives from Amnesty International Canada, the Canadian Council for Refugees, Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers and International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group banded together to hold that call and advocate for a serious effort to improve the oversight of CBSA shortly after the Toronto Star reported the deaths of Francisco Javier Romero Astorga, originally from Chile, and Melkioro Gahungu, from Burundi, in the space of less than a week in mid-March.

The civil society executives did not delve into the same sort of detail as Mr. Moore's bill, but stressed that any oversight body for the CBSA must be well funded, completely independent of the government and free to co-ordinate with other government oversight bodies.

Mr. Moore said he was not concerned about the independence of the proposed inspector general, who would ultimately be able to inform the public through reports if the government did not co-operate with his or her recommendations.

"It's a hell of a lot better than what we've got now, which is nothing," he said.

Mr. Moore said he does not yet know whether the government will support his bill. He said he is open to amending the bill if needed, or to dropping it if the government decides to introduce its own legislation to accomplish the same thing.

In June of last year, the Senate National Security and Defence Committee issued its own report calling for "an independent, civilian review and complaints body where the public can direct concerns and which can review all Canada Border Services Agency activities."

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The Hill Times

FEATURE BUZZ



Interparliamentary Group members with Canadian MPs, from fourth from right, Paul Lefebvre, Alain Rayes, Jean Rioux, Steven Blaney and, far left, Joël Godin. Photograph courtesy of the Israeli Foreign Ministry

MPs stop by Israeli friendship group

Continued from page 2

Five French-speaking MPs recently capped off a tour of Israel by taking part in the first meeting of the Israeli Knesset's reconstituted Israel-Canada Interparliamentary Group in late March.

Conservative MPs **Joël Godin** (Portneuf-Jacques-Cartier, Que.), **Alain Rayes** (Richmond-Arthabaska, Que.) and **Steven Blaney** (Bellechasse-Les Etchemins-Lévis, Que.) and Liberal MPs **Jean Rioux** (Saint Jean, Que.) and **Paul Lefebvre** (Sudbury, Ont.) sat in on the meeting, the first since the membership of the interparliamentary group was shaken up after Israel's 2015 legislative election, said **Rafael Barak**, Israel's ambassador to Canada.

The group was in Israel on a trip organized by Canada's Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, and was joined at the meeting by **Ralph Jansen**, deputy head of mission for Canada's embassy in Israel. The Israeli chairpersons of the interparliamentary group are **Yoel Hasson**, from the Zionist Union, and **Anat Berko**, from the governing Likud Party.

Cyber security was the theme of the meeting. The attendance of the Canadian MPs is another example of bridges built between the two countries, said Mr. Barak.

French dip three-creates Trudeau pose

The French Embassy in Ottawa waded into the Twittersphere March 31 with an impressive recreation of the now-widespread photo of Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** planking across a desk in 2010 while an amused Liberal MP for Nipissing-Timiskaming **Anthony Rota** looked on.

That photo was itself a recreation—though it's not clear whether it was intentional—of a photo taken of the elder **PM Pierre Trudeau** doing the peacock pose on the ground during a visit to the Northwest Territories in 1970.

French diplomat Benoit Combourieu recreated the yoga pose, balancing his body weight on a desk using just his hands, with intern Francois Sobry playing the part of Mr. Rota (they actually look a lot alike). It was intended as a "friendly and gracious nod to the Prime Minister's photo" and "to show that we too, diplomats, can have fun while being serious at work," wrote Mr. Combourieu, first secretary for foreign affairs, in an emailed statement.

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Justin Trudeau and Benoit Combourieu show off their yoga skills. Photographs courtesy of Twitter/Gregory Kolz/French Embassy

NEWS COMMONS SPENDING

MP airline expenses plunge as reporting requirements beefed

Total MP spending on air travel dropped \$740,943 from one year to the next.

Continued from page 1

Combined with an even greater reduction in free airline travel anywhere in Canada for spouses, other designated travellers and dependants in the aftermath of the Senate scandal and the introduction of detailed reporting requirements for each trip, the reduced travel accounted for nearly all of a \$740,943 drop in total MP spending on air travel from one year to the next.

With the introduction also of more detailed hospitality expenses in the annual reports on MP expenditures in the fiscal year April 2014 to March of election year 2015, total spending on hospitality plunged from \$1.6 million in the 2013-2014 fiscal year to \$1.2 million in the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the reports show.

The free airline travel MPs are allowed is managed through a point system, with each MP allotted a total of 64 points for a 12-month fiscal year period. Each point represents a return trip, primarily for travel between Ottawa and electoral districts, but 25 of the points may be used by MPs for travel anywhere in Canada, and the MPs may allocate some or all of those points to authorized travellers, such as spouses and other "designated travellers" and dependants.

The 64 points also can cover any form of travel back and forth between an electoral district and Ottawa for MPs close to the capital, but they are primarily used for airline travel. Up to four of the travel points may be used for special trips to Washington, D.C., and two of those four may be used for trips to New York City, to attend UN sessions or events and meetings.

For the 2013-2014 fiscal year, the Commons Board of Internal Economy began requiring MPs to detail, by date and destination, special trips to Washington and New York, but the requirement to detail by date and destination of special trips anywhere in Canada was introduced in the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Also for the 2014-2015 fiscal year, MPs were required to report details of hospitality expenses, including dates of the expenditures, the type of event, dinner or meeting, the amount spent on each occasion and the number of "guests."

In the aftermath of a Senate expense scandal that eventually resulted in criminal charges against three senators, former Conservative senator Mike Duffy, former Conservative senator Patrick Brazeau and former Liberal senator Mac Harb, the Senate passed a motion on June 6, 2013, to invite Auditor General Michael Ferguson to conduct a "comprehensive audit of all Senators."

Mr. Ferguson reported his findings in June 2015, singling out 30 senators with improper or questionable expenses. The auditor general referred nine to the RCMP for investigation, though no charges were laid and news reports last fall said the investigations had ended without charges.

As the political parties in the Commons established new expense reporting requirements for their MPs in 2013, to be posted on individual MP websites, the House also began tightening up its reporting requirements, but did not ask Mr. Ferguson to conduct the kind of audit the Senate sought – a move senators later regretted as auditors began scouring the expense claims of the senators.

For the 2014-2015 reporting year, the number of special trips MPs took anywhere in Canada plunged by 355, to 1,161 that year from 1,517 the previous year. The number of special trips for spouses and other designated travellers close to the MP dropped to 171

in 2014-2015 from 249 in 2013-2014, a drop of 31 per cent. The number of special trips anywhere in the country by dependants, including students up to age 25, dropped from 69 to 43, a 38 per cent decrease.

A spokesperson for House of Commons Speaker Geoff Regan (Halifax West, N.S.) a Liberal MP the Commons elected as Speaker when the new Parliament convened after the federal general election last October, provided only a brief response from House of Commons administration after *The Hill Times* asked if the House could explain the decline in travel, and whether it might have been related to the publicity over Senate expenses.

"Many factors and priorities linked to the business of the House can impact special travel points used by Members and their authorized travellers in the support of Members' parliamentary functions in a given fiscal year,"

Heather Bradley, the Speaker's communications director, said in an email response on behalf of the House administration.

"Due to the nature of special travel, the use of travel points for this purpose is not forecasted for any given fiscal year, but rather limited in accordance with the Members' Allowances and Services Manual," Ms. Bradley said, referring to the House document that covers all MP expense and travel spending, which sets out the limits and availability of travel expenses, but does not refer to reporting requirements.

She referred a reporter to the travel section of the manual.

NDP MP Peter Julian, the NDP House leader in the Commons and its representative on the authoritative House of Commons Board of Internal Economy, which rules over MP expenses and their reporting requirements, said the reduction in spending on essentially unlimited air travel any-

where in the country for MPs and fellow travellers is a positive development.

His concern was the reduction in travel by dependants might inhibit the ability of MPs to be with members their families.

"The one thing I guess that is a bit discordant is around whether this has impacted family members and dependants, speaking as a single dad who was for a period of time, with my son kind of going back and forth, I hope that the self-policing hasn't meant that members are cutting back contact with their children and their spouses," said Mr. Julian (New Westminster-Burnaby, B.C.).

"Generally overall, when I see a decline, for example on hospitality, I think it's a good thing, that maybe the excesses of the Senate have had a positive impact on how Members choose to make their expenses, that would be a good thing," Mr. Julian said.

Conservative MP Andrew Scheer (Regina-Qu'Appelle, Sask.), House speaker in the previous Parliament and now Conservative House leader in the Commons, and Liberal MP Kevin Lamoureux (Winnipeg North, Man.), parliamentary secretary to Liberal House Leader Dominic LeBlanc, did not respond to emailed questions sent to their offices.

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CANADA'S DIGITAL POLICY FORUM

DIVERSIFYING CANADA'S ECONOMY THROUGH STRONG DIGITAL POLICY

Canada's Digital Policy Forum invites you to an interactive policy event on diversifying Canada's economy through strong digital policy.

Featuring Canada's Research Chair in Social Media Data Stewardship, **Anatoliy Gruzd**; representatives from the **Swedish Digitaliseringskommissionen**, and the perspective of multiple sectors on digital policy, join CDPF for an engaging forum on the State of Canada's Digital economy. A special reception follows showcasing emerging digital technologies.

Moderated by **Winston Sih**, Digital Media Specialist, Toronto Breakfast Television.

Tuesday April 19, 2016

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NDP MP Tracey Ramsey swimming in the trade deep end

NDP rookie Tracey Ramsey is quickly getting comfortable as her party's voice on international trade.

BY PETER MAZEREEUW

The questions were focused and concise, free from the political preamble often jammed into queries from Members of Parliament in the spotlight.

Will the government provide financial aid? Which studies have been done? Where are those emails going?

The prosecutor on this occasion was not outgoing NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair, but one of the freshest recruits to his party. International trade critic Tracey Ramsey was using her third-ever House committee meeting to grill David Lametti (LaSalle-Émard-Verdun, Que.), the parliamentary secretary for trade critic Chrystia Freeland, and Kirsten Hillman, Canada's top trade negotiator, on the government's plans for the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal.

The rookie representative for Essex, which borders the city of Windsor, Ont., has quickly adjusted to serving as her party's sole MP on the House Trade Committee. She has become one of the more recognizable new faces—with perhaps some credit due to her long, reddish brown hair—in a party that was decimated in the October election.

International trade is one area where the NDP has been able to wedge itself away from the governing Liberals, particularly since the late stages of last summer's election campaign. Where the Liberals have alternatively been supportive, cautious, and non-committal to free trade and the TPP in particular, and the Conservatives staunchly in favour, the NDP have claimed the ground of TPP opponents.

Mr. Mulcair's office selected Ms. Ramsey to lead the charge, and the former auto worker, activist, and labour crusader has evidently thrown herself into the task.

"Her questions are good, she's doing her homework," said Liberal MP Mark Eyking (Sydney Victoria, N.S.), the House Trade Committee chairperson.

The trade portfolio is not a light one for the uninitiated. Asking the right questions requires at least a beginner's understanding of trade law, global economics, trade remedies, supply management, and non-tariff barriers. The TPP itself is about 6,000 pages long, and it's not a breezy read.

Ms. Ramsey, 45, has taken on her task with some help from a pair of veteran Hill staffers, Lindsay Mathysen and Melanie Sanderson, and her fellow NDP MPs. After her appointment in November, she scoured the Internet for articles on international trade until she was able to connect with Don Davies (Vancouver Kingsway, B.C.), the last NDP trade critic and



NDP MP for Essex Tracey Ramsey is settling into her role as her party's critic on the House Trade Committee. *The Hill Times* photograph by Sam Garcia

current health critic, who met with Ms. Ramsey several times to brief her on the files he had been working on, she said.

Other MPs and their staff have reached out to connect her with interest groups from their area who have something important to say about trade, she said.

"A lot of my time is spent in those meetings," she said.

Ms. Ramsey has also relied upon knowledge accumulated during her years as a political "discussion leader" for Unifor, and a member of a Windsor blue-collar class that is still stinging from the loss of jobs sent to Mexico and elsewhere over the past couple of decades.

On the campaign trail

Ms. Ramsey won her riding by a margin of about six percentage points last year, making her the first member of the NDP to represent the district since Steven Langdon in the early 1990s. She volunteered to serve as a critic after NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair told his new crop of MPs to put their names forward during a post-election conference call. She put her name in for several critic roles, including trade and status of women, and says she was "thrilled" when she was named the trade critic.

Ms. Ramsey is, on the surface, an obvious fit for the trade critic role, despite her rookie status. She represents a border riding reliant on the exchange of goods and people with the United States, Canada's largest trading

partner, and knows first-hand some of the concerns around free trade held by Canada's labour unions, which form a big part of the NDP's power base.

Anxiety over the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement, which Canada's government has signed but not committed to ratifying, became one of the biggest issues of the campaign in Essex during the final weeks leading up to the election, said Bobbye K. Baylis, the CEO of the NDP's Essex riding association. That was a boon for Ms. Ramsey and the NDP, who were in touch with the pain inflicted on unionized auto and food processing workers in the area over the past couple of decades, said Ms. Baylis.

The tension spilled over during a protest against the TPP organized by Unifor outside of a rally for then-incumbent Conservative MP for Essex, Jeff Watson, in September. Volunteers for Mr. Watson's campaign reported being verbally abused by some of the protesters. Mr. Watson called on Ms. Ramsey via Twitter to denounce "her fellow Unifor activists" for their behaviour, *The Windsor Star* reported. Ms. Ramsey and Ms. Baylis said they played no part in planning the protest, and did not participate.

'We've got our candidate'

Ms. Ramsey says she had no aspirations of entering federal politics before she was contacted by an Essex riding association official in search of a candidate for last year's election. The Essex

NDP team had her name on a list of about 30 people they knew from municipal politics, union activity or other political activism, said Ms. Baylis.

Ms. Ramsey was one of ten who agreed to run, and one of four who were ultimately interviewed by the riding association team, she said.

"After Tracey's interview, we all looked at each other and said, 'We've got our candidate,'" she said.

Ms. Baylis and the team put five questions—tough ones—to each interviewee, and asked them to pick three to answer, she said.

"Tracey answered all [five] in the length of time it would have taken most people to answer two," she said. Her answers were engaging, she said, not the sort of boilerplate stuff typical of people in political circles.

"She was, immediately after the interview, the number one on our list," she said.

Life on the line

Ms. Ramsey has always been a political person, both in her personal and professional life. She grew up in a heritage home in Kingsville, Ont., listening to her father, a career auto worker, and mother, who worked for Employment Canada before being laid off in the 1990s, debate political issues of the day. The couple often planted different party signs on the lawn in front of the house during campaigns.

"I don't believe the old adage that you don't talk about [politics]

at family functions. I love to get into friendly disagreements with my 94-year-old grandmother, and whoever else wants to talk about political issues. I think it's healthy and important," said Ms. Ramsey.

She worked administrative jobs after leaving high school, then applied at age 24 to work at the Ford Motor Company's plant in Essex at the urging of her father, who worked in a separate division of the plant as a manager. Over 19 years she worked every job in the assembly line, helping to turn cylinder blocks of metal into engines for F-150 trucks and Mustangs.

Politics and the merits of free trade were common topics of conversation on the line, she said; auto workers are well aware of the consequences of international trade agreements and policies, not least because of the decline in auto jobs since the North American Free Trade Agreement came into force in 1994. Ms. Ramsey says that deal is partly to blame for the layoffs and plant closures in the Windsor area in the years since. She was among a batch of workers laid off by Ford as the effects of the financial crisis were taking hold at the end of 2008. She was eventually brought back, but others—including her brother—never were.

Ms. Ramsey dove as deep into the labour movement as she could during her time at Ford. She sat on committees, taught classes on human rights to other workers and dissected government programming in the her local CAW chapter's newsletter. She hosted a "kitchen table conversation" in 2013 with parents and grandparents struggling to find child care, as part of a campaign organized by Canada's largest labour unions. She spoke about the "horrible situation" of encouraging her sons, Maxwell and Maliq, to go to school when they were complaining about feeling ill because she couldn't find a babysitter on short notice.

The structure of the CAW, which was folded into Unifor in 2013, helped to prepare her for life on the Hill, she said.

"In many ways, some of the procedures that we used are the same, and maybe that's why at committee I feel in my element."

Ms. Ramsey chaired the Women's Committee for the Unifor Local 200 during her time at Ford, helping to organize fundraisers for women's shelters, educational campaigns around domestic violence and, for something different, a choreographed flash mob dance in Windsor's Devonshire Mall as part of the 2013 One Billion Rising campaign around violence against women. She also served on a committee on politics. Her style was pro-active; she didn't hesitate to take things on or ask questions if something wasn't clear, said Darlene Costello, a friend who served with Ms. Ramsey on both committees.

"She's more of a go-getter. She's not one to sit back and [just] listen," she said.

Ms. Ramsey keeps a Jack Layton bobblehead doll in her office, a gift from Ms. Mathysen, and a Canadian Labour Congress poster on the wall. She has been a strong supporter of Mr. Mulcair.

As a new MP, "I'm kind of in the deep end of the pool," she says.

"But I'm swimming."

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ENVOYS NEW ZEALAND



DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES

BY KRISTEN SHANE

New Zealand high commissioner brings defence, trade background

“I arrived at the end of February, 3 o’clock in the morning, in the middle of a snowstorm.”

What a welcome to Canada for New Zealand’s high commissioner, **Daniel Mellso**p.

It was a few days after Ottawa got its last big dump of snow: 50-something centimetres of the white stuff.

“That was fun, bringing a young family into that environment,” says the career diplomat, dryly.

In all seriousness though, he adds: “For us, it’s exotic, all this snow. It’s exciting, getting the kids out sledding for the first time in their lives...getting them fitted out in snowsuits. That was Day One: going out to the kids’ clothing shop to get their Michelin [Man] outfits.”

Zara, who is turning five this month, started at Rockcliffe Park Public School. Her brother, **Connor**, is two.

Mr. Mellso’s partner, **Jane Hooker**, started together with him at their Pacific island-nation’s foreign ministry. She’s a lawyer who, though she isn’t working at the high commission, may pick up some contract work here once the family is settled in, he said.

Because New Zealand and Canada are both Commonwealth countries that share the Queen as the head of state, Mr. Mellso is called a high commissioner instead of an ambassador and he’s able to start on the job officially on his first day, after stepping off the plane, unlike other heads of foreign diplomatic mission. Ambassadors to Canada have to wait to present their credentials to the governor general before taking up official duties including meeting with certain government officials. New high commissioners like Mr. Mellso, though, do need to present an introductory letter from their prime minister to Canada’s PM. His Twitter feed (@NZinOttawa) indicated he did on April 11. Mr. Mellso said April 1 he was couriering in a traditional Maori cloak to wear on the occasion.

Ottawa is a prime location for his first head-of-mission posting. Not only because of its family-friendly nature, a big personal motivation for him to ask for the post, but also because of the close historical Canada-New Zealand ties. Both are members of the Commonwealth and the even more exclusive Five Eyes club of defence and security allies (which also includes the United States, Britain and Australia). They also swap some immigration security information. Defence Minister **Harjit Sajjan** just

finished a trip to New Zealand and Australia, where he met his counterparts and talked about their recent defence policy reviews (Canada is about to embark on one).

Mr. Mellso’s deep background in defence, trade, and economics makes him well suited for the post. His most recent position before coming to Canada was as head of the international branch at his Ministry of Defence, responsible to advising the government on international military deployments and defence diplomacy.

New Zealand and its Pacific neighbour and ally Australia have jointly deployed troops to Iraq to train Iraqi soldiers to help fight the Islamic State (also known as ISIS, ISIL and Daesh). New Zealand forces are based in a different part of Iraq than the Canadian troops who are training Kurdish peshmerga soldiers in the country’s north.

Besides the defence stint, Mr. Mellso has been posted as a diplomat to his country’s embassies in The Hague and Seoul. He was also once seconded to work in Foreign Minister **Murray McCully**’s office.

His Korean posting came after Mr. Mellso studied the language and economics at the University of Waikato in New Zealand, earning a bachelor of arts and master of management studies.

He was keen to learn an Asian language, he said, given the Asia-Pacific backyard to him and 4.6 million other Kiwis.

“Looking at the Asian languages, Japanese was very popular. Everybody else seemed to be learning Chinese because that was the language of the future. So I figured I’ll...have a point of difference, so [I] went for Korean.”

It’s not the first time he’s taken the road less travelled.

Mr. Mellso got his first taste of the diplomatic lifestyle as a high school student on a year-long exchange to Russia.

New Zealand’s trade minister and a delegation of businesspeople were in Saint Petersburg and the country’s embassy, supporting the visit, invited the Kiwis in town to a dinner with the crew. All three of them (including Mr. Mellso).

“And that’s where I found out about what the diplomats get up to. That inspired me to at least think about a diplomatic career,” he said. “When you come from a small country like New Zealand there’s a general desire to go out and explore the world.”

His “intensely patriotic” nature

led him to join his country’s foreign ministry in 2001 to use his skillset to advance his country’s interests abroad.

One of his first jobs was analyzing the economic impact of the 9/11 attacks in the United States, but his career has largely been focused on Asia and trade, including work on China’s accession to the World Trade Organization, and trade deals with Thailand and Korea.

He was a deputy to New Zealand’s chief negotiator for a pre-cursor deal to the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The recently signed but not yet-to-be-enforced deal now has a dozen members including Canada and top economies Japan and the United States. But when Mr. Mellso started working on it, it was known as the Pacific Three or P3, which included Singapore and Chile, and then P4 when Brunei joined.

The Canadian government is consulting before deciding whether to ratify the deal. “Obviously our interest here is for Canada to

ratify,” he said, adding that New Zealand will closely follow the consultation process.

Promoting business links and bilateral trade is a top priority for him, including dealing with thorny government regulations in the wine sector (Canada’s an attractive market for New Zealand) and dairy sector (the country hasn’t been shy about its desire for Canada to open up its longstanding supply management system that keeps aggressive exporters like it away).

Besides trade, he said, he’s seen interest from Canadians in how New Zealand develops policy toward its Maori indigenous population in terms of socio-economic development and education.

The Trudeau government has made indigenous affairs a priority.

“There’s a real interest in learning from that New Zealand model, and that’s something that we’ll be trying to facilitate through this office,” he said.



New Zealand’s high commissioner, Daniel Mellso, spent his first day in Canada at a kids’ clothing shop getting Michelin-Man-style snowsuits for his kids. Photograph courtesy of the New Zealand High Commission

New Zealand this year finishes up a two-year temporary seat on the United Nations Security Council. Canada can help it along in the job, filling in information about places like francophone Africa, for instance, where New Zealand has relatively less expertise.

“We’ve noted with interest... the prime minister’s announcement for Canada to go for the Security Council in [2021],” he said.

Asked whether Canada would have New Zealand’s support for its bid, though, he said the country doesn’t normally talk voting arrangements for these things.

What he could say: “There is a very strong tradition of New Zealand and Canada and Australia working with each other in these multilateral forums at the United Nations.”

While in Canada, he’ll also make a few trips to Jamaica, where he is cross-posted.

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LEGISLATION

THE WEEK AHEAD

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2016

- The House will be debating the Liberal government's 2016-17 budget.
- The House will debate Steven Blaney's (Bellechasse-Les Etchemins-Lévis, Que.) private member's bill, C-226, Impaired Driving Act, at second reading.
- The House Official Languages Committee will meet at 3:30 p.m. in Room 253-D, Centre Block, to continue studying the Translation Bureau. It will hear from: University of Ottawa professor Linda Cardinal and professor emeritus Jean Delisle; and the Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada's Chair Sylviane Lanthier and executive director Suzanne Bossé; and the Language Industry Association's vice-president Maryse Benhoff.
- The House Health Committee will meet at 3:30 p.m. in the Valour Building (151 Sparks St.), Room 268, to discuss the development of a national pharmacare program. It will hear from the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health's president and CEO Brian O'Rourke, the Canadian Institute for Health Information's vice president of programs Brent Diverty, and director of pharmaceuticals and health workforce information services Michael Gaucher, as well as the Health Department's assistant deputy minister in the strategic policy branch Abby Hoffman and pharmaceuticals management strategies office director Frances Hall, and Patented Medicine Prices Review Board executive director Douglas Clark and officials Tanya Potashnik and Guillaume Couillard.
- The House Agriculture and Agri-Food Committee will meet at 3:30 p.m. in Centre Block, Room 112-N, to discuss committee business and the Canada Transportation Act Review Report. It will hear from the Department of Transport assistant deputy minister of policy Shawn Tupper, and director general of surface transportation policy Lenore Duff.
- The House Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities Committee will meet at 3:30 p.m. in the Valour Building (151 Sparks St.), Room 228, on the 2016-17 Main Estimates. MPs will hear from the Department of Employment and Social Development's deputy minister Ian Shugart and senior assistant deputy ministers Kathryn McDade (Income Security and Social Development Branch), Paul Thompson (Skills and Employment Branch), Benoit Long (Processing and Payment Services Branch, Service Canada), assistant deputy minister Anthony Giles and chief financial officer Alain P. Séguin. It will also hear from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's president and CEO Evan Siddall and chief financial officer Brian Naish.
- The House Natural Resources Committee will meet at 3:30 p.m. in Room 237-C of Centre Block to discuss the future of Canada's oil and gas, mining and nuclear sectors. It will hear from the Canadian Standards Association's director of energy and utilities Kevin MacDougall, environment and climate change program manager Michael Leering and natural resources program manager Jeffrey Walker, as well as the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers' vice-president of policy and performance Alex Ferguson. After that it will meet on committee business in private.
- The House Special Committee on Pay Equity will meet at 5:30 p.m. in Room 237-C Centre Block, in private, to study pay equity. It will hear from Library of Parliament analysts Julie Mackenzie and Julian Walker and then open the meeting to the public to plan for future business.
- The Senate Human Rights Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. in Room 9, the Victoria Building, to conduct an examination of Canada's international and national human rights obligations. It will hear from: director general of refugee affairs at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada Sarita Bhatla; Global Affairs Canada's director of the Northeast Asia division Christopher Burton and assistant deputy minister for Asia-Pacific Susan Gregson; KCWA Family and Social Services executive director Monica Chi; HanVoice Support Association executive director Christopher Kim; Light Korean Presbyterian Church Volunteers Committee chairman Ross Lee; and secretary general of Amnesty International Canada Alex Neve.
- The Senate Special Committee on Senate Modernization will meet at 12 p.m. in Room 257, East Block, to continue its consideration of methods to make the Senate more effective within the current constitutional framework. It will hear from: University of Prince Edward Island politics professor Donald Desserud; University of Ottawa law professor Errol Mendes; University of Montreal law professor Stéphane Beaulac; and University of Manitoba professor Paul Thomas.
- The Senate Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs will meet at 12:15 p.m. in Room 2, Victoria Building to discuss services and benefits provided to veterans and their families. Appearing will be Veterans Affairs Minister Kent Hehr and his deputy minister, Walter Natynczyk.



Foreign Minister Stéphane Dion, left, is slated to speak before the House Foreign Affairs on April 14. The House will debate Conservative MP Steven Blaney's private member's bill on drunk driving on April 13. *The Hill Times* photographs by Jake Wright

- The Senate Foreign Affairs and International Trade Committee will meet at 4:15 p.m. in Room 160-S, Centre Block, to continue a study on foreign relations and international trade generally. It will hear from Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance executive director Claire Citeau, Canadian Pork Council executive director and Trade Alliance board member Martin Rice, and McMaster University economics professor Jim Stanford.
- The Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs will meet at 4:15 p.m. in Room 257, East Block, to study matters pertaining to delays in Canada's criminal justice system. It will hear from Brock University political science professor emeritus Carl Baar, University of Toronto criminology professor Anthony Doob, retired chief justice of the Superior Court of Québec François Rolland and University of Ottawa associate professor of criminology Cheryl Webster.
- The Senate Social Affairs, Science and Technology Committee will meet at 4:15 p.m. in Room 2, the Victoria Building, to continue its study on the issue of dementia in our society. It will hear from the Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association president Veronique Boscari, Canadian Association on Gerontology's Dr. Suzanne Dupuis-Blanchard; and the Canadian Academy of Geriatric Psychiatry's Dr. Marie-France Tourigny-Rivard.
- The Senate Banking, Trade and Commerce Committee will meet at 4:30 p.m. in Room 9, Victoria Building, to study issues pertaining to internal barriers to trade. It will hear from Canadian Chamber of Commerce transportation and infrastructure policy director Ryan Greer, Environment and Climate Change Canada director general John Moffet and Canadian Federation of Independent Business national affairs director Monique Moreau.
- The Senate Aboriginal Peoples Committee will meet at 6:45 p.m. in Room 160-S, Centre Block, to work on a study on best practices and ongoing challenges relating to housing in the North. It will consider, in private, a draft agenda.
- The Senate Transport and Communications Committee will meet at 6:45 p.m. in Room 2, the Victoria Building, to study the development of a strategy to facilitate the transport of crude oil to eastern Canadian refineries and to ports on the east and west coasts of Canada. It will hear from the University of Lethbridge political science professors Geoffrey Hale and Yale Belanger.
- The Senate National Finance Committee will meet at 6:45 p.m. in Room 9, the Victoria Building, to study the main estimates. It will hear from Transport Canada's Claude Corbin and André Lapointe, and Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety's Gareth Jones and Frank Leduc.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2016

- The House will debate the Liberal government's 2016-17 budget on the fourth and final appointed day.
- The House will debate for the first time Gabriel Ste-Marie's (Joliette, Que.) private member's motion, M-42, on tax avoidance.
- The House Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics will meet at 8:45 a.m. in Room 268, Valour Building (151 Sparks St.) to talk about the transfer of information to the United States Internal Revenue Service. Appearing will be: National

Revenue Minister Diane Lebouthillier and Canada Revenue Agency officials Marie-Claude Juneau and Ted Gallivan, as well as Privacy Commissioner Daniel Therrien.

- The House Public Accounts Committee will meet at 8:45 a.m. in private, in Room 112-N, Centre Block, to draft its report on Chapter 5, Canadian Armed Forces Housing, of the Fall 2015 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.
- The House International Trade Committee will meet at 8:45 a.m. in Room 306, Valour Building (151 Sparks St.) on the auditor general's fall 2015 report on controlling exports at the border. Witnesses: Auditor General Michael Ferguson and principal Nicholas Swales. The committee will then meet in private to discuss committee business.
- The House National Defence Committee will meet at 8:45 a.m. in Room 362, East Block, to discuss Canada and the Defence of North America. It will hear from Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force Lt.-Gen Michael Hood, and director general of air readiness with the Royal Canadian Air Force Brig.-Gen Todd Balfe.
- The House Canadian Heritage Committee will meet at 8:45 a.m. in Room 237-C, Centre Block to study relevant aspects of the main estimates 2016-17. Minister of Canadian Heritage Mélanie Joly, deputy minister Graham Flack, and chief financial officer Andrew Francis will testify. At 9:45 a.m., Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities Carla Qualtrough will testify with Canadian Heritage associate deputy minister Patrick Borbey and chief financial officer Andrew Francis. This meeting will be televised.
- The House Justice and Human Rights Committee will meet at 8:45 a.m. in Room 253-D Centre Block to discuss access to the justice system. Witnesses: Aboriginal Affairs Coalition of Saskatchewan president Kim Beaudin, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples senior adviser Jerry Peltier, Goldblatt Partners LLP partner Cynthia Petersen, REAL Women of Canada national vice-president Gwendolyn Landolt, West Coast Women's Legal Education and Action Fund executive director Kasari Govennder and litigation director Rajwant Mangat as well as Women's Legal Education and Action Fund executive director Diane O'Reggio, and legal director Kim Stanton.
- The House Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure of the Status of Women Committee will meet at 10 a.m. in Room C-120, 1 Wellington Street, to discuss committee business.
- The House Environment and Sustainable Development Committee will meet at 11 a.m. in Room 306, The Valour Building, 151 Sparks St. to discuss the Federal Sustainable Development Act and will hear from the Department of Finance's Richard Botham; the Privy Council Office's Les Linklater; and from video conference on Pender Island B.C., Simon Fraser University's David Boyd. The committee will then move on to draft instructions for its report.
- The Veterans Affairs Committee will meet at 11 a.m. in Room 268, Valour Building (151 Sparks St.) to discuss service delivery to veterans. It will hear from Auditor General of Canada Michael Ferguson and officials from his office Joe Martire and Dawn Campbell as well as Veterans Affairs Department officials David F Ross and Dr. Cyd Courchesne. It will also discuss committee business.

STATUS OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

HOUSE OF COMMONS

- C-2, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (committee).
- C-4, An Act to Amend the Canada Labour Code, the Parliamentary Employment and Staff Relations Act, the Public Service Labour Relations Act and the Income Tax Act (committee).
- C-5, An Act to Repeal Division 20 of Part 3 of the Economic Action Plan 2015 Act, No. 1 (second reading).
- C-6, An Act to Amend the Citizenship Act and to make consequential amendments to another Act (committee).
- C-7, An Act to Amend the Public Service Labour Relations Act, the Public Service Labour Relations and Employment Board Act and other Acts and to provide for certain other measures (committee).
- C-10, An Act to Amend the Air Canada Public Participation Act and to provide for certain other measures (second reading).
- C-11, An Act to Amend the Copyright Act (access to copyrighted works or other subject-matter for persons with perceptual disabilities) (second reading).
- C-12, An Act to Amend the Canadian Forces Members and Veterans Re-establishment and Compensation Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts (second reading).

SENATE

- There are currently no bills before the Senate.

ROYAL ASSENT RECEIVED

- C-3, Appropriation Act No. 4, 2015-16
- C-8, Appropriation Act No. 5, 2015-16
- C-9, Appropriation Act No. 1, 2016-17

- The House Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Committee will meet at 3:30 p.m. in Centre Block, Room 237-C to discuss the declaration of a health emergency by First Nations communities in northern Ontario. It will hear from: Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day; Mushkegowuk Council Grand Chief Jonathon Solomon; Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler; Neskantaga First Nation Chief Wayne Moonias; and Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority board chairman John Cutfeet. This meeting will be televised.
- The House Fisheries and Oceans Committee will meet at 3:30 p.m. in Room 228, Valour Building (151 Sparks St.) to discuss the closure of the Comox MCTS station of the Canadian Coast Guard. It will talk about drafting instructions for a report and then meet on committee business.
- The Foreign Affairs and International Development Committee will meet at 3:30 p.m. in Room 268, Valour Building (151 Sparks St.) to discuss women, peace and security. It will hear from Institute for Inclusive Security director Jacqueline O'Neill, Human Rights Watch's women's rights division executive director Liesl Gerntholtz and women, peace and security advocate Sarah Taylor. At 4:30 p.m. the committee will receive a briefing on the mandate letter of the foreign minister, hearing from Foreign Minister Stéphane Dion, deputy minister Daniel Jean and assistant deputy minister for strategic policy Vincent Rigby.

- The Senate Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources Committee will meet at 8 a.m. in Room 257, East Block to study the effects of transitioning to a low carbon economy. It will hear from Natural Resources Canada directors general Patricia Fuller, Jeff Labonté, Drew Leyburne, Niall O'Dea, Laura Oleson, Paula Vieira, and Marc Wickham.
- The Senate Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration Committee will meet at 8 a.m. in Room 160-S, Centre Block, partially in private, to consider financial and administrative matters.
- The Joint Scrutiny of Regulations Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. in Room 256-S, Centre Block, to review statutory instruments and consider a draft budget.
- The Senate Social Affairs, Science and Technology Committee will meet at 10:30 a.m. in Room 2, Victoria Building, to continue its study on the issue of dementia in our society. It will hear from Alzheimer's Disease International executive director Marc Wortmann.
- The Senate Banking, Trade and Commerce Committee will meet at 10:30 a.m. in Room 9, the Victoria Building, to study issues pertaining to internal barriers to trade. It will hear from: Richard Arsenault, executive director of Domestic Food Safety Systems and Meat Hygiene Directorate at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency; president of the International Trade Policy Consultants Inc. Kathleen Macmillan; and Mr. Seppey, the chief agriculture negotiator at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.
- The Senate Foreign Affairs and International Trade Committee will meet at 10:30 a.m. in Room 160-S, Centre Block, to continue a study on recent political and economic developments in Argentina. It will hear from Argentine Ambassador Norma Nascimbene de Dumont, and Sebastian Molteni and Cecilia

Ines Silberberg, and officials from her embassy. The committee will also work on a study on foreign relations and international trade generally, hearing from Employment and Social Development Canada assistant deputy minister for the policy, dispute resolution and international affairs, labour program Anthony Giles, and ESDC's director general for the international and intergovernmental labour affairs, labour program Rakesh Patry.

- The Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee will meet at 10:30 a.m. in Room 257, East Block, to study matters pertaining to delays in Canada's criminal justice system. It will hear from witnesses from Rideauwood Addiction and Family Services, University of British Columbia clinical assistant professor Dr. Keith Ahamad, Craig Fairbairn of the Ottawa Police Service Drug Treatment Court Liaison Officer, Central Neighbourhood Unit and the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse's senior policy adviser Rebecca Jesseman.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016

- The House will debate Ziad Aboultaif's (Edmonton Manning) private member's bill, C-223, Canadian Organ Donor Registry Act, at second reading.

MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2016

- The Special Senate Modernization Committee will meet twice today in Room 160-S, Centre Block. At 11:30 a.m. it will consider methods to make the Senate more effective within the current constitutional framework, hearing from the Right Honourable the Lord Hope of Craighead, KT, Convenor of the Crossbench Peers, House of Lords of the United Kingdom. And at 2:30 p.m., it will meet with an agenda to follow.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2016

- The Canadian Heritage Committee will meet at 8:45 a.m. in Room 253-D, Centre Block to discuss the media and local communities. It will hear from Rogers vice-president of television and broadcast operations Colette Watson, and vice-president of regulatory and media Susan Wheeler; Fédération nationale des communications president Pascale St-Onge and secretary general-treasurer Pierre Roger; Transcontinental Inc. CEO François Olivier; DBC Communications Inc. president and director general Benoit Chartier; and Public Interest Advocacy Centre legal counsel Alysia Lau with external counsel Geoff White. This meeting will be televised.
- The House Public Accounts Committee will meet at 8:45 a.m. in Room 237-C, Centre Block to discuss a chapter in the fall 2015 auditor general's report on implementing gender-based analysis. Witnesses to be determined. This meeting will be televised.
- The House Environment Committee will meet at 11 a.m. in Room 253-D, Centre Block to receive a briefing on the environment minister's mandate letter. It will hear from Environment Minister Catherine McKenna, her deputy minister Michael Martin, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency president Ron Hallman, and Parks Canada Agency CEO Daniel Watson. With the same witnesses, it will discuss relevant sections of the main estimates 2016-17 and the 2015-16 supplementary estimates (C).

POLITICAL STAFFERS



HILL CLIMBERS

BY LAURA RYCKEWAERT

A look at Chief Government Whip Leslie's office

Longtime Liberal Whip staffers Patrick Durocher, Mélanie Lauzon and Nathalie Sauvé all continue to work in the office.

Chief Government Whip Andrew Leslie has an 11-member staff team in his office as a Liberal House officer, led by chief of staff **Mathieu Dupont**.

As whip, Mr. Leslie is responsible for keeping tabs on all MPs of the Liberal caucus on the Hill, 184 MPs in all (including Mr. Leslie and the PM). He helps ensure MPs show up for votes in the House Chamber; organizes participation in Chamber debates; and organizes committee, seat and office assignments, among other tasks.

While not a minister, Mr. Leslie is a political House officer, and as such has been allocated a budget of \$899,996 to run the Chief Government Whip's Office for 2016-17. As Whip, Mr. Leslie works closely alongside Liberal MP and Government House Leader **Dominic LeBlanc**, who is a member of cabinet.

Working directly under chief of staff Mr. Dupont in Mr. Leslie's whip's office are **Caroline Theriault**, assistant to the chief of staff, and special assistant **Clive Ngan**. Mr. Ngan is a former parliamentary guide on the Hill. Mr. Ngan started last September before joining Mr. Leslie's team in February, as indicated by his LinkedIn profile, and before that spent a year as a House of Commons page.

A Carleton University student, his LinkedIn profile indicates he's previously been engaged with politics at the municipal level, including serving as elementary engagement and marketing manager for the Markham Mayor's Youth Task Force.

In his role as chief of staff, Mr. Dupont also helps to tackle media requests to the office.

Veteran Hill staffer **Patrick Durocher** continues to work in the Liberal Whip's office as a lobby co-ordinator, with more than a decade worth of experience in the role now under his belt. **Colin Lalonde**, who's been actively involved with the Liberal Party in Ontario, supports him in this role as deputy lobby co-ordinator.

Nathalie Sauvé, another longtime Liberal Whip staffer, also continues to work in the office as a senior adviser, helping Mr. Leslie to liaise with the party caucus on the Hill. Working under her is special assistant **Trevor Padbury**, who's previously been involved with the Liberal Ottawa-Vanier riding association and has worked for the federal party.

Mélanie Lauzon, who's perhaps the longest-serving veteran Liberal Whip staffer having now spent more than two

decades in the office (her, Ms. Sauvé and Mr. Durocher should be well familiar by now), continues as a committee co-ordinator.

Working under Ms. Lauzon to help organize committee members and work are committee analysts **Karlee Bourque**, **Allison Chick** and **John Power**.

Before joining the Whip's office back in December, Ms. Chick was a management assistant at Risk Dynamics, a global risk management adviser to financial institutions, according to her LinkedIn account. Before that, she worked for a time at The Ottawa Hospital, among other experience. A McGill grad, Ms. Chick also has a post-graduate certificate in human resources management from Humber College.

Mr. Power, meanwhile, previously worked for pharmaceutical company Bristol-Myers Squibb as a virology marketing associate, after having worked as a market research intern at the company for almost a year in 2014, according to his LinkedIn profile. Before that, he briefly worked as a researcher at Tactix Government Relations and Public Affairs, in part helping clients to prepare for appearances before parliamentary committees.

Mr. Power also previously worked as a student in the House of Commons' multimedia services division for about four months over the summer of 2012, during which time he helped research "best practices in website design used in other jurisdictions and countries, and provided recommendations for the renewal of the parliamentary websites," as explained on his online profile.

Matt Luloff, whom Hill Climbers reported late last year as working in the Whip's office as a lobby co-ordinator, has since the beginning of the year been working in Defence Minister **Harjit Sajjan**'s office as assistant to the parliamentary secretary for Defence, Liberal MP **John McKay**.

Former Veterans staffer Fauteux to do Battlefield Bike Ride in June

VIA Rail's director of government and community relations **Jacques Fauteux**, a former chief of staff to ex-Veterans Affairs minister **Julian Fantino**, is headed to Italy in June as part of Wounded Warriors Canada's Battlefield Bike Ride, a 600-kilometre tour of Italy's battlefields.

Mr. Fauteux, himself a navy veteran who left his gig as chief of staff to Mr. Fantino to work for VIA Rail in November 2014, will be doing the ride with his wife, **Joanne Lostracco**, who works for the Department of National Defence in Ottawa (as a civilian) and whose father immigrated to Canada after the Second World War. He told *Hill Climbers* he surprised her with the trip as a Christmas present after mentioning it after visiting the Vimy Ridge memo-



Cheer up, Mr. Leslie: Chief Government Whip Andrew Leslie, pictured recently in Ottawa, has an 11-member staff. Hill Climbers highlights his staffers. *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright



This just in: Clive Ngan, left, is a special assistant in Chief Government Whip Andrew Leslie's office, working under chief of staff Mathieu Dupont, centre. Former Conservative Hill staffer Jacques Fauteux, right. *Photographs courtesy of LinkedIn*

rial on their honeymoon last summer.

"She said, 'I'd love to do that,' and put it on our bucket list," he said.

"I've seen Italy because of my military experience, and also because that used to be the place that we used to go before going to Bosnia, but I've never seen it from that particular vantage point, from a World War Two vantage point, so I just want to see where veterans have gone before me."

After graduating from military college in Kingston, Ont., Mr. Fauteux signed up in 1982 and served as a naval officer for almost 25 years. His military career included a stint in Bosnia with NATO.

He retired from the Canadian Armed Forces in 2006. Soon after, Mr. Fauteux began working in then PM **Stephen Harper**'s office as a deputy director of communications, and has previously also worked for **John Baird** when he was Transport minister and as chief of staff to Mr. Fantino when he was associate defence minister.

While working for Mr. Fantino, Mr. Fauteux said he got to see "first-hand" a "lot of preparations for the D-Day commemorations,"

and was able to attend one at the Vimy Memorial in France with the minister in 2014.

Participants on the ride have to raise a minimum of \$4,000. The ride is set to take place from June 10 to 18, starting in Ravenna, Italy, and ending near Monte Cassino. It will also go through Rimini, the Strait of Messina, and Ortona, among other places.

Mr. Fauteux said his wife is "the biker"—he's a runner—and, "I'm afraid she's going to beat me all across the route in Italy; I'm going to be the one at the back." His job with VIA Rail means he spends about three days on the road—on the train, in his case—each week, so he's done a lot of his training in hotel gyms.

Mr. Fauteux said he got a chance to meet new Liberal Veterans Affairs Minister **Kent Hehr** recently at the Toronto Garrison Officers Ball.

"I think those guys are doing great work and anything that moves ahead the agenda and the benefits and the support for veterans I think is good," he said.

lryckewaert@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

FEATURE EVENTS

PARLIAMENTARY CALENDAR



McCallum to talk immigrant success April 14 at the Westin

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie—The Canadian Branch of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie takes part in a meeting of the APF Political Committee. New York. parl.gc.ca/IIA/CalendarOfEvents.aspx

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

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

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

The Agricultural Institute of Canada Conference—It will be holding a conference, April 13-14 on "Disseminating Agricultural Research." Delegates will be part of a national dialogue on the place of agricultural research to re-establish Canada as a leading developer of innovative and sustainable agricultural products and technologies.

CDA Institute for a Roundtable Discussion—Furio De Angelis, UNHCR Representative in Canada, will conduct a session at the CDA Institute for a Roundtable Discussion, Wednesday, April 13, 10:30 a.m.-13:00 p.m., World Exchange Plaza, Telfer School of Management, Amphitheatre, Room 350, 45 O'Connor St., Ottawa. Registration: regular admission \$50, CDA Institute donor \$25, full-time university students \$15.

Argentina's Commerce Secretary—The Canadian Council for the Americas presents Argentine Commerce Secretary Miguel Braun. 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. \$40. Torys LLP, 79 Wellington St. W., 30th floor, Toronto. Register via cca-canada.com

Op RENAISSANCE: The Canadian Forces' Contribution to the Humanitarian Mission in Nepal—The Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies at Concordia University presents Lt.-Col. Simon Comtois, who will speak about his experience with the Disaster Assistance Response Team on its last deployment to Nepal, following an earthquake that struck the country in April 2015. 3-4:30 p.m. 1250 rue Guy, FB 804, Mon-

treil. Free. Registration mandatory via eventbrite.

Smart Global Development Conference—This event will explore the role of higher education in advancing sustainable development goals, April 13-14, at the Delegation of the Ismaili Imam, Ottawa. Organizers and sponsors: Aga Khan Foundation Canada, Academics without Borders, International Development Research Centre. Undertaken with financial support of: Global Affairs Canada. Registration is now open at smartglobaldev.ca.

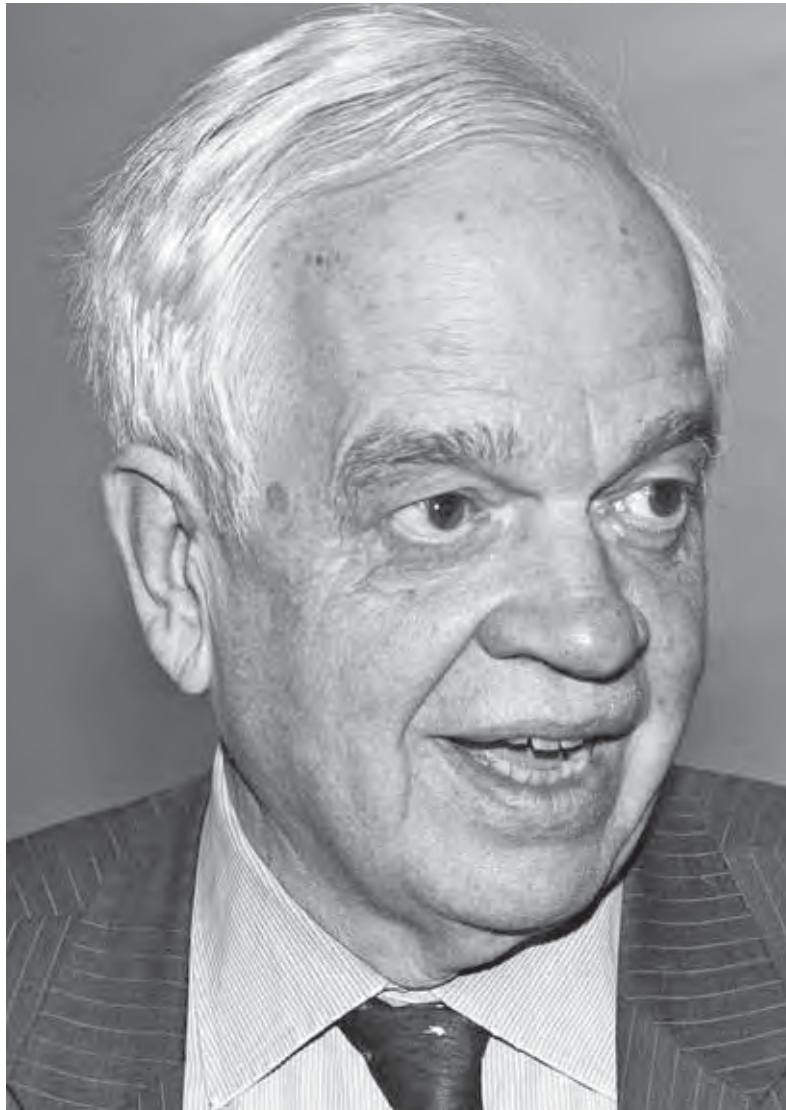
Our Living Waters: Gathering on the Hill—The Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network and Tides Canada, together with Liberal MP Francis Scarpaleggia, invite you to an evening of celebration and discussion about the future of Canada's most precious resource: fresh water. Remarks by Liberal MP Jonathan Wilkinson, parliamentary secretary to the minister of environment and climate change; Jodi White, chair of the board, Tides Canada and Tony Maas; director, Forum for Leadership on Water. Wednesday, April 13, 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Room 238-S, Centre Block. RSVP to info@ourlivingwaters.ca

Ottawa Development Drinks—The Ontario Council for International Cooperation presents this monthly networking event for international development professionals. Guest speakers: Alisha Todd, ParIAmericas, and Brittany Lambert, Oxfam Canada, speaking on Overcoming Gender Barriers to Democracy. HUB Ottawa, 71 Bank St. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Register via eventbrite.

Recreational Vehicle Dealers Association (RVDA) Reception—RVDA and CCRV will be hosting a reception as part of their 2016 Parliament Hill Days on Wednesday, April 13 from 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m. in room 601 of the Parliamentary Restaurant.

Former Parliamentarians—The Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians eleventh annual Douglas C. Frith Dinner will take place on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 in the Ballroom of the Fairmont Château Laurier Hotel from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The guest speaker, Minister of Democratic Institutions Maryam Monsef will speak about "Understanding our Parliamentary History to Help Shape the Reforms of Tomorrow." For additional information please call the CAFPA office at 613-947-1690.

Book Launch: The New Arab Wars: Uprisings and Anarchy in the Middle East—The Bill Graham Cen-



Immigration Minister John McCallum at Economic Club of Canada—His talk, Canada's Renewed Commitment to Hosting, Integration, and Success of Immigrants, will take place April 14, 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Westin Ottawa, 11 Colonel By Dr. *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright

tre for Contemporary International History at the University of Toronto presents this book launch with the chance to buy a signed copy. 7-9: p.m. George Ignatieff Theatre, 15 Devonshire Pl., Toronto. billgraham-centre.utoronto.ca

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

Bacon & Eggheads Breakfast—PAGSE presents a talk 'Exploring a Simulated Brain: From Human Behaviour to Drug Effects' with Chris Eliasmith, University of Waterloo. Thursday, April 14, 7:30 a.m. Parliamentary Dining Room, Centre Block. No charge to MPs, Senators, and media. All others, \$25. Pre-registration required by Monday, April 11 by contacting Donna Boag, PAGSE.pgs@rsc-src.ca or call 613-991-6369.

HT Events Presents Transportation Forum—Join leading industry executive and senior policy specialists for Hill Times Events Transportation Forum to examine the substantive recommendations put forward in the Transportation Act Review Report entitled, Pathways: Canada's Transportation System to World. April 14, 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Shaw Centre, Ottawa. Registration prices are \$249 for subscribers and \$299 for non-subscribers. Special group discounted pricing is available. Get tickets: Eventbrite or contact abeattie@hilltimes.com

Immigration Minister John McCallum at Economic Club of Canada—'Canada's Renewed Commitment to Hosting, Integration, and Success of Immigrants', April 14, 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m., the Westin Ottawa, 11 Colonel By Dr., Ottawa. Members: individual seat \$89 plus HST, or table of 10 for \$800 plus HST; guest seat \$110 plus HST and table of 10 \$990 plus HST.

Vicki Heyman: American Cultural Envoy—The partner of the U.S. ambassador will discuss the power of art and the artist's voice to convene and connect across demographics and borders. #Art-ConvoAIE - A New Spin on Cultural Diplomacy. 12 p.m. Jacket and tie

required. \$39 per person. Rideau Club, 15th floor, 99 Bank St., Ottawa. rideauclub.ca

Electoral Reform—Hosted by Jean-Luc Pepin Research Chair, University of Ottawa, a panel discussion on electoral reform featuring: Minister of Democratic Institutions Maryam Monsef; Nik Nanos; CP's Heather Scoffield; University of Ottawa's Mike Pal; Queen's University's Jonathan Rose; Université de Montréal Henry Milner; University of Calgary's Tom Flanagan; Liberal MP Mark Holland; Conservative MP Scott Reid; NDP MP Nathan Cullen; and Green Party Leader Elizabeth May. April 14, 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., 55 Laurier Ave. East, University of Ottawa, Room 12102, Desmarais Building, Ottawa.

Hugh Segal Book Launch—Two Freedoms: Canada's Global Future—The Ottawa International Writers Festival presents this talk by the former senator. Hosted by Policy Options editor Jennifer Ditchburn. Free. 5:30 p.m. Social, 537 Sussex Dr. writersfestival.org

The South Sudan Crisis: Human Rights and the Challenges of Governance—Carleton University Norman Paterson School of International Affairs' David Carment moderates this talk by Amnesty International Canada's Alex Neve and Center for Peace and Development (University of Juba)'s Hüstin Läkü. 7-9 p.m. 2017 Dunton Tower, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Dr., Ottawa. Free. carleton.ca/africanstudies

Canadian War Museum Hosts Prestigious Society for Military History Conference—The Canadian War Museum and the Canadian Museum of History are proud to host the 83rd Annual Conference of the Society for Military History, which will take place in Canada's National Capital Region from April 14 to 17. It is considered to be one of the world's top events for military historians and a certain draw for all those interested in history, heritage, security and current affairs. For more information on the Society for Military History and this year's con-

ference held at the Ottawa Marriott Hotel, please visit the Society's website: www.smh-hq.org.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

Parliamentary Press Gallery Mugging—The Parliamentary Press Gallery will hold a mugging for full-time members only in the Reading Room, Room 237-C, Centre Block on Friday, April 15. The mugging will start at 12:30 p.m.

Spring Concert—The Ewashko Singers present A Baroque Interlude: Vivaldi's Gloria & Bach's Cantata 131. Featuring a chamber orchestra and soloists. 8 p.m. St. Joseph's Church, 174 Wilbrod St. Director: Laurence Ewashko. Advance tickets available at The Leading Note, 370 Elgin St.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

RESULTS Canada 2016 Conference: Voices that Change the World—The RESULTS Canada National Conference is a biennial event that brings together Canadians, global experts, seasoned advocates and key decision-makers. Speakers include: Joel Spicer, Micronutrient Initiative, Amanda Sussman, author of *The Art of the Possible: A Handbook for Political Activism*, Desmond Cole, Toronto Star columnist, former NDP MP Paul Dewar. \$50-\$175. 8:15 a.m. Fairmont Château Laurier, 1 Rideau St., Ottawa. Until April 17. results-resultats.ca/en/events/2016-national-conference

Ottawa Symphony Orchestra Spring Symphony Soiree—Featuring a concert, dinner, live auction and corporate tables hosting ambassadors. \$200 per person. Fairmont Château Laurier, 1 Rideau St., Ottawa. 6-10:30 p.m. ottawasymphony.com

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

Church Service to launch Barbados' 50th Anniversary Celebrations in Canada—On Nov. 30, Barbados will celebrate 50 years of Independence. To launch this year of celebrations, High Commissioner Yvonne Walkes is inviting Barbadians and friends of Barbados

including diplomatic community members to a Special Church Service. Reverend Dr. Anthony Bailey will officiate. Light refreshments will be served following the service. 4 p.m. Parkdale United Church, 429 Parkdale Ave., Ottawa. RSVP to ottawa@foreign.gov.bb or 613-236-9517.

Mark Bourrie: Martyrdom, Murder and the Lure of ISIS—Why would youth choose to fight in other people's wars? Why has ISIS become so good at attracting foreign fighters? In his new book, *The Killing Game*, Mark Bourrie examines the lure of this radical Islamist movement. Talk presented by the Ottawa International Writers Festival. 4 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 414 Sparks St. Members, free; others \$10-\$20. writersfestival.org

MONDAY, APRIL 18

Zimbabwe celebrates its Independence Day. It gained independence from the UK in 1980. For information on any celebrations, please call the embassy at 613-421-1242.

WriteOn! Resilience and Triumph: Immigrant Women Tell Their Stories—The Ottawa International Writers Festival presents this event featuring human rights advocate Monia Mazigh and Carleton University adjunct professor Vanaja Dhruvarajan. 12 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 414 Sparks St. Free for members, \$5-\$15 for others. writersfestival.org

Parliamentary Internship Program (PIP) Alumni Reception—Celebrating its 47th anniversary, the Parliamentary Internship Program (PIP) invites all Members of Parliament, Senators, and staff to its annual alumni reception featuring House Speaker Geoff Regan as well as newly-elected (and former parliamentary intern) Arif Virani, Member of Parliament for Parkdale-High Park, Ont. The reception will take place April 18, 2016 from 5 pm to 7 pm in the Sir John A. Macdonald Building, 144 Wellington St. Advance registration is required: <https://pip-ppsp.org/events/alumni-celebration-2016>

Debate: The Terrorist Threat Has Been Grossly Exaggerated in Canada—Walrus editor Jonathan Kay (yea) and former cabinet minister Chris Alexander (nay) will hash out that question as part of the first Great Canadian Debate to take place in Toronto, presented by the Macdonald-Laurier Institute. Isabel Bader Theatre, University of Toronto, 93 Charles St. W., Toronto. \$15-20. 7 p.m. macdonaldlaurier.ca

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

Canada-Germany Interparliamentary Group—It will hold its annual general meeting in Ottawa. parl.gc.ca/IIA/CalendarOfEvents.aspx

ParIAmericas—The Canadian Section of ParIAmericas will host a visiting Chilean delegation in Ottawa. parl.gc.ca/IIA/CalendarOfEvents.aspx

Big Thinking on the Hill with Janice Stein—The Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences' Big Thinking on the Hill lecture features Janice Stein speaking on 'The evolving Middle East: Implications for Canadian strategy.' Janice Stein is a professor at Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto and will discuss how the Middle East is experiencing the systematic collapse of a political order put in place one hundred years ago. This breakdown is creating ripples far beyond the region, pushing refugees up against an increasingly tightly wound Europe and exporting ideologies and ideologues that promote violence around the world. A hot breakfast will be served on Tuesday, April 19 from 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. in the Parliamentary Restaurant, Centre Block. Free for parliamentarians and the media—\$25 for all others. For more information and to RSVP, go to www.ideas-idees.ca/big-thinking or call 613-238-6112 ext. 310.

FEATURE EVENTS

PARLIAMENTARY CALENDAR



The Netherlands celebrates King's Day April 27

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

CCSPA Government Breakfast Reception—The Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association invites all MPs, Senators, and staff to their Annual Government Breakfast Reception on April 19, 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Ottawa Marriott (100 Kent Street). Please RSVP to Nancy Hitchins at hitchinsn@ccspa.org.

Canada's Digital Policy Forum—Moderated by Breakfast Television's Winston Sih, Canada's Digital Policy Forum is holding a digital policy educational workshop entitled "Diversifying Canada's Economy Through Strong Digital Policy" from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on April 19 at the Ottawa Delta City Centre. An interactive reception will follow from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Arc Hotel. There is no charge to attend this event. For more information please visit www.cdpc.ca/events or contact Denise Siele at dsiele@rogers.com.

Mark Bulgutch in Ottawa—Mark Bulgutch, author of *That's Why I'm a Journalist: Top Canadian Reporters Tell Their Most Unforgettable Stories*, will be in Ottawa April 19.

Franchise Awareness Day Cocktail Reception—Canadian Franchise Association hosts evening reception for government to celebrate Franchise Awareness Day on Parliament Hill. Free of charge and open invitation to MPs, Senators, and political staffers. 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at The Renaissance Room, Fairmont Château Laurier. Pre-registration required at www.franchiseawareness.ca/HillTimes or RSVP to Samantha Sheppard at ssheppard@cfa.ca.

Celebration of Life in Honour of Val Sears—Don Newman will MC an evening of stories and reminiscence about the life and career of one of Canada's leading political journalists, Val Sears. The 'Celebration of Life' for friends, family, and members of Ottawa's media and political communities, will be held at the Rideau Club at 5:30 p.m. on April 19. The Rideau Club asks that guests be reminded of its dress code.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

Writers' Trust of Canada Announces Shortlist March 2—On Wednesday, April 20 at 10 p.m. EST, the prizewinner will be announced at the Politics and the Pen Gala in Ottawa. Details of the authors and their nominated books will be available on the Writers' Trust website: writerstrust.com. Last year's winner was Joseph Heath for Enlightenment 2.0: Re-

storing Sanity to Our Politics, Our Economy, and Our Lives.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21

Hill Times Events: Global Food Security & Climate Change—Join Hill Times Events for the release of a new report on global food security and climate resilience from the Food Security Policy Group. Presenting the report will be CARE Canada president and CEO Gillian Barth. Followed by a panel talk featuring Paul Hagerman, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Dennis Prouse, CropLife Canada, and Josianne Gauthier, Development and Peace. 7:30-9 a.m. Delta Ottawa City Centre. Free for Hill Times subscribers, \$20 for others. hilltimes.com/events/FS.html

The Famous 5 Ottawa to celebrate the 2015 Governor General's Person Case Award Recipients—Hear their stories and inspire others to be nation builders. This year's award winners are: Monique Bégin, Marie Thérèse Chica, Ruth Elwood Martin, Sheila McIntyre, and Dee M. Dooley. Event takes place on April 21, 11:45 a.m.-1:30pm at the Westin Hotel in Ottawa. Visit www.famous5Ottawa.ca for more information and to purchase tickets.

Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie—The APF's Canadian branch will host a meeting of the APF Parliamentary Affairs Committee in Ottawa. parl.gc.ca/IIA/CalendarOfEvents.aspx

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

Tanzania marks Union Day, the anniversary of the union between the Republic of Tanganyika and the People's Republic of Zanzibar that gave birth to the United Republic of Tanzania. For information on any celebrations, contact the high commission at 613-232-1500.

Carleton University to Host Seminar to Celebrate Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 125th Birth Anniversary—Hosted by Carleton University president Roseann O'Reilly Runte and India High Commissioner to Canada Vishnu Prakash. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., second floor atrium, River Building, Carleton University, Ottawa. RSVP to india@carleton.ca

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

The Netherlands celebrates King's Day, King Willem-Alexander's birthday. For information on any celebrations, contact the embassy at 1-877-388-2443.

South Africa marks Freedom Day, the date of the first post-apartheid democratic elections. For information on any celebrations, contact the high commission at 613-744-0330.



The Netherlands—Ambassador Cees Kole is set to mark King's Day, King Willem-Alexander's birthday, on April 27. *The Hill Times* photograph by Sam Garcia

Sierra Leone celebrates its Independence Day. It gained independence from the UK in 1961.

Togo celebrates its Independence Day. It gained independence from France in 1960. For information on any celebrations, please call the embassy at 613-238-5916.

Donner Canadian Foundation Award Ceremony—The 18th anniversary of the Donner Prize to reward excellence and innovation in public policy writing by Canadians for 2015-2016, will be held on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at 6 p.m. at The Carlu, 444 Young St. Invitation only.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association—The Canadian Branch of the CPA will travel to London, United Kingdom, for an Executive Committee Meeting. Until April 30. parl.gc.ca/IIA/CalendarOfEvents.aspx

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

Conservative MP Tom Kmiec Fundraiser: Trudeau 2.0: How Conservatives Must Respond—Cocktail and private dinner with Conservative MP Tom Kmiec, April 28, cocktail reception at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. The Polish Canadian Cultural Centre, 3015 15 Street NE, Calgary, Alta. Special guest speaker: Conservative MP Jason Kenney, \$100. Tickets online at <http://tomkmiec.ca/april28>

TUESDAY, MAY 3

Auditor General to Table Spring Reports—Auditor General Michael Ferguson will release the spring reports on May 3. The reports will cover: venture capital action plan; detecting and preventing fraud in the citizenship program; the governor in council appointments process in administration tribunals; drug benefits and Veterans Affairs Canada; Canadian Army Reserve-National Defence; and a special examinations of PPP Canada Inc. and Via Rail Canada Inc. There will be a media lockup 6 a.m.-9:45 a.m., Office of the Auditor General of Canada, 240 Sparks St., followed by a news conference at 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at the National Press Theatre, 150 Wellington St., Ottawa.

Nestlé Canada Parliamentary Reception—All parliamentarians are invited to join Nestlé Canada's business leaders from across the country to celebrate 150 years of Nestlé 'Good Food, Good Life'. May

3, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Daly's Restaurant, The Westin Ottawa Hotel. RSVP to Laura Seguin Iseguin@summa.ca or call 613-235-1400.

The Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN)—Invites all parliamentarians and staff to come celebrate Canadian music talent at a reception and special live performances by Karim Ouellet and Sam Roberts on May 3 in the Aboriginal Peoples Committee Room 160-S in Centre Block from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The event will showcase music performances from English and French top-chart artists. RSVP by April 29 to socan@enviroincspr.com

Movie Night on the Hill—Heritage Minister Mélanie Joly will host along with Telefilm Canada, her first Move Night on the Hill on May 3, the Canadian Screen and Oscar Award winner, Room 7 p.m., Canadian Museum of History, 100 Laurier St., Gatineau, Que.

TUESDAY, MAY 10

CCSA Hosting Communications Services Reception—The Canadian Cable Systems Alliance (CCSA), which represents 120 independent and entrepreneurial cable, telephone and internet companies, is hosting a reception in the Commonwealth Room in Centre Block, May 10, from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. All Senators, Members of Parliament and staff are invited to attend and better familiarize themselves with our nation's communications service providers. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Cynthia Waldmeier at 613-233-8906 or cynthia@impactcanada.com.

The Canadian Dental Association's (CDA) Days on the Hill—May 10 and 11—CDA's Days on the Hill connects leaders from Canada's 21,000 dentists with parliamentarians to discuss important issues pertaining to oral health. The CDA is the national voice for dentistry in Canada and is dedicated to the promotion of optimal oral health for Canadians. For further information, please contact Bonnie Kirkwood at bkirkwood@cda-adc.ca

An Evening with the Canadian Dental Association Tuesday May 10—The Canadian Dental Association (CDA) invites you to its annual Parliamentary reception for friends of the dental profession, parliamentarians, and staff on Tuesday

May 10th at 5:30 p.m. at the Métropolitain restaurant. Refreshments will be provided. To RSVP, please contact Bonnie Kirkwood at bkirkwood@cda-adc.ca

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

Canadian Rail Summit 2016—Canadian Rail Summit 2016, Canada's leading rail event. Explore cutting-edge products and services from 50 tradeshow exhibitors, and choose from a wide variety of technical and conference sessions on key industry issues such as competitiveness, safety and emerging technologies. Register at www.railcan.ca/crs2016 and for more information, contact Janet Greene at 613-564-8109 jgreene@railcan.ca or Lynn Raby at 613-237-3888 or lyn_raby@railwaysuppliers.ca

THURSDAY, MAY 12

Polytechnics Canada Annual Policy Conference—This year's conference theme is "Learning that Works: Polytechnic Education." Speakers include disruptive innovation expert Michael Horn, best-selling higher education author Jeff Selinger and ESDC deputy minister Ian Shugart. The conference will be held on May 12th and 13th, 2016 at Humber College in Toronto, Ont. For more information visit polytechnicscanada.ca.

Ottawa Branch Monarchist League of Canada Celebrates Queen's 90th Birthday—Senator Serge Joyal will deliver an address 'Canada's Constitutional Monarchy: Honougin a Lifetime of Service by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada. NAC director of communications Rosemary Thompson will emcee. The event is sold out.

TUESDAY, MAY 17

Travers Debates—Maclean's iconoclastic humourist Scott Feschuk, journalist Katie Simpson, and Liberal MP Rodger Cuzner and NDP MP Ruth Ellen Brosseau are all going to be on the same stage May 17, at the NAC. Register at www.traversdebates.ca

THURSDAY, MAY 26

Liberal Biennial Convention—The federal Liberals will hold their convention in Winnipeg, Man., Thursday, May 26, to Sunday, May 29, 2016.

Conservative Convention—The federal Conservatives will hold their convention in Vancouver, B.C., May 26 to May 29, 2016.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

Parliamentary Press Gallery Dinner—It's the 150th Anniversary of the Press Gallery at its Annual Gallery Dinner, Saturday, June 4, 5:30 p.m., Canadian Museum of History, River View Salon. The dinner will be held in the Grand Hall at 7 p.m. Dress: cocktail elegant (black tie optional). For press gallery members and guests only.

TUESDAY, JUNE 7

Registration Now Open CIPMM's 27th Annual National Workshop—June 7-8, 2016. The workshop fee is \$875 plus HST and includes access to all keynote and breakout sessions. More than 400 delegates from PWGSC, ESD, DND, HC, RCMP, CSEC, DFATD, DFO, TBS, NRCAN, IC, AAND, CIC, and LAC. Senior government officials from the lead departments and agencies will be at the networking reception. There will be exhibitors, subject matter experts representing both the public and private sectors. Please contact CIPMM Secretariat at admin@cipmm-icagm.ca or at 613-725-0980.

MAY 2017

Conservative Party Leadership Convention—The Conservatives will elect their next leader on May 27, 2017, Dan Nowlan, chair of the party's leadership election organizing committee announced last week. The party is urging Conservative Party members to buy memberships or renew them in order to vote. For more information, contact Cory Hann, director of communications, Conservative Party of Canada, at 613-697-5614.

The Parliamentary Calendar is a free listing. Send in your political, cultural, or governmental event in a paragraph with all the relevant details under the subject line 'Parliamentary Calendar' to news@hilltimes.com by Wednesday at noon before the Monday paper. Or fax it to 613-232-9055. We can't guarantee inclusion of every event, but we will definitely do our best.
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0401 COMING EVENTS

27th Annual HAVELOCK COUNTRY JAMBOREE

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PRESENTED BY:



Speakers



Gillian Barth
CARE Canada president and CEO



Paul Hagerman
Director, public policy with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and co-chair of the Food Security Policy Group



Dennis Prouse
Vice President government affairs, CropLife Canada



Josianne Gauthier
Director, in-Canada programmes at Development and Peace



Renaud De Plaen,
Program Leader, Agriculture and Food Security Program, IDRC



Moderated by
Catherine Clark

On April 21, join Hill Times Events for the release of a new report on global food security and climate resilience from the Food Security Policy Group. Presenting the report will be CARE Canada president and CEO Gillian Barth.

According to Global Affairs Canada, improving food security is one of Canada's three priority international development themes. And while Canada played a leadership role in 2008 with the launch of its food security strategy, funding for this initiative has steadily decreased.

Following Gillian Barth's remarks a distinguished panel will weigh in with their thoughts on how Canada can contribute to global food security. Discussants include: Paul Hagerman, director – public policy with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and co-chair of the Food Security Policy Group, Dennis Prouse, vice president government affairs, CropLife Canada, Josianne Gauthier, director of the in-Canada programmes at Development and Peace. Veteran broadcaster Catherine Clark will moderate the session.

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FEATURE PARTIES

Bangladesh Independence Day reception



Yvonne Walkes and Kamrul Ahsan, high commissioners of Barbados and Bangladesh, at his country's March 29 Independence Day reception at the Château Laurier.



Mr. Ahsan and Mr. Leslie.



Liberal MPs Andrew Leslie and Anita Vandenbeld.

Photographs by Sam Garcia

Greek Independence Day reception



Greek first counsellor Lambros Kakissis and his wife Isidora Hatzziannaki.



Croatian Ambassador Marica Matkovic and Israel's Miriam Barak.



Austrian deputy Bernhard Faustenhammer and Greek Ambassador George Marcantonatos.



Serbian Ambassador Mihailo Papazoglu and Mr. Marcantonatos.



Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Jon Vance and Mr. Marcantonatos.



Thailand's Wannipa Isarabhakdi and Nepal's Kamala Pokhrel.



Greece's Vassiliki Tsirou-Marcantonatou and Spain's Maria de la Rica Aranguren.



Denmark, Armenia and Belgium's ambassadors: Niels Boel Abrahamson, Armen Yeganian, and Raoul Delcorde.

FEATURE EVENTS



PARTY CENTRAL

WEDNESDAY EDITION
BY CHELSEA NASH

Sikhs celebrate with Trudeau on the Hill



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meets guests.

Vaisakhi is a Sikh celebration of spring-time, harvest and renewal. It's vibrant, colourful and full of life. The Vaisakhi celebration on Parliament Hill on Monday was nothing short of that, plus the whirlwind of excitement that comes from an appearance from Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** in a room full of Liberal Sikhs.

This year, the Vaisakhi celebration on the Hill was more than just a celebration of Sikh culture; it was a celebration of Sikhs in Canada, and their newfound representation in Parliament.

"It's all because of a Justin Trudeau," said **Ritu Wadhawan**, a Liberal supporter from Ottawa-West Nepean.

The prominence of Sikh culture in Canadian politics was certainly a theme of the evening, and Mr. Trudeau made sure he demonstrated his mutual appreciation for the Sikh community as well.

"Canada is not strong in spite of our differences, but because of them," he said, to cheers and applause, before joking about the merging of the two cultures never being more evident than when Hockey Night in Canada is broadcast in Punjabi.

October's election saw 17 Sikh MPs elected, and then four of those gained cabinet positions. Punjabi is now the third most common language in the House of Commons, after English and French.

Earlier that day, the prime minister promised to offer an apology to the Canadian Sikh community for the Komagata Maru incident in which Canada turned away more than 300 Sikhs off the coast of Vancouver who were seeking a better life here. He was also presented with a kirpan, a Sikh ceremonial sword, engraved with the phrase: God is One.

In 2008, Stephen Harper also apolo-

gized for the Komagata Maru incident in Surrey, B.C., but it was rejected by many in the Sikh community who wanted to see an official apology take place in the House of Commons. The apology will take place on May 18 in the Commons, marking the 102nd anniversary of the event.

"It will quiet a lot of bleeding hearts," said **Parjat Singh Bhurji**, a pediatrician who had travelled all the way from Surrey to take part in the festivities.

Organizers stayed late into the previous night finalizing preparations for the event, but it definitely paid off.

The reception, which took place in the newly renovated Sir John A Macdonald Building, was completely packed. Many were dressed in vibrant colours and some MPs joined their Sikh colleagues in dressing in traditional clothing. That, combined with the intricate gold decorations of the building, the rich aroma of Indian food and the performance from popular Punjabi singer **Satinder Sartaaaj**, practically transported the room to India.

Many MPs and several ministers attended, including Heritage Minister **Mélanie Joly**, Defence Minister **Harjit Sajjan** and Infrastructure Minister **Amarjeet Sohi**. Sikh Canadians came from all across the country to attend, and their joy could be felt by everyone there, especially when the dancing started later in the evening, and several MPs joined in.

"It's a combination of emotion and joy at the same time," said **Jaskanan Kohli**, a Sikh from Ottawa who works in the aerospace industry, and says his work is more appreciated here in Canada than it ever was in India. "It's a proud moment for all of us."

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Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan with an honour guard.



PMO staffer Jessie Singh Chahal, Canadian secretary to the Queen Kevin MacLeod and businessperson Baljit Chadha.



Liberal MP Chandra Arya with Heritage Minister Mélanie Joly.



Liberal MP Raj Grewal, Aekus Trehan, 12, and Jaskanan Kohli.



Liberal MP Anju Dhillon, right, and her nephew, Anmol Singh Padda.



Former Liberal minister Herb Dhaliwal and Senator David Smith.



Honduran Ambassador Sofia Cerrato and her husband Adolfo Fonseca.

The Hill Times photographs by Sam Garcia and Chelsea Nash

Palestinian lunch for deputy minister



Iraqi and Jordanian ambassadors Abdul Kareem Kaab and Basheer F. Zoubi at an April 1 Palestinian lunch in honour of Foreign Affairs DM Daniel Jean.



Slovenian Ambassador Marjan Cencen, the University of Ottawa's Abdallah Obeid, and Turkish Ambassador Selçuk Ünal.



Palestinian Chief Representative Nabil Maarouf, Global Affairs Canada ADM Alexandra Bugailiskis, and Mr. Jean.



April 14 @ 5:30 PM
**TWO FREEDOMS:
 CANADA'S
 GLOBAL FUTURE
 WITH HUGH SEGAL**
 Hosted by Jennifer Ditchburn

stay
 CURIOUS

April 17 @ 4:00 PM
**MARTYRDOM,
 MURDER
 AND THE LURE
 OF ISIS**
 with **MARK BOURRIE**
 Hosted by CBC's Laurence Wall

April 18 @ NOON
**RESILIENCE AND TRIUMPH:
 IMMIGRANT WOMEN
 TELL THEIR STORIES**
 with Monia Mazigh and
 Dr. Vanaja Dhruvarajan

APRIL 14-19
 2016

April 19 @ 7:00 PM
**THE IDEA OF CANADA:
 LETTERS TO A NATION**
 with **GOVERNOR GENERAL
 DAVID JOHNSTON**

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