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THE HILL TIMES

TWENTY-SEVENTH YEAR, NO. 1342 CANADA'S POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT NEWSWEEKLY WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2016 \$5.00

NEWS DEFENCE

Conservative, NDP critics warn of Liberal cuts to defence procurement

By MARCO VIGLIOTTI

The Trudeau government will be hard-pressed to finance its ambitious promises for the Canadian Armed Forces within the existing defence budget, and are already hinting at significant cuts to procurement spending to make up the difference, opposition critics say.

"I think we know where [the cuts] are coming from, it's going to be on the procurement side, probably on training," Conservative defence critic James Bezan (Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman, Man.) said in an interview.

He charged that funding cuts, as opposed to spending increases, are more likely because he believes the Liberal government does not see defence as a "major priority."

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NEWS DEVELOPMENT

Foreign-aid policy review launches, outcome expected in fall

By CHELSEA NASH

"Women, women, women."

International Development Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau (Compton-Stanstead, Que.) has declared the focus of her portfolio loud and clear. It will be a highlight of the foreign aid policy review she's undertaking over the next two months, which, after months of anticipation, was finally officially launched on May 18. It's the first policy review to happen on the file since 1995.

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Liberals, Conservatives prep for doozy conventions



While the Liberals are set to debate a proposed new controversial party constitution at their biennial policy convention in Winnipeg this weekend, former prime minister Stephen Harper is expected to address Conservatives in his first public speech since election night at his party's convention in Vancouver. For more on what to expect at the Conservative convention, see Tim Powers' primer on Page 11. *The Hill Times* photographs by Daniel Leon Rodriguez and Jake Wright

NEWS SENATE

Independent Senators won't take orders from Harder: new appointees

By PETER MAZEREUEW

Independent Senators appointed by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau say they have no plan to vote as a group or at the government's instruction, despite whispers in the Senate that they are really "closet Liberals."

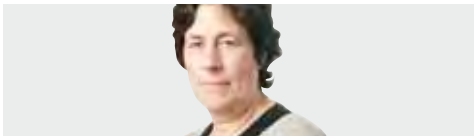
"You should never expect us to vote as a bloc," said Independent Senator Frances Lankin in an interview.

However, some in the Senate don't appear to be convinced that Independent Senators are in fact independent of the government, said Sen. Lankin and Senator André Pratte, both of whom were among the seven independents appointed by Mr. Trudeau (Papineau, Que.) on the advice of an advisory committee earlier this year.

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INSIDE POLITICS ASSISTED DEATH

The government has a knack for turning allies into opponents



CHANTAL HÉBERT

MONTREAL—Looking back on the debacle that attended the latest episode in the assisted-death debate in the House of Commons last week, it is easy to forget that Justin Trudeau's government had a parliamentary consensus within its grasp when it set out to draft its now-contentious bill.

Continued on page 11

NEWS HEALTH

Parliamentarians convene bi-partisan panel to address Lyme disease

By MARCO VIGLIOTTI

Karen Ludwig heard it disturbingly frequently on the campaign trail last summer: constituents complaining of an obscure, little-understood illness that left painful and occasionally debilitating symptoms, and perplexed local health professionals struggling to pinpoint the cause.

Lyme disease, the tick-borne illness first identified in New England, had migrated north and was sinking its teeth into south-western New Brunswick.

"It wasn't [just] in the endemic areas that have been identified in the province, it was across the riding. Different people that talked about their experience suffering from Lyme disease, they were looking for help," Ms. Ludwig (New Brunswick South-west, N.B.) said in an interview.

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NEWS ENVIRONMENT

Reports to UN show extent Canada could miss greenhouse gas targets

By TIM NAUMETZ

Recent reports Canada submitted to the United Nations show the extent by which Canada could miss targets on greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

A Canadian report Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna (Ottawa Centre, Ont.) submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change last February was the second in a series of biennial reports the UN agency and its 160-plus participating nations established

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FEATURE BUZZ



HEARD ON THE HILL

BY MARCO VIGLIOTTI

Liberal MPs throw down wager to international lawmakers, ex-journalist closes out decade as languages watchdog



MPs with ties to Ukraine gathered to sing a traditional Ukrainian folk song. Photo courtesy of Borys Wrzesnewskyj Twitter account

An impromptu singing session by MPs last week has gone “viral,” leading to a friendly challenge to lawmakers overseas.

On Friday, Liberal MP **Borys Wrzesnewskyj** (Etobicoke Centre, Ont.) uploaded two videos to his public Facebook page—one in English and the other in Ukrainian—showing several MPs, including himself, wearing vyshyvankas—a traditional Ukrainian garment—and belting out a Ukrainian folk song the previous day in Centre Block.

The Parliamentarians were sporting the traditional embroidered frocks in honour of Vyshyvanka Day, a national holiday in Ukraine celebrating the culturally significant piece of clothing.

Mr. Wrzesnewskyj then used his video to lay down a wager to federal lawmakers in Ukraine: Put forward your best rendition of the song, and let the public vote on who are the superior singers, with the winner to be awarded a case of Canadian ice wine.

He later formalized his offer in a letter to the Ukrainian Embassy in Canada and the chairman (comparable to the role of Speaker) of the Verkhovna Rada, the country’s national legislative body.

It has since drawn sizeable attention in cyberspace.

The Ukrainian language version of the Facebook video had attracted some 12,000 views as of midday Tuesday, while the English edition drew just shy of 10,000 hits.

Furthermore, Mr. Wrzesnewskyj said he was told by the Ukrainian Embassy, as well as relatives living there, that the video had been picked up news services in the country.

However, it appears the Toronto MP may be considering changing the tune of his friendly wager.

“I would like to see the Ukrainian Parliamentarians sing Canada’s hockey songs,” he said in an interview, with a laugh.

“If we sing a Ukrainian song, they can sing a traditional Canadian song, and there’s nothing more traditional than a hockey song.”

Mr. Wrzesnewskyj, who also serves as chair of the Canadian-Ukrainian Parliamentary Friendship Group, views the whole episode as a case of “non-traditional” diplomacy building solid international goodwill in a “very effective manner.”

As for the bet?

It didn’t take long to receive a response.

Andriy Parubiy, chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, called Mr. Wrzesnewskyj Tuesday to accept the wager, saying lawmakers in the Ukraine would also sport their vyshyvankas while singing, according to the Liberal MP.

No timeline, however, was provided for when that will occur, with Mr. Parubiy currently in Germany attending a conference.

Continued on page 27

FEATURE PARTIES

IICA seminar draws diplomats



Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture Representative Audia Barnett, Peruvian Ambassador Marcela López Bravo, and Victor Villalobos at the IICA annual accountability seminar on May 18 at the Sheraton Hotel.



Ms. Barnett with Julio César Arriola Ramírez, ambassador of Paraguay.

The Hill Times photographs by Sam Garcia

Tunisia Nobel Prize winners



Representatives of Tunisia’s National Dialogue Quartet pose with Tunisian Ambassador Riadh Essid, third from left, his wife Chiraz Saidane Essid, second from right, and NDP foreign affairs critic Hélène Laverdière, far right, at a reception honouring the Quartet, 2015 Nobel Peace Prize winners.



Independent Senator Don Meredith with Mr. Essid.

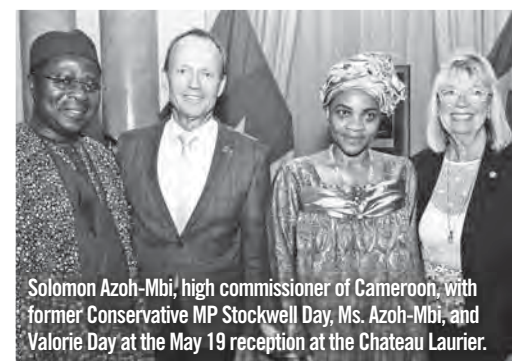


Jordanian Ambassador Basheer Zoubi with Mr. and Ms. Essid, and Mr. Zoubi’s wife Dina Khair at the May 17 reception at the Chateau Laurier.

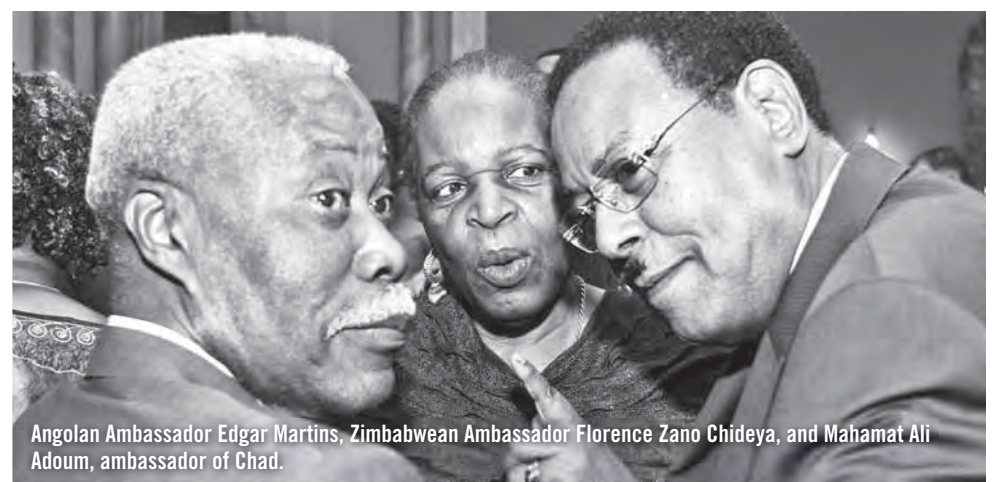
Party-goers celebrate Cameroon’s national day



Senegalese Ambassador Ousmane Paye, with Mercy Azoh-Mbi, wife to the high commissioner of Cameroon, and Saudi Ambassador Naif Bin Bandir AlSudairy.



Solomon Azoh-Mbi, high commissioner of Cameroon, with former Conservative MP Stockwell Day, Ms. Azoh-Mbi, and Valorie Day at the May 19 reception at the Chateau Laurier.



Angolan Ambassador Edgar Martins, Zimbabwean Ambassador Florence Zano Chideya, and Mahamat Ali Adoum, ambassador of Chad.

NEED TO KNOW **FINANCE**

Time to get serious about income inequality

In Canada, the only group to increase its share of national income over the past two decades is the richest 20 per cent of the population.



LES WHITTINGTON

OTTAWA—On any given day, thousands of people line up to use food banks across the country.

One in six of those seeking food in this way actually have jobs. More than one-third of people helped are children.

In all, nearly a million people are turning to food banks in Canada each month. The number shot up during the 2009 recession and has been at record levels ever since.

After a lost decade under Stephen Harper, it's time the federal government got serious about the country's socio-economic shortcomings.

While the United States scores worse than Canada on a range of social justice and equality measures, such as social mobility, health outcomes, and poverty, Canada ranks below many of its advanced-economy peers when it comes to quality-of-life and societal issues.

And Canada has experienced the same stunning rise of income inequality in the past few decades that has been felt around the world.

According to Oxfam, the wealth of the richest 62 people on earth grew by 45 per cent in the five years after 2010, leading to a situation where just these 62 individuals had the same total wealth as 3.6 billion people.

Since the turn of the century, the poorest half of the world's population has received only one per cent of the total growth in global wealth, while half of that increase has gone to the top one per cent, Oxfam calculates.

In Canada, the only group to increase its share of national income over the past two decades is the richest 20 per cent of the population, which together collects about 40 per cent of all income. All other income groups, including the middle class, have seen their share shrink.

Put another way, the richest 20 per cent of Canadians now own about 70 per cent of the country's wealth.

There is an endless debate about the causes of the obscene accumulation of riches among the few at the top of the wealth pyramid, a trend that put an end to decades of improvement in middle-class living standards in developed countries.

Globalization and the transfer of low-skilled jobs, along with the technology boom, are often-cited factors. But it's ridiculous to ignore the policy-driven changes that have produced this distorted economic picture, particularly in North America.

This golden age for the wealthy is traceable to the conservative, austerity-minded re-writing of the rules for capitalist economies to favour the well-off at the expense of the rest of society over three decades. This transformation has been enabled, among other things, by deregulation, tax breaks for corporations and the rich, de-unionization and the systematic dismantling of social support programs.

In Canada, the backlash created by this kind of approach eventually caught up with Harper, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau came to power promising to change the channel on Republican-style economic and social thinking here.

Given the fiscal realities facing the new government, the Liberals have made a decent start. The reordering of support for families under the new Canada Child Benefit is an improvement that will help millions of people. And the middle-class tax cut, coupled with higher taxes on those making \$200,000 or more annually, is a way of getting at income inequality and the diminishing prospects of average employees.

Pruning the thicket of Conservative tax breaks that mainly helped richer Canadians is also important, as is Trudeau's move to quash two bills, C-377 and C-525, that were a direct attack on unions in the Harper crowd's race for the bottom.

The 2016 budget also took steps to address various lingering social and economic issues, including pensions, the deteriorating Employment Insurance system, support for low-income seniors, educational funding, and money for renewing social infrastructure.

But a great deal more needs to be done to reverse the decades of austerity-first ap-

proaches to national policy-making.

In the short term, the Liberals need to re-examine the middle-class tax cut to address the fact that benefits are skewed in favour of families in the upper range of the middle class. And the Canada Child Benefit needs to be indexed to inflation as soon as feasible to keep its benefits from being eroded by price increases.

Other measures can be strengthened to help alleviate poverty, including increasing investment in social housing and doing more to help the working poor.

As for income equality, Finance Minister Bill Morneau has not changed the favourable tax treatment of stock options and capital gains—two factors often linked to the upsurge of wealth among the super-rich.

Presumably, these measures will be examined in the Liberals' planned review of Canada's tax system, which is riddled with loopholes and distorted by corporate subsidies.

But the government is moving aggressively to recoup some of the estimated

\$200 billion that well-off Canadians are believed to have hidden away in offshore tax havens. Any success here will of course help offset the cost of programs that will, in effect, redress income inequality.

In the long run, the government of course faces the wider, more difficult problem of reorienting the economy onto a more efficient, forward-looking footing that will put Canada in a position to better compete in the globalized economy and provide more well-paying, secure jobs.

This will require outside-the-box thinking across a whole range of issues that have proven remarkably immune to change in Canada for years. Addressing the issues related to growing income inequality—such as the tendency of the corporate sector to favour quick profits over productive investments—is only part of the answer. But it's as good a place to start as any.

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

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NEWS SENATE

Independent Senators won't take orders from Harder, say new appointees

Still, some Senators whisper that new appointees are 'closet Liberals,' says Sen. Pratte.

Continued from page 1

Subtle remarks made in committee meetings and the Senate chamber have led Sen. Pratte to believe some Senators consider the Trudeau appointees as "closet Liberals," he said.

"It's in the air, I would say," said Sen. Pratte.

Those remarks were coming from both Conservative Senators and Senate Liberals, with some of the Liberals appearing to "take it for granted" that Independent Senators would side with them, said Sen. Pratte. He declined to name any Senators or elaborate on the comments that were made.

"I must say I feel uncomfortable by being put in one camp, because that's not who I am," he said.

Senate Liberal Leader James Cowan wrote to the newly appointed Independent Senators in April, inviting them to join or co-operate with his caucus, the Huffington Post reported.

Sen. Lankin said she was told privately by one Senator that "there's no independence here," and "you have to pick a side." Another Senator told her that he or she would have to "see how you vote" before believing she was truly independent, she said.

Sen. Lankin declined to name the Senators who made those remarks.

"We've all experienced it," she said, referring to the new Senators appointed as Independents by Mr. Trudeau.

Sen. Lankin said some Conservative and Liberal Senators have shown "disdain" for the role and title of the government leader in the Senate, Peter Harder—he prefers the term "representative" to leader—who was also appointed as an Independent by Mr. Trudeau but was tasked with bringing government legislation through the Senate.

"It appears to me that some of the Senators do not believe the prime minister is attempting to bring about an independence for the Senate with the appointment of these new Senators," she said, adding she plans to move forward by working with the Senators in each caucus who are committed to reforming the Senate.

Conservative Senators Linda Frum, Denise Batters, Nicole Eaton, and Donald Plett, and Senate Liberals Joan Fraser and Jim Munson are among those who have criticized or called into question the independence of Sen. Harder and his deputies, their preferred titles, or the series of events that began with Sen. Harder's appointment to lead Mr. Trudeau's government transition team and ended with his appointment as an Independent Senator.

Ind. Sen. Pratte sponsoring government bill

Sen. Lankin, Sen. Pratte, and Independent Senator Raymonde Gagné, another of the new Independents appointed by Mr. Trudeau, each pointed to Senate responsibilities to protect the constitution, regional diversity, and minority interests as their guide to reviewing and voting on legislation in the Upper House.

The Senate has not yet voted on a government bill since the seven Senators appointed by Mr. Trudeau began their terms in early April.

Each of the three Senators pledged to uphold the Senate's customary deference to the elected House, except in exceptional circumstances, but rejected the idea that they would answer to the Sen. Harder or his deputies behind the scenes.

"I'm not subject to the will of a whip," said Sen. Pratte.

Mr. Harder has, however, asked Independent Senators to sponsor government legislation in the Senate. Mr. Pratte has agreed to sponsor Bill C-10 once it reaches the Senate. The controversial bill, currently at third reading in the House, would change the law requiring Air Canada to conduct maintenance work in Winnipeg, Montreal, and Mississauga and would instead allow the airline to do maintenance anywhere in Quebec, Ontario, and Manitoba, and allow it to dictate the number of people employed in those places and type of work done there.

House Speaker Geoff Regan had to break a rare tie in the House of Commons last week in favour of the government after the opposition united to vote against Bill C-10 while many Liberal MPs were not in the House.

Sen. Pratte said Sen. Harder "did not pressure me in any manner at all" to introduce the bill, which Sen. Pratte said he believes is necessary for the economic health of Quebec and Manitoba.

Sen. Harder wrote in an emailed statement that he would



Senator André Pratte, pictured here with Senate government representative Peter Harder in April, will be introducing the government's controversial bill to amend the Air Canada Public Participation Act in the Senate. *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright

ask "various Senators" to sponsor legislation when it comes to the Senate, which was "consistent with past practice."

Sen. Harder has named a whip and deputy from the group of independent MPs to assist him. Neither Mr. Harder's whip, Senator Grant Mitchell—a former Liberal—nor his deputy, Senator Diane Bellemare—a former Conservative—were part of the group of Senators appointed by Mr. Trudeau.

However, Sen. Mitchell—who prefers the term "liaison"—told the CBC earlier this month that he doesn't have the sort of leverage a whip would traditionally have over a caucus, and that strong-arming Senators to vote with the government would in any case be "inconsistent with where we're going and what we're hoping to create."

Sen. Lankin echoed that point, noting that Sen. Harder and the government don't have the same tools as leaders of traditional caucuses—such as controlling who sits on committees, or how office space is allocated—that can be used to pressure members to fall into line.

"I don't think that the word 'pressure' is the right word in this situation. Because there is no pressure that can be brought to bear," she said.

Sen. Lankin said she was surprised that the Senate Internal Economy, Budgets, and

Administration Committee voted down a request by Sen. Harder for an extra \$886,000 to add to his budget, similar to that received by the last government leader in the Senate, on the grounds that Sen. Harder and his deputies did not have a caucus to lead.

"They can't manage a caucus, but they are responsible for managing legislation coming through, and that means engaging with a lot of Independent Senators as well as partisan-caucus Senators," she said.

Sen. Harder has been "civil" and "polite" in his dealings with the Independent Senators, said Sen. Pratte.

The government, Mr. Harder, and his deputies have also repeatedly said they would not try to control Independent Senators, despite Mr. Harder's role guiding government legislation through a Senate where Conservatives have the largest caucus.

Independent Senators currently account for 23 of the 86 occupied seats in the Upper House, while the Senate Liberals—whom Mr. Trudeau severed from his caucus in 2014—hold 21, and the Conservatives, still tied to their House caucus, hold 42 seats.

Were the Conservatives to vote as a group against government legislation, only a united and nearly unanimous effort by the Independent and Liberal Senators could defeat them.

Committee troubles could be solved in June: Lankin

The Senate Independents meet regularly to discuss procedural issues, such as securing spots on committees or problems accessing information, said Sen. Lankin. Until recently, Independent Senators did not receive notes from the daily meetings between Senate caucus leaders and the Senate clerk, which lay out the plan for who will do and say what in the chamber that day, she said. That was rectified after the issue was raised in one of the meetings of Independent Senators, which have been organized by Senator Elaine McCoy, said Sen. Lankin.

None of the Independent Senators appointed by Mr. Trudeau currently has a spot on a Senate committee. Each committee has agreed to open up a pair of spots for Independents, and the unaffiliated Senators are discussing amongst themselves who should sit on which committee, said Sen. Lankin. The group hopes to have the issue sorted out before the end of June, she said.

Making room for Independent Senators on the Senate Ethics Committee has proven especially contentious, *The National Post* reported. The rules for the committee require that at least two of the four members of the committee come from the government caucus, but technically there no longer is a government caucus in the Senate.

peter@hilltimes.com
@PJMazereeuw

Reports to UN show extent Canada could miss greenhouse gas targets

The expected range of emissions in 2030 could be much more than the Harper government committed Canada to in May, 2015.

Continued from page 1

as a supplement to a system of national reports every four years following the establishment of the Framework Convention in 1992.

The February report included a projection of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions suggesting that it would be difficult for Canada to meet two greenhouse gas reduction targets established over the past seven years: a 2009 goal of reducing emissions to 622 megatonnes by 2020; and a second goal, established by former prime minister Stephen Harper and his government in May, 2015, of reducing emissions to 524 megatonnes by 2030.

The February report, analyzed by the Parliamentary Budget Office in April, along with the projections and emissions contained in Canada's 2015 national greenhouse gas emissions inventory report to the UN agency dedicated to monitoring greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, projected greenhouse gas emissions trending upward, not downward, to a minimum of 749 megatonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions by 2020 and, depending on economic growth, a possible maximum of 790 megatonnes.

The oil and gas sector, dominated by emissions from Alberta oilsands extraction and upgrading, accounted for 179 megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions in 2013, 25 per cent of Canada's total emissions. Transportation, with heavy-duty trucks accounting for the largest amount of emissions in that sector, accounted for 23 per cent of Canada's emissions.

The February report estimated "the expected range of emissions in 2030 could be between 765 megatonnes in the lowest emissions scenario and 875 megatonnes in the highest emissions scenario," much more than Mr. Harper's government committed Canada to in May, 2015, with a federal election scheduled for October.

Another report, the first national inventory of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions submitted to the UN under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government, includes different estimates of greenhouse gas emissions from what was in a 2015 emissions report submitted by the former Conservative government, a comparison of the annual reports for the past four years shows.

The government's 2016 National Inventory Report,

FIGURE 2-3: CANADIAN GHG EMISSIONS TREND (2005-2013) AND 2020 TARGET AND ANNOUNCED 2030 TARGET

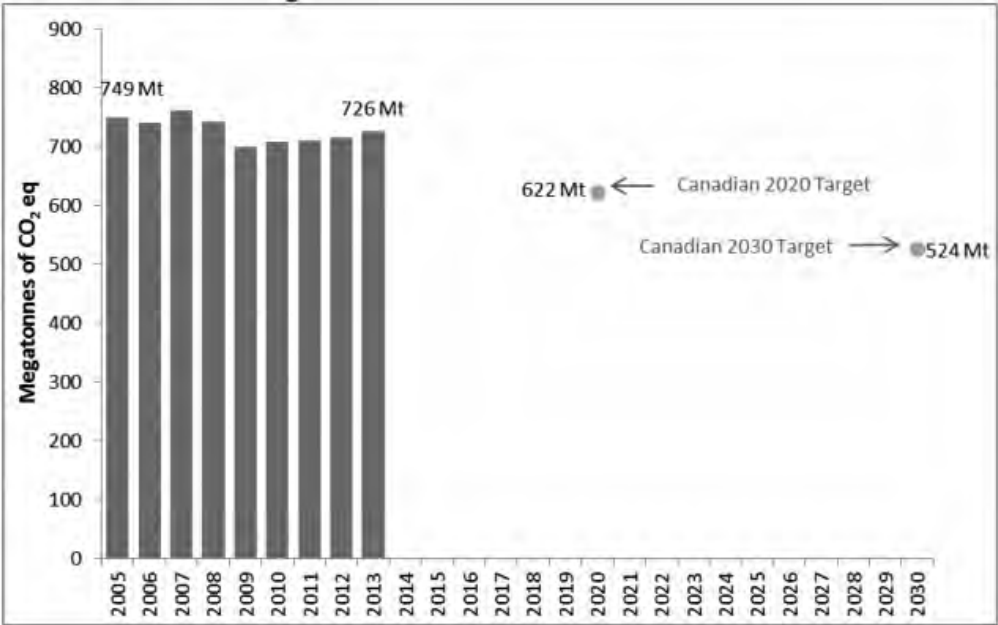


FIGURE 2-2: CANADA'S 2013 EMISSIONS BREAKDOWN BY ECONOMIC SECTOR

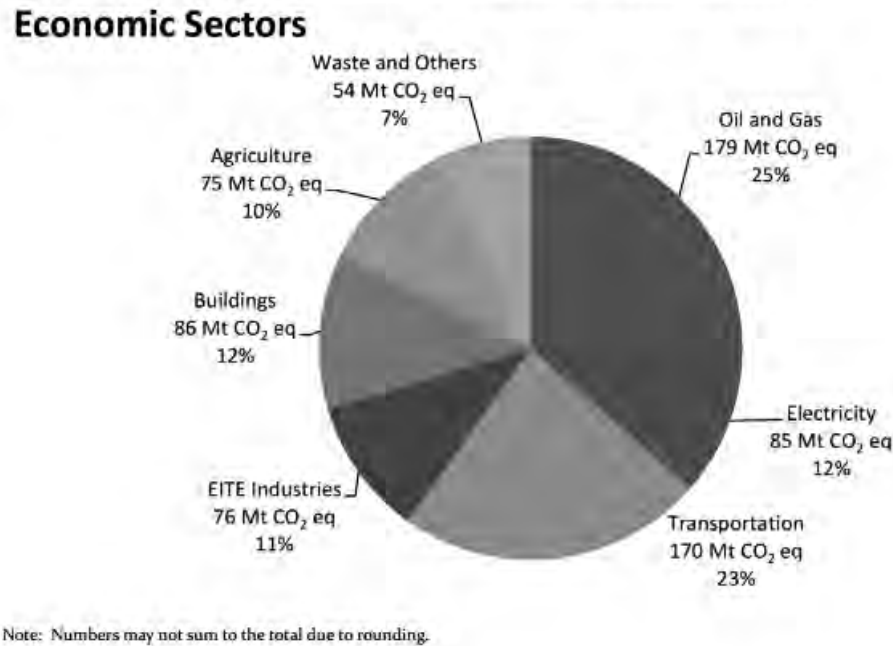
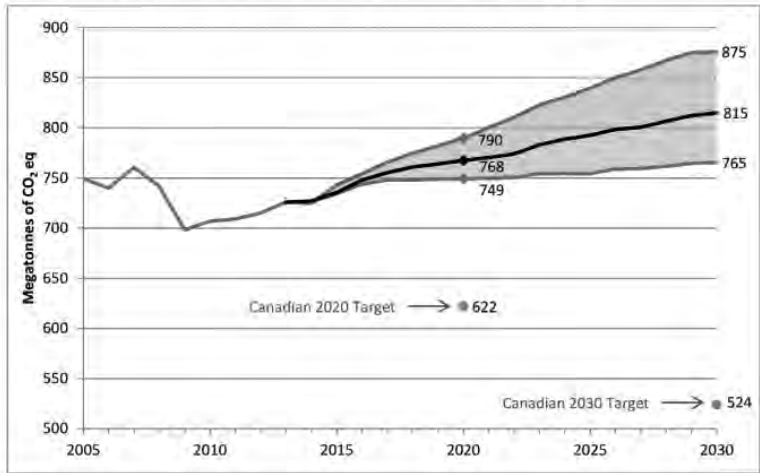


FIGURE 5-1: CANADA'S EMISSION PROJECTIONS IN 2020 AND 2030 (MT CO₂ EQ)



Charts from Canada's second biennial report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in February.

which Ms. McKenna submitted in April to the UNFCCC, states a range of Canadian industries emitted a total of 731 megatonnes of greenhouse gases in 2013, compared to the

726 megatonnes identified in the environment department's 2015 report to the UN for the same year. The 2016 report to the agency shows differences for Canada's

emissions for the years 2011 and 2012 from what was contained in the 2015 greenhouse gas inventory report. Canada's National Inventory Reports of estimated emissions

submitted to the UN in 2014 and 2013 do not contain differences as large. The 2014 report estimates greenhouse gas emissions at 701 for 2011, one megatonne less than in the 2013 inventory, and 699 megatonnes for 2010, two megatonnes less than the 2013 inventory report's figure for that year.

A spokesman for Environment and Climate Change Canada said Tuesday at about noon the department would have a response to questions about the discrepancies within 24 hours.

The 2016 report contains a footnote saying that "Estimates presented here are under continual improvement. Historical emissions may be changed in future publications as new data becomes available and methods and models are refined and improved."

Carbon dioxide emissions account for the lion's share of greenhouse gas emissions by Canada's industries and municipalities—estimated in the February report to have totalled 570 megatonnes in 2013.

Methane is the second-largest component of Canada's greenhouse gas inventory, estimated at 107 megatonnes for 2013.

The February report, which Ms. McKenna submitted on behalf of the government, said Ottawa will consult with the provinces and territories in a review of the previous government's commitment for 2030, under an agreement reached at the UN climate change summit in Paris last December.

A press aide to Ms. McKenna said the review is not aimed at lowering the target, or lengthening the time scheduled to meet the 2030 goal.

"The federal government is committed to developing a concrete plan to achieve Canada's international climate commitment," said Ms. McKenna's press secretary, Caitlin Workman.

"We are currently working with provincial and territorial governments and indigenous peoples to develop a pan-Canadian framework on clean growth and climate change," Ms. Workman said in an email response to questions from *The Hill Times*.

Green Party Leader Elizabeth May said Canada should drop distant 2030 as the emissions reduction target year, and set the same goal for 2025.

"It's a target that Trudeau should get rid of and actually have a target for 2025. It's very important for Canada to dump the old Harper target and put in place a target for 2025," Ms. May said in an interview.

"The U.S. target is 2025. We've talked about [co-ordinating] North American strategy. We should have the same end point, 2025, and it should be this target, but moved in by five years," said Ms. May (Saanich-Gulf Islands, B.C.).

"That's do-able," Ms. May said. *tnaumetz@hilltimes.com*
The Hill Times

NEWS INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Foreign-aid policy review launches, outcome expected in fall

Aid groups are pushing for a funding boost, though the minister is making no promises.

Continued from page 1

Aid agencies have heard the what and the why. Now, they're anxious to hear about the how and how much.

According to Ms. Bibeau, that will be the intended outcome of the review. She plans to publicly release a policy document outlining the government's international development plans for the next five years in the fall, which will be coupled with a five-year financing plan to be used to inform the 2017 budget.

The review launch last week included the release of a slide-show with questions and a 28-page discussion paper with background on Canada's aid program. People wanting to participate in the review can submit feedback online, by email, and mail.

The minister has already outlined in broad strokes what she wants Canada's aid policy to focus on: the health and rights of women and kids; clean economic growth and climate change; governance, pluralism, diversity, and human rights; peace and security; and responses to humanitarian crises.

These themes come after many pre-review meetings she's had with aid groups, other donor countries, and the civil service during the past six months about what her focus should be. She said she started the consultation the day she began her mandate as minister.

Her mandate letter from the prime minister asks her to "refocus Canada's development assistance on helping the poorest and most vulnerable, and supporting fragile states" and "to create a new policy and funding framework to guide Canada's aid decisions."

While the previous Conservative government also focused on women in its foreign-aid strategy, notably in its signature maternal and child health program, Ms. Bibeau said she's going to achieve this government priority differently. The program's expansion to include access to safe abortions and other reproductive health services and rights is part of that, she said.

Key civil servants leading the review include Elissa Golberg, assistant deputy minister for the Partnerships for Development Innovation branch of Global Affairs Canada, which works with Canadian aid groups, and Vincent Rigby, assistant deputy minister of strategic policy.

Ms. Bibeau said one of the biggest challenges for her is going to be striking a balance between humanitarian assistance and investing in fragile states. She said she's heard from stakeholders that humanitarian assistance in times of emergency isn't always equal to supporting fragile states.

"We have fragile [states] because of conflicts and we have fragile [states] because of climate change," Ms. Bibeau told *The Hill Times* in a May 19 interview.

She said consulting recipient countries as well as Canadians will be a big part of the process.

"I've asked all our missions and especially those in developing countries and in fragile states to consult local governments, local civil society organizations, and especially local women groups," she said.

Participants in the review are asked which foreign-aid activities Canada should shrink or drop.

The themes the minister has laid out so far appear to largely overlap with those the previous Conservative government set out, though one area of Conservative focus, food security, has not been prominently mentioned by Ms. Bibeau. The Conservatives funnelled a lot of money into food security early in their mandate, but federal funds for some aspects of the priority (notably, investment in agriculture) have since fallen.

"When I talked about working in the agricultural sector, it has this double objective to also help with food security," she said.

She noted that issues surrounding food security would be looked at through the review.

Quick turnaround

The public consultation is set to last until July 31, just over two months. A defence policy review has the same end date, though it started more than a month prior, on April 6.

The consultation was expected to begin months ago. It was not announced sooner because of scheduling conflicts, according to a statement from Bernard Boutin, a spokesperson for Ms. Bibeau.

"We know that doing consultations during the summer is not the best time, so we really encourage our partners and Canadians to do it before the end of June," said the minister.



International Development Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau listens alongside Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at a February press conference in Ottawa. She says the new policy will be publicly available and 'will guide all our work for the coming five years.' *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright

Julia Sanchez, head of the Canadian Council for International CO-operation, which represents about 80 Canadian aid groups, said her group planned its annual consultation with Global Affairs Canada for May 13, expecting the review process to have already been "long underway." They went through with the meeting anyway without the discussion paper.

While Ms. Bibeau said she has been conducting consultations in the six months of her mandate prior to the discussion paper being released, stakeholders said it was a challenge to give feedback when they weren't sure what it was they were being consulted on.

"It was a bit tricky to have a consultation on something we hadn't seen but had only heard about," said Ms. Sanchez.

Ms. Sanchez said she is worried about the scheduling of roundtables and other meetings. Prior to the official review being launched, she said that meetings with the minister were often announced only days in advance, which left CCIC members scrambling to prepare.

Ms. Bibeau's department, Global Affairs Canada, has set up a webpage on the review, which says it will be organizing events in different parts of Canada in May and June. In-person participation, it says, is by invitation only, though it will, "wherever possible," make live webcasts available. The website notes a June 2 meeting on governance and human rights and a June 7 discussion on peace and security. The time and place are not listed, but the webpage notes more details are to come.

The outcome

"The idea is that my team will be working, analyzing all these recommendations this summer, so that we will have a first draft of the policy early this fall, to be able to finalize it and to attach to it a five-year financial framework at the end of this fall, ready for the budget of 2017," said the minister.

She said she's not sure if she'd call it "white paper," but that the new policy will be publicly available and "will guide all our work for the coming five years."

Whether a foreign-aid funding boost will be proposed in

this five-year plan is still unclear. When asked, all Mr. Boutin would say was that the minister is putting together a five-year plan.

What Ms. Bibeau has been clear about in recent months is that she thinks it's too ambitious for Canada to spend 0.7 per cent of its gross national income on foreign aid, a UN recommendation and longtime rallying point of aid groups. She has not said what a reasonable increase would be, though.

For NGOs, an increase in funding is critical.

Gillian Barth, president and CEO of CARE Canada and chair of CCIC, said "a staged, overall increase in the aid envelope," is at the top of her wishlist. She'd also like to see a commitment to long-term and core funding for non-governmental organizations.

Ms. Bibeau said given what she's heard so far in her consultations, she does not expect an entire revamp of international development policy.

"I think the consultation will be mainly on how we can best use our resources, on where Canada has comparative advantages that we should focus on that we should strengthen, where are our weaknesses, that either we let someone else do it or we work on it," she said.

Ms. Bibeau recently travelled to Turkey to participate in the World Humanitarian Summit, and will be travelling to an international conference on global health in Geneva. She said she will be conducting bilateral, pull-aside meetings as part of her consultation during that time.

cnash@hilltimes.com
@chels_nash

AID POLICY REVIEW

FOCUS COUNTRIES UNDER SCRUTINY

The House Foreign Affairs Committee is studying Canada's 25 countries of focus, to which the government says it funnels 90 per cent of its country-to-country aid. International Development Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau told *The Hill Times* she is open to re-evaluating these countries as part of the foreign-aid policy review.

A common theme among committee witnesses thus far has been that Canada should be focusing regionally, rather than directly through countries.

"Most of the issues we are facing today are regional. Most of the strategies we are developing today are regional. By focusing on one country, is not always going to be the right way," Santiago Albaladejo of CARE Canada told the committee on May 17.

Sara Schulz of World Vision, speaking to *The Hill Times* by phone, said regions of recurring crises are unfortunately the "name of the game" in development assistance.

"Where we're talking about places like South Sudan, Afghanistan, the [Democratic Republic of Congo], Pakistan, Syria. We're also talking about places like Somalia which has not had as much attention or focus. We're talking about places like Mali,

like Niger, even places in Central America where there are pockets of fragility," she said.

She said NGOs and governments have to change the way they're working if they want to reach the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"We kind of have to re-imagine and work a little bit better between our humanitarian work and our longer-term development work so that we can be flexible and adapt to when a crisis emerges on the ground," she said. "Those are the women that need quite focused support right now if we're going to reach the SDGs. We won't if we don't go to these places."

The current 25 countries of focus were last updated in 2014 when seven countries were added to the list and two were removed, bringing the total from 20 to 25. At that time, critics said Canada was including countries in which it has an economic interest, such as in mining, rather than countries most in need of Canadian help.

Ms. Bibeau also told *The Hill Times* that she wants to keep middle-income countries in the focus countries because there are still great inequalities in terms of class and gender found within these countries.

NEWS DIPLOMACY



A group of heads of mission pose for a photograph in front of the Churchill airport in July, 2010 on the Northern Tour of that year. *The Hill Times* file photo

Northern Tour return sign of an engaged government, say diplomats

This year’s tour, the first since 2013, starts this Sunday.

By **CHELSEA NASH**

A popular government-subsidized tour of northern Canada for diplomatic heads of missions is back this year after a hiatus of a few years.

The group is set to depart on Sunday for a week-long trip that runs to June 6.

John Babcock, a spokesperson for Global Affairs Canada, wrote in an emailed response to questions on May 16 that foreign heads of mission were invited on the tour. It used to take place yearly, but hasn’t been held since the fall of 2013, when Canada started a two-year chairmanship of the Arctic Council. The tour didn’t run in 2012, 2014, or 2015.

“The tour is a significant undertaking that has been held most, but not all years. The tour depends on resources—time, human, and financial resources, which vary from year to year depending on the government’s overarching program of activities,” he wrote to *The Hill Times*.

Embassy News had previously reported that diplomats were told the tour was cancelled in past years for budgetary reasons. The tour is an expensive undertaking, with diplomats travelling to remote places by plane.

In the past, the tour has covered 13,000 kilometres, giving 20 or so diplomats each year the chance to meet with leaders of the territories and the indigenous groups living in each region. A group of federal officials would accompany the diplomats.

Beat Nobs, ambassador of Switzerland, has never been on the Northern Tour, but said in an

interview that he had heard from colleagues who had been that it was the trip of a lifetime.

“I heard it was a fascinating introduction [to Canada from] coast to coast to coast. That northern part of Canada...many people, not even Canadians, never get to see it,” he said. He will be going on the tour this year.

He said he would “very much say” that the Northern Tour’s comeback is evident of higher levels of engagement with the diplomatic community on the part of the Liberal government.

Stefano Fantaroni, first counsellor with the European Union Delegation who conducts public diplomacy, said that the key difference for him between this government and the last is its declaration that “Canada is back” in the international community.

“This government has declared its attention to multilateralism, and the European Union is multilateral by definition. So I think this is a good time to improve relations,” he told *The Hill Times*. “That’s the best time to be a diplomat.”

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has attended several diplomatic receptions during his mandate so far, usually accompanied by Foreign Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion. The prime minister went to one hosted by the foreign ministry at its headquarters on Sussex Drive in Ottawa in January to mark 45 years of diplomatic ties with China, and one hosted by EU Ambassador Marie-Anne Coninx in February to celebrate 40 years of the EU’s diplomatic presence in Canada.

He also attended a Christmas reception on the Hill for heads of mission in December.

When asked why the government was bringing back the tour this year, Mr. Babcock said that the tour “highlights the reality of northern peoples” for foreign heads of mission, as well as

informs them of Canada’s interests and programs in the North.

“Canada’s North is a fundamental part of Canada—it is part of our heritage, our future and our identity as a country,” he wrote.

Mr. Babcock was also asked what the cost-sharing ratio was between the diplomats and the Canadian government, to which he replied that foreign heads of mission are expected to pay a portion of the cost, and that this cost varies from year to year. He did not indicate what the cost-sharing looked like this year.

Up until 2004, *Embassy* reported that the trip was provided free by the Canadian government. But as of 2008, the government and diplomats each forked over \$3,000 to participate. A 2010 government evaluation report on the tour noted that “Participants pay a \$3,000 contribution to the costs. The remaining costs—\$226,380 in 2009—are borne by [the foreign ministry].”

Ms. Coninx said in an interview earlier this year: “I always will remember that those who participate at the Northern Tour, the ambassadors who participated, they said it was their best experience they had in Canada. And I remember that the previous Chinese ambassador, when he left, he said it was the best experience of his career.”

She said she’s been to the North for other reasons previously, but she’s “looking forward to go again.”

She also commended the government’s action on murdered and missing indigenous women, adding that indigenous human rights are important for the EU as well. “I count on renewing also my contacts with indigenous, the Inuit,” she said.

—With files from *Kristen Shane*
cnash@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

STATUS OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

HOUSE OF COMMONS

- C-2, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (third reading)
- 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 (report stage)
- 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 (third reading)
- 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 (third reading)
- C-10, An Act to Amend the Air Canada Public Participation Act and to provide for certain other measures (third 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)
- C-13, An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act, the Hazardous Products Act, the Radiation Emitting Devices Act, the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999, the Pest Control Products Act and the

Canada Consumer Product Safety Act and to make related amendments to another Act (second reading)

- C-14, An Act to amend the Criminal Code and to make related amendments to other Acts (medical assistance in dying) (report stage)
- C-15, Budget Implementation Act, 2016, No. 1 (committee)

- C-16, An Act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code (second reading)

SENATE

- C-14, An Act to amend the Criminal Code and to make related amendments to other Acts (medical assistance in dying) (Senate pre-study)
- C-15, Budget Implementation Act, 2016, No. 1 (Senate pre-study)
- S-2, An Act to amend the Motor Vehicle Safety Act and to make a consequential amendment to another Act (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)

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, 2016-1

THE WEEK AHEAD

The House is adjourned until Monday, May 30.

MONDAY, MAY 30

- The House will begin debating Liberal MP Darren Fisher’s (Dartmouth-Cole Harbour, N.S.) private member’s bill, C-238, the National Strategy for Safe Disposal of Lamps Containing Mercury Act, at second reading.
- The House Committee of the Whole will consider all votes related to finance in the Main Estimates.
- The House Health Committee will hear from five witnesses as part of its study on the development of a national pharmacare program, including Durhane Wong-Rieger and Maureen Smith from the Canadian Organization for Rare Disorders, and, testifying as individuals, Dalhousie University health law professor Matthew Herder, University of Alberta Capital Health Research Chair Christopher McCabe, and McGill University medical research professor Robyn Tamblyn. The meeting will take place from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in room 268 of the Valour Building, 151 Sparks St.
- The House Citizenship and Immigration Committee will hear from four witnesses as part of its study of the government’s resettlement of Syrian refugees, including Conservative MP Peter Kent (Thornhill, Ont.), who served as minister of state for foreign affairs (Americas) from 2008 to 2011, Catholic Refugee Sponsors Council director Rabea Allos, Surrey, B.C. city councillor Judy Villeneuve, and, as an individual, immigration lawyer Chantal Desloges. The meeting will take place from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in room 306 of the Valour Building, 151 Sparks St.
- The House Special Committee on Pay Equity will meet in private from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. to discuss a draft report in private in room 112-N of Centre Block.
- The Senate Special Modernization Committee will meet in private at 4 p.m. in room 256-S of Centre Block to discuss methods to make the Senate more effective within the current constitutional framework and consider a draft report.

TUESDAY, MAY 31

- The House will continue debating Liberal MP Mauril Bélanger’s (Ottawa-Vanier, Ont.) private member’s bill, C-210, An Act to amend the National Anthem Act (gender), at second reading.
- The House Public Accounts Committee will meet in private to discuss a draft report on two chapters of the auditor general’s fall 2015 report that covered implementing gender-based analysis and the Canada Pension Plan disability program. The meeting will take place from 8:45 to 10:45 a.m. in room C-110 of 1 Wellington St.
- The House National Defence Committee will meet in private to discuss a draft report for its study of Canada and the defence of North America. The meeting will take place from 8:45 to 10:45 a.m. in room 112-N of Centre Block, in private.
- The House Environment and Sustainable Development Committee will meet in private to discuss a draft report for its study of the federal Sustainable Development Act. The meeting will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in room 7-52 of 131 Queen St.
- The House Procedure and House Affairs Committee will meet to discuss a question of privilege regarding the premature disclosure of the contents of Bill C-14, the Medical Assistance in Dying bill.

The committee will hear from acting House clerk Marc Bosc and law clerk and parliamentary counsel Philippe Dufresne, and will discuss committee business. The meeting will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in room 112-N of Centre Block.

- The House Citizenship and Immigration Committee’s subcommittee on agenda and procedure will meet in private to discuss committee business. The meeting will take place from 1 to 2 p.m. in room 268 of the Valour Building, 151 Sparks St.
- The House Government Operations and Estimates Committee will hear from four witnesses as part of its study of Shared Services Canada. Liseanne Forand, Benoît Long, and Grant Westcott will testify as individuals, and David Nicholl, Ontario’s corporate chief information and information technology officer, will testify on behalf of the Ontario government’s Ministry of Government Services. The meeting will take place from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. in room 228 of the Valour Building, 151 Sparks St.
- The House Government Operations and Estimates Committee’s subcommittee on agenda and procedure will meet in private from 5 to 6 p.m. in room 228 of the Valour Building, 151 Sparks St., to plan a study of Canada Post.
- The House Government Operations and Estimates Committee will reconvene from 6 to 7 p.m. in room 228 of the Valour Building, 151 Sparks St., to discuss the estimates process. The committee will hear from two witnesses testifying via video-conference on behalf of the Australian government: Matthew Flavel, division head, Budget Policy Division, of the Australian Treasury, and Stein Helgeby, deputy secretary, Governance & APS Transformation, of the Australian Department of Finance.
- The Senate Rules, Procedures and the Rights of Parliament Committee will meet at 9:30 a.m. in room 356-S of Centre Block to discuss a case of privilege relating to leaks of the auditor general’s report on the audit of the Senate. The committee will hear from Mike McDonald, the Senate’s director of corporate security, and Gilles Duguay, the Senate’s director general of Parliamentary Precinct Services.
- The Senate Transport and Communications Committee will meet at 9:30 a.m. in room 2 of the Victoria Building, 140 Wellington St., and hear from two witnesses as part of its study on emerging issues related to its mandate and ministerial mandate letters. David Emerson, the former chair of the Canada Transportation Act review panel, and Murad Al-Katib, a former advisor to the same panel, will testify as individuals.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

- The House will begin debating Liberal MP Geng Tan’s (Don Valley North, Ont.) Motion 38, that the government should each year proclaim the first day of the Lunar Year as the beginning of the 15-day “Spring Festival.”
- The Senate Special Modernization Committee will meet in private at 12 p.m. in room 257 of East Block to discuss methods to make the Senate more effective within the current constitutional framework and consider a draft report.
- The Senate Social Affairs, Science and Technology Committee will meet at 4:15 p.m. The agenda and location of the meeting have not yet been announced.

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EDITORIAL ELBOWGATE

Consultations are great, but be prepared to show your work

See a problem that the government ought to fix? Odds are, there's already a consultation process underway on it to gather input from experts, lobbyists, and people just like you.

The Trudeau government didn't invent public consultations, but, after years of complaints from stakeholder groups ignored by the previous government, it has latched onto the idea with both hands. Already, the government has, is, or plans to gather public input through online submissions, town-hall meetings, and closed- and open-door stakeholder meetings on such topics as climate change and defence policy, the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement, flexible work arrangements, missing and murdered indigenous women, "Canadian content in a digital world," and international aid.

Some consultations have been more highly touted than others. The climate change effort, for example, includes a splashy web page featuring some of the ideas submitted through the consultation process, a photo gallery (so far, featuring three photos of Environment Minister Catherine McKenna), and a video of Ms. McKenna outlining the Trudeau government's various climate change-related promises and accomplishments.

"Join the conversation on climate change," urges a banner above the online submission tool, through which Average Joes can send their thoughts on the subject to, one assumes, federal public servants.

Conservative MPs have been quick to deride some of the more highly touted consultations, such as those for TPP or defence policy review, as little more than a stall tactic. Even a non-partisan cynic could see the political value of attaching words like "open," "transparent," and "inclusive" to the Liberal brand while buying time to make a decision as the political winds shift.

However, it's still too early to buy into the cynicism. The Trudeau government has styled itself as the champion of public input, and has yet to show itself as anything but.

The true test will come when decisions, and the explanations that come with them, begin to roll out. Will the government point to ideas from the Joe and Jane Smiths of Canada—or even the non-partisan experts—to justify its actions? Will the submissions made through all of the consultation tools be made available to the public (and, dare we ask, sorted, categorized, or analyzed in some meaningful way?)

Or will we see more of what we're accustomed to from governments of all stripes: talking points, oversimplifications, and red herrings to justify politically expedient moves?

With the former, the Trudeau government has a chance to solidify the public goodwill it is buying by holding and advertising these consultations. With the latter, it risks forever making jaded a public that believed, for a moment, its input might actually shape government policy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Make skin cancer prevention a priority

May is Melanoma Awareness Month. Melanoma is the deadliest of skin cancers and is on the rise in millennials when it doesn't need to be.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if our influential prime minister (who is also minister of youth) would announce a national skin cancer prevention strategy? Australia did this and now has a lower rate of invasive melanoma

than nearby New Zealand. Australia is happily saving lives while preserving public health-care dollars.

The Canadian Paediatric Society has published research on how we can do this here. We just need Justin Trudeau to make it a reality.

Linda Jeaurond
Melanoma survivor
Victoria, B.C.

Childish behaviour all around

When cameras were introduced into the House of Commons in 1977 it was argued that their presence would increase civility, productivity, and accountability. What a ridiculous notion. Since then, antics to stall debate, ridiculous theatrics, and childish name-calling have echoed through our hallowed chambers of Parliament. After all, that is the sort of stuff the media peddles, and the only thing about law-making that we lap up. Most MPs are not in the chamber the majority of the time and a surprising number miss votes.

This past week, the prime minister crossed the aisle, took the Tory whip by the arm and forced him toward his seat so that others would return to their seats and the vote could start. Voting is the thing MPs are supposed to do!

While doing so, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accidentally elbowed an NDP MP. When he

tried to apologize to that MP, NDP Leader Tom Mulcair showed his temper and a fight nearly erupted, with the prime minister denounced over his apologies with wails that nothing so horrid had ever happened in a legislature in Canada.

Enough already. Ruth Ellen Brosseau was elbowed in the chest and Mr. Trudeau apologized. As for the manhandling the Tory MP—well, the MP was not moving toward his seat, and our MPs (from all parties) should be spending much more time in their seats to begin with.

How many people were elbowed or jostled in line at Tim Hortons, on the subway, or bus, or street? Enough with making the issue bigger than it is, enough with the soap-opera-style acting. People on both sides acted childishly and an accident happened. Get over it.

Brendan Edge
Peterborough, Ont.

Fight malnutrition

One thousand days is the time from the start of pregnancy to when the child is two years old, where proper development must occur in order to grow up healthy. In Canada, we ensure every pregnant woman and each child gets all they need, from prenatal visits to vitamins and proper nutrition.

Women and girls in other countries are not so lucky. Undernourished children often face serious health issues, such as stunting, underdeveloped

immune systems, and cognitive impairment.

The good news is that these effects are preventable. To increase awareness on malnutrition, many advocates and policy-makers spoke out at the Women Deliver conference in Copenhagen last week.

I hope our policy-makers invest more in programs to boost the supply of essential nutrients to girls and women to help them grow strong.

Karolin Klement
Calgary, Alta.



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INSIDE DEFENCE RUSSIA-NATO TENSION

Operation Reassurance, or Provocation?

Russia is painted as a power-mad military aggressor. But NATO members including Canada are sending troops to Russia's doorstep.



SCOTT TAYLOR

OTTAWA—A number of recent international headlines had the war-mongering tone and pubescent maturity of the old The Hotspur comic books: "NATO and Russia preparing for conflict, warns report" or "U.S. and NATO move to secure Europe's eastern flank as Russia 'buzzes' destroyer."

Such taglines would leave one with the definite impression that the Russian horde is on the brink of attacking the free world. According to retired British general Sir Alexander Richard Shirreff, war between the West and Russia is not only inevitable, he predicts it will begin with a Russian invasion of Latvia in May 2017.

This should resonate with Canadians because just this past

April, we had 40 soldiers conducting training exercises in Latvia as part of NATO's Operation Reassurance. This means it is conceivable, should Shirreff's prediction pan out, that Canada's sons and daughters would be stationed at ground zero in Latvia when World War 3 erupts next year.

Operation Reassurance began in April 2014 as part of NATO's reaction to Russia's annexation of Crimea in March 2014. As a participant in Operation Reassurance, Canada has been deploying troops to Central and Eastern European NATO countries on a continuous, albeit rotational, basis.

The problem with all of the anti-Russian rhetoric is that it paints Russia as a power-mad military aggressor. The reality is that, at this moment, it is NATO that is staging major military exercises that involve tens of thousands of troops along Russia's borders in the Baltic States. Yes, Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania are now all members of NATO, so one could argue this is within the prerogative of the alliance.

However, the U.S. and Britain this month were conducting large-scale military exercises in the Republic of Georgia in the Caucasus. Not only does Georgia border Russia, it also has two frozen, unresolved conflicts involving the breakaway territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

In August 2008, following a large-scale joint military exercise with U.S. troops, the Georgian

military mounted a full offensive into South Ossetia, resulting in Russia's retaliatory intervention. In the clash, Russian forces quickly destroyed the Georgian forces and restored the previous territorial boundaries of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

That same year, Canada led the campaign to admit both Georgia and Ukraine into NATO. Had Canada been successful in that effort, World War 3 would have either erupted in 2008 over South Ossetia, or in March 2014 over Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.

Which begs the question: If we already know that the Caucasus is a powder keg that Russia will not back away from, why are the U.S. and Britain sending in soldiers to simply stir the pot?

It is also difficult to chastise the Russians for having their combat aircraft "buzz" a U.S. warship when you realize that this destroyer was at the edge of the Baltic Sea, just outside the Russian port of Kaliningrad. One can only imagine what response would be generated by the U.S. military if a Russian warship were patrolling the Gulf of Mexico.

Olga Olikier, a U.S.-based pundit, called the "buzzing" of the American ship "muscle flexing" on the part of the Russians as an attempt to show "they can stand up to the United States." One can argue that the U.S. is flexing a hell of a lot more muscle by sailing right up to the Russians' doorstep in this instance.



The Canadian ship HMCS Fredericton, centre, patrols the Black Sea alongside a Bulgarian frigate, right, and Romanian frigate, during Operation Reassurance on April 5. DND photograph by MCpl. Sebastian Allain

Then, of course, is the collective failure of memory as to the fact that, since the end of the Cold War in 1990, NATO has repeatedly broken its promise not to expand eastward. As part of the agreements between Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan, NATO said it would not encroach upon what had formerly been the Soviet sphere of influence. In fact, in discussions regarding the reunification of Germany, it was agreed that no non-German (read: no U.S.) military units would be deployed into the former East German Soviet-controlled territory.

However, the minute the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, NATO

began to eagerly recruit former Warsaw Pact nations into the alliance. If you include the fact that NATO backed the anti-Russian rebellion in Ukraine in 2014 and continues to provide support and training to the Ukrainian military, NATO has effectively pushed right up against Russia's frontier, from the Baltic states in the north through Poland and Ukraine, all the way to Georgia in the south.

A more apt name for NATO's ongoing Operation Reassurance deployments might in fact be Operation Provocation.

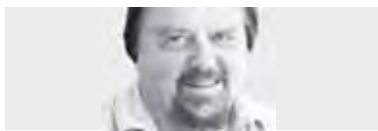
Scott Taylor is editor and publisher of Esprit de Corps magazine.

news@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

GLOBAL AFFAIRS BRAZIL IMPEACHMENT

What Brazil and Thailand's political crises have in common

A clash of classes underlies both conflicts.



GWYNNE DYER

LONDON, U.K.—Question: What's the difference between the coup that overthrew the elected government in Thailand in 2014 and the coup that has now removed the elected government in Brazil?

Answer: The coup-makers in Thailand wore uniforms.

The Brazilian Senate voted 55 to 22 on May 12 to impeach the president, Dilma Rousseff. She is suspended for up to 180 days while the same body tries her on the charge of understating the size of the budget deficit before the last election.

If two-thirds of the Senators find her guilty, she will be perma-

nently removed from office. Since they have just voted to impeach her by a bigger majority than that, we may take it for granted that she is a goner.

As the long evening droned on, it was quite clear that most Senators were only interested in the outcome, not the evidence. On several occasions the Speaker even had to tell them to stop talking and put their phones away. This was about politics, not about justice, and the deal was already done.

Two justifications have been offered for this unseating of an elected president, but both of them are pretty flimsy. The first is the legal justification, which is that Rousseff's government tweaked the accounts a bit to make Brazil's financial situation look less bad before the last election in 2014.

She did, but which elected government anywhere does not try to put the best face on its figures? Anyway, nobody believes that this is the real reason for her removal from power.

The broader political justification is that she has made a mess of the economy. The economy

certainly is in a terrible mess. In each of the last two years it has shrunk by four per cent, one-tenth of the population is unemployed, and inflation is exploding. But every big commodity-exporting country has been in the same mess since the global financial crash of 2008. The demand for their exports simply collapsed.

Rousseff didn't create this crisis, but inevitably she gets the blame for it. That, rather than some obscure legal issue, is why nearly two-thirds of Brazilians think she should be impeached. But while she might have done better at managing the crisis, in a democracy political questions like this are normally settled by elections, not by impeachment.

The 55 Senators who voted to impeach her all know that, but they couldn't resist the temptation to take her down. Which brings us to the real motive behind all this, and the worrisome comparison with Thailand, where the generals took over in 2014.

The Thais, like the Brazilians, evicted their military rulers from power about three or four decades ago by non-violent political action.

As is bound to happen in a democracy, both countries then developed powerful political movements that demanded a redistribution of wealth in favour of the impoverished half of the population. And in both countries the prosperous urban middle-classes mobilized against this threat.

The hopes of the Thai poor were focused on Thaksin Shinawatra (prime minister 2001-2006) and later, after the military forced him into exile, his sister Yingluck Shinawatra (prime minister 2011-2014). In Brazil the left-wing leader was Luiz Inácio "Lula" da Silva of the Workers' Party (president 2002-2010), and subsequently his close ally Dilma Rousseff (president 2010-2016).

In Thailand the struggle between the rural and urban poor and the defenders of the economic status quo descended into the streets early, and had got quite bloody by the time the generals seized power in 2014. They seem determined to hold on to power for the foreseeable future.

Brazil's politics have been less violent and the military have not intervened (yet), but it is just as

much a class struggle, made more intractable by the fact that in Brazil social class is colour-coded. The white half of the population is mostly prosperous, the "pardo" (mixed-race) and black half mostly poor.

The most important single measure of the Workers' Party government is the famous Bolsa Familia, a straight cash payment to those whose income is below the poverty line. To qualify, they must only ensure that their children attend school 85 per cent of the time and are fully vaccinated. It has millions of people out of poverty.

Nobody will admit that this crisis is about ending government subsidies for the poor, but the crowds demonstrating against Rousseff's government have been almost entirely white. So is the cabinet sworn in by the new interim president, Michel Temer. But Temer is going to have a very hard time running the country.

Outraged Workers' Party supporters are already being radicalized by the "coup" that has driven Dilma Rousseff from power and the struggle is moving into the streets. The protesters will find it hard to resist disrupting the Olympic Games that start in Rio de Janeiro in early August.

Which may provide the excuse for the Brazilian right to welcome the military back into power.

Gwynne Dyer is a United Kingdom-based independent journalist.

The Hill Times

OPINION SECURITY

Deportations are helping make Honduras one of the world's most violent countries

Migrants to Canada are routinely prosecuted for relatively minor offences and circulated back into a society torn apart by organized crime.



GEOFF BURT AND
ROBERT MUGGAH

Canada has a well-earned reputation for taking in immigrants from around the world. Among them are refugees and migrants, including people fleeing organized political and criminal violence. While there is much to laud in Canada's approach, there is a darker side to the story. Most new arrivals settle without incident and are productive contributors to Canadian society. A minority, though, are deported. Some are returned home for failing to comply with immigration rules or due to visa problems. A smaller proportion are forcibly returned for more severe offences, including drug-related and violent crime.

Central Americans are disproportionately affected by deportation from Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Most of the deportees are from so-called Northern Triangle countries including El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. Some sought asylum in the 1980s and 1990s, while others are more recent arrivals. Roughly 128 Honduran nationals were deported from Canada each year between 1997 and 2014. This compares to 17,276 Hondurans deported from the U.S. and another 45,606 from Mexico in 2015 alone.

Canada is obligated to penalize anyone, including asylum claimants and economic migrants, breaking Canadian law. The real question, however, relates to the appropriate severity of the penalty relative to the infraction. Canada has a policy of suspending removals when they could place the lives of deportees in jeopardy. So just how serious does a crime need to be in order to trigger deportation? Under what conditions should a country be off limits for deportation on humanitarian grounds?

It turns out that a number of Central American migrants to Canada are routinely prosecuted for relatively minor offences and are circulated back into societies torn apart by organized crime. Some of them are forcibly recruited by gangs, targeted by paramilitary death squads, extorted, and even killed.

Complicating matters, reintegration services for deported



A man walks past graffiti of a machinegun in San Pedro Sula, Honduras's second-largest city, on Sept. 17, 2014. The city has one of the world's highest murder rates. UNHCR photograph by Roland Schönbauer

Central Americans—including those violating visa conditions—are few and far between. A small collection of faith-based groups do their best to assist, but migrants are more likely to be recycled into poverty or, just as likely, a life of crime.

Put simply, deportation is bad for public safety, justice, and development in one of the western hemisphere's most fragile countries. It is also stretching Honduras's justice and penal system to the breaking point. There are just 24 prisons and three preventive detention centres in the country of nearly nine million people. They warehouse over 14,500 detainees, though the facilities were designed for just over 8,100. Known locally as "crime colleges," Honduran prisons groom young men for a gangster lifestyle. Shielded from police, leaders of the gangs effectively run the jails and manage their crew on the outside.

Canada, the U.S., and Mexico's policy of aggressively deporting Hondurans has the unintended effect of amplifying organized crime in Honduras. Gangs such as the MS-13 and M-18—originally founded by Guatemalan and

Salvadoran deportees from Los Angeles in the 1980s—are among the beneficiaries.

These gangs, or *maras*, are quick to recruit and exploit Hondurans expelled from Canada and the U.S. And it is not just notorious *maras* that are grooming returned migrants: there are another 100 gangs in the country with anywhere between 6,000 and 36,000 members depending on who's counting.

Deportation policies also risk strengthening international crime networks spanning the Americas. Honduras sits astride the highest-value drug route in the world. Since 2009, drug trafficking organizations converged on the country—described by some U.S. agents as a "cocaine rush." Today the country hosts major Mexican crime syndicates like the Sinaloa, Gulf, and Zeta cartels and their networks of so-called *transportistas*, or transporters.

Honduras's violence problem is connected in large part to tensions between international and local crime factions. The U.S. describes Honduras as the most dangerous "non-war zone" in the world.

What kind of threat do Hon-

duran deportees represent to Canada? The U.S. labelled some of the *maras* transnational criminal organizations in 2012, the first time it ever used this designation for a street gang. And while these groups often operate across borders, a new report we contributed to, published by Public Safety Canada, suggests that the threat to Canada is extremely low. There is no evident connection between Honduran deportees from Canada and gang or drug-trafficking activity in Canada. And while organized crime groups must be taken seriously, the threat is more from Mexican cartels.

Canada's policy of deportation is hardly improving the facts on the ground. If anything, it is making things worse. Honduras already has one of the highest homicide rates in the world (after Syria and El Salvador) and cities like San Pedro Sula compete with San Salvador for the title of the world's most murderous city, with a homicide rate of 142 murders for every 100,000 inhabitants. By way of comparison, Canada's homicide rate stands at around 1.4 per 100,000. Meanwhile, tens of thousands of Hondurans are

fleeing the country, including unaccompanied minors.

Honduras, along with other Northern Triangle countries, risks turning into a narco-state. If Canada wishes to keep this from happening, it needs at a minimum to rethink its deportation policy. Canada should pursue a comprehensive approach to migration, one that is mindful of governance, security assistance, and development priorities in Honduras. Canada should also examine the ways in which drug enforcement and criminal justice policies are sustaining a violent status quo. Sustained investment in improving the quality of law enforcement and judicial institutions in Honduras is essential to reverse skyrocketing impunity and insecurity.

Robert Muggah is research director of the Igarapé Institute in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and the SecDev Foundation in Ottawa. Geoff Burt is a senior associate at the Security Governance Group in Waterloo, Ont. They contributed to a report for Public Safety Canada on circular migration released in April 2016.

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PLAIN SPEAK TORIES IN VANCOUVER

What to watch for at the Conservative convention

The Vancouver conclave is the first major post-Harper-era event for the party.



TIM POWERS

OTTAWA—Later this week in Vancouver and Winnipeg two different political conventions will be taking place. In the Manitoba capital Liberals will gather to bask in the glory of their impressive 2015 victory. Didn't former Liberal leader Bob Rae once opine that triumphalism is a bad thing?

In British Columbia, Conservatives will get together to try to find a way back to the top of the Canadian political standings. Demonstrating that elbowing, accidental or otherwise, isn't the exclusive purview of Justin Trudeau, Conservatives will seek to give a poke to those who managed the last campaign all the while looking to slam the party forward to victory in 2019.

There will be a number of key things to watch for in Vancouver to see if Tories truly are going forward or getting themselves stuck in the mud. First up is what will Stephen Harper say or do on Thursday night at the party tribute event for him?

This will be the first time since election night that Harper has given a major public address in Canada.

He has done a fine job of stepping back from the spotlight. He seems to know he is still a lightning rod for many Canadians. Not every current or former political leader possesses such self-awareness.

Will that consciousness continue or will the former PM use the platform to throw a punch? Some Conservatives will want him to say "I told you so" about Trudeau. The temptation will be strong but Harper likely knows now isn't the time for that scolding.

Over the weekend Rona Ambrose will also speak to the delegates. She has proven to be a solid and respected interim leader. So much so that different draft movements have popped up to try to keep her in that role permanently. Her address will matter.

Ambrose has been able to give the Tories some useful anger-management training. From making some important and apparently accepted policy changes on the murdered and missing indigenous women's inquiry, to musing smartly about the reality of marijuana legislation, to her leadership during the Fort McMurray fire, and tireless outreach efforts to Conservatives across the country, she has built a lot of credibility. What she says about what she thinks about the future direction of the party has the potential to be influential with supporters.

Conservative members are also picking a new party president this weekend. John Walsh, the outgoing president, has finished his term. All hail the first new president of the post-Harper era. They and their fellow national councillors should have more autonomy to act than their predecessors. No permanent leader is yet breathing down their necks. Initially, they will likely be guided by the will of the party to a



Conservative interim leader Rona Ambrose, pictured, will speak to the delegates amid campaigns to try to keep her in the job permanently. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

larger degree than normal. What could that mean? If nothing else it is most certainly a new variable that didn't exist in the Harper era. It is these people who guide the party operations and brand. They have power.

Lest it be forgotten the Conservative Party is in the midst of leadership race. Vancouver will be one large reality check on who is who in the zoo. Kellie Leitch, Maxime Bernier, and Michael Chong have all declared their candidacies. Their schmoozing will be boundless. But the real question is who else will be there

twisting arms. Are Peter MacKay and Jason Kenney going to join the party or wait until post-2019?

Very few rarely say it, but what is on the minds of most Conservatives is whether this leadership race is the one that matters. The thinking goes like this: Justin Trudeau for a variety of reasons is extremely likely to get re-elected in 2019. If that is the case, whoever gets elected Tory leader now does not garner great odds for keeping their job after that vote. This line of argument not only influences who joins the current race but it may influence the

delegates' choice on the type of leader they want now.

The Conservative conclave in British Columbia is the first major post-Harper-era event for that party. It will judge success not by an airbrushing of the past but by a desire to be fearless in the pursuit of electoral success in the future.

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

news@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

INSIDE POLITICS ASSISTED DEATH

The government has a knack for turning allies into opponents

It should apply lessons from the assisted-death debacle to the looming electoral reform debate.

Continued from page 1

Earlier this year a committee of MPs and Senators charted a roadmap that had the dual merit of meeting the constitutional threshold set by the Supreme Court and

of enjoying multi-party support in both houses of Parliament.

Its members did not expect the government to accept all their recommendations. They did not think their proposal to give access to assisted death to mature minors would make it into the bill. But few imagined that the cabinet would take a sledgehammer to the foundation they had laid out.

In the end, Bill C-14 borrows more from the restrictive minority report drafted by the Conservative MPs on the committee than from the majority recommendations.

That decision cost the government a crucial handful of credible

advocates in both houses. Many of the Parliamentarians who spent the most time working on the assisted-death file have come to the conclusion that no law is better than Bill C-14.

The government may yet win the final vote on its assisted-death legislation in the Commons but it has lost the debate over its merits. At least one court has already signalled that the federal legislation may not survive a legal challenge.

That decisive Commons vote will take place under procedural duress. But the government lacks both the tools and the majority to similarly force the pace of the Senate. In the past, arm-twisting in the Commons has often resulted into more Upper House resistance to controversial government legislation.

Parliament stands adjourned this week. With only a handful of sitting days left before the court-imposed June 6 deadline to replace the current Criminal Code dispositions on assisted suicide, it would take an uncommon amount of Senate co-operation for a law to be passed before the target date. A government that started down this legislative path with a surplus of multi-party goodwill has now essentially depleted its supply.

All the above is a mild preview of what is in store for the Liberal bid to change the voting system in time for the 2019 election. That project is no less time-sensitive than the assisted-death issue—and even more adversarial.

Indeed, the two files contaminated each other last week, with toxic results for the climate in the Commons.

For here, too, the Trudeau government has shown a knack for turning allies into opponents.

By putting forward a process that gives the Liberals majority control over the outcome of the consultations, the government had succeeded in uniting against it opposition parties that otherwise bring opposite views to the debate.

The Conservatives were always going to fight electoral reform every inch of the way. They will use all means at their disposal to force the government to bring its plan to a national vote. The argument that fundamental changes to the voting system should not be left to the sole discretion of a government majority already resonates well beyond their ranks.

If the Liberals are to avoid losing another race against the parliamentary clock, if they are to have

a realistic hope of securing Senate and public support for the introduction in 2019 of a different voting system in the face of a Conservative pro-referendum crusade, they need to bring some of the other opposition parties under the tent. So far they have been doing the opposite.

The New Democrats and the Greens have historically been short-changed by the first-past-the-post system. From their perspective, this debate is a once-in-a-political-lifetime opportunity. If it ends in an impasse, the Liberals will drop the file for the foreseeable future.

The smaller parties have more incentives to make concessions to avoid a complete failure than the government itself. Relinquishing control over the process by giving the opposition parity on the electoral reform committee would buy the Liberals much-needed political cover from the Conservatives—at a relatively low cost.

After all, it is not as if the non-collegial template used for the assisted-death debate had brought the government anything but grief.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer for The Toronto Star. This column was released on May 21.

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Josephine McMurray - network investigator and project lead, AGE-WELL, and assistant professor, Wilfrid Laurier University

Nadine Henningsen - executive director, Canadian Home Care Association

Francine Lemire - executive director and CEO, College of Family Physicians Canada

Mary Bertone - past president, Canadian Dental Hygienists Association

Kiran Rabheru - past president, Canadian Academy of Geriatric Psychiatry

Chris Power - CEO, Canadian Patient Safety Institute

Lisa Ashley - senior nurse advisor, Canadian Nurses Association

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OPINION NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Why Canada should pay attention to Obama's historic Hiroshima visit this week

He's going to plead for the elimination of nuclear weapons while his own country jumps into a new era of nuclear weaponry. Does that make sense?



DOUGLAS ROCHE

United States President Barack Obama's visit to Hiroshima May 27 hits a special nerve with me because I am an honorary citizen of Hiroshima.

In 2010, Hiroshima Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba conferred this honour on me for my work through the years on nuclear disarmament. I was 16 when the first atomic bombs were dropped by the U.S. on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in early August 1945. It was only years later, on my first visit to Japan in the mid-1970s, that the horror and scale of the destruction made a lasting impression on me. Seeing Hiroshima changed my life.

Now, for the first time, a sitting president of the United States will visit the city whose name is synonymous with nuclear destruction. A controversy has been ignited over just the announcement, with many fearful that Obama will "apologize" to the Japanese for using the bomb against them. The fight over this issue reflects the larger controversy that has never been resolved: should the U.S. have used the new weapon?

Obama will not apologize. To do so would destabilize his presidency and galvanize his opponents, who already think his foreign policy is not muscular enough, to launch impeachment proceedings. Rather, the president will focus on the future, enlarging on his famous 2009 Prague speech for which he has already won the Nobel Peace Prize, committing the U.S. "to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons."

But that doesn't mean the president won't look back. In fact, he must recall, from the steps of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, the sheer horror of the scale of nuclear destruction to awaken the political systems everywhere to the need for action to eliminate, once and for all, the most terrible weapons ever invented.

For too long, the technocrats have had their way on the nuclear disarmament issue, bamboozling politicians and the public with their jargon about the different classes of nuclear weapons. The legal and moral case against nuclear weapons has been overshadowed by those who hold that



U.S. President Barack Obama listens to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during Mr. Abe's state visit to Washington, D.C. in April 2015. Mr. Obama is set this week to be the first sitting U.S. president to visit Hiroshima, hit by a U.S. atomic bomb during the Second World War. *White House photograph by Pete Souza*



The remains of Hiroshima's Prefectural Industry Promotion Building, now preserved as a monument, on Sept. 1, 1945, less than a month after the atomic bomb hit the city. *UN photograph*

the military strategy of nuclear deterrence is essential to global security.

In the past few years, a humanitarian movement has sprung up, embracing both governments and civil society, which makes clear the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of any nuclear weapon.

The strength of this growing movement was on display in Geneva earlier this month when scores of states joined in a call for negotiations to begin in 2017 on a ban on nuclear weapons. The nuclear weapons states, all of which are modernizing their nuclear arsenals (there are more than 15,000 nuclear weapons in the world), boycotted these meetings.

So here is Obama going to Hiroshima to plead the case for the elimination of nuclear weapons while his own country jumps into a new era of nuclear weaponry and refuses to participate in U.N.-sponsored efforts to start comprehensive negotiations toward elimination. Does this make any sense?

Yes, it does when you consider exactly what Obama is up against. He won the admiration of huge

numbers of people when he challenged the world to move towards elimination of nuclear weapons even if the job couldn't be done in his lifetime. But the very institutional machinery the president is supposed to control in his own country wouldn't budge. President Dwight Eisenhower first railed against the power of the military-industrial complex, and these lobbyists for military strength have only grown stronger since then. Obama is forced to fly above his own bureaucracy.

The only thing the president has left is his bully pulpit. His words from Hiroshima will undoubtedly strengthen the humanitarian movement. In the present crisis of a renewed nuclear arms race and escalating tensions between Russia and NATO, Obama's shout-out to the world is at least a step in the right direction.

I find it sad, not to mention unacceptable, that the Canadian government has not given one ounce of public support to Obama's efforts. Canada, which used to play a bridge-building role between the nuclear and non-nuclear powers, remains

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The horror and scale of the destruction made a lasting impression on me. Seeing Hiroshima changed my life.

silent. This was bad enough in the Harper years, but it is perplexing that the Trudeau government, which has in many ways reached out to the UN's global security agenda, ignores the role that history is calling it to play.

It is worse than that. At the recent Geneva meetings, Canada contributed a working paper that danced around the legality of nuclear weapons and brushed off the humanitarian efforts to start negotiations on the grounds that the absence of the nuclear powers

would lead to instability. Canada's position was scorned at the meeting. Two decades ago, when Canada believed in the efficacy of a ban on anti-personnel land-mines, it didn't let the resistance of the major powers stop it.

Canada's policies on nuclear disarmament appear to be still operating with a Cold War mentality. This is also true of other NATO countries. I hope Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will personally become seized of the issue in its vast political dimensions. It's going to take prime ministerial leverage to move Canadian policies forward.

In going to Hiroshima, President Obama is calling out to policy-makers around the world to eliminate nuclear weapons. As an honorary citizen of Hiroshima, I cry out my support. It is the cry of the *hibakusha*, the Japanese who suffered so terribly: "Never again nuclear weapons!"

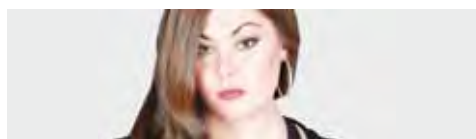
Former senator and former disarmament ambassador Douglas Roche has visited Hiroshima several times.

*news@hilltimes.com
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MILLENNIAL SUFFRAGETTE **ELBOWGATE**

Is Trudeau's dude-bro elbow the byproduct of hyper-partisanship?

Unfortunately, the red partisan elixir has intoxicated the masses, rendering it highly unlikely this arrogant and juvenile behaviour will actually hurt the PM's brand.



JENN JEFFERYS

OTTAWA—It seems we may be learning that our prime minister likes to control things, even if that means elbowing someone out of his way 30 seconds after the last division bell dings.

As the entire world knows by now, emotions ran high last Wednesday night after decidedly poor decorum was shown by the newly minted PM. Former NDP MP Craig Scott called the prime minister's actions symptomatic of a Messiah complex, suggesting all these so-called sunny ways and media love-ins have gone to Trudeau's head.

Defending his humiliated and elbowed colleague, Mulcair was seen barking right up in Trudeau's face in a fit of Angry Tom-like

rage. He is heard calling him "pathetic" when Trudeau crosses the floor a second time to chase after NDP MP Ruth Ellen Brosseau, whom he'd forcefully elbowed and pushed into the desk behind her. While shoving New Democrats aside to grab Conservative Whip Gord Brown's arm and force him toward his seat for the vote, Trudeau was allegedly heard telling Members of Parliament to "get the fuck out of the way."

The karmic irony of course amid this whole debacle (as Kady O'Malley first pointed out) is that in threatening to strip MPs of their right to debate legislation, Liberals lost complete and total control of the House. The cards could not have fallen farther from their favour.

Likewise, while the PMO communications team would have orchestrated Wednesday's apology to the Sikh community with care, a far more salient apology eclipsed everything it meticulously concocted in the blink of an eye.

Suffice to say Trudeau wasn't thinking straight at all before doing what he did (see: raging hardcore dude-bro strut across floor), but he certainly must not have noticed the fact that reporters were already in the press gallery and tuning in before the vote. Maybe he thought he could get away with what he did? We'll probably never know.

Trudeau regularly juxtaposes himself to the Conservatives before him, often referring to the low bar Stephen Harper set on social justice, for example. Over the course of his nearly 10 years as prime minister, Harper certainly said and did a lot of things that made life for Canadians

in marginalized groups (women in particular) difficult. Did he ever forcefully shove a woman legislator out of his way in the House of Commons in the process? No.

Unfortunately, the red partisan elixir has intoxicated the masses, rendering it highly unlikely this arrogant and juvenile behaviour from our PM will actually hurt his beautiful brand, at least not within our borders.

What's clear though, whether the self-proclaimed natural governing party will ever admit this or not, is that the Liberals feel this country is now theirs for the taking. They want the words Canadian and Liberal to be used interchangeably and synonymously, even if that means bending the rules a little bit in their favour. Stack a committee here, cut short debate there. Put an opposition MP in his or her place if and when it's deemed necessary (okay, that last one probably won't happen again).

It's absurd the prime minister expected that crossing the floor once again into enemy territory in the elbow's immediate aftermath (presumably to apologize to Brosseau) was acceptable. That behaviour in and of itself reeks of entitlement; the damage had been done whether he liked it or not.

To quite literally add insult to injury, the tidal wave of skeptical misogynistic backlash against Brosseau since Wednesday evening has been horrifying. Type her handle, @RE_Brosseau, into your Twitter search bar and see for yourself: bash after dehumanizing bash telling her to get out of Parliament and Ottawa, threats to sexually assault or abuse her, tweets demanding she shut her mouth and thank the prime minister for not harming her more severely.



NDP MP Ruth Ellen Brosseau, standing far right, reacts after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau elbowed her in the chest on May 18. Screenshot courtesy of CPAC

Even after the Speaker of the House condemned the act, hordes of aggressively partisan Liberals will never see this as a problem—particularly Trudeau's caucus, members of which actually mindlessly applauded the prime minister on his way back to his seat before having had a clue (or vantage point) as to what had actually just happened.

There are actually t-shirts with Trudeau riding shirtless on a moose for sale online. Perhaps we can consider washing away that hyper-partisan metaphorical image from our minds, allow his ego to deflate a little bit, and calm ourselves before this type of thing happens again.

Just a thought.

Jenn Jefferys is a strategic communications consultant and political commentator. She has managed communications and media relations for the Native Women's Association of Canada and Equal Voice National, and worked in digital communications on Parliament Hill during the 2015 federal election. She is a former staffer for the federal NDP. She can be reached at jenn.jefferys@gmail.com. Follow her on Twitter at @JennJefferys.

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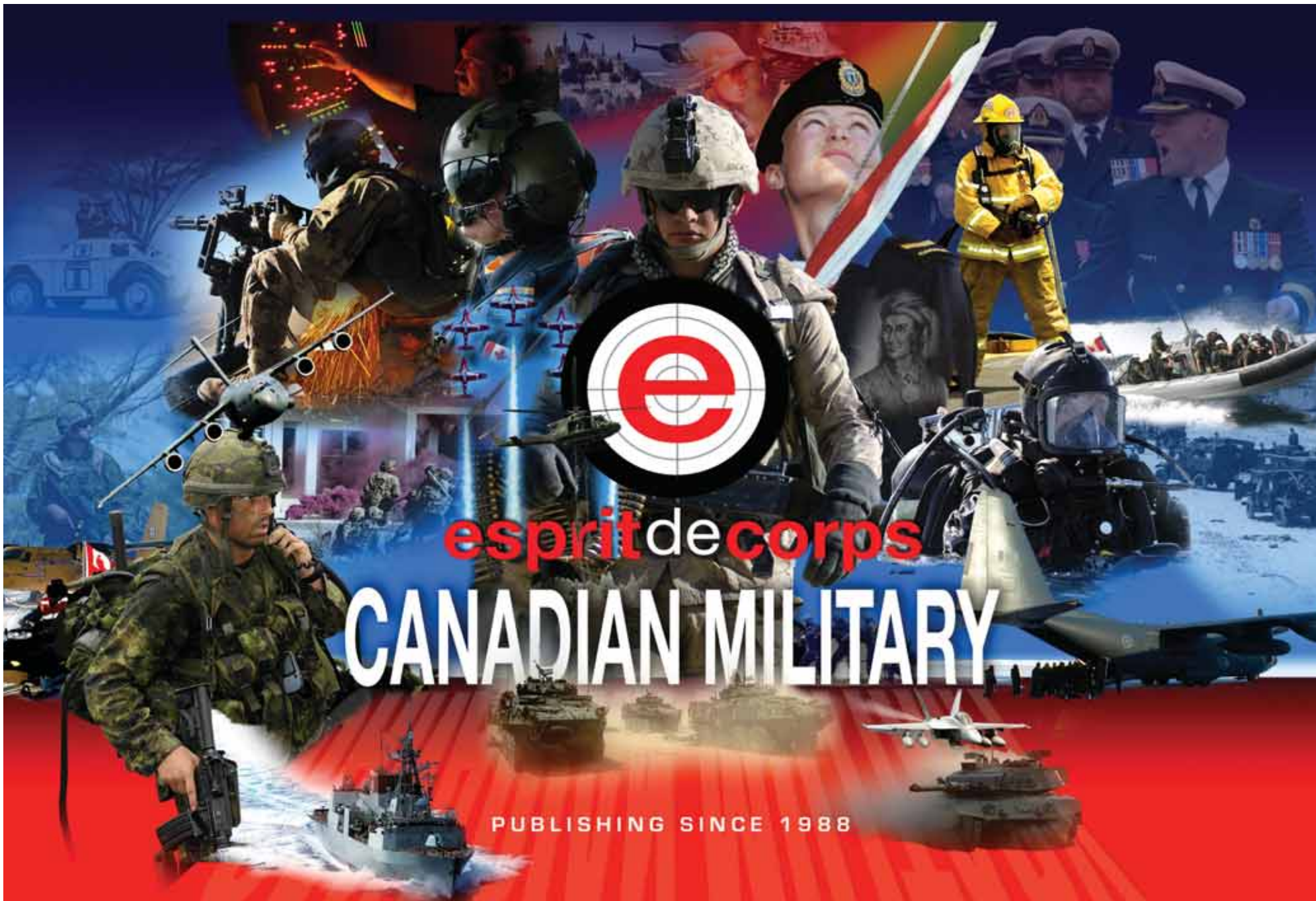
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OPINION DEFENCE

The importance of military soft power

Canada should accept more foreign cadets into its military schools.



ABELARDO GÓMEZ AND
MICHAEL O'SHEA

In the late 1980s, Joseph Nye coined the term “soft power” to refer to the ability of a country to shape the preferences of others. That is, the ability to shape their long-term attitudes and preferences without using “hard power” tools such as force or coercion.

It is why embassies and consulates around the world tend to have cultural and educational affairs departments. These allow diplomats to engage foreign publics and promote their country's values and ideals, and to build friendly relations through cultural, sports, professional, and academic exchanges. But there's an area where soft and hard power overlap, and one that's rarely addressed.

Carol Atkinson, an international relations professor from the University of Southern California, writes that the United States military (a hard power institution) actively builds soft power through U.S.-hosted military educational exchange programs. By hosting and educating foreign military officers, the U.S. “teaches [them] the ideas that they need in order

to work effectively with U.S. military forces” and “socializes [them] to particular beliefs and ideas” that could benefit them in the future. Atkinson calls this “military soft power.”

The importance of shaping the perceptions of foreign military officers is immense. If for nothing else, a positive perception may help generate “goodwill toward the United States.” Plus, the social and professional networks that result may “improve the ability of the U.S. military to work with allied nations and potential coalition partners.” It is why military colleges and the U.S. State Department alike make an effort to follow up, or keep track of their international graduates.

But how large are these programs? Well, the U.S. Department of Defense allows West Point as well as its air force and naval academies to enrol up to 60 international students per year.

However, international enrolment can be considerably higher in private academies. Ray Rottman, the executive director of the Association of Military Colleges and Schools of the United States, told us that about 15 per cent of the 20,000 students currently enrolled in its affiliated institutions come from abroad. That figure ranges between 10 and 26 per cent, individually.

This is consistent with Atkinson's work. She writes that up to 20 per cent of elite military schools in the U.S. are made up of foreign officers (a number that is expected to rise in the coming years). This is important given that many international graduates of U.S. military academies “become heads of their militaries or occupy important political

positions.” More than half of them reach flag rank, and in a given year, over 1,500 of them “[occupy] national-level leadership positions in their home countries.”

The obvious diplomatic and military benefits of these exchanges are clear: a widened network of valuable military contacts, and the possibility of one day dealing with prominent military counterparts whose attitudes and preferences you may have helped shape.

But is Canada in a position to emulate this strategy? Could it benefit from formally including military soft power as part of its quest to shape the world in its favour?

About 20 per cent of the middle- and high-school-age student population at the Robert Land Academy (a private military boarding school near Toronto) come from abroad; and the students of Canada's Royal Military College (RMC) already participate in a popular exchange program with West Point. However, the RMC—which only began admitting foreign officers in 2010—only accepts 15 international students at a time, and its campus at Saint-Jean, Que., exclusively admits Canadian citizens.

We believe that because Canada is already a popular destination for international students (admitting well over 300,000 international students every year), it is particularly well positioned to benefit from military soft power. That is why we suggest that Canada: (1) accept more international students into Canadian military schools; (2) strengthen existing international exchange programs, such as the one between the RMC and West Point; and (3) develop new inter-



Cadets stand in line to receive their diplomas during the commencement ceremony at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., May 21. West Point and Canada's Royal Military College run a popular exchange program. U.S. Army photograph by Staff Sgt. Vito T. Bryant

national partnerships with schools from around the world.

Given Canada's low levels of military spending, and its position as a global middle power, this is an attractive, cost-effective option to pursue. Allowing military officers from around the globe to study leadership and strategy under a Canadian flag could extend Canada's geopolitical influence with minimal cost and conflict, while simultaneously supporting education institutions across the country.

Abelardo Gómez is a former protocol and political affairs analyst at the embassy of Mexico in Canada, and a current master's student of political science at Universitat Pompeu Fabra. Michael O'Shea is a former EducationUSA Officer (Canada), a Fulbright student at McGill University, and a graduate of the M.S.Ed. program in higher education at the University of Pennsylvania.

The Hill Times

OPINION FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Just war? In Afghanistan, not so much

History has judged the American war in Vietnam as totally evil. The same judgment should be rendered on the Afghan war.



GAR PARDY

OTTAWA—Robert McNamara, the defence secretary for United States president John F. Kennedy, gave us one of the first Western military interventions after the Second World War.

In a 2003 documentary, *The Fog of War: Eleven Lessons from*

the Life of Robert S. McNamara, he provides introspection and retrospection on his role in the American war in Vietnam. At one point he asks himself: “How much evil must we do in order to do good?”

The juxtaposing of evil and good in the context of war is as old as war itself. In earlier times philosophers made great efforts to answer that question, and the self-serving idea of “just wars” emerged. No one uses that calculus today; rather the calls are for more troops and more time to see a war's objectives achieved.

Western democratic leaders ignore the evil-good dichotomy. But it is appropriate to use it today, as our wars rarely result in much good. More often than not, and especially over time, evil dominates, largely from the impossibility of achieving the objectives of the wars promoted and prosecuted.

Using McNamara's dichotomy, apart from a few ex-generals speaking from fading memories,

history has judged the American war in Vietnam as totally evil. There was no good for anyone, least of all the millions of Vietnamese, Laotians, and Cambodians who died or who were forced to leave for safety in distant lands.

The same judgment should be rendered on the war in Afghanistan.

This “land in between,” as it was frequently called, has seen more war than most places. Even before European colonial powers sought to spread their cultural and religious gospels to the world's “heathen,” it was more than a way station on the world's most travelled trade route.

In the years since, Afghanistan was a minor irritant in the affairs of South Asia. It should have stayed that way, except for the misfortune of hosting Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaeda cohorts intent on bringing war to the “far enemy.”

The 9/11 attacks changed everything, and within days American military might descended on

the country. Canadian and other troops were not far behind.

There were no cautionary voices against the American impulse for revenge and retribution, least of all Canadian. Fifteen years later the evil perpetuated on Afghanistan and Afghans has mounted to the point where there is no justification for the continuation of this war.

The administration of United States President Barack Obama, for the past three years, has sought to turn its back on the country and leave it to its own dynamics. There are still nearly 10,000 American troops on the ground. On Oct. 3 last year in Kunduz, the Americans called in airstrikes that mistakenly destroyed a hospital run by Doctors Without Borders, killing 42.

Lest this appear to single out the role of foreign troops, the role of the Taliban and other like-minded groups is equally bloody and without justification.

Today, the opium crop is one of the largest in the world; civilian

deaths are unabated; corruption is fuelled by vast amounts of foreign money; and Afghan refugees form a significant part of those seeking a new and peaceful life in Europe. Above all, a dysfunctional government in Kabul is incapable of protecting the capital.

The evil of the past 15 years of foreign intervention needs to stop. The foreign troops need to go, as does the idea that the NATO coloration adds legitimacy.

As with the American decision to leave Vietnam in 1973 there can be no expectation that the violence will end, but there can be some modest expectation that the Afghans, over time, will arrive at some nominal national consensus. As in the past, there will be much that outsiders will object to; but it will be Afghans in the driver's seat without the presence of foreign troops.

Gar Parady is retired from the Canadian foreign service and recently published Afterwords from a Foreign Service Odyssey.

The Hill Times



LA TRIBUNE DE LA PRESSE PARLEMENTAIRE CANADIENNE,
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LES COULISSES DE LA TRIBUNE
*150 ans d'histoire de la Tribune
de la presse parlementaire canadienne.*
Un ouvrage dirigé par Hélène Buzzetti et Josh Wingrove

Il y a 150 ans cette année, les premiers journalistes arrivaient sur la colline parlementaire à Ottawa pour couvrir la Confédération naissante. Les coulisses de la Tribune, un ouvrage rédigé par d'actuels et anciens membres de la Tribune de la presse parlementaire, retrace l'histoire de cette institution depuis ses débuts, lorsque le journalisme politique n'aspirait guère plus qu'à retranscrire fidèlement les débats parlementaires. Avec force témoignages et anecdotes, Les coulisses plonge dans le récit d'amitiés et de conflits, d'abus d'alcool et de scandales éventés, de l'acceptation difficile des femmes et de l'arrivée de ces caméras de télévision ayant transformé la façon dont les Canadiens voient leur Parlement.

LANCEMENT

Mercredi, 1^{er} juin, de 18h30 à 21h00

Salle Alfred-Pellan, Bibliothèque et Archives Canada, 395, rue Wellington, Ottawa (Ontario)

RSVP à bac.marketing.lac@canada.ca

LES COULISSES DE LA TRIBUNE sera en vente sur place et payable par chèques ou en argent comptant seulement.

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SHARP WITS AND BUSY PENS
150 Years of Canada's Parliamentary Press Gallery
Edited by Hélène Buzzetti and Josh Wingrove

It's been 150 years since journalists arrived on Parliament Hill, covering Canada's budding confederation. Sharp Wits & Busy Pens, written by current and former Parliamentary Press Gallery reporters, tracks the evolution from the days when political journalism was little more than a written transcript of debates. Close ties turned to clashes with government, booze flowed, scandal brewed, women broke down the door to membership and TV cameras arrived and reshaped how Canadians saw Parliament.

LAUNCH

Wednesday, June 1st, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Alfred-Pellan Room, Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa (Ontario)

RSVP to bac.marketing.lac@canada.ca

SHARP WITS AND BUSY PENS will be sold on site. Only cash or checks will be accepted.

OPINION MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY

Periods: A nuisance for some, life-limiting for others

Nearly a billion women and girls don't have access to a clean, private toilet, cutting short their school and work opportunities.



NICOLE HURTUBISE

OTTAWA—The subject is still so taboo, it's rarely discussed. And yet every day, more than 800 million women and girls around the world have their periods. In countries like Canada, they put up with the pain and inconvenience, often wishing it were no longer a subject considered too embarrassing to discuss in public. But for women and girls in poor countries who don't have access to sanitary products or appropriate education, menstruation can mean tremendous hardship.

An estimated one billion women and girls do not have access to a clean, private toilet. When schools do not have toilets, girls are more likely to skip school when on their periods.



Girls stand in front of a school toilet in Tanzania in 2006. When schools don't have toilets, girls are more likely to skip school when on their periods. Sustainable Sanitation Alliance photograph by Marni Sommer

In India one in five girls never return to the classroom once they begin menstruating. Not only do they miss out on an education, but being out of school makes it more likely they will marry early and have children at a young age. Their own children are then less likely to attend school.

If that weren't enough, in some countries menstruating girls and women are ostracized. Forced to sleep on the floor of a hut outside their family homes, they're allowed to eat only boiled rice. Even though it's the 21st century, every month they are unjustly punished for a natural bodily function.

In Nepal, this practice is called *chhaupadi*, which literally means

"being untouchable." While officially illegal in Nepal, it is still all too common in the western part of the country, where 16-year-old Nadakala, lives. "Of course I hate it," she says of *chhaupadi*. "Why should the gods punish us? Why should women be punished?"

Stigma around periods is found all over the world. Too few women have safe and clean toilets with private washing facilities in which to manage their periods hygienically. Millions also lack access to affordable sanitary materials and a place to dispose of them. They often resort to using materials like unclean rags, newspaper, or leaves, which can cause discomfort, pain, and infections.

Adults are often shy about discussing menstruation, so girls may not know what's happening to their bodies or how to manage their periods. This uncertainty, combined with the stigma, leads many to feel insecure. They worry about menstrual accidents, which can cause a girl to drop out of school forever. Meanwhile, the lack of private facilities in workplaces limit women's ability to work outside the home.

It doesn't have to be this way. More than 270 global partners now recognize May 28 as Menstrual Hygiene Day and an opportunity to promote gender equality. They do so to promote the idea that women and girls should not

miss out on education, work, and other life opportunities because of their periods.

Canada can play an important role. Our federal government has made maternal, newborn, and child health its top development priority, and contributed to real progress in making pregnancy and childbirth safer for women in the developing world.

In the same way, we can make a genuine difference for menstruating girls and women everywhere. We can better integrate hygiene management into Canada's maternal and child health work. We can support the provision of toilets for girls and women in homes, schools, and workplaces, and help local entrepreneurs set up businesses that will provide affordable sanitary products. We can encourage frank discussions about the ways in which taboos around menstruation hold women back.

Given the potential effect of such measures, policy-makers should make menstrual hygiene management a priority in development policy and practice. To fully achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, it must be part of programming in the health, education, water supply, and sanitation sectors. And the voices of women and girls must be heard when interventions are being planned.

It's true that great strides have been made to recognize the importance of sanitation in the development agenda, but it's time to break the silence around menstruation. It's time to create a world in which every woman and girl can manage her period privately, safely, and with dignity.

Nicole Hurtubise is the CEO of WaterAid Canada. WaterAid operates in 37 countries, working on safe water, sanitation, and hygiene projects.

The Hill Times

OPINION MINING

The next frontier of conflict minerals: South America

Given its past leadership limiting blood diamonds, Canada can help now in its own backyard.



BENJAMIN MUSAMPA

In the last decade, columbite-tantalite (coltan) has been a source of global controversy as a strategic resource illegally exported from conflict-ridden Democratic Republic of Congo to neighbouring countries, re-labelled, and sold to major high-tech manufacturers around the world. A similar trend is now happening with Venezuela's coltan,

reportedly smuggled to Brazil, the second-largest exporter of this mineral in the world.

A déjà vu

In 2009 the Venezuelan government under then-president Hugo Chávez attempted, unsuccessfully, to address the issue of illegal coltan trade across its border. A few years later, The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists discovered a prosperous illegal coltan trade and increased security risk for artisanal miners. This practice is harmful to children, women, and vulnerable indigenous populations working in precarious conditions confronted with drug smugglers and armed factions also chasing ore.

Aaron Hall, an analyst with the Washington, D.C.-based Enough Project, pointed out that "Venezuela could emerge as a big problem since it represents another source of conflict coltan, coming from an area where there is no regulation, no transparency, and no security for the people working in the mines."

The recently elected Liberal government in Canada could take advantage of this regulatory vacuum, as it did more than a decade ago through multilateral leadership limiting blood diamonds, leading to the creation of the Kimberley Process. As a major international player in the extractive sector, Canada would benefit from making multi-stakeholder initiatives work while regaining its leadership in the global governance spectrum, given that the spectre of conflict minerals is affecting South America, a region close to home and with which Canada has longstanding partnerships.

In search of answers

Regulating conflict minerals, referred to as 3TG minerals (tantalum, tin, tungsten, and gold), has not been easy; plenty of effort remains. The importance of these minerals for manufacturing consumer electronics, such as laptops and smartphones, fostered a convergence of interests among international organizations, in-

cluding the UN Security Council, countries like the United States, and also industrial players. Such synergies meant to regulate the source of conflict minerals paved the way for regulatory frameworks such as the OECD Due Diligence Guidance (2011) and the U.S. Dodd-Frank Act (2010).

These initiatives are well intended but face important challenges. Just Castillo Iglesias, a lecturer at the Ocean University of China, has raised four major questions. First, how can these initiatives ensure that the local communities in the affected areas can actually benefit from regulation of conflict minerals? Second, how can existing and future initiatives adapt to the reality faced on the ground, where mining and trade escape governmental control due to the difficulty of enforcing regulation in a conflict-ridden environment? Third, how can it be ensured that the negative consequences or side effects of these initiatives are minimal? Fourth, are these international efforts adequately addressing the root causes of the conflict-mineral problem?

In September 2014, an open letter published by 70 Congolese and international experts and observers reiterated the importance of addressing the root causes of conflict minerals when adopting policy options. Otherwise, they may harm the economic conditions of people

earning income from artisanal mining in conflict regions.

A role for Canada?

Ian Smillie, a former UN Security Council investigator and prominent figure in the campaign against blood diamonds, believes Canada's quest for leadership in global development should not rest on promoting the narrow commercial interests of Canadian mining companies. Instead, a new Liberal government should try to address development issues like the challenges faced by artisanal miners.

Considering artisanal and small-scale mining are often linked to conflict financing, Canadian policy-makers may embrace the African Mining Vision by adopting policies intended to harness the potential of artisanal and small-scale mining to improve rural livelihoods, to stimulate entrepreneurship in a socially-responsible manner, and to promote local and integrated national development as well as regional co-operation.

Benjamin Musampa is a research associate at l'Observatoire des Amériques affiliated with the Centre d'études sur l'intégration et la mondialisation in Montreal, and Thinking Africa of the Institut de recherche et d'enseignement sur la paix en Afrique based in Dakar, Senegal.

news@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

OPINION INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Canada must boost foreign aid

This is not about a fraction of a per cent; it is about millions of lives.



**BORIS MARTIN
AND ROBERT GREENHILL**

The signing of the historic Paris agreement, where Prime Minister Justin Trudeau underlined the urgency of Canada's role in assisting developing countries, was just one more example of the new government's shift toward multilateral leadership and Canada's return as a positive global player.

But are we Canadians really back? For the last 20 years, Canada's commitment to official development assistance (ODA) averaged a mere 0.3 per cent of gross national income (GNI)—well below Canada's leadership position under Pierre Trudeau and Brian

Mulroney. It is now even lower, at about 0.28 per cent, which is barely half of the 0.54 per cent average commitment of the G7 and other advanced mid-sized economies.

When we look within our peer group of countries like the United Kingdom—whose GNI per capita and overall standard of living is quite comparable to Canada's—its contributions to ODA are more than twice as high as ours per capita. Are U.K. citizens twice as committed, twice as generous as Canadians?

The good news, however, is that our prime minister is bucking the trend. Canada's ODA commitment crept up to 0.28 per cent of GNI in 2015 from 0.24 per cent the year before, which due to major cuts from 2011 to 2014, was one of the lowest rates of the past 50 years.

But making a real comeback remains a challenge, because we are so far behind. Even last year's 0.28 per cent may be optimistic because it included special one-time items such as a major loan to Ukraine. If Prime Minister Trudeau wanted to ensure that his first term at least exceeds the same low 0.30 per cent level of his immediate predecessors, our estimates show that he would have

to commit to increasing ODA spending by 12 per cent annually for the next three years.

Looking further out, if Canada maintained this annual 12 per cent increase for a decade, we would match the average contribution of our peer group (0.54 per cent) 10 years from now and would be positioned to reach our 0.7 per cent commitment by 2030. This is entirely possible—the UK and other OECD countries have already done it—but it will take Canadians and Canadian civil society organizations to push for such a commitment.

Making a strong ODA commitment would not only signal a true comeback for Canada as a global leader, it also would be decisive for setting the course toward success on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). And this is not about a fraction of a per cent; it is about millions of lives. A 0.1 per cent increase in ODA as a share of GNI could conservatively feed half a million refugee families, save 250,000 children from avoidable death, provide secondary schooling for three million girls, and provide 17 million women with family planning and support.

And while it is often repeated that ODA alone will not achieve the SDGs, civil society should not let that answer become an excuse for under-commitment. When it is untied, transparent, and accountable, ODA contributes to the foundational capacity that developing countries need for social and economic progress.

At the same time, our private sector can and must also ensure that it plays a positive role in fostering social and economic well-being in those markets.

In the coming months, Canada will put into operation its Development Finance Initiative—a private sector investment vehicle that is complementary to ODA and aimed at fostering sustainable economic opportunities in challenging markets. Let's ensure that it is designed to reach its mandate by privileging high-leverage investments and by rigorously monitoring and measuring its social impact against the SDGs.

On top of that, in the past years Canada has started to clean up its act in the extractive and mining sector, demanding greater consideration for the social impact of such operations through stronger federal corporate social responsibility guidelines. Still,

Canada can go much further in leveraging the power of its private sector by ensuring that Canadian companies—whether in extractives, construction, or finance—reach a high level of excellence and integrity.

We now have an unprecedented opportunity to show the rest of the world that Canada is committed to the SDGs and that we really are back as a global leader. But it is not only up to our prime minister. It will not happen without bold and unwavering commitments from all spheres of society.

It will take relentless leadership from government and civil society. It will take bold private sector commitments. And it will take Canadian citizens stepping up and demanding greater leadership—even if we may have forgotten what that looks like. Rising up half-heartedly would be a disappointment, and 20th-century thinking, broken promises, and unmet goals simply will not work.

As a first step, let's commit to a decent increase in our ODA contributions, and let's mobilize our private sector to contribute to achieving the SDGs.

Robert Greenhill was former managing director of the World Economic Forum and president of the former Canadian International Development Agency. Boris Martin is CEO of Engineers Without Borders Canada.

The Hill Times

OPINION FOREIGN AFFAIRS

G7 leaders' summit: a primer

From terrorism to the best way forward for the world economy, leaders gathering in Japan this week will have their hands full.



JOHN SINCLAIR

G7 leaders meet this week, with Japan as chair. All is prepared, including a lengthy declaration, massaged over several months by hard-working sherpas.

So what's left for the leaders? Back in 2008 the G7 reluctantly recognized its limited leverage on the global economy, especially without China at the table, and passed the crisis-management ball to G20 leaders. The false assumption was that the G7, already no longer the frank fireside conversation enjoyed by Pierre Trudeau in the '70s, would quietly fade away.

There is an interesting sub-current this year: the competition between Japan as G7 chair and China as 2016 G20 chair. Both want to be seen as movers of the global agenda. The G7 problem is its inwardness. Big decisions need meaningful engagement of the Global South, something that is hard to find except in the G20.

The G7 agenda items are largely unchanged, but the challenges are even more urgent and onerous. Two key new topics demand energetic G7 responses: implementing the UN's 2030 sustainable development agenda and delivering climate change targets radically energized by last year's Paris meeting.

The G7, and later the G20, will also certainly need to boldly confront the failure after eight years to turn around the global economy. On economic revitalization, the G7 is painfully split while indicators are gloomier than ever. The International Monetary Fund is talking "risk of economic derailment" as it reduces its 2016 growth estimates.

The only global dynamic is from emerging economies, but even this is mainly a mix of a weakening China and booming India. In Canada the latest forecasts are for a slow recovery at best.

The G7 meeting will demonstrate just how difficult any consensus will be. Two camps exist: Germany/United Kingdom as believers in austerity and the United States/Japan pushing for more fiscal stimulus. Even with Europe as a visible example of the damage from austerity in times of stagnant demand, there has been no give, to the point that the IMF is pleading with the European Union to provide massive debt relief for Greece.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is quoted as going to the G7 as a stimulus hawk. But sunny words may not be enough. The upcoming Brexit referendum, and U.S. and European elections



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his wife, Sophie Grégoire Trudeau, arrive in Japan May 23 for the G7 Leaders' Summit and a visit with Japanese leaders. *Justin Trudeau Twitter photograph*

are leaving several G7 nations as fence-sitters, just when they need a show of solidarity on stimulus and an end to austerity.

What else will be on the G7 table? There will be a rather routine list of political statements on topics such as Syria, Iraq, Ukraine, the South and East China Sea disputes, and rather technical topics like health and infrastructure. On China, the U.S. and Japan now want to play tough, dividing the G7.

There is something new confronting G7 leaders: a set of inter-linked issues involving North and South. Ultimately, they will need a global forum to move forward action, but hopefully G7 leaders will start the discussion.

The first is the socially destructive effect of inequality. This is becoming very visible in the angry voices of "hollowed

out" workers who seem likely to vote *en masse* for people like Donald Trump in the upcoming U.S. election. Of course, inequality is about more than lost jobs, but also access to basic health care, women's empowerment, and justice. These same topics are central to the UN's 2030 agenda and its principle of "nobody left behind."

Inequality at a more global level has led to the 2015 flood of economic migrants and refugees. Beyond the immediate political dimension, action is needed to ease the distress causing these people to flee, with roots in conflict-affected countries like Afghanistan. The reflex solution is more humanitarian relief and bigger tented refugee cities across the Middle East. But this is only a stopgap. G7 leaders should decide now

to prioritize a search for longer-term development strategies for decent work, basic social services, new rights, and other necessities for citizens of low-income and fragile states.

The G7 is looking for answers to terrorism too, notably in European cities. Terrorism is often linked to jihadism. But there is a growing understanding that its roots are not in religious extremism as much as in the same social isolation and lack of economic opportunity that triggers refugee movements. The G7 must avoid simplistic answers, especially the Trump option: a Fortress U.S.A. tackling the threat by keeping out Muslims, rather than acting on terrorism as a global challenge.

Finally, there remains a basic issue: why is there still a G7? It is no longer that fireside chat. It has become a huge exercise built around tasks that distract hundreds of senior bureaucrats for months from their day jobs. Moreover, for important topics any G7 consensus must still be sold to other global leaders, from such as those from China, India, and Russia, working through the G20 or UN.

Canada has long been a G7 fan since it gives us a privileged prestigious seat with more powerful nations. But is it time for a new, less-status-conscious prime minister to propose a new vision, perhaps partnering with his open-minded U.S. buddy, President Barack Obama?

John Sinclair is a Cambridge, U.K. economics graduate who worked for many years as a senior official in the former Canadian International Development Agency and the World Bank. He now teaches, writes, and is a development commentator with the McLeod Group.

The Hill Times

NEWS HEALTH



Liberal MP Karen Ludwig and Green Party Leader Elizabeth May are leading efforts in Parliament to contain the harm caused by Lyme disease. *The Hill Times* photographs by Marco Vigliotti and Jake Wright

Parliamentarians convene bi-partisan panel to address Lyme disease

Illness could affect 10,000 Canadians by 2020.

Continued from page 1

"It was alarming to hear how widespread the disease is."

Ms. Ludwig and fellow Liberal MP Mark Gerretsen (Kingston and the Islands, Ont.) are co-hosting a non-partisan roundtable of MPs on May 30 to advance a national plan to address the disease.

They hope to have their counterparts in the House share the experiences of constituents battling the illness to showcase the urgent need to direct resources to combat Lyme.

So far, some 30 MPs have already confirmed their attendance, according to Ms. Ludwig.

Infection rates increasing

New Brunswick is no outlier, or infection hotspot. It's just one

of the many diverse jurisdictions in Canada grappling with a surging number of Lyme disease infections.

Infectious disease expert Steven Sternthal told the House Health Committee in 2014 that Lyme could affect more than 10,000 Canadians per year by 2020. But while case numbers grow, those who contract the illness continue to struggle to receive the proper diagnosis.

Advocates finger entrenched opposition and sometimes outright hostility from the medical community over criticism that the disease isn't properly being identified, and are strengthening calls for better recognition, more robust testing and improved legal protections for sufferers.

Facing alarming pleas from constituents, Parliamentarians are beginning to turn their focus on the once-regionally isolated illness that threatens to become a national health nightmare.

Mr. Gerretsen credited his involvement to Lyme's oversized footprint in Kingston, where

reported cases vastly outstrip the provincial average.

The local health region is reporting "10 times the number of cases of Lyme disease compared to the provincial average," he said, citing statistics that show 3 in 100,000 people in Ontario have the illness, compared to 33 in 100,000 in the Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox and Addington health region.

On the policy front, Mr. Gerretsen is calling for better coordination between Ottawa and local health authorities on educational campaigns seeking to curb the spread of Lyme.

The Liberal-led roundtable picks up on the work of longtime advocate Elizabeth May (Saanich-Gulf Islands, B.C.), who has been raising alarms about the illness since her election to the House in 2011.

The Green Party leader successfully pushed through a private member's bill in 2014 calling for the establishment of a federal framework to address the illness.

The legislation also mandated a public conference, held earlier

this month, that brought together experts in the field, provincial and territorial health officers, Lyme sufferers and members of the public to discuss the issue.

The major takeaway from the gathering for Ms. May? More and more Canadians are suffering from Lyme and a lot more needs to be done to help them.

"We really need more research, and we need much better public awareness for prevention; we need much better diagnostic advice," she said.

"We need [general practitioners] and emergency rooms across Canada to have a much greater understanding of what to look for when talking about Lyme disease patients."

Ms. May said she was particularly touched by the heartbreaking stories of those dealing with the disease, some of whom lost the ability to walk.

She admitted to breaking down in tears several times during the course of the night.

A report documenting the event's proceedings is currently being written, and, once completed, will help inform the development of the national framework, Ms. May confirmed.

Sufferers heading to U.S.

Lyme's elusive place in the infectious disease spectrum can partly be attributed to geography.

Predominantly traced to wooded and forested areas, the disease is spread by the bites of infected ticks.

The most common sign of infection is an expanding rash, while symptoms range from mild aches and fevers to the loss of the ability to move one or both sides of the face, joint pains, severe headaches with neck stiffness and heart palpitations.

It can occasionally lead to paralysis or even death.

However, early identification and treatment will largely negate serious symptoms, and allow most sufferers to recover fully.

But while health officials acknowledge that the disease spread into Canada decades ago, it can be exceedingly difficult to receive a proper diagnosis of Lyme in areas outside of known outbreak hotspots, according to Ms. May.

She said numerous Lyme sufferers have told her their doctors outright dismissed the possibility of contracting the illness because of where they were lived, or even more alarmingly, misdiagnosed them with Parkinson's or Alzheimer's disease.

Faced with opposition from local healthcare providers, many had to travel to the United States – at their own expense – to meet with doctors who correctly identified the cause of their sickness, Ms. May said.

"This is a disease which does not seem to be well-understood, and patients right across Canada are having to go to the United States to get diagnoses and treatment," she explained.

"It's not an uncommon story to hear people who have lost all their savings, sold their house...in order to go to the U.S. for treatment."

Ms. Ludwig also heard an eerily familiar refrain from constituents fighting the illness.

Many sufferers in her riding, she said, had to visit Maine or upstate New York to receive a Lyme disease diagnosis.

"It took a long-time to get a diagnosis, they tested negative in Canada. So many of them, at their own expense, crossed the border... to get tested [and] tested positive," she said, noting that these cases are not accurately represented in Canadian statistics.

"So many had received misdiagnoses, they were being treated for something they didn't have."

Once relegated to parts of Ontario, Lyme disease has increasingly fanned out across the country.

A recent Health Canada report documented a noticeable spike in reported cases in nearly all provinces between 2009 and 2013, though rates differed wildly.

The number of cases per 100,000 people rose from 0.8 to 2.4 in Ontario during that span, while the rate in Nova Scotia skyrocketed from 1.4 to 16.3.

Canada's overall rate increased far more modestly, jumping from 0.4 to 1.9.

Meanwhile, Alberta, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick went from an average of 0 cases in 2009 to 0.5, 0.1 and 0.7, respectively, in 2013.

Ms. May said mounting scientific research credits the spread of Lyme to climate change.

Warming temperatures, she said, have impacted the migration patterns of the ticks that spread the illness.

However, Ms. May credits procedure rather than novelty for the misreporting of Lyme in Canada.

She said Canada's medical establishment operates under narrower and more rigid guidelines to identify the disease than facilities in the United States.

Some in the Canadian medical community, though, accuse these specialist institutions of low standards that deceptively inflate reported case numbers.

During last week's conference, Dr. David Patrick, director of the school of population and public health at the University of British Columbia, cited research that found 57 per cent of tests at some private clinics in the U.S. that do Lyme testing are false positives, the *Ottawa Citizen* reported.

Conversely, others in attendance believed the current Canadian testing system is the one letting down Lyme sufferers.

"We, as the medical community in Canada, are failing our patients," said Calgary physician Dr. Ralph Hawkins, who acknowledged his views on Lyme disease are "in the minority," the *Ottawa Citizen* reported.

While debate persists about testing standards, Ms. May remains focused on potential policy remedies to improve the livelihoods of those afflicted with the illness.

She notes that Lyme disease sufferers can not collect disability payments under the Canadian Pension Plan because it not recognized as an illness that causes permanent disability, saying this coverage gap could explain why statistics on Lyme are so "skewed."

Case in point, Ms. May said she's aware of people with Lyme whose doctors have diagnosed them with fibromyalgia to allow them to collect disability payments.

She hopes Ottawa can move fast to correct what she views as a glaring oversight.

"There's a lot of work to be done," Ms. May concluded.

mvigliotti@hilltimes.com

NEWS DEFENCE

Opposition critics warn of Liberal cuts to defence procurement

Continued from page 1

"They'd rather use the funding in their other pet projects," he said.

NDP defence critic Randall Garrison (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke, B.C.) echoed the concerns of his Conservative counterpart, arguing the Liberals will have to either increase funding or sharply slash spending in other areas if the military is expected to simply continue with its current missions.

"Something has to give in the military, there's not enough money there to carry out all the functions they've been doing," he stated.

"They have to find...efficiencies, but the Conservatives already asked them to do that for 10 years."

'Do more with more'

Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan (Vancouver South, B.C.) has pledged not to make any cuts to the defence budget, and his spokesperson, Jordan Owens, told *The Hill Times* that the government is committed to ensuring the Canadian Armed Forces had what it needed to fulfill its missions.

The Liberals have repeatedly promised to transform the military into a leaner and more agile organization, though have yet to provide details on what that would entail or how it would be accomplished.

They have also committed to steady increases to the defence budget, increasing the size of the military and bolstering involvement in UN-led peacekeeping missions.

However, the Trudeau government opted in March's federal budget to indefinitely withhold \$3.7 billion earmarked for military purchases, including new naval ships, planes and vehicles.

The government must be prepared to top-up the defence budget, Mr. Bezan argued, if it is going to insist that the military continue its work in the mission against the Islamic State, among other international responsibilities, and then take on additional peacekeeping duties.

"If they're going to maintain this posture, then they have to find the funding to do it," he said.

"It's not a matter of doing more with less, you got to do more with more."

When asked, Mr. Owens refused to say if any parts of the National Defence budget are being mined for potential savings, saying only that the government was committed to ensuring the military had the "tools needed to defend Canada and North America, and to contribute to a wide range of operations globally."

"We are focused on spending our defence budget in a way that ensures the CAF has the capabilities needed to provide security for Canadians at home and abroad, and to carry out the important missions the government asks of it," he said in an emailed statement.

Mr. Owens also noted that the government recently began public consultations on its promised review of national defence policy, which he said would help set the "direction and priorities to ensure our military is equipped, trained and prepared to meet threats in the years to come."

However, Mr. Bezan questioned the usefulness of the review process, saying it appears that a "large part" of the defence policy had been "predetermined," which he credited with prompting the Conservatives to embark on parallel consultations with members of the public and policy experts.

The Liberals, he argued, seem to

be suffering from "consultation constipation," and are merely delaying the inevitable by engaging in consultations they have gamed to produce their desired result.

"The consulting is about delaying and dithering, and putting off major decisions," Mr. Bezan said.

"They are just trying to punt everything down the road for at least another year before they have to start making some serious policy decisions."

Mr. Garrison, the NDP critic, levelled the same criticisms, saying the national defence review falls far short of the "full, open, transparent" study promised by the Liberals when they first assumed office.

He noted that some of the review's stakeholder roundtable meetings, hosted in cities around the country, were for invited participants only, and were closed to the public and MPs.

"It makes me wonder if we don't have some predetermined outcomes [the Liberals] are fishing for," Mr. Garrison said.

The government is inviting Canadians to make submissions to the consultation process through a pair of online tools. It has also asked MPs and Senators to hold town hall meetings in their communities about the defence review, which Mr. Owens said would "feed into the consultation process."

Close more bases: Bland

A defence management expert is also accusing the Liberals of rushing to decisions prior to the conclusion of the policy review, but is instead pushing for the government to investigate a potential source of savings that the Grits and the opposition parties have declared off limits.

Douglas Bland, professor emeritus and past chair of the defence management program at Queen's University, is urging the Trudeau administration to consider closing or amalgamating underused military installations, and directing the savings to more pivotal areas.

He said his research has determined that the federal government could "easily" close 25 of the 35 military bases and stations currently operating in Canada without causing "any harm" to the country's defence or the operation of the Armed Forces.

"Every nickel that is spent on things that don't contribute directly to the operational capabilities of the Canadian Forces, is more or less lost," he said in an interview.

Mr. Sajjan, however, emphatically ruled out closing any bases during an appearance last Monday before a House committee of the whole meeting convened to discuss his department's main estimates.

"Our government is not making any cuts to defence," he said.

"We have absolutely no plans to shut down any bases."

Both the Conservatives and NDP are strongly opposed to base closures or staffing cuts, with Mr. Bezan and Mr. Garrison arguing that recent cost-saving efforts have left little to trim from the department payroll.

Mr. Bland, however, expressed concerns about Mr. Sajjan's swift refusal to consider studying these potential savings.

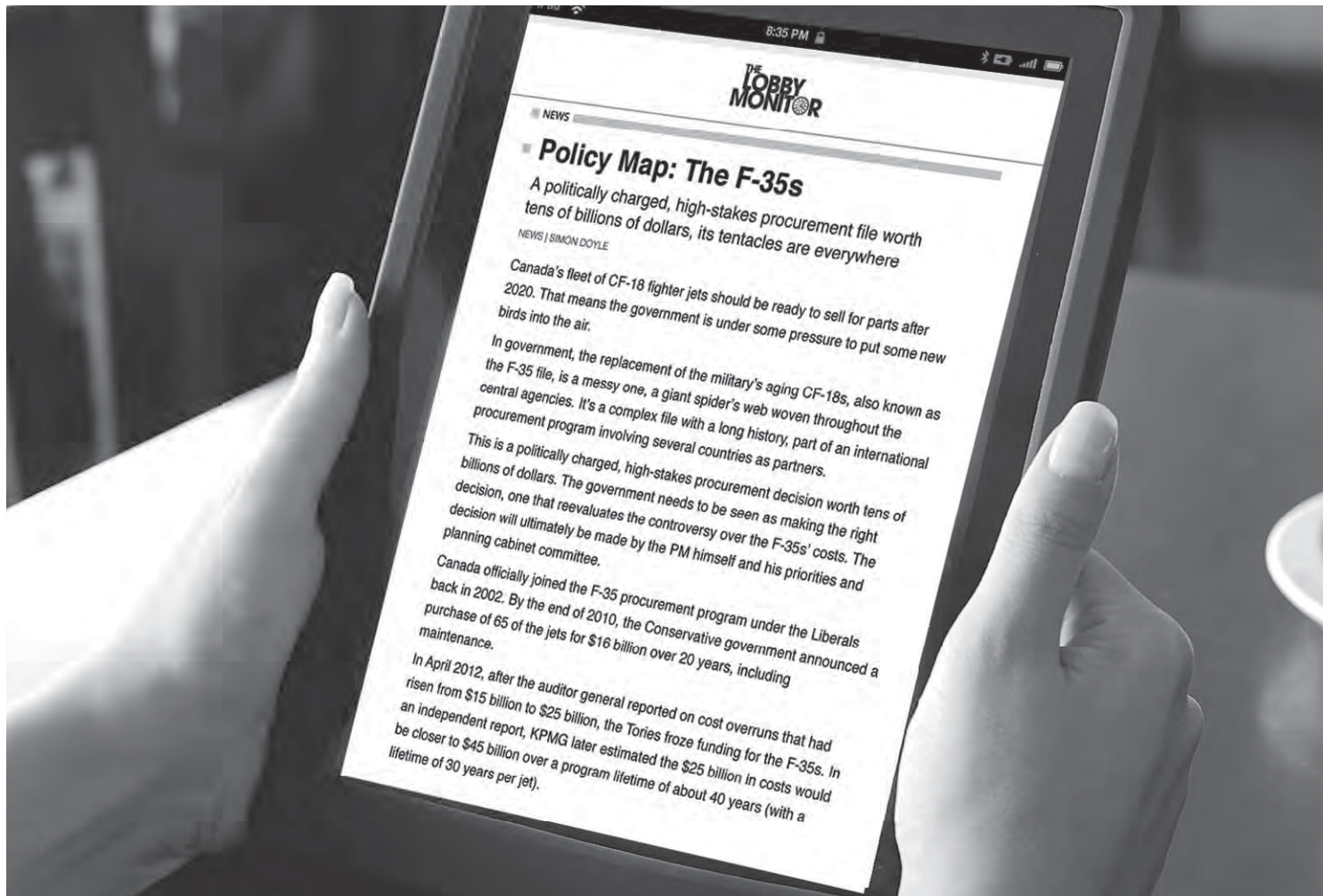
"I don't know how he knows that it's not a sound idea to explore the idea of finding efficiencies in the defence budget by closing some bases and stations," he said.

"I don't know what his reasoning is other than, I suspect, the same old reasoning that's been going on for years: it's bad politics to close down a base."

Mr. Bland suggested Parliament convene a bi-partisan committee to thoroughly study the usefulness of the bases and to determine which ones could be closed.

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ENVOYS

DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES

BY CHELSEA NASH

EU, Norway counsellors settled in

Envoys looking for more cooperation with 'like-minded' Canada.

Security, trade and climate change are among the top priorities for a pair of diplomats who arrived in Canada during the federal election campaign.

Else Kveinen, minister counsellor and deputy head of mission at the Norwegian Embassy, and **Stefano Fantaroni**, first counsellor at the European Union delegation, both arrived in Canada late last summer: Ms. Kveinen in August and Mr. Fantaroni in September.

Both highlighted how arriving in a country in time to experience its election was beneficial to them.

Mr. Fantaroni said being here for the elections was "one of the most important things that you can experience" as a diplomat, as he got to witness the democratic process and see which issues people were invested in.

While neither of them have any family ties to Canada, both say they have settled in to Canadian life quite well, though Ms.

Kveinen, being from a fellow Arctic nation, might be more accustomed to the Canadian climate than Mr. Fantaroni, who is from Italy.

But Mr. Fantaroni said his children loved the winter and if they were happy, he was happy. He said he was initially worried for his youngest one, who, having been born during his last mission in Ankara, Turkey, spoke only Turkish and Italian. However, after her first day of school, the three year old didn't want to come home, he said.

"We even travelled to Florida in the winter, we are becoming true locals," Mr. Fantaroni joked.

He came directly from his four year posting in Ankara to his posting here. Prior to that, he spent 12 years in Brussels, Belgium working in the UN delegation.

His time spent in Ankara was particularly unique, he said, one reason being that Turkey's application for accession into the EU was being assessed.

He said the one thing he learned from his time in Turkey is that honesty can often be the best policy when it comes to diplomacy.

"When you discuss frankly and honestly the issues, even if you don't see the same



EU First Counsellor Stefano Fantaroni says his kids love it here, which means he does too. *The Hill Times photograph by Chelsea Nash*



Else Kveinen, minister counsellor and deputy head of mission for Norway, says she would like to see Canada engage in anti-deforestation efforts abroad. *The Hill Times photograph by Chelsea Nash*

way on certain things, it helps a mutual understanding," said the economist. "Even if it starts on my level, a very low level, it can build up and build trust, understanding and it can go to friendship. I saw in Turkey that at least what the EU was thinking, trying to do, was at least a bit clearer to the Turkish officials because of the work of myself and my colleagues at the embassy."

Here, as a political officer, he said his responsibilities consist of following Canadian politics and reporting back on them to Ambassador **Marie-Anne Coninx**. He is also responsible for "public diplomacy," and supports Ms. Coninx when there are public events to attend or facilitate.

As for what he would like to see the EU accomplish during his mission here, he said the biggest goals include furthering Canadian cooperation on security missions and finalizing CETA.

"It's way beyond my pay grade," he said with a smile. "But if there is anything I can do, I will do it."

Canada is currently participating in three security missions with the European Union, including the conflict area in Ukraine, the West Bank in Palestine, and in Mali. Canada is only a financial contributor for the EU training mission in Mali.

"If you look around the world, there are many places in conflict. For these missions, we seek the support of like-minded countries. Canada is probably one of these countries," Mr. Fantaroni said.

He also said part of his role as a diplomat here is observing the way Canada has settled its refugee population. He said while Canada is doing its part, it could probably do more.

"Some other countries are not doing enough, without going too far from here," he said.

The particular struggle for Europe, he said, is the tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors coming through the systems. He said there is no infrastructure to support all of these minors, who need schooling, families, and other support.

Of his position as first counsellor, he said, "you are a small part of the mechanism but you have the opportunity to do something good. You can actually see some results at the end of the day, I think."

Last week, the president of the European Parliament **Martin Schulz** visited Canada. Mr. Fantaroni said he thinks he was here to reaffirm the need for progression on CETA on the European Union side of things.

EU immigration commissioner **Dimitris Avramopoulos** was in Canada on Monday during a North American tour, and speculated he was probably going to discuss the "visa issue" Canada has with Bulgaria and Romania.

Canada has a visa requirement for visitors travelling from Bulgaria and Romania, but not from other EU countries. In April, the EU was contemplating issuing a visa requirement for Canadians travelling to Romania and Bulgaria as well, as a counter to Canada's requirement. However, it hasn't yet come to fruition.

"It's an issue which we cannot allow to spoil our relations. He's probably going to see what is happening, what the thinking of the government is, testing the waters," he said. "I'm only speculating, though."

Time for a 'green shift'

Ms. Kveinen said that Canada and Norway can continue to collaborate and learn from each other when it comes to dealing with climate change, particularly as Arctic nations.

"We're very interested and we're looking at how Canada is very actively putting climate change at the heart of all their priorities. That's also something we've been doing for a long time," she said.

Something Canada might take from Norway was its global anti-deforestation program, she said. Called the "International Climate and Forest Initiative," the program works in developing countries to combat deforestation there, as well as at home in Norway.

"Canada of course is a huge forest nation and you have extensive expertise in managing your own forests. I'm sure it would be something that we could benefit from internationally, if Canada looked into that area of climate change," she said.

Canada and Norway also are in the unique situation of being Arctic nations—where the effects of climate change are accelerated—as well as being economies reliant on the production of fossil fuels.

Of this, Ms. Kveinen said, "for a good while yet, the petroleum industry will be important for both our countries."

"We're in the same position, that gradually we need to phase out our dependence on fossil fuels and instigate kind of a green shift... So it's important to continue that industry in the most environmentally friendly and safe and sustainable way possible."

Ms. Kveinen is a political scientist. She came to Canada from Oslo, where she had been posted for four years. Previously, she has been posted to South Korea and Ireland. She said the common theme she's been able to use in all her postings is the countries' mutual interest in the Arctic. South Korea is now an official observer of the Arctic Council. At the time of her posting there, they were considering engaging with the Arctic Council but hadn't yet.

Norway's foreign minister **Børge Brende** was in Ottawa last week to meet with Minister of Foreign Affairs **Stéphane Dion**. Ms. Kveinen said the two have known each other for quite a long time, having also been environment ministers to their respective countries at the same time. Mr. Brende was here to discuss climate change and security efforts in Ukraine with Mr. Dion.

"The main takeaway is that we're extremely like minded in our approach to various issues, to the need to engage actively and nationally," she said, adding that we share similar holistic approaches to development and climate change.

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HILL LIFE PARTIES



PARTY CENTRAL

BY CHELSEA NASH

MPs caught up in kerfuffle, but Israel party goes on

At the same time as guests were flocking to the Chateau Laurier on May 18 to celebrate Israel's Independence Day, things on Parliament Hill were heating up as Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** crossed the floor and got physical, "manhand[ling]" one MP and elbowing another.

Despite the fact that Parliamentarians were delayed getting to the event as a result of the kerfuffle, there certainly wasn't a shortage of guests, with a lineup extending far into the hallway to get in. That didn't stop anyone from socializing. Guests chatted with those around them before signing in to the event, having their ID checked, and heading through a metal detector.

Slovak Ambassador **Andrej Droba** and his wife **Daniela Drobova** were caught in the line having just come from the *Canada for the Diplomatic Community* book launch they hosted. While waiting, they chatted with Austrian Ambassador **Arno Riedel** and later with EU Ambassador **Marie-Anne Coninx**.

Once guests finally did make it into the ballroom, that too was incredibly full, though it was no surprise given that the Israeli Embassy had invited close to 1,100 people. **Party Central** quickly made her way into the drink line, and tried a kosher cabernet sauvignon called Dalton, from the Safsufa vineyards in Israel.

Heads of mission from all parts of the world mingled, including Chinese Ambassador **Luo Zhaohui** and Russian Ambassador **Alexander Darchiev**. United States Ambassador **Bruce Heyman** was also spotted there with his wife **Vicki**.

Minister of Natural Resources **Jim Carr** (Winnipeg South Centre, Man.) delivered a moving speech, referring to his Jewish and Canadian identities, and noting that he hoped "there will never be a contradiction" between those two things. He said while he is only a bit younger than the state of Israel, which gained independence in 1948 (he was born in 1951), he has fond memories involving it from his childhood, including a family tradition of putting spare change into a blue box to fund tree-planting in Israel.

"L'Chaim!" exclaimed Mr. Carr, using the common Hebrew toast "to life," as he raised his glass of red wine at the end of his speech.

Another special feature of the evening was a performance of the national anthems by **Lyndon Slewidge**, who regularly performs the anthems for the Ottawa Senators. As he belted out the last few lines of Hatikvah, the Israeli national anthem, the crowd broke out into enthusiastic applause—not a usual occurrence at a diplomatic party.

Party Central also spotted diplomatic power-couple **Colin Robertson** and **Maureen Boyd** making the rounds, as was assistant deputy minister at Global Affairs **Elissa Golberg**, as well as deputy minister of international development **Peter Boehm**.

The former head of the now-defunct office of religious freedom **Andrew Bennett** was there to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut, as the independence day is known in Hebrew.

As is to be expected in a room full of the politically minded, conversations about Mr. Trudeau's elbow incident abound. Party Central overheard several groups of people discussing what had just taken place and

excitedly recounting the events to those who had not witnessed or heard about it. In circles with MPs, there appeared to be a lot of sombre head-shaking.

Conservative MPs **Peter Kent** (Thornhill, Ont.) and **David Sweet** (Flamborough-Glanbrook, Ont.) said that attending the Israeli event was a bit of a counterpoint after such dramatic atmosphere in the House.

"A lot of weird things happen in the House, and in committee, but that was extraordinary," Mr. Kent said.

He said that some MPs were delayed getting to the event, but that didn't mean they weren't going to show up eventually. "The votes would have delayed us anyways," he said. "Those who are shaken are gathering themselves," Mr. Sweet said.

But the MPs said they were glad to be there to celebrate Israel's independence. "It's no small accomplishment with the real estate they're in," said Mr. Sweet.

Israeli Ambassador **Rafael Barak** said in his remarks that he has been an ambassador for more than 40 years, "well before" Twitter and Facebook, and that Canada is Israel's closest friend and ally.

Of the delayed arrival of several MPs, Mr. Barak said he "expected more" of them to be in attendance, but that "this is democracy," referring to the extended debate as a result of the incident.

cnash@hilltimes.com
@chels_nash



Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr proposes a toast.



Italian Ambassador Gian Lorenzo Cornado with Israeli Ambassador Rafael Barak and his wife, Miriam.

The Hill Times photographs by Sam Garcia



Acting High Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago Venessa Ramhit-Ramroop with Mr. Barak.



U.S. Ambassador Bruce Heyman with Mr. and Ms. Barak, and Mr. Heyman's wife Vicki.

Embassy celebrates Moldova Night at Santé Restaurant



Liberal MP Alexandra Mendes, chair of the Canada-Moldova Parliamentary Friendship Group, with Conservative MP Ed Fast, and Conservative Senator Raynell Andreychuk at the May 3 event celebrating the 25th anniversary of Moldova's independence.



Veaceslav Zubcu, administrative officer at the Moldovan Embassy, with Galina Bobeica, spouse of the Moldovan counsellor, welcomed guests with Moldovan wine and traditional bread.

Photographs by Ulle Beaum



Ms. Mendes, left, and Ala Mindicanu, president of the Moldovan community of Quebec.



Global Affairs Canada's Alexandra Bugailiskis, left, and Moldovan Ambassador Ala Beleavski.

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CANADA'S AGING SOCIETY

THE HILL TIMES POLICY BRIEFING

Publication Date: June 6, 2016
Booking Deadline: May 31, 2016

In this policy briefing, *The Hill Times* looks at home care for seniors and at how the number of Canada's seniors has edged out the number of children under the age of 15 and what that means for shifting demographics and future housing demands. We look at the issue of doctor-assisted suicide and how the Canadian Medical Association is pushing to make sure palliative care reform is a political priority. We look at how the next "golden age" of Canada's public service will be led by millennials and what the federal government must do to attract highly-valued workers under the age of 35. And we look at what more seniors means for financing more drug consumption.

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THE HILL TIMES

POLITICAL STAFFERS



HILL CLIMBERS

BY LAURA RYCKEWAERT

Public Services Minister Foote two policy directors strong

Meanwhile, Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale has hired a new issues manager.

Public Services and Procurement Minister **Judy Foote** has a wealth of policy expertise in her ministerial office, including director of policy **Stevie O'Brien**, who's been part of Ms. Foote's exempt staff team since February, *Hill Climbers* has learned.

Ms. O'Brien marked her first day in Ms. Foote's office on Feb. 29, after moving to Ottawa from Toronto to work on Parliament Hill. Previously, Ms. O'Brien was chief of staff to Ontario Liberal Natural Resources and Forestry Minister **Bill Mauro**, having started out as a senior policy adviser in Mr. Mauro's ministerial office in November 2013.

She's a former associate with McMillan LLP, focused on litigation and dispute resolution, according to her LinkedIn profile, and studied law at Queen's University. She has a bachelor's degree in international relations and affairs from the University of Toronto. Ms. O'Brien is also a former research and ethics board member for the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

Now as director of policy to Ms. Foote, Ms. O'Brien will be working in conjunction with **Taras Zalusky**, director of policy, procurement, and parliamentary affairs to the minister, whose office is located across the Ottawa River in Gatineau.

Gianluca Cairo is Ms. Foote's chief of staff, while **Lucio Durante** is director of operations; **Annie Trépanier** is director of communications; and **Jessica Turner** is press secretary.

As well, **Lesley Sherban** is a special assistant for Ontario; **Mary-Rose Brown** is a policy adviser; **Christina St. John** is assistant to the parliamentary secretary; **Dilys Fernandes** is a special assistant for operations; **Joel Tallerico** is a legislative assistant; **AJ Cheema** is a special assistant for the Western and Northern desk; **Victoria Windsor** is a special assistant for Atlantic Canada; **Stephanie Goveia** is a special assistant for Quebec; **Michelle Delany** is executive assistant to the minister; and **Lorraine Stevenson** is executive assistant to the chief of staff.

In other staff news, Public Safety Minister **Ralph Goodale** recently welcomed **Olivier Cullen** to his ministerial staff team as a new issues manager for the Ontario region.

Mr. Cullen's first day in Mr. Goodale's office was April 20. He's already familiar with the Hill, having previously been a briefings officer with Justice Canada's ministerial liaison unit since October 2013. In that role, he was responsible for helping to write briefing notes, talking points, memoranda, speeches, and other things for the justice minister and deputy minister, as described on his LinkedIn profile.

Before joining the Justice department in the fall of 2013, Mr. Cullen spent the summer as a media monitor for Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada. He's previously spent roughly five years as a sales representative with Harvey Kalles Real Estate Ltd. in Toronto, and has also worked for McMillan in Ottawa and for BB&M Media.

He has a diploma in advertising and marketing communications management from Algonquin College and studied political science and communications at the University of Ottawa.

Marci Surkes is chief of staff to Mr. Goodale, while **Dan Brien** is director of communications; **David Hurl** is director of policy and parliamentary affairs; **Cory Pike** is director of issues management and regional affairs; **Scott Bardsley** is a special assistant for issues management; and **Hilary Peirce** is a communications officer.

As well, **Alyx Holland** is a policy adviser; **Jessica Morrison** is an issues manager for the Western region and prairies; **Lynda Bouraoui** is a special assistant for administration; **Hersha Goldberg** is assistant to the chief of staff; **Eloge Butera** is a policy adviser and liaison to the parliamentary secretary; **Justine Villeneuve** is a policy adviser; **Michael Milech** is a parliamentary assistant; **Allen Alexandre** is an issues management; and **Jennifer Swan** is a scheduling assistant.

Mr. Goodale's office is located on Laurier Avenue West in downtown Ottawa.

Minister Tootoo hires parliamentary affairs director

Fisheries and Oceans Minister **Hunter Tootoo** recently hired longtime public servant **Sharon Ashley** to work as an exempt staffer in his ministerial office, under the title of director of parliamentary affairs.

Ms. Ashley has been working for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans since at least the 1990s, including as a director general with the department's aboriginal affairs division, of its ecosystems management branch, of the executive secretariat, and of policy co-ordination for the department.

She's now switched over to work as a political, exempt staffer in Mr. Tootoo's ministerial office at 200 Kent Street in downtown Ottawa, meaning she's subject to Conflict of Interest Act requirements and is covered by the Lobbying Act as a public office holder, among other things.

George Young is chief of staff to Mr. Tootoo, while **Michael Murphy** is director of communications and **Patricia Bell** is press secretary.

There's also **Kathy Pinksen**, senior special assistant; **Nick Pashkoski**, policy adviser; **Sheldon Gillis**, special assistant for Atlantic region; **Caitlin Mullan-Boudreau**, junior analyst; **Joanne Denis**, parliamentary affairs analyst; and **Vincent Hughes**, assistant to the parliamentary secretary.



Along with director of policy, procurement, and parliamentary affairs Taras Zalusky, Public Services Minister Judy Foote, pictured, now has Stevie O'Brien as a director of policy. *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright



Stevie O'Brien is director of policy to Public Services Minister Judy Foote. *Photograph courtesy of LinkedIn*



Olivier Cullen is an issues manager for Ontario to Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale. *Photograph courtesy of LinkedIn*

Meanwhile, Infrastructure Minister **Amrjeet Sohi** has hired **Gareth Jones** to serve as a senior adviser in his ministerial office.

John Brodhead is Mr. Sohi's chief of staff, while **Mike Burton** is director of parliamentary affairs, **Kate Monfette** is director of communications, **Leslie O'Leary** is director of issues management, and **Brook Simpson** is press secretary.

Also, **Kelly Rowe** is a policy adviser to the minister; **Katherine O'Halloran** is a senior special assistant on the Atlantic desk; **Marie-Pascale Des Rosiers** is a senior special assistant; **Julie Savard-Shaw** is a policy adviser; **Gurpreet Vinning** is a policy adviser; and **Maya Borgenicht** is also an assistant for policy.

lryckewaert@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

APPOINTMENT NOTICE



Ernie Briard
CCC is pleased to announce that **Ernie Briard** has been appointed to the position of **Vice-President Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**. Mr. Briard has a proven track record of accomplishments and management experience, having most recently led the Standards Council of Canada as the Vice-President, Corporate Services and CFO.



Established in 1946, the Canadian Commercial Corporation a Crown corporation of the Government of Canada. CCC supports the development of trade by helping Canadian exporters access government procurement markets through government-to-government contracts.



Cameron McKenzie
CCC is pleased to announce that **Cameron McKenzie** has been appointed to the position of **Vice-President Business Development and Sales**. At CCC, Mr. McKenzie leads a professional sales team responsible for working with Canadian exporters and foreign buyers to increase sales to governments around the world while advancing CCC's customer facing presence internationally. Mr. McKenzie brings with him a wealth of business development experience and achievements, having served as CAE's Vice-President and General Manager, Defence & Security for the Middle East Region.

PARLIAMENTARY CALENDAR



CANSEC defence trade show starts May 25

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

Prime Minister Trudeau to Attend G7 in Japan—Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is in Japan to participate in the G7 Leaders' Summit on May 26 and 27 in Ise-Shima. Prior to the Leaders' Summit, and at the invitation of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister Trudeau is on an official working visit until May 25. For more information, contact the PMO Press Office at 613-957-5555.

The Grace-Pépin Access to Information Ceremony Award—Main lobby, May 25 at 30 Victoria St., Gatineau, Que., 10:30 a.m. This year's ceremony will be presented during Indigenous Awareness Week, which runs from May 24 to 27. The winners of 2015 Grace-Pépin Access to Information Award are: Ken Rubin and The Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

CANSEC—Canada's global defence and security trade show, May 25-26, EY Centre, 4899 Uplands Dr., Ottawa. Organized by the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries. RSVP@defenceandsecurity.ca.

Australia's Defence White Paper—Australian Secretary of Defence Dennis Richardson will speak on Australia's defence review process and strategic context. Organized by the Canada School of Public Service. Free and open to the public. 3-5 p.m. Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St. (lecture begins at 3:30 p.m.). Registration required in advance via: <http://www.cspcs-efpc.gc.ca/events/cappi/index-eng.aspx>

Reclaiming the Commons—Join master of ceremonies Sean Wilson at the Library and Archives for an evening of literary conversation. Heather Menzies, 2015 winner of the Ottawa Book Award for Non-Fiction for her book, Reclaiming the Commons for the Common Good, will be interviewed by Peter Schneider. May 25, 5:30-7:30 p.m., 395 Wellington St., Ottawa. Please register by email at: bac.marketing.lac@canada.ca. Introductory remarks by Guy Berthiaume, Library and Archives Canada, and Simon Brault, Canada Council for the Arts.

Opportunities and Obstacles to a Canada-China Free Trade Agreement—The Canada China Friendship Society presents this discussion with Daniel Ciuriak. He is the co-author, with Laura Dawson, of Chasing China: Why an Economic Agreement with China is Necessary for Canada's Continued Prosperity. Christ Church Cathedral, 414 Sparks St. May 25,

7:30 p.m. Free for members of the Canada China Friendship Society, \$5 for non-members.

Defence Policy Review Considerations: Thoughts on Future Conflict and its Impact on DND/CAF—Join the CDA Institute for a roundtable discussion with retired lieutenant-general Michael Day. Not for attribution and no media reporting. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. May 25. Telfer School of Management, World Exchange Plaza, 45 O'Connor Street, suite 350, Ottawa. \$15-\$50. Includes refreshments and lunch. Register via cdainstitute.ca

THURSDAY, MAY 26

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

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

Romanian Embassy Art Exhibition—The embassy will host on May 26 the opening of the art exhibition Vasile Mosanu: Vision Beyond the Apparent. Featuring paintings, graphics, stained glass, fusing, icons, and murals. Open to the public from May 26 to June 16. Embassy of Romania, 655 Rideau St., Ottawa.

FRIDAY, MAY 27

Electoral Reform Conference—The Canadian Study of Parliament Group hosts a full-day conference on electoral reform featuring four panels on: "History of the Canadian Electoral System and Reform," "Electoral Reform: The Different Models," "Lessons and Experiences from Elsewhere," and "Path to Electoral Reform, Referendum, and Constitutional Amendment." Breakfast and lunch will be provided. \$25-\$200. Sir John A. Macdonald Building, 144 Wellington St., Room 100, Ottawa. 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Register online. cspg-gcep.ca.

SATURDAY, MAY 28

Rideau Chorale Presents Handel's Coronation Anthems—Rideau Chorale, conducted by Roland Graham, along with Matthew Larkin on organ, and the Baroque Orchestra, present George Frederic Handel's Coronation Anthems, together with Handel's Organ Concerto in F major, op.4 no.4. Saturday May 28, 7:30 p.m. Southminster United Church, 15 Aylmer Ave., Ottawa. \$10-\$30. Tickets available at Compact Music, the Southminster Church Office, The Leading Note and choir members.

SUNDAY, MAY 29

Taiwan Film Screening: Together—Seventeen should be a carefree age, but Yang gets to see the complexities of love involving his friends and family. Should he just stand aside and watch or should he risk himself to help? Presented by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Canada in collaboration with Ottawa Asian Heritage Month Society. Sunday, May 29, begins at 2:10 pm with a complimentary reception and film starts at 2:45 pm, Chamber at Ben Franklin Place, 101 Centrepointhe Drive, Nepean. In mandarin Chinese with English subtitles. Free admission.

MONDAY, MAY 30

House Sitting—The House is sitting this week and is scheduled to sit for four weeks until Thursday, June 23, before breaking for the summer.

TUESDAY, MAY 31

Filling the Prescription: The Case for Pharmacare Now—This parliamentary breakfast presented by Canada's nurses union will address the need for a national prescription drug program in Canada. In order to expand the range of voices pressing for action, the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions is pleased to provide a crucial perspective on this discussion by inviting a range of voices to help explain the debate, including leading experts Steve Morgan from UBC and Marc-André Gagnon from Carleton University. Tuesday May 31, Parliamentary Restaurant, Centre Block, 7:30-8:45 a.m. Space is limited for this complimentary event. All MPs and Senators are welcome. All others please contact Oxana Genina ogenina@nursesunions.ca or 613-526-4661 to confirm attendance.

Cabinet Meeting—Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is expected to hold a cabinet meeting today in Ottawa. For more information, call the PMO Press Office at 613-957-5555.

Spring Reports of the Commissioner of Environment and Sustainable Development—Environment and Sustainable Development Julie Gelfand will release her spring report on May 31. The reports will deal with federal support for sustainable municipal infrastructure; mitigating the impacts of severe weather; and chemicals in consumer products and cosmetics. There will be a media lockup from 7-9:45 a.m. ET at the Office of the Auditor General of Canada at 240 Sparks St., Ottawa, followed by a news conference at 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at the National Press Theatre, 150 Wellington St. For more information, please contact: media relations at 1-888-761-5953 or email infomedia@oag-bvg.gc.ca.

Great Canadian Debates: Is Canada's Supreme Court Intruding on Parliament?—The Macdonald-Laurier Institute presents this debate. Conrad Black, columnist, will argue in favour of the motion: "Canada's Supreme Court has usurped the proper role of Parliament." Irwin Cotler, a former federal justice minister, will argue against. Canadian War Museum, 1 Vimy Pl., Ottawa. 7 p.m. May 31. \$15-\$20. macdonaldlaurier.ca/events.

Chicken Farmers of Canada Parliamentary Reception—Chicken Farmers of Canada is hosting its annual parliamentary reception on May 31 from 6-9 p.m. in the Drawing Room of the Chateau Laurier, 1 Rideau St., Ottawa. An excellent selection of hors d'oeuvres prepared with high-quality, fresh Canadian chicken will be served. Please RSVP at lkennedy@chicken.ca.

Diplomatic Hospitality Group—The Canadian Federation of University Women's Ottawa Diplomatic Hospitality Group invites diplomats, their spouses/partners, and families to a May 31 bus trip to Upper Canada Village, Morrisburg. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. A nominal fee will be charged to help cover costs.

Farewell for Tim Harper—Toronto Star scribe Tim Harper is leaving the gallery. Or so he says. After past dalliances with the U.S. capital,

major league ballparks, and Star management, he has always come back. But just in case it's for real this time, he's being thrown a party. Tuesday, May 31, Métropolitain Brasserie Restaurant, 700 Sussex Dr. 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

Business Council of British Columbia 50th Anniversary Reception—Join leaders from B.C. businesses, aboriginal communities, post-secondary institutions and parliamentary guests for a celebration of 50 years of success between BCBC members and their partners across country in building a strong and prosperous Canadian economy. Wednesday, June 1, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Room 200 Sir John A. Macdonald Building, 144 Wellington St. To RSVP, please contact Alicia Adams at Alicia@earnsccliffe.ca.

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 9:15-11 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.

Oceans Week Kick-Off—The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society will host a reception for the release of its oceans report, Dare to Be Deep: Sea States Report on North America's Progress in Protecting Our Ocean. Sponsored by the All-Party Ocean Caucus co-chairs, Fin Donnelly and Scott Simms. Remarks by Marine Conservation Institute president Lance Morgan and CPAWS Ocean Program national director Sabine Jessen. Enjoy sustainable seafood. 6-8 p.m. June 1. Commonwealth Room, 238-S, Centre Block, Parliament Hill. RSVP by May 19 to Jill Sturdy, jsturdy@cpaws.org, 613-569-7226 ext. 226.

Colours From Anatolia and Beyond—The opening reception for this art exhibition presented by the Turkish Embassy and others will be on 1 June 1, 6-9 p.m., St. Brigid's Centre for the Arts, 310 St Patrick St. Exhibition days: May 31 and June 2, 2-7 p.m.; June 3, 12-3 p.m. 613-288-1079.

Sharp Wits and Busy Pens Book Launch—The Canadian Parliamentary Press Gallery will launch *Sharp Wits and Busy Pens: 150 Years of Canada's Parliamentary Press Gallery*, edited by Hélène Buzzetti and Josh Wingrove. Wednesday, June 1, 6:30-9 p.m., Alfred-Pellan Room, Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St., Ottawa. RSVP to bac.marketing.lac@canada.ca.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2

Hill Times Event: Half-Day Forum: Innovation In Seniors Care—The forum will explore this important public affairs issue and ways in which practices and government policy can be adapted to result in positive change for seniors in Canada. Hear from association executives, industry, academia, and government. June 2, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Shaw Centre, 55 Colonel By Dr., Ottawa. \$249 for subscribers, \$299 for non-subscribers. Special group discounted pricing is available. hilltimes.com/events/INN-SN-CARE.html.

Working with and lobbying government—This seminar will provide insight into Canada's three levels of government and teach you about critical legislative requirements, codes of conduct and ethical aspects to consider when lobbying government. Speakers include Gowling partners Jacques Shore, Phuong T.V. Ngo, and Guy Régimbald. This is part of Gowling WLG's Risk to Reward seminar series, 10 breakfast seminars on critical business and legal issues to be held at



CANSEC, the annual Ottawa global defence and security trade show organized by the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries, runs May 25-26 at the EY Centre. *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright

the firm's Ottawa office throughout 2016. 7:30-9 a.m. June 2. 160 Elgin St., suite 2600, Ottawa. No cost, but registration necessary as space is limited. gowlingwlg.com/riskstoreward.

One World Film Doc & Talk—Featuring the award-winning documentary Sonita (Germany, Iran, Switzerland), presented by the Ottawa One World Film Festival. This engaging story of a young Afghan refugee in Tehran. June 2. 6:45 p.m. ByTowne Cinema, 325 Rideau St., Ottawa. Tickets: \$12 (early-bird tickets: \$10 until May 8). Post-screening speaker Professor Nipa Banerjee of the University of Ottawa will address the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan. oneworldfilmfestival.ca/sonita

Capital Glass Collective Fund-raiser—The Capital Glass Collective is having its introductory fund-raising soiree. This new entity in Ottawa's art scene aims to build a new generation of glass artists in our city through classes, residencies and collaborations, including a very special one with the Odawa Native Friendship Centre. We need the community's help to get started so we are hosting this fundraiser as an introduction to this project and to raise funds towards the equipment and at-risk youth program. June 2. Tickets are \$55 and can be purchased through Eventbrite. 250 City Centre, Bay 228, 7-11 p.m.

Murray Sinclair: Reconciliation and Poverty in Canada—Senator Murray Sinclair will deliver the keynote address at Citizens for Public Justice's 2016 Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 2 at 7:30pm at Dominion Chalmers Church (335 Cooper St). He will speak about how reconciliation can reduce poverty among indigenous peoples in Canada. All are welcome. Refreshments will be provided. To RSVP or for more info, please contact Brad Wassink at brad@cpj.ca or go to www.cpj.ca/agm-2016.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

FCM Annual Conference in Winnipeg—The prime minister will address 1,500 municipal leaders from across Canada about the government's historic investment in cities and communities. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference is a pivotal moment in federal-municipal relations as all orders of government work together to strengthen Canada. Also speaking on June 3 is Dianne Watts, MP for South Surrey-White Rock, B.C., representing the Conservative Party of Canada. For more details on the FCM conference: www.fcm.ca or contact Robin Walsh, rwalsh@fcm.ca

Rideau Chorale Presents Handel's Coronation Anthems—Rideau Chorale, conducted by Roland Graham, along with Matthew Larkin on organ, and the Baroque Orchestra, present George Frederic Handel's Coronation Anthems, together with Handel's Organ Concerto in F major, op.4 no.4. June 3, 7:30 p.m. Église Saint-François-de-Sales, 799, rue Jacques-Cartier, Gatineau, Que. \$10-\$30. Tickets available at Compact Music, the Southminster Church Office, The Leading Note and choir members.

What's Your Point: A half-day workshop on government relations

(advocacy and mediation)—Hosted by Brendan Hawley & Associates from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Friday, June 3 in the Barrick Boardroom of the Canadian Science Museum, 4th Floor, 240 McLeod St., Ottawa. This will be of interest to anyone wanting to refresh their advocacy activities or shorten the learning curve for working with Ottawa. Topics to be covered include: What's your point? Why do you matter?; building a referral network; introducing your ideas into federal policy and programs; working with committees; and building a credible presence. \$250. Seating is limited. For more information or to register contact: bhawley@brendanhawley.com or call 613-612-0136.

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.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

FCM Annual Conference in Winnipeg—NDP Leader Tom Mulcair and Green Party Leader Elizabeth May are keynote speakers on the closing day of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference. For more details on the FCM conference: www.fcm.ca or contact Robin Walsh rwalsh@fcm.ca

MONDAY, JUNE 6

Postcard from Great Britain: London, the EU and the World—The CDA Institute presents this talk by Brig.-Gen. Matthew Overton, commander, Canadian defence liaison staff, London, U.K. June 6, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. World Exchange Plaza, Telfer School of Management, suite 350, 45 O'Connor St., Ottawa. Not for attribution and no media reporting. \$15-\$50. Includes refreshments and lunch. Register via cdainstitute.ca

IRPP Reception—Graham Scott, chair of the board of directors of the Institute for Research on Public Policy, will host a reception to introduce guests to the IRPP's current priorities on Monday, June 6, 5:30-7 p.m., Rideau Club, Macdonald Room, 99 Bank St. Ottawa. Please RSVP before May 28, by email at smcintyre@irpp.org.

Global Issues Trivia—Presented by the World Federalist Movement-Canada, categories include world history, faces and geography, with a special category tonight on peacekeeping. 7 p.m., \$5 per person. Singles and full teams welcome. The Clocktower Brewhouse, 575 Bank St. worldfederalistscanada.org

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

HEARD ON THE HILL

BY MARCO VIGLIOTTI

Fraser's term winding down

Continued from page 2

Graham Fraser's 10th and final annual report as the country's languages watchdog was tabled in the House last week.

The former journalist has served as the federal Commissioner of Official Languages since 2006, when he was appointed by then-prime minister Stephen Harper.

His current term is set to expire in October.

"It has been a privilege to serve as Commissioner of Official Languages for the past decade," Mr. Fraser said in a prepared statement.

"It has been a fascinating and challenging journey working to protect language rights and promote linguistic duality as a key element of our national identity," he said, adding that linguistic duality is an "enduring conviction" and respect for both official languages fosters "opportunities for growth and understanding among Canadians."

Mr. Fraser previously worked as a journalist for *Maclean's*, *The Globe and Mail*, *The Montreal Gazette*, *The Toronto Star* and *Le Devoir*.

He is also the author of *Sorry, I Don't Speak French*, which reviewed the successes and failures of Canada's policy of official bilingualism.

Bélanger lecture series on the way

The University of Ottawa is commemorating veteran Liberal MP **Mauril Bélanger** (Ottawa-Vanier, Ont.) with a series of lectures on Canadian politics.

The school announced last week the creation of the Mauril Bélanger Lecture Series, which it said would aim to "foster discussion and dialogue on issues relating to politics."

The first lecture in the series is expected to be held next fall.

In a statement, school president **Allan Rock** lauded Bélanger, a U of O graduate, for his "involvement and devotion" to multiple causes, specifically the Francophonie and linguistic minorities, particularly in Ontario.

Mr. Rock, a former cabinet minister, served alongside Mr. Bélanger in Jean Chrétien's Liberal government of the 1990s and early 2000s.

Mr. Bélanger expressed his gratitude to the school for the honour.

"I am truly touched by my alma mater's initiative," he said in a press release.

"This series will be a great opportunity to discuss issues that are important to me just as much as they are to Canadians."



The Canada-Sri Lanka Friendship Group (members pictured) was officially established on May 11. The group's creation comes at a "propitious time" in the countries' relationship, says Ahmed Jawad, the Sri Lankan High Commissioner in Canada. *Photo courtesy of the Sri Lanka High Commission in Ottawa.*

A long-serving MP, Mr. Bélanger was diagnosed late last year with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, otherwise known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

The diagnosis prompted him to withdraw from the House speaker election, though he pledged to continue serve as an MP.

Mr. Bélanger made history earlier this year when he became the first MP to address the House with a voice generator, which he used to introduce legislation to change the lyrics of O Canada to make them gender neutral.

He was first elected to the House in a by-election in 1995.

Sri Lanka friendship group

A new parliamentary group seeks to bolster the relationship between Canada and Commonwealth counterpart, Sri Lanka.

The Canada-Sri Lanka Friendship Group was established on May 11, accord-

ing to a statement from the Sri Lanka High Commissioner's office.

Veteran Liberal MP **Yasmin Ratansi** (Don Valley East, Ont.) was elected chairperson of the group, with the selection presided over by Deputy House Speaker **Anthony Rota** (Nipissing-Timiskaming, Ont.), and witnessed by Foreign Affairs Minister **Stéphane Dion** (Saint-Laurent, Que.)

Ahmed Jawad, the Sri Lankan High Commissioner in Canada, said in a prepared statement that the group was formed at a "propitious time in Sri Lanka -Canada bilateral relations," citing the recent elections of new governments in both countries.

He also referenced the foreign investment opportunities Sri Lanka provided for Canadian companies.

Following the group's inaugural election, the Sri Lanka High Commissioner's office hosted a dinner at the Parliamentary Restaurant.

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International Missing Children's Day



*Nice selfie
Minister Joly*

These however are NOT selfies.



These are pictures of missing young women.
And there are thousands more like them across the country.



Despite heartfelt pleas from parents, police, mayors
and victims' associations across the country,
Why Minister Joly are you not stepping in
to keep the public safety channel **ADR-TV** on the air?