

TWENTY-SEVENTH YEAR, NO. 1367

Peter Boehm, a longtime foreign service officer recently made deputy minister of international

development, attributes his determination to advance mental health initiatives and to reduce

the new DM has worked his way up his

Times photograph by Chelsea Nash

**By CHELSEA NASH** 

When I emailed Peter Boehm, the new deputy minister for international

development, for an interview, he respond-

to meet me in person at his office. It was a

pleasant surprise: high-level government officials such as Mr. Boehm are rarely so

accessible and generous with their valu-

and founding director of the Munk School

of Global Affairs at the University of

As Janice Stein, a friend of Mr. Boehm's

able time.

ed almost immediately. He'd be happy to

speak with me, either over the phone or

stigma to his own experience. One of Mr. Boehm's sons, who was born abroad, is autistic. The Hill

Leading the government's foreign aid portfolio,

department over 30 years in the public service.

Toronto said,"When people become deputy

minister, every five minutes counts

deputy minister in March.

herself has not spoken to him since he

assumed his new role, as acting deputy

minister in November, and as confirmed

the words former colleagues and friends

use to describe the career diplomat. He's

the "quintessential diplomat," says former

Canadian diplomat Colin Robertson, and

"uniformly highly regarded," says Tim Hodg-

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es, former head of the Canadian diplomats

But open and approachable are exactly

**DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT** 

**NEWS OPINION RESEARCH** 

# Government polling work in 2015-16 at lowest recorded level in a decade

## BY MARCO VIGLIOTTI

Federal spending on public opinion research fell slightly last year, though the number of polling contracts remained essentially unchanged despite the nearly three-month pause caused by the election.

The government spent \$3.8 million on 51 polling contracts during the 2015-16 fiscal year that concluded at the end of March, down nominally from the 54 projects, collectively worth \$4.1 million, awarded the previous year, according to the annual report on federally contracted public opinion research, released Sept. 1.

The spending total is the lowest recorded in the past decade, representing a nearly \$28-million decline from the high-water mark in 2006-2007, when 562 contracts for public opinion research were awarded.

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## **NEWS PUBLIC WORKS**

# Procurement ombudsman raises issues about independence, government indifference

## By MARCO VIGLIOTTI

The head of the office responsible for mediating disputes between the federal government and suppliers says greater independence would help alleviate concerns about potential departmental interference.

Acting procurement ombudsman Lorenzo Jeraci told The Hill Times that it is "difficult" for the office he oversees to be perceived as wholly independent when it is legally part of Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC).

**DM Peter Boehm** earns colleagues' respect as mentor, mental health advocate

**NEWS ELECTORAL REFORM** 

# **Conservatives to** tackle election reform plan in Liberal-red Atlantic

## By TIM NAUMETZ

Federal Conservatives are set to take aim at the Liberal government's electoral reform initiative during a late-summer caucus meeting in Halifax next week, after only three Conservative MPs have so far taken up a special Commons committee invitation to consult constituents on the project through town-hall meetings in their electoral districts.

One of the Conservatives who followed up on the town-hall program and has held three electoral-reform town halls since July told The Hill Times Tuesday she was preparing a summary of her sessions at the request of caucus organizers for the Conservative gathering in the heart of Liberal-red Atlantic Canada in advance of the resumption of parliamentary sittings later this month.

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**NEWS CRA INVESTIGATIONS** 

# Saskatoon MPs see big rise in child benefit reviews by CRA

### BY CHELSEA NASH

Members of Parliament in all Saskatoon ridings are complaining that the Canada Revenue Agency has stepped up reviews of the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) for their constituents.

An email from the CRA clarified that these are reviews, however most MPs have referred to them as audits when talking to The Hill Times.

Three of the four Saskatoon ridings are held by Conservative members, while the fourth seat is occupied by NDP MP Sheri Benson. All four offices, including those of Conservative members Kelly Block, Brad Trost, Kevin Waugh, and Ms. Benson, told The Hill Times there has been a noticeable increase in case files pertaining to these reviews, and have witnessed firsthand

## FEATURE BUZZ



# A brief history of naughty words said in the House



University of Toronto researchers have digitized the debates of the House of Commons going back to 1901. *The Hill Times photograph by Jake Wright* 

# Librarians and parliamentary nerds

You can easily search the House of Commons debates going back to 1901 using a nifty new website painstakingly put together by University of Toronto political and computer scientists and historians.

LiPaD, also known as the Linked Parliamentary Data Project, is a searchable digital database of Canadian Hansards since 1901. By going to lipad.ca, you can use the search bar to quickly pinpoint when certain words were used in decades of parliamentary debates.

While this is available through the Library of Parliament's Canadian Parliamentary Historical Resources site for debates dating from Confederation in 1867 through to when the Canadian parliament's parl. gc.ca site picked up the archive in 1994, the beauty of the LiPaD site is that it's a lot easier to digest.

Search for a term on the Library of Parliament site, for instance, and you get scanned images of Hansard pages that you have to read through to find the search term you're looking for. The LiPaD site helpfully has digitized all the written text of the scanned Hansard pages, and added in additional valuable information like the speaker's photo and party affiliation as well as a link to their biography on the Parliament of Canada's parlinfo site. It's user-friendly in the same way openparliament.ca is.

The project began in 2013 when researchers from Canada, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands, who were all digitizing parliamentary records, were given a grant from national granting agencies to do the work. The Canadian team at the University of Toronto got about \$200,000 from the federal-governmentfunded Social Sciences and Humanities and Natural Sciences and Engineering research councils.

A team of about three or four students in computer and political sciences then worked full tilt for a couple years to transform the scanned Library of Parliament Hansard pages into computer-readable text. That involved clearing up lot of little snags along the way, like when the technology they were using converted all references of "honourable" to another word.

While the researchers from the other countries have yet to put their databases online, the Canadians felt it was important to do with their own data.

Tanya Whyte, a U of T PhD candidate and political scientist with a computer programming background, described putting it online as a "labour of love."

The site launched in April but only last week received a lot of attention on Twitter, including by members of the Parliamentary Press Gallery who were keen to test it out.

"This new House of Commons Hansard search tool back to 1901 is fun. Wheee..." wrote Ottawa Citizen Hill reporter **Jason Fekete**, tweeting a link to the search results for "shit." The site records 10 instances when it was used, as far back as 1919 and as recently as 2009 by former MP **Massimo Pacetti**, who told then-Conservative MP **Paul Calandra** he was "full of shit" during debate on the proposed Italian-Canadian Recognition and Restitution Act.

"Don't pretend you're not using the new Hansard search to look up the official use of swear words since 1901,"wrote the CBC's **Aaron Wherry** in another tweet.

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Pakistan hosts Independence Day bash The Hill Times photographs by Sam Garcia

FEATURE DIPLOMATIC PARTIES



## Fallen Turkish diplomat remembered



Trinidad & Tobago celebrate independence on Aug. 31





# A *lhirst* for solutions

At the University of Saskatchewan, our world-class expertise is matched only by our determination. With our Global Water Futures program, supported by a **\$77.84-million Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) grant**, we're taking on one of the most urgent challenges in the world today—the future of water.

Water is a fundamental need, and we are facing unprecedented threats to this vital resource here in Canada and around the world shrinking glaciers, reduced snow cover, floods and droughts, and poor water quality, to name only a few.

We have an unparalleled water research team and key partnerships with the University of Waterloo, McMaster University and Wilfrid Laurier University. Working with First Nations, cities, farmers, global research programs, governments, industry and other universities, we will bring together a diversity of perspectives across disciplines and traditional boundaries to find real-world solutions to this daunting challenge.

Supported by new sensors, models and data, we will better forecast water disasters, supply

and quality. Through better prediction, we will reduce the costs of extreme weather events, like floods, droughts and wildfires. And we will unravel the social, health, environmental, political and economic implications of changes to our future water.

The U of S is the only university to hold two CFREF grants. With the support of our first grant, we recently marked the launch of the Plant Phenotyping and Imaging Research Centre (P<sup>2</sup>IRC)—another step toward feeding a hungry world and improving food security.

The groundbreaking work happening at the U of S to protect and foster two of the world's most necessary resources—water and food— is unmatched. Working together with our numerous partners, our work will improve the lives of people around the world.

Learn more about the world's largest university-led water research program at usask.ca.



# Conservatives to tackle election reform plan in Liberal-red Atlantic

Gladu. Genuis and Stanton have already organized town hall meetings to gather feedback on possible changes to the electoral system.

### Continued from page 1

"I've been asked to bring a report, because I'll have had all of my town halls and have the report ready to present to folks, so that they can see how did we do it, how did it go over and evaluate whether or not they want to do that themselves,"southern Ontario MP Marilyn Gladu said, as she expressed widely-held Conservative views that the Liberals under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (Papineau, Que.) have already decided on a system they prefer.

The nearly unanimous Conservative snub of the special Commons committee's

invitation for all MPs to sponsor town halls in their electoral districts and report findings to the committee by Oct. 14 has been termed a "boycott," but Ms. Gladu, first elected to the House of Commons in the 2015 general election, said the reluctance among Conservatives to take part is likely rooted in suspicion the government intends to put in place a system it expects would favour the Liberal party.

"It's been no secret that the Conservatives think the Liberals have a hidden agenda. We believe that regardless of the fact they say they're going to consult broadly, that they've already decided the system that they want and they have already stated that the Liberal cabinet currently is the one that will make the decision, regardless of the input,"Ms. Gladu said in a phone interview from her constituency office.

"I think with that, they did not just want to follow what the minister of democratic reform requested, which is that all MPs hold town halls," said Ms. Gladu.

"They decided to consult in their own way. Many of them have sent out householders and asked for input back, some of them have been canvassing door to door, phoning people, so they have been consult-

### APPOINTMENT NOTICE

The Hill Times is pleased to announce the appointment of Shruti Shekar as editor of The Lobby Monitor.

Shruti joined the *Hill Times* publishing group in 2015 as a reporter for The Wire Report. She moved over to *The Lobby* Monitor in April 2016.

Prior to becoming a journalist, Shruti worked at the United Nations High Commission for



Refugees in Ottawa as a communications officer.

She holds a double BA honours in communication studies and human rights from Carleton University, and an MA in Journalism from Western University.

She was born in India, but grew up mostly in Singapore. In her spare time, Shruti creates lifestyle-related videos for her YouTube channel, and also works as a videographer.

Shruti resides in Ottawa, but her heart and home is Toronto (she is a huge Raptors fan). She lives for food and the gym, loves a glass of craft beer or wine.



ing in their own way," said the Sarnia MP, a petroleum industry engineering executive and consultant before her election last year.

The Conservative Party's selection of Halifax as the site for its fall caucus retreat before Parliament resumes sittings on Sept. 19 signals a long-term intention to regain seats it lost in the region as Mr. Trudeau's Liberal candidates swept all 32 of the Commons seats in the four Atlantic provinces.

Coincidentally, the vote results in about one quarter of the ridings reflect some of the concerns election reform activists have about Canada's electoral system.

Liberal candidates were elected in nine of the 32 ridings with less than 50 per cent of the popular vote, with only one of the nine minority wins in Nova Scotia. Liberal candidates won six of the 10 New Brunswick Commons seats with less than 50 per cent of the popular vote, another in Prince Edward Island and one other in St. John's, the only electoral district in the region where

a New Democrat candidate placed second. Ironically, despite the fact that more than one quarter of the Atlantic electoral districts were decided by plurality leads rather than majorities, the Special Commons Committee on Electoral Reform invited only one witness connected with the Atlantic to its 23 public hearings on Parliament Hill—transplanted New Bruns-wick native David McLaughlin, a former top Conservative political aide in Ottawa and Fredericton, N.B., who once headed an electoral reform commission in the province and is now an energy consultant in the federal capital.

The committee chair, Montreal Liberal MP Francis Scarpaleggia (Lac Saint-Louis, Que.), told The Hill Times the committee will hear testimony from experts as well as the public in the Atlantic region next month before it wraps up a whirlwind tour of 16 provincial capitals and cities, including two smaller communities, across the country.

The committee is scheduled to hold its last four meetings in southern Canada in Halifax, St. John's, Charlottetown and Fredericton from Oct. 4 to Oct. 7, before a final set of hearings in Iqaluit, Nunavut, following Parliament's one-week October recess.

"If I'm not mistaken, we're going to be meeting provincial chief electoral officers and so on (in the Atlantic),"Mr. Scarpaleggia said in an interview.

"We're going to be reaching out to every part of the country," said Mr. Scarpaleggia. Of the at least 119 electoral reform

meetings MPs held in July and August and planned until Sept. 29, Ms. Gladu has organized five. The past and planned town halls are posted on the web site of Democratic

Institutions Minister Maryam Monsef (Peterborough-Kawartha, Ont.)

Conservative MP and Deputy Speaker Bruce Stanton (Simcoe North, Ont.) has organized three town halls and Edmonton Conservative MP Garnett Genuis (Sherwood Park-Fort Saskatchewan, Alta.) has organized one, although he told *The Hill* Times Tuesday he was using a round-table format to hear from constituents.

The Hill Times

Jake Wright

At the time of the interview, Mr. Genuis had been unsuccessful in trying to get Ms. Monsef's department to correct its post on his events, which had incorrectly stated the conversations would only take place on one day, Friday Sept. 9, while Mr. Genuis had told constituents locally the events would be Friday and Saturday. The department had corrected the error by press time Tuesday. Ms. Gladu, whose notices require proof

of residency from electors who want to attend, said she scheduled five town-hall sessions in her riding at the request of constituents.

"For myself, I was prepared to do the householder (as other Conservatives have done), which I had done and then I was taking phone calls and emails, but when people started emailing me requesting a town hall, I'm here to serve my constituents," Ms. Gladu said.

"If that's what they want, that's what I'm going to give them," she said.

Ms. Gladu said she would not describe her first two sessions as "overly well attended"— a total of about 40 constituents.

Many questioned the cost of the reform initiative while others were concerned about the government plan for a committee report by Dec. 1, with legislation by May, 2017.

'I would say there is a substantial number who are wondering why we're spending all this time and money on this when hundreds of thousands of people are out of work and there are many other more important things and we have a system that's made our country wonderful for a hundred and fifty years, so there certainly is that sentiment," said Ms. Gladu.

The all-party Board of Internal Economy that controls House of Commons purse strings approved a committee travel budget of \$540,008.55 for the cross-country tour, while the government set aside \$10.7 million over four years for undefined "outreach" and consultations through to 2020.

"I think in the camp of people that would like to see the system change, their main concern is to make sure if we do a change that we do it right, that we don't just hurry it in, there is concern there about being in haste," said Ms. Gladu.

news@hilltimes.com

## **NEWS DIPLOMACY**

# **Bangladesh mission working to repatriate** body of cyclist killed last week

The Ottawa Mosque held a funeral ceremony Saturday for Nusrat Jahan.

### By Peter Mazereeuw

he Bangladeshi diplomat The Bangiauesin uprovide whose daughter was killed while cycling to school last week is on leave from his job, as the Bangladeshi High Commission works towards the repatriation of the young woman's body.

Shahjahan Seraj is the administrative officer for accounts in the Bangladeshi High Commission in Ottawa and a diplomat from Bangladesh's foreign ministry. His daughter, 23-yearold Nusrat Jahan, was killed by a truck while cycling to school last Thursday.

Mr. Seraj, who looked after salary, payments, and similar issues for the Bangladeshi mission to Canada, is currently on leave, according to the high commission.

Bangladeshi High Commissioner Mizanur Rahman visited Mr. Seraj's home in Ottawa to convey his condolences to the family personally and would not be discussing the matter with the press, according to a high commission officer reached by phone last week who asked not to be named.

Global Affairs Canada has expressed "sincere condolences" to the high commission, according to spokesperson Jocelyn Sweet.

Mr. Rahman was scheduled to present his credentials to Governor General David Johnston as Bangladesh's new high commissioner on Tuesday.

The accident occurred as Ms. Jahan was biking to Willis College in downtown Ottawa, where she was studying accounting. Ms. Jahan was set to begin studying for a master's degree in accounting at Carleton University next year, according to the high commission.

The high commission and an Ottawa funeral home are working through the standard process for repatriating Ms. Jahan's body, which includes getting clearance for the body to travel through the airport, according to the high commission.

The Ottawa Mosque in the city's west end performed a funeral ceremony for Ms. Jahan Saturday. That was to be done once an autopsy had been completed, according to the high commission.

Ms. Jahan was hit by a large truck at about 7:50 a.m. that appears to have turned right across a bike lane at the corner of Laurier Avenue and Lyon Street, according to photos published by Postmedia. Ottawa Police are still looking to speak with witnesses to the accident, according to a police press release.

A spokesperson for Tomlinson Environmental Services, which owned the truck, told Postmedia that it was co-operating with authorities investigating the accident, and that the driver had been sent for counselling.

Ms. Jahan's death prompted a crowd to gather at Ottawa's city hall that day, including city councillors Jeff Leiper and Catherine McKenney. Two other cyclists were seriously injured after being struck by vehicles in Ottawa last week.

Ms. Jahan and the family came to Canada from Bangladesh three years ago, the CBC reported. Ms. Jahan's brother, Mohd Abdul-

lah Al Nasser, told the CBC the family was devastated by her death. peter@hilltimes.com @PJMazereeuw

## **NEWS PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH**

# Government polling work in 2015-16 at lowest recorded level in a decade

Industry players, though, say that work is beginning to pick up under the Liberals.

Continued from page 1

Several pollsters told The Hill Times last month, citing anecdotal evidence, that federal polling work had been picking under the Liberals.

The Conservatives were in power for the first six months of the last fiscal year before the Liberals took over the reins in early November.

The regular business of government, including public opinion research, however, was "restrained" by the federal general election period, which lasted 78 days, according to the report, from August to October.

An industry veteran said the Liberal government treaded cautiously in its first months in office, but said things have accelerated since

Stephen Kiar, CEO and founder of Ottawa-based public opinion and market research firm Phoenix SPI, told The Hill Times last month that his company only started to see an increase in public opinion research work in the last month or so.

He said his company didn't see any increase in work before the government's fiscal year ended on March 31, though work picked up afterwards, as departments began putting together their research plans for the coming year, and seeking the necessary approvals.

Phoenix SPI won three contracts collectively valued at \$303,000 in 2015-16, the annual report shows.

Harris/Decima Inc. was the pollster used most frequently by the government last year, securing eight contracts worth just over \$630,000.

Ekos Research Associates Inc. was awarded four contracts collectively worth nearly \$272,000, while Ipsos-Reid Corp. performed three polling projects for just under \$400,000.

Other top suppliers included: Nanos Research Corporation with two projects for about \$284,000, and the Earnscliffe Strategy Group Inc. with two projects for about \$275,000.

Health Canada and the Heritage department awarded the public opinior research in 2015-16 at six each.

The Finance Ministry, though, spent the most on polling, forking over nearly \$600,000 for five contracts, while the Privy Council Office spent just over \$437,000 for four projects.

Health Canada spent more than \$459,000 for its polling work, while Heritage Canada spent just under \$170.00.

Polling topics ranged from a Canada Day in the Capital satisfaction survey by Heritage Canada and another by it on Christmas lights to ones on consumer views on genetically modified foods and on marijuana by Health Canada.

Despite these early figures, Kara Mitchelmore, CEO of the Marketing Research and Intelligence Association, an industry advocacy group, expressed optimism about governmentfunded public opinion research (POR) under the Liberals, saying early evidence suggests it's improving after a decade of sparse funding

"While it's too early to see an uptick in POR spending, we know ecdotally that more projects are being approved and that POR is valued as an important tool for consulting with Canadians," she said in an emailed statement.

"The current government has greatly advocated the importance of evidence-based decisionmaking—this is at the core of our service offering and our value as an industry."

Ms. Mitchelmore said this emphasis from the government on evidence-based decision-making

"aligns" with the findings of a survey her group conducted earlier this year.

Most participants, which it said included former privy council clerks, ministers and prime minister's office staffers; leading policy and thought leaders; political strategists; and members of the media, stated that they believed POR was "valuable" and is an "important tool in a healthy democracy.'

The overriding impression, she said, was that POR improves federal government policy and decision-making.

Ms. Mitchelmore pointed to nanges to the gov munications plans, announced in May by Treasury Board President Scott Brison (Kings-Hants, N.S.) as improving the climate for public opinion research funded by Ottawa.

Specifically, she referred to changes allowing deputy department heads to approve POR plans instead of having to go through ministers, as required under the Conservatives following the passage of the Federal Accountability Act.

The reversal of the policy by the current government "frees up the ability of public servants to provide sound advice and counsel," she said, blaming the former set-up for creating an "operational log-jam.'

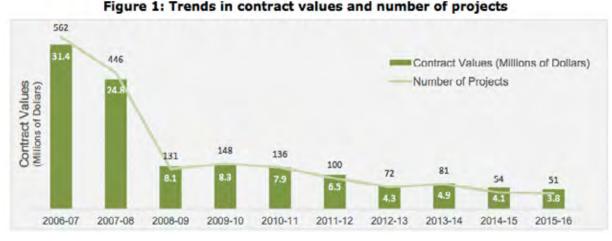
Some pollsters have argued that the Federal Accountability Act, which changed the rules around reporting public opinion research work by outside firms, discouraged governments from contracting polling work.

The legislation, brought in 2006 by the Conservatives, promised transparency in procurement for advertising and public opinion research and for the release of reports on all government polls to the Library of Parliament within six months.

David Coletto, CEO of Abacus Data, told The Hill Times last year that the Accountability Act was still a "barrier" against governments using more polls.

"Government, regardless of its political stripe, is still sensitive about bad press," he said. mvigliotti@hilltimes.com The Hill Times

This chart appears in the government's annual report on public opinion research for 2015-16, released last week. Report screenshot



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# Procurement ombudsman raises issues about independence, government indifference

The Liberals' procurement PS, however, says the current structure is working 'quite effectively.'

### Continued from page 1

Strengthening or "reinforcing" the independence of the office, he said, would help alleviate concerns in "some quarters" about its relationship with the federal department, currently overseen by minister Judy Foote (Bonavista-Burin-Trinity, N.L.).

However, Mr. Ieraci stopped short of calling for the office to be restructured as an independent entity, similar to the office of the ethics and conflict of interest commissioner, for instance, who is an officer of Parliament. He commended the department for respecting his office's unique place in the bureaucratic structure.

"It should be noted, however, that since the office opened its doors in May 2008, [there's been] a respectful arm's-length relationship" with the department, he said in an emailed statement.

PSPC spokesperson Nicholas Boucher did not directly respond to questions about whether there are any plans to make the office wholly independent, saying in an emailed statement only that it operates at arm's length from the ministry.

Liberal MP Leona Alleslev (Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill, Ont.), parliamentary secretary to Minister Foote, said she believes the current set-up"works quite effectively" because it acts independently of the depart-ment, allowing it to serve as a "check and balance."

However, she refused to rule out a review of the structural set-up, saying the government is "always looking" for ways to be more effective.

"We find that it provides a very valuable perspective that allows us to work with the department to make those improvements," she said in an interview.

Established through the former Conservative government's Federal Accountability Act, passed in 2006, the Office of the Procurement Ombudsman is a selfdescribed "independent federal institution dedicated to promoting fairness, openness, and transparency in federal procurement."

In practice, the ombudsman largely fields complaints from suppliers about interacting with the government, and issues recommendations to approve the procurement process. However, the powers of the

office are limited.

Most notably, the ombudsman only has the authority to examine contracts worth less than \$25,000 for goods and less than \$100,000 for services.

And if the ombudsman does find something wrong, they only have the power to recommend compensation, with departments afforded full discretion on how to respond.

Mr. Ieraci released his first annual report as acting ombudsman late last month, where he did not explicitly highlight concerns about the political structure of the office, although it was something touched upon by his predecessor, Frank Brunetta, in his end-ofmandate report.

Mr. Brunetta held the position from January 2011 to December 2015, after which the office went without an ombudsman until Mr. Ieraci formally assumed the acting position in May.

He had previously served as deputy ombudsman since January 2012.

# Record number of complaints fielded in 2015-16

According to the report, the office handled its highest number of written complaints, 52, in the 2015-16 fiscal year, including 13 during the span in which there was no ombudsman, meaning they were stalled for several months.

NDP procurement critic Erin Weir (Regina Lewvan, Sask.) said he was "struck" by the high number of complaints received by the ombudsman, arguing that it shows this area of procurement disputes is "heating up," likely because he said the federal government is increasingly contracting out services and functions.

He said that it's important to ensure the ombudsman's office maintains its independence while fielding an increasingly high number of complaints.

In the report, Mr. Ieraci highlighted complaints from suppliers about the office's inability to investigate subcontracts for federal projects.

Ås it stands, the ombudsman is only allowed to intervene in disputes between the government and direct suppliers, not firms hired by those suppliers to do the work.

Acting procurement ombudsman Lorenzo leraci, left, says it's 'difficult' for the office he oversees to be perceived as wholly independent when it is legally part of Public Services and Procurement Canada, though the parliamentary secretary to the department's minister, Leona Alleslev, centre, believes the current set-up has been working well. NDP procurement critic Erin Weir, right, wants the department to ensure the ombudsman's independence. Photos by Jake Wright (Hill Times), Public Services and Procurement Canada, Office of the Procurement Ombudsman

"Suppliers informed me of their concerns regarding delays in obtaining payment from the prime contractor for work completed, sometimes due to delays in the prime contractor being paid by the federal organization, or sub-contracts being awarded in ways that would be considered unacceptable if done by federal organizations," Mr. Ieraci said in his annual report.

He also cited a comment from a supplier in Ottawa who said that these companies are spending taxpayers' money and should have to follow the "same rules [as federal organizations] so that they don't just give [sub-]contracts to their buddies.

Mr. Weir argued that it would be a "reasonable" extension of the ombudsman's power to allow the office to investigate subcontracts.

"It doesn't seem to me that federal rules and oversight should go out the window as soon as something is subcontracted to another supplier," he said of the need to expand the powers.

In addition to subcontracts, the ombudsman cannot examine supplier complaints regarding the process used by departments to establish standing offers or supply arrangements, which allow the government to contract out work to pre-screened suppliers.

Mr. Brunetta raised concerns about this practice in his end-ofmandate report, saying that since these tools can create a "monopoly for a single firm and in others a quasi-cartel for a limited number of firms," providing assurance that they are established in a fair, open, and transparent manner 'would go a long way to alleviating supplier angst."

He said his office has limited ability to examine the establishment of standing offers or supply arrangements themselves, because they're not contracts, per se."Regulations only permit the review of complaints related to call-ups or contracts issued against those tools."

### 'Leadership vacuum' concerning

Citing another issue raised by his predecessor, Mr. Ieraci framed the absence of a "single leadership focal point" for procurement in the public service as the most glaring challenge currently facing federal procurement. This absence has left an acute

"leadership vacuum," he said, reiterating Mr. Brunetta's description in his end-of-mandate report.

"Many (if not most) of the concerns brought to this office's attention by suppliers could be addressed if there was a single position within the federal public service that was responsible for the procurement function for the entire federal public service," Mr. Ieraci said.

Mr. Ieraci urged the government to direct senior federal officials to "take these issues seriously and to give procurement the attention and focus it deserves."

Federal organizations, he said, collectively spend about \$18 billion annually, though despite the big money involved, only few give procurement the attention it deserves and are "actively working" to ensure their procurement practices are solid.

Unfortunately, in many federal organizations, procurement seems to be treated like a "back-office function that is only given senior-level attention when something goes wrong," he said.

"A sustained focus from senior federal officials in all organizations, under the guidance of centralized leadership would help focus attention on finding ways to simplify and modernize procurement across the federal public service," Mr. Ieraci continued.

He said the most common concerns he has heard from suppliers about federal procurement is that it's "cumbersome, burdensome and heavily paper-based.'

According to Mr. Ieraci, many suppliers see this as a "disincentive" to participate in federal procurement, and many would like the

procurement process to be"streamlined, simplified, and standardized across federal organizations."

Mr. Brunetta, for instance, detailed a case in which a supplier grumbled to him that "each department issuing a media training solicitation defined its requirements with such unique specificity that the supplier's bids had to be re-crafted and customized for each department."

In a statement, Ms. Foote said she welcomed the report and the role the ombudsman plays.

The department is actively "revising policies, simplifying processes, and cutting red tape' to deliver "value and results for Canadians and make it easier for companies to do business with the federal government," she added.

Ms. Alleslev said the government would welcome any "evidence-based" approach that would help it facilitate streamlining this process and make it more effective and accessible.

She acknowledged also hearing concerns about the difficulties in ascertaining information and doing business with the government, referring complaints about the length and complexity of the procurement process.

The government is preparing to do whatever is needed to improve the federal purchasing process, she said, including eprocurement solutions.

PSPC announced in April that it's seeking bids for a web-based procurement service for federal government departments.

Mr. Boucher said PSPC will continue to work with its partners to address issues raised by suppliers and by the ombudsman, and will "apply lessons that we learn from the report to our work modernizing our procurement practices."

The report, however, does not identify "glaring" issues for the department, he argued. mvigliotti@hilltimes.com The Hill Times



**NEWS CRA INVESTIGATIONS** 



# Saskatonians being 'disproportionately' asked by CRA to prove their children exist, MPs say

After providing baptism certificates, photos, and other documentation of his family, Emery Sampaga says the CRA is still not satisfied.

Continued from page 1

the "ridiculous" process for proving your children exist, and that you have custody of them, as described by Ms. Benson.

This is the same area where the Canadian Press reported that a Saskatoon man had been reviewed twice by the CRA to prove his children exist and are in his care in order to continue receiving his child tax benefits.

Emery Sampaga, another Saskatoon man, has also been undergoing the same, arduous review, for almost a year now. He says he's nearing the end of his patience. Mr. Sampaga worked as an electrician in Fort McMurray, Alta., when he lost his job due to layoffs and moved to Saskatoon in an effort to find other work. Shortly after arriving, the CRA issued a review of his child tax benefits, to prove that he did have children and that they were in the care of Mr. Sampaga and his fiancée.

Mr. Sampaga has had difficulty finding work in Saskatoon, as well, but said he has refused employment insurance because that's not the way he was raised. Recently, he started his own cleaning business, and is working double time to try to make enough money to support his wife and three children, aged six, three, and one.

"I don't like asking for anything, because I got taught not to ask for any money. But the kids are entitled to it,"he said."Diapers, milk. It's just hurting us. I want my kids just to have it,"Mr. Sampaga told *The Hill Times*, sounding exasperated at having to explain this situation one more time.

Despite the hassle and costs associated with providing all the proper documentation, Mr. Sampaga said his file continues to be under review nearly a year later, though he's not getting much feedback on what is happening with it.

"It's not funny anymore," he said. "We're going back and forth, and it's costing us money to get all the papers. Every sheet of paper, we have to get from the doctor, it's \$25 a piece." Mr. Sampaga said he has provided the CRA with "everything," even the baptism certificates for his three children, and photos of the family together.

"It's not funny that you say we don't have any [children]. It kind of offended us,"he said, explaining that he has been calling the CRA every day and leaving messages, because no one is returning his calls, let alone picking up the phone in the first place. That's what led him to seek out the help of his MP, Ms. Benson.

"What happens is people said, 'I cannot get through on the phone,' that is why they are eventually coming in. Or they've had CRA say they've lost their documents. I mean we've submitted documents two or three times and we don't know where they've went," Ms. Benson told *The Hill Times*. She said one of her constituents who was being reviewed, a lawyer, was so frustrated with the process he "went to an extreme" and started sending the CRA pictures of his family.

She said it's as if the CRA keeps adding barriers to the process. "You provide the birth certificate, then it comes back and they say, well, we'd like, now we want proof of citizenship...Or that letter from your doctor said 'next of kin,' instead of 'legal guardian,'" she said, explaining a particular situation that one of her constituents was in through this CCTB review.

This issue, compounded with the fact that there is currently a delay in responses from the CRA problem resolution phone line for Western Canada MPs, means there is a significant impact on Saskatoon MPs Kevin Waugh, left, Brad Trost, Kelly Block, and Sheri Benson. The Hill Times photograph by Jake Wright and photographs courtesy of the offices of Kevin Waugh, Kelly Block, and Sheri Benson

lower-income constituents like Mr.

ment, said she wants the minister

to "intervene and stop this unnecessary auditing of my constituents."

Her office also confirmed

the number of CTB reviews they

People are being asked to

with them even though they have

lived together as a family and received the benefit for years. Some

families have stopped receiving the benefit until they are able to

provide the proof required by the department," she said.

growing number of reviews his of-

fice was seeing in an interview."A

lot of people are getting audited.

Some of these people don't really

have a lot of resources to fight the

and get a birth certificate. But they

have to, right. It's that chicken and egg we're going through here,"he

said, indicating that he has heard

Mr. Trost's office has already

this year worked on more than the

10-15 child benefit cases it would

receive in a typical year, Alan

wrote in an emailed statement.

Often, those cases involve

constituents who didn't respond to

CRA requests for information, and

had their benefits cut off, he wrote

When asked why it appears

that the Saskatoon region is be-

ing targeted with these reviews.

an emailed response from CRA

there are no statistics available

on that.

spokesperson David Walters said

Lisa Damien, another CRA

spokesperson, wrote that "some

but the vast majority of benefit

reviews are selected based on

impartial and non-discrimina-

cases are selected at random.

Chant, a staffer for Mr. Trost,

a lot of complaints in his riding

about these reviews while door-

knocking this summer.

audit, meaning they can't go out

Mr. Waugh, too, brought up the

prove that their children reside

there has been a recent rise in

are seeing come through since roughly November.

Ms. Block, in an emailed state-

Sampaga.

tory criteria using sophisticated computerized case selection logic with no consideration given to the province or territory or residence." This was in response to being asked how it is determined who gets audited, and when.

Ms. Damien also wrote that "the fact that reviews are conducted does not mean that there is suspicion of fraud." According to her, in the past two years, 65 per cent of benefit reviews led to changes resulting in either "CRA records being updated with recipients' information so that they could continue to receive full benefits," or "reduction or elimination of benefit payment, including the possibility of an overpayment which would require reimbursement."

When asked what percentage of all reviews led to the latter, Mr. Walters said the CRA did not have those statistics.

Over the past three years, there has been a noticeable increase in Canada Child Tax Benefit reviews conducted by the CRA. In the 2012-2013 year, the CRA completed 103,946 reviews. In 2013-2014, the CRA completed 172,040 CCTB reviews, and in 2014-2015, the latest statistics available according to CRA, 196,014 CCTB reviews were completed.

The CRA did not offer a reason for the increase in reviews over the past three years.

While the number of case files in Saskatoon seem to be particularly high, it's not the only area in the country that is being affected by a large number of reviews.

NDP Charlie Angus (Timmins-James Bay, Ont.) also said his office has seen a definite increase in these cases since the Liberal government came into office, and described the number of child tax benefit review cases his office was seeing as "disproportionate" compared to the other casework his staff sees.

"It's a huge problem. It's compounded because you're dealing often with families who have few resources,"he said.

"Obviously there are going to be cases where you want to verify if it's the ex-husband or the mother with the child, or is the child with the grandparents in another location. You have to do verification. But it seems that these levels of audits are much more intrusive. I would say if the minister spent nearly as much resources going after international tax cheats as they're going after single mums in my riding, Canada might be a little better off," said the MP of the Northern Ontario riding, referring to the Minister of National Revenue Diane Lebouthillier.

Budget 2016, released in November under the newly elected Liberal government, committed "\$444.4 million over five years for the CRA to enhance its efforts to crack down on tax evasion and combat tax avoidance by: hiring additional auditors and specialists; developing robust business intelligence infrastructure; increasing verification activities; and improving the quality of investigative work that targets criminal tax evaders."

MP Ziad Aboultaif (Edmonton Manning, Alta.) is the Conservative critic for national revenue. He told *The Hill Times* that because he hasn't seen the situation arise in his own office, he won't be pursuing it with Ms. Lebouthillier at this point. cnash@hilltimes.com

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### **EDITORIAL IMMIGRATION**

# Keep compassion for Syria alive

It's been one year since three-year-old Alan Kurdi's lifeless body was lifted from a Turkish beach.

The photo of the toddler, one of thousands fleeing the war in Syria, hit the front pages of newspapers around the world and touched a nerve. In Canada amid a federal election campaign, it prompted all political parties to take a hard look at their refugee resettlement promises and see what more they could do.

After the Liberals were brought to power, they mounted an exceptional campaign to resettle thousands of Syrian refugees in Canada. Faith and community groups banded together to raise money and other resources to host refugees in dozens of communities across the country.

The UN's refugee agency says that since Alan Kurdi's death, "4,176 people have died or gone missing on the Mediterranean—an average of 11 men, women, and children perishing every single day over the last 12 months."

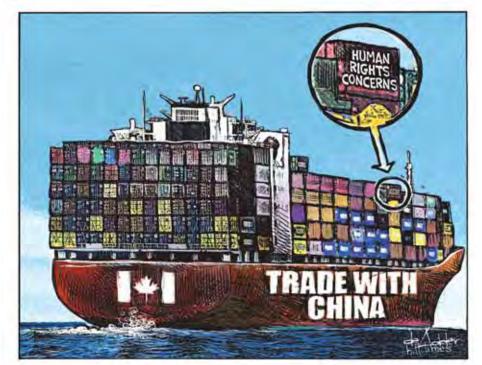
The world, including Canada, must not forget about the Syrian refugees looking for resettlement in safer places. Canada has resettled more than 30,000 Syrian refugees since the Liberals began their campaign last November. But they're still a ways off of meeting their goal of bringing in 25,000 government-assisted refugees by the end of this year. They had brought in just over 19,000 from this category as of Aug. 28. CTV reported Aug. 29 that the government has learned from the first wave and is preparing to welcome a second influx to meet the end-of-year goal. Let's hope it does. And in addition to the laudable refugee resettlement program, Canada should continue its advocacy against the targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure by belligerents in the Syrian crisis.

Canada is a middle-power country without the weight of the United States, Russia, Turkey, or Iran in this conflict. But it must still do what it can both to humanely respond to the effects of the Syrian crisis (namely, the refugee influx) but also deal with the root causes.

The next step Canada should take now is to ensure those who have used chemical weapons in Syria are brought to justice. Following a report by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism showing that the Syrian government has repeatedly used chemical weapons against its people and that the Islamic State (also known as ISIS, ISIL, and Daesh) has used sulphur mustard, Foreign Minister Stéphane Dion has said Canada is "deeply concerned."

Amnesty International Canada's Alex Neve has called for Canada to champion the need for the situation in Syria to be referred to the International Criminal Court. This can only be done by the UN Security Council, he said, which has not had a good track record of agreeing on what to do about Syria.

Still, Canada should use its goodwill in the international community to press council members to refer the Syrian case to the ICC. It's the least Canada can do to try to seek justice in this long-running and deadly conflict.



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### **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

# Fitness about more than personal benefits

Re: "New, younger government puts fitness on display," (Aug. 29, p. 11). Congratulations to those Parliamentarians of all ages and physical condition who, regardless of their busy schedules, believe that staying active throughout their lives is important to their health.

There is plenty of data showing the personal advantages of regular exercise: less chance of diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and hypertension. Recent research by the Conference Board of Canada has shown that a modest increase in physical activity over the next 25 years would reduce the number of hypertension cases by 222,000, to give just one example, while premature mortality would be reduced by 2.4 per cent, translating into 6,600 lives saved.

What these MPs are also showing is that they understand the link between physical activity and the benefits to the economy. By getting a relatively minuscule 10 per cent of Canadians sitting less and moving more, health-care costs could be cut by \$2.6 billion, and \$7.5 billion could be injected into the economy through reduced absenteeism and increased productivity. Health care is about much more than physical activity, of course; however investing in prevention, of which active, healthy lifestyles is included, needs to see more emphasis by politicians at all levels. To adapt Susan Riley's statement: it's "not an unnecessary indulgence but an investment in yourself"-and the economy.

Bob Elliott Senior Leader, Sport Matters Group Ottawa, Ont.

# Amid China trade talk, remember the Dalai Lama

With Parliament having most ceremoniously recognized the Dalai Lama, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, as a Canadian honorary citizen, we Canadians must identify with the Dalai Lama and his people in terms of full human rights and the complete Tibetan culture, which by definition includes leadership by the Dalai Lama.

We just cannot have double standards where we pay full respect to the true Tibetan leader of the people and spend more time with China on trade deals. If former prime minister Lester B. Pearson, also a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, was with us today, he would fully recognize the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan people in the completion of their full identity.

Symbolically, the Dalai Lama opened the human rights monument on Elgin Street, next to City Hall. This is a good reminder to all Parliamentarians what the Dalai Lama deeply represents. He does "good business" with our souls before we trade.

> Roman Mukerjee Ottawa, Ont.

# Feds should act on tanning limits

A ttention all parents: there are thousands of free children's tanning-bed games online, many featuring (unauthorized) Disney princesses and Barbies. Some of the popular characters are pregnant, sending the message that tanning is safe and fun, when in reality tanning beds are carcinogenic and are banned for minors in all Canadian provinces.

Urban medical officers of health recently asked Heath Canada to require health-care providers (not salon staff) to pre-screen individuals prior to commercial tanning. They want prominent and graphic health warnings on the outside of tanning beds. In 2012, the Canadian Paediatric Soci-

ety indicated a tax should be imposed on all commercial tanning bed operations,

for patient and public engagement of the Canadian Medical Association, have all tweeted our health minister in support of this recommendation. We need to curb the rising skin-cancer complacency in this country. (We also need to curb rising health error costs.) The

harmonized with levies on tobacco. The

Canadian Nurses Association, the VP of

Canadian Catholic Physicians, and the VP

complacency in this country. (We also need to curb rising health-care costs.) The federal government should act on expert advice to reduce unnecessary human suffering and mortality. We don't want little princess and Barbie fans to be part of a growing skin-cancer epidemic.

initiatives, such as electric charging sta-

the world have adopted these initiatives.

tions for cars. Dozens of countries around

Canada Post can be a beacon of light

for a green economy and enhanced public

services rather than a relic from the dying

days of a failing economic system that puts

profits before people.

Linda Jeaurond Victoria, B.C.

No reason for more cuts at Canada Post

As a Crown corporation, Canada Post is owned by all Canadians and thereby serves the public good, as one of our key public services. Canada Post, contrary to popular belief, is profitable and has been for most of the past two decades.

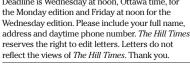
There is no reason for more cuts in services and increased prices. The government should adopt the Delivering Community Power proposal, which calls for postal banking, services for seniors, and green

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**INSIDE DEFENCE UN PEACE OPERATIONS** 

# Mali mission reminiscent of Afghanistan

The safe bet now is that Mali will be the ultimate destination for our bluehelmet offering. But if Canadian troops had no luck with nation-building in a divided Afghanistan, why would we do the same in the Sahara?



SCOTT TAYLOR

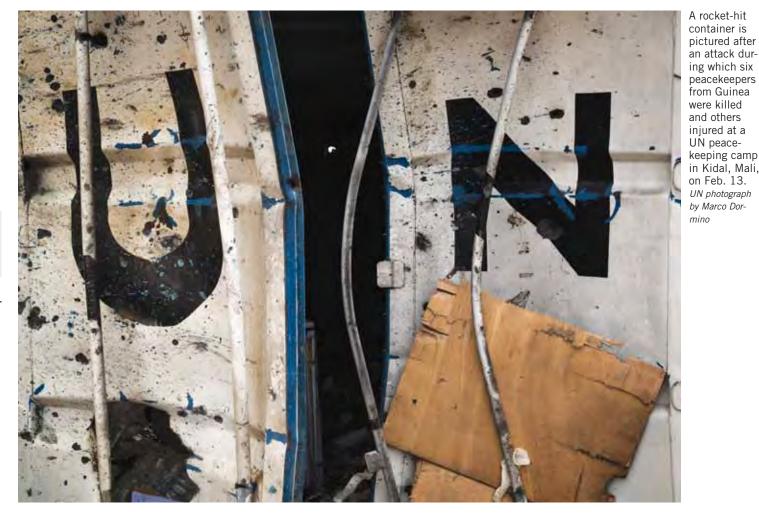
TTAWA—The military and Liberal government communications teams are in full spin to sell Canadians on an imminent peacekeeping mission in Africa. To date, the entire exercise has been a convoluted inversion of all basic principles concerning the implementation of a military deployment. The Liberals had campaigned through the last election on the promise of returning to the era of Pearsonian-style peacekeeping under the United Nations banner rather than employing combat forces in support of United States- or NATO-led adventures.

The first indication the Liberals were intending to make good on that promise was a cryptic comment by Chief of Defence Staff General Jonathan Vance at a change-of-command ceremony on July 14. In addressing the soldiers on parade, and reporters there, Vance stated that Canadian soldiers would soon be deployed on a new mission in Africa. Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan said that Africa was the intended continent the day prior, but neither gentleman could identify an actual mission.

From Aug. 9 to 16 Sajjan and his advisers set off on an African adventure to investigate potential conflicts and ongoing peacekeeping missions to which Canada could lend a helping hand. Following that fact-finding tour, which included stops in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, Sajjan held a press conference. There was still no announcement as to where our soldiers would actually be going, but Sajjan did tell the media that this new deployment would involve about 600 soldiers with a mission budget of \$450 million.

To recap: Canadians have now been told the continent, the size of the contingent, and the cost, but there is still no clarity

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



as to the purpose or objective of sending soldiers into harm's way.

The safe bet now is that Mali will be the ultimate destination for our blue-helmet offering, as a small team of diplomats, military officers, and RCMP officials were in the capital, Bamako, last week.

The usual military cheerleaders have already opined that this will be a mission well suited to Canada's robust, wellequipped, veteran combat troops. The consensus among these warmongering hawks is that the conflict in Mali could pose an even greater challenge for our military than our deployment to Afghanistan.

In their eagerness to get Canadian soldiers back into the midst of a real shooting war, these Colonel Blimps fail to acknowledge that, despite our best efforts, we did not win in Afghanistan. The combined might of NATO members failed to destroy the Taliban in 15 years of conflict and our experiment with democracy in Afghanistan produced one of the most corrupt regimes on the planet.

That being the case, and given that

Afghanistan cost Canada more than 155 soldiers killed, 2,000 wounded, and an estimated \$18 billion, why on earth would we want to jump into yet another even more challenging conflict? Mali is definitely a mess, and it is considered the most dangerous UN peacekeeping mission, with 105 peacekeepers killed and hundreds more wounded since April 2013.

The main threat to Malian security is posed by the militant Tuareg separatists in the northern region of Azawad. In early 2012 the Tuaregs launched an armed revolt, equipped largely with the weapons and munitions that had been left unsecured in neighbouring Libya, following NATO's toppling of Muammar Gaddafi.

With some of them allied with al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, the Tuareg rebels won a series of decisive victories over the Malian security forces. This in turn led to a demoralized Malian military staging a coup in March 2012. The Tuareg rebels seized the cities of Gao, Timbuktu, and Kidal.

To stem the tide, France deployed a large combat force to restore order to its

former colony. The French were able to reclaim the conquered territory, but the unrest has persisted and inept Malian security forces have proven incapable of containing the rebels.

As France has drawn down its combat force, the UN force of approximately 13,000 peacekeepers and 2,000 international police are filling the vacuum. As the casualty figures would indicate, it doesn't matter whether it is Malian troops, French soldiers, or blue-bereted UN peacekeepers; the Tuaregs remain widely opposed to accepting the regime in Bamako.

Tens of thousands of Canadian troops had no success in trying to force Pashtuns in Kandahar to adopt the corrupt regime the U.S. had installed in Kabul, and now we are likely sending 600 soldiers and \$450 million to force Tuaregs in the Sahara to accept the central authority in Mali?

Good luck with that. Scott Taylor is editor and publisher of Esprit de Corps magazine. news@hilltimes.com The Hill Times

# **Greens' policy review amounts** to top-down meddling

(Editor's note: the following is an open let- acquiesced. The floor (including you) then ter to Green Party Leader Elizabeth May.) We all looked on early this August as you went to the microphone to

express your reservations with Robert's Rules of Order at the Green Party of Canada's biennial convention (a format that you are now blaming for the results that ensued). After some brief reassurance from the chair/facilitator Ken Melamed, (who is supposed to be neutral, but is on the record opposing the BDS resolution before, during, and after the convention) asserting his familiarity with Robert's Rules, you then

voted in favour of adopting this procedure.

I ask you: had the BDS (boycott, divestment, and sanctions against those sectors of Israel's economy that directly profit from the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories) resolution failed to pass, can you honestly say that you would still be advocating for a "review" on the grounds that the majoritarian (Robert's Rules) vote was a departure from the consensus-based 'values" of the party?

Three votes (and two vigorous debates) were held for this resolution. None of them

were close. Not the pre-convention e-vote (open to all members, even those who did not attend the convention), nor the workshop vote (a stage that was almost skipped entirely, due to the resolution's overwhelming support at the e-vote stage), nor the final vote on the floor.

The final vote passed with so many ised 'yay' signs that neither you, nor Mr Melamed, nor anyone else opposed even felt the need to call for an actual count.

And now you want to nullify the decision, retroactively change the rules, and start again. This not only violates the Green Party of Canada's own constitution (see articles 6.2 and 6.4 under Accountability), but is also extremely condescending and disrespectful to the members of our party, while setting a very dangerous precedent. If we cannot, as members, have faith that the decisions voted upon at our conventions are binding-and immune to

executive veto-what incentive do we have to participate?

Yes, there was always the chance that the resolution would be revisited by members at the next convention and reversed legitimately, but this "special meeting" amounts to top-down meddling, and should be cause for concern to anyone, regardless of their position on this particular issue.

Finally, given the enormous outpouring of support that you claim to have received to stay on as leader since suggesting that you might step down over this, how can you be sure that the possibility of losing their leader will not influence the way members would vote the second time around? And, are vou comfortable being the kind of leader that uses the threat of resignation as a tactic for getting your way? Alykhan Pabani

Toronto, Ont.

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# Kellie Leitch should be embarrassed and ashamed

Good political leadership should not be about going to the bottom of the barrel to find votes.



TIM POWERS

OrtTAWA—Kellie Leitch apparently wanted to get some attention in what so far has been a catatonic Conservative leadership race. Well, she certainly has!

Just like over the past decade, some smarmy campaign official somewhere is patting himself or herself on the back complimenting their sublime political genius for finding the winning formula for their candidate: a values discussion.

Kellie Leitch's path to the top job apparently is going to be propelled by who has Canadian values and who has anti-Canadian values—to date, it is unknown who is going to define these "values."

If you haven't heard, the good Dr. Leitch has been polling Canadians on, "Should the Canadian government screen potential immigrants for anti-Canadian values as part of its normal screening for refugees and landed immigrants?" She is steadfast in her view acknowledging in a statement, "We are going to have an open discussion about what Canadian values are and what they are not."

Frankly, Kellie Leitch should be embarrassed and ashamed. She is smart, hard-working, and wise enough to know that her poll question is an inflammatory ploy that plays on people's fears as well as misconceptions. Does she want to win the Conservative leadership so badly that she is prepared to take the party backwards by dividing Conservatives and Canadians against each other? Does she, like Donald Trump, have one rigid way of looking at the world and prescribing that to the rest of us?

I really find this astounding, as I can't imagine Dr. Kellie Leitch, the well-regarded physician, refusing to treat a patient because she thinks that person has "anti-Canadian" values—whatever they may be. Yet Kellie Leitch the leadership candidate seems prepared to pursue an agenda of selectively defining and discarding people. This is not acceptable. The strength of the Conservative Party and Canada has been the embrace of different perspectives, not the acceptance of some homogenous manifesto.

The Conservatives are in a leadership contest and candidates can put forward whatever ideas they want. That is a good thing. But the only Conservative leadership candidates publicly challenging Leitch's position as of Sept. 6 were Michael Chong and Maxime Bernier. What do the other declared and potential candidates have to say? If Leitch wants a debate, give her one. Surely the rest of you can see the future of the Conservative party is not to be found in race baiting, fear stoking, and some nostalgic desire to return to the Victorian era.

Wake up Conservatives. Look at what is happening with public opin-

ion in Canada. According to Abacus Data, at the beginning of 2015, all three major parties had accessible voter pools of a similar size. Today, the Liberals have a 20-point advantage over the NDP and a 22-point advantage over the Conservatives. Now, 67 per cent say they would consider voting Liberal, compared to just 47 per cent for the NDP, and 45 per cent for the Conservatives. The gap in accessible voter pool is arguably the Liberals' strongest asset and the critical factor that new leaders of the NDP and Conservatives will need to change if their goal is to form a government.

As my colleague and CEO of Abacus Data, David Coletto has observed: "the popularity of Mr. Trudeau and his government is a result of its approach to governing and the emotional connection it has made with millions of Canadians, including many who didn't vote Liberal. Despite some chalConservative leadership candidate Kellie Leitch, pictured in 2013, is asking whether the Canadian government should screen potential immigrants for 'anti-Canadian values.' *The Hill Times photograph by Jake Wright* 

lenges and mistakes, the Liberals have governed like Canadians expected they would. They promised a progressive, positive, and ambitious government. Most progressive Canadians, and even some of those on the right, are happy with what they have seen so far."

Good political leadership should not be about going to the bottom of the barrel to find votes. It might sound like a cliché but it really ought to be about bringing more people to your side with wellreasoned, principled arguments, not playing off ignorance and insecurities. Making Canada better is about creating opportunity, not getting into a pissing match about who can best define Canadian values.

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

**INSIDE POLITICS DEFENCE** 

# New era of peacekeeping will bring new risks

Let's hold off on the self-congratulation until we know what we're getting into.



Ortrawa—Harjit Sajjan's office offered me an interview with the defence minister. This was after Sajjan landed in Vancouver from a weeklong visit to Africa. And if you want the truth of it I sat on the interview for days because I wasn't entirely sure what to make of it.

After our conversation, Sajjan and two other ministers announced Canada will contribute 600 soldiers and \$450 million over three years, to United Nations peacekeeping. The sound of self-congratulation from some corners has been so hearty that a lot of what Sajjan told me stands as a useful corrective.

Please stow, if you will, your noble image, from some half-forgotten high school social studies class, of blue-helmeted soldiers, sternly guarding a neat line between two carefully separated armies somewhere. Those days are gone and they are not coming back.

"This is not the peacekeeping of the past," Sajjan told me. "There's no peace to keep. We've also made it clear that peace operations are going to be risky."

Traditional peacekeeping was a relic of 19th- and early 20th-century industrial war, when massed armies would hurl themselves at one another in ways that actually made them relatively easy to separate, delineate, and track. Latter-day asymmetric combat, led in many cases by ragtag groups of militants armed with a few trucks and sidearms, follows no neat lines. Civilian and paramilitary groups intermingle, as do friendly and unfriendly armies. Allegiances shift. It's hard to even know where to send the blue helmets. This is one reason a lot of countries have gotten out of the peacekeeping business. It's fun to blame Stephen Harper for the fact that only 103 Canadians served in UN peace operations in July. But to make that theory stick you'd need to explain how it's Harper's fault that the United States contributed only 68 soldiers and police to the UN in the same month; Australia 39; Belgium 13; Denmark 75; and even the United Kingdom, which will host next month's peacekeeping summit, a relatively meagre 336.

Sajjan and his colleagues need to make up a new way for Canadians to be helpful in Africa. That's the work he was pursuing when he visited five African countries. "This trip was about getting the direct facts, talking to the political leadership," he said. "Talking to the various programs within the UN...We even talked to some business folks in the area. Because you need to get a really good, deep understanding of what's really going on."

Great. Going on where? Africa is three times the size of Canada, with more than 30 times its population. "I've been quite honest about my approach on this," Sajjan said." Just because I visit an area doesn't mean we're going to be contributing troops (there). And just because I didn't visit an area doesn't mean we're not going to be contributing troops."

So: Canada is sending up to 600 soldiers, plus some number of civilians, to provide expertise and services. Sajjan just doesn't know where yet.

When will he know? "I haven't set a date for when we're actually going to make a decision."

This, arguably, makes more sense than it seems to. In 2001, it was really clear where Canadian troops were going: Afghanistan. They then spent a decade learning the regional politics, extending at least from India to Iran, and the infernally complex tribal sociology that affected soldiers' work every day. Sajjan wants to front-load the homework, and pick a mission later.

Any eventual mission will have almost nothing to do with walking a ceasefire line. Capacity-building for local troops—including, perhaps, training their officer corps in Canada—will matter more. Sajjan's list of possible tasks for Canadians in Africa kept growing.

"Everything from violence against women, preventing child soldiers from being recruited, [to] actually taking child soldiers off the battlefield." Canadian soldiers and civilians were doing similar work in Afghanistan by the end. Results were mixed.

Sajjan's agenda may offer a hint as to Canadians' eventual destination. Four of the countries he visited are big donors to UN peace operations. Uganda has about as many soldiers in the field as Canada is offering, Ethiopia 14 times as many. But the Democratic Republic of Congo has fielded only 20.

But a UN force of 20,000 has been stationed in the DRC since 2010. It's a tricky business. All told, 102 soldiers have been killed in that operation. Let's hold off on the selfcongratulation until we know what our soldiers are getting into.

Paul Wells is a national affairs writer for The Toronto Star. This column was first released Aug. 31. The Hill Times



NEED TO KNOW CUBA

# Despite shifts in Washington, major changes in Cuba remain far down the road

For more than half a century, ordinary Cubans have paid the price of being caught in the stalemate between Castro and Washington.



Tremember standing on the famed Havana waterfront, watching Fidel Castro speaking to thousands of his fellow Cubans one night, whipping them into a frenzy about a rumoured attack by American warplanes.

It was great political theatre: the ocean pounding on the seawall, the crowd under the lights, Castro bellowing on and on in thundering histrionics.

Of course, this was 1990 and the surprise attack never happened. But the Cubans had every reason to be paranoidafter the failed Bay of Pigs invasion, the by then decades-old hostility of the U.S., and the CIA's assassination attempts on Castro.

It's interesting to look back now, a few days after the first flight in recent times to Cuba from the U.S. by a commercial airline. A JetBlue aircraft took off from Fort Lauderdale with 150 passengers headed for Santa Clara, breaking a nearly 55-year

hiatus in such commercial flights. I always thought Castro (and now his brother Raul) only managed to keep their communist hold on the country of 11 million because it was an island.

The lack of a common border with another jurisdiction seemed to cement Cubans' isolation and helped to enable the state apparatus installed by Castro to keep the populace from expanding its horizons through the usual channels of travel and information exchange, whether clandestine or otherwise.

Beyond that, on the political front, there seems little doubt that the U.S.'s anti-Castro campaign, particularly the trade embargo decreed in 1960, provided the threat that Castro needed to justify his repressive regime for all these decades. Rather than weakening Castro's hold on his country, the embargo gave him the propaganda tools necessary to stay in power despite widespread unrest and hopes for something better among the populace.

Canadians, of course, treated Cuba differently and many thousands are familiar with the island and its beaches.

The frozen-in-time aspects of the place, particularly the 1950s cars that have been preserved with loving care and great ingenuity, are a staple of Cuban culture to tourists. But I'm not sure how many visitors get to experience the cramped, crumbling apartment complexes, the ration books and the empty store shelves or the real fear of police reprisal by those who break the rules or publicly question the Cuban government.

That kind of socialism, where the government controls everything and the people at the bottom have no rights and little recourse to any kind of justice, is a disturbing sight up close.

For more than half a century, ordinary Cubans have paid the price of being caught in the stalemate between Castro and Washington.

It's been an extraordinary saga: the U.S.'s angry reaction when Castro nationalized the American businesses that had been calling the shots in the Caribbean nation for decades; the failed CIA-led invasion; the world's brush with nuclear annihilation over Soviet missiles on the island; the Mariel boatlift that saw 125,000 people—many of them criminals—arrive in the U.S. in 1980; the assassination of John F. Kennedy by a man with sympathies for Cuba and Castro; the abandonment of Cuba by the failing Soviet Union and finally the arrival in Havana by U.S. President Barack Obama, the first such visit since 1928.

No matter how you look at it, Cuba has been the tail wagging the dog of U.S. politics for many years.

Most Americans, according to the polls, favour normalization of relations between the two countries. But politicians' fears of alienating the anti-Castro Cubans in the swing state of Florida have made that impossible.

Obama has taken steps to wind down the Cuba-U.S. standoff, including legalization of commercial flights, easing financial exchanges and, resumption of diplomatic relations, the latter enabled in part by Canada.

In the context of fossilized American policy on this issue, these are big moves. But they fall short of ending the trade embargo. That's the one change that is widely seen as the key to loosening the Castro brothers' grip on the island. And, barring an unexpected shift in the makeup of the Republican-dominated U.S. Congress in November, that's not going to happen.

Without the likely opening up of Cuba to the world that the end of the embargo could bring, Raul Castro and the rest of the island's elite are likely to keep the current system in place for many years, heading off anti-communist pressures with police crackdowns and grudging, incremental economic adjustments that push real change further into the future.

How this will all end up for Cubans is hard to say. No one should make light of their situation. Anyone who hasn't experienced life in a society without human rights, equality before the law and open government can't imagine how harrowing

and soul-destroying it can be. On the other hand, looking around at some of the democracies in the Caribbean and Latin America these days, one has to wonder if democracy would be that much of an across-the-board improvement for Cubans.

Haiti shows no signs of ever throwing off its reputation as one the world's most poverty-ridden nations. Oil-rich Venezuela, once a Cuban sponsor, is in the midst of a desperate crisis, with millions struggling to feed themselves amid food shortages. And parts of Central America are immersed in hopeless economic situations, official corruption and unimaginable violence arising from gangs and drug-trafficking-conditions so dire that hundreds of thousands are risking the long, dangerous trek to the U.S. border in hopes of escaping to a better life.

One can only hope Cubans can avoid some of the worst of these types of problems when democracy final comes to the island. Les Whittington is an Ottawa journalist and a regular contributor to The Hill Times.

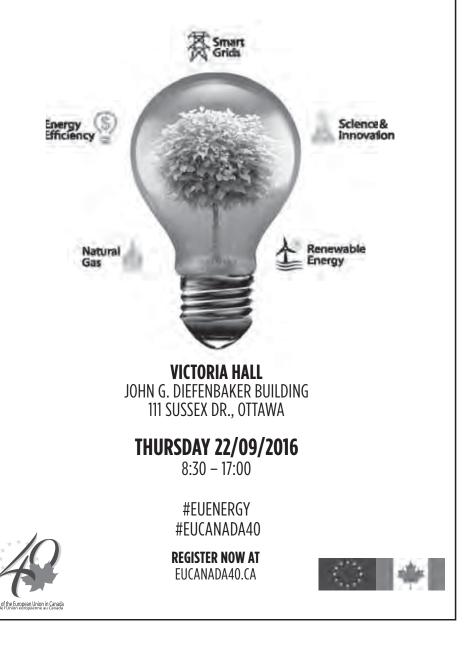
The Hill Times



U.S. President Barack Obama has moved towards reconciliation with Cuba, despite opposition from many in the Republicancontrolled Congress. The Hill Times photograph by lake Wright

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## **OPINION PM'S CHINA VISIT**

# **Promote youth engagement** to foster Canada-China ties

Investing in building China literacy among our youth today will allow us to reap benefits for decades to come.



In his recently concluded trip to China, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has walked a fine line between balancing the national interest to engage with China, our second-largest trading partner and a rising superpower, on the one hand, and raising our concerns about its human rights and fundamental lack of freedom of expression on the other hand.

The reasons why Canada needs to actively engage with China go beyond economic imperative. In order to exert our positive influence on China, we need to create dialogues and build bridges with the Chinese, rather than turn our back on them. Given our population size and political clout, it would be naïve to assume we could pressure China into improving its human rights records by "acting tough" alone. This approach has been tried and has proven to be futile.

Despite a growing proportion of Asian population across all major cities, evidence

**GLOBAL AFFAIRS DEFENCE** 



shows Canada lags behind countries such as Australia, New Zealand, and even the United States in our basic China literacy.

Canada as a nation falls behind in Chineselanguage skills, comprehension, and understanding of the rising power. This is a direct consequence of our long-term neglect and absence of government support for China-related language training and cultural programs, in spite of our changing demography.

This is hardly surprising, however. Politicians do what gets them elected and what sustains their popularity, rather than what is necessarily right. The fact that it appeared that no party candidate uttered a word about their China policy in the lead-up to the federal election last year came as no surprise to seasoned political observers. It was not that the candidates did not care; they just did not want to risk being the unpopular kids in school. Cheng Hong, wife of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, greets Ella-Grace Trudeau, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his wife Sophie Grégoire Trudeau's daughter, as they watch, in Beijing, China on Aug. 31, 2016. *PMO photograph by Adam Scotti* 

Keeping in mind this reality, the politically optimal China strategy is not necessarily an official push for closer ties. Do that too soon and too quickly, and we risk swinging the pendulum of public perception of China further from the desired equilibrium.

Instead, we propose youth engagement a form of non-governmental enterprise—as a *second-best* solution to invest in Canada's future in China. Youth are the most dynamic segment of the population who are not only receptive to new ideas but have the potential to make a real difference in the future. Investing in building China literacy among our youth today will allow us to reap the benefits for many decades to come.

As part of a broader study on improving Canada-China relations, we have surveyed various youth initiatives across several countries that are worthy of Canada's attention.

The Australia-China Youth Association, initiated and led by university-student leaders, is one of the earliest of its kind. Its decentralized model allows universitybased chapter committees to organize training and events for local communities. It currently has more than 20 chapter committees throughout various campuses in Australia and China. A national secretariat co-ordinates these local efforts, raises the organization's profile and seeks funding from various sources. It holds an annual conference to bring together Australian and Chinese youth and prominent leaders from both countries to create and sustain meaningful dialogues.

The U.S.-China Strong Foundation in the U.S. is a non-profit and nongovernmental organization that works to strengthen U.S.-China bilateral relations through educational exchange and the study of the Mandarin language. The purpose is to bridge the stark gap between the number of Chinese studying English and Americans studying Mandarin, which is 600 times difference.

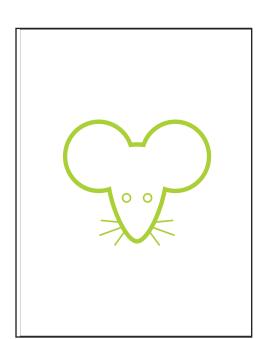
At the heart of these programs are platforms to bring together young Australians or Americans with an interest in China, and young Chinese with an interest in these countries. And this is fundamentally lacking in Canada. Effective youth engagements that focus on language-study abroad, mentorship programs, and youth summits that assemble like-minded inquisitive minds from both Canada and China will go a long way to enhance our mutual understanding. What Chinese youth take home about Canadian values will stay with them for their lifetime. While the groundwork will be driven by entrepreneurial youth, government initiatives will help to kick-start it.

Lynette H. Ong is a professor at the University of Toronto specializing in Chinese politics. Follow her on Twitter @onglynette. The Hill Times

# Is ISIS really losing?

It may seem that way, but Turkey's attacks in Syria may turn the tide in its favour.





L ONDON, U.K.—The word on the streets is that Islamic State (ISIS, ISIL, or Daesh to its many enemies) is going under. In late December 2015 it lost control of the city of Ramadi in Iraq after a long siege; in June it also lost Fallujah. In March it lost Palmyra to Syrian government troops, and last month it lost Manbij in northern Syria to the United States-backed Syrian Kurds after another long siege. These are all places that ISIS took in mid-

These are all places that ISIS took in mid-2014 in its initial surge of conquests (which ended with the proclamation of the Islamic State), or in the subsequent year of slower advances that ended with the capture of Ramadi and Palmyra in May 2015. Since then it has been nothing but retreats—and last week Turkey entered the ground war in Syria as well, to fight Islamic State and"other terrorists."

To cap it all, Abu Mohammad al-Adnani, the closest associate of ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and the man who proclaimed him to be the head of a revived caliphate ("Islamic State") only 26 months ago, was killed in an air strike on Aug. 30. He was the organization's chief propagandist and a senior operational commander, and he will be missed.

But the streets on which "the word" about Islamic State's impending defeat is being heard are in Washington, not in the Middle East. People on the ground know that things have not been going well for Islamic State recently, but they remember that just one year ago it was Bashar alAssad's regime in Syria that was teetering on the brink of collapse.

Russia's military intervention in Syria last September saved Assad, and it will probably be the Turkish military intervention in Syria this year that saves Islamic State. Not that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan loves Islamic State—he used to let it use Turkey as a transit route for recruits and supplies, but that largely stopped a year ago—but he doesn't see it as Turkey's main enemy.

For Erdogan, the big threat is the secession of the southeast corner of the country where Kurds (20 per cent of Turkey's population) are the local majority. All the countries next to that corner of Turkey (Iran, Iraq, and Syria) also have Kurdish majorities living along the border, and the Turkish nightmare is for one of those areas to become an independent Kurdish-ruled state.

That is exactly what has been happening in northern Syria. The Syrian Kurds made themselves available to Washington as America's main ally on the ground, and with huge help from American air strikes their army has driven Islamic State back all along the border. It now controls a deep strip of territory along 80 per cent of Syria's border with Turkey, a proto-state that the Kurds call Rojava.

This is entirely Erdogan's fault. If he had been loyal to Turkey's alliance with the United States and closed the border with Syria, neither Islamic State nor the rival Islamist movement, the Nusra Front, would have grown to dominate the entire Syrian rebel movement. But he didn't close it, because he was so keen to overthrow Assad that he backed anybody who was fighting against him.

Faced with the threat of an Islamistruled Syria, Washington made a de facto alliance with the Syrian Kurds, and they have served it well in the fight against Islamic State. But that just makes them a bigger threat in Erdogan's eyes, and so he sent his army into Syria last week.

Not very deep into Syria so far, and of course to justify this intervention to the United States Erdogan has said that it is to fight "Islamic State and other terrorists." But since Turkey always officially refers to Washington's Kurdish allies in Syria as "terrorists," it doesn't take great geopolitical insight to figure out who Turkey's main target is.

Islamic State is well aware of this, which is why it evacuated the border town of Jarablus, where the Turkish army crossed into Syria, without a fight. Why not just step aside and let the Turks make contact with their real target, the Syrian Kurdish army, without wasting everybody's time?

Contact has now been made, and Turkey is busily shelling and bombing Kurdish-led forces in Manbij, the next town south from Jarablus. The coming months will probably see a steady expansion of Turkey's offensive against the Syrian Kurds, and a corresponding drop in the latter's military effort against Islamic State.

Naively (or was it just fake naïveté?), U.S. Secretary of State Ash Carter called on Turkey to stay focused on the fight against Islamic State and not to engage the Kurds. Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim curtly replied that "operations will continue until all terrorist elements have been neutralized, until all threats to our borders, our lands and our citizens are completely over."

So the Syrian Kurds will be busy fighting the Turks, and Islamic State will survive. It is an iron rule of Middle Eastern politics that everybody always betrays the Kurds eventually—and Washington will too.

Gwynne Dyer is a United Kingdombased independent journalist. The Hill Times **OPINION SOCIAL POLICY** 

# Poverty reduction didn't happen under Harper, but it is possible

Better policy, and better understanding, can make a difference.



DARLENE O'LEARY

L ast Wednesday's Ottawa Citizen published an op-ed by Pierre Poilievre, the Member of Parliament for Carleton, Ont., that leaves those of us working in the area of poverty eradication in Canada quite confounded.

The article makes the claim that Stephen Harper's government was successful at reducing poverty, while the Pierre Trudeau government was not. Yes, Pierre Trudeau, not Justin Trudeau.

To back up his argument, Mr. Poilievre first refers to historical data from a poverty measure outlined by the Fraser Institute researcher Chris Sarlo. This is a measure that the majority of organizations doing work in the area of poverty eradication and social policy simply do not recog-

nize as adequate. He did throw in some less rosy Statistics Canada low-income data as a follow-up.

Now, there are a number of ways to measure poverty in Canada. An increasing number of social policy organizations use the Low Income Measure, after tax, as a common measure of low income in Canada, as it is a relative and internationally comparable measure. Statistics Canada provides historical data on this measure. Mr. Poilievre's piece excluded any mention of it.

These data show a higher rate of low income, or poverty, in Canada. Currently, 4.9 million people in Canada live in poverty, and this number saw no significant improvement under the government of Mr. Harper. In addition, there has been a 26 per cent increase in food bank usage since 2008, and increasing numbers of Canadians face housing and employment precariousness. Certainly, those most affected by poverty in Canada, particularly indigenous communities, would challenge the claim that there have been great improvements in the last decade.

Of course, more data are needed for a comprehensive understanding of the reality of poverty in Canada. Income is not the only indicator of poverty. The current federal government's reinstatement of the long-form census is an important step forward. Better and fuller data can inform better social policy.

This leads to Mr. Poilievre's main point, which seems to be that a tax-cutting government helps those in poverty more successfully than a government that raises and invests tax dollars in socially directed programs and services. Again, ask those most affected by poverty.

Even the "money-in-yourpocket" benefit that Mr. Poilievre highlights doesn't make his case. He refers to the "pro-family" Universal Canada Child Benefit that Mr. Harper's government introduced. However, the UCCB was actually taxed back and not significant enough to cover the costs of child care for any family. The current government's Canada Child Benefit (CCB) is an improvement on this (with loads of credit due to organizations like Campaign 2000). Although, as the parliamentary budget officer has indicated, even the CCB won't be a help for long if it isn't indexed, which the Liberals have claimed they'll do-in 2020.

For years, social policy and poverty organizations have been calling for better, more comprehensive policy development and funding for poverty eradication. This includes support in the



Conservative MP Pierre Poilievre, pictured, argues that Stephen Harper's government was successful at reducing poverty, while Pierre Trudeau's Liberal government was not. *The Hill Times photograph by Jake Wright* 

inter-connected areas of income security, health care, housing, food security, child care, and job development.

Campaigns like Dignity for All have called for a comprehensive national anti-poverty plan to address the complexity of poverty in Canada. In fact, the campaign actually launched its own model plan in 2015 on Parliament Hill. Mr. Harper's government had no interest in developing such a plan.

The current Trudeau government has committed to a Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy, but we have yet to see what it might entail. As well, a National Housing Strategy consultation is in the works, which could see improvements in addressing the need for adequate, affordable housing for everyone. This could be a key component to any broader poverty-reduction efforts. But, again, we'll wait and see what really happens.

So, when it comes to significant poverty reduction in Canada, no federal government can claim victory. But better policy, and better understanding, can make a difference. In fact, it has to.

Darlene O'Leary is a socioeconomic policy analyst with Citizens for Public Justice, a national faith-based organization whose goal is to act for justice in Canadian public policy. The Hill Times

**OPINION NATURAL RESOURCES** 

# **Canada-Africa economic ties at a crossroads**



BENJAMIN MUSAMPA

S tephen Harper's Conservative government focused on economic diplomacy over development challenges in Africa. Now, Ottawa's policymakers under Justin Trudeau's Liberal government face the daunting challenge of managing Africa's socioeconomic development imperative with Canada's commercial interests, especially when it comes to natural-resources governance throughout the continent.

## **Challenges ahead**

The African region possesses vast mineral and oil reserves essential for modern production and consumption worldwide. This region hosts large deposits of platinum, cobalt, gold, and oil, to name few. Paradoxically, the vast majority of resource-rich African countries have failed on the promise to foster both economic diversification and poverty reduction due to limited institutional, legal, and human capacities.

Yao Graham—co-ordinator with Third World Network-Africa, a civil society group based in Accra, Ghana—recently argued that despite the fact that mining and natural-resource exploitation has been a critical factor in the highest level of growth in Africa for more than three decades, the commodity boom reinforced Africa's traditional place in the international division of labour as a supplier of primary goods to industrial economies.

Overcoming this obstacle and promoting natural-resource-based economic diversification will require connecting extractive industries (mining, oil and gas) with broader economic sectors such as manufacturing and services through the value-addition of resources like diamonds and gold.

As a major international player in the mining sector, Canada is well positioned to share with its African counterparts how it has transformed its mineral-resource wealth into a global competitive advantage.

This approach makes the Can-

ada-Africa partnership unique, considering the growing competition by emerging economies like China and India as major investors and consumers in Africa's extractive sector, while assuring the perpetuity of Canadian investments in this increasingly competitive field.

The Harper government heavily promoted bilateral trade and investment agreements through its Global Markets Action Plan, a policy meant to create jobs and business opportunities for Canadians. Canadian strategy toward Africa essentially focused on advancing Canada's corporate mining interests. According to Natural Resources Canada, Canadian mining assets in Africa in 2014 reached \$27.4 billion, with 133 companies active throughout the continent.

Philippe Le Billon, professor at the Liu Institute for Global Issues and the geography department at the University of British Columbia, identified among Canada's rational motivations to support Africa's extractive-sector governance: the promotion of Canadian extractive ventures abroad, ensuring extractive sectors a better image, and fostering host-country growth to increase trade and reduce aid.

Moreover, adopting an industrialization-driven model in the extractive sector may position Africa's resource-rich economies on the path of poverty reduction while stimulating sustainable economic growth. Considering the Liberal government's quest for leadership in global development, will it find the right equilibrium between the needs of natural-resource-based industrialization in sub-Saharan Africa and Canada's narrow commercial interest in the continent?

## Curtailing the curse

Embracing the African Mining Vision (AMV), adopted in February 2009 by African Union heads of states and widely recognized for developing mineral resources in Africa, could be the starting point. In fact, the AMV has become the initial policy framework promoting mineral-based manufacturing and the economic diversification of Africa's mineral-resources-dependent countries.

According to Pietro Toigo, chief macroeconomist at the African Natural Resource Centre, the African extractive sector could become a significant driver of industrialization, as was the case in the United States between the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

While the private sector is a key driver of growth, it did not historically yield sustainable job creation across resource-rich African countries. Going forward, Canada should contribute both financially and technically to the development of the extractive/ mining sector in alignment with the AMV's main objectives.

Considering that artisanal and small-scale mining creates substantially more jobs than largescale mining companies in Africa, Canadian policymakers should be keen to promote entrepreneurship while encouraging rural, social, and economic development.

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. The Hill Times

## **OPINION MEDICAL COVERAGE**



Health Minister Jane Philpott. Canada is one of few countries in the world with a universal health system that doesn't include prescription drug coverage as a medically necessary benefit. The Hill Times photograph by Jake Wright

# Why private health insurance coverage in Canada needs a review

Isn't it time to use the group life-insurance conversion model for group health insurance when someone in Canada is laid off?



JOHN HAVE AND ROBERT L. BROWN

The news media recently carried a story about a nine-year-old boy in New Brunswick who was denied private health coverage because of his weight (at 5 foot 2 inches and 135 pounds). His family was shocked—as were many reading the story—that a child could be denied private health coverage in Canada. In fact, it's not only possible—and entirely legal—it may be a sign of things to come.

The boy's father had been laid off work in January and, as a result, the Doiron family lost their extended health insurance provided by his employer. So they wanted to buy private coverage to "top up" what is not covered by Canada's publicly funded health system.

Canadians tend to think that we have completely publicly funded health care. While this is true for medically-necessary care, such as hospital, diagnostic, and physician services, most Canadians must fund their dental, vision, and pharmaceutical drug costs privately, along with other health-care services, such as chiropractic or physiotherapy, not deemed "essential" under the Canada Health Act.

Canadians must insure or pay out-ofpocket a whopping 30 per cent of health costs, with only around 70 per cent covered by our publicly funded health system. Private health-care costs in Canada

have grown dramatically over the last 40 years. Adjusting for population growth and inflation, private health-care costs have increased by over 220 per cent on average since 1975, or around \$1,800 per person. That's no small figure for most Canadian families.

What's driving up the cost? Some of this increase is due to overall aging of the population, but most is due to increased costs for health services as well as expanded use and availability of services. Drug costs over the years have increased dramatically, and may continue to do so with the emerging use of personalized medicine and drugs for rare conditions.

In fact, Canada is one of few countries in the world with a universal health system that doesn't include prescription drug coverage as a medically necessary benefit. Some health policy experts have been calling on the federal government to increase publicly funded health coverage by establishing a national pharmacare program. This is currently being discussed at both federal and provincial levels.

In the meantime, many Canadian rely on private insurance to help with the 30 percent of health needs not covered by our public health system.

For many, the private health-care component is provided through group insurance at their workplace. Families lose this coverage if the employee is laid off, or don't have it in the first place if they work on contract or part time.

Some insurers do offer limited coverage to those who recently lost their jobs (within the last 60 days) without having to provide medical evidence; however, maximum annual benefits are typically very limited compared to their previous plans.

For those unemployed, under-employed, or self-employed, purchasing individual private health plans for their families is the only option. But to be eligible for individual coverage, medical evidence of good health must be provided to the insurer, and anyone in the family with a pre-existing medical condition may be offered only limited coverage or even denied coverage completely.

The alternative is for Canadians to pay out-of-pocket for private health expenses or forego some health services altogether because they can't afford them.

So what about all those individuals and families across Canada who want private insurance coverage and can't get it, or can't afford it? This is a question our provincial and federal governments need to address.

The loss of health-care coverage through loss of job may actually have a simple insurance solution.

Existing group life-insurance regulations and guidelines could offer a path forward. In stark contrast to group health insurance, when someone is laid off work, group life contracts in Canada must allow the employee to convert their group life insurance to individual life insurance plans up to a maximum of \$200,000 (for those under age 65).

The key component? They do not have to provide any evidence of insurability. In other words, they are guaranteed the possibility of purchasing a reasonably priced life insurance plan without having to pass any health tests to get it.

Isn't it time to use the group life-insurance conversion model for group health insurance when someone in Canada is laid off? This would allow families access to adequate private health coverage without punishing their finances or making them go without.

This simple solution won't address all the concerns around private health costs in Canada, but it is something governments and insurers could work together to implement without too much difficulty. It would've helped the Doiron family and many others like them.

John Have is a fellow with the Canadian Institute of Actuaries, and president of Have Associates. Robert L. Brown is an expert adviser with EvidenceNetwork.ca and a fellow with the Canadian Institute of Actuaries. He was professor of actuarial science at the University of Waterloo for 39 years and a past president of the Canadian Institute of Actuaries.

The Hill Times



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# BIOTECH ADVOCATES CALL ON THE FEDS TO STRENGTHEN INDUSTRY INCENTIVES

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**NEWS INNOVATION** 

# Biotech advocates call on the feds to strengthen industry incentives

Advocates press for support from Ottawa to help the domestic biotech industry grow.

### By MARCO VIGLIOTTI

The Liberal government must maintain or strengthen current financial supports for biotechnology companies to ensure the industry can continue to prosper in Canada, advocates say.

Andrew Casey, president and CEO of BIOTECanada, an industry advocacy group, said Canada needs to continue to offer robust incentives for firms or else they could be lured to other countries offering more enticing financial supports.

"There's a huge economic opportunity for Canada," he said in an interview about the sector.

"The challenge is that all other nations in the world recognize this opportunity as well, so they're moving very quickly to support their domestic industries." Mr. Casey said Canada has a "hugely

Mr. Casey said Canada has a "hugely innovative population" that is developing "great science out of our universities, postsecondary institutions [and] hospitals."

However, that is no guarantee that the country will reap the economic benefits of its domestic talent and ideas.

Unlike mining or oil and gas extraction, which are tied to unmovable resources, biotechnology companies are mobile and

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capable of relocating to take advantage of more attractive economic climates, Mr. Casey said.

By refusing to provide enough financial support to allow these companies to scale up, he argued Canada would run the risk of losing out on reaping the economic benefits provided by the sector.

"If you're in Canada and you got a great idea...and you're not able to attract investors to Canada, then what you'll do is take that idea and move it to wherever the investors are and from there you will do your development," he said. "Eventually Canada will get that inno-

"Eventually Canada will get that innovation back here but we'll have missed out on all the economic benefits that go with developing and commercializing it in this country."

Mr. Casey said government programs play an essential role in jumpstarting smaller companies and making them attractive to investors.

This is especially crucial in the biotechnology field because the process of commercialization can be extremely lengthy, he said, citing as an example the development of new medicines, which must pass rigorous government trials before being available for distribution.

According to Mr. Casey, government programs help to stabilize companies during the tumultuous initial phase and prepare them to seek out investment in the international market.

Specifically, he signalled out the popular Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) tax incentive, calling it "hugely important" for the industry.

The long-standing federal program allows eligible companies to deduct research and development expenses from their income tax and also provides them with an investment tax credit.

Generally, a Canadian-controlled company can earn the refundable tax credit at the enhanced rate of 35 per cent on qualified research and development expenditures, up to \$3 million, according to information available on the Canada Revenue Agency website.

They can also earn a non-refundable tax credit at a 15 per cent rate for spending above the \$3 million threshold. Under a non-refundable credit, the government will not provide a refund that goes beyond the taxes owed.

The Trudeau government maintained the tax credit in their inaugural budget unveiled in March, and have sent no signals they would consider eliminating it.

"We're hoping they [maintain it] for the foreseeable future if not make it more attractive for some of the smaller companies to do more research and development here in this country,"Mr. Casey said of the SR&ED.

However, Elaine Campbell, interim president of Innovative Medicines Canada, an advocacy group for the domestic pharmaceutical industry, said other jurisdictions offer more "favourable treatment" for the type of R&D spending covered by SR&ED.

In fact, she told *The Hill Times* that certain companies working in Canada don't even apply for the SR&ED, and they receive more lucrative tax-based incentives in other countries, such as the United States and the Netherlands.

"They don't even bother with SR&ED; they don't find it helpful and they don't find it attractive on a global level,"she said.

Ms. Campbell said SR&ED hasn't evolved to reflect the increasingly dispersed research environment in the industry, which is now marked by collaborations with post-secondary institutions, and innovation and research clusters, among providers.

## **NEWS INNOVATION**

Continued from page 16

She said that the broad-based tax credit, which has been in place for 30 years, may not serve as an effective incentive for the industry, hinting at the need for more focused policy instruments.

"We don't think SR&ED is measuring things in the 21st century it needs to measure, or encourages that kind of behaviours or collaborations that our industry is more interested in making now in Canada and across the world,"she said.

Ms. Campbell called on the government to examine what can be done to ensure Canada's competitiveness in the race to attract and maintain those companies throughout the research and commercialization process.

Start-ups and technologies have been developed in Canada, but later shifted to more lucrative jurisdictions for the valueadded process, she explained.

"We'll make molecules and small startups and we'll send out into the world and then we buy back the drug in the future," Ms. Campbell said, adding that Canada needs to be more competitive in terms of tax regimes and intellectual property regimes, among other areas.

The Liberal government has embarked on an "extensive engagement process" to develop "actionable initiatives and policies" to foster an entrepreneurial and creative society; support global science excellence; build world-leading clusters of innovation; grow companies and accelerate clean growth; compete in a digital world; and make it easier for companies to do business in Canada, according to Stéfanie Power, a spokesperson for Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.

The government has identified 10 socalled innovation leaders to lead round-table discussions with more 400 key stakeholders in various cities across the country over the summer.

An interactive website has also been launched to solicit feedback from Canadians, and has received more than 80,000 hits and more than one thousand ideas so far, said Ms. Power.

In terms of funding, the Liberals have earmarked hundreds of millions to spur economic growth and encourage research and development in Canada, including \$200 million annually over the next three years on its new Innovation Agenda to expand support for incubators and accelerators, and the national network for business innovation and cluster support, Ms. Power said in an emailed statement.

The government, she said, also plans on investing an additional \$100 million annually over that span into the Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP), helmed by the National Research Council, which "has a proven track record of helping small- and medium-sized businesses to innovate and become world leaders."

Mr. Casey offered strong praise for IRAP, which provides innovation assistance to small and medium-sized Canadian companies, describing it as "really helpful" to the companies that have received support.

IRAP supports firm at all stages of the innovation process to build "their innovation capacity and successfully take their ideas to market," while also helping them identify and understand technology issues and opportunities, according to the National Research Council website.

It also provides "linkages" to the best business and research and development expertise available in Canada, the website says.

Mr. Casey said many of the smaller

members of BIOTECanada credited IRAP and SR&ED for being integral to their growth.

In fact, all of the firms that are hiring people and becoming commercially viable have "accessed those two programs," he said.

"Many will say that the SR&ED and the IRAP were the two most important factors in their success,"Mr. Casey said, adding that maintaining the programs represents a "huge priority" for BIOTECanada. Mr. Casey also commended the Liberals

for refusing to put in place a tax on stock options in the most recent budget. Offering stock options, which are tax-

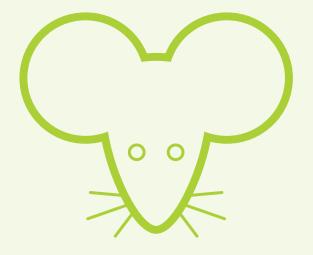
free, allow smaller firms to compete for and attract top talent, he said, crediting the government for considering feedback from BIOTECanada and other stakeholders about the negative consequences of such a policy choice.

mvigliotti@hilltimes.com The Hill Times



Elaine Campbell, left, interim president of Innovative Medicines Canada, says the longserving Scientific Research and Experimental Development tax credit offers such negligible benefits for certain pharmaceutical companies they don't even bothering reporting in Canada to ascertain it. However, Andrew Casey, president of BIOTECanada, called it 'hugely important' for the biotechnology industry. Photographs courtesy of Innovative Medicines Canada and BIOTECanada

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## **NEWS AGRICULTURE**



Conservative agriculture critic Chris Warkentin says Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay's instructions to the House Agriculture Committee were inappropriate, and call into question the minister's faith in the federal departments responsible for evaluating the safety of food. The Hill Times photograph by Jake Wright

# **MPs set to tackle GMOs this fall**

The House Ag Committee will try to squeeze in a study on GM animals despite a cross-Canada tour tied to its look at the next agricultural policy framework, says the committee chair.

By Peter Mazereeuw

Members of the House Agriculture Committee are planning to tackle the

issue of genetically modified animals in the upcoming fall sitting of Parliament, though

it's still unclear when and how they'll do it. The House will almost certainly con-front some of the issues around genetically modified foods before the year's end one way or another, with Liberals on the Ag Committee under pressure from cabinet and a private member's bill on GM label-ling set to go up for debate. How far that discussion goes will be

up to the Liberals, who control the House and the Ag Committee agenda. That committee will have to rejig its agenda for the upcoming sitting after Agriculture Minis-ter Lawrence MacAulay (Cardigan, P.E.I.) requested that it study issues around GM animal products.

Mr. MacAulay made that request in May as interest groups voiced concern over the approval of the first GM animal for consumption in Canada, a type of salmon. He gave the committee until the end of the year to produce its report.

The Ag Committee had been set to start working on a study of the next agricultural policy framework in the new sitting of Parliament, which starts Sept. 19, also on request from Mr. MacAulay and with an end-of-February deadline, said committee chair and Liberal MP Pat Finnigan (Miramichi-Grand Lake, N.B.).

The agricultural policy framework is a set of subsidies, risk management programs, and other tools to help farmers that is refreshed every five years. The current framework, titled Growing Forward 2, expires in 2018. The NDP and Conservative members of the committee had pushed to study other issues such as imports of diafil-tered milk and mislabelled broiler chickens, or grain-transport issues. Conservative agriculture critic Chris Warkentin (Grande Prairie-Mackenzie, Alta.), a committee member, also took issue with the minister's moves to dictate the work of a supposedly independent committee.

The committee will likely have to run both studies at the same time in order to meet those deadlines, said Mr. Finnigan, especially since it is planning to hit the road for a cross-Canada tour in early fall as part of the agricultural policy framework study.

However, there appears to be conflicting views among the opposition committee members as to what exactly the committee will study when it comes to GM animals, and whether that will include a look at GM labelling. 'Everything is on the table," said Mr.

Finnigan.

### GM regulation under the microscope

In a letter sent to the Ag Committee in May, Mr. MacAulay requested that it "examine the legal and regulatory framework around genetically modified animals and their increasing availability for human consumption."

The letter continued: "We must examine whether Canadian standards, regulations, and law, have evolved to keep up with developments in the field of genetically modified animals. As Parliamentarians, it is important that we take the time to find practices that reflect this new science." It also said that GM plant crops "support an innovative, safe, and sustainable agricultural sector."

Mr. MacAulay further expanded on this direction in the House of Commons in June. When asked whether he would support an NDP private member's bill that

# **PUBLICATION DATE:** October 24, 2016

**BOOKING DEADLINE:** October 19, 2016

n this important and timely policy briefing on Canada's North, The Hill Times takes a deep look at how climate change is transforming the Arctic and what it all means; we look into Irving Shipbuilding Inc.'s \$2-million funding commitment with the Nunavut Arctic College; we find out the latest on Transport Canada's initiative to buy pilotless aerial drones for the North and the federal government's

move to improve surveillance of the Arctic; we dig into Canada's plans to include the North Pole when it submits its Arctic continental shelf claim in 2018; we find out why Canada performs worst of North American governments in not living up to promises to protect their oceans; and we look into the Supreme Court's hearing of an appeal against seismic testing in Arctic waters.

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## **NEWS AGRICULTURE**



report on GM food by the end of the year. The Hill Times photograph by Jake Wright

would require mandatory labelling of GM food, Mr. MacAulay responded that he had asked the committee to "explore what steps should be taken to best inform the public about new products involving genetically modified animals."

The United States is already further into the debate on GM labelling. The state of Vermont passed a law requiring the label-ling of GM foods that came into effect in July, and the U.S. Senate passed a bill that month to require GM labelling across the

country—though some Democrats criti-cized the bill as too weak. Mr. Warkentin said he believed Mr. Ma-cAulay's request had "nothing to do" with GM labelling and everything to do with the government's approval process.

The new GM salmon was approved by both Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Mr. Warkentin said Mr. MacAulay's request calls into question whether the minister has faith in the ability of those departments to assess food safety.

The minister's office did not immediately respond when asked for a response to that allegation.

NDP agriculture critic Ruth Ellen Brosseau (Berthier-Maskinongé, Que.), a vice-chair of the committee, has a stake in exploring labelling requirements for GM foods. She supported the launch of a private member's bill calling for labelling of GM products, C-291, by NDP colleague Pierre-Luc Dusseault (Sherbrooke, Que.) towards the end of last sitting. Apart from the salmon, all GM food

products approved for sale now are plants, and so would likely fall outside of the scope of the committee's study. However, Mr. Finnigan said labelling could come up in the study, among other issues, and maintained that as chair he would try to remain neutral throughout the process.

## To label or not to label

C-291, the GM labelling bill, will likely be debated in November or December, said Mr. Dusseault.

That could put the government in the awkward position of having to participate in a debate on GM labelling without having

Continued from page 18 yet taken a position on the issue.

Mr. Dusseault spent part of his summer knocking on doors in his riding, asking constituents for their views on GM labelling, he said, adding many expressed support for his bill.

C-291 proposes that any genetically modified foods sold in Canada bear a label identifying their status as GM foods. The bill, which went through first reading in June, is similar to a string of others introduced by former NDP MP Alex Atamanenko during the last parliament, and other NDP and Bloc Québécois sponsors dating back to 1999.

"I think Canadians have a right to know what's in their food," said Ms. Brosseau, who took part in Mr. Dusseault's press conference launching C-291 near the end of the last session.

Private members' bills are rarely passed, but Mr. Dusseault is hoping that his could be an exception. He deliberately structured the bill so as to leave as many of the details as possible up to the government's discretion, including the design of the labels and when the new rules would come into effect, he said.

"At least the answer was not a clear 'no," he said of Mr. MacAulay's response in the House in June.

Ms. Brosseau said the NDP isn't against the sale of GM food, but rather is responding to a demand by members of the public to know what what they are eating. She pointed out that food products already list food ingredients, and whether artificial flavours or preservatives are used.

For the biotechnology industry, howev-er, extra labelling is something that should be mandated only for potentially dangerous products, such as tobacco or peanuts, said Andrew Casey, president and CEO of BIOTECanada.

"We're not against labelling, we're against compulsory labelling," he said, drawing his own comparison to voluntary labelling practices for organic foods.

Mandatory labelling could be expensive for food producers, who would have to track and separate GM from non-GM food at each stage of production, he said, echoing arguments made by Canadian agriculture lobbyists who opposed the Country of Origin Labelling regime in the United States—with support from all major federal parties.

as early as November. The Hill Times photograph by Jake Wright

Mr. Casey said BIOTECanada has not lobbied the government specifically on the labelling issue, though GM foods in general did come up during meetings over the summer. BIOTECanada reported communications in

the federal lobbyist registry with Health Minister Jane Philpott and Maxime Dea, director of policy in Mr. MacAulay's office, in July. peter@hilltimes.com @PJMazereeuw



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**NEWS INNOVATION** 

# Legal status of patented genes in Canada remains unclear, though recent settlement should defuse tension, say experts

The CHEO case could clear the way for Canadian hospitals to work with patented genes without permission from the patent holder, say intellectual property lawyers.

### By MARCO VIGLIOTTI

A landmark settlement reached earlier this year over diagnostic testing is being lauded as a potential solution to the ethical and legal quagmire presented by genes patented by private companies.

Work is currently underway to help develop a framework for provincial governments, on behalf of their publicly-operated hospitals, to appeal for legal use of patented genetic material without permission from the patent holder, said Nathaniel Lipkus, a Toronto-based intellectual property lawyer at Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP.

The guidelines, he said, would follow the spirit of an out-of-court agreement reached between the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario and American bio-medical firm Transgenomic Inc. regarding diagnostic testing for a potentially fatal inherited heart condition, known as Long QT syndrome.

"We had an enthusiastic response from government agencies to the settlement. They were interested in it, and interested in how it would effect what they're doing,"Mr. Lipkus said. Alongside Sana Halwani, a lawyer at Gilbert's LLP, he represented CHEO as pro bono counsel in the case.

In 2014, CHEO sued Transgenomic, which holds patents on five of the genes underpinning the condition and the diagnostic test for Long QT syndrome. The hospital argued that human genes should not be subject to patents, bringing to the Canadian courts a thorny and complex legal question that has already prompted fierce litigation in several countries.

Courts in the U.S. and Australia have banned patents on genetic information, though no such prohibition currently exists in Canada, reports the Canadian Press.

CHEO and Transgenomic eventually reached a settlement allowing all public-sector Canadian hospitals and labs to use its Long QT syndrome test on a notfor-profit basis.

As a result, hospitals and labs in Canada will no longer need to send blood samples to licensed private labs in the United States for testing, meaning patients will get their results faster and start treatment more quickly, CHEO said in a release following the settlement.

Hospitals will also save considerable money, with it being about 50 per cent cheaper to perform these tests in the Canadian public sector, according to CHEO

However, the settlement doesn't address whether patenting genes is legal in Canada. Nevertheless, Mr. Lipkus

said he hopes the case serves as precedent for how governments can handle similar predicaments, arguing the underlying core of the agreement has basis in existing patent law.

Canada's Patent Act al-

lows governments to apply for a license from the patent commis-



sioner to utilize patented products and services without consulting the holder of the license if it is for "public non-commercial use," which supporters argue would include providers in Canada's public healthcare system.

Provincial governments would apply on behalf of the hospitals they operate.

However, no one has used this legal avenue in the 27 years it has been in place, according to Mr. Lipkus.

As a result, the provinces are unfamiliar with this process, when it would be successful and what to include in a potential submission to the commissioner, he said.

"I don't think there's a capacity at the provincial level to work on these issues,"he argued.

Mr. Lipkus, though, noted that the legal team drafting the CHEO settlement purposefully designed it to "fit within that provision of the Patent Act" in hopes that it could be developed as a "pathway" to make it easier for governments in similar situations.

"It should form a practical precedent, a pathway for similar situations. That's what we've been doing, mapping out what that looks like," he said of the impact of the settlement, explaining that it's not the "kind of thing" that is completed the next day.

completed the next day. Work on the policy front is currently being undertaken by Paceomics, a group of researchers in economics, law, health technology assessment, and ethics from the University of Alberta and Mc-Gill University, said Mr. Lipkus.

Gill University, said Mr. Lipkus. Richard Gold, a legal scholar and law professor at McGill University and theme leader at Paceomics, told *The Hill Times* that the CHEO settlement effectively neutralized the issue for healthcare providers in Canada, despite failing to provide any clarity on the broader legal question.

The precedent set by the pact lessens the importance of determining an answer to the thorny ethical question, as it permits usage of the patented genes by all public healthcare operators, he said.

"It really is out of the box thinking; rather than trying to resolve the technical question of whether patent law applies to genes, it provides an alternative way to make sure they just don't have a negative impact on the provision of healthcare in Canada and research that's related to it," Mr. Gold said in an interview, describing it as a uniquely Canadian resolution based on compromise.

"Before the case, before the settlement, there was just a big question mark on the whole question of whether genes could be patented. This provides a mechanism, if the government takes hold of it, to solve it."

Bita Amani, who teaches law at Queen's University, called the settlement a "good remedial cure" for the specific issues highlighted in the CHEO case, though acknowledged that it left unanswered the bigger question regarding the patentability of genes and DNA.

If anything, she said the settlement might "wrongly reinforce" public perception about the validity of patented genetic material, arguing that some might believe if these patents were not legally permissible than a settlement wouldn't have been necessary.

"That's a problem in my view," she said in an emailed statement.

"I would have liked to have seen the test case proceed so

### that the law in Canada could be settled as it has been in some other jurisdictions."

Innovation

to oversee intellectual property management

for the federal government. *The Hill Times photograph by* 

Jake Wright

Minister Navdeep Bains helps

She worried, though, that if the courts ruled against the legality of the patents it could spawn a host of thorny legal issues, such as a challenge about whether it violates investment and trade obligations.

Mr. Gold said that the deal represented a "win-win" for CHEO and Transgenomic because it allowed the hospital to avoid paying thousands of dollars in fees to use the patented genes, while allowing Transgenomic to avoid an uncertain litigation process that could have resulted in the cancellation of their patents.

In addition, patent-holding companies probably aren't focused on the public healthcare market, but on protecting their patents from uncompensated use by private sector rivals, according to Mr. Gold.

In the wake of the deal, he said there has been "greater levels of engagement" from policymakers with the issue of gene patents, though it understandably remains unresolved, with the case only concluding roughly six months earlier—a short span in terms of policy reform. mvigliotti@hilltimes.com

The Hill Times

### **INDUSTRY STATISTICS**

### **BIOTECHNOLOGY BY THE NUMBERS**

## \$4.2 billion in revenue

In 2005, when the most recent available data were produced, Statistics Canada estimated Canada's biotech sector generated this much in revenue.

## 13,000 employed

Statistics Canada in 2005 estimated this many people were employed by the industry, 8,391 of whom were employed in private- and public-sector biotech research and development.

### \$40 billion in economic activity

The Centre for the Study of Living Standards estimated that Canada's biotechnology sector generates this much in economy activity.

### 208 firms

A 2009 Statistics Canada report said the country's bioproducts industry, which produces products such as biofuels, biopolymers, and chemicals, consists of this many firms employing 3,020 people. It generated an estimated \$1.3 billion in revenues.

Sources: BioteCANADA, Statistics Canada

**OPINION INNOVATION** 

# Advancements in biotechnology and life sciences sector provide robust benefits for Canada

Navdeep Bains, minister of innovation, science and economic development, says Liberals seek to establish 'optimal conditions' to foster innovation, support investment, trade, and economic growth.



NAVDEEP BAINS

A s minister of innovation, science and economic development, my top priority is the development and implementation of an inclusive innovation agenda that positions Canada as a global centre for innovation. In so doing the agenda will create well-paying jobs for the middle class, drive growth across industries and improve the quality of life of all Canadians.

Since I launched the development of this agenda in June, we've embarked on an extensive engagement process to hear from businesses of all sizes, academia, different levels of government, indigenous peoples, social and environmental groups, the non-profit sector, and individual Canadians. These conversations are at the heart of a collaborative approach to building the frameworks for Canada's future prosperity.

Our aim in this process is to put into place the optimal conditions to foster innovation, support investment, trade, and grow the economy.

Our world-class biotechnology and life sciences sectors will be key players in this effort. Their role in Canada's economy and society cannot be overstated: not only does progress in health research lead to a better quality of life for Canadians and contribute to job creation and economic growth, it also maintains Canada's position as a world leader in the field.

As the member of Parliament for Mississauga–Malton, I have witnessed firsthand the contribution of the life science industries in my community. Over 25,000 local residents are employed at over 400 life sciences and biotech companies.

Nationally, it is clear that we have unique strengths in health research: Canada accounts for between four and six percent of global clinical trials and our pipeline of drug candidates under development ranks third in the world, behind only the U.S. and UK.

Furthermore, we have a strong footprint of pharmaceutical research and development as well as manufacturing facilities, a track record of attracting international investment into Canadian biotech firms and research institutions, not to mention a healthcare system that has both strong national and regional components.

Frankly, the numbers speak for themselves. Since 2010, over \$1-billion worth of investments has been announced in Canadian life science manufacturing sites, creating more than 2,100 jobs.

In June, I had the privilege of leading Canada's delegation to the 2016 BIO International Convention in San Francisco. My conversations with top global leaders in the life sciences sector brought home to me the importance of our government's focus on innovation as a driver of prosperity and growth. The economies that succeed in today's globally competitive environment will be those that understand and implement an innovation strategy for sustainable prosperity.

Our inclusive innovation agenda will be the foundation of our future competitiveness and prosperity. It will be our vehicle to strengthen industrial capabilities, grow new globally-competitive companies and generate quality jobs for all Canadians.

generate quality jobs for all Canadians. By way of down payment in support of this goal, budget 2016 provided support to health research, genomics, regenerative medicine, brain research and drug development. We also committed \$800 million in support of innovation networks and clusters. More generally, the budget also makes a huge investment to upgrade and enhance the places where science happens in this country. This funding, over \$2-billion, will be shared by universities and colleges across Canada. We are now in the process announcing recipients.

Looking to the future, Canada is well positioned for new investments in stem cell research and regenerative medicine, oncology, neurology, clinical trials, health innovation and other areas. The potential upside of success in these areas is enormous. World-leading clusters that draw on the expertise of industry, entrepreneurs, investors, research centres and hospitals, academia and health systems can help drive innovation in these areas.

Through our engagement on the inclusive innovation agenda, we have heard loud and clear that for life-science companies, partnerships are essential for success given the complexities of research, the long product-development cycles and the lengthy regulatory process to getting products approved for the market. It is clear that the public and private sectors need to come together for success.

This partnership approach extends to how we facilitate the development and growth of Canadian companies, in life sciences and other sectors. This includes consideration of what the Government can do to stimulate further venture capital funding, particularly in the financing of late-stage commercialization, and how we might harness the purchasing power of government to help get our made-in-Canada health technologies to market.

As the minister of innovation, science and economic development, I am extremely proud of how vigorous the life sciences and biotech sectors are all across Canada. The development of our inclusive innovation agenda will leverage our current strengths in these sectors and others to help build, in partnership with all Canadians, an even more innovative, healthy and prosperous society.

Navdeep Bains,

minister of innovation,

science and economic development, says

advancements in the

to a 'better quality of

life' for Canadians and contribute to job creation

and economic growth.

biotechnology and life sciences sector lead

Navdeep Bains is federal minister of innovation, science, and economic development

The Hill Times



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**OPINION INNOVATION** 

# Investing in science drives innovation

We need to accelerate to ensure Canada maintains a leadership position in biotechnology and life sciences.



Science policy in Canada Should create an environment that encourages Canadians to lead in research, to drive innovation, and should result in economic growth and jobs through effective commercialization.

As the critic for science for the official opposition, the approach taken this parliamentary session was a fresh perspective; to collaborate with the minister of science to develop a science strategy that could be supported on both sides of the House of Commons, and then to hold the government to account.

At the National Science Policy Conference in November 2015, scientists and leading researchers and organizations gave their input. As a result, I proposed a plan to maintain and, where needed, restore Canada's leadership position in fundamental research in targeted areas (including biotechnology), to maintain the effective applied research granting council funding that leverages industry and academic institution collaborations, and to increase focus on innovation and accelerate commercialization. This direction was agreed on by the minister of science, and was reflected in the budget.

Examples of the drive to innovation include:

Dr. Maryam Sadeghi, who created MoleScope, a smartphone app that can detect skin cancer and a breakthrough technology that will revolutionize how healthcare is delivered in remote communities while establishing new benchmarks for cancer prescreening.

Gary Kobinger (now the Director of the Centre for Research in Infectious Diseases at Laval University) whose team of experts at the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg discovered a vaccine to treat Ebola after the deadly 2015 outbreak in Africa. These incredible researchers have accomplished work that will ultimately save millions of lives.

Bio-Amber, a corn-to-biosuccinic acid facility that has built a commercial facility in Canada and is set to build a second one. Support for life sciences re-search is a priority, with emphasis in areas of vaccine development, brain research and disease elimination. The biotechnology sector is receiving huge emphasis under the "Cleantech" banner. Increased federal support for **Bioindustrial Innovation Canada** was announced in July of this year, with additional funding for post-secondary institutions across Canada in this area. An emphasis on genomics and agri-food reflects the desire of Canadians to help feed the world. As this area is rapidly expanding, there will be increasing pressure on the federal government to ensure that genetically modified food sources are safe, and to continue to lead research in this area.

However, there remains more to do. The amount of research being done in Canada by many multi-national companies has fallen, and so there is a need to increase the incentives for companies to conduct their research (fundamental and applied) here in Canada. Increasing the SR&ED tax credit or broadening the definition of qualifying work would be beneficial.

In addition, the increasing difficulty of protecting intellectual property on the global stage makes it even more important to be able to quickly commercialize innovations.



Improving the access to venture capital is critical in this area, and Canada should leverage the common funding model from Israel to enhance our start-up capability. Government does have a role to play in ensuring venture capital is available at a risk level above what the private sector will support, in order to increase economic growth from our Canadian innovations.

Within the pharmaceutical industry, in addition to the challenges already discussed, companies also need the governmental approval process to be agile. The current approval process in Canada has a better record in terms of the protection of the public, but is not quite as streamlined as in other areas of Pictured, Science Minister Kirsty Duncan and Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains. Conservative science critic Marilyn Gladu says even more needs to be done to support scientific research in Canada. *The Hill Times photograph by Jake Wright* 

the world. To be competitive and continue to have companies doing research here and commercializing within Canada, we need to be able to do both. And so, these are exciting times for the biotechnology and life sciences portfolios in Canada. Policy is headed in the right direction and we need to accelerate to ensure Canada maintains a leadership position in this growing opportunity.

Marilyn Gladu, a professional chemical engineer for 32 years prior to entering politics, is the first-ever female engineer elected to Parliament, and serves in the science critic role for the official opposition. You can reach her with your thoughts and ideas at Marilyn.gladu@parl.gc.ca The Hill Times

## **OPINION R&D**

# **Investing in Innovation: Getting to three per cent of GDP**

Boosting Canada's research investments will require unprecedented collaboration across different levels of government and from all sectors of the economy.



**KENNEDY STEWART** 

In a global knowledge economy, Canada's competitiveness depends more than ever on increasing our capacity for research and innovation. Despite having some of the best universities, most talented researchers, and innovative companies, many Canadians would be surprised to learn just how far behind we are internationally when it comes to our support for research.

A key measure used by economists in comparing investments across countries is gross domestic expenditures on research and development—known as "GERD" as a percentage of GDP. GERD measures total public and private investments in research and, when divided by GDP, gives us an estimate of the strength of a country's knowledge economy.

Report after report has found that Canada continues to lag on this important measure. The latest data from Canada's Science, Technology and Innovation Council confirmed that our global competitiveness continues to fall: "Canada's GERD intensity declined from 1.96 per cent in 2006 to 1.62 percent in 2013, and its global ranking fell from 16th to

24th out of 41 countries." Since then, we've dropped even further to 1.61 per cent, and are now woefully behind the OECD average of 2.38 per cent and leading countries like Korea (4.29 per cent), Israel (4.11 per cent), and Japan (3.59 per cent).

After nine years of Conservative government, this is hardly to be expected. As part of their War on Science, the Conservatives slashed over \$1 billion in real terms from the federal science and technology budget over the course of their majority mandate, according to figures from Statistics Canada.

Although Budget 2016 was a step in the right direction, and included important investments for the granting councils, post-secondary institutions, and life sciences research, we have a long way to go to rebuild Canada's reputation as a knowledge leader. And of the promises the Liberals made in the budget, however, many of the details remain to be seen.

The government spent the summer consulting on their new and flashy "Innovation Agenda." When they launched this process, the office of Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains stated that: "Clear outcomes and targets will be used to measure progress toward the vision of positioning Canada as a global leader in promoting research, accelerating business growth, and propelling entrepreneurs from the commercialization and start-up stages to international success."

While this rhetoric is welcome, let's hope the Liberals match their words with real action.

Other countries have set firm targets to drive investments in research and development. Shortly after being elected, President Barack Obama set an ambitious goal for the U.S. to increase its research spending to three per cent of GDP. The European Union has since followed suit and is now aiming to hit three per cent by the year 2020.

In fact, the idea for a national R&D target in Canada is hardly new. Following the 2001 Speech from the Throne, Jean Chrétien announced his government would aim to "ensure that our research and development effort per capita is amongst the top five countries in the world."

At the NDP's 2013 policy convention, party members made science and technology a focus, and debated a resolution calling for Canada to match the percentage of GDP invested in R&D by global leading countries. It went on to be passed unanimously.

Make no mistake: Getting to three per cent won't be easy.

Boosting Canada's research investments will require unprecedented collaboration across different levels of government and from all sectors of the economy higher education, private, and not-for-profit. And we'll have to rethink and retool existing government programs and incentives for innovation.

Most importantly, new legislation will be needed to drive action, track our progress, and ensure accountability. When Parliament returns this month, and the government puts forward their agenda for the fall session, we'll see just how serious the Liberals are about building Canada's knowledge economy.

Kennedy Stewart, PhD, is the Member of Parliament for Burnaby South, B.C., the NDP science critic, and an associate professor on-leave from Simon Fraser University. The Hill Times



# THE HILL TIMES DIPLOMATIC NEWCOMER

**PUBLICATION DATE:** September 14, 2016

**BOOKING DEADLINE:** September 9, 2016 Every year, hundreds of foreign diplomats and their family members arrive in Canada to spend the next few years on posting. They join the close to 8,000 diplomats and accompanying family members stationed in Canada, chiefly in the national capital region.

Inside this important and timely special section of The Hill Times, we'll give new diplomats to Ottawa practical tips on how to do their jobs effectively, including sources of information and influence. We'll provide helpful resources to make it easier for them to make the most of life in Canada for themselves and their families, and to understand Canada's Parliament and government as well as media, lobbying, and business worlds. This is a must-read for new envoys to Canada to understand and reach out to political, business, and media movers and shakers in Ottawa.

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24

# Trudeau walks in his father's footsteps in China

A look back at Pierre Trudeau's opening of diplomatic ties with the Asian giant.



On Aug. 30, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau arrived in Beijing, China. In a speech, Trudeau said that China should strengthen trade with Canada. Yes, stimulating and developing Canada's economy by strengthening trade with China, a country with nearly a quarter of the world's population and the world's biggest market, is one of the most important purposes of this visit to China.

"In my very first trip to China, I was just a young boy and I was travelling with my father when he was prime minister. And that's why it is so important to me that on this first trip to China as prime minister I bring my daughter Ella-Grace," Trudeau told the crowd.

This speech evokes memory of Trudeau's father who proactively established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China for Canada: former prime minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

It has been almost 46 years since Pierre Trudeau set up official diplomatic relations with China. That was a difficult and daring move indeed, with fierce political opposition from various groups and countries, especially the United States.

Meanwhile in China, when Canada and China's representatives negotiated the details for establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries, it was at the height of China's Cultural Revolution and the Red Guard street battles. There was strong opposition to the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Western countries during that period.

This could make you wonder why Pierre Trudeau took the groundbreaking step to initiate diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China and how he succeeded.

### Backpacking discovery

After finishing studies toward his Ph.D in London, 29-yearold Pierre Trudeau backpacked through Eastern Europe and the Middle and Far East including China—turbulent places in the post-war world.

When the People's Republic of China was about to be founded, he arrived in Shanghai, China. During that period of civil war, People's Liberation Army troops were about to cross the Changjiang (Yangtze) River to attack the National Party's troops and liberate the southern part of China. So he had to stop his visit there, but he was determined to return.

Canada and China completed their first wheat trade in 1961. The year prior, Pierre Trudeau had managed to enter China again and continue with his tour.

In 1965, Pierre Trudeau jumped into politics, and two years later he was justice minister.

In the late 1960s, Western allies were striving to get rid of the United States' control, providing a good external environment for the Canadian government to adjust its policies towards Asia and recognize the People's Republic of China. At that time, Canada had already become the ninth largest trading partner of China, and China was the biggest buyer of Canadian wheat.

Trudeau grasped the opportunity to present a sharp critique towards former Liberal prime minister Lester Pearson's out-ofdate policy towards China on behalf of the Liberal Party's Young Turks. They emphasized how important it was for the Canadian government to recognize China. Pierre Trudeau was soon elected Liberal leader and prime minister of Canada.

### Right conditions for an opening

All these phenomena together with internal and external conditions allowed Trudeau to open the door to recognize China. So he instructed the Canadian Embassy in Sweden to find a way to contact the Chinese Embassy there and pass a message to the Chinese government that Canada was ready to start negotiating toward establishing diplomatic ties. When Chairman Mao and Premier Zhou Enlai received this message in China, they decided to send some representatives to start negotiating.

On October 13, 1970, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mitchell Sharp in a statement in the House of Commons announced the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and the People's Republic of China.

Canada was one of the first Western countries to officially recognize China during its Cultural Revolution. The beneficial relationship between Canada and China continued to develop throughout the 1970s, with Canada voting for the People's Republic of China to take a seat at the United Nations in 1971 and an official visit by Trudeau in 1973.

During that visit, Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai told Trudeau that U.S. President Richard Nixon stayed in the same building when he visited Beijing the year before.

Trudeau replied: "I was one step ahead of Nixon to recognize the People's Republic of China, but Nixon was one step ahead of me to visit Beijing."



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau smiles alongside Chinese Ambassador Luo Zhaohui as he's presented with a photo of his dad, prime minister Pierre Trudeau, meeting with Chinese leader Mao Zedong, at a ceremony marking 45 years of China-Canada diplomatic relations on Jan. 27. *The Hill Times photograph by Sam Garcia* 

### Zhou Enlai responded to Trudeau with a smile: "We shall not say that Nixon visited China earlier than you because this is already the third time for you to visit China, Mr. Prime Minister."

## History proved Trudeau right

Pierre Trudeau did not just follow existing opinions towards China. Instead, he drew an objective and realistic conclusion about the country based on what he saw and experienced there. After he realized how beneficial it would be for Canada to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, he bravely eliminated all obstructions and followed through with forethought and courage.

History has proven that he was right. Diplomatic ties have benefited both countries' peoples tremendously. For example, they ensured sales of Canadian wheat to the China were strong, educational and culture exchanges were enhanced, and the two countries agreed on a reunification-of-families program that allowed Chinese residents to immigrate to Canada, reuniting relatives who had been separated because of the Cold War.

Over the last decade, the Canada-China commercial relationship has grown substantially; China is now Canada's secondlargest trading partner, while Canada is China's 13th-largest trading partner. The rapid growth in bilateral merchandise trade was even sustained throughout the recent global economic crisis.

Pierre Trudeau's unique diplomatic style and strategic thinking



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang walks with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as Mr. Trudeau holds his daughter, Ella-Grace, while in Beijing, China on Aug. 31. *PMO photograph by Adam Scotti* 

not only influenced his generation but also the next. This is reflected through his son, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who said "Any economic strategy that ignores China or that treats that valuable relationship as anything less that critically important is not just short-sighted, it's irresponsible.

"We know that a stronger and deeper relationship with China is essential if we are to achieve our own objectives...The friendship and the openness towards China that my father taught me, I am certainly hoping to pass on not only to my children, but to generations of Canadians in the future."

A graduate of and former teaching assistant with McMaster University, Michael Mingyu Tao has an interest in history, economics, and politics and is familiar with Chinese culture and history.

The Hill Times

## **DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

# **DM Peter Boehm earns colleagues' respect** as mentor, mental health advocate

Leading the government's foreign aid portfolio, the new DM has worked his way up his department over 30 years in the public service.

### Continued from page 1

union Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers, and a friend and colleague to Mr. Boehm.

He has a large presence. A tall man, he stands out in any crowd, but he also has the sometimes-intimidating aura of someone whose approval needs to be earned."Professional, curious, well-read, well-travelled, and deliberative in his judgments," is how Mr. Robertson described him in an email.

He has a dry sense of humour, and is quite soft-spoken, though he doesn't hold back while answering questions.

Mr. Hodges, who worked directly under Mr. Boehm at Canada's embassy in Washington, D.C., and regards him as a mentor, said as much. Mr. Boehm was minister in charge of political and public affairs there from 2001 to 2004.

"He's a tough brief, in the sense that he will read what you send him, and he will digest it, and you had better be up to speed when you get back to have a discussion about what you've written,"he said. A demanding boss, but in a good way, said Mr. Hodges, because he doesn't simply ask for the best, but demon-

strates it. Above all else, he is a leader, he said. "He's been my mentor, whether he knew it or not, for many years. I think he's been a mentor for many other people...He not only cares about people, but he cares about people moving up through the system. That is usually voluntary; it's not required for the job. It usually is after-hours, or find time at lunch time to have a sandwich with someone and talk about a problem,"he said, speaking of the extra effort that Mr. Boehm has given the department over the years.

The DM has been with the department since he first joined as a foreign service officer more than 30 years ago. He is the only deputy minister in the department to bring first-hand experience within the foreign service-18 years worth, in fact-to the position.

Born in Kitchener, Ont., he grew up speaking German and English, and received a bachelor of arts in English and history from Wilfrid Laurier University in the region in 1977, according to biographies of him by his alma mater and his department.

His time at Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, where he earned his master of arts in 1978, first sparked his interest in the foreign service. He applied then, but never heard back. So instead, he went to the University of Edinburgh on a scholarship, where he completed his PhD in history. At the time, teaching seemed to be the natural course of action for him, however, he wasn't having much luck with his applications. He decided to try the foreign service again. This time, he heard back.

Next thing he knew, he was on his first posting in Havana, Cuba. He hopped after that to places including Germany as ambassador from 2008 to 2012, and San José, Costa Rica. He's also been ambassador and permanent representative to the Organization of American States from 1997 to 2001. and from 2005 to 2008, he was the senior official responsible for the North American



Mr. Boehm in front of a Neil Young poster hanging in his office at Global Affairs last week. The Hill Times photograph by Chelsea Nash

leaders' summits. Along the way, he's earned the Public Service of Canada Outstanding Achievement Award and the Canadian Foreign Service Officer Award for his help toward achieving peace in Central America.

"It's fair to say he's a very results-oriented person, and he wants to deliver. He's focused always on: what's this going to deliver? How are we going to execute this? I think that's a very good combination, to be open at the front end and focused at the back end," said Ms. Stein.

Aid program review wrapping up Interestingly enough, "open at the front end and focused at the back end" seems to mirror the format of the international development review the department is in the process of wrapping up. Public submis-sions on the future of Canada's foreign aid program stopped being accepted at the end of July, and Mr. Boehm said they are in a period of "internal assessment, and trying to see what are the policy thrusts we are going to suggest to the minister.'

It was the first review of its kind the department has done, he said. Both in terms of the technology used to conduct the review-the department had a portal on its website to accept input—as well as the format of the review itself: the department accepted thousands of submissions from "really anyone in the world."

Mr. Boehm said "a number of trends are already emerging," including a focus on women and girls, and their rights and empowerment. Education and climate change are also important themes, he said.

"It's a very exciting moment because there's never been a consultation that has been undertaken in this way in our history," he said, "in terms of really trying to get the most input from as many actors as we can, and trying to come out with a policy that is very 21st century, that is very forwardleaning, and can serve as an example for other countries."

He said in his capacity as G7 sherpa representative of the prime minister to the G7 summit—he has also been consulting with his counterparts from other countries for the development review, and talking to them about their challenges and successes.



Former colleague and union boss Tim Hodges, pictured, says Mr. Boehm is a demanding boss, but in a good way, because he doesn't simply ask for the best, but demonstrates it. The Hill Times photograph by Sam Garcia

"There is an exponential need for humanitarian assistance. The needs are high, but we also have traditional development. There's a squeeze there in terms of how we use the budget, the dollars, to greatest effect. That also suggests looking at new and creative ways of programming and ad-dressing these challenges," he said.

### Mental health advocate

Mr. Boehm also has a reputation for advocating for mental health initiatives, and has made great strides within the de partment to provide a support structure for foreign service officers.

Ms. Stein said mental health "was an important issue for him long before it became an important issue for many people...He does it in a very quiet, but very persistent, way-which again, reflects who he is."

Mr. Boehm attributes his determination to advance mental health initiatives and to reduce stigma to his own experience. One of Mr.

Boehm's sons, who was born abroad, is autistic. "Just travelling with him, and making sure he gets the supports he needs was

probably the greatest challenge of my life," he said. "I've been pushing it and I've blogged about it internally in terms of my own experience. And if I can talk about it, and write about it, then why can't others?'

He is the father of three other children as well, ranging in age from 12 to 33. They are all over the globe, from Vancouver to Budapest, doing "different things." None want to follow directly in his footsteps, he said, though they all seem to have caught his interest in international affairs.

"My 12-year-old. I have a plan for he said with a coy smile. "Prime minister."

The 62-year-old was reluctant to admit his age, saying he doesn't think like he's 62. That's what his 12-year-old daughter tells him, anyways. And, having only been in his current position since November 2015. Mr. Boehm said retirement is not on

his horizon anytime soon. "Oh I'm not gone yet,"he said. "I'd like to stay involved in international issues. I

think I have contributions to make." cnash@hilltimes.com @chels\_nash

## FEATURE BUZZ

# HEARD ON HILL

# Jeneroux gets hitched

The researchers themselves were not immune to using the database to look up naughty language of parliaments past. One of the lead researchers, Chris Cochrane, an associate professor of political science, said he searched "fuddle duddle," the term former prime minister Pierre Trudeau used when pressed by reporters about opposition MPs' allegations he mouthed the words "fuck off" to them in the House of Commons in 1971.

Aside from the fun, though, the database can be used for serious-and fascinating-political research, explained Ms. Whyte, like analysis of whether Question Period is getting more or less vitriolic, or whether a particular MP normally stays on-topic in debate, or to measure the level of positive or negative emotion in debate.

The researchers' next steps are to digitize the French parliamentary records as well as Senate debates and House records from prior to 1901. Problems with character recognition and the clarity of the early records and the French text led them to start with the English House debates from 1901 onwards.

## Tory MP gets married



Photograph courtesy of Twitter

Edmonton Riverbend MP Matt Jeneroux is now married to Elizabeth Clement. Friend and fellow Conservative MP Michael Cooper, the MP for St. Albert-Edmonton, tweeted his congratulations and a photo of the two getting hitched on Sept. 4.

Mr. Jeneroux was first elected last October. He serves as his party's Western Economic Diversification critic. Ms. Clement has been studying to be a

# doctor.

## Media on the move



Longtime Hill reporter David Akin is now a senior political reporter with The National Post. The Hill Times photograph by Jake Wright

The Hill has been busy lately with job shuffles. While long-time CBC anchor Peter Mansbridge's departure from The National after July 1 of next year was the most high profile of the recent moves, it tops a sizeable list. Mr. Mansbridge

announced his retirement from the CBC's flagship nightly newscast next summer after 28 years as chief correspondent and five decades in the news business.

Also on Tuesday, CTV announced veteran news anchor Kevin Newman would taken the helm of the network's investigative show W5 starting Oct. 1. He succeeds Lloyd Robertson, who took over as host in 2011 after leaving his national news anchor job. Mr. Newman has been a correspondent with the show for four years, and had a previous hosting gig with Global National.

On the Hill, David Akin is back with The National Post as a senior political reporter. He tweeted a statement from the Post's executive producer of news, Jordan Timm, on Sept. 1 noting that he "was a member of the Post's Day One staff, and has been reporting on federal and provincial politics for more than a decade.'

Mr. Akin was most recently the Ottawa bureau chief for Sun Media, which is now owned by the Post's parent company, Postmedia.

Mr. Akin has been around the reporting block, writing for everyone from CTV to Canwest/Global News and the Orillia Packet.

Over at the Ottawa Citizen newsroom, they've welcomed two new reporters, including Susana Mas, formerly a senior online writer with the CBC.

Her last day at the CBC was Aug. 19 and she joined the Citizen on Aug. 29, according to her Twitter account.

Ms. Mas had been at the CBC for nearly six years, she tweeted Aug. 15.

Many Hill and CBC colleagues gave her shoutouts before she left, including Kathleen Petty, John Paul Tasker, David Cochrane, and others.

Joining Ms. Mas and the rest of the Citizen crew is reporter Joe Lofaro, who previously worked for Metro Ottawa. He was there for almost three years.

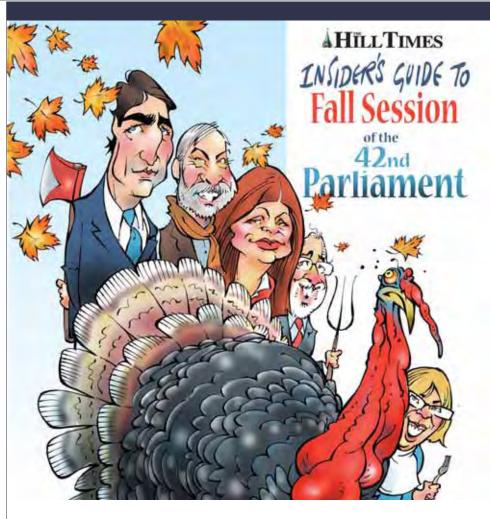
Also leaving the Metro Ottawa ship is Lucy Scholey, a senior reporter who is off to be the paper's managing editor in Winnipeg.

The free local daily's managing editor is Steve Rennie, a former Hill reporter for the Canadian Press. kshane@hilltimes.com

@kristenshane1



Susana Mas. Photograph courtesy of Twitter



# Insider's Guide to the fall session of the 42<sup>nd</sup> PARLIAMENT

# **Publication Date: Advertising Deadline:** Sept. 19, 2016

Sept. 14, 2016

When the House returns on Sept. 19 The Hill Times will be ready with our Insider's Guide to the fall session of the 42nd Parliament. Building on the success of our popular 2015 Rookie's Guide, this standalone wrap will offer a comprehensive look at the activist legislative agenda, the top political players, and insider views on the House, the Senate, and cabinet.

With an in-depth look at the top issues facing the new session, the Insider's Guide will be a keepsake feature for those with an interest in the 42nd Parliament.

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By Kristen Shane

## **POLITICAL STAFFERS**



HILL CLIMBERS By Laura Ryckewaert

# Science Minister Duncan's chief of staff joins Veterans Minister Hehr's office

Rob Rosenfeld is now director of communications and issues management to Kent Hehr.

Science Minister Kirsty Duncan has bid farewell to her chief of staff, Rob Rosenfeld, who left the minister's office the week before last to join Veterans Affairs and Associate Defence Minister Kent Hehr's political staff team as the new director of communications and issues management.

Mr. Rosenfeld made the switch to Mr. Hehr's ministerial office at the end of August, replacing former retired lieutenant-colonel **Norbert Cyr** in the role, who once served as a public affairs adviser to former chief of the defence staff **Walter Natynczyk**. Mr. Rosenfeld had been hired as chief of staff to the science minister at the beginning of the year, and before that was director of public affairs to the U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities.

Mr. Rosenfeld is also a former consultant for StrategyCorp Inc. and is a former aide to then-Liberal MPs **Keith Martin** and **Irwin Cotler** on the Hill.

Christine Tabbert is chief of staff to Mr. Hehr, who is also the Liberal MP for Calgary Centre, Alta. Other political staffers working for the minister include: Jeff Valois, director of parliamentary affairs; Paul Mc-Carthy, director of policy; Sarah McMaster, press secretary; Alexander Slusar, policy analyst; Sarah Nasser, junior policy officer; Daniel Bourque, special assistant; Annabelle St-Pierre Archambault, special assistant; and Katherine Heus, legislative assistant.

There's also **Ben Charland**, executive assistant to the minister; **Emilie Simard**, executive assistant to the chief of staff; **Alisha Adat-Nurani**, assistant to the chief of staff; and **Peter Cullen**, assistant to the minister's parliamentary secretary, Liberal MP **Karen McCrimmon**.

With this change, Ms. Duncan's director of parliamentary affairs and issues management, **Chris Ethier**, is now also acting as chief of staff to the minister until a permanent replacement is found. Before the Liberals formed government in the fall of 2015 and Ms. Duncan was sworn in as a minister, Mr. Ethier was her assistant as the Liberal MP for Etobicoke North, Ont.

Also currently working in Ms. Duncan's office are: John Burnett, director of policy; Michael Bhardwaj, director of communications; Véronique Perron, press secretary; Stephanie Muccilli, policy adviser; Diana Mendes, special assistant for parliamentary affairs; and Donna Popovic, assistant to the minister's parliamentary secretary, Liberal MP Terry Beech.

## Chagger down a press secretary but up two new staff

Small Business and Tourism Minister **Bardish Chagger**, who last month also took on the role of government House leader, marking the first time a woman has held the job, recently lost her press secretary, but last week welcomed two new staffers to her ministerial team.

Former MAtv host Vahid Vidah is no longer press secretary and senior policy adviser to Ms. Chagger as the minister for small business and tourism and returned to Montreal, Que. last month, after joining the minister's office in April.

A new press secretary has yet to be named, but it's expected one will soon be promoted to the job from within existing staff, which grew by two as of Aug. 29.

Marie-Emmanuelle Cadieux has moved to Ottawa from Quebec to serve as an adviser for Quebec and the Atlantic region in Ms. Chagger's office as small business and tourism minister, starting last week.

Before joining Ms. Chagger's team, Ms. Cadieux was press secretary to Quebec's Liberal tourism minister, **Julie Boulet**, who is also the minister responsible for the province's Mauricie region. Her LinkedIn profile indicates she's worked with the Quebec Liberals for a number of years, first as a communications co-ordinator for the provincial



Science Minister Kirsty Duncan, left, has bid farewell to her chief of staff, Rob Rosenfeld, right. The Hill Times photographs by Sam Garcia and Jake Wright

Liberal party in 2011, a role she later returned to in 2014.

During the 2013 Montreal mayoral race, in which now-Heritage minister **Mélanie Joly** ran as a candidate, Ms. Cadieux was a communications and organization co-ordinator for mayoral candidate **Marcel Côté**'s campaign, Coalition Montréal.

Former Liberal MP **Denis Coderre** was ultimately elected mayor, and a number of former campaign staffers involved in the race have since moved to Ottawa to work on the Hill for the new federal Liberal government, including Ms. Cadieux.

She's also previously briefly worked as a project manager for public relations firm Octane Stratégies, and spent four months as a public relations consultant with LaSalle International Academy Istanbul in Turkey in 2013, according to her online profile. Ms. Cadieux has a bachelor's degree in politics from the Université de Montréal and a graduate diploma in public relations and communications management from McGill University.

Leah Hanvey also joined Ms. Chagger's small business and tourism staff team last week, as an adviser for the Northern and Western region.

She was previously legislative assistant to Liberal MP **Pam Goldsmith-Jones**, who represents West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country, B.C. and is also parliamentary secretary to Foreign Affairs Minister **Stéphane Dion**. During the 2015 election, Ms. Hanvey helped with media and communications efforts for the federal Liberals in B.C.

Last year, she completed a bachelor of commerce in international business at the University of Victoria, having already studied international relations and affairs at the University of British Columbia for roughly two years, according to her LinkedIn profile. During her undergrad, she interned at both Deloitte Canada in Vancouver, B.C. and at the Vancouver Economic Commission, and is a former co-op student with Tides Canada, among other past experience.

**Rachel Bendayan** is chief of staff to Ms. Chagger as small business and tourism minister. Also working in the now fully-staffed office are: **Daniel Arsenault**, director of parliamentary affairs; **John Matheson**, director of policy; **James Fitz-Morris**, director of communications; **Yanique Williams**, policy adviser; and **Farees Nathoo**, special assistant.

Now also the government House leader, Ms. Chagger inherited Fisheries and Oceans Minister **Dominic LeBlanc**'s staff team, led by chief of staff **Vincent MacNeil**, and so far at least there's no indication of any staff changes following this shuffle.

## Another new assistant joins Freeland's office

International Trade Minister **Chrystia Freeland**—who was in China last week alongside the PM, Finance Minister **Bill Morneau**, and Foreign Affairs Minister **Stéphane Dion**—has another new assistant in her ministerial office, following the recent addition of **André Capaldi**, special assistant for Ontario regional affairs.

Megan Buttle is now serving as a special assistant to the minister's parliamentary secretary, David Lametti, who represents the Montréal-area riding of LaSalle-Émard-Verdun, Que.

She joined the minister's exempt staff team on Aug. 22, and was previously working on the Hill as an executive assistant to Liberal MP **Kyle Peterson**, the MP for Newmarket-Aurora. Mr. Peterson was elected as an MP for the first time in October 2015 with roughly 45 per cent support, beating out Conservative incumbent **Lois Brown** who he had previously unsuccessfully run against as the riding's Liberal candidate in the 2011 election.

Now an MP, Mr. Peterson is a member of the House of Commons International Trade Committee, as well as a member of its steering committee, meaning Ms. Buttle already has some knowledge of the trade file under her belt.

Before being hired by Mr. Peterson last February, she was a consultant with National Public Relations in Ottawa, as indicated by her LinkedIn account, and is also a former research associate with Environics Research Group.

In other Hill experience, for just over half a year starting in September 2013, Ms. Buttle was an assistant to Ontario Liberal Senator **Art Eggleton**. Liberals in the Senate are no longer part of the Liberal party caucus, and haven't been since the beginning of 2014. They now refer to themselves as independent Liberals.

Ms. Buttle has briefly been a crisis management intern with Gowlings in Ottawa, which is a Canadian and international law firm, according to her online profile, and is a former youth justice assistant with the John Howard Society of Hamilton, Burlington, and area. The John Howard Society is "committed to providing effective services that assist in reducing crime and its causes," as described on its website.

She studied a bachelor's degree in political science with a specialization in law and politics at the University of Windsor and is a graduate of Carleton University's political management master's program.

**Brian Clow** is chief of staff to Ms. Freeland.

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# **PUBLICATION DATE:** October 19, 2016

# **BOOKING DEADLINE:** October 14, 2016

Tn this timely and important Lbriefing, we'll check in on how a working group Finance Minister Bill Morneau established to study the hot housing market is doing, and what policy changes might be in store.

We'll take a look at how the federal and provincial governments are working

together to put in place higher contributions to the Canada Pension Plan to help workers save for retirement.

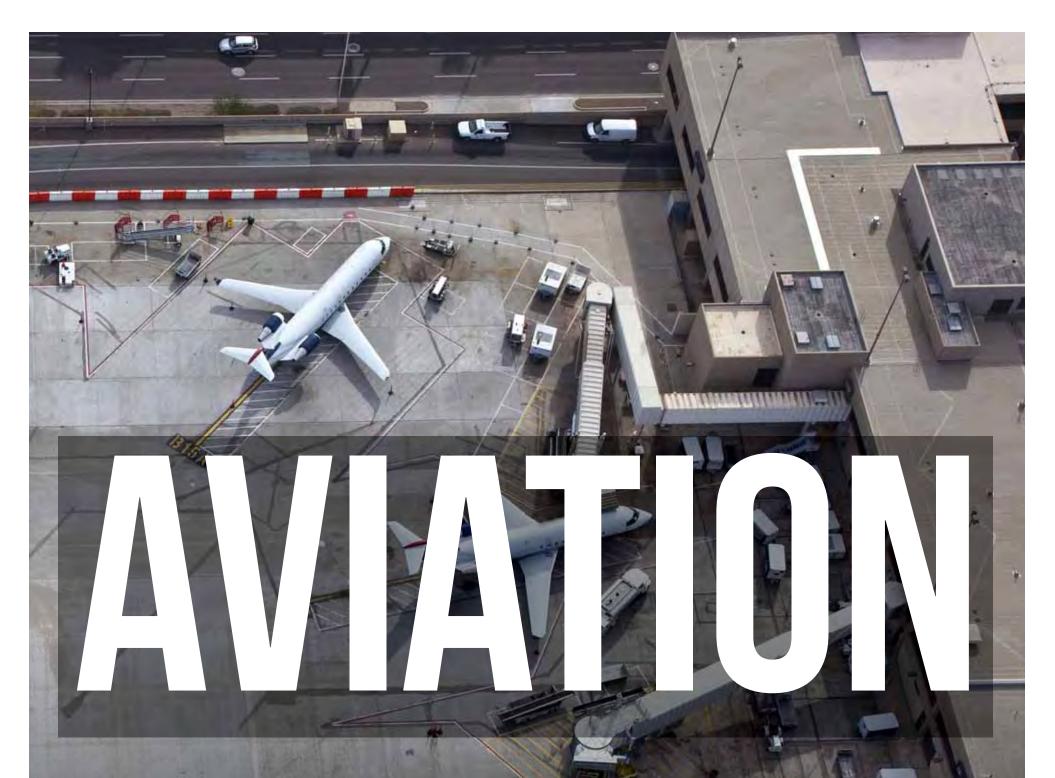
And we'll check in on the House Finance Committee's consultations with Canadians to inform the creation of the 2017 budget.

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PUBLICATION DATE: October 26, 2016 BOOKING DEADLINE: October 21, 2016 n this timely and important briefing, we'll offer informative content on:

• Moving people securely: How will the implementation of new passenger screening and tracking tools such as the Electronic Travel Authorization affect air travel?

• Economics of air travel: How is the federal government responding to pressure on it to lift foreign ownership caps on airlines, help discount carriers take flight, scrap airport rental fees, and lower taxes on the aviation sector?

• Environmental impacts: Speaking of fees, how are airlines responding to the idea of a new Canadian carbon tax? And what's the latest on how the Montreal-based International Civil Aviation Organization is grappling with reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the aviation sector globally?

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HILTIMES

## FEATURE DIPLOMATIC PARTIES

# Turkey's Victory Day has new meaning in light of coup attempt

Turkish Ambassador **Selçuk Ünal** welcomed guests to his beautiful Rockcliffe home on Aug. 30 to celebrate Turkey's Victory Day.

The celebration commemorates the Turkish victory over Greek forces in the Battle of Dumlupinar in 1922, a fight instrumental in the Turkish War of Independence.

Having just experienced a coup attempt in which a portion of the military tried to overthrow the Turkish government on July 15 of this year, the event carried more weight than in years past, with multiple comparisons made between the 1922 battle and the Turkish government's and people's success in stopping the coup this July. President **Recep Tayyip Erdogan**, using FaceTime, asked the Turkish people to flood the streets to defend the democratically elected government.

The tone of the event was sombre while the president's message, one delivered at all Turkish embassies around the world on that day, was delivered by **Hakan Cengiz**, counsellor at

the embassy. "Aug. 30 is the most obvious proof of what a nation can venture and accomplish to save its independence and its dignity when confronted with the choice: either independence or demise," read the president's message, stated by Mr. Cengiz.

"Victory of Aug. 30 should be a lesson particularly today for the

terrorist organizations and evils targeting the unity, welfare, and existence of our country in these lands...The stance displayed by the Turkish people during the bloody 15 July coup attempt is a vivid display of the vitality of the 'Great Offensive' spirit."

. Ozkan with Brigadier neral J.E. Medina Rodriguez,

military attaché of Venezuela.

Since July 15, the Turkish govern-ment has labelled the coup as the work of what it calls the terrorist organization of Fethullah Gulen, a Turkish cleric living in the United States who denies involvement in the coup. The Turkish government has detained thousands of judges public servants, academics, journalists, and others, including two Turkish-Canadians and Turkey's former ambassador to Canada, Tuncay Babali, many for suspicion of collaborating with the coup plotters. Turkey has been widely criticized for its actions after the coup attempt, including by Canadian Parliamentarians Judy Sgro, a Liberal MP and chair of the Canada-Turkey Parliamentary Friendship Group, and Foreign Minister Stéphane Dion.

Thankfully, the rain held out for the evening party, as the event was hosted in

the garden. **Ergul Ozdemir**, first secretary at the embassy, told **Party Central** that the residence was purchased from the New Zealand high commissioner years ago, and the Turks added to it later.

Some of the guests arrived a bit late, including the British defence adviser **Brigadier Jonathan David Calder-Smith.** "Wicked traffic,"he remarked to the

doorman. It's a safe bet that when hosting any event in Ottawa during the summer, construction will delay at least some of your guests, (Party Central included, in this case). Remarks went on without delay, however. As the president's message wrapped up, the crowd responded with polite, if at first awkward, applause. Servers, who must have been waiting around corners, immediately descended on the crowd with plates of hors d'oeuvres.

Smoked salmon on toast, olive tapenade, Turkish meatballs consisting of lamb and beef, and vine-leaf wraps known as sarma were served. While there were no alcoholic beverages,

there was a variety of juices and sparkling water to counter the salty Mediterranean food.

It being a day to commemorate a military battle, the crowd consisted in large part of defence attachés. There were a few new faces who were mingling with their colleagues after only arriving in Ottawa recently. Korean defence attaché Colonel **Chang Bae Yoon**, who arrived

in July, was there mingling with his spouse, and there was new German defence attaché Lieutenant Colonel **Nico Huelshoff**. A few defence attachés from the American Embassy were present as well, including assistant air attaché Captain **Matthew Gardner**, army attaché Colonel **Robert Worsham**, and naval attaché Captain **James Sigler**.

Ottawa Senators president **Čyril Leeder** was there with his spouse, **Lydia**. He said he knew Mr. Unal as a result of the part-

nership the Sens has with Turkish Airlines. Slovenian Ambassador **Marjan Cencen** was present, and spent some time chatting with Bulgarian Ambassador **Nikolay Milkoy**.

From Global Affairs, **Kevin Rex**, director of the Eastern Europe and Eurasia unit, was present. According to his LinkedIn, Mr. Rex just returned to headquarters after a posting as the counsellor and head of political section at the Canadian Embassy in Serbia. Journalist and *Hill Times* columnist

Scott Taylor was also present. cnash@hilltimes.com @chels\_nash



Fun and games at annual ASEAN picnic The Hill Times photographs by Sam Garcia





attaché Capt. Marco Antonio Montero Galle defence attaché Col. Ce<u>zary Kiszkowiak, a</u>

k. and Col.-Mai





## THE HILL TIMES, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

istant defence and naval

h military attaché Col. Ersin Ozkan, Polish . Walid Zaouali, defence attaché for Tunisia

## FEATURE EVENTS

# PARLIAMENTARY CALENDAR



# Conservative caucus retreat starts **Tuesday** in Halifax

### WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 7

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

Parliamentary Delegation to Korea, Mongolia—House Speaker Geoff Regan will lead a parliamentary delegation on a visit to Korea and Mongolia, Sept. 5-10. They will meet with their counterparts in Seoul and Ulaanbaatar. Delegation members: deputy government whip Ginette Petitpas Taylor, assistant deputy speaker and deputy chair of committees of the whole Carol Hughes and opposition critic for infrastructure and communities Dianne L. Watts. Media contact: Heather Bradley, 613-995-7882.

### **THURSDAY, SEPT. 8**

Scandal and the Road to Redemption—How do you protect your organization's reputation before and after scandal strikes? Using real-life examples, this session looks at the core elements of reputational protection from a legal and public relations perspective. 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 the firm's Ottawa office throughout 2016. This seminar series is suited toward business owners, execu-tives, and in-house counsel in eastern Ontario. 7:30-9 a.m. Sept. 8. Gowling WLG, 160 Elgin St., 20th floor (suite 2600), Ottawa. No cost, but registration necessary

as space is limited. gowlingwlg.com/risktoreward. UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial: London 2016—British Secretary of State for Defence Michael Fallon will host this meeting of defence ministers. Lancaster House, London, U.K. Sept. 8.

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 10

Savour Fall at Rideau Hall-Governor General David Johnston and his wife Sharon will host this event celebrating the harvest season. Taste culinary delights prepared by the Rideau Hall kitchen brigade and leading chefs from across the region, with the assistance of local culinary students. Tour the kitchen garden, the private gardens and greenhouses, and get gardening tips from National Capital Commission horticultural experts. Explore the residence's state rooms and get tips from the governor general's hospitality experts on how to receive guests for special occasions. 12:30-4 p.m. Family-friendly. Free. Rain or shine. Non-perishable food items accepted for the food bank.

### MONDAY, SEPT. 12

Toronto Global Forum—The International Economic Forum of the Americas presents this annual summit on topics including finance, innovation, energy, trade and infrastructure. Confirmed speakers include: International Monetary Fund managing director Christine Lagarde, Finance Minister Bill Morneau, Infrastructure Minister Amarjeet Sohi, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, Canadian Ambassador to the United States David MacNaughton and his U.S. counterpart Bruce Heyman, Kosovo President Hashim Thaçi, Guinea President Alpha Condé, and the CEOs/presidents of companies including Suncor, CAE, Monsanto, and UPS. Until Sept. 14. Fairmont Royal York, 100 Front St. W., Toronto. forum-americas.org/toronto/2016.

### **TUESDAY, SEPT. 13**

Conservative Caucus Retreat—The Conservatives will hold a two-day summer caucus retreat Sept. 13-14 in Halifax. For more information, contact Cory Hann, director of communications, Conservative Party of Canada at coryhann@conservative.ca.

NDP Caucus Retreat—The NDP are gathering Sept. 13-15 in Montreal. Please call the NDP Media Centre at 613-222-2351 or ndpcom@parl.gc.ca.

A Roundtable with ex-PCO Special Adviser Ward Elcock—The Conference of Defence Associations Institute presents a roundtable with former Privy Council Office special adviser on human smuggling and CSIS director Ward Elcock. Sept. 13. KPMG, 150 Elgin St. suite 1800, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Not for media attribution and no media reporting. \$15-\$50. Includes lunch/ refreshments. Register via cdainstitute.ca China's Rising Cyber Power: Assessing the Implica-

tions-China's emergence as a major global power is reshaping the cyber domain. The Canadian International Council's national capital branch in partnership with others presents this talk by Nigel Inkster, director of future conflict and cyber security at the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies. Sept. 13. 5:30-8 p.m. Sheraton Hotel, Rideau Room, 150 Albert St. \$15-\$65. Register via thecic.org, ottawa@thecic. org or 613-903-4011.

UN General Assembly 71st Session Opening-World leaders will flock to New York for the opening of the 71st regular session of the United Nations General Assembly at the UN headquarters. General debate will begin Tues., Sept. 20. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is expected to attend at one point during the opening activities.

## THURSDAY, SEPT. 15

The Leap Manifesto: A Climate Change Debate-Group of 78 presents this debate between Avi Lewis and Thomas Homer-Dixon. They will be debating the Leap Manifesto's approach to current issues of Cana-dian politics and climate change. Sept. 15. 6:30-9 p.m. The Glebe Community Centre, 175 Third Ave., Ottawa. \$10 (\$5 students, unwaged; University of Ottawa faculty and students, free). More info: 613-565-9449, group78@group78.org.

### FRIDAY, SEPT. 16

Parliamentary Press Gallery Barbecue and Unveiling—The Parliamentary Press Gallery will hold its annual barbecue mugging for full-time members only in the East Block Courtyard on Friday, Sept. 16, at 12 noon. The gallery will also unveil the members' photo portrait to commemorate the gallery's 150th anniversary. If it rains, the BBQ will be held in Room 237-C Centre Block.

Carleton University's School of Journalism 70th Anniversary of Granting of Canada's First Bachelor of Journalism Degrees-Women in Journalism Luncheon, featuring CBC's Susan Ormiston, *The Toronto Star's* Alyshah Hasham, Complex Media's Anita Li, and CBC Ottawa's Joanne Chianello. Sept. 16, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. River Building, Carleton University. Tickets are \$25 per person, includes lunch. Leap to Where? Elements of a Canadian Climate Policy

That Could Be Both Feasible and Enough: Thomas Homer-Dixon-Friday, Sept. 16, 2016, 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.), Carleton University, River Building Theatre (RB2200), 1125 Colonel By Dr., Ottawa. Registration: carleton.ca/fpa. For more information, call Cassie Hodgins, Carleton University, 613-520-2600 x 2995.

Fifth Replenishment Conference of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria—Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will host this world summit in Montreal. The conference aims to help raise US\$13 billion, for 2017 to 2019, to support the fund in fighting three of the world's most deadly diseases. Canada has pledged \$785 million, for 2017 to 2019. Sept. 16. Hyatt Regency Hotel, 1255 Rue Jeanne-Mance. All media representatives must register online for the conference by Sept. 9.

## SATURDAY, SEPT. 17

Canadian Press/CBC Parliament Hill Open-Mont Cascades Golf Club, Cantley, Que., (30 minutes from Ottawa). Tee times start at 11 a.m.; best-ball format, with prizes for first place, second place and "most honest" scores, plus closestto-the-pin and long drive prizes for both men and women. Sign up as a complete foursome or as a single or pair. Cost: \$95, includes green fee, power cart, and steak dinner. Email CP Ottawa's James McCarten (james.mccarten@thecanadianpress.com) or the CBC's Paul MacInnis (paul.macinnis@ cbc.ca) for more information or to hold your space, or reach James at 613-231-8602 or 613-794-0848 and Paul at 613-288-6611 or 613-293-3494.

Fifth Replenishment Conference of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria-Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will host this world summit in Montreal. The leaders' conference will be held on Sept. 17, at the International Civil Aviation Organization, 999 Robert-Bourassa Blvd. The conference aims to help raise US\$13 billion, for 2017 to 2019, to support the fund in fighting three of the world's most deadly diseases. Canada has pledged \$785 million, for 2017 to 2019. All media representatives must register online for the conference by Sept. 9.

Trudeau to Attend Global Citizen Concert-International advocacy organization Global Citizen in support of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria is hosting Usher, Half Moon Run, Metric, Grimes, and Charlotte Cardin for a free-ticketed concert on Sept. 17. Bell Centre, 1909 avenue des Canadiens-de-Montréal, Montreal. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Bill Gates, co-founder of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, are set to attend as special guests. The event will celebrate progress in global health and development. Earn the chance to win tickets by following the steps via globalcitizen.org/canada.

### SUNDAY, SEPT. 18

Canada Army Run-This event raises money for injured and ill soldiers and military families in need. It welcomes participants from across Canada and the world as they run, walk and roll across Ottawa. The half-marathon is 94 per cent sold out, while the 5K is already at 79 per cent sold out. The Commander's Challenge, a new addition this year, is sold out. For more information, including how to register, visit armyrun.ca. MONDAY, SEPT. 19

House Resumes Sitting-The House resumes sitting on Sept. 19 at 11 a.m. after a 13-week break. The House adjourned June 17.



Canadian Urban Transit Association Policy Forum-Hear from some of Canada's top transit experts on the future of Canadian urban mobility. Includes keynote from MP Pablo Rodriguez, parliamentary secretary to the minister of infrastructure, and remarks from Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson. Delta Hotel, 101 Lyon St., Ottawa, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Register at cuta.ca.

## **TUESDAY, SEPT. 20**

Cabinet Meeting—Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is expected to hold a cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 20 on the Hill. For more information, call the PMO Press Office at 613-957-5555.

Canadian Urban Transit Association Hill Day-Members of the Canadian Urban Transit Association will be meeting with Parliamentarians in Ottawa to discuss the benefits of transit investment as well as some of the challenges facing the industry. Any Parliamentarians interested in meeting should contact publicaffairs@cutaactu.ca.

2016 Canadian Inland Ports Conference-On Sept. 20-21, 2016, the Van Horne Institute will be hosting the 2016 Canadian Inland Ports Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This conference will bring together leading experts from around the world to discuss inland ports and their importance to their local, provincial, and national economies. It will showcase five of Canada's Inland Ports located across Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and BC; as well as major Canadian ports, airports, and stake holders. Early bird registration before Aug. 22: \$495. Registration after Aug. 22 \$600. Please contact Bryndis Whitson at bwhitson@ucalgary.ca or 403-220-2114 for more information. http://www.vanhorneinstitute.com/ event/2016-canadian-inland-ports-conference/

Canada to Co-Host Leaders' Summit on the Global Refugee Crisis—United States President Barack Obama will host this summit on the margins of opening of the 71st session of the UN General Assembly in New York City. Sept. 20. Canada is co-hosting this summit with the United States, along with Ethiopia, Germany, Jordan, Mexico, Sweden, and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Discussion on Digital Government-The Institute of Public Administration of Canada, National Capital Region presents "Delivering on Digital Government for Canadians" from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Rideau Club in Ottawa 99 Bank St., 15th floor. It will feature the federal government deputy chief information officer Jennifer Dawson and William Eggers, executive director of the Deloitte Center for Government Insights. Dress code: suit jackets, collared shirts, and ties for men, Free event, but online registration is required at https://digigov.eventbrite.ca. WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 21

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, Convative Party of Canada at coryhann@conservative.ca.

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

Consiglio Di Nino Honours Dinner-The former senator is to be honoured at this dinner. Albany Club, 91 King Street F., Toronto, albanyclub.ca/ever

## **THURSDAY, SEPT. 22**

TD Presents The Walrus Talks Arctic—The Walrus Talks returns to the Canadian Museum of Nature (240 McLeod St., Ottawa) on Sept. 22, at 7 p.m. TD Presents The Walrus Talks Arctic features leading Canadians giving short, focused Walrus Talks exploring the issues and opportunities that make the North unique. Featuring ITK president Natan Obed, research scientist Jeffery M. Saarela, aboriginal languages and culture advocate Fibbie Tatti, and more. \$12-\$20. Full event details and tickets available online at thewalrus.ca/events.

EU-Canada Energy Conference 2016-This conference offers an opportunity to support the promotion of best policies and regulatory practices for efficient, sus-

Saskatchewan MP Randy Hoback, centre, is seen at a 2013 Conservative caucus meeting. Conservative Parliamentarians are set to meet in Halifax Sept. 13-14 to plot strategy for the upcoming sitting. The Hill Times photograph by Jake Wright

tainable, and environmentally friendly energy production and use. It will focus on such topics as unconventional gas and LNG, smart grids, and renewable energy, as well as COP21 implementation. The EU ambassador to Canada will deliver the opening/closing remarks. Victoria Hall, John G. Diefenbaker Building, 111 Sussex Dr., Ottawa. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. To register/more info: eucanada40.ca/events/canada-energy-conference.

## FRIDAY, SEPT. 23

Canada-India Innovation Conference—The Canada-India Centre for Excellence will be hosting the Canada-India Innovation Conference at Carleton University from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The conference will bring together experts from academia, private sector and government to identify policy, technology, and business collaboration opportunities between the two countries, and how Canadians can build long-term relationships with their Indian counterparts. For more information, visit http:// carleton.ca/india/cu-events/canada-india-innovationconference. It is free to attend.

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 24

Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to Visit B.C., Yukon—The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are set for their second official Royal Tour to Canada, Sept. 24-Oct. 1. They will visit five communities in British Columbia and two in Yukon. In B.C.: Victoria (Sept. 24, 27, 29, Oct. 1), Vancouver (Sept. 25), Bella Bella (Sept. 26), Kelowna (Sept. 27), and Haida Gwaii (Sept. 30). In Yukon: Whitehorse (Sept. 27, 28) and Carcross (Sept. 28). An official welcome to Canada and British Columbia will be held on Sept. 24 in Victoria, including an honour-guard review and speeches. A public celebration will be held on Sept. 28 in Whitehorse.

### **TUESDAY, SEPT. 27**

Senate Resumes Sitting—The Senate is expected to resume sitting on Sept. 27 at 2 p.m. The Senate adjourned June 22

ICAO Triennial Assembly—The International Civil Aviation Organization, a UN specialized agency headquartered in Montreal, will host its 39th triennial assembly. ICAO's 191 member states and a large number of international organizations are invited to the assembly, which establishes the organization's worldwide policy. ICAO headquarters, 999 Robert-Bourassa Blvd., Montreal. Until Oct. 7.

### WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 28

One Young World Summit—A global forum for young leaders (18 to 30) from over 190 countries, the annual summit allows delegates to network with peers, share ideas, and develop solutions to address urgent global issues. This year's speakers include: musician Cher on wildlife rights and conservation, BBC foreign correspondent John Simpson, and Academy Award winning producer Jon Landau (Titanic, Avatar). Sept.

28-Oct. 1, Shaw Centre, 55 Colonel By Dr., Ottawa. David Asper: Freeing David Milgaard the Ugly Way—The University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law launches the 2016-17 Cavanagh LLP Professionalism Speaker Series with David Asper, chair of the Asper Foundation and former counsel to David Milgaard. He will speak about his experiences representing and advocating for the wrongfully convicted David Milgaard. This accredited professionalism lecture will take place on Sept. 28. 5:30-7 p.m. Faculty of Law, Fauteux Hall, Room 302, Free, All w lecture will be followed by the launch of the new book In Search of the Ethical Lawyer: Stories from the Canadian Legal Profession edited by professors Adam Dodek and Alice Woolley. For more information, please contact Joseph Jamil at jjami009@uottawa.ca.

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 by Friday at noon for the Wednesday paper. We can't guarantee inclusion of every event, but we will definitely do our best.

news@hilltimes.com The Hill Times



# **PUBLICATION DATE:** September 26, 2016

**BOOKING DEADLINE:** September 21, 2016 In this important defence policy briefing, *The Hill Times* looks into the latest on where the government's at on the F-35s and on the Saudi arms deal. We follow up on the current defence review and how Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan does not want to cut military personnel or major infrastructure. We look into how Eastern European NATO allies have been pressing Canada to deploy up to 1,000 soldiers into the region and concerns about Russian aggression. We look further into the outgoing head of the Navy's comments on Canada's vulnerability and how Canada should invest in sensors to improve maritime surveillance and work more closely with the U.S. We also look into DND's launch of energy efficiency upgrades on seven military bases and we followup on Chief of Defence Staff Jonathan Vance's comments on how conflict prevention is going to be a key job for Canada's military and its allies in an uncertain world.

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