Powers: summer jobs anti-abortion clause

is a crock of Liberal nonsense

Plus **Diversity in the** public service **p.** 5



Defence lawyers



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TWENTY-NINTH YEAR, NO. 1501

CANADA'S POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER

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Lobbying spikes in 'wild card' Senate as groups target new Independents

















lobbied Senators

Grant Mitchell,



Engagement in the

due to the Senate's

to amendments, and

unknown Senators.

Upper Chamber in 2017

tripled historic averages

independence, openness

numerous newly appointed





Lobbyists meeting Senators at record rates say it's due to the Upper Chamber's independence, openness to amendments, and numerous newly appointed unknown Senators. This explains an unprecedented spike in communications in 2017, an uptick so high it triples historic averages and doubles last year's already elevated lobbying numbers.

In 2017, lobbyists logged 1,443 communications with the Senate, a Hill Times analysis of lobbying records reveals, doubling 2016's 687 communications, defined as any type of interaction, though the vast majority seem to reflect meetings

Lobbyists communicated directly with Senators 1,284 times and a further 159 times with their offices,

Continued on page 14

News Public service

Oft-critiqued Liberal mandate tracker to become 'more useful,' says government 'deliverology' chief

Two years into its mandate, the Privy Council Office's results and delivery unit has also addressed data gaps and is continuing to focus on changing the way departments create policy.

BY EMILY HAWS

The government's oft-I maligned online mandate letter tracking tool will be more comprehensive in the next six months, according to the Liberals' "deliverology" expert, allowing users to track the government's progress in more detail, more frequently.

During a sit-down interview with The Hill Times last week, Matthew Mendelsohn, deputy secretary to the cabinet for results and delivery, said the mid-November will next be updated in February.

"I think over the next six months, as we add more public reporting around results to that site, it will become more useful and it will be a place where people can track water advisories, or track broadband connectivity," he said.

The exact date of the refresh is unknown, he said, but it will be updated to



Matthew Mendelsohn said the mandate letter tracker was a way to open a discussion about how the government thinks it's doing. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

Feb. 1. The information on the Canada.ca/Results website currently reflects December information.

Along with the tracker's development, the Results and Delivery Unit (RDU), which is part of the Privy Council Office and reports

Continued on page 6



HEARD ON THE HILL

by Shruti Shekar

All hands from all parties on deck for democracy caucus debut

The all-party democracy caucus will have a chance to make its big debut during a Feb. 6 panel discussion.

The event, examining the role of Canadian legislators in democracy abroad, is organized by Carleton University's Initiative for Parliamentary and Diplomatic Engagement. Registration starts at 4:30 p.m. at the Sir John A. Macdonald Building and the discussion will be followed by an evening cocktail reception.



Liberal MP Anita Vandenbeld, the chair of the democracy caucus, says an event hosted by Carleton University on Feb. 6 will be a good platform for more people to learn about the new all-party caucus. *The Hill Times file photograph*

Liberal MP **Anita Vandenbeld**, the chair of the democracy caucus, said the group's mandate is to promote healthy democracy in Canada and around the world. Members will be present Feb. 6 to showcase the group.

It was created last June after NDP MP Kennedy Stewart, Conservative MP Michael Chong, and Liberal MP Scott Simms launched their book Turning Parliament Inside Out: Practical Ideas for Reforming Canada's Democracy, which is about parliamentary procedure and enhancing cross-party co-operation.

"We had an authors' lunch when the book was launched and we started brainstorming and said 'Wouldn't it be nice to have discussions like the way we were having at lunch?'" she said.

The caucus has a membership of 20 people and is hoping to expand to include Senators, Ms. Vandenbeld said. "Our biggest issue is that a lot of Parliamentarians aren't aware that it exists. ... The Feb. 6 event will put us out there so that both civil society and other Parliamentarians know that we are there and maybe we can drum up more interest to the point where we can maybe formalize it a little bit more."

Vice-chairs of the democracy caucus include Mr. Stewart, Green Party leader **Elizabeth May**, and Conservative MP **Randy Hoback**. Director of the initiative **Maureen Boyd** said if there aren't any House duties, up to 35 MPs of all parties will be attending the event.

Rockcliffe Park burglary under scrutiny

Ottawa Police are looking for leads after an early January break-in occurred in Conservative Party leader Andrew Scheer's Ottawa neighbourhood.

The investigation into a break-and-enter in the area of Acacia Avenue and Mariposa Avenue—home to the opposition leader's official residence, Stornoway, and the residendces of several high commissioners and ambassadors—is ongoing after three suspects, described as Caucasian males, entered a home shortly before 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 4 and stole various pieces of jewelry and a winter jacket, according to police in a Jan. 13 press release.

Det. **Mitch Houle** of the Ottawa Police Service told *The Hill Times* that "there was nothing more to add [to the case]" since the release was issued.

"The media release was done basically with the hope that we would get some information, which would assist further in the investigation, but there is nothing at this point," he said.

He said that there have been no new reports of a breaking and entering in the area.

"There are sporadic [cases] here and there, but nothing that would be cause for concern," Det. Houle said.

Separated at birth, eh?



Photograph courtesy of Chrystia Freeland's Twitter and Mingle Media TV

She may not be able to see Russia from her house, but Foreign Affairs Minister **Chrystia Freeland** looks like actress, comedian, and writer **Tina Fey**, who was noted for her uncanny resemblance to Alaskan politician and former vice-presidential candidate **Sarah Palin**.

Parliament Hill offers new shuttle service to parking lot

To ensure pedestrian safety along the Ottawa River Pathway, Parliamentary Precinct Operations is offering a shuttle bus service to those parked in parking lot 180.

A Jan. 8 press release said that the House of Commons transportation service would be providing rides from Jan. 29 to March 2 at 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. on days the House is sitting.

It noted the shuttle will go to the Justice

It noted the shuttle will go to the Justice and Confederation Buildings before heading to the parking lot that's located behind the Supreme Court of Canada.

Tom Mulcair to take on the Earth in new gig

Looks like the former leader of the New Democratic Party, **Tom Mulcair**, has already found a new gig before leaving politics.



Former NDP leader Tom Mulcair is the chairman of the board of directors of Earth Day. The Hill Times file photograph

On Jan. 11 he became the chairman of the board of directors of Earth Day, a charitable organization that helps people and organizations to reduce their carbon footprint. The news was announced in French on Earth Day's website.

Mr. Mulcair said in mid-December that he was going to resign from his House of Commons seat in the spring after holding it for about 10 years.

Sarah Andrews, spokesperson for the NDP, said in December that the next parliamentary session would be his last and he would begin working in academia. She was not able to specify details at that time.

Mr. Mulcair was first elected in 2007 for the riding of Outremont, Que., which is in Montreal

He became the leader of the party in 2012, taking over from the late **Jack Layton**.

In October, **Jagmeet Singh** took reins of the party from Mr. Mulcair, also becoming the first person of colour to lead a major federal party in the country.

Former Senator Normand Grimard die, Senators Charlie Watt, Claudette Tardif to retire

Former Progressive Conservative Senator **Normand Grimard** died on Dec. 28 at the age of 92.

Sen. Grimard a well-known lawyer, served for almost 10 years after being appointed in 1990 by Brian Mulroney to represent Quebec.

A funeral was held for him on Jan. 6 in Rouyn-Noranda, Que.

In other news, after getting elected Makivik Corp.'s president on Jan. 18, Que-



Former Progressive Conservative Senator Normand Grimard died last month. Photograph courtesy of the bec Liberal Senator **Charlie Watt** has apparently decided to step away from his Senator duties a little sooner than expected.

His mandatory retirement date is June. 29, 2019, but *NunatsiaqOnline.com* reported he had given his notice to Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** in December, indicating that if he became president he would step down as Senator.

The article noted that by stepping away from the Senate, he would be able to fulfil his election promises.

Makivik is an economic development corporation that is in charge of implementing the 1975 James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. It is Canada's first modern land claim agreement.

Sen. Watt was recently selected as chair of a new Senate Special Committee on the Arctic, which plans to study issues that affect Canada's North. The committee had its first meeting on Dec. 13.

Alberta Liberal Senator Claudette Tardif will be retiring much sooner than expected.

Liberal MP Randy Boissonnault tweeted Jan. 22: "Today Senator Claudette Tardif, a dear friend, announced her imminent retirement. Senator Tardif served Edmonton & Canada with distinction and a passion for improving the country. An ardent champion for official languages, I wish her all my best wishes for her future adventures."

Sen. Tardif was expected to retire on July 27, 2022, but in an email to *The Hill Times* she said her retirement is effective Feb. 2.

"After 13 years, I have decided it is time to spend more time with my family and loved ones," Sen. Tardif said.

Former lobbying watchdog Karen Shepherd watching Health

The former commissioner for lobbying, **Karen Shepherd**, has quickly moved on and gotten herself a new job with Health Canada.

Ms. Shepherd is now the executive adviser to **Simon Kennedy**, the deputy minister of health, his office said.



Former lobbying commissioner Karen Shepherd has been hired as the executive adviser to Simon Kennedy, deputy minister of health. The Hill Times file photograph

The office noted she began her new role on Jan. 15.

As part of her duties, she will provide advice on issues regarding stakeholder engagement, transparency, and guidance on values and ethics, a statement from Health Canada said.

Her work will also include the "development and implementation of the proposed Cannabis Act," and assisting the Opioid Response Team on policy issues, Health Canada said.

Ms. Shepherd was appointed the lobbying commissioner in 2008 and was in that role for seven years. She was in charge of monitoring lobbyists communicating with the federal government, handling the federal lobbying registry, and administering the Lobbying Act and Lobbyists' Code of Conduct. She was also in charge of conducting investigations when she believed lobbyists contravened the law.

Nancy Bélanger replaced Ms. Shepherd as lobbying commissioner in December.

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CORRECTION

"The faces of NAFTA," (*The Hill Times*, Jan. 17, p. 20). A sidebar on the foreign affairs minister's NAFTA council mistakenly said Brian Topp is a former Saskatchewan MLA.

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News Legislation



Defence lawyers 'cringe' at 'unconstitutional' new sex-assault case rules in justice bill

As Bill C-51 heads for Senate study, lawyers say part of it could infringe on the rights of the accused.

BY CHARELLE EVELYN

Some defence lawyers are looking to the Senate to fix a government justice bill they say would make unconstitutional changes to the way courts deal with sexual assault cases.

The wide-ranging Bill C-51 cleared the House of Commons on Dec. 11 and will be in front of the Upper Chamber during the upcoming sitting, which begins Jan. 29. It aims to do a number of things, including cleaning up so-called "zombie laws"—removing from the Criminal Code offences that have long been deemed outdated or unconstitutional, such as challenging someone to a duel—as well as aligning sexual assault laws with existing Supreme Court of Canada decisions.

But some of the proposed changes infringe on the Charter rights of those accused of sexual assault, some lawyers say.

"I kind of cringe at this bill because I feel like it's really reactionary," said Sarah Leamon, a Vancouver-based criminal defence lawyer with Acumen Law Corporation, who appeared before the House Justice Committee during its study of the bill in the fall. "And I don't like the creation of what I see being, basically, a dual justice system based on the class of offence."

The bill's critics dispute the requirement for those accused of sexual assault to proactively disclose, 60 days in advance of a trial, to the court and the complainant any records they have in their possession that relate to their accuser that they want to use as part of their defence. A

judge will then rule on whether the evidence is admissible.

In speaking to the bill at third reading in the House of Commons last month, Liberal MP Marco Mendicino (Eglinton-Lawrence, Ont.), the parliamentary secretary to the justice minister, said C-51 "seeks to facilitate the truth-seeking function of the courts by ensuring that evidence that is clearly irrelevant to an issue at trial is not put before the courts, with its potential to obfuscate and distract the trier of fact."



Liberal MP Marco Mendicino, parliamentary secretary to the justice minister, said the right to defence doesn't include 'defence by ambush.' The Hill Times file photograph

But creating this new disclosure regime for defendants is unconstitutional, said Tonya Kent, an associate with Toronto's Edward H. Royle and Partners LLP."There's nowhere in our constitution that says that a defendant has to present evidence or has a disclosure obligation to the Crown, and I think that's what this is creating."

It's the job of the Crown to ensure justice is served and prove the accused's guilt, Ms. Kent noted. "So when I say unconstitutional, it's unconstitutional because you're asking an accused person to prove themselves innocent or provide evidence of that innocence, in a manner."

The Charter statement Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould (Vancouver Granville, B.C.) tabled with C-51 says the changes "would preserve the features of the law that allow the accused to present evidence relevant to their defence, while continuing to safeguard the equality, security of the person, and privacy interests of sexual assault complainants."

Under current rules, the defence has to make an application for the admissibility of third-party records relating to the complainant, such as medical records. The bill would capture any records already in the accused's possession "that contains personal information for which there is a reasonable expectation of privacy" about the complainant.

Existing rape-shield laws mean records, such as text messages, of a sexual nature that don't have to do with the accused can't be used in court.

But the proposed changes don't help bring justice to those with legitimate complaints, according to the Criminal Lawyers' Association.

Adam Weisberg, a director with the group, told *The Hill Times* the disclosure rules create a risk of wrongful conviction.

"Because what happens, it allows the complainant, if they are dishonest, to then adjust their evidence or their trial evidence rather than have their inconsistency or their lie exposed through cross-examination," he said. "Basically, it takes away one of the most important weapons we have in defending accused people against people who aren't telling the truth."

Many of the criminal defence community's concerns fell on deaf ears during the House proceedings. The Justice Committee recommended a handful of amendments to Bill C-51, which were passed by the House, including clarifying language about consent in sexual assault cases, but left the disclosure provisions unchanged.

Conservative Senator Paul Mc-Intyre (New Brunswick), who sits on the Senate's Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, which is likely to study the bill, said he worked as defence counsel for many years so he can see where defence lawyers are coming from, but is awaiting proper study of C-51 in the Senate.

"The courts have made it clear, for example, that the defence has to work with facts, and if they start resorting to unproven assumptions and innuendos in an effort to crack the untruthful witness then it's not going to work. But the defence should not be prevented from getting at the facts," he said.

Conservative Senator Raynell Andreychuk (Saskatchewan), a former judge, told *The Hill Times* through her office that she's just beginning her own study of the bill, but that she's concerned about the reverse-onus sections of the bill because they "may upset the balance between the rights of the accused and the rights of the person putting forward the allegation."

The bill "respects the fair-trial rights of the accused in that it does not prevent relevant evidence from being used in court," Mr. Mendicino said on Dec. 11. "The Supreme Court has already recognized that an accused's right to full answer and defence does not include a right to defence by ambush."

The word "ambush" is dramatic, said Ms. Kent. "It's not that someone's ambushing, it's that you're



Conservative Sen. Paul McIntyre sits on the Senate's Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, which is likely to study Bill C-51. *The Hill Times file photograph*

coming to court and giving your evidence, and if the evidence that you're giving is incorrect or just simply not true, the accused has a right to challenge you on that. The point of a trial is for the accused to challenge the evidence that that Crown is seeking against them in order to have them found guilty."

Sen. Andreychuk said she's "always concerned about unintended consequences when we do piecemeal changes, especially with regards to sexual assault," and that a more general review of laws pertaining to sexual assault has merit.

Sen. McIntyre said the years of legislative reforms that have preceded this bill "were aimed at ensuring women's equality, which is very important—a woman's privacy, a woman's security rights—by countering myths and stereotypes about sexual assault," he said. "We can't go back to Adam and Eve here; we just can't turn back the clock."

Bill creates extra barrier to accessing justice: defence lawyer

Bill C-51 was introduced in June as a perceived response to the Jian Ghomeshi trial, which saw the former CBC Radio host acquitted of sexual assault charges in March 2016. Since then, the #MeToo hashtag and sex assault allegations against powerful players in Hollywood, the media, and other public positions has captured headlines.

The current conversation about what constitutes consent and what constitutes sexual assault is a positive development, said Ms. Leamon, but that doesn't mean that it's a judicial issue that requires legislative reform.

"I don't think that we can look to the justice system and revamping the justice system, making all of these allowances for just one particular kind of offence, in order to solve the problem that's not a judicial problem; it's a social problem," she said.

Another issue she said she has with the bill is the allowance for sexual assault complainants to have the right to their own legal representation, outside of Crown counsel, for the hearings in which evidence is deemed admissible or not.

This could create a schism between victims of sexual assault, who have this right to counsel, and victims of other types of violent crimes who do not. Additionally, there's nothing in the bill that backstops how people would access their own legal representation, when legal aid is already underfunded.

Unless there's a fund set up specifically for sexual assault victims, people will have to foot the bill for their own lawyers, creating a two-tier system of those who can afford representation and those who cannot, Ms. Leamon said.

"I've had the opportunity to talk to a lot of marginalized women about it because I work with a lot of non-profits in the Downtown Eastside and it's a concern," she said. "They actually don't even want to see that because often marginalized women feel that they already have enough barriers. And if this is just another barrier to access justice, they can't afford to hire a lawyer so it makes it more difficult for them to come forward."

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Public Service News

Public service needs better data to measure diversity: task force

A joint union-management task force spent the last year consulting public servants on diversity and inclusion, coming up with 44 recommendations in December that Treasury Board is reviewing for implementation.

BY EMILY HAWS

Planning the future of diversity in the public service is not possible with out-of-date data, leaving certain groups unintentionally sidelined, a joint task force studying equity initiatives found, after a months-long examination of inclusion and diversity in the public service.

In its final report released Dec. 11—Building a Diverse and Inclusive Public Service—the joint union-management task force on diversity and inclusion made 44 recommendations surrounding four themes: people management, leadership and accountability, education and awareness, and the consideration of diversity and inclusion.

The demographics of Canada's population are drastically shifting, but the workforce availability (WFA) estimates, which compare the percentage of minorities in the Canadian population to their percentage in the public service, use data from the census, which is only completed every five years.

Waheed Khan, a member of the Professional Institute of the Public Service (PIPSC) and a co-chair of the task force's technical committee, said because of the old data, diversity goals could often be drastically skewed.

"Right now, the [estimates say there is] about 12 or 14 per cent visible minorities [in Canada]... but if you look at the current data it is over 22 per cent," he said, adding that this means deputy ministers may think they're doing fine if their department is 13.5 per cent, for example.

Projections say the visible-minority population could reach 37 per cent in the future, he said, meaning suddenly 13.5 per cent doesn't cut it.

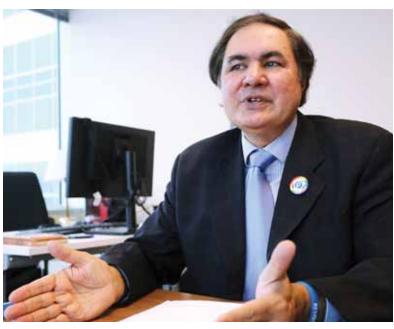
The workforce availability estimates also don't track LGBTQ Canadians or permanent residents working as bureaucrats.

Outside studies indicate that between five and 13 per cent of the population identifies as LGBTQ, but 54 per cent prefer not to disclose their sexual orientation in the workplace for fear of retribution or rejection from their colleagues.

Therefore, the report recommends having WFA estimates updated between the censuses, collect census data on LGBTQ people, track the WFA for non-citizen bureaucrats, and prepare demographic and WFA projections to reflect Canada's diversity. Departments should then establish diversity goals based on that data.

The task force was created in November 2016 and included representatives from PIPSC, the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), the Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers (PAFSO), as well as Treasury Board, Health Canada, and Justice Canada, among others. It had a one-year mandate to study ways to "strengthen diversity and inclusion in the government," according to the Treasury Board's website.

Diversity and inclusion policies "enable the public service to leverage the range of perspectives of our country's people to help address



and co-chair of a Joint Union-Management Task Force committee, said unions and management agreed on all 44 of the report's recommendations. It is the first review of its kind, he added. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

a member of

the Professional

Institute of the

Public Service

today's complex challenges,"reads the report, and creativity, problem solving, and innovation are improved with varied perspectives.

Treasury Board is reviewing the report and determining how it wants to move forward with implementation. It did not respond to requests for comment by deadline.

Put people who understand diversity in top roles: report

Leadership and the way people are managed is the start of the shift, said Mr. Khan. The task force spoke to public servants through 20 focus group interviews, as well as an online survey that garnered over 12,000 responses. It also did research on provincial equity initiatives, as well as the Australian and British bureaucracies. There are about 262,000 public servants in Canada.

Establishing a Centre of Expertise on Diversity and Inclusion will help senior management implement policies to foster a healthier work environment, recommended the task force. It would determine better ways to communicate about equity issues; outline possible challenges or barriers; and work with other related groups to ensure consistency within the bureaucracy.

Mr. Khan said those who can manage diverse teams, such as those consisting of men and women, or different racial groups or cultures, encourages equity and so the bureaucracy needs to value that skill. This could be implemented by making it a job requirement, for example.

Equity groups—which include women, LG-BTQ sexual orientations, Indigenous populations, those with disabilities, and visible minorities—are often expected to conform with the majority, he said, but good management can reduce the harassment and discrimination they face, allowing them to speak up more often.

"You should also have this intercultural effectiveness as a competency for people who want to move on to managerial positions," he said, so that power dynamics begin to shift in an office.

Those who are included in the definition of equity groups often face more discrimination, he said.

Along with valuing the management of diverse teams as a skill set, the task force recommended hiring boards and other sources of authority be staffed with people from diverse backgrounds. As well, it recommends the creation of a Commissioner for Employment Equity, Diversity

and Inclusion, modelled after the Commissioner of Official Languages. Accountability ensures action, Mr. Khan said.

Hiring practices were a big focus for the task force, said PSAC human rights officer Seema Lamba, who was also on the technical committee, as equity group members often feel they are included or excluded because of their status.

"Respondents don't necessarily feel that the staffing process that they've experienced has been fair or transparent," she said. "There needs to be more accountability around the staffing process, as well as oversight and monitoring."

She added that since 2005, Treasury Board has increasingly delegated its authority in overseeing diversity programs, and what PSAC has seen is inconsistency across departments. One department may do a decent job around accommodation, said Ms. Lamba, but others might not.

Blind hiring practices—where any details about a person's identity are removed—were recommended in the report. The Treasury Board Secretariat began testing name-blind recruitment between April and October in six federal departments, including National Defence and Global Affairs Canada, although 17 departments ended up participating. In a blog post Jan. 23, Treasury Board President Scott Brison (Kings-Hants, N.S.) said the experiment did not uncover bias, but the report notes that participants were aware they were participating in a name-blind recruitment project, which could have affected their assessment.

Diversity and inclusion lens, mandatory training recommended

When someone wants to develop an infrastructure project, such as a bridge, they have to do an environmental impact assessment, said Mr. Khan. It allows stakeholders to understand the effect of their actions and put mitigation strategies in place, if necessary.

A diversity and inclusion lens would do much the same thing for government policies, programs, and people management strategies. That way they can understand how these policies affect different groups.

The lens is an education tool, but the report also recommends mandatory diversity and inclusion training for all new employees and managers, and for equity conversations to be meaningful discussed in other training. Often it's not that people are trying to be discriminatory toward equity groups, said Mr. Khan, it's just that they haven't been educated to understand other perspectives.

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Oft-critiqued Liberal mandate tracker to become 'more useful,' says government 'deliverology' chief

Continued from page 1

to Clerk Michael Wernick, has spent the last two years focused on developing routines so that departments are designing programs for results, Mr. Mendelsohn said, adding that challenges have included getting timely data, and shifting bureaucratic thinking.

Known as the "deliverology" guy, Mr. Mendelsohn is a former Ontario government deputy minister who helped with the Trudeau government's transition. He is now heading the RDU, based in the

Blackburn Building.
Deliverology—the art and science of delivering results—was developed by Michael Barber, who started a unit in former United Kingdom prime minister Tony Blair's office. Unlike other government policy implementation strategies, this approach "involves a greater focus on implementation and impact, which requires evidence-based decision-making, improved measurement and routines that sustain attention on clear priorities," said Mr. Mendelsohn in an email.

Governments normally run a program and then evaluate afterward, Mr. Mendelsohn said, but his strategy includes ongoing evaluation to ensure it is achieving objectives early on.

Critics, including former Stephen Harper staffer Rachel Curran, have said that all governments should be setting, tracking, and delivering on goals. Others have dismissed the strategy as a fad, but Mr. Mendelsohn said he believes"it's an evolution that governments are going through where every dollar matters, every minute matters,"he told The Hill Times. French President Emmanuel Macron recently released his own promise tracker.

Useful to hear critiques of mandate letter tracker: Mendelsohn

The tracker categorizes the 300-plus mandate letter commitments based on completion. Users can click through the dashboard to sort commitments by status and subject.

It got significant heat when it was unveiled, as notable campaign promises—such as keeping deficits to \$10-billion or less—were missing controversially cated rized, such as balancing the books by 2019 being listed at "underway with challenges." Electoral reform is listed as "not being pursued."

Mr. Mendelsohn said it's a way to see how the government thinks

The critique is "great for conversation" and opens debate, he added. Some stakeholders disagree with a few items, he said, but he takes comfort "in that I'd say 98 per cent received no criticism at all.'



secretary to the cabinet, results and delivery, who is known as the government's 'deliverology' guy, has been in his role heading up the government's Results and **Delivery Unit** for just over two years. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

Mendelsohn,

deputy

Critics have also brought up that the government has a political bias in tracking its own commitments. Other accountability websites, such as TrudeauMetre. com, are seen as more accurate, where electoral reform is listed as a broken promise.

Mr. Mendelsohn said the government's website is a centralized way to track progress instead of searching government websites.

Canadians can check other sources to judge the accuracy of the reporting, he said, adding "active citizen engagement is healthy for democracy." The Privy Council Office has always tracked government promises internally, he said, but RDU now publishes it.

Sahir Khan, executive vicepresident at the University of Ottawa's Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy and a former assistant parliamentary budget officer, said he is positive but skeptical about deliverology, saying it is important to note that if resources are provided to achieve mandate letter commitments, they could be taken off other government projects. The 19-person results and delivery unit's budget is about \$3.2-million.

Changing culture a difficult, long-term process: Prof. Khan

In particular, the recently created Crown-Indigenous Relations and Indigenous Services departments and Innovation, Science, and Economic Development have jumped on board the data-driven, results-focused approach, said Mr. Mendelsohn.

The idea is to shift the policymaking process so that the decision making, the implementation, and the evaluation have equal

weight. Traditionally, PCO has helped with the upfront decision making and then stepped back, but now the unit is staying involved.

"Officials, but also deputy ministers, and even ministers, increasingly in their decisions are asking implementation questions-how will this work, how do we know it will work, who has tried this before, do we have real models that this kind of thing has worked before?"Mr. Mendelsohn said. "That's made...quite a big culture change to focus less on process, inputs, and activities and more on outcomes, results, and evaluation."

One of the main jobs of Mr. Mendelsohn's unit is to prepare materials for the Cabinet Committee on Agenda, Results and Communications. Otherwise, Mr. Mendelsohn spends his days speaking to external experts and stakeholders to understand issues. among other meetings. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (Papineau, Que.) is actively involved in the process, he said, and having the prime minister asking questions tends to focus people in a more direct way to drive success."

The work is about understanding and solving all of the smaller challenges in a problem so there are long-term solutions, Mr. Mendelsohn noted. The government is working towards eliminating all oon water advisories on reserves by 2021, he said, because his unit asks questions, almost like outside consultants, to make sure departments have thought of everything.

The government could just solve the water advisories for a few days by pumping in enough resources, he said, but it's not sustainable.

"We've participated with them in mapping out all of the delivery chain—so where have obstacles occurred, why are some of these

boil water advisories challenging to lift,"he said."I go in as someone without expertise on that and say 'well, we should just be able to eliminate them' that should be pretty easy, and then you begin to better understand all of the various obstacles along the way."

Prof. Khan said culture transformations are difficult and long-term in nature because it entails "the breaking of scripts by management, learned over decades, [using] new operating approaches." He said it is positive that Mr. Trudeau is asking questions in order to influence the ministers and senior bureaucrats, but this shift could take several mandates to achieve.

One of the biggest challenges the results and delivery unit has faced is the lack of timely data, said Mr. Mendelsohn. Sometimes this is due to Statistics Canada timelines, making it difficult to see if the government's policies are working in the short term. In other cases, the data didn't previously exist.

"We have new data coming online now so StatsCan has become much more timely reporting on hate crimes data, for example," said Mr. Mendelsohn, adding they've invested in programs to increase data collection and capacity.

Prof. Khan said more data is better than less, "however, it's worth considering the lessons learned from previous data exercises and why they didn't lead to significant changes in operating behaviour."

Looking ahead, Mr. Mendelsohn said the unit will continue to emphasize a results-oriented approach so that, even if the unit doesn't exist in the future, there is "the function being performed of constantly monitoring and establishing routines to see if things are moving forward."

ehaws@hilltimes.com The Hill Times

Status of **Government Bills**

HOUSE OF COMMONS Second reading:

- S-5, An Act to amend the Tobacco Act and the Non-smokers' Health Act
- C-5, An Act to Repeal Division 20 of Part 3 of the Economic Action Plan 2015 Act, No. 1
- C-12, An Act to amend the Canadian Forces Members and Veterans Re-establishment and Compensation Act
- C-27, An Act to amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985
- C-28, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (victim surcharge)
- C-32, An Act related to the repeal of
- section 159 of the Criminal Code • C-33, An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act
- C-34, An Act to amend the Public
- Service Labour Relations Act • C-38, An Act to amend an Act to amend the Criminal Code (exploitation and trafficking in persons)
- C-39, An Act to amend the Criminal
- Code (unconstitutional provisions) • C-42, Veterans Well-being Act
- C-43, An Act respecting a payment to be made out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund to support a pan-Canadian artificial intelligence strategy
- C-52, Supporting Vested Rights Under Access to Information Act
- C-56, An Act to amend the Corrections and Conditional Release Act and the Abolition of Early Parole Act
- C-62, An Act to amend the Federal Public Sector Labour Relations Act and other Acts
- C-65, An Act to amend the Canada Labour Code (harassment and violence)

- C-47, An Act to amend the Export and Import Permits Act and the Criminal Code (amendments permitting the accession to the Arms Trade Treaty)
- C-48, Oil Tanker Moratorium Act
- C-59, An Act respecting national security matters
- C-64, Wrecked, Abandoned, or Hazardous Vessels Act

Report stage:

- S-2, Strengthening Motor Vehicle Safety for Canadians Act
- C-21, An Act to amend the Customs Act • C-50, An Act to amend the Canada
- Elections Act (political financing) • C-55, An Act to amend the Oceans
- Act and the Canada Petroleum Resources Act
- C-57, An Act to amend the Federal Sustainable Development Act

Second reading:

- C-24, An Act to amend the Salaries Act and the Financial Administration Act
- C-45, Cannabis Act
- C-51, An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Department of Justice
- C-58, An Act to amend the Access to Information Act and the Privacy Act
- C-66, Expungement of Historically Unjust Convictions Act

Committee:

- C-46, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (offences relating to conveyances)
- C-49, Transportation Modernization

Consideration of Committee Report:

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

Comment

Summer jobs program anti-abortion clause is a crock of Liberal nonsense

Can you imagine the outcry if Stephen Harper had pulled this stunt?



Tim Powers

Plain Speak

TTAWA—When Justin Trudeau's government was elected in late 2015, one of the things the then incoming prime minister signalled was there would be a change in tone and approach: a lot less smash-mouth

wedge-type politics that typified the Harper era. So it has taken many by surprise to see the Canada Summer Jobs program become a playground for the worst sort of murky menacing.

You see, on the funding application for this year's Canada Summer Jobs program, the government created a mandatory attestation that states the applicant organization's "core mandate" must respect reproductive rights.

Hell hath no fury like a faith or church group that feels it is under attack. Court challenges, protests, and many column inches have been dedicated to condemning the government's game here.

The prime minister, while not throwing out the current application form, has argued that faith groups will get a fair hearing on their funding applications if they make them. Some may not bother to make them, though, because of the attestation. Applications for the program opened in late December and close on Feb. 2.

So why have this sort of attestation in the first place, particularly from a government that is supposedly open to diversity of thought, free speech, and religious freedom? The government has said: "We are committed to ensuring that summer jobs for young Canadians funded by the Government of Canada take place in an environment that respects everybody's rights." As it stands, that is a crock of nonsense by the Liberals, unless they have changed the meaning of the word respect.

While I am certainly devoutly pro-choice and in no way a social conservative, me and lots of people like me respect the right of others to have a faith-based perspective. I am never in favour of that perspective being driven down anyone's throat or forced upon another, but the Canada Summer Jobs program, to the best of my knowledge, has never been used as a recruiting tool by pro-lifers to harvest legions of

new advocates, and thereafter have those program apostles go forth and preach the good word.

Some organizations like the YM/YWCA are more likely to hire a student to work at a summer camp where playing dodgeball and swimming dominate the agenda, not a Bible-study class. A community church group would want a kid to cut the grass and paint a building. Fomenting a religious revolution and an overhaul of societal progress is not a legitimate fear that should be guiding who can hire a few students to work for them over the summer.

Can you imagine the outcry from the current government if Stephen Harper's Conservatives had pulled such a stunt? Make no bones about it: this is a stunt. Modernity is not being advanced by making sure the Catholic Church that runs the soup kitchen can't hire an additional person to feed someone in need. If anything, the effect is the opposite.

Many faith groups do excellent work keeping the community going, whether it is welcoming Syrian or other refugees or providing much-needed daycare spaces. They don't mandate that the people they help devour their doctrine. They just roll up their sleeves and serve. Yes, they have value and belief systems, we all do; but you aren't required to walk around with a crucifix on your neck before you get a helping hand.

The Canada Summer Jobs program was never designed to be a tool for societal re-engineering. It was, and should remain, a vehicle for government and would-be employers to create the opportunity for kids to get some work experience and earn a few bucks to apply towards school. That is the only attestation that is needed.

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



Employment Minister Patty Hajdu's press secretary has said: 'We are committed to ensuring that summer jobs for young Canadians funded by the Government of Canada take place in an environment that respects everybody's rights.' That's a load of Liberal hooey, says Tim Powers. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew

Canada's artists contribute to our national identity

Arts programs aren't frivolous, but an important part of promoting Canadian culture abroad.



Andrew Caddell

With All Due Respect

TTAWA—"Mon pays, ce n'est pas un pays, c'est l'hiver." Gilles Vigneault's lyrics ("My country is not a country, it's winter") describe what many of us feel about our country, especially this winter, for good or bad.

Like Gordon Lightfoot's "Song for a Winter's Night," and Ian and Sylvia Tyson's "Four Strong Winds,"we see ourselves reflected in the lyrics. Our music gives us

the opportunity to understand the profound differences in life experiences, geography, and employment within an enormous country. And yet it allows us to understand what we have in common.

When I jumped on a train in Montreal heading west to Lake Louise, Alta., in the summer of 1971, it was in many ways due to hours singing along to Lightfoot's 'Canadian Railroad Trilogy" and "Mountains and Maryann." Over many years, I climbed and skied those mountains and travelled those rails east and west.

I met Lightfoot a few years ago and told him his music had changed my life. It was not a new story for him.

His recent biography reveals he did not intend to become a "musical historian" but, influenced by Bob Dylan and Tom Paxton, he began writing about the Canada he knew. Pierre Berton once told Lightfoot more Canadians learned about the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway through his songs than had read Berton's books.

The tradition of folk music as an expression of culture or politics began with the old-time troubadours in Middle Ages England and was part of American social movements in the Great



Singer Alan Doyle's band Great Big Sea has performed some iconic music that resonates in us, as Canadians, writes Andrew Caddell. The Hill Times file photograph

Depression. The legendary Woody Guthrie and Lead Belly made people aware of the lives of the poor at the time; Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land" was once considered seditious by some Americans. Paxton, Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, and Simon and Garfunkel continued in that tradition in the 1960s, leading the way as a "Folk Song Army," as satirist Tom Lehrer called them.

In Canada, music has driven political movements as well. Former Quebec premier Jacques Parizeau once said the independence movement in Quebec had been led by a few politicians, a bunch of civil servants, and "50 chansonniers." Indeed, the songs of Vigneault, Félix Leclerc, Diane Dufresne, and Robert Charlebois fuelled the pride and resentment of Quebec's youth in the '60s and '70s. Vigneault's "Gens du Pays" was intended to be Ouebec's national anthem.

Elsewhere, there were few songs that resonated in our national character as much as they did

in Quebec. Many years ago, CBC Radio's Peter Gzowski received a letter from a teacher who told of attending a conference abroad and when asked to sing a popular Canadian song everyone in her group knew, sang "O Canada" instead. Gzowksi set out to find great Canadian songs. The top three selected were: "The Canadian Railroad Trilogy," "Mon Pays," and Stan Rogers' "Northwest Passage."

Paradoxically, two of the three were commissioned by government agencies. The "Trilogy" was part of a CBC special on Canada's centennial New Year's Day of 1967 and Vigneault wrote "Mon Pays" for the National Film Board's 1965 production La Neige a fondu sur la Manicouagan. While the film has long passed into history, the song remains unforgettable.

Rogers'"Northwest Passage" about the ill-fated expedition led by Sir John Franklin was only one of his many songs chronicling moments known and unknown in Canadian history. His death in

1983 cut short that source.

But there are dozens of songs describing Canada. My favourites include Ian Tyson's "Summer Wages," Charlebois" Je reviendrai à Montréal," the McGarrigles' "Jacques et Gilles," and Rita MacNeil's "Working Man." There are many others from Beau Dommage, Harmonium, Great Big Sea, and The Tragically Hip's collection on Canadian politics, sport, and small-town life.

Sadly, many of those artists are gone now, and our successful musicians and stories are assimilated into the cultural behemoth to the south. We forget we have a rich culture that is more than the arena, the cottage, and the double-double.

In 2008, I was part of a team at Foreign Affairs that shut down the program promoting emerging artists abroad. Many of our current superstars had toured outside of Canada through the program. But despite its minimal cost (\$4.5-million a year), it was marginal to the Conservative "base." In Quebec, the uproar over its closure led to a loss of seats in the 2008 election.

The program has now been restored through Canadian Heritage and the Canadian Council for the Arts. I think it should be a key tool in our diplomatic efforts at Global Affairs Canada, When we say "The world needs more Canada,"we should be proud to entertain others, encourage our artists, and tell our stories at home and abroad.

Andrew Caddell retired July 11 from Global Affairs Canada, where he was a senior policy adviser. He previously worked as a broadcast reporter and as an adviser to Liberal governments in Ottawa, St. John's, and elsewhere.

The Hill Times

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Editorial

Summer jobs kerfuffle like Christmas in July for Conservatives

gree or disagree with the policy, the Liberals have given the Conservatives something they can really sink their teeth into with the ongoing Canada Summer Jobs program saga.

And agree or disagree with their stance, the official opposition is going about this in all the right ways.

The ongoing furor has resulted from organizations applying to receive wage subsidies for summer jobs for young people aged 15 to 30 having to affirm "that both the job and the organization's core mandate respect individual human rights in Canada, including the values underlying the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well as other rights.

It goes on: "These include reproductive rights and the right to be free from dis-crimination on the basis of sex, religion, race, national or ethnic origin, colour, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression."

Of course, the loudest bee in the Conservatives' bonnet has been regarding reproductive rights (read: abortion), with churches and other faith groups raising the alarm that having to make such an attestation flies in the face of their religious beliefs.

Others have picked up on the fact that the Liberals, oft-repeating the "diversity is our strength" mantra, seem like they've backed themselves into a corner. How does the party that brought the Charter home justify discriminating against Canadians who just want to give young people summer jobs?

Even without bringing abortion into the mix, the Conservatives have tapped

into the freedom of expression and freedom of religion vein, which allows them to gain support from those in and outside of their base, on the charge of hypocrisy.

According to CBC News, Liberal backbench MP Scott Simms said he's planning to petition Employment Minister Patty Hajdu to remove the attestation requirement, and soften it so that only those whose jobs or programs involve actively campaigning to change Canadian law with respect to rights are captured.

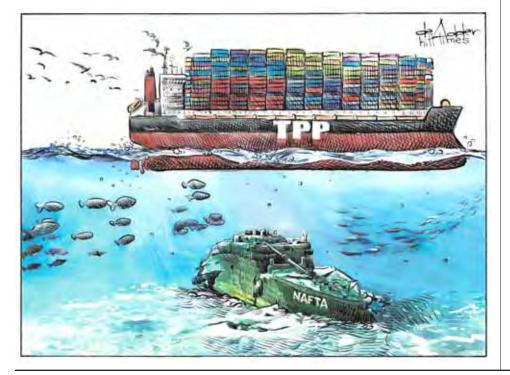
On Jan. 23, Ms. Hajdu told Global News the reason the attestation requirement even came into being was because of complaints about precisely that last year.

"For example, organizations that are anti-abortion distributing very graphic pictures of aborted fetuses or organiza-tions that won't hire LGBTQ members or young people," she said.

Ms. Hajdu and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau have also said an organization's core mandate has to be about restricting rights to be ineligible for funding, and that it's not about individual belief systems.

But if Liberals have lost Liberals, is there any reason for Conservatives to not go whole hog? The issue has already captured national attention, taking over the supper-hour political programs, newspaper editorial pages, and probably mentioned in church bulletins across the country.

The Liberals are going to have to either double down or retreat on this issue, and either way, it's a gift wrapped for the opposition looking to take the government down a peg.



Letters to the Editor

Trudeau's totalitarian tendencies laid bare in abortion policy: reader

Re: Editorial cartoon (*The Hill Times*, Jan. 22, p. 8). Stephen Harper, who had a number of disagreements with the Supreme Court, once said "as a general rule," I don't believe in imposing values upon people." And quoting from the National Post on June 20, 2014, "Harper sharpened his message on abortion...saying political parties have no business trying to 'impose' a position on politicians when it comes to matters of morality and personal faith."

Quite the opposite of Justin Trudeau who, according to the same article, instructed "all of the party's MPs—including existing members of caucus-[that they] must vote

pro-choice if the abortion issue arises.' So Trudeau prides himself on imposing values by sidestepping the Supreme Court's instruction for Parliament to pro-

duce constitutionally acceptable legislation on abortion.

Trudeau not only ignores the Supreme Court, but has also set himself up as the chief justice by handing down a decision to exclude pro-life groups from summer job grants, citing his interpretation of party values imposed on caucus as being compliant with the Charter of Rights.

In summary, then: whipping the vote in Parliament to support pro-choice policy. Ignoring a Supreme Court instruction to revise abortion legislation. Interpreting the Charter of Rights as supportive of party policy. Imposing party values on

Totalitarian, n'est-ce pas?

Kope Inokai Toronto, Ont.

Sen. Unger's got it wrong on marijuana legalization

Re: "Marijuana legislation will not achieve its objectives and should be defeated," (The Hill Times, Dec. 20, online). Senator Betty Unger's op-ed against Bill C-45 is false and deceptive.

Unger claims that Colorado now leads the United States in cannabis use amongst 12- to 17-year-olds. In February 2017, the Journal of the American Medical Association Pediatrics (JAMA Pediatrics) published a paper on the change in prevalence of adolescent cannabis use in Colorado following legalization. Its conclusion: there was no change.

In a U.S. federal survey comparing adolescent use of cannabis in 2013-14 and 2015-16, reported use actually dropped sharply.

Next, Unger posits that youth usage in states that have legalized marijuana surpasses those that have not. Self-reported drug usage during prohibition is an ageold validity issue for researchers of drug policy, however, to Unger, legalization causes increased usage because teens perceive the risk of cannabis to be "safe and state-sanctioned." No one is calling cannabis "safe"—no safer than alcohol, cigarettes, and prescription drugs, anyways, in spite of the fact that there has yet to be a single fatality in North America for which cannabis overdose is to blame.

Clinical trials are key. Continuing to prohibit medical research on cannabis is to repeat costly failures like "Just say no!" or the debunked Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.).

Unger moves on to declare that the eradication of illicit cannabis markets is an all-or-none affair. Experts disagree. First of all, cannabis is now being produced that meets or exceeds current good manufacturing practices, is accompanied by a lab

analysis for every lot produced, and is compliant with federal regulations for quality and safety. This is infinitely better than the unregulated, untested, and hazardous product from which organized crime profits.

Secondly, cannabis is not a gateway drug. Dealers push more dangerous product. Legalization disrupts dealers. Those who disagree lack insight into market economics, public safety, and harm-reduction strategies.

Where Unger is correct is that if tariffs are applied to cannabis in usual form (in other words, to punish the purchaser while paying tax to the public) the black market will persist and flourish through more competitive pricing.

Unger also raises a valid point regarding homegrown production. Bill C-45 reintroduces the opportunity for personal cultivation but without any reporting requirements, whatsoever, and the number of plants is generous. The incentive for product diversion will be so great for personal growers that it could be deemed entrapment, but a solution would be to require personal growers to submit biannual product yields. The aggregate data would provide important information on total annual personal production; outliers would give Health Canada a starting place for audits.

An appointed Senator would be wise to note that it is generally not the role or practice of the Upper House to reject a bill from the House of Commons, particularly one that is so evidence-based and has such overwhelming support from Canadians. **Bryan Sandilands**

Edmonton, Alta.

(The author is a health care consultant including to licensed cannabis producers and applicants.)

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Comment

Keeping U.S. troops in Syria is a recipe for disaster

The Americans risk Turkey's ire by keeping troops in northern Syria's Kurdish separatist region.



Scott Taylor
Inside Defence

OTTAWA—On Jan. 17, United States Secretary of State Rex Tillerson declared that American troops will remain in Syria indefinitely. Tillerson's remarks came on the heels of the recently announced defeat of Daesh (also known as Islamic State, ISIS, and ISIL) evildoers in both Iraq and Syria.

His reason to keep U.S. soldiers in Syria was not limited to the prevention of another Daesh movement; these troops are staying in order to counter the power of both Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Iran. Of course, the buzzwords used by the U.S. State Department are that its combat soldiers will be used to bring "stability" and "security" to the region.

The sad fact is that no one even thought to question Tillerson as to just what the hell American soldiers are doing in Syria in the first place, and under which legal authority they were deployed.

There was never a declaration of war against Assad's Syrian regime, even though from the outset of the Syrian uprising in the spring of 2011 the U.S. wholeheartedly sided with the anti-Assad rebels. In fact, the U.S. poured in weapons and advisers to assist the so-called moderate Syrian rebels until it was revealed that they weren't so moderate after all.

The U.S.-funded Syrian opposition leadership debated policies in Istanbul cafés while the actual Syrian rebels battled Assad's loyalists in the country's urban centres. It did not take long for these rebel groups' true Islamic extremist nature to be revealed, and in 2014 they emerged as the Daesh scourge. As this Sunni Muslim faction poured out of Syrian bases and captured large swaths of central Iraq in the summer of 2014, the U.S. was compelled to rush military assistance back into Iraq to prop up the impotent regime in Baghdad.

Once they were back in the neighbourhood, the U.S. forces helping to battle Daesh in Iraq took the opportunity to take that fight across the Syrian border to battle Daesh there as well.

Now, since Daesh was technically fighting Assad in Syria, any U.S. military operations against Daesh rebels would have indirectly helped the embattled Syrian president. However, unlike the Russian and Iranian militaries that were invited into Syria by the recognized official government in Damascus, the U.S. simply authorized its troops to start kill-

ing people in a foreign civil war. All in the name of security and stability. And now it says it will stay in Syria indefinitely as it has learned its lesson of premature withdrawal from the fiasco that befell Iraq after the U.S. withdrew its combat forces in 2011.

For the record, the U.S. illegally invaded Iraq in 2003 on the false claim of self-defence from a fictional arsenal of weapons of mass destruction that Saddam Hussein never possessed. During the eight-year American occupation of Iraq, that country was plunged into an orgy of interfactional bloodletting that the American military proved powerless to curtail.

The Daesh onslaught in 2014 into Iraq's Sunni Triangle was not an isolated operation, but simply a continuation of the perpetual cycle of violence that the U.S. started with its illegal invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Now its plan is to remain in northern Syria's Kurdish separatist region, which has successfully freed itself from Assad's authority. It is America's stated intention to create a 30,000-strong unified Kurdish security force from the various splinter groups and factions that have been fighting against a variety of foes in the multifaceted Syrian civil war for the past seven years.

This sounds good in theory, but many of those Kurdish fighters have links to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), the notorious terrorist organization that has been active for decades just across the Syrian-Turkish border. Naturally, Turkey



United States Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is keeping American troops in Syria indefinitely. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

has immediately decried the plan to create a Kurdish military force on its border while Turkish security forces are actively engaging PKK fighters in the eastern Kurdishmajority region of Turkey.

If that is Tillerson's recipe for stability and security, I would hate to see what he could concoct if his objective was to sow chaos and reap violence.

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

The Hill Times

An American take on Canada's defence policy

Canada is still missing a greater sense of who it wants to be in the world.



Lindsay Rodman

Security

Now that Canada's defence policy has been introduced, and has moved toward implementation, we have an opportunity to assess what Canada accomplished—and what it didn't—with this new document.

Especially from the perspective of Canada's closest ally and partner, the United States, it takes a few months to understand how a country's new policy interacts with its bureaucracy, and how it is messaged and implemented, internally and externally.

After releasing the new defence policy—Strong, Secure,

Engaged—in June 2017, the Department of National Defence has undergone some substantial reshuffling of personnel, including a new deputy minister, to ensure that the right people are in place to execute this ambitious new strategy. Some of those new people have since also had the opportunity to provide some clarification about the major provisions of the policy with their public statements. We finally have as full a picture as we are going to get, at least for now, about what the policy means for Canada.

It provides some meaningful reassurances. The document was released last summer one day after Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland spoke about United States President Donald Trump's administration seeking to "shrug off the burden of world leadership," implying that Canada was poised to look elsewhere for partnership and support. Reassurances are therefore important and the policy provides a strong foundation for the continuation of the strongest alliance and partnership in the world.

It also provides investment in key areas that signal to external onlookers that Canada is moving in the right direction. Increased investment in intelligence and intelligence platforms, and highskill or specialized technical capabilities are welcome from a partner like Canada.

Most media analysis focused on expanding troop numbers and fixing procurement, both of which are welcome from the perspective of a partner and ally. However, the more interesting portions of the document are embedded in the back: Canada's new "concurrent operations" concept.

In the policy, Canada has articulated for the first time what its maximum engagement globally might look like, in terms of numbers of forces and numbers of missions that Canada must now plan for.

However, missing from the document is any sense of broader strategy; in other words: what these missions might be, what those thousands of troops are going to be doing, and why. Without a sense of how Canada might engage in the world—where, and toward what end—it is hard to know whether Canada will succeed at organizing, training, and equipping its force.

The lack of strategic underpinning is disorienting from an American perspective. In the United States, the Department of Defense is statutorily obligated to draft strategy and policy documents routinely. These documents are derived topdown, meaning that defence policy cannot exist without reference to overarching strategy documents that provide important context.

The concurrent mission concept in the second-to-last chapter of the Canadian policy is the only articulation in the document of



Minister Harjit Sajjan, seen at a December press conference in Ottawa, released Canada's new defence policy-Strong, Secure, Engaged—in June. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

what Canada intends to be able to do with its people and materiel, and it does not follow from any articulation of goals or priority.

For Canada to be transparently accountable to its people about its defence policy, Canadians need to understand not just what DND is doing in terms of numbers of forces and procurement of weapons systems. Those numbers are important in context; what does Canada seek to use those people for, and where does Canada believe it might use those weapons systems?

For partner nations, transparency is also important. As a trusted partner and ally, the

United States will depend on Canada to help defend both North America (as part of NORAD) and Europe, in the event of an attack on a NATO country. Spending is one important signal of commitment, but Americans will look to a bigger question first. We are still missing a greater sense of who Canada wants to be in the world.

Lindsay Rodman is a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, former director for defence policy and strategy at the U.S. National Security Council in the former Obama administration, and a fellow at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

The Hill Times

Comment

The Post: a brilliant reminder of what democracy looks like

As a lying president conducts a daily war against the media in Washington, *The Post* is a story of how the system would be working if truth weren't buried under a deluge of nonsense.



Lisa Van Dusen What Fresh Hell

Of all the things the Steven Spielberg Pentagon Papers drama *The Post* is, a period piece isn't one of them.

Yes, it's set in 1971. Yes, there are shots of hot metal typesetting and everyone's smoking their heads off. Newsrooms were noisy and at Georgetown dinner parties, the women, including Washington Post publisher Katharine Graham, peeled off in a gaggle after dessert to let the men talk about big important things over cognac and Cohibas.

Meryl Streep Streeps Katharine Graham the way she Streeped Margaret Thatcher and Karen Blixen and the woman whose baby really was, it turned out, eaten by the dingo, making her portrayal seem more authentic than the original.

The bonus is that Tom Hanks does the same with the late Ben Bradlee, filling out the margins left by Jason Robards' indelible All the President's Men-deus ex machina Bradlee with the real guy in all his everyday, helplessly

charismatic glory. The way Bradlee and Graham play off each other's strengths and weaknesses through the crisis both presages Watergate and reminds us that Woodward and Bernstein weren't the paper's only fateful duo.

As has been said by Spielberg about the film, the issues at the heart of the New York Times and then the Washington Post's decision to publish parts of the Pentagon Papers detailing the ways in which successive administrations had lied about the Vietnam War resonate inescapably with current events.

"The level of urgency to make the movie was because of the current climate of this administration, bombarding the press and labelling the truth as fake if it suited them,"the director told *The Guardian* recently.

The real distance between today and *The Post* isn't about the retro quaintness of pay phones and typewriters, it's about the gap between how things are and how they should be. It's a story about American journalism and government in which the truth—

represented with the same moral clarity that Spielberg brought to Schindler's List, Saving Private Ryan, and Lincoln—steals every scene just for seeming exotic at a time when lies have become so unbelievably common.

Over the past 20 years, the internet has slowly boiled the frog of legitimate journalism by decimating ad revenue, glutting the market with free content, blurring the line first between news and opinion and then between fact and fiction. Add to that the resourcesucking obligatory coverage on perpetual deadline of the nonstop bonfire that is the current president, and scenes of a dozen reporters and editors spending hours poring over thousands of pages of truth in Bradlee's living room seem like a parallel-universe dream sequence.

Above all, The Post is a reminder that democracy can't function without a robust, factbased, incorruptible free press. Which may be why, amid other recent degradations of democracy, truth and the people who report it in Washington are being buried in a deluge of tactical nonsense. The Post feels less like a flashback than an excavation of the genuine America currently obscured by that nonsense.

One of the most powerful moments in the movie comes toward the end, when then deputy editorial page editor Meg Greenfield, played by Carrie Coon, announces the Supreme Court's decision in the Post's favour to a tense newsroom by repeating the news from a reporter phoning from the scene. Quoting Justice Hugo Black's opinion, she says: "In the First Amendment the Founding Fathers gave the free press the protection it must have to fulfill its essential role in our democracy. The press was to serve the governed, not the governors.'

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

The Hill Times



Washington Post editor Ben Bradlee, played by Tom Hanks, in the foreground, speaks with newspaper staff in a scene from The Post. Niko Tavernise photograph courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox

Trump, the first Twit-tator, enabling tyrants worldwide

The president is single-handedly undermining the principles of fairness, decency, tolerance, and accountability at the heart of United States democracy.



Les Whittington

Need to Know

OTTAWA—Donald Trump, the first Twit-tator, is changing the world, whether we like it or not.

Backed by the malleable and undiscerning base he energizes through social media, the president is single-handedly undermining the principles of fairness, decency, tolerance, and accountability at the heart of United States democracy.

Many presidents have had acrimonious relationships with the news media. Richard Nixon, in his thuggish way, ordered the wiretapping of journalists' phones and got the Internal Revenue Service to go after them on taxes.

But few would have ever imagined a president of the U.S. vilifying the media in the way Trump has, or ever foreseen a president threatening to take away the licences of media outlets, not to mention his brazen, all-encompassing, upsidedown approach to the truth.

On Jan. 17, U.S. Senator Jeff Flake took Trump to task on the question of media, comparing the president's labelling of journalists as the "enemy of the American people" to those of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin.

"It is a testament to the condition of our democracy that our own president uses words infamously spoken by Joseph Stalin to describe his enemies," the Arizona Republican, who is soon to retire, said on the Senate floor.

Flake said Trump's "repulsive" remarks about the media show how mixed up the president is: it's actually despotism that "is the enemy of the people."

In only one year, Trump has

In only one year, Trump has done considerable damage to the traditional mechanisms of accountability and rule of law that bolster the American system, including not only battering the independence and credibility of the media but also chipping away at the role of the courts, law enforcement, intelligence agencies, the legislative branch, and the voting system itself.

In its latest global report, Human Rights Watch notes that, despite pushback from many sectors of U.S. society, "Trump was still able to take regressive steps by executive action—deporting many people without regard to their deep ties to the United States, reviving a cruel and discredited policy of mass incarceration of criminal offenders, easing oversight against police abuse, and restricting global funding for women's reproductive health."

The report, a scathing review of the first 12 months

of the Trump administration, goes on to say that the damage is also being felt in significant ways in the wider world.

Discussing the tension between the forces of populism and those opposing the populist upsurge globally, Human Rights Watch executive director Kenneth Roth says the playing out of this struggle has left many Western powers more inwardly focused, leading to a more fragmented world.

"With the United States led by a president who displays a disturbing fondness for rightstrampling strongmen, and the United Kingdom preoccupied by Brexit, two traditional if flawed defenders of human rights globally are often missing in action," Roth writes in an introduction to the recently released annual report covering 2017.

"Buffeted by racist and antirefugee political forces at home, Germany, France, and their European Union partners have not always been willing to pick up the slack. Democracies such as Australia, Brazil, Indonesia, Japan, and South Africa have been heard actively defending human rights rarely, at best."

Trump has exploited and exposed some of the worst aspects of

American society. Many troubling questions have been raised in the process about U.S. institutions, the education system, embedded racism, mass psychology, susceptibility to demagoguery, nativist resentment, bogus exceptionalism, and the vulnerability of democracy to the influence of the super-rich.

But, as Human Rights Watch notes, a taste of Trump has prompted a widespread response in the U.S. from the media, the legal community, civic groups, politicians, and other public figures.

And the wave of authoritarian, intolerance-driven populism that appeared to be sweeping the West not long ago has generally slowed, most notably with the election of French President Emmanuel Macron.

Interestingly, Human Rights Watch cites Canada, along with France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Ireland, as small- or mediumsized countries that are pushing back against the populists' antirights agenda and instead stressing"the advantages of governments that are accountable to their people rather than to their officials' empowerment and enrichment."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also gets credit in the report for prioritizing women's rights.

But the overall picture, of oppressive autocrats moving into the vacuum created by the retreat of Trump's United States as a defender of democracy and human rights globally, is far from encouraging.

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

The Hill Times

Canada needs to think bigger to see true growth in its cleantech industry

Canadian companies are best in class, but scaling up to global markets remains the biggest challenge.



Lynn Côté Energy

The worldwide movement to fight climate change is electrifying unprecedented momentum in the global cleantech market. This momentum is characterized by a global race to innovate, develop, verify, and bring solutions to market. Canada has the potential to lead the pack.

There's no question we have the talent;

There's no question we have the talent; Canada's clean technology sector continues to punch above its weight internationally, and we're getting noticed. This week, the Cleantech Group released its annual Global Cleantech 100 list. Thirteen Canadian companies were named. The sector's premier research organization also ranked Canada fourth in the world as a clean technology innovator—number one among our peers in the G20.

We have a strong number of companies ready to compete globally and deliver solid revenues. And they have the potential to be an exporting powerhouse. Yet, our global market share is less than two per cent. Scaling up to global markets remains the biggest challenge.

Over the six years Export Development Canada (EDC) has been really focused on the cleantech space, we have consistently heard cleantech developers say it's a tough business. Our cleantech industry faces many challenges moving past the research and development stage. In many cases, companies are trying to disrupt markets and, at other times, create new ones altogether. EDC's customers tell us everything costs more and takes longer than anticipated.

While there are a number of factors that contribute, financing keeps coming up as the biggest hurdle. Many clean technologies are capital intensive to produce and have long production timelines. This combination of high capital needs and long return periods in some sectors makes financing more challenging than in other industries. The result is that we have an abundance of cleantech companies with great climate solutions, struggling to get into the global market.

Now, more than ever, there is coordinated government support to try and ease some of their pain.

EDC alone expects to bring more than \$6-billion to the table to help support Canadian clean technology between now

and 2020. Our Cleantech Team has tailored EDC's financial products to accept the type of risk we see in cleantech companies, so we can support the unique challenges of early-commercialization companies that are ready to compete globally and grow their export revenue. We are merely one part of a broader cleantech ecosystem.

We have an abundance of cleantech companies with great climate solutions, struggling to get into the global market.

Just last week, the federal government announced the creation of the Clean Growth Hub, supporting cleantech companies by coordinating existing programs, and tracking results. The last federal budget included nearly \$1.4-billion in new financing for EDC and the Business Development Bank of Canada to help the most promising companies in Canada's cleantech sector grow and expand. Add to that \$400-million over five years towards a technology fund run by Sustainable Development Technology Canada, and money for Global Affairs Canada to implement an international business development strategy.

It's good, but there's still more to do. In a study on the Canadian cleantech ecosystem, Cleantech Group suggests the federal government should also consider the role it can play to help companies move from public to private sector funding more effectively. Businesses themselves have to maximize the support that exists, and then create a value proposition

that appeals to the market.

The 2017 Analytica Advisors industry report said if Canadian companies were to achieve just a two per cent global market share, we could create a \$50-billion cleantech industry by 2022.

But we should be thinking even bigger. Canada has to shoot for the top spot.

We can be the relentless pioneers at the forefront of this global disruption. Our cleantech companies can have their place on the map in forging a global evolution toward a greener future, and reap the economic and environmental awards. The sooner we embrace our Canadian companies to lead the way, the better that future is for all of us.

Lynn Côté is the cleantech lead for Export Development Canada, Canada's export credit agency.

The Hill Times

Canadian companies that made the 2018 Global Cleantech 100 list

Name	Funding	Sector	Year Founded
Awesense	0\$	smart grid	2009
Axine Water Technologies	\$15.6M	water & wastewater	2010
Carboncure Technologies	\$9.232M	advanced materials	2007
Ecobee	\$44.24M	energy efficiency	2007
Enbala Power Networks	\$45.11M	smart grid	2003
Enerkem	\$234.3M	biofuels & biochemicals	2000
FarmersEdge	\$59.07M	agriculture & food	2005
GaN Systems	\$24M	energy efficiency	2008
MineSense Technologies	\$26.27M	conventional fuels	2008
Opus One Solutions	\$5.81M	smart grid	2011
Saltworks Technologies Inc.	\$3M	water & wastewater	2008
Semios Bio	\$10.06M	agriculture & food	2010
Terramera	\$10M	biofuels & biochemicals	2009

The Standard: Supporting Workplace Mental Health

Workplaces can play an essential part in maintaining positive mental health. They can give people the opportunity to feel productive and be a strong contributor to employee well-being. Yet it can also be a stressful environment that contributes to the rise of mental health problems and illnesses.

In any given week, 500,000 Canadians are unable to work due to mental health problems and illnesses.

5th anniversary of the Standard!

40,000 downloads of these voluntary guidelines to help organizations in promoting mental health at work.

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Health Canada Santé Canada

How Canada can return to democracy-building abroad

Zimbabweans will go to the polls in a few months. The president says he wants free, fair, and credible elections and has invited the international community to observe them. Canada should take up that offer.



Michael Murphy
International development

1 s Canada an essential country at this time in the life of our planet?" asked Foreign

Minister Chrystia Freeland in her major foreign policy address to the House in June.

There is one area where opportunities to demonstrate this abound.

In November, Robert Mugabe, the widely detested president of Zimbabwe, was forced from office. His replacement—known by his nick name, The Crocodile—was put in power by the military.

Emmerson Mnangagwa, Mugabe's hatchet man for 40 years, was the intelligence chief when thousands of civilians, mostly ethnic Ndebele, were massacred. He was also a key party enforcer who ensured that ZANU-PF dominated Zimbabwe from independence in 1980 on.

Not surprisingly, many critics fear that democracy will be neither more inclusive nor more accountable under the new president, despite reassurances to the contrary. The main opposition to Mnangagwa will come from "Generation 40," a faction of the long-ruling party ZANU-PF, supported by Grace Mugabe, the former president's wife.

It is worth recalling that Canada, as a member of the Commonwealth, played an important role in supporting the democratic development of Zimbabwe a generation ago. Our capacity to offer such support was badly weakened by Stephen Harper's former government, and has not been rebuilt.

We had a robust democracysupport policy agenda and programs. Under the former Canadian International Development Agency we had the Office for Democratic Governance. The predecessor to Global Affairs Canada used to run a Democracy Promotion Unit. Brian Mulroney's former government set up the International Centre for Human Rights and Democracy. The Canada Corps was created to help developing and unstable countries develop strong democratic institutions.

Regrettably, each institution has been dismantled or merged into the bowels of the bureaucracy.

Curiously, the Harper government ladled out millions of dollars to American organizations in the field: the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute, representing the United States' two major parties.

This policy still prevails today. In 2016, the IRI received \$5.6-million and the NDI got \$2.6-million. The U.S-based International Foundation for Electoral Systems got another \$5.8-million, and the European Endowment for Democracy received another \$1.5-million.

The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy provides support for political party and parliamentary development, as does the United Kingdom's Westminster Foundation for Democracy. Germany and Sweden generously support domestic political party foundations, which in turn work with political parties in emerging democracies. The EU has its own well-funded European Centre for Electoral Support.

Why should Canada not be promoting our democratic values under our flag internationally? Canadians get paid to implement other countries' democracy-building programs all over the world. In election observation, civil society development, local governance, and political party training, Canadian expertise is well respected and in demand. As a brand name, though, Canada is not at the table.

There are thousands of Canadians with experience and expertise in governance and democracy promotion. One Ottawa-based group has an active roster with over 10,000 registered democracy experts.

The world needs Canada, as former U.S. vice president Joe Biden said. Opportunities to offer the potential of Canadian political values as the world's most successful federated state, as a community famous for its social inclusion, and as a nation built on an understanding of the power of mutual accommodation, are everywhere.

Zimbabweans will go to the polls in just a few months' time. President Mnangagwa has said that he wants free, fair, and credible elections and has invited the international community to observe them. Canada should take up that offer by providing assistance to local civil society organizations in advance and organize an election-monitoring mission to observe the vote.

An observation mission led by globally respected Canadians and composed of competent observers could provide Zimbabweans with crucial international support as it moves toward a more fully functioning constitutional democracy.

That should include contests where women are candidates and leaders in decision-making, and where civil society organizations can play important roles in holding government to account, and the full exercise of fundamental human rights is enjoyed by all.

It's a low-cost, low-risk, highreturn multiplier for Canada's influence and respect on the global stage.

We should remember our history of supporting countries in transition. It's in Canada's interest to re-engage.

And it provides a powerful answer to Minister Freeland's question:

"Yes, Canada is an essential country!"

Michael Murphy is a Canadian political analyst and organizer with more than 20 years' experience in the field, in democracybuilding, political party reform, election observation, and civil society capacity building on four continents.

The Hill Times



'Is Canada an essential country at this time in the life of our planet?' asked Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland in a major foreign policy speech in the House in June. Yes, writes Michael Murphy, and we ought to show it more. PMO photograph by Adam Scotti

Conditions ripe for waving the flag of hate

Warnings about rising hate have been largely disregarded by federal and provincial governments.



Avi Benlolo *Hate speech*

On Jan. 18, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was heckled at his town hall meeting in Quebec City by a man who held up an upside down Canadian flag with a swastika drawn on it. The man was removed from the room, but the pain of that episode remains. No matter your political viewpoint, holding up a swastika in Canada and desecrating our flag is damaging to our national ethos.

What permits this type of behaviour and how have we descended so far down the path of hate and intolerance in Canada?

At the University of New Brunswick, where white supremacist posters were distributed, a spokesperson from the university advised us that she received communication from a group called National Socialist Canadian Labour Revival Party. The group claimed responsibility for the flyers and objected to its characterization as intolerant, despite the fact it laid out its platform on an anti-Semitic and hateful website and calls for white "survival." The name of that party eerily resembles the official name of the Nazi

Party—The National Socialist German Workers' Party.

This shameful behaviour by Canadians follows the redistribution of a winter edition of the so-called *Your Ward News* last week. This edition of the Torontobased newspaper appears more intensely pro-Nazi than previous editions. Calls for an establishment of a "Hitler Fan Club" and recruitment of volunteers to join its movement have increased, while images of swastikas proliferate the pamphlet and calls for book burnings and Nuremberglike rallies are featured.

Neighbours are pitted against neighbours. This week, a Toronto family found swastikas drawn in the snow on their car. The snow will melt and the swastika will disappear—but suspicion about neighbours will last.

Which of them holds white supremacist views? Who among them would have marched in Charlottesville, Va. last summer?

Why should we be surprised by the spread of this hateful

attitude across our country? Our warnings about rising hate have been largely disregarded by federal and provincial governments. It's not sufficient to denounce and condemn hateful incidents. We have been calling for active enforcement of hate crime and hate speech.

It took two years for authorities to lay hate crime charges against the editor and owner of *Your Ward News*, despite complaints from the community. All the while those who peddle in hate observed and became more emboldened and motivated into action.

So after a town council in Puslinch, Ont., voted to keep the name of a local street "Swastika Trail," should we be surprised when a swastika is unfurled at a town hall meeting with the prime minister of Canada?

Many argue for free speech. But this is not a poli-sci course. This is real life. We have learned from history that free-market rhetoric will always victimize minorities and especially Jews. If six million reasons are not enough, frankly, I am not sure what is.

Avi Benlolo is the president and CEO of the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies

The Hill Times



We shouldn't be surprised when a swastika-defaced Canadian flag is unfurled at an event with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, as it was in Quebec City earlier this month, writes Avi Benlolo. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

Opinion

People power: Canadians willing to shell out for clean energy

Cross-country citizen roundtables last fall revealed three-quarters of participants were willing to chip in between 1.5 and 3 per cent of their annual income for a cleanenergy economy.



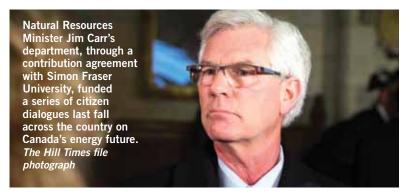
Robin Prest
Natural resources

Energy issues can be a polarizing force in Canadian politics, all too often pitting region against region, or opening up divisions between rural and urban.

So when we kicked off the Citizen Dialogues on Canada's Energy Future in September, we didn't know where these discussions would take us.

The idea was to bring together randomly selected citizens from different regions and walks of life to sit down at the same table. Over two days, participants learned about energy issues, listened deeply to each other's hopes and fears, and imagined the future they wanted the next generation to inherit.

With every province and territory represented, these citizendriven conversations moved across the country from Vancouver, to Calgary, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax. A final group of citizens then met in Winnipeg to review emerging themes and present a



final set of pan-Canadian recommendations to Natural Resources Canada as part its Generation Energy public consultation.

The detailed results, to be released in the coming week by Simon Fraser University's Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, provide a compelling reference point for decisionmakers and energy stakeholders.

In their consensus statement, citizens outlined the need to transition to an energy future that achieves a more sustainable and clean environment, while continuing to provide employment and affordable energy.

To achieve this vision, participants called for the federal government to play a leadership role in partnership with provinces, territories, Indigenous peoples, and local governments to create a national energy plan.

Indeed, governance emerged as an unexpected theme at almost every dialogue across Canada. Citizens told us they were frustrated with partisan politics and called for more continuity between election cycles. They also expressed

uncertainty about whether the information they receive is trustworthy and felt that they lacked tools they require to hold decision-makers accountable.

To better address these issues and inspire public confidence, citizens called for a strong, independent oversight body with the teeth required to regulate, enforce, and report on the effectiveness of energy policies and spending in Canada.

Participants agreed upon a range of tangible actions to advance their vision, including investments in energy infrastructure, incentives for clean-technology innovation, and stricter regulations for polluters.

In conjunction, they identified the need to maintain jobs, affordable energy, and opportunities for those groups that will be most affected by the transition to a new energy economy. These goals would be advanced through creating a transition plan in consultation with fossil fuel-dependent communities, rural and northern regions, vulnerable populations, and trade-exposed industries.

To pay for the clean-energy economy, participants identified a range of funding sources, from government revenues to private capital to industry. But when push came to shove, the majority of participants also told us that they were willing to pay their fair share of these costs, with 75 per cent of participants willing to contribute between 1.5 and three per cent of their annual income. This willingness to pay came with conditions in many cases, such as following a "polluter pays" principle, protecting vulnerable groups from unfair costs, and accounting for how money has been spent.

In outlining these recommendations, citizens called for Canada to lead by example on the global stage and take measured actions to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.

Given the tensions that exist around energy, there is remarkable agreement about the energy future that citizens want the next generation to inherit. What is clear is that realizing this future requires not just a technically robust plan, but also robust measures to increase public confidence and help vulnerable communities transition to the new energy economy.

Robin Prest is the program director at Simon Fraser University's Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue. The Citizen Dialogues on Canada's Energy Future were independently designed and facilitated by SFU as part of Natural Resources Canada's Generation Energy public consultation.

The Hill Times





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Lobbying spikes in 'wild card' Senate as groups target new Independents

Continued from page 1

according to an analysis of the 35,338 communications filed with the federal lobbying commissioner in 2017. The House of Commons still accounts for the bulk of lobbyist attention, with more than 11,000 entries filed in 2017 under the 338 MPs and their offices.

There's "absolutely no doubt" the Senate is an empowered body and the numbers bear it out, said Temple Scott Associates Inc. senior counsel Chris Gray who, like most lobbyists last year, reached out to Independent Senators first.

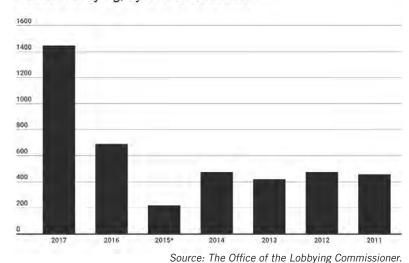
"The Senate was always seen as necessary to get legislation passed, but I think they have more influence than they have ever had before."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (Papineau, Que.) in 2014, as leader of the then-third-party Liberals, kicked Liberal Senators out of caucus, and since Mr. Trudeau became prime minister in 2015 he has been appointing Senators who sit as un-whipped Independents, leaving votes in the Upper Chamber a lot less easy to predict.

The Independent Senators Group (ISG), which recently became the largest contingent in the Senate, accounted for 43 per cent of lobbyist meetings in 2017. Nine ISG members are in the top 20 most lobbied Senators, followed by five Conservatives, four Liberals, and two non-affiliated members. The 39 ISG Senators accounted for 552 of the logs compared to 386 for the 33 Conservatives (or 30 per cent), and 247 for the 15 Liberals (or 19 per cent). The government's three representatives, who sit as "unaffiliated" Senators—Peter Harder (Ottawa, Ont.), Grant Mitchell (Alberta), and Diane Bellemare (Quebec)—represented seven per cent, not including the staff in their offices.

Four Senators who spoke with *The Hill Times* last week, all among the top 10 most lobbied, said they have to turn away some requests, but mostly attribute their ranking to a willingness to take meetings, and positions on key committees studying controversial or wide-ranging legislation.

Senate lobbying, by communications



Lobbying increased exponentially in 2017, a Hill Times analysis of federal lobbying commissioner data reveals. *The Hill Times graph by Infogram*

Although he's always been busy, Liberal deputy leader Terry Mercer—this year's most lobbied Senator—said he's noticed requests for his time have increased.

"There's more focus, more requests and it demands more time," said Sen. Mercer (Nova Scotia), who also attributes his top spot to being the longest-serving member of the agriculture and transport committees.

Last year's numbers are more than three times what was typical before Mr. Trudeau changed the Senate structure, hovering in the mid 400s from 2011 to 2014. The year of Mr. Trudeau's election, 2015, saw a dip in lobbying efforts across the board, with only 217 communications logged in the Senate that year.

Leaders in the Conservative and Liberal caucuses appear among the most lobbied Senators. With the Independents, committee membership appears the most likely factor for their contact with specialinterest groups, as controversial



Former Liberal staffer Kevin Bosch said a newly independent Senate is empowered and lobbyists are taking notice. The Hill Times file photograph



Sen. David Tkachuk said the nonpartisan approach to appointments means new Independents are relative unknowns, politically. *The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade*

legislation wends its way through the Red Chamber. Observers say some Senators are more willing to take meetings than others, which plays into popularity.

Over the last two years the Senate has become a "reinvigorated and empowered" body, said Kevin Bosch, a longtime Liberal staffer who last year joined Hill and Knowlton Strategies in Ottawa as the firm's vice president, adding the changed structure has had a "significant effect."

"I don't think people realize how big a change was being instituted when [Mr. Trudeau] removed Liberal Senators from the Liberal caucus and decided to only appoint independent."

It's become more unpredictable, but also a space where lobbyists see an opening.

"In the old days, you could just go and talk to the government leader in the two caucuses," said Mr. Bosch, adding perceived "influencers" would also be courted.

"I think it's a lot less clear [who those are] because there's so many Independents there," he said. "It means people have to go Senator by Senator and build support for the cause."

New Senate 'making mischief,' changing bills: Sen. Tkachuk

The nonpartisan focus of the appointments means many new members are unknown entities to lobbyists who themselves have political connections, said Conservative Senator David Tkachuk (Saskatchewan). When he came to the Upper Chamber he knew a lot of people in the lobby groups because they were from the party.

"I think that's true of the Liberals as well, but I know that's not true of the Independents because it seems to be a qualification that you not belong to a political party," said Sen. Tkachuk, who was seventh most lobbied in 2017 with 36 communications.

That was one of the main reasons Independent Lucie Moncion, third most lobbied in 2017, put her name forward, saying an "independent Senate is a better place."

"We can look at legislation without being told how we should vote at the end of the day," said Sen. Moncion (Ontario), who sits on the Internal Economy and Official Languages committees.

Some observers noted that despite the name, the Independents are more likely to vote in line with Mr. Trudeau's Liberals.

An analysis by CBC News last June found they voted with the government 94.5 per cent of the time compared to the kicked-out Liberals who, at the time, voted only 78.5 per cent of the time.

Sen. Tkachuk suggested his group and the Liberals are also a continued target, noting their combined votes represent more than half of Senate despite the ISG's plurality, and smart lobbyists see that opening

ists see that opening.

"They know the independent
Liberals are upset at Trudeau for
kicking them out so if they don't
like something in the bill they see
them as potential allies, along
with us,"he said, noting while
they often still vote for legislation
"they are about making mischief,
that's for sure."

As caucus structures in the Upper Chamber fall away, government representative Sen. Harder has a difficult job dealing with each group, especially the ISG, which doesn't whip its votes. While the group is starting to organize itself, its facilitator doesn't necessarily speak for the group and which ways members are likely to vote.

"[Sen. Harder has] a wild card in the independent Liberals and there's no love lost there," added Sen. Tkachuk.

Health and transport top lobbying issues

In August, former ISG facilitator Senator Elaine McCoy (Alberta) praised an institutional shift made evident by analysis from her office. It found 25 per cent of all government bills were amended in the Senate. It's a big jump over the seven per cent of government bills that were amended in the previous 10 Parliaments, the office said.

"There's more opportunity to pass amendments now," agreed Sen. Tkachuk, but that's made it a more controversial place, which has also helped raise the Senate's profile and engagement with it.

Signs the Senate would be different came early in Mr. Trudeau's mandate, with its back-and-forth with the House on assisted dying legislation. After lengthy study, and vocal pushback from Senators, the government accepted some amendments.

Before the summer break last year, Trudeau-appointee Independent Senator André Pratte (Quebec) made a motion to split the implementing legislation for

Continued from page 14

a new federal infrastructure bank from the budget bill, a move Sen. Tkachuk said is "not usually done' with government budgets.

Efforts to remove an excise tax on tax on wine, beer, and alcohol ultimately failed, but brought in considerable lobbying. In the Senate, the Canadian Vintners Association filed 33 reports last year, followed by Beer Canada with 25. Bill C-4, which repealed two Harper-era laws perceived as anti-labour, also earned opposition from Senators and engagement with lobbyists, but ultimately passed without the Senate insisting on amendments.

The government recently reached a compromise on Bill S-3, dealing with sex discrimination in the Indian Act, after Senators prepared to square off if the government didn't accept its amendments

Looking at the names that appear among top lobbied Senators, several noted the connection to the Transport Committee and its review of C-49, the Transportation Modernization Act. Sen. Mercer, Liberal Dennis Dawson (Quebec), Independent Rosa Galvez (Quebec), Conservative Michael MacDonald (Nova Scotia), and Independent Diane Griffin (P.E.I.) have been on the committee for months and new chair Sen. Tkachuk has also fielded meetings on the topic.

Several Senators referred to it as an omnibus bill, noting it's been a focal point for industry and will likely bring continued lobbying into 2018.

Legislation recommending plain packaging for tobacco also earned Senators attention. Rothmans, Benson & Hedges Inc. filed 40 reports in the Senate, followed by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada with 15, Canadian Cancer Society with 12, and Imperial Tobacco with nine. Health was a top-lobbied file in the senate last year, a reality Senators predict will continue into 2018 as controversial cannabis legislation makes its way before two Senate committees.

Independents open to many meetings, key focus for lobbyists

Before the new appointment process, groups would have focused their efforts on House committees, but Government Relations Institute of Canada president Phil Cartwright said "everyone" in government relations realizes the Senate is different, and compared to years past they are far more focused on them as part of an outreach strategy.

"There's agreement right across the board, including with GRIC members, that the Senate has taken on new importance in terms of the new Senate and new structure underpinning how the Senate functions and how people are appointed," he said, adding if a group sees the opportunity for amendment, it makes sense that it would "pretty aggressively engage with the Senate."

Temple Scott Associates Inc. makes a point to connect with Senators, said Mr. Gray, adding he first reaches out to members of the ISG.

"I target them as a group, I think, [that] would be more amenable to potentially looking at legislation if you want something changed,"he said, adding he's noticed their staff members are often more willing to meet than those in the House.

Part of the spike in numbers can be attributed to the simple fact that so many new Senators have been appointed in such a short time. In less than two years, Mr. Trudeau has named 30 members through a process that the government champions as meritbased and nonpartisan. There are still 11 yacant seats.

"People are going to want to meet with them and they all came at once so we'll see if this develops into the long term or whether the ISG establishes some semblance of caucus unity over time," said Sen. Tkachuk. The same was true for him after his 1993 appointment by Brian Mulroney, he said.

The ISG is so new that observers are still working out the way it functions, and who its leaders or influencers are. Its facilitators haven't garnered the same level of interaction as leadership in the traditional caucuses. Sen. Yuen Pau Woo (B.C.), who was named to the post in September, has 14 communications, while former facilitator Sen. McCoy had one in 2017.

Sen. Galvez, the new chair of the Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee, said she has a "doors open, hands on" approach to meetings, while colleague Sen. Moncion said she tries to schedule about three meetings a week because as a new Parliamentarian she sees it as part of the learning experience.

"We should have an open mind and receive as many opinions and positions [as possible]...we are looking [for] facts," said Sen. Galvez, noting the approach is borrowed from her background in academia as a professor. "My decision will be better when I experience what people are telling me."

At the committee level, Independent Sen. Raymonde Saint-Germain (De la Vallière, Que.) told *The Hill Times* lobbyists are given "too much time and too much importance."

With meetings, Sen. Galvez said she tries to speak to groups with opposing views "so you have all the perspectives," and while she's found some come with a partisan bent or a clear agenda, she would rather get information, or data points that she can parse.

"Most of the time I send them back with homework," said Sen. Galvez, who also sits on the Transport Committee and the Senate's new Special Arctic Committee.

As an "autonomous" body, Sen. Moncion noted ISG members don't influence each other's votes, but do try to have a group approach to determine who speaks on topics to avoid repetition.

As the government launches into an ambitious legislative agenda, Sen. Moncion said it's not a question of whether the Senate makes it difficult for the government to pass its laws, but whether the government will be open to that feedback.

"When the prime minister decided that he wanted a more independent Senate, he also wanted independent views, different views on what the government is bringing forward," she said. "They shouldn't have a problem... We might see other things that [MPs don't catch]." swallen@hilltimes.com

The Hill Times

The most lobbied Senators of 2017, by communications

Name	Affiliation	Communications	Province	Appointment
Liberal deputy leader Terry Mercer	Lib.	65	Nova Scotia	2003/Chrétien
Government liaison Grant Mitchell	Non-affiliated	60	Alberta	2005/Martin
Lucie Moncion	ISG	59	Ontario	2016/Trudeau
Dennis Dawson	Lib.	57	Quebec	2005/Martin
Diane Griffin Rosa Galvez	ISG ISG	42 41	P.E.I Quebec	2016/Trudeau 2016/Trudeau
David Tkachuk	C	36	Saskatchewan	1993/Mulroney
René Cormier	ISG	35	New Brunswick	2016/Trudeau
Pierrette Ringuette	ISG	34	New Brunswick	2002/Chrétien
Michael MacDonald	C	33	Nova Scotia	2009/Harper
Douglas Black	ISG	31	Alberta	2013/Harper
Claudette Tardif	Lib.	30	Alberta	2005/Martin
Government representative Peter Harder	Non-affiliated	29	Ontario	2016/Trudeau
Frances Lankin	ISG	28	Ontario	2016/Trudeau
Richard Neufeld	С	28	British Columbia	2009/Harper
Carolyn Stewart Olsen	C	25	New Brunswick	2009/Harper
Larry Campbell	ISG	24	British Columbia	2005/Martin
André Pratte	ISG	24	Quebec	2016/Trudeau
Liberal leader Joseph Day	Lib. C	23 23	New Brunswick	2001/Chrétien
Scott Tannas Tony Dean	ISG	20	Alberta Ontario	2013/Harper 2016/Trudeau
Victor Oh	C	20	Ontario	2013/Harper
Conservative whip Don Plett	C	20	Manitoba	2009/Harper
Raymonde Gagné	ISG	19	Manitoba	2016/Trudeau
Judith Seidman	C	19	Quebec	2009/Harper
Patricia Bovey	ISG	17	Manitoba	2016/Trudeau
Percy Downe	Lib.	16	P.E.I	2003/Chrétien
Stephen Greene	ISG	16	Nova Scotia	2009/Harper
Elizabeth Marshall	C	16	Newfoundland and Labrador	2010/Harper
Nancy Greene Raine	C	14	British Columbia	2009/Harper
David Wells	C	14	Newfoundland, Labrador	2013/Harper
ISG facilitator Yuen Pau Woo	ISG	14	British Columbia	2016/Trudeau
Jean-Guy Dagenais	С	12	Quebec	2012/Harper
Art Eggleton	Lib.	12	Ontario	2005/Martin
Ghislain Maltais	C	12	Quebec	2009/Harper
Jim Munson	Lib.	12	Ontario	2003/Chrétien
Chantal Petitclerc	ISG	12	Quebec	2016/Trudeau
Claude Carignan	C	11	Quebec	2009/Harper
Jane Cordy	Lib.	11	Nova Scotia	2000/Chrétien
Marilou McPhedran	ISG	11	Manitoba	2016/Trudeau
Howard Wetston	ISG	11	Ontario	2016/Trudeau
Raynell Andreychuk	C	10	Saskatchewan	1993/Mulroney
Wanda Elaine Thomas Bernard	ISG	10	Nova Scotia	2016/Trudeau
Norman Doyle	C	10	Newfoundland, Labrador	2012/Harper
Sabi Marwah	ISG ISG	10 10	Ontario	2016/Trudeau
Kim Pate Dan Christmas	ISG	9	Ontario Nova Scotia	2016/Trudeau 2016/Trudeau
Percy Mockler	C	9	New Brunswick	2009/Harper
Mobina Jaffer	Lib.	8	British Columbia	2009/Harper 2001/Chrétien
Yonah Martin	C C	8	British Columbia	2009/Harper
Paul Massicotte	ISG	8	Quebec	2003/Chrétien
Dennis Patterson	C	8	Nunavut	2009/Harper
Anne C. Cools	ISG	7	Ontario	1984/P.E.Trudeau
Michael Duffy	ISG	7	P.E.I	2009/Harper
Lillian Dyck	Lib.	7	Saskatchewan	2005/Martin
Marc Gold	ISG	7	Quebec	2016/Trudeau
Paul McIntyre	С	7	New Brunswick	2012/Harper
Ratna Omidvar	ISG	7	Ontario	2016/Trudeau
Betty Unger	С	7	Alberta	2012/Harper
Gwen Boniface	ISG	6	Ontario	2016/Trudeau
Éric Forest	ISG	6	Quebec	2016/Trudeau
Fabian Manning	C	6	Newfoundland, Labrador	2011/Harper
Raymonde Saint-Germain	ISG	6	Quebec	2016/Trudeau
Murray Sinclair	ISG	6	Manitoba	2016/Trudeau
Pamela Wallin	ISG	6	Saskatchewan	2009/Harper
Diane Bellemare	Non-affiliated	5	Quebec	2012/Harper
Linda Frum	C	5	Ontario	2009/Harper
Leo Housakos	C	5	Quebec	2009/Harper
Colin Kenny	Lib.	5	Ontario	1984/P.E.Trudeau
Thomas McInnis	C	5	Nova Scotia	2012/Harper
David Richards	ISG	5	New Brunswick	2017/Trudeau
Conservative leader Larry Smith	C	5	Quebec	2011/Harper
Vernon White	C	5	Ontario	2012/Harper
Denise Batters	C	3	Saskatchewan	2013/Harper
Nicole Eaton	C Non-affiliated	3	Ontario	2009/Harper
Goorgo Eurov	Non-affiliated Non-affiliated	2	Newfoundland, Labrador Ontario	1999/Chrétien
George Furey	Determine inori	2	Quebec	2013/Harper 2010/Harper
Lynn Beyak		/	•	
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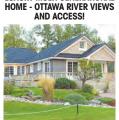
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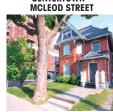
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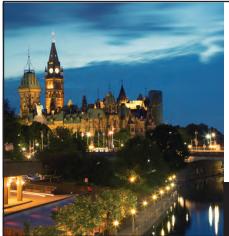
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Foreign Affairs Minister Freeland names fellow Rhodes Scholar alum as new policy director

Laurence Deschamps-Laporte has replaced Owen Teo as director of policy to the foreign affairs minister.

Poreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland has made a few senior staffing changes in her ministerial office of late, including naming a new director of policy following the departure of Owen Teo in December.

Mr. Teo had been serving as Ms. Freeland's director of policy since June 2016 when she was the minister responsible for international trade. When Ms. Freeland was shuffled into her current foreign affairs portfolio in January 2017, Mr. Teo was quick to follow, continuing to lead policy work in the minister's new office.

He's now opted to return to work in the federal public service. Stay tuned for more details on his new role.

Before becoming a political aide to Ms. Freeland, Mr. Teo spent the last almost four years as an executive director in the office of the deputy minister for international trade, and from 2009 to 2012, he was a senior trade commissioner posted in the Canadian Embassy in Beijing, China.

During his time with Ms. Freeland, Mr. Teo logged plenty of time on the road. In 2016, while while working on trade, he claimed a total of \$15,735.31 in travel and hospitality expenses, including for trips to Washington, D.C., for meetings with the United States Trade Representative in September; to China for G20 trade ministers' meetings in Shanghai in July and again in August for G20 meetings in Hangzhou; and to Laos in August to accompany the minister at the ASEAN economic ministers' meeting.

With Mr. Teo's departure, policy adviser **Laurence Deschamps-Laporte** has been promoted to take over as Ms. Freeland's new director of policy.

Ms. Deschamps-Laporte started in the foreign affairs minister's office in the fall of 2016 under then minister **Stéphane Dion**.

She's a former Rhodes Scholar at the University of Oxford, where she studied international development and modern Middle Eastern studies. Originally from Quebec, Ms. Deschamps-Laporte also has a master's in international development from the University of Oxford, and a bachelor's degree in international studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Along with French and English, she can speak Spanish, German, and Arabic.

In further policy staff changes, adviser **Omer Aziz** has also recently exited Ms. Freeland's office, which he joined back in July 2017.

Mr. Aziz was previously a student fellow with the Yale Information Society Project while studying law at the Ivy League school, and was a legal intern at the office of the United Nations Special Envoy for Syria during the summer of 2015.

Along with these changes, director of parliamentary affairs **Vincent Garneau** has



Policy adviser Omer Aziz has left his post in Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland's office. *Photograph courtesy of Facebook*

taken on the added responsibility of also serving as a senior adviser for Canada-U.S. relations to Ms. Freeland.

Mr. Garneau first began working for Ms. Freeland during her time as international trade minister in February 2016, and before that had been a foreign service officer with the then-named Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development. That includes serving as a trade commissioner in the Montreal regional trade office, as a policy adviser for the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, and as a policy adviser with the department's clemency and complex consular cases division.

He's also a former legislative and political adviser to Quebec Liberal Senator **Dennis Dawson**, amongst other past experience.

Jeremy Broadhurst is chief of staff to Ms. Freeland.

International Trade Minister François-Philippe Champagne has hired Marianne Brisson to serve as a special assistant for policy in his office.

Ms. Brisson spent a couple of months last fall working as a research assistant for the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime, and before that spent the summer of 2017 as an intern in National Revenue Minister **Diane Lebouthillier**'s Hill office as the Liberal MP for Gaspésie-Les-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Que., amongst other past experience.

On the flip side, policy, operations, and Quebec regional affairs adviser **Sylvain Bédard** has left Mr. Champagne's office. Mr. Bédard joined Mr. Champagne's ministerial office in February 2017, and before that had been working for him in his capacity as the Liberal MP for Saint-Maurice-Champlain, Que.

Another recently departed trade staffer, **Jim Kapches**, is now busy working as a policy adviser in National Defence Minister **Harjit Sajjan**'s office, as of this week.

Previously, Mr. Kapches had been an Ontario regional affairs adviser in Mr. Champagne's office, and assistant to the minis-



Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland has promoted a new director of policy, and has tapped parliamentary affairs director Vincent Garneau to also serve as a senior adviser for Canada-U.S. relations in her ministerial office. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

ter's parliamentary secretary, Liberal MP **Pamela Goldsmith-Jones** since early 2017. Before that, he was a legislative assistant to Liberal MP **Julie Dabrusin**, who represents Toronto-Danforth, Ont.

As assistant to Ms. Goldsmith-Jones, Mr. Kapches got the chance to accompany the parliamentary secretary on a number of trips abroad, including to Vietnam, Singapore and Brunei for bilateral meetings in April; to Manila, Philippines, for the 49th ASEAN economic ministers' meeting in September; and to China to take part in The Belt and Road Forum and bilateral meetings in May. In all, he claimed \$32,548.62 in travel and hospitality expenses while with the trade minister's office in 2017.

He also sat in on many meetings with lobbyists in his previous role, as indicated by the federal lobbying registry, including with: the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association of Canada, Renewable Industries Canada, the Council of Canadian Innovators,



Vincent Garneau is now director of parliamentary affairs and a senior adviser for Canada-U.S. relations to the foreign affairs minister. Photograph courtesy of LinkedIn

Honda Canada, eBay, Universities Canada, the Association of Canadian Port Authorities, the Steelworkers Humanity Fund, the Canadian Sugar Institute, the Canadian Pork Council, the Canola Council of Canada, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance, and Ferrero Canada, amongst others.

James Cudmore is director of policy to Mr. Sajjan, while **Scott Savage** is a senior policy adviser, and **John Ma** is a policy adviser.

Zita Astravas is chief of staff to the minister, whose office also includes: Louis Landry, director of parliamentary affairs; Manjeet Vinning, director of operations; Renée Filiatrault, director of communications; Byrne Furlong, press secretary; Matt Luloff, special assistant for issues management; Anthony Di Carlo, special assistant for Quebec and Atlantic regional affairs; Jonathan Barry, special assistant for Western regional affairs; Danielle Moriarty, special assistant for Ontario regional affairs; JoAnne Buteau, ex-

ecutive assistant to the minister; and **Ashley Press**, executive assistant to the chief of staff.

Ministers Hajdu, Petitpas Taylor welcome new assistants

Employment, Workforce Development, and Labour Minister **Patty Hajdu** has hired **Sahar Zaker** to join the exempt staff ranks in her ministerial office.

Ms. Zaker was until recently working on the Hill as a member's assistant to Liberal MP **Majid Jowhari**, who represents the Toronto area riding of Richmond Hill, Ont., and is now a special assistant to Ms. Hajdu .

She started out as an outreach and case manager in Mr. Jowhari's constituency office in 2015, shortly after the MP was elected for the first time with roughly 46.9 per cent support.

Ms. Zaker had worked on Mr. Jowhari's 2015 federal election campaign, helping with community outreach, as indicated by her LinkedIn profile, and is a former vice-president for outreach for the Richmond Hill Federal Liberal Association. She studied an undergrad in political science and government at York University.

Matthew Mitschke is chief of staff to the employment minister.

In other staffing news, while looking up Mr. Jowhari's staff team on the government's electronic directory service, Hill Climbers spotted that former ministerial staffer Erik Mistal is now working as a member's assistant to the rookie MP.

Mr. Mistal was previously working in Natural Resources Minister **Jim Carr**'s office as an assistant to the minister's parliamentary secretary, Liberal MP **Kim Rudd**, up until November. Before that, he had been a special assistant for communications to Ms. Hajdu in her previous capacity as the minister for status of women.

Federal Health Minister **Ginette Petitpas Taylor** added a new adviser to her political staff team, starting the week before last.

Aamar Yaseen is now a regional adviser to the minister for the West and North, as well as serving as assistant to the minister's parliamentary secretary, Liberal MP Bill Blair, who represents Scarborough Southwest, Ont., and also serves as parliamentary secretary to Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould.

Geneviève Hinse is chief of staff to Ms. Petitpas Taylor. Also currently working for the minister are: Stevie O'Brien, director of parliamentary affairs and issues management; Yves Comeau, director of communications; Thierry Bélair, press secretary; Monique Lugli, senior adviser; Kathryn Nowers, senior policy adviser; Travis Gordon, policy adviser; Kate Moussouni, policy adviser; Danielle Boyle, office manager and executive assistant to the chief of staff; and driver Gislain Dumas.

lryckewaert@hilltimes.com The Hill Times

DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES

by Shruti Shekar

Booming Canada-Wales trade leads to new diplomatic office opening in Montreal

With a 70 per cent increase in the past year in trade between Wales and Canada, the British High Commission is opening a new office for the territory that forms part of Great Britain in Montreal to capitalize on burgeoning opportunities.

Trevor Kerr, head of communications at

Trevor Kerr, head of communications at the high commission, said in an email that the office, consisting of "one representative accredited through the high commission" would open at the end of February.

"Our staff will work closely with our Welsh colleague to provide any support they need to promote Wales in Canada," Mr. Kerr said.

A Nov. 27 press release from the Welsh government indicated that in the last year Canada was the ninth largest market for Welsh exports, which totalled roughly \$682-million, which represented a 70 per cent increase in trade from 2016.

Companies that have invested in the Welsh market include Montreal-headquartered CGI, which has an office in Wales. The release noted that Canada is in the top five investment markets for Wales.

A Welsh government spokesperson said the government has many offices overseas to promote international interests, which include trade, investment, tourism, culture, and education. The spokesperson said having the office in Montreal provides more opportunities because of its metropolitan location.

"Wales already has vibrant business relations with Canada and we are looking forward to strengthening and developing these further," the spokesperson said via email. "The office [in Montreal] will allow close collaboration with colleagues and partners including foreign embassies, Chambers of Commerce, the Department for International Trade and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in [the] market."

Changes in the diplomatic corps

The new Icelandic ambassador, **Pétur Ásgeirsson**, presented his credentials to the Governor General on Nov. 20 at Rideau Hall.

Mr. Ásgeirsson, a career diplomat who joined the foreign service in 1999, replaced **Sturla Sigurjónsson** who left in July.

Ólöf Sigvaldadóttir, deputy head of mission and chargé d'affaires, said Mr. Sigurjónsson returned to Iceland and is now the permanent secretary of state.

Before coming to Canada, Mr. Ásgeirsson was the consul general in Nuuk, Greenland, for the past five years. He was also the director general for administration and consular affairs from 2009 to 2013 in the Icelandic Foreign Service.

Mr. Asgeirsson had been the political adviser to **Ólafur Einarsson**, the former minister of science, education, and culture in Iceland from 1993 to 1994.

In other movements, the high commissioner for Saint Kitts and Nevis has left the country.

The high commission said **Shirley Skerritt-Andrew** left on Dec. 22 and returned to the Caribbean nation after being in Canada for a little over two years.

Eustace Wallace, the interim chargé



U.K. High Commissioner to Canada Susan le Jeune d'Allegeershecque's office says the British consulate in Montreal will be the location for the new Welsh office. *Photograph courtesy of the U.K. Foreign Commonwealth office*

d'affaires, said she was back at the foreign ministry and a new high commissioner has been selected to come to Canada. Mr. Wallace would not reveal who the new high commissioner was and when they would be arriving.

Ms. Skerritt-Andrew was the first resident high commissioner for Saint Kitts, and helped establish an independent high commission in Ottawa after the High Commission of the Organizations of Eastern Caribbean States—of which Saint Kitts and Nevis is a member—closed down in 2011 for economic reasons.

During her time, Ms. Skerritt-Andrew's priority was to lift the visa requirement that Canada imposed on residents after security concerns from Saint Kitts and Nevis' buy-apassport program were raised in 2014.

The program essentially allowed users to get a passport in exchange for investment without being a resident of the country.

During a 2016 interview with *The Hill Times*, Ms. Skerritt-Andrew said she would work to convince the Canadian government that Saint Kitts and Nevis had tightened security. Its government had recalled all passports and now includes the date and place of birth of its citizens in the documents.

Before coming to Canada, Ms. Skerritt-Andrew was the ambassador of the Organizations of Eastern Caribbean States in Brussels.

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Labour Minister Hajdu speaks at Finnish centenary bash

Photographs courtesy of Cynthia Münster











Qatar hosts national day do

The Hill Times photographs by Sam Garcia





Kazakhstan welcomes Parliamentarians, diplomats to Independence Day party











Conservative caucus to huddle in Victoria before Parliament sits

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24

The House Is Not Sitting—The House of Commons is not sitting this week after adjourning for the traditional holiday break on Dec. 13. The House is scheduled to resume sitting Jan. 29.

Conservative National Caucus Meets in Victoria—The national Conservative caucus is meeting in Victoria, B.C., from Jan. 24-25, in advance of the start of the winter session of Parliament on Jan. 29. Conservative leader Andrew Scheer will deliver opening remarks at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 24. His speech will be open to the media. The caucus will break for the day at 5 p.m. Mr. Scheer will hold a media availability at the end of the caucus meeting on Jan. 25. The Fairmont Empress, 721 Government St., Victoria, B.C.

NAFTA Negotiations—The sixth round of negotiations is being held until Jan. 28. in Montreal, Que., with ministers arriving for a final day of talks on Jan. 29.

PM Continues Davos Trip—Prime Minister Justin Trudeau continues his visit to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Today, he's set to participate in a Canada-U.S.A. Economic Roundtable and Oceans Roundtable, and meet with Argentine President Mauricio Macri and business executives including DP World chair and CEO Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Ericsson CEO Börje Ekholm, Salesforce CEO Marc Benioff, Royal Dutch Shell CEO Ben van Beurden, and Microsoft Corporation CEO Satya Nadella. Tomorrow, he will attend a Canada Reception at night and meet during the day with Malala Yousafzai, co-founder of the Malala Fund, as well as executives Jacob Wallenberg, chair of Investor AB, Coca-Cola Company CEO James Quincey, IBM CEO Ginni Rometty, and World Economic Forum founder Klaus Schwab, as well as hold a media availability.

NDP Caucus Meets—The NDP national caucus is holding a strategy session from Jan. 23-25. It was originally scheduled to take place in Saguenay, Que., but was moved at the last minute to Ottawa due to travel complications and flight cancellations amid a glut of snow and ice.

CIGI Global Policy Forum—The Centre for International Governance Innovation presents its first Global Policy Forum event in 2018. Its featured speaker is University of Waterloo Prof. Bessma Momani, a CIGI senior fellow. She will speak on "Flashpoints of the Middle East." 5:30 p.m. Rideau Club, lounge, 99 Bank St., 15th floor. Registration required. https://momani-gpf-lecture.eventbrite.ca.

Canadian Mayors to Attend Workshop on Countering Violent Extremism and United States Conference of Mayors Meeting—The U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa, in partnership with the Strong Cities Network, have invited seven mayors and other representatives from Canadian cities to Washington, D.C., for a workshop with American and international mayors on countering violent extremism. The participants will also attend the United States Conference of Mayors' 86th winter meeting from Jan. 25-26. The mayors of the following cities will be attending: Ottawa, Gatineau, Quebec City, London, Windsor, Saskatoon, and Edmonton. Representatives from the cities of Montreal and Surrey will also be in attendance.

ParlAmericas Inter-Parliamentary Meeting on Gender Equality in Jamaica—An all-party delegation of Canadian Parliamentarians will participate in ParlAmericas' Inter-Parliamentary Meeting on Gender Equality from Jan. 24-25 in Kingston, Jamaica. The focus of the meeting is on building partnerships to transform gender relations. The Canadian

delegation will be led by Liberal MP Anthony Rota, and will include Senators Anne Cools and David Wells, Liberal MP Joyce Murray, and NDP MP Murray Rankin.

THURSDAY, JAN. 25

Trumpocracy: The Corruption of the American Republic, with David Frum-Maclean's writer Paul Wells hosts this Ottawa Writers Festival event featuring author, former White House speechwriter, and The Atlantic columnist and media commentator David Frum, who explains how he says U.S. President Donald Trump has undermined America's most important institutions in ways even the most critical media have missed. He'll speak to his new book Trumpocracy. Southminster United Church, 15 Aylmer Ave., Ottawa. 7 p.m. Prices vary, up to \$20. writersfestival.org.

Community Liaison Officers' Group Ottawa—The CLO Group is hosting a 2017/2018 series of information sessions for foreign diplomatic missions' personnel responsible for welcoming new embassy staff members and their families. The group involves networking and sharing information essential for a smooth transition and settlement of new families to Ottawa/the National Capital Region. Monthly meetings feature guest speakers. January's topic is taxes and banking. 2:30 p.m. To join the group or participate in the meeting, please contact

andjelka.vidovic@embassyservices.org.
In Search of the Next Gig: A Snapshot of Precarious Work in Canada Today—What does precarious work look like in Canada today, and what is driving it? How should decision-makers address the loss of employment stability? With the help of a panel of experts, this breakfast discussion hosted by Policy Options magazine will broach this key public policy issue. 8-10 a.m. National Arts Centre. O'Born Room. 1 Elgin St., Ottawa. Registration is \$25. Register at irpp.org/irpp-event/in-search-of-the-next-giga-snapshot-of-precarious-work-in-canada-today.

Minister Philpott to Convene Two-Day **Emergency Meeting on First Nations, Inuit, Métis** Nation Child and Family Services—Indigenous Services Minister Jane Philpott will convene an emergency meeting on Indigenous child and family services at the Shaw Centre in Ottawa (55 Colonel By Dr.) from Jan. 25 to 26. This meeting will include Indigenous leaders, provincial and territorial ministers, community technicians, youth representatives, experts, and advocates. The meeting looks to identify shared priorities and a path forward in reforming Indigenous child and family services. Media will be invited to the morning portions of the main plenary each day.

United States International Trade Commission to Make Final Bombardier Determination—The ITC is set to make its final injury determination in the Bombardier-Boeing case today.

SATURDAY, JAN. 27

Saskatchewan Party Elects New Leader— The next premier of Saskatchewan, taking over from Brad Wall who announced his resignation in the summer, will be elected today by party membership at a convention in Saskatoon. saskparty.com.

Winter Celebration at Rideau Hall—Rideau Hall is hosting its annual Winter Celebration public event from 12:30 to 4 p.m. Activities, all of which are free of charge and will be held rain/snow or shine, include skating on Rideau Hall's outdoor rink, kick-sledding, giant ski races, curling, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. There will also be snacks and hot beverages from various participating embassies, and tours of the residence. Visitors are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for the Ottawa Food Bank or Moisson Outaquais or articles of winter clothing for the Snowsuit Fund.

MONDAY, JAN. 29

The House Resumes Sitting—The House of Commons begins the winter and spring session today after returning from the traditional holiday break. The House is sitting every weekday until Feb. 16. It will then take a one-week break from Feb. 19-23 before returning Feb. 26. The House will break again on March 2, and take a two-week break from March 5-16. After returning March 19 and sitting every weekday for the next nearly two weeks, the House will again break from March 30 to April 13. It will resume sitting April 16 and sit every weekday until leaving for a one-week break from May 14-21. After returning on May 22, the House is scheduled to sit every weekday until adjourning for the summer break in late June. The Senate will largely follow the same schedule, though the Senate traditionally only sits Tuesday to Thursday, and is scheduled to

break a week later in the spring, on June 29. Ministers to Meet in Montreal for Round Six of NAFTA Renegotiations—Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland, United

States Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, and Mexico's Secretary of Economy Ildefonso Guajardo will meet in Montreal as part of the sixth round of NAFTA renegotiations

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31

Arctic Inspiration Prize Awards Ceremony-This is an event honouring the 2017 laureates of the \$3-million Arctic Inspiration Prize, which encourages, enables, and celebrates the inspiring achievements of northerners. Hosted by CBC Igalaag's Madeleine Allakariallak the event will feature a performance by the cast of Kiviuq Returns, produced by 2015 Arctic Inspiration Prize Laureate Qaggiavuut, and a special announcement by Natan Obed president of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. 8 p.m. Shaw Centre, Ottawa. No charge, advance registration required. For more information, visit arcticinspirationprize.ca or aip@national.ca.

Prime Time in Ottawa 2018—The Canadian Media Producers Association is hosting the 2018 edition of its annual conference for the Canadian media industry from Jan. 31 to Feb. 2 at the Westin Ottawa. Prime Time is the national networking event for business leaders from Canada's television, interactive media, feature film, broadcasting, and telecommunications industries. Actor, director, writer, and producer Jay Baruchel is the closing keynote speaker. His recent credits include acting roles in Goon: Last of the Enforcers, Man Seeking Woman, This Is the End, Tropic Thunder, and the How to Train Your Dragon franchise. For more, visit primetimeinottawa.ca.

Canadian Catastrophe Conference—CatIQ is hosting the third annual Canadian Catastrophe Conference from Jan. 31-Feb. 2 in Gatineau. Que., at the Hilton Lac-Leamy. The goal of the conference is to bring government, the insurance industry, and academia together to discuss Canadian disasters and how to better prepare and respond to them. It is also hosting a national disaster mitigation workshop in collaboration with Public Safety Canada on Jan. 31. For more information, www.catig.com.

Hall in Edmonton—Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is holding a town hall in Edmonton. A venue has yet to be publicly announced.

SATURDAY, FEB. 3

British Columbia Liberal Party Elects New Leader—Voting will take place online, with a telephone option, on Thursday, Feb. 1, Friday, Feb. 2, and Saturday, Feb. 3. The party will hold a leadership convention for the announcement of the new leader on Feb 3. For more info: bcliberals.com/leadership.

TUESDAY, FEB. 6

Promoting Democracy Abroad: What Role for Canadian Legislators?—Organized by the Carleton University Initiative for Parliamentary and Diplomatic Engagement, Parliamentarians and senior government officials are invited to this panel discussion and introduction to the new All-Party Democracy Caucus. Panelists: Fen Hampson, Carleton University/Centre for International Governance Innovation; Jacqueline O'Neill, Inclusive Security; and Kevin Deveaux, former Nova Scotia MLA. Sir John A. Macdonald Building, 144 Wellington St., Ottawa, 4:30 p.m., registration; 4:45 p.m., panel; 6:15 p.m., reception. Please register at carletonrsvp@gmail.com by Jan. 31.

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

The Hill Times



Thousands flock to Hill for Women's March

The Hill Times photographs by Andrew Meade















FAR-REACHING HEALTH CANADA REFORMS
COULD UNDERMINE LIFE SCIENCES RESEARCH
AND INVESTMENT IN CANADA.



