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TWENTY-NINTH YEAR, NO. 1506

CANADA'S POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER

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News #MeToo & politics

## Government whips to hold closed-door meetings with Liberal MPs, staffers to discuss sexual harassment on the Hill

• Chief government whip Pablo Rodriguez and deputy whip Filomena Tassi are meeting with MPs on Feb. 28 on Parliament Hill.

• The sexual harassment file is 'rapidly' unfolding as the House examines Bill C-65, an Act to Amend the Canada Labour Code, the House Affairs Committee reviews the MPs' Code of Conduct on sexual harassment, and the chief human resources officer starts in-person training sessions for the PM, ministers, and MPs on sexual harassment.

BY ABBAS RANA

As the #MeToo movement continues to unfold on the Hill, chief government whip Pablo Rodriguez says he and deputy Liberal whip Filomena Tassi will hold two special closed-door meetings with MPs and staffers to seek input on how to make Parliament Hill a harassment-free workplace.

"It's something we're preparing at the whip's office, we want to consult the whole caucus on how we could do more, or better with everything related to harassment," Mr. Rodriguez (Honoré-Mercier, Que.) said in an interview with *The Hill Times* last week.

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Sexual harassment training: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, pictured in this file photo at a national caucus meeting on the Hill. Liberal MPs are holding a special closed-door meeting on Feb. 28 to discuss sexual harassment. *The Hill Times* file photograph

News PMO & #MeToo

## Myriam Denis story reveals questionable HR practices in PMO, say labour experts

BY JOLSON LIM

The PMO bureau charged with resolving harassment complaints shouldn't have reached out to a potential victim of inappropriate behaviour while a third-party investigation was ongoing, because such an action can hurt the integrity of the workplace complaints resolution process in the country's top political executive office, say human resource and labour experts.

Eddy Ng, a Dalhousie University professor specializing in human resources management, told *The Hill Times* he saw several issues with the way government officials dealt with communications professional Myriam Denis, who wrote her account of interactions

Continued on page 21

News Senate machinations

## Senators split over new clerk who came from House, Sen. McCoy calls him 'prime minister's man' in the Red Chamber

BY PETER MAZEREUW

Senators are divided over the Trudeau government's decision to name a longtime House

of Commons administrator as the interim Senate clerk, with some calling him the "prime minister's man" in the Red Chamber.

Several high-profile Senators

also said they supported the appointment of Richard Denis, the former House deputy law clerk, to take on the top procedural job in the Senate.

When asked to explain the government's decision to tap Mr. Denis for the job instead of any of the experienced administrators in the Senate, the Privy Council

Office would only say that Mr. Denis' previous experience in the House "has provided him the

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## HEARD ON THE HILL

by Shruti Shekar

# Trudeau's female cabinet ministers host baby shower for Democratic Institutions Minister Gould



Democratic Institutions Minister Karina Gould and some of her cabinet colleagues hosted the first cabinet baby shower last week. *Photograph courtesy of Twitter*

## Dick, Ruth, and Judy Bell Lecture



### The Honourable Jean Charest

Tuesday, February 27, 2018  
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.  
Event begins at 7 p.m.  
Richcraft Hall  
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### Change, Trends and Canada

The Honourable Jean Charest will share his unique perspective on current trends, including international trade agreements, technological change, international politics and other issues essential for the understanding of national and international relations.

Register: [carleton.ca/fpa/bell](http://carleton.ca/fpa/bell)



A handful of ministers in Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau's** cabinet hosted what was the first ever baby shower for a cabinet minister, Democratic Institutions Minister **Karina Gould**, on Feb. 5.

"Canadian history in the making. Tonight we celebrated @KarinaGould—who will be the first woman to give birth while in cabinet! From all of us—congratulations! #AddWomenChangePolitics," Environment Minister **Catherine McKenna** enthusiastically tweeted on Feb. 5 along with a picture.

Public Services and Procurement Minister **Carla Qualtrough**, National Revenue Minister **Diane Lebouthillier**, Employment Minister **Patty Hajdu**, Indigenous Services Minister **Jane Philpott**, Justice Minister **Jody Wilson-Raybould**, and Small Business and Tourism Minister **Bardish Chagger** were all in attendance at the small evening gathering.

Ms. Gould previously told the media that she hoped being the first federal cabinet minister to give birth while in office will help set better rules for parental leave on Parliament Hill.

Currently, the House rules say MPs are allowed to take a 21-day absence from parliamentary sittings, after which their pay will be docked with exceptions relating to illness.

Ms. Gould is due to give birth in March and plans to take about two months off from House duties. Treasury Board President **Scott Brison** will take over for Ms. Gould while she's off.

## Morgan, Butts duke it out on Twitter and it's frothy



Piers Morgan and Gerald Butts got into a scrap on Twitter. *Photograph courtesy of Wikipedia Commons and The Hill Times file photograph*

It all started last week when Brit journalist **Piers Morgan**, former host of CNN's *Piers Morgan*, wrote a column in *The Daily Mail* on Feb. 6, headlined, "How dare you kill off mankind, Mr. Trudeau, you spineless virtue-signalling excuse for a feminist." Wow.

The column attacked Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau's** use of the word "people-kind" in response to a question at a town hall. The column was posted on the popular Canadian news aggregator, National News-watch, and then it took off from there.

But Mr. Trudeau later clarified that the remark was a "dumb joke" that appeared to have gone over fine at the event but "didn't play so well" out of context. It also sounded more like he was teasing the questioner who was telling Mr. Trudeau that she'd like to share the message of "God the Mother," and said "maternal love is the love that's going to change the future of mankind," to which Mr. Trudeau said, "We'd like to say 'peoplekind,' not necessarily mankind, because it's more inclusive."

**Gerald Butts**, the PM's principal secretary, tweeted at Ms. Morgan on Feb. 8: "You have joined a lovely international club," copying a previous tweet he posted commenting on a video of the woman who heckled Mr. Trudeau at his town hall in Hamilton being interviewed by controversial alt-right activist **Jack Posibiiec**.

Mr. Morgan, who has 6.4 million Twitter followers, didn't take too kindly to being lumped in with the notorious alt-right, which is often conflated with white nationalism and the neo-Nazi movement, and accused Mr. Butts, who has 40,000 Twitter followers, of being, er, not the brightest lightbulb in the room.

"The whole world laughed at your boss & his absurdly politically correct, virtue-signalling #peoplekind nonsense," Mr. Morgan posted on Twitter.

"If you choose to condemn everyone who did so as being a Nazi, then I politely suggest you're a complete & utter halfwit."

Mr. Morgan then tweeted: "Mr. Butts is what we Brits would call 'one sandwich short of a full picnic.' Incredible that someone so close to your prime minister is able to spout such dangerously inflammatory nonsense on his behalf." This particular tweet was retweeted 834 times and was favoured by 1,826 people. "a) I'm not a Nazi. b) It wasn't a joke. c) If you're one of @JustinTrudeau's chief advisers, no wonder he's making so many gaffes."

It wasn't a good week for Mr. Trudeau. *The Toronto Star* ran a front-page column on Feb. 7 by entertainment columnist Vinay Menon headlined, "For the sake of people-kind, Justin Trudeau needs to shut his mouth," and *The Washington Post's* Molly Roberts wrote a column on Feb. 7 headlined, "Forget 'peoplekind.' There's a lot else wrong with Justin Trudeau," criticizing not only Mr. Trudeau's flat town hall performance, but his government's \$233-million deal to sell 16 combat helicopters to the Philippines.

## CP's Kristy Kirkup welcomes baby Hazel, and she already missed her deadline by four days



Canadian Press' Kristy Kirkup has given birth to her daughter baby Hazel and she's super cute. *Photograph courtesy of Twitter*

Canadian Press' **Kristy Kirkup** gave birth to a baby girl on Feb. 5.

"Who run the world? Girls. Meet **Hazel Grace**. Seven lbs. of strength born Monday morning," Ms. Kirkup tweeted on Feb. 6 along with a super cute photo of her newborn.

*Toronto Star's* **Tonda MacCharles** tweeted that same day: "Welcome to the world Haze. Isn't she arriving before deadline? Excellent start."

Ms. Kirkup tweeted in response to Ms. MacCharles that Hazel was late: "She ended up missing her deadline by four days—a girl with her own schedule!"

Congrats to you, Ms. Kirkup!

## Peter MacKay's family is adding one more baby



Former defence minister Peter MacKay is adding one more to his family. *Photograph courtesy of Twitter*

Speaking of babies, congratulations are in order for former federal defence minister **Peter MacKay**, who tweeted that his wife, **Nazanin Afshin-Jam**, is pregnant again.

"Thrilled to share the news that team MacKay will add a new player to be named

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# Senate more unpredictable, as Conservatives boycott planning meetings after 'O Canada' bill manoeuvring



Conservative Senators Don Plett and Elizabeth Marshall chat during a committee meeting last year. The Conservative Senate caucus is up in arms over the way the National Anthem Bill was passed in the Senate at the end of last month. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

The government also introduced its long-awaited changes to the environmental assessment laws in the House last week, and is set to send its political fundraising bill to the Senate.

BY PETER MAZEREUEW

The Conservatives' deputy leader in the Senate is skipping daily planning meetings with her counterparts as a "consequence" of the way the controversial National Anthem Bill was passed in the Red Chamber, a move the government's deputy in the Chamber says will make the Senate even more unpredictable.

Conservative Senator Yonah Martin (B.C.) stopped attending the morning "Scroll" meetings last week. The deputies from each group in the Senate typically meet at 9 a.m. every day the Senate is sitting to draw up a rough outline of what will happen in the Senate Chamber that day, including lining up speakers, votes, and debates. Sen. Martin said she began skipping the meetings because of a controversial sequence of events in the Senate Chamber on Jan. 30 and 31 that led to the passage of the National Anthem Bill last week. With the bill now passed and in effect, the second line of Canada's national anthem has now been changed to, "in all of us command," from "in all thy sons command."

"Our working relationship, and the trust that we had built, has been jeopardized," she said.

Sen. Diane Bellemare (Alma, Que.), the government's legislative deputy in the Senate, said not having a representative of the Conservatives, the Senate's second largest faction, at the morning meetings "creates surprises in the Chamber."

"It delays things, and there are misunderstandings," she said.

"They will come back, I hope, [this] week."

Sen. Martin said she was still communicating with the Senate clerks and with her counterparts from other parties, though not in the face-to-face scroll meeting. She said the Conservatives would discuss whether to continue skipping the Scroll meetings during their caucus meeting Tuesday.

The Conservatives called for an emergency debate in the Senate Feb. 6. The government team in the Senate was informed about that plan in the late morning, said Sen. Bellemare, a couple of hours later than they would have been had Sen. Martin attended the scroll meeting.

Conservative Senate leader Larry Smith said in a press release after the bill was passed that he was "putting the Trudeau Government on notice that we will now use all legitimate means available to us allowed for under the rules to restore our right and the right of all Senators to debate in the Chamber."

Sen. Martin said the Conservatives would not delay any legislation "for the sake of delay."

There are nine government bills currently in the Senate, the most high-profile being C-45, to legalize cannabis. Several Conservative Senators told *The Hill Times* they expected debate on that bill to continue into June.

The saga of the National Anthem Bill finally came to a close after ISG Sen. Frances Lankin (Ont.) moved to close off debate on the bill—known as a disposition motion—on Jan. 30. Immediately afterwards, fellow ISG Sen. Chantal Petitclerc (Grandville, Que.) moved that Sen. Lankin's motion be put to a vote, which was set for the next day.

Senate Speaker George Furey (N.L.) recognized Sen. Petitclerc before any Conservative Senators, some of whom, including Sen. Don Plett (Landmark, Man.), wanted to debate Sen. Lankin's motion to shut down debate. In the day that followed, the Conservatives were offered a chance to debate Sen. Petitclerc's motion to vote on Sen. Lankin's motion, but not on Sen. Lankin's motion itself, which would have been open to amendment.

The Conservatives boycotted the votes on the National Anthem

Bill on Jan. 31. It passed, and received royal assent last week.

The National Anthem Bill which makes the anthem gender neutral, was a private member's bill put forward by the late Liberal MP Mauril Bélanger. It had been in the Senate since June 2016, despite enjoying support from the government and a majority of Senators, and having passed with support from all parties in the House.

## Liberals table long-awaited environmental assessment bill

Monday and Thursday will be opposition days in the House this week. On Tuesday, the House will debate Bill C-68 to amend the Fisheries Act, currently at second reading, and on Wednesday will debate Bill C-69, the government's environmental assessment bill.

Environment Minister Catherine McKenna (Ottawa Centre, Ont.) tabled C-69 in the House last week. The bill will dismantle the National Energy Board, a regulatory review body that has often been criticized over the years for favouring the natural resources industry, and replace it with a new review agency for environmental assessments, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. It also gives the federal cabinet discretion to refer important projects to a panel of experts for additional review, or to override concerns about the environmental, health, social, or economic impacts of a resource project, if they determine doing so is "in the public interest."

The Liberals had promised before the 2015 election campaign to review the environmental assessment process and ensure Canada had a "robust" assessment process. A panel struck by the government to explore changing the assessment process recommended last year that the authority over environmental assessments be taken away from the National Energy Board and other regulators and handed to a single assessment agency.

The NEB will be replaced with the Canadian Energy Regulator, which will retain regulatory powers over the "exploitation, development and transportation of energy" under federal jurisdiction.

However, Green Party leader Elizabeth May (Saanich-Gulf Islands, B.C.) said in the House that the bill would still give board members of the new Canada Energy Regulator a role in reviews of resource projects that fall under their jurisdiction.

Environmental Defence, an advocacy group based in Toronto, echoed Ms. May's concern in a press release last week, but also applauded the plan to create the new Impact Assessment Agency.

## Fundraising bill set to pass, won't change a thing, says Cullen

The government's political fundraising bill, C-50, was debated last week at third reading and may be passed in the House on Tuesday. The bill will set new rules for political fundraisers involving government ministers, party leaders, or leadership candidates, and require that they be advertised to the public, held in a publicly-accessible location, and that the list of attendees be published afterwards, if the price of attending is \$200 or greater. The bill will also change the accounting rules for party leadership and nomination contests, so that expenses for and contributions to contestants must be counted even if they are incurred outside of the official campaign period for the contest.

Democratic Institutions Minister Karina Gould (Burlington, Ont.) has touted the bill as an effort to make fundraisers "more open and transparent," while the opposition has labelled it as an effort to paper over the so-called "cash for access" controversies involving Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and other ministers in 2016. Mr. Trudeau was the key attraction at private fundraisers for the Liberal Party attended by wealthy businessmen, including one with ties to China's communist party who later donated \$200,000 to the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation, and others tied to businesses lobbying the federal government. Other Liberal ministers attended private fundraising events that year as well, including Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould (Vancouver Granville, B.C.). Conservative and Liberal ministers of previous governments have also done so.

The bill will change "almost nothing" about the way political parties and MPs operate, said NDP MP Nathan Cullen (Skeena-Bulkley Valley, B.C.) his party's critic for the bill.

"It doesn't do any harm, it does a little bit of good, but doesn't address the main problem of cash for access, with people buying access to powerful members of government. The reason this bill exists is because of all of those cash for access events that the prime minister and cabinet ministers were going to, they got caught, they said, 'We're going to fix it.' This bill does not fix the central problem."

Conservative MP Blake Richards (Banff-Airdrie, Alta.), his party's critic for the bill, pointed out in the Chamber that Mr. Trudeau and government ministers attended the Liberals' annual Laurier Club party for supporters who have donated near the maximum legal limit after C-50 had been introduced, and that the party blocked media access to the event after promising earlier to open fundraisers to the media.

Former federal lobbying commissioner Karen Shepherd and former ethics commissioner Mary Dawson both told the Procedure and House Affairs Committee in October that the bill would "help" their offices to do their work, but suggested that it be expanded to include parliamentary secretaries, a suggestion that was not taken up by the government.

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## Status of Government Bills

### HOUSE OF COMMONS

#### Second reading:

- C-5, An Act to Repeal Division 20 of Part 3 of the Economic Action Plan 2015 Act, No. 1
- C-12, An Act to amend the Canadian Forces Members and Veterans 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-68, An Act to amend the Fisheries Act and other Acts in consequence
- C-69, An Act to amend the Impact Assessment Act and the Canadian Energy Regulator Act, to amend the Navigation Protection Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts

#### Committee:

- S-5, An Act to amend the Tobacco Act and the Non-smokers' Health Act
- C-47, An Act to amend the Export and Import Permits Act and the Criminal Code (amendments permitting the accession to the Arms Trade Treaty)
- C-59, An Act respecting national security matters
- C-62, An Act to amend the Federal Public Sector Labour Relations Act and other Acts
- C-64, Wrecked, Abandoned, or Hazardous Vessels Act
- C-65, An Act to amend the Canada Labour Code (harassment and violence)

#### Report stage:

- C-21, An Act to amend the Customs Act
- C-48, Oil Tanker Moratorium Act
- 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

#### Third Reading:

- C-50, An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act (political financing)

### SENATE

#### 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 Act
- 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 Act

#### Third Reading:

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

#### Consideration of Amendments by the House

- S-2, Strengthening Motor Vehicle Safety for Canadians Act

**Plain packaging  
for tobacco.**

**It hasn't worked  
in Australia.**

**It isn't working  
in France.**

**What makes  
you think it will  
work here?**

Bill S-5 proposing plain packaging for tobacco is now under House committee review.

According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's data, the long-term decline in smoking stalled after the government introduced plain packaging.

In France, the health minister publicly acknowledged the failure of the policy and admitted she has always been against it. Official French data demonstrates plain packaging has had no impact on tobacco sales.

Forum Research shows that most Canadians think plain packaging is unnecessary and a waste of government resources. Canadians are right to believe that it won't work.

## News Indigenous issues

# Observers await MMIWG inquiry request for extension, some concern over lost Métis lens

The national inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls has indicated plans to request a two-year extension from the government, but still has yet to file a formal request.

BY LAURA RYCKEWAERT

The national inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls still has yet to file its anticipated request for extension, and with less than eight months to go on its current timeline, stakeholders are eager to know the path ahead.

"She [chief commissioner Marion Buller] has promised some communities that they would return. ... The most important [aspect] I want to see is these [new] schedules, how are they going to involve families?" said Francyne Joe, president of the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC).

"I'm still getting questions from some families as to whether or not the commissioners are going to be coming to their community," she said.

Ms. Joe said NWAC has asked to see a draft of the inquiry's formal request for extension—laying out a work plan for how the extra time would be used and a budget—before it's submitted to the government in order to "decide if we could support such an extension," and were told a draft would be shared in December, but as of last week, did not have a sense of the "status of this request."

"I would hope that if they want our support, and we have been trying to let them know that we would like to help them as much as possible, that they would provide this information before they would go to the government," she said.

Ms. Joe said she hoped that after statement gathering hearings in Prince George, B.C.—which took place Feb. 5 to 9—to have "a better idea as to what the stance is."

As it stands now, the national inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) is set to publish its final report on Nov. 1, 2018, with the final deadline to complete its mandate set for Dec. 31, 2018. The national inquiry officially launched in September 2016, with a budget of \$53.8-million. An interim report was published on Nov. 1, 2017.

Chief commissioner Marion

Buller has indicated the inquiry will seek a two-year extension on its work, bringing the final deadline up to Dec. 31, 2020. Previously, it was indicated a request for extension would be filed by the new year.

In an interview with APTN's *Nation to Nation* in December, Ms. Buller said an extension is needed to "hear from more people, to hear from more experts, to spend more time in institutional hearings, to give more time to our research team to do the in-depth research that has to be done rather than skimming the surface doing a very superficial job."

"We have the opportunity to go deeper and that's going to affect the quality of our recommendations. They'll be better, they'll be more concrete, they'll be more useable," said Ms. Buller, adding that last fall through to December, the inquiry's focus was on the public community hearings, "so we're working on our draft still."

request funding be doubled. She said while it was speculation, she didn't think it would, "but whatever it [the amount requested] is, it will be correct."

In response to questions from *The Hill Times*, the inquiry indicated its "team is working diligently to finalize the work to submit" a formal request for extension to the federal government.

"A tremendous amount of work and collaboration is required to properly develop a request of this kind for the government to consider. It is an extremely complex task, which includes building out detailed research and work plans for multiple time horizons and funding scenarios," said Nadine Gros-Louis, a communications adviser for the inquiry.

Ms. Gros-Louis noted that work to put together the request is being done "without pausing or slowing down the truth-gathering

Along with setting out the scope of the inquiry's work, the terms of reference set out the inquiry's timeframe, and specifically names each of the five original commissioners appointed.

Including Ms. Buller, who is of Cree background and a member of the Mistawasis First Nation, those commissioners are: Michèle Audette, a former president of NWAC whose father is Québécois and mother is Innu; Brian Eyolfson, a former public servant and a member of the Couchiching First Nation; Qajaq Robinson, a former associate with Borden Ladner Gervais LLP who has an Inuit background; and Marilyn Poitras, a Métis professor at the University of Saskatchewan.

Ms. Poitras resigned as a commissioner in July, saying in a subsequent interview with CBC News that she was concerned the commission was "going down a tried road" that doesn't work with

inquiry, saying only that the minister has met with the commission "to discuss the concerns she had heard and their plan to fulfill their mandate in light of the resignation [of a commissioner]" in an emailed statement.

With a commissioner with a Métis background no longer part of the inquiry, Ms. Joe said "some concern" has been raised by Métis families "as to how much of a priority their stories are being considered."

While Ms. Joe questioned the impact bringing in a new commissioner "at this point" could have, as they haven't been part of inquiry hearings to date, she said she is "concerned that they don't have a complete consideration of a perspective from the Métis community."

"If [the government is] not willing to appoint a commissioner fairly soon then I would hope that they would have capable staff who can bring that Métis perspective to the inquiry," she said.

*The Hill Times* reached out to the Métis National Council of Women but was not able to connect for an interview by filing deadline last week.

Lori Campbell, director of Indigenous Initiatives at the University of Waterloo and director of the Waterloo Aboriginal Education Centre, said that as someone of Cree and Métis background herself, the loss of Ms. Poitras leaves an "extremely important" gap that needs to be filled.

"I understand that Minister Bennett has stressed the importance of ensuring we have a strong Métis lens within the scope of the commissioners," she said in an email response to *The Hill Times*. "I hope they ensure that gap is filled."

The beleaguered MMIWG has faced a range of criticisms, including that it was slow to get underway; took too much of a colonial, legalistic approach; and was doing a poor job of communicating with families on its work. More than 20 inquiry staff, including two executive directors, have resigned since its launch; Calvin Wong is now interim executive director.

And problems continue.

While speaking with *The Hill Times* on Feb. 1, Ms. Joe noted she'd recently learned, via Facebook, that a statement-gathering event would take place in Prince George, B.C. Feb. 5 to 9, but, at that point, no mention of this event had been posted on the inquiry's website. A news release on the event was posted the next day, on Feb. 2.

"That was disappointing to see again, you know it's a lack of communication ... Prince George is pretty much in the heart along the Highway of Tears, so there's a number of families I'm sure who want to be part of that," said Ms. Joe.

Ms. Joe and Ms. Campbell both spoke against a hard reset of the inquiry, which some have been calling for.

Denise Stonefish, chief of the Delaware Nation, also said she does not want to see a hard reset of the inquiry, and supports its plan to request an extension to ensure the report is "done right."

"I don't want anything just thrown together just to appease



Families and supporters take part in a Families of Sisters in Spirit vigil on Parliament Hill in October 2017. The national inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls signalled late last year it would be requesting a two-year extension, but as of last week had yet to file its request. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

Ms. Buller noted the inquiry will run its draft request past advisers on "edits to be made, whether we've made mistakes, things to add, things of that nature."

"We want to do this only once, we want to get it right the first time so that we're not going back to the government again," she said, adding they're working to complete it "as soon as possible."

"There's a lot of government machinery that has to work once we make that request," Ms. Buller told APTN.

With the inquiry planning to request its timeline be doubled, from two years to four, Ms. Buller was asked whether it would also

process underway."

"All of our teams—from research to community relations, health, legal, operations and communications—have a hand in preparing the extension request, while at the same time delivering on their regular responsibilities," she said.

The MMIWG inquiry is an independent, public inquiry established through the federal Inquiries Act, with its mandate set out in terms of reference which constitutes a legal document. As a full national inquiry, all provinces and territories replicated these terms in separate orders-in-council and administrative decrees.

its hearing processes.

Since then, the national inquiry has been operating one commissioner short.

It's up to the government to appoint a new commissioner, and just as with any changes to the inquiry's timeframe, doing so would require amendments to the terms of reference necessitating changes at the federal and provincial and territorial levels.

Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett's (Toronto-St. Paul's, Ont.) office did not address questions from *The Hill Times* regarding whether the government intended to name a new commissioner to the national

Continued from page 6

the two-year mandate. I would like to see a quantitative and qualitative report that comes out that identifies that there are going to be positive changes to the policies and regulations and legislation across the country," she said.

tryckewaert@hilltimes.com  
The Hill Times

## Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls inquiry community hearings to date:

The national inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls holds three kinds of hearings as part of its work: expert hearings, institutional hearings, and community hearings focused on truth gathering and testimony from families and survivors.

In a Feb. 2 media advisory, the commission announced it would also hold statement gathering events in Prince George, B.C. from Feb. 5 to 9, and in Watson Lake, Yukon from Feb. 27 to March 1, and indicated it has heard from roughly 697 families and survivors to date. The MMIWG has also indicated it intends to hold a community hearing in Montreal, though no specifics have yet been announced.

1. **Whitehorse, Yukon:** May 29 to June 1, 2017. All five commissioners heard from roughly 50 witnesses.
2. **Smithers, B.C.:** Sept. 26 to Sept. 28, 2017. Chief commissioner Marion Buller and commissioners Michèle Audette and Qajaq Robinson heard from more than 40 witnesses.
3. **Winnipeg, Man.:** Oct. 16 to Oct. 20, 2017. Commissioners Michèle Audette and Brian Eyolfson heard from roughly 75 witnesses. Chief Commissioner Marion Buller also attended hearings on Oct. 18.
4. **Membertou First Nation, N.S.:** Oct. 30 to Nov. 1, 2017. Commissioners Qajaq Robinson and Michèle Audette heard from roughly 40 witnesses.
5. **Edmonton, Alta.:** Nov. 7 to Nov. 9, 2017. Chief commissioner Marion Buller, and commissioners Brian Eyolfson and Qajaq Robinson heard from roughly 45 witnesses.
6. **Saskatoon, Sask.:** Nov. 21 to 23, 2017. Chief commissioner Marion Buller and commissioners Michèle Audette and Brian Eyolfson heard from roughly 40 witnesses, with statement gatherers on site to accommodate up to 40 walk-ins.
7. **Maliotenam, Que.:** Nov. 27 to Dec. 1, 2017. All four commissioners heard from roughly 60 witnesses, with statement gatherers on site to accommodate up to 35 walk-ins.
8. **Thunder Bay, Ont.:** Dec. 4 to Dec. 6, 2017. Commissioners Michèle Audette and Brian Eyolfson heard from roughly 50 family members and survivors, with statement gatherers on site to accommodate up to 40 walk-ins.
9. **Yellowknife, N.W.T.:** Jan. 23 to Jan. 25, 2017. Commissioners Qajaq Robinson, Michèle Audette and Brian Eyolfson heard from roughly 30 family members and survivors, with statement gatherers on site to accommodate up to 30 walk-ins.
10. **Moncton, N.B.:** Feb. 13 to Feb. 14, 2017. Commissioner Michèle Audette will hear from roughly 20 family members and survivors. There will also be statement gatherers on site to accommodate up to 20 walk-ins.
11. **Rankin Inlet, Nunavut:** Feb. 20 to Feb. 22, 2017.
12. **Vancouver, B.C.:** April 4 to April 8, 2017.

# BEYOND Ideas

NA YOUNG KIM

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERINGFACULTY OF ENGINEERING  
INSTITUTE FOR QUANTUM COMPUTING

## Thinking big about the very small.

Na Young Kim is fascinated by how nature works at its most fundamental level. She studies particles – atoms and electrons – and their quantum behaviour to develop new technologies. Working at this small scale takes big thinking.

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## Editorial

### Prime Minister Trudeau should answer questions in daily Question Period like he does at his town halls

For a minute last Friday afternoon, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau sounded a little like a bad TV talk show host at the town hall meeting in Nanaimo, B.C. Frustrated by the non-stop heckling from the crowd at the Vancouver Island University and a little while after he had already asked one heckler to leave, he turned to another loud protester and said, "Come on! Really?" At this point, Mr. Trudeau also noticed that the other heckler was still in the room and joked that he thought she had been thrown out already. The crowd laughed.

He then asked that both women be removed from the room to an eruption of both applause and more shouting. The hecklers were shouting about environmental issues like the Kinder Morgan pipeline and the fish farm regulations in British Columbia. One protester stood up and yelled, "Why don't you talk with us, why won't you engage with us?" Mr. Trudeau answered, "I am trying to engage with you, I am trying to speak with you, I'm trying to answer a question from someone who asked me a question that is extremely important to her." First Nations members subsequently marched out of the town hall saying Mr. Trudeau had ignored them. At one point, Mr. Trudeau told the protesters that they don't have to vote for him in the next election, but they could at least listen to what he had to say.

The prime minister should be given credit for doing these town halls because it's gutsy. Things could go south quickly, and at times they did. Depending on the question, he could either sound goofy, or phoney, or disingenuous, or smart, or sincere, or

condescending, but he also sounded real, which is a refreshing change from the House. He's asked real questions at these town halls and he tries to answer them. Sometimes he doesn't, but even his non-answers lift the cover off any games because the crowd is real. If his answer is cloying, it becomes abundantly clear and if it's real, it's also clear. Former prime minister Stephen Harper never did these types of town halls.

But what's refreshing about the town halls is the prime minister is unfiltered. That's what missing from the daily Question Period: real stuff and real content. The thing that's annoying about daily Question Period is not the heckling, which could be funnier, smarter and more like the British House of Commons, but the non-answers and the empty almost robotic rhetoric to real human beings asking questions. Granted, the opposition MPs share the blame here too because they waste precious QP time on asking some lame questions. How about more on NAFTA, climate change, and immigration? However, the prime minister and his cabinet ministers could try to answer more honestly, even to dumb questions. They could tell the opposition MPs there are way more important issues to be focused on, or remind them that they've been asking about the same thing, including the 2106 Aga Khan trip, since last year. They could also say something witty.

Prime Minister Trudeau and all his cabinet ministers can offer better answers to the questions in Question Period if they wanted to and the opposition MPs could ask better questions, ones that people actually care about.

## Letters to the Editor

### We're delivering to help veterans deal with very unique challenges: O'Regan

Re: "Government fails to meet veterans' expectations regarding re-establishment of 'lifelong pensions' under new Veterans Charter," (*The Hill Times*, Jan. 29, by Brian Forbes, chair of the National Council of Veteran Associations and executive chair of The War Amps).

Our government made a promise to veterans that we would re-instate a lifelong pension for those injured during service to their country. We are not only meeting our mandate commitment but we are delivering on our obligation to support veterans.

The "significant disparity" that Mr. Forbes referenced is \$50. Under Pension for Life, a severely ill or injured veteran will receive \$2,650 tax-free, monthly, and for life. Under the Pension Act, they would receive \$2,700.

But our financial support doesn't stop there. If a veteran is unable to work due to their injury, they will receive 90 percent of their pre-release salary. And if those barriers mean they still can't work after rehabilitation, they will receive that income until they are 65. After that, they'll receive 70 per cent of their salary, for life.

And it doesn't stop there, either. Veterans and their families may be eligible for a caregiver benefit of \$1,000 a month, up to \$80,000 of education benefits, career transition services, physical and mental health supports and a myriad of other supports.

Mr. Forbes stated that the Pension Act does not meet the needs of veterans. He is not alone in that assessment. Veterans and stakeholders have been clear about that since 2006. That's why we've listened to them. We are working to ensure veterans can successfully transition to a life after military service.

A successful transition requires more than money alone. It must address a veteran's well-being by ensuring a balance of financial, mental, physical and social factors. We know every veteran's circumstances are personal and unique, and our approach must be flexible to accommodate that.

Pension for Life provides a flexible package to help veterans and their family transition to the next stage of their life. It will help veterans make choices about what they want to do next—whether its education, work or retirement.

We are delivering what is needed to help today's veterans deal with very unique challenges.

I will continue to speak with Canadians across this country about how we're supporting our veterans.

**Veterans Affairs Minister and Associate Minister of National Defence Seamus O'Regan**  
 St. John's South-Mount Pearl N.L.

### Still wondering why Trudeau broke his electoral reform promises

At recent town hall meetings, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has been defending his decision to break his electoral reform promise. Where's the research, evidence, facts, and best practices Mr. Trudeau is relying on to justify breaking the promise?

The prime minister's made many claims about how, in his opinion, a proportional representation (PR) election system in Canada would be going in the 'wrong direction.' Beyond restating his opinion and defending it only with sometimes very odd, even bizarre, hypothetical scenarios, Mr. Trudeau hasn't offered any facts, evidence, research, or "best practices" examples to support or explain his views or decision to betray the oft-repeated commitment.

Going back a century or more, every independent, apolitical commission of eminent persons and every citizen's assembly ever convened in Canada to study electoral reform has concluded that the first-past-the-post (FPTP) electoral system ill serves Canadians and should be replaced with a PR system, either single transferable vote or mixed member proportional.

During the most recent federal round of study, the Special Committee on Electoral Reform, a super-majority of esteemed academics, concerned citizens, and organizations argued before it that FPTP is a disservice to Canadians and should be replaced with a PR system. At the committee's dozens of town halls and those held by Members of Parliament, the same views of FPTP and PR overwhelmingly prevailed.

Along with the electoral reform promise, the prime minister committed to basing policy on science, evidence, facts, and best practices. All the science, evidence, facts, and best practice examples presented to him on electoral reform showed that the right direction for Canada was to replace FPTP with a PR electoral system.

The prime minister's stated views about PR are a denial of all the research, evidence, facts, and best practices about electoral systems ever undertaken anywhere in the world by politically independent groups and researchers.

At the very least, out of respect and courtesy to all Canadians, the prime minister owes it to not only all the people who believed he was acting in good faith when he made his electoral reform promise, but to all Canadians in general to provide the science or research, evidence, facts, and examples of best practices that informed his decision to betray the electoral reform promise.

If there is not a valid evidentiary basis for breaking his commitment to Canadians that 2015 would be the last election held under FPTP, then we must conclude that when convenient or self-serving, the prime minister is quick to use the same type of 'logic' relied upon by those who deny climate change.

I look forward to the prime minister's well-reasoned, fact-based, and academically defensible paper or explanation as to why PR is the wrong direction for Canada.

**Stephen Best**  
 Guelph, Ont.



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# I guess I'm just a feminist bitch, nothing wrong with 'peoplekind'

If the first instinct of our prime minister is to push the envelope for inclusive language change, I say go for it. No apology necessary.



Sheila Copps

Copps' Corner

OTTAWA—I guess I am just a feminist bitch. I, for one, was delighted when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau sparked global reaction by putting an inclusive

spin on the word mankind.

Too bad that a horrendous backlash promoted Trudeau to walk back on his changes, explaining the statement away as a bad attempt at a joke.

It is no joke that our vocabulary is sprinkled with words that serve to promote sexism and the notion that one gender or one colour is more fitting than another.

Just think of it. Why do we deify white and fear black? Not people, but colours.

And as for being a bitch, why is a pregnant dog viewed as a negative?

Just last week, we concluded a monumental struggle to change the words to our national anthem, so that they would be more inclusive.

The idea for the new wording originated from Mauril Bélanger, a courageous politician who stared death in the face while fighting for inclusion in our national anthem.

His amendment, passed unanimously by the House of Commons, was blocked in the Senate by some curmudgeons who didn't approve the grammatical construction of the amended prose.

Those same curmudgeons were probably on hand to sling

arrows at Trudeau as his "faux pas" made the world news.

A gender neutral *O Canada* is an important reminder of what we aspire to be as a nation.

On more than one occasion, similar wording changes were proposed, only to be tossed aside as ridiculous, and too politically correct. The same kind of sexist vitriol spiralling out of control last week was mustered to explain why the anthem could never change.

Conservative deputy leader Lisa Raitt urged Trudeau to "person up," to the delight of the Conservative benches, in a heated parliamentary exchange. Her retort was a not-so-subtle rebuke of Trudeau's inclusive vocabulary.

Man up, be a man, mankind, are all words that subconsciously reinforce the notion that only men can be strong, can be honest, and can run the world.

Same goes for history. It is no mistake that in the last few years, herstory has become an acceptable substitute for a word that implies that all important events of the past were carried out by men.

The no-subtle message of our ingrained sexist language is that only men can lead, only men can be strong and only men are fit to

represent humankind.

Last year, Trudeau's partner Sophie Grégoire, was the butt of jokes of a different kind, after she paid tribute to her spouse in a March 8 International Women's Day posting.

Grégoire's call for male inclusion was deemed weak and inappropriate. She was also attacked for posting an accompanying photo with herself and the prime minister walking hand in hand.

Grégoire was trying to make the point that moving toward equality involves inclusiveness. And that means engaging and embracing men who support equality as well.

When Stephan Harper became prime minister, one of his first directives was to eliminate gender analysis from the content of all government documents.

Gender analysis is just words. But in that directive, Harper stalled the move to equality across many sectors for a decade.

The last number of weeks have been consumed with sexual scandal. We are also asking how to overturn the climate of harassment that bedevils us in power-wielding sectors like politics,

media, sports, and finance.

Most solutions focus on the individual, as if a gender sensitivity program for Harvey Weinstein would stop the madness.

Instead, the notion that men are powerful, and women can be aggressed, is much more deeply ingrained in our culture.

According to the Cambridge dictionary, man up, is synonymous with bravery and courage. The expression is also compared to audacity, grit, guts, balls (another expression loaded with gender stereotypes). Every time the phrase is repeated, it subtly reinforces the privileged power position of men.

It also reflects deeply ingrained sexual power imbalances that have spawned the spate of harassment accusations roiling the globe.

Sexual attacks do not occur in a vacuum. They happen when someone in power believes they can operate above scrutiny based on their position of privilege. Language can either promote or prevent this sense of entitlement. Manpower used to be the name for Canadian government employment services. That name would never fly today. Neither should man up, or mankind.

If the first instinct of our prime minister is to push the envelope for inclusive language change, I say go for it.

No apology necessary.

Sheila Copps is a former Jean Chrétien-era cabinet minister and a former deputy prime minister.

The Hill Times

## The desire for change is changing politics

Canadian voters wanted change. So what explains this strong desire for change? The answer, I think, is that, as a society, we're growing disillusioned with government. And what's causing this disillusionment is we expect government to fix everything.



Gerry Nicholls

Post-Partisan Pundit

OKAVILLE, ONT.—The trendiest word in the political lexicon these days is "change."

Everywhere you look, politi-

cal parties are inserting this term into their electoral messaging.

"It's Time for a Change," "Change you can count on," "Change That Works," "Change That Matters," "Our Change is Better than their Change."

The question is, why do political strategists believe this word has such persuasive power?

Of course, the superficial answer to that question is all governments have a limited "shelf life," meaning after a given period of time, voters simply get tired of whichever leaders are in power and so they start looking for something a little different.

When that happens, the theme of "change" is attractive.

But while this political reality has always existed, I'd argue the current voter desire for change is much deeper now than it was in the past; in other words, people not just to seeking to replace generic Party A with generic Party B; they want more than just change for the sake of change.

Or to put that another way, today's voters are losing patience with politicians at a much faster pace and more importantly, they're becoming increasingly fed up with the underlying structure of the current political and economic status quo.

In short, people are frustrated. To see how this frustration can play out, just consider the case of U.S. President Donald Trump.

Throughout the Republican

primaries and U.S. general presidential election, Trump's enemies relentlessly castigated him as an unpredictable, unstable, untested amateur who, if elected, would

was created a mere two years ago by Emmanuel Macron, who won the French presidency and who also happens to be the youngest president in that country's history.



Meanwhile, here in Canada, we elected Justin Trudeau prime minister despite his lack of experience, mainly because his charismatic, rock-star persona was such a stark contrast to Stephen Harper's unrelenting dullness. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

shake the country to its very core.

But as it turned out, that's exactly what American voters wanted; they wanted a leader from outside the traditional political classes, they wanted a leader who would disrupt the established order.

In short, they wanted change.

A similar situation unfolded in France last year, when voters there abandoned the once powerful Socialist Party and flocked to En Marche, a political party that

French voters wanted change.

Meanwhile, here in Canada, we elected Justin Trudeau prime minister despite his lack of experience, mainly because his charismatic, rock-star persona was such a stark contrast to Stephen Harper's unrelenting dullness.

Canadian voters wanted change.

So what explains this strong desire for change? Why are voters so ready to embrace untried leadership?

The answer, I think, is that as a society we're growing disillusioned with government.

And what's causing this disillusionment is we expect government to fix everything.

We want it to keep our streets safe; we want it to eliminate inequality; we want it to provide us with better social programs, while keeping taxes low; we want it to create jobs; we want it to give us affordable housing and the list goes on and on.

But when government inevitably can't meet our wishes, frustration arises.

Nor does it help that politicians inevitably over promise and then under deliver.

As a recent poll, cited in *The Hill Times*, noted, "nearly two-thirds of Canadians say they have no faith in promises from political leaders made in the run-up to an election."

The end result of all this, is that voters see the "system" as part of the problem.

So they want leaders who are outsiders, who are untainted by the politics of the usual.

And this current voter mindset should perhaps guide the strategies of both the NDP and Conservatives.

If Trudeau stood for change, then maybe they should stand for "Super-Change."

Hey, "Super-Changing Canada" would make a great slogan!

Gerry Nicholls is a communications consultant.

The Hill Times

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# Trudeau lacks means to end Alberta-B.C. feud

Justin Trudeau could not have done anything to resolve the Alberta-B.C. feud in a manner that reflects his commitment to see the Trans Mountain project succeed that he would not have been willing or able to replicate in a battle against Quebec and potentially Ontario.



Chantal Hébert

Inside Politics

In the escalating feud between Alberta and British Columbia over the expansion of Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is—for now—a referee without a whistle.

Much as he might want to call an end to the hostilities between the NDP governments of the two provinces, he lacks the means to enforce a quick timeout between them.

That could change over time. But things may have to get worse before Trudeau has a shot, if not at making them better, at least at forcing a resolution of the issue.

By now, the federal government has used all the back channels at its disposal to try to mediate the dispute between Edmonton and Victoria.

Sticks and carrots have been hinted at. In a B.C. interview last week, Trudeau linked his government's \$1.5-billion coastal protection plan to the building of the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion.

He tried to make a case that the federal-provincial consensus to put a floor price on carbon would not be sustainable, absent some positive developments for Alberta's energy industry.



B.C. Premier John Horgan, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, New Brunswick Premier Brian Gallant, and Alberta Premier Rachel Notley, pictured on Oct. 3, 2017, in Ottawa at a first ministers' meeting. Much as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau might want to call an end to the hostilities between the NDP governments of the two provinces, he lacks the means to enforce a quick timeout between them. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

But for federal mediation to work, at least one of the two feuding NDP premiers would have to have a political incentive to meet the other part way.

As it happens, neither side has much room to give up ground to the other. Ever since the advent of a Green-supported minority NDP government in B.C., the two provinces have been on track for a head-on collision over pipelines. The alternative for either of them was a potential derailment.

This is a war Alberta Premier Rachel Notley has to win. She cannot afford to see the Trans Mountain project abandoned, especially as a result of the actions of a fellow NDP premier. She also needs to be seen to be pulling no punches on behalf of her province.

The survival of B.C. Premier John Horgan's minority government is conditional on the continued support of the Green Party. He was elected on the promise of using every means at his government's disposal to prevent the Trans Mountain pipeline from being expanded. With an eye to turning his governing minority into a majority, he needs to be seen to be doing just that.

On that score, his suggestion that his

government could restrict the amount of bitumen transiting by rail or pipeline from Alberta to the Pacific Coast is the nuclear weapon in the arsenal. Whether he would be totally unhappy to be prevented from using it as the result of a legal intervention from the federal government is another story.

But for now, B.C.'s threat to close its borders in whole or in part to Alberta's bitumen is only a proposal. And that means that for all of the inches upon inches of virtual column ink expended on calling for so-called federal leadership, Trudeau can hardly take a province to court for usurping Ottawa's constitutional powers over what remains a statement of intent.

That will change if B.C.'s intentions are translated into actual regulations. Until that happens, there is nothing concrete for the federal government to take to court.

The Alberta-B.C. feud is politically messy for Trudeau, but it could have been worse.

Were the country's two NDP premiers not on opposite sides of the pipeline issue, Trudeau would likely face a heavy barrage of New Democrat attacks in the House of Commons. (Mind you, if Notley were not a key ally of his government,

the prime minister might be less willing to expend political capital on the Trans Mountain pipeline.)

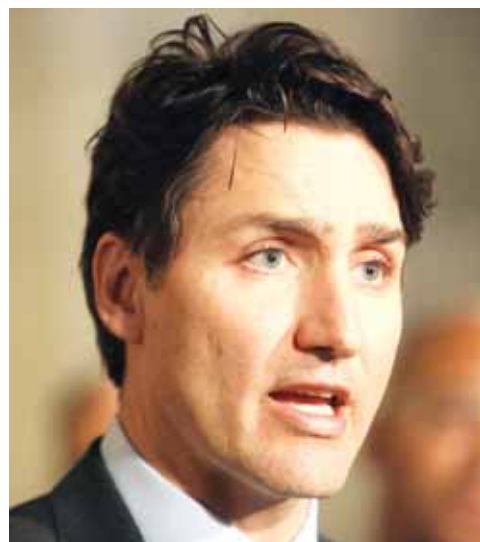
In any event, a divided NDP house on pipelines stands to blunt the New Democrats' capacity to score points off the Liberals' support for the Trans Mountain pipeline in the next election.

And then, had TransCanada not abandoned its bid to link the oilsands to the refineries of the east coast via the Energy East pipeline, Trudeau would be looking at a similarly ugly battle on the Central Canada battlefield.

That would have meant he'd have to articulate a response to the conflict between Edmonton and Victoria that took into account the necessity of regional symmetry.

To be clear, Trudeau could not have done anything to resolve the Alberta-B.C. feud in a manner that reflects his commitment to see the Trans Mountain project succeed that he would not have been willing or able to replicate in a battle against Quebec and potentially Ontario.

*Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. This column was released on Feb. 8. The Hill Times*



In the escalating feud between Alberta and British Columbia over the expansion of Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is—for now—a referee without a whistle, writes Chantal Hébert. *The Hill Times* photographs by Andrew Meade

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## Opinion

# Universal health care: a no-brainer

Since half of that enormous American spending on health goes to profit-making enterprises like insurance companies, there is an immensely rich and powerful lobby fighting to keep the public-private controversy alive in the United States, but elsewhere, even in much poorer countries, it is a no-brainer. Like in India, for example.



Gwynne Dyer  
Global Affairs

LONDON, U.K.—It began, as so many things do these days, with a Donald Trump tweet. Frustrated by his inability to kill the ‘Obamacare’ expansion of public health-care provision in the United States, Trump seized on a protest about the under-funding of Britain’s National Health Service (NHS) in London on Feb. 3 to trash the entire concept of universal healthcare paid out of taxes and free at the point of delivery.

“The Democrats are pushing for universal health care [in the U.S.] while thousands of people are marching in the U.K. because their system is going broke and not working,” he tweeted. It was an awkward moment for Britain’s Conservative prime minister, Theresa May, who tries to avoid criticizing Trump whenever possible, so she let her health secretary, Jeremy Hunt, respond instead.

Hunt tweeted back that while he disagreed with some of the protesters’ opinions, “not ONE of them wants to live in a system [like the U.S.] where 28 million people have no coverage ... I’m proud to be from the country that invented universal coverage—where all get care no matter the size of their bank balance.”

It’s true. The British population is growing older and needs more health services, but Conservative governments over the past seven years have not raised spending

on the NHS to match. As a result, many people are dissatisfied with the growing delays in treatment, but the NHS is the most beloved institution in the United Kingdom. Not one person in a hundred would want to replace it with a privatized, insurance-based system.

A huge controversy rages permanently in the United States over public vs. private spending on healthcare, with the Republicans always trying to cut the share paid out of taxes by federal and state governments (currently about half). But there is no equivalent controversy elsewhere.

Every other developed country has a universal healthcare system—and in an eleven-country study published by the U.S.-based think-tank the Commonwealth Fund last summer, the United States came dead last in terms of safety, affordability, and efficiency. The contrast is particularly stark in the differences between the United States and the United Kingdom.

Americans spend twice as much per capita as Britons on health care. Health services account for an astonishing 17.2 per cent of American GDP (the highest in the world), compared to 9.7 per cent in the U.K. Yet the British system delivers better results: life expectancy at birth is almost three years higher in U.K. (81.4 years, compared to 78.8 years for Americans).

To be fair, it’s not only the

NHS that enables British people to live longer. They are less obese than Americans (23 per cent of English adults have a body mass index of more than 30, compared to 32 per cent of Americans). The murder rate in the U.S. is five times higher than it is in the U.K. But even if average life-spans were identical in the two countries, Americans would be paying twice as much for the same result.

There really is no controversy: universal health care is better. Since half of that enormous American spending on health goes to profit-making enterprises like insurance companies, there is an immensely rich and powerful lobby fighting to keep the public-private controversy alive in the United States, but elsewhere, even in much poorer countries, it is a no-brainer. Like in India, for example.

India, which recently overtook China to become the world’s most populous country, is still relatively poor (although its economy is now growing at over seven per cent annually). Last week in the Indian parliament, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced a new government initiative that will provide the poorest 100 million families (half-a-billion people) with up to \$7,800 annually to cover hospitalization costs in case of severe illness.

“This will be the world’s largest government-funded health-

care program,” he told Parliament. “The government is steadily but surely progressing towards a goal of universal health coverage.”

People are already calling it ‘Modicare’ (after Prime Minister Narendra Modi), and it does bear more than a passing resemblance to Obamacare.

India currently spends only one percent of its GDP on health care, so there’s still a very long way to go—and as always in India, the tricky bit is actually implementing the programme, especially in the rural areas. (Free government hospitals are mostly in the cities.)

Diagnostic tests, doctor follow-ups, basic medicines (like statins for heart disease or diabetes control) and post-operative home care are not covered by the \$1.7-billion scheme. Private hospitals and clinics are still not properly regulated, and frequently overcharge. Poor families dealing with a major illness often end up in the hands of money-lenders, and even in government-run hospitals bribes are sometimes necessary to get good treatment.

All that said, the direction of travel is clear, and maybe in a couple of decades India will have a universal health service like the NHS. Beloved, in other words.

Gwynne Dyer is an independent journalist whose articles are published in 45 countries.

The Hill Times

## A rare look at the terrorist threat to Canada thanks to CSIS

I hope CSIS takes another chance and let Canadians know more about what they are doing, what their concerns are, and what they have discovered regarding those concerns.



Phil Gurski  
Terrorism

OTTAWA—We get a peek at what security intelligence services do all too rarely in this country. In contrast, the recent leaking of an FBI memo on the investigation into possible Russian

meddling in the 2016 election is but the latest example of many on the inner workings of the U.S. intelligence community. And as for the Brits, scarcely a month goes by without a report, either shared on purpose or otherwise, on what Her Majesty’s services are up to. Canada is definitely an outlier in this regard. Oh sure, we see the CSIS director on the odd occasion before a parliamentary committee on this or that, but there is seldom any real insight into what the spy agency knows or does.

Thankfully, that changed, even if only a bit, this week when a report appeared on the Public Safety Canada website penned by CSIS and entitled “Mobilization to Violence (Terrorism) Research: key findings.” The awkward title notwithstanding, it is a fascinating look into work carried out by CSIS analysts on the very important question of whether it is possible to determine when a person (or cell) is planning to move beyond talking about ter-

rorism to actually executing a terrorist attack. This research has significant implications for how CSIS does what it does, and I will return to this in a bit.

Firstly, though, I want to congratulate CSIS for agreeing to share this work with the Canadian public. Full disclosure though: this is exactly the kind of

ing for fear of saying something that will be misconstrued or used against it. The decision to publish this report says a great deal on an important topic without compromising sources or methods, the two sacred trusts of a spy agency. And yet it demonstrates that CSIS has robust, meaningful data and that it is applying sound



Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale, pictured recently on the Hill, is the federal political minister responsible for CSIS. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

work I did over my 15 years with the organization and I was very proud (personally) to see that the research I and my colleagues pioneered in the mid-2000s is continuing. You must understand that the ‘prime directive’ of an intelligence service is to say noth-

ing for fear of saying something that will be misconstrued or used against it. The decision to publish this report says a great deal on an important topic without compromising sources or methods, the two sacred trusts of a spy agency. And yet it demonstrates that CSIS has robust, meaningful data and that it is applying sound analytic techniques to that data in order to both get a better understanding of the threat we face and contribute to what the organization, as one of our key threat diminishment bodies, should do about it.

The importance of this work lies in its promise to help CSIS narrow the focus of its investigations to those who pose the greatest danger. If it indeed proves possible to separate the ‘talkers’ from the ‘walkers’—although I think (and CSIS appears to agree) that their findings are not guarantees and will never be 100 per cent reliable—then CSIS will spend less time on the former and more on the latter. This not only frees up

resources and eliminates some useless practices but it should convince those who are sure CSIS monitors everyone all the time that the agency is quite serious about concentrating on the real McMcroys and not the wannabes (spoiler alert: no one has the luxury to indefinitely watch people that never end up doing anything violent). This is a win-win situation for the Service and for Canadians.

Now that I am retired I often reflect openly on the kinds of things I did at CSIS in the hopes that the confessions of a ‘former’ can help Canadians understand the nature of terrorism and just what type of threat we face in our country (I also turned much of my original research at CSIS into my first book *The Threat from Within*). With this move to give Canadians a little insight into what it does, CSIS has performed a valuable service and it now becomes a little easier for those studying terrorism on the outside (i.e., academics) to see that our intelligence agencies are capable of doing quality research and analysis. I sincerely hope that this is not the first and last time CSIS elects to take a chance and let Canadians know more about what it’s doing, what its concerns are, and what it has discovered regarding those concerns. This is indeed a good news day for the service and for Canadians and I for one look forward to future disclosures.

Phil Gurski is president and CEO of Borealis Threat and Risk Consulting.

The Hill Times

Opinion

# Should the governments of Canada and Nova Scotia name something after a neo-Nazi?

So: how was a known and notorious Nazi enthusiast allowed to pull a fast one on two levels of government? So he could upset Jewish Nova Scotians? And, now that they know, will they clean up their mess? Many questions. In the John Mark Tillmann case, answers remain elusive.



Warren Kinsella

*The War Room*

**T**ORONTO—Should the governments of Canada and Nova Scotia name something after a neo-Nazi?

It's not a hypothetical question. Fall River, N.S. (pop. 11,526) is a little community in Halifax's regional municipality. By all accounts, it's a lovely spot, and the locals are nice. If you go hiking on a trail in the area, you may spot a bear or a bobcat or the occasional coyote.

Tillmann Brook runs alongside such a trail. According to Natural Resources Canada, which oversee such things, Tillmann Brook's name is designated as "official." The decision apparently goes back to 1999, and would have been made by something called the Geographical Names Board of Canada, with some participation by Nova Scotia's government, too.

Tillmann Brook is a river, basically, that flows from Soldier Lake into Miller Kale. There's a little waterfall on it, and people are known to regularly hike there to take a look. What's less known, however, is whether any of the visitors—or even locals—are aware of the origins of Tillmann Brook's name.

Because there's a problem with its name—and John Mark Tillmann is the problem. He's proud of Tillmann Brook's name, and he has even been known to pose beside a Tillmann Brook sign for a photograph.

Making a Nazi salute. He's a notorious sort of fellow, John Mark Tillmann is. You may have even seen him on TV. He's perhaps better known for being a very successful art thief: in January 2013, police arrested him for just that. Interpol, Homeland Security, the FBI, the RCMP, and the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary were involved in the case—and found more

than 10,000 artifacts at his home, including a letter written by George Washington, valued at more than \$1-million.

He thereafter pleaded guilty to charges of fraud, theft, possession of property obtained by crime, possession of a forged document, obstruction of justice and providing a false statement. And he was granted full parole just three years later.

Born in Halifax in the 1960s, Tillmann was a handsome, charming fellow. He grew up in a relatively affluent family. He obtained a degree in marketing, and travelled to Russia, where he learned to speak the language. While there, he married a beautiful Russian university student, and the two of them were a veritable Bonnie and Clyde, travelling all over Europe and the Americas, swiping art and artifacts.

Tillmann mainly stole valuable things, the police say, for kicks. CBC's *Fifth Estate* and American media have paid a lot of attention to his art heists. Less attention, however, has been given to his political views.

That's unfortunate—because John Mark Tillmann is a self-admitted Nazi fan.

When the cops finally showed up, they found Nazi paraphernalia all over his impressive waterfront home in Fall River. There was a framed photo of Adolf Hitler in a window, which Tillmann called "a special spot in my home." Tillmann says Hitler was "a great man—one of the greatest men in history. A decent man."

There were Nazi armbands and insignia and whatnot, too, all carefully maintained.

Asked about his Nazi leanings by the *Fifth Estate* in 2016, after he got out of prison, Tillmann said: "I stand by that. I stand by that today."

Oh, and there's also a Nazi flag that he's positioned over a railing, where neighbours could see it. Maybe he wanted them to see it. In Fall River, in fact, there is a widely held view that Tillmann—aided and abetted by his mother—successfully lobbied to get the Brook's name changed to Tillmann, to emphasize his German antecedents; to make Jews feel uncomfortable.

"There's a Jew who lives near there," says Tillmann in a self-made 2011 home video.

"It's an appropriate name to put near him." He then gives a dark laugh.

So, how did all that happen? How did a proud Nazi supporter get a name change—to, as he admits, make Jews feel uncomfortable?

The folks at the Geographic Names Board of Canada know all about the Tillmann Brook problem, but they say they can't talk about it. They refer a writer to the Nova Scotia government, which they say initiated the name change.

Nova Scotia's Geographic Information Services, meanwhile, said a "support specialist" would respond. By press time, they hadn't.

So: how was a known and notorious Nazi enthusiast allowed to pull a fast one on two levels of government? So he could upset Jewish Nova Scotians? And, now that they know, will they clean up their mess?

Many questions. In the John Mark Tillmann case, answers remain elusive.

Warren Kinsella is a former Jean Chrétien-era cabinet staffer and a former national war roomer.

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## Opinion

# Liberals' plan for veterans: numbers don't add up

The more Canadians and veterans learn of the 2019 Liberal programs, the more the confusion and anger grow. How do we survive the dizzying daze induced by trying to understand veterans' benefits?



Sean Bruyca

Veterans

OTTAWA—The new federal Liberal plan for veterans is all about saving money, yet again, at the expense of veterans.

The more Canadians and veterans learn of the 2019 Liberal programs, the more the confusion and anger grow. How do we survive the dizzying daze induced by trying to understand veterans' benefits?

First, let's cut through the thick and misleading rhetoric.

**The issue:** Injured veterans receiving pre-April 2006 Pension Act benefits collect more in pain and suffering payments than fellow veterans receive under the post-April 2006 New Veterans Charter lump sum program. Veteran outcry prompted the Liberals to announce a completely revised program to come into effect April 2019.

**Government talking points:** The New Veterans Charter and the April 2019 plan are superior because they offer more than just pain and suffering payments. They both provide medical and vocational rehabilitation, education, income loss, and medical care. The April 2019 plan claims to "re-establish" lifelong pensions.

**The reality:** All injured Canadian Forces veterans, under all three plans essentially have access to the same income loss, medical rehabilitation and care, as well as vocational rehabilitation and education (if not too disabled). We, therefore, can set those benefits aside and compare pain, suffering, and incapacity payments amongst the three programs.

**The bottom line:** Substantial differences between the three programs are striking. Pain, suffering, and incapacity are the most prolific veterans' sacrifice on behalf of Canada and Canadians. And compensation for sacrifice is grossly unfair depending not upon date of injury, or release from the military but based upon arbitrary dates of application.

As the table shows, disability compensation has become increasingly miserly under each successive program introduced by the Liberals in 2005 and 2019. Veterans Affairs, in a series of hypothetical scenarios, claims that veterans will receive considerably more under

the post-April 2019 plan versus the New Veterans Charter. Furthermore, the government announcement asserts that the most disabled will benefit the greatest.

I was far too hasty (and confused) in swallowing this aspect of the announcement. Upon reflection, there is much deception here.

Setting aside the pre-2006 plans for now, when comparing the pre- and post-April 2019 plans, both programs offer an incapacity allowance of roughly similar amounts. The pre-April 2019 New Veterans Charter is taxable at \$1,828/month while the post-April 2019 plan is tax free at \$1,500/month. What is missing from the Liberal 2019 plan is the supplement currently available which pays \$1,120/month. The Liberal 2019 plan has no equivalent. This supplement vanishes into fiscally thin air.

Under the April 2019 plan, the controversial lump sum still exists but veterans can choose a payment of up to \$1150/month, depending upon level of disability and gender. Why a maximum of \$1,150? Veterans, including me, feared the government would merely offer the lump sum dissected and distributed over time, an option already in existence.

Veterans' fears were justified. A VAC Q&A document indicates that the \$1,150 "was determined by converting the value of the maximum lump sum of \$360,000 into an age-adjusted monthly payment."

Disturbingly, since "sex is a factor of life expectancy ... the calculation used to convert lump sum amounts into monthly amounts must incorporate mortality rates which are sex dependent." According to the 2019 plan, the lifetime payout to male and female veterans may be the same for similar disabilities, but females apparently will receive lower monthly payments. Female veterans should not be penalized for longevity. Their daily pain is no less nor should their suffering be amortized at a lower amount merely because they live longer.

**The big picture:** In terms of pain, suffering, and incapacity payments most if not all veterans who qualify for such benefits under the April 2019 plan will receive less than under programs currently available. The maximum disabled veterans under the current plan can receive is \$35,392/year taxable plus a tax free lump sum of \$365,400. Under the announced 2019 plan, the same veteran would receive a choice between \$31,800/year tax free or the same lump sum plus \$18,000/year tax free.

Additional existing and future benefits have highly restrictive criteria. Only 152 veterans have received the Critical Injury Benefit out of more than 62,000 recipients of the lump sum. The government estimates only six veterans per year will qualify going forward.

As for caregiver benefits, less than five per cent of the most disabled veterans receive the current program. The soon-to-be introduced new and improved Caregiver Relief Benefit will nearly triple that number but still represent less than 15 per cent of seriously disabled veterans and less than

two per cent of injured veterans in receipt of the lump sum.

Undoubtedly the starkest differences emerge when the New Veterans Charter and the post-April 2019 plan are both compared with the pre-2006 Pension Act programs. Justin Trudeau and the Liberals, during the 2015 election campaign, promised to return to the lifelong pension. In fact the mandate letters for both former disgraced veterans affairs minister Kent Hehr and current Veterans Affairs Minister Seamus O'Regan commit to "re-establish lifelong pensions as an option for injured veterans." However, the 2019 plan offers only 40 per cent of the amount provided by the Pension Act.

Neither the 2006 nor the 2019 plans offer additional amounts

for spouses and children, unlike the pre-2006 Pension Act. Furthermore, the manner that government determines disability levels has been far less generous post-2006 than pre-2006. As a result, the average monthly payment for pain and suffering under the 2019 plan could be less than 20 per cent of the amount awarded under the pre-2006 Pension Act.

Government claims it is investing \$3.6-billion in the post-April 2019 plan. However, it is unclear if this is new money or merely flimflam: simply rolling over money from existing programs into new programs. Sadistically procrastinating to bring about change, government has been able to transfer more than \$1-billion over the past five years once

paid to deceased World War II veterans and their survivors towards the slow trickle of program changes for Canadian Forces veterans.

Veterans and their families have sacrificed much so that Canada and Canadians can prosper in safety and security. It is unclear what Ottawa is sacrificing to recognize the lifelong pain and suffering veterans endure on a daily basis.

Sean Bruyca, vice-president of Canadians for Accountability and author, has a graduate degree in public ethics, is a retired Air Force intelligence officer, and frequent commentator on government, military, and veterans' issues.

The Hill Times

## Cutting through the Rhetoric: Comparing Pain, Suffering, and Benefits

ALL \$ AMOUNTS AS OF JAN. 1, 2018.	APPLICATION SUBMITTED PRE- APRIL 1, 2006	APPLICATION SUBMITTED APRIL 1, 2006- MARCH 31, 2019	APPLICATION SUBMITTED APRIL 1, 2019 OR LATER
Pain and Suffering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Disability Pension" Maximum \$2,792.53/month</li> <li>• Plus up to \$698.13/month for spouse and \$363.03 /\$265.29 /\$209.44/month for 1st /2nd each additional child</li> <li>• Average \$698/month if single and \$1082/month with spouse &amp; 2 children</li> <li>• Tax free</li> <li>• Veteran Recipients: 63,702</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Disability Award" Maximum \$365,400 in one lump sum</li> <li>• Same lump sum spread out over time</li> <li>• No amounts for children or spouses</li> <li>• Average \$42,000 one-time payout</li> <li>• Tax free</li> <li>• Veteran Recipients: 62,753</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Pain and Suffering Compensation" provides a choice between a lump sum of maximum \$365,400</li> <li>• Or</li> <li>• Maximum \$1,150/month</li> <li>• No amounts for children or spouses</li> <li>• Estimated average \$200/month</li> <li>• Tax free</li> </ul>
Incapacity Allowances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Exceptional Incapacity Allowance" (Five levels)</li> <li>• Maximum \$1,478.29/month Tax Free</li> <li>• Veteran recipients: 1,524 as of March 31, 2017</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Career Impact Allowance" (Three levels)</li> <li>• Maximum \$1,828.67/month</li> <li>• Taxable</li> <li>• Veteran recipients: 6,280</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation" (Three levels) Max. \$1,500/month</li> <li>• Tax free</li> </ul>
Additional Incapacity Supplements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Career Impact Allowance Supplement" (One level)</li> <li>• \$1,120.71/month Taxable</li> <li>• Veteran recipients: 3,602</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
Attendance-Caregiver Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Attendance Allowance" Maximum \$1,847.82/month (Five levels) Tax Free</li> <li>• Veteran recipients: 6,732 as of March 31, 2017</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Family Caregiver Relief Benefit" \$7,546.25/yr. (One Level) Tax free</li> <li>• Recipients: 305</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Caregiver Recognition Benefit" (to be introduced April 1, 2018) \$1,000/month. (One level) Tax free</li> </ul>
Critical Injury Benefit	<p>"Critical Injury Benefit" All can apply if injury is military-related and occurs after April 1, 2006: \$72,909.24 Tax free. Veteran recipients: 152</p>		
Maximum Annual Payable Under Each Plan Assuming Spouse and Two Children (not including "Critical Injury Benefit"-Family and Attendance Allowance added separately)	<p>Including Attendance Allowance- Total: \$89,401.08/year tax free.</p> <p>Veteran Recipients with Maximum: 48 as of Sep 2017</p>	<p>\$35,392/year Taxable Plus lump sum of \$365,400 Tax Free</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Including Family Caregiver Relief Benefit-Total: \$42,938.81/year (mostly taxable except for \$7,546.25/yr Tax Free) Plus lump sum of \$365,400 Tax Free.</li> <li>• Veteran Recipients with Maximum: 11 as of Sep 2017</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Including Caregiver Recognition Benefit- Total: \$43,800/year tax free</li> <li>• Or</li> <li>• \$30,000 Tax Free Plus one-time lump sum of \$365,400 tax free</li> </ul>

—Source: Compiled by Sean Bruyca from Veterans Affairs Canada sources- "Facts and Figures - June 2017"; "Rates"- Effective January 1, 2018; "Pension for Life"-various "Factsheets"; and, Media Relations queries

# Studies on transition from military to civilian life hurting, not helping current, former members of Armed Forces

Whoever gets the job of pushing the boulder up the mountain after my tenure ends will be at parliamentary committees for many years to come, with the same, message I will be delivering yet again later this week.



Gary Walbourne

Opinion

There have been numerous occasions during my tenure as Canada's National Defence and Canadian Armed Forces Ombudsman when I felt like *Sisyphus*: that char-

acter in Greek mythology who was forced to push a boulder up a mountain only to have it repeatedly roll back down and hit him.

In the Canadian military, there is no boulder more stubborn to move than the process known as transition. Often referred to as, "transition to civilian life"—transition is, in theory, a smooth and respectful exit from the military for ill and injured members.

The reality is that transition is neither smooth nor respectful.

Why?  
The answer, I fear, boils down to a bureaucracy that fails to consider new ways of doing things and has to be dragged kicking and screaming towards change.

## We don't need more studies on transition

The House of Commons Veterans Affairs Committee has launched another study on transition. I have been asked to appear before them later this week.

I hope this is the last time I will appear before their committee, or any other, to discuss transition.

I'm tired of talking about the same points over and over again.

I know the number of times I have appeared before the Commons and Senate committees and spoken about transition. I also know that during the past five years (2012-2017) those committees, cumulatively, have made or reiterated over a hundred recommendations to make the system work as it should.



Veterans Affairs Minister Seamus O'Regan and National Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan, pictured Dec. 20, 2017, in Ottawa announcing the details about the Government of Canada's commitment to provide a pension for life for veterans. *The Hill Times* photographs by Andrew Meade

Since 2007, both House of Commons committees on Veterans Affairs and National Defence have made 121 and 69 recommendations, respectively. All this in addition to the recommendations made by the veterans ombudsman and my office. Most have been accepted—however, many remain to be implemented.

Similar recommendations have also been made by other government departments.

For example, in 2012 the auditor general of Canada weighed in on transition—two years before I became ombudsman. He noted how unnecessarily complex the process was and urged the Department of National Defence/Canadian Armed Forces (DND/CAF) and Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) to come up with a simple, user-friendly solution.

In 2010, VAC conducted a major study on transition in concert with Statistics Canada. A related study with Statistics Canada was also done in 2012. The release of the results of another Statistics Canada survey of 400 Canadian Armed Forces members, veterans, and their families on the subject of "Transition and Well-Being" is anticipated this month.

If that wasn't enough, the federal government committed to "reinventing transition" early last year in Canada's Defence Policy: Strong, Secure, Engaged.

My office and the Veterans Ombudsman's Office have repeatedly offered evidence-based solutions to these issues.

## When will policy become reality?

As I told the Commons Veterans Affairs Committee barely three months ago, I provided a comprehensive, evidence-based report

to the minister of national defence when he called for submissions to inform the defence policy. I was heartened to see some of my recommendations included in the final policy.

Specifically, my recommendation to retain ill and injured members until all benefits and services are in place was accepted. I have been told it is now official government policy, although I have not seen anything to substantiate that assertion.

But we have yet to see the policy become reality—my office continues to receive urgent calls from transitioning members who are being released before their benefits and services are in place.

What solution is being offered?

Another study.

In October last year, researchers from DND/CAF and VAC advertised for ill and injured members to take part in a survey to: "better understand the needs of ill or injured members and their families during the transition to civilian life." As I contemplate that egregious waste of time and money, I don't know whether to laugh or cry.

As I have said many times, the system is broken *but* fixable. We have the information needed to fix it, but that won't happen until policy becomes reality and the bureaucratic obstacles are removed.

If that doesn't happen, I guarantee one thing: whoever gets the job of pushing the boulder up the mountain after my tenure ends will be at parliamentary committees for many years to come, with the same, message I will be delivering yet again later this week.

Gary Walbourne is the National Defence and Canadian Armed Forces Ombudsman. His term is scheduled to end spring 2019.

*The Hill Times*



### Prime Minister:

Canadians are ready to take real action to meet Canada's national and international commitments to protect our land, water and species at risk.

The Natural Areas Conservation Program (NACP) is a model of environmental leadership and a key pillar of the conservation agenda. NACP partners are protecting the natural places that make Canada unique in the world.

There has never been a more important time to invest in the natural areas that sustain us all.



CANADA'S LAND TRUSTS



## News Senate

# Senators split over new clerk, Sen. McCoy calls him 'prime minister's man' in the Red Chamber

The appointment of Richard Denis and planned 'transformation' to the Senate's human resources department are the latest in a string of changes to the Upper Chamber's administration.

Continued from page 1

knowledge, leadership experience, and procedural expertise required of this position."

Some sources familiar with parliamentary administration speculated that placing a House officer in the interim job could allow a more fair competition for the permanent gig, by not allowing any candidate for the permanent job to get a leg up by working in the job in an interim capacity.

However, it's unclear whether Mr. Denis will apply for the permanent job. When asked via email, Mr. Denis responded that the permanent job had not yet been posted as available. The PCO did not rule out Mr. Denis' candidacy for the permanent clerk's position, saying anyone who was interested could apply.

It has been more than two years since the Senate has had a permanent clerk, with Nicole Proulx and Charles Robert filling the role on an interview basis since the last permanent clerk, Gary O'Brien, retired. The government still has not begun the process of recruiting a new clerk, according to several sources speaking on background, and the PCO has repeatedly refused to provide any information on the timeline for, or individuals involved in, what it calls an "open and transparent" selection process.

Conservative Senator Scott Tanas (Alberta) said he believed Mr. Denis would eventually be made the permanent Senate clerk.

"We're all operating under that assumption," he said.

"My understanding was that it was a prime minister that appoints [the clerk], and that this was the prime minister's guy. And I assumed

maybe he was just [interim] because there's some piece of paper that has to get signed to make it happen."

"I think he can do a fine job and get up to speed on the rules, he said, before adding, "I'm a big believer in promoting from within."

The appointment of a House administrator to the Senate is the latest in a string of cross-Chamber appointments in the past year. The previous interim Senate clerk, Charles Robert, was named the new clerk of the House of Commons last summer over longtime acting clerk Marc Bosc, surprising many current and former Hill-goers. Mr. Robert then named former Senate law clerk Michel Patrice as one of his new deputy clerks in the House, surpassing veteran House administrators.

None of the top three clerks in the Senate—Mr. Denis, chief corporate services officer Pascale Legault, and law clerk Jacqueline Kuehl—have more than three years of experience in the Red Chamber.

Independent Senator Elaine McCoy (Alberta) said she was "very disappointed" by the selection of Mr. Denis as interim clerk of the Senate.

"We should have somebody filling the position who has been here, who has the institutional memory, has the in-depth expertise on our rules; has understanding, as we are trying to modernize how we do business, how it will affect what we want to keep, and how it might modify what we would like to shift. What are the ramifications of suggestions we've come up with. All of that is exceedingly important," she said.

Sen. McCoy served as the ISG's facilitator until last fall. Last summer, she and the leaders of the Senate Conservative and Liberal caucuses sent a letter to the government outlining their preferences for the selection of a permanent clerk of the Senate, and followed up with another letter in September, she said. The letters were sent via the offices of the government's representative in the Senate, Sen. Peter Harder (Ottawa, Ont.) and Senate Speaker George Furey (N.L.).

"We were of one mind, and that is, that we should, very quickly, name our successor to, essentially, Charles Robert. And we should name somebody from within. And we should name somebody who has expertise. And we should be doing that with full consultation and participation of Senators in choosing that individual. And we made our position very clear, in

written form, to the Speaker and to the government representative [in the Senate]," she said.

In brief interviews outside of the Senate Chamber last week, the leaders of the Senate Liberal and Conservative caucuses, Senators Joseph Day (Saint John-Kennebecasis, N.B.) and Larry Smith (Saurel, Que.) said they could not recall the details of those letters.

"My recollection was that we just wanted to have some say in the choice of the clerk, because ... he or she plays such an important role in the Senate," said Sen. Day.

Sen. Day said the government has not made any promises to consult Senators on its selection for the permanent clerk job, whenever that occurs. The government did not consult with opposition MPs on its selection of Mr. Robert as the new House clerk last summer, as has been customary, instead asking for input beforehand on what qualifications a clerk should have.

Sen. Day said Senate group leaders were consulted on Mr. Denis' selection before the appointment took place, but "I would like to have seen a more thorough consultation."

The leaders of the Senate Conservatives, ISG, and Liberals all said they did not object to Mr. Denis' selection for the interim Senate clerk job.

"We sent our clerk down there and the House of Commons accepted that. A lot of procedures

are similar enough that he can be a fast learner. So far so good," said Sen. Day.

The Conservative Senate leader, Sen. Smith, said "He seems to be a very interesting and credible individual with lots of experience. I think having been in different jobs in my life, it's important that people are able to transfer and go into different areas of expertise and adjust."

Conservative Senator Claude Carignan, a former leader of his caucus, also said he did not object to the appointment.

However, Sen. McCoy said that the prime minister's decision to appoint Mr. Denis without a broader consultation with Senators will make it difficult to build trust with the new interim clerk.

"This prime minister is very surprising to me," Sen. McCoy said. "He said he didn't want the Prime Minister's Office to interfere in the Senate. He said that he didn't want Senators to be part of his national caucus, he was so sure of that. He said he didn't even want to solicit potential candidates for the Senate—he put a whole separate process forward to bring Senators forward. And then, suddenly, he had one of his own office employees pick the key civil service position that runs the Senate."

"That person has influence ... every one of us turns to that person for advice. And that person, now, we have to say is the prime minister's man. So how are we ever going to develop trust with him?"

Mr. Denis responded to the remarks about being the "prime minister's man" in the Senate via email, saying he had "felt welcomed by senators and Senate staff," and looked forward to getting to know more Senators in the coming weeks.

He wrote that over the years he had been involved in the drafting, amending, and publication of bills and provision of legal advice on issues affecting both the House and Senate.

"Having worked on the Hill for almost two decades, I am deeply passionate about the role of both Houses in the legislative process. Although the Rules of the Senate and the Standing Orders of the House of Commons are different, there are many similar underlying procedural and legal principles that apply. I am grateful to be able to draw on the wealth of

expertise from within in the legislative sector, and I look forward to both learning and apply my own knowledge and experience to serve all senators."

## Senate recruiting HR 'transformation' lead

The Senate is also recruiting to fill three other top administrative posts, using the headhunting firm Boyden.

The jobs openings include the Senate's chief financial officer, the human resources director, and a "senior transformation executive."

The transformation executive is being brought on for a period of 12-18 months to "help the Senate modernize and optimize" its human resources directorate, according to Senate spokesperson Alison Korn. The executive will report to the Senate law clerk, Ms. Kuehl.

The transformation executive will be tasked with helping the Senate to "enable greater openness, inclusivity and effectiveness," and "enhance its support and development of talent in serving Senators—and Canadians," according to the Boyden job posting, and will be in charge of any "associated workforce transitions."

The transformation is based on an internal Senate document titled the "HR Transformation Strategy and Roadmap."

The new human resources director would be the Senate's third in just over two years. Luc Presseau, who is retiring Feb. 16, was tapped to fill that role in September 2016 after former director Darshan Singh was fired in late 2015. Mr. Singh filed a grievance over his firing, which he said was "without cause."

Mr. Singh had filed a discrimination complaint against the Senate's chief corporate services officer at the time, Nicole Proulx, a week before his termination, and had clashed with the Senate's other top clerks as well, *The Hill Times* reported.

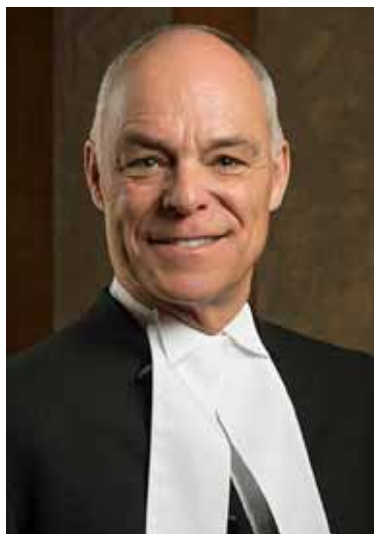
Ms. Proulx would later serve as the interim clerk of the Senate after Mr. Robert's departure. Her recent retirement opened the position that has been temporarily filled by Mr. Denis.

The chief financial officer position in the Senate became vacant when Ms. Legault was promoted to fill the role of the Senate's corporate services officer in November.

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Sen. Peter Harder is the government's representative in the Senate. Sen. Elaine McCoy is the former facilitator of the Independent Senators Group. Sen. McCoy says she is disappointed with the government's decision to name a veteran House of Commons clerk as the new interim clerk of the Senate over Senate staff with more experience in the Red Chamber. None of the Senate's top three clerks at the moment have more than three years of experience in the Senate. *The Hill Times* file photograph



Richard Denis is the new interim clerk of the Senate. Mr. Denis previously served as the House of Commons' deputy law clerk. Photograph courtesy of the Senate clerk's office



# Canada's on a difficult economic journey, we need a big rethink

Signs are that while Canada will make some positive changes at the margin, this likely won't be enough. But what has been missing all along has been an overarching framework or narrative to guide us on the journey.



David Crane

*Canada & the 21st Century*

**T**ORONTO—Canada is on a difficult economic journey that requires a rethink of many of the things we do to encourage economic growth if we are to reach our destination.

The destination is a prosperous economy that provides good jobs and generates the wealth we need to support the things we value as a society, such as education, health care, and a clean environment, with social equity and economic opportunity. But there's no guarantee we will reach our destination.

This is what the current government's innovation is all about. Signs are that while it will make some positive changes at the margin, this likely won't be enough. Sounding a bit like pro-Brexit campaigners in the British referendum, who said there was no need for experts, Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains said there was no need for more studies as he launched the innovation agenda in 2016.

But what has been missing all along has been an overarching framework or narrative to guide us on the journey. Public consultations produce wish lists while government gives us aspirations. Perhaps a framework might be found in a compelling new book, *Capitalism Without Capital: The Rise of the Intangible Economy*, by two British econo-

mists, Jonathan Haskel and Stian Westlake.

Their core argument is that we are steadily moving from an economy where the need for new investment in productive capacity to drive economic growth has shifted from investment in tangibles, such as machinery and equipment and buildings, to an economy increasingly dependent for growth on investment in intangibles, such as new knowledge, research and development, business methods, education and training, and branding and marketing—from investments in things we can see and touch to investments that are not so visible and cannot be touched.

The challenge they describe is that, to

a large extent, public policies such as incentives, taxation, finance, and subsidies are designed for a tangible economy. For economic success today we need to design much different policies that incentivize intangible investments.

This will mean, they argue, a much different system to finance business growth, an increased role for government in developing the needed new knowledge, a more balanced approach to intellectual property protection, greater focus on training and adult education, new types of infrastructure and more efforts to enhance opportunities in collaboration and sharing of new ideas. It means, for example, that governments will need to fund a greater share of investment.

This is not a world of small government and low taxes as the drivers of economic growth. It is a world where public and private collaboration is more important than ever.

We have known for some time that government plays an important role in knowl-

edge development and its contribution to economic growth. About 20 years ago I had the opportunity to meet, at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Michael Dertouzos, director of the Laboratory for Computer Science at the Massachusetts Institute for Technology. He was a compelling advocate for the combined investment of the public and private sectors in innovation, pointing to the contribution of the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) of the Department of Defence in the United States.

ARPA's contribution to the new world of information technology "was spectacular. We can credit its investment with somewhere between a third and a half of the



Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains said there was no need for more studies as he launched the innovation agenda in 2016. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

major innovations in computer science and technology," he contended. "These include time sharing, computer networks, landmark programming languages like Lisp, operating systems like Multics (which led to Unix), virtual memory, computer security systems, distributed computer systems, computers that understood human speech, vision systems, and artificial intelligence, an endeavour responsible for understanding and emulating human intelligence by machine."

Dertouzos estimated that these invest-

ments, along with those by the private sector to develop microprocessors, personal computers and off-the shelf software, had led to a US\$2-trillion economy by the late 1990s—with ARPA's investment in computer research of US\$1-billion achieving a 100,000 per cent return on investment.

These kinds of investments have continued, with ongoing benefits for the economy. As Mariana Mazzucato points out in her book, *The Entrepreneurial State: Debunking Public vs. Private Sector Myths*, there would not have been an Apple iPod, iPhone or iPad without the various technologies that flowed directly out of government-funded R&D. The same is true for many of the advances in the pharmaceutical and aerospace industries.

We don't have much data on the shift to an economy increasingly linked to investment in intangibles. Statistics Canada did produce a report in 2009, but it covered the period 1981-2001. It did find that by the end of 2001, investment by the business sector in intangibles was greater than investment in tangibles, a reversal of the situation in the early 1980s. The agency says it is producing a new report but would not say when we can expect it.

In their book, Haskel and Westlake argue that "there is something fundamentally different about intangible investment, and that understanding the steady move to intangible investment helps us understand some of the key issues facing us today: innovation and growth, inequality, the role of management, and financial and policy reform."

So there are big differences between an economy based largely on tangibles and one based increasingly on intangibles. "The basic economic properties of intangibles make an intangible-rich economy behave differently from a

tangible-rich one," the two economists stress.

What's missing from the government's innovation initiative today is any serious analysis of how the economy is changing and what this means for the kinds of policies needed for future growth, opportunity, and prosperity. An intangibles-rich economy demands much different policies but there are few signs this is understood in Ottawa.

David Crane can be reached at [crane@interlog.com](mailto:crane@interlog.com).

*The Hill Times*

We need fair and competitive taxation.  
How will budget 2018 measure up?

Ask CPA Canada.

[cpacanada.ca/federalbudget](http://cpacanada.ca/federalbudget)



## News Political fundraising

# Conservatives raised more money than any other party since start of 2015, drawing \$68.4-million in donations: Elections Canada statistics

But the Conservatives spent more than the Liberals and New Democrats combined on fundraising expenses in 2015 and 2016, collectively dropping \$15.72-million during those years to entice donations.

BY MARCO VIGLIOTTI

The federal Conservatives' well-oiled fundraising machine repeatedly outpaced its rivals over the past three years, drumming up more than \$66-million in direct party donations alone, despite losing power and being relegated to the opposition ranks, a *Hill Times* assessment has found.

However, the Tories spent more than the Liberals and New Democrats combined on fundraising expenses in 2015 and 2016, the most recent data available, collectively dropping \$15.72-million during those years to entice donations.

From 2015 to 2017, the federal Conservatives collectively raised \$68.43-million through direct party contributions and transfers from riding associations, nomination and election candidates, and leadership contestants, according to statistics from Elections Canada compiled by *The Hill Times*.

Under the rules of the 2017 leadership race, contestants were required to give 10 per cent of their donations to the federal party.

The Conservatives also secured a \$28.5-million loan from RBC in the run-up to the 2015 election, though officials said it was paid off in its entirety before the March 2016 convention.

Retired senator Irving Gerstein serves as chair of the Conservative Fund of Canada, the party's war chest. Former prime minister Stephen Harper was appointed to the fund's six-member board in 2017.

Conservative spokesperson Cory Hann credited the party's continued fundraising success to the compelling alternative vision for Canada offered by Conservative leader Andrew Scheer (Regina-Qu'Appelle, Sask.) and mounting disappointment with the Trudeau government.

"We're maintaining our advantage because Canadians are responding to Andrew Scheer's positive Conservative vision for this country, and they see that there is a real alternative to Justin Trudeau's Liberals," he said in an emailed statement, pointing to the prime minister's rules-breaking vacation to the Aga Khan's private island and the government policies on veterans and taxes as sources of frustration amongst voters.

But filling party coffers didn't come cheap for the Conservatives, who spent \$8.86-million in fundraising in 2015, and another \$6.86-million in 2016, according to the party's annual financial returns for those years, also collected by Elections Canada.

Comparatively, the Liberals spent \$3.85-million on fundraising in 2015 and \$3.12-million in 2016, while the NDP doled out \$2.92-million for fundraising in 2015, and only \$315,815 in 2016.

Party expenses are only shown in the annual financial returns, which come out in the spring of the following year. Party fundraising numbers, though, are revealed in mandated quarterly releases, published publicly by Elections Canada a few weeks after the end of each quarter.

For its assessment, *The Hill Times* pulled fundraising numbers for 2015 and 2016 from the annual financial returns, while figures for 2017 were determined by combining the results of the four quarterly reports.

According to Elections Canada statistics, the federal Liberals raised \$52.53-million in directions donations and another \$3.77-million in transfers over the past three years. In the lead-up to the 2015 vote, the party secured a \$40-million loan.

In early 2017, Liberal Party president Anna Gainey said in a letter that the Liberals paid off the remaining \$1.9 million it still owed from the election campaign, and was now debt-free.

When reached, Liberal Party spokesperson Braeden Caley credited the positive leadership of Justin Trudeau (Papineau, Que.) and greater focus on grassroots monthly giving for allowing the party to make inroads on closing the "enormous gap" in contributions with the Conservatives that existed during former prime minister Stephen Harper's tenure in office. The median donation for the Liberal Party is only \$13, he said.

Mr. Caley also argued the Liberals were using their resources far more efficiently than the Conservatives, citing the stark disparity in fundraising expenses between the two parties.

During the past three years, the New Democrats raised \$28.87-million from donors, and roughly \$165,000 in transfers from candidates and riding associations, according to Elections Canada figures. The party took out a \$22-million loan for the 2015 election campaign.

According to the party's 2016 financial return, the NDP still owed \$5.5-million for a loan with the Bank of Montreal taken out in Aug. 2015.

Under the terms of the 2017 NDP leadership race, candidates were required to give 25 per cent of their donations to the party.

The NDP did not return requests for comment prior to deadline.

All three parties had huge fundraising

years in 2015, with the Conservatives, New Democrats, and Liberals all boasting of post-ing record-breaking numbers in the quarter immediately preceding the Oct. 19 election.

Over the entire year, the federal Conservatives, which served in government until early November, raised \$29-million from 118,253 donors, in addition to the \$263,350 it received in transfers from registered associations and \$2,800 from nomination contestants.

Despite winning a majority in the election, Liberals finished second in fundraising in 2015, attracting \$21.3-million from 93,426 donors, and another \$1.31-million in transfers.

The New Democrats were a close third that year in the race to fill party coffers, drawing \$18.6-million in donations from 118,777 contributors. It also boasted \$123,156 in transfers.

In 2016, fundraising numbers were down across the board, perhaps unsurprising given the lack of a general election.

That year, the Conservatives raised \$18.25-million from 82,662 donors, compared to the Liberals, who drew \$17.18-million from 82,285 contributors. The New Democrats saw donations plummet to \$5.39-million, and its number of contributors fall to 26,754.

During the 2016 convention in Winnipeg, the Liberals voted to eliminate party membership fees. This change went into effect on Canada Day 2016.

In terms of transfers, the Conservatives recorded \$890,181 in 2016, with the vast majority—\$717,638—coming from its large pool of leadership contestants. Fourteen candidates were ultimately on the ballot for the party leadership at the spring 2017 convention.

The Liberals collectively raised \$240,858 in transfers, with just over 88 per cent coming from riding associations.

While the combined totals of the four quarterly reports for 2017 shouldn't differ from the yet-to-be released annual return for the financials, this method won't provide a thoroughly accurate picture of the number of donors, as it wouldn't account for donors who gave money more than once over the course of the year.

In 2017, the Conservatives saw a slight increase in their fundraising haul, which rose to \$18.85-million, while the party also netted \$1.13-million in transfers, with \$935,378 coming from leadership contestants.

The Liberals raised \$14.06-million from direct donations last year, and \$140,265 in transfers, with \$118,119 attributable to riding associations and the remaining \$22,146 from nomination contestants.

There were 12 federal byelections contested since the start of the 42nd Parliament in Nov. 2015, with the Liberals winning two seats previously held by the Tories and the remainder being held by the incumbent party.

Mr. Hann pointed out that 2017 marked the "worst full year of fundraising" for Justin Trudeau since he became Liberal Party leader in 2013, as well as the first time under his leadership that the party had less than 40,000 donors in the fourth quarter.

He also noted that when compared to the results of the 2015 vote, the Liberals actually saw their vote share decline in nine of the 12 byelections contested since the start of the 42nd Parliament, while the Conservatives increased their percentage of the vote in nine of the races.

Mr. Caley countered that the Liberals "drastic increase in grassroots fundraising support" in recent years has allowed the party to invest in training new volunteers and organizers, and developing innovative campaigns to better engage with Canadians, leading to "successful campaigns" for the 2015 general election and in subsequent byelections.

Finally, the NDP, once again, saw fundraising fall to \$4.87-million in 2017, with an additional \$6,587 coming from transfers from riding associations and candidates.

However, nearly half of that fundraising haul—\$2.04-million—came in the fourth quarter of 2017, the first reporting interval under new party leader Jagmeet Singh.

mvigliotti@hilltimes.com

The Hill Times

## Elections Canada political financing statistics, 2015-2017

### Conservative Party

2015 (annual)  
Total contributions: \$29,027,273.75  
Contributors: 118,253  
Loans from financial institutions: \$28,500,000 (1)  
Monetary transfers from registered associations: \$263,350.74  
Monetary transfers from nomination contestants: \$2,800.20  
Total transfers: \$266,150.94  
TOTAL: \$57,793,424.69  
2016 (annual)  
Total contributions: \$18,252,173.28  
Contributors: 82,662  
Loans from financial institutions: ---  
Monetary transfers from registered associations: \$164,077.28  
Monetary transfers from candidates: \$398.68  
Monetary transfers from nomination contestants: \$8,066.83  
Monetary transfers from leadership contestants: \$717,638.91  
Total transfers: \$890,181.70  
TOTAL: \$19,142,354.98  
2017 (summary of four quarterly results)  
Total contributions: \$18,859,192.9  
Contributors: --- (collectively 147,921)  
Loans from financial institutions: ---  
Monetary transfers from registered associations: \$190,071.95  
Monetary transfers from candidates: \$166.97  
Monetary transfers from nomination contestants: \$6,009.60  
Monetary transfers from leadership contestants: \$935,378.56  
Total transfers: \$1,131,627.08  
TOTAL: \$19,990,820  
**COLLECTIVE TOTAL: \$96,926,599.7**  
**COLLECTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS: \$66,138,639.9**  
**COLLECTIVE LOANS: \$28,500,000**  
**COLLECTIVE TRANSFERS: \$2,287,959.8**

### Liberal Party of Canada

2015 (annual)  
Total contributions: \$21,276,897.57  
Contributors: 93,426  
Loans from financial institutions: \$40,000,000 (1)  
Monetary transfers from registered associations: \$485,570.91  
Monetary transfers from candidates: \$701,897.75  
Monetary transfers from nomination contestants: \$119,227.03  
Monetary transfers from leadership contestants: \$5,929.44  
Total transfers: \$1,312,625.13  
TOTAL: \$62,589,522.70  
2016 (annual)  
Total contributions: \$17,184,318.96  
Contributors: 82,285  
Loans from financial institutions: ---  
Monetary transfers from registered associations: \$213,629.53  
Monetary transfers from candidates: \$23,282.95  
Monetary transfers from nomination contestants: \$3,946.28  
Monetary transfers from leadership contestants: ---  
Total transfers: \$240,858.76  
TOTAL: \$17,425,177.72  
2017 (summary of four quarterly results)  
Total contributions: \$14,069,321.2  
Contributors: --- (collectively 131,395)  
Loans from financial institutions: ---  
Monetary transfers from registered associations: \$118,119.23  
Monetary transfers from candidates: ---  
Monetary transfers from nomination contestants: \$22,146.33  
Monetary transfers from leadership contestants: ---  
Total transfers: \$140,265.56  
TOTAL: \$14,209,586.8  
**COLLECTIVE TOTAL: \$94,224,287.2**  
**COLLECTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS: \$52,530,537.7**  
**COLLECTIVE LOANS: \$40,000,000**  
**COLLECTIVE TRANSFERS: \$3,769,3749.5**

### New Democratic Party

2015 (annual)  
Total contributions: \$18,593,468.51  
Contributors: 118,777  
Loans from financial institutions: \$22,000,000 (1)  
Monetary transfers from registered associations: \$57,538.20  
Monetary transfers from candidates: \$65,618.35  
Monetary transfers from nomination contestants: ---  
Monetary transfers from leadership contestants: ---  
Total transfers: \$123,156.55  
TOTAL: \$40,716,625.06 (including \$1,895 in non-monetary contributions from individuals)  
2016 (annual)  
Total contributions: \$5,398,683.65  
Contributors: 26,754  
Loans from financial institutions: ---  
Monetary transfers from registered associations: \$24,830.00  
Monetary transfers from candidates: \$23,282.95  
Monetary transfers from nomination contestants: \$9,897.91  
Monetary transfers from leadership contestants: ---  
Total transfers: \$34,772.91  
TOTAL: \$5,433,456.56  
2017 (summary of four quarterly results)  
Total contributions: \$4,874,278.49  
Contributors: --- (collectively 64,548)  
Loans from financial institutions: ---  
Monetary transfers from registered associations: \$6,131.01  
Monetary transfers from candidates: \$456.51  
Monetary transfers from nomination contestants: ---  
Monetary transfers from leadership contestants: ---  
Total transfers: \$6,587.52  
TOTAL: \$4,880,866.01  
**COLLECTIVE TOTAL: \$51,032,842.7 (including \$1,895 in non-monetary contributions from individuals)**  
**COLLECTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS: \$28,866,430.7**  
**COLLECTIVE LOANS: \$22,000,000**  
**COLLECTIVE TRANSFERS: \$164,516.98**

# If Conservative MP Trost loses March 10 nomination, he could run in another riding, says former campaign manager Ben-Ami

If Brad Trost chooses to run for the Conservative nomination in a riding other than Saskatoon-University, the MP would require a waiver from the party and the national council, according to party nomination rules.

BY ABBAS RANA

Supporters of Saskatchewan Conservative MP Brad Trost say they are confident the five-term MP will win a March 10 nomination contest, but if he loses, he could run in another riding in the province, say supporters of the five-term MP.

"Certainly, I can tell you that if, and this is a mighty if, Brad Trost were to lose his nomination in Saskatoon-University, I and a lot of people would continue to encourage him to stay involved in politics, and to perhaps seek a nomination a seat somewhere else close by," said Joseph Ben-Ami, former campaign manager to Mr. Trost's (Saskatoon-University, Sask.) 2017 unsuccessful leadership campaign.

Mr. Ben-Ami said he and Mr. Trost remain confident, based on feedback, that he will win. At the same time, he said, Mr. Trost, 43, is taking the nomination challenge seriously, and is working hard to win. Mr. Ben-Ami said there's nothing in the party nomination rules that would prohibit the MP from running in a different riding.

But Cory Hann, a Conservative Party spokesman, referred *The Hill Times* to a party nomination rule that would require Mr. Trost to seek a waiver from the executive direc-

tor of the party, the president of the national council, which would have to be approved by the National Candidate Selection Committee.

"Unless waived by the executive director and the president of the national council, and then approved by the majority of NCSC after consulting with the national councillor(s) for the affected jurisdiction, the applicant must not have been an unsuccessful nomination contestant in a Conservative Party nomination contest during the same Parliament as the one contested," states a Conservative Party nomination rule that applies in a scenario when an unsuccessful candidate in one riding wants to run for nomination a second time in a different riding.

Mr. Ben-Ami did not say which riding Mr. Trost will run in should the MP lose the nomination in Saskatoon-University.

Of the 14 federal Saskatchewan ridings, Conservatives won 10, the NDP three, and the Liberals one, in the 2015 general election. There are three ridings in Saskatoon, and the only riding held by any party other than the Conservatives, is Saskatoon West currently represented by NDP MP Sheri Benson. She carried the riding in 2015 by winning 39.5 per cent of the vote over second-place Conservative candidate Randy Donauer, who won 32.8 per cent of the votes.

Mr. Trost was re-elected in the last election in the newly reconfigured riding of Saskatoon-University with 41.5 per cent of the vote over second-place NDP candidate Claire Card who won 31.5 per cent. Mr. Trost was first elected in 2004 in the now redrawn riding of Saskatoon-Humboldt with 26.7 per cent of the vote. He won the election by a margin of only one per cent. But he increased his margin to about 20 per cent in 2006; 26 per cent in 2008; and 17.6 in 2011. The riding boundaries were rejigged and renamed to Saskatoon-University in 2013.

Mr. Trost, a pro-lifer is facing nomination challenges from Corey Tochor, who



Conservative MP Brad Trost, left, is facing nomination challenges from Saskatchewan MLA Corey Tochor, centre, and businessman Brad Rodokopp. *The Hill Times* file photo and photographs courtesy of Facebook

is a former speaker of the Saskatchewan Legislature and still a sitting MLA, and businessman Brad Redekopp. The nomination meeting is scheduled for March 10, and the deadline to sign up new members was Feb. 8.

In addition to Mr. Trost, who came in fourth place in last year's national leadership contest, six other incumbent federal Conservative MPs are facing nomination challenges, including: Cheryl Gallant (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, Ont.), Kellie Leitch (Simcoe-Grey, Ont.), David Tilson (Dufferin-Caledon, Ont.), Jim Eglinski (Yellowhead, Alta.), Deepak Obhrai (Calgary Forest Lawn, Alta.), and Mike Lake (Edmonton-Wetaskwin, Alta.). Mr. Eglinski and Ms. Leitch have since announced they will not seek re-election in 2019. Mr. Tilson told *The Hill Times* two weeks ago that he's still unsure if he would run again in the next election.

The Conservatives won 99 of the 338 seats in the last election. The party opened nominations in 92 ridings where there has not been a byelection held since the 2015 general election. The 85 MPs who have not been challenged are now acclaimed as party candidates for the next election. It's expected that some of these 85 MPs might not run in the 2019 election, and as a consequence nomination contests will open up in those ridings.

Mr. Ben-Ami told *The Hill Times* last month the Conservative Party was rife with speculation that some of the challengers running against incumbent MPs have done so on the encouragement of the party leadership. He said he found it surprising that Mr. Tochor would step down from his position as the speaker of the provincial legislature to challenge Mr. Trost without having any behind-the-scenes "discussions" with the party.

As of the time of the interview last week, Mr. Ben-Ami said he was unaware of any information that the party was taking any sides in the Saskatoon-University nomination. He said he didn't believe the party would engage in any "funny business" to help engineer Mr. Trost's defeat, but warned that should any such activity occur, Mr. Trost's supporters would "hold the party to account."

"We are perfectly willing to hold the party accountable for any shenanigans," Mr. Ben-Ami said. "I'm not suggesting that there have

been any [ongoing attempts by the party to defeat Mr. Trost] or that we expect any."

Mr. Trost is currently engaged in a nasty legal fight with the Conservative Party after the party fined him \$50,000 over allegation of leaking the party's membership list to the National Firearms Association.

Meanwhile, Mr. Tochor, in an interview with *The Hill Times*, denied that he was challenging Mr. Trost on the encouragement of the party leadership. He said he stepped down from the speaker's position, because he could not have participated in any partisan activity.

"That's not true, I've been encouraged to run by people who live in Saskatoon-University," said Mr. Tochor. "No, why I stepped down as the speaker was the principled thing to do. I hold true to my principles, and because of the oath that I took as the speaker 'I would not take part in partisan activities' resulted in my decision to step down as speaker."

Mr. Tochor said he was feeling "good" about his chances of winning the nomination, but predicted that it's going to be a close contest.

"I'm feeling good about my chances, it's going to be a tight three-way race," he said.

Mr. Tochor said some Conservatives in the riding have expressed their disappointment to him about Mr. Trost's legal fight with the party. He said people told him the money used to pay legal bills could have been used to pay for other activities.

"What I'm hearing back from members is they want renewal, and there's some real concern about MP Brad Trost taking the party to court," said Mr. Tochor.

Mr. Redekopp said he was optimistic about his chances to win the nomination as he said people wanted change because they think Mr. Trost is a "divisive" figure. He declined to say how many people in the riding considered the incumbent MP "divisive."

"I think we've had a lot of success signing up members and getting a lot of interest in change for sure," said Mr. Redekopp.

Both Mr. Tochor and Mr. Redekopp declined to comment on the possibility that if Mr. Trost loses the nomination on March 10, he could choose to run in a different riding.

*The Hill Times*

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# Government whips to hold closed-door meetings with Liberal MPs, staffers to discuss sexual harassment on the Hill

Male Liberal MPs who talked to *The Hill Times* on not-for-attribution basis said the recent stories of sexual harassment allegations were changing the culture on the Hill and MPs from all parties are wondering ‘who is next.’

Continued from page 1

“We also want to make sure we hear [about] best practices, personal stories on how we can do better, or more together as a team. It’s going to be an open and frank discussion.”

Mr. Rodriguez, and deputy government whip Filmomena Tassi (Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas, Ont.) are meeting with Liberal MPs on Wednesday, Feb. 28 on Parliament Hill. The date of the meeting with staffers had not been scheduled as of late last week.

In the two-hour caucus meeting with MPs, the House chief human resources officer Pierre Parent will make a presentation to Liberal MPs about the current sexual harassment policies in place. After that, MPs will be able to offer their views on the subject. The meeting was originally scheduled for this Tuesday, Feb. 13, but the date was changed because of the short work week, and

the busy House agenda, Ms. Tassi told *The Hill Times*. The House is not sitting on Friday, Feb. 16 because of the NDP national policy convention in Ottawa, and as a consequence will be a four day work week. Ms. Tassi said the date was changed to ensure MPs have enough time to adjust their schedules and all could make time to attend the meeting.

Ms. Tassi said the sexual harassment file is “rapidly” unfolding as the House currently is examining Bill C-65, an Act to Amend the Canada Labour Code (harassment and violence), the Procedure and House Affairs Committee is reviewing the MPs’ Code of Conduct on sexual harassment, and the chief human resources officer is going to start in-person training sessions for MPs on sexual harassment in the coming weeks. She said the closed-door caucus meeting would help MPs understand this issue better, and as a result will be able to participate in the review of C-65 in the House and committees in a more meaningful way.



Chief government whip Pablo Rodriguez is meeting with Liberal MPs on Feb. 28 to discuss sexual harassment. *The Hill Times* photograph by Rachel Aiello



Liberal MPs, pictured at a national caucus meeting, will be learning more about appropriate sexual conduct. *The Hill Times* file photograph

“We’re aware of the rapid nature with which the whole area of sexual harassment and harassment is unfolding, particularly sexual harassment,” said Ms. Tassi. “It is clear we need a renewed focus on this and that’s what this is about. This is about responding to the needs for a renewed focus and ensuring that that response is thorough, well informed, so that at the end of the day, we can come up with the best possible process, and procedure that can be attained.”

The recent tsunami of sexual harassment complaints against men in senior positions has rocked work places in all walks of life. Numerous powerful men from a variety of fields have seen their professional careers end abruptly, and their reputations ruined in the face of explosive allegations. A number of powerful politicians at the federal and provincial level from all major political parties have faced the same allegations, and the rumour mill has run wild with innuendo that more powerful politicians could face such allegations in the coming weeks and months.

All three party leaders, including Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (Papineau, Que.), were questioned about their own conduct by the media two weeks ago, and whether they might also face similar allegations.

“I’ve been very, very careful all my life to be thoughtful, to be respectful of people’s space and people’s headspace as well,” Mr. Trudeau told CBC’s *The House*.

Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer (Regina Qu’Appelle, Sask.) also responded in the negative, saying he doesn’t go out much in the evenings as “nothing good ever happens in Ottawa after 8 p.m.”

NDP leader Jagmeet Singh, a lawyer by training, said that “we all have things that we can do better in our past” when asked the same question on Parliament Hill.

Male Liberal MPs who talked to *The Hill Times* on not-for-attribution basis said the recent stories of sexual harassment allegations were changing the culture on the Hill. Sources said that MPs from all parties were “concerned” and wondering “who is next” to face the accusations.

“They’re not sure where this is going,” said a Liberal MP

“It’s not why we got into politics. We got into politics to make our communities better.”

Liberal MPs said that they are now extremely careful in how they conduct themselves, and who they hang out with in an attempt to minimize the possibility of being the target of any accusation. These MPs said that some don’t socialize with their staff, and are careful about spending time with MPs from other parties.

“They are not sure who to trust anymore,” a second Liberal MP said.

“As I heard many times before ‘There’s no friends in politics, it’s the opposition and it’s something they could use, perhaps they would, some innocuous comment that you thought might have been funny they could take it out of context, or put it in a way that makes you look very bad.’”

A third Liberal MP said that he tries not to hug people anymore, as it could be misconstrued, and is always watchful with what he says.

“It’s changing the whole culture on the Hill,” said the MP.

Several opposition MPs also told *The Hill Times* that the #MeToo movement has “scared” men in powerful positions who think that they could be next facing allegations of harassment, sexual harassment, or making inappropriate comments.

“[#]MeToo has scared the heck out of everybody,” said Conservative MP David Tilson (Dufferin-Caledon, Ont.), in an interview with *The Hill Times* two weeks ago, adding that every man working on the Hill is now more cautious than ever before about what he says or does.

“Let’s say somebody that you worked with and you’ve done something, or said something, they’re annoyed. And you haven’t done anything, but they say you have, what’s the due process? Your career is over,” said Mr. Tilson.

Just last week, two cases of sexual harassment surfaced involving a PMO staffer, and a cabinet ministerial staffer. In the first one,

*Huffington Post Canada* reported the resignation of senior PMO staffer Claude-Éric Gagné after he sent inappropriate messages to Myriam Denis, who had applied for a job in the Prime Minister’s Office, but did not get the job. A former provincial ministerial staffer, and the federal chief organizer for the party in the 2015, Mr. Gagné has denied the allegation. The PMO called an independent investigation into the incident in November, which was concluded recently, but the outcome was never made public.

Ms. Denis wrote a blog last week for the *Huffington Post* in which she recounted details about this incident, and another one with Vahid Vidah, a former policy adviser to Small Business and Tourism Minister Bardish Chagger (Waterloo, Ont.). According to her post, Mr. Vidah first initiated on-line contact with Ms. Denis on his own regarding a senior position in the minister’s office, and later conducted a job interview with her without any authorization from the then-chief of staff Rachel Bendayan. After getting turned down for the position, Ms. Denis reached out to Ms. Bendayan to share her experience. The now-former chief of staff thanked her for the information and told her that Mr. Vidah did the job interview without her permission, and did not work in the minister’s office anymore.

Meanwhile, Liberal MP Alexandra Mendès (Brossard-Saint-Lambert, Que.), in an interview with *The Hill Times* said she would attend the caucus meeting, and will put out the idea of creating a Hill “harassment watch.” She said that she has talked to her colleagues about this in informal conversations, and the initial response has been positive. Ms. Mendès said that she was still working on fine tuning the details of this idea.

“In our [MP] offices, some kind of symbol or sign alerting staff that we would be there for them, and to help them go through a process if they want to denounce someone, if they’re going to make a complaint, or if they want to vent,” Ms. Mendès said.

Liberal MPs Pam Goldsmith-Jones (West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country, B.C.), and Pam Damoff (Oakville North-Burlington, Ont.) said they would also attend the caucus meeting, and would offer some specific ideas with the caucus. Both said they would be able to discuss those ideas publicly only after the caucus meeting.

Meanwhile, the House is spending about \$50,000 to provide in-person training on sexual harassment to MPs of all parties. The House has hired an outside company called ADR Education to conduct those training sessions in both official languages starting this month until the end of May. Each training session will be three hours long and will be conducted in groups of 20. A spokeswoman for the House told *The Hill Times*, last week, that Mr. Parent was still in the process of working out the dates of the training sessions.

“The delivery of the new ‘in person training’ is being coordinated with party whips and will start in the coming weeks,” wrote Heather Bradley, director of communications to the House Speaker, in an email to *The Hill Times*.

arana@hilltimes.com

# Myriam Denis story reveals questionable HR practices in PMO, say labour experts

'He has no role in the investigation, period. He is seen as an agent of the PMO. In this case, he has—on the surface—an interest in protecting the PMO's reputation,' said one human resource specialist about the head of the new PMO harassment office, Brett Thalmann.

Continued from page 1

with two high-ranking Liberal staffers in a *Huffington Post Canada* blog on Feb. 5.

The interaction in question involved the head of the newly formed Harassment Resolution and Investigation Office (HRIO), Brett Thalmann, reaching out to Ms. Denis after she publicly wrote on Facebook that Claude-Éric Gagné had inappropriately messaged her several months after he was one of several government officials to interview her for a job in Government House leader Bardish Chagger's (Waterloo, Ont.) office.

Ms. Denis wrote that Mr. Thalmann had contacted her over Facebook messenger in December while a third-party investigation requested by the PMO to look into unrelated allegations of inappropriate behaviour by Mr. Gagné was ongoing. The *Huffington Post* was also the first to report on the existence of the PMO's two-person HRIO, which was formed in October 2017.

Mr. Thalmann had first offered Ms. Denis the opportunity to share her story with the PMO. Ms. Denis then questioned why he reached out to her while an independent investigation into Mr. Gagné was underway. Mr. Thalmann, who told her that he handles human resources for the PMO, replied that he could put her in touch with the third-party if she wanted. Ms. Denis replied that, "it's what you should have done first if your organization really cared about women."

Mr. Gagné resigned as the PMO's deputy director of operations on Jan. 29 following the conclusion of the investigation.

Mr. Ng said it was problematic for Mr. Thalmann to reach out to a potential victim while an independent investigation into an alleged harasser was ongoing, because he would be seen as having an interest in the matter by virtue of his PMO position.

"He has no role in the investigation, period. He is seen as an agent of the PMO. In this case, he has—on the surface—an interest in protecting the PMO's reputation," he said.



Brett Thalmann, PMO director of administration and special projects. Photograph courtesy of Facebook

He said a third-party investigation has to be—and be entirely perceived to be—neutral, unbiased, and fair. Anything that can be viewed as influencing an investigation can harm the integrity of the process.

Alex Lucifero, an Ottawa-based labour lawyer at Samfiru Tumarkin LLP, told *The Hill Times* that "to a certain extent, you can give credit to Mr. Thalmann for pointing Ms. Denis into the direction [of the third-party investigator], but the problem is the context in which that advice was given."

Mr. Lucifero also questioned why Mr. Thalmann first offered her the opportunity to speak to the PMO about her experience, which gives the appearance of a quiet attempt to resolve the matter quickly.

Soma Ray-Ellis, Toronto-based chair of the employment law group at Gardiner Roberts LLP, told *The Hill Times* that "normally in the context of an investigation, if it becomes public that there are other victims, the usual course is to advise the investigator to contact the potential victim or witnesses."

"The head of HR has an obligation to instruct the investigator to expand the investigation so that a fulsome review of the matter has taken place," she said, adding that it's not the role of HR to contact or communicate directly with potential victims or witnesses "given the purpose of hiring a third party investigator is ensure an unbiased and intimidation-free investigation."

Mr. Ng said if this was a legal case, where due process was enshrined, such an action could be seen by the court as interference and potentially result in the investigation being tossed out as evidence.

The PMO has defended the actions of Mr. Thalmann, with press secretary Eleanore Catenaro telling *The Huffington Post* that he had not made the quick exchange with Ms. Denis to ward off any political embarrassment, but rather to "ensure she was aware of the process to follow if she wanted to share her story with the independent investigator."

When news of the investigation into Mr. Gagné broke on Dec. 13, Ms. Denis shared a TVA Nouvelles article about it on Facebook, and commented that he had

sent her inappropriate messages after she was turned down for the job. The next day, Mr. Thalmann, who is also the PMO's director of administration and special projects, messaged her on Facebook to talk about sharing her story.

Ms. Denis wrote in the *Huffington Post* that Mr. Gagné had sent her a friend request on Facebook and messaged her months after he had interviewed her over the phone for a policy adviser position in Ms. Chagger's office, which she was not hired for. She recounted that he messaged that she was so pretty and "he couldn't resist and control himself."

Mr. Gagné told the online outlet that he refuted the publicly undisclosed allegations that were the subject of the investigation. The PMO has also refused to disclose the allegations. He was placed on leave in November when the PMO first learned about the allegations.

Mr. Ng and Mr. Lucifero also said they were surprised that there wasn't further inquiry into the actions of Wahid Vidah, then a policy adviser in Ms. Chagger's office, soon after Ms. Denis had flagged it with the office's chief of staff Rachel Bendayan.



Claude-Éric Gagné, former PMO staffer, pictured in May 2016. *The Hill Times* file photograph

Ms. Denis wrote in the *Huffington Post* that Mr. Vidah had met to interview her for a job but arrived in casual clothes and put his hand on her thigh in the meeting. She later found out he had not been involved in the hiring process. Mr. Vidah has since left the office, but told the *Huffington Post* he was not told to interview Ms. Denis for a job, and "at no time" led her to believe he was in charge of the hiring process, and said he met with her in a personal capacity. He did not deny touching her thigh, but said if he did it was in a friendly, non-sexual manner.

After Ms. Bendayan told Ms. Denis she didn't receive the job, she informed Ms. Bendayan about her encounter with Mr. Vidah. The chief of staff said that Mr. Vidah's actions were inappropriate and that she was very disappointed that the interaction occurred, adding that Mr. Vidah was not working in Ms. Chagger's office anymore.

"Right there and then, she had a duty to investigate," Mr. Ng said. Mr. Lucifero agreed there was an obligation to look into it further.

On Feb. 5, Ms. Chagger told reporters that her office is looking into why she wasn't made aware of Ms. Denis' experience with Mr. Vidah earlier, adding that she finds these behaviours "entirely unacceptable."

## Who handles complaints?

In an email, PMO press secretary Chantal Gagnon told *The Hill Times* that the HRIO serves as a formal point of contact for any "exempt staff," meaning political aides working in the PMO as well in ministers' offices. The HRIO "addresses and responds to inquiries brought forward, and where appropriate, it can arrange for a formal, independent investigation."

Ms. Gagnon said that since November 2017, the HRIO has implemented a comprehensive training program specifically for all ministerial exempt staff in managerial positions, which has included several in-person training sessions led by a legal expert. She wouldn't say what the focus of the sessions were.

Ms. Gagnon also said Mr. Thalmann "has been doing HR since he joined PMO in November 2016 and HR staff within the PMO report" to him. The other member of the bureau is Sabina Saini, deputy director of policy in the PMO, who is a "designated point of contact for the HRIO."

"Staff are encouraged to reach out to Brett, Sabina or any other senior staff member to address their concerns. All of this information was widely communicated via memo to all exempt staff," she wrote.

When asked, Ms. Gagnon didn't say what qualified Ms. Thalmann and Ms. Saini to handle workplace harassment complaints. She also did not discuss the role of Trish Renaud, who is listed as a human resources adviser in the PMO.

Mr. Ng said a human resources manager tasked with responding to workplace harassment complaints typically has a high degree of knowledge about the institution, and the labour codes and best practices that govern it.

"But HR has evolved into a profession in which you can't just slip into the role because you

understand the organization's policies and practices," he said.

Mr. Ng said nowadays, human resources managers are often trained to handle workplace complaints and harassment, and taught about dispute resolution, occupational health and safety, labour law, and organizational psychology. He noted that many provinces now have HR professional certification and post-secondary schools offer degrees.

"That [would] generally be the case in the private sector," added Mr. Lucifero.

"I don't see why it should be any different in the public sector. You need that expertise and knowledge ... especially in such a high governmental office."

Mr. Thalmann arrived in the PMO in November 2016 from the Liberal Research Bureau, where he served as managing director for one year. Before she worked in the PMO, Ms. Saini was chief of staff to Treasury Board President Scott Brison (Kings-Hants, N.S.) from December 2015 to October 2017.

Mr. Ng stressed that human resources managers must be qualified because a potential complainant has to be able to trust the manager when submitting a harassment complaint.

## PMO's politicized nature can make it difficult to handle complaints

Mr. Ng said the HRIO could be in a difficult position when it comes to responding to complaints, because the PMO is staffed by political aides constantly trying to "prove their loyalty" to its bosses. In such a setting, political calculations about how to resolve harassment complaints may be made, and victims may feel reluctant to speak up in order to avoid damaging the office's reputation.

Because PMO personnel are political appointees, there could also be a blurred distinction between "whether HR works for the employee, the employer, or the optics of the employer." He said the PMO would have to engage an external third-party to ensure procedural fairness.

Mr. Ng said strong policies on handling complaints are needed now that more women are publicly coming forward with their experiences in light of the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements.

The current House of Commons workplace harassment policy doesn't apply to the PMO and other exempt staff, but Ms. Gagnon said Bill C-65 will require the office to have a policy in place. Currently, the Treasury Board has an official policy governing exempt staff, although there is nothing about how to handle complaints.

Ms. Gagnon also said the PMO was currently working with the Treasury Board to add the "procedure for harassment inquiries to the official policy for exempt staff."

*jlim@hilltimes.com*



Myriam Denis, pictured on Facebook.

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# ‘It’s really a window to the world,’ immigration cases front-and-centre for Liberal MP Alghabra’s busy Mississauga Centre riding team

In 2017, Liberal MP Omar Alghabra’s office opened a total of 982 different cases, 95 per cent of which were immigration-related. Roughly 80 per cent of those were spousal sponsorships and refugee and temporary resident visa applications.

BY LAURA RYCKEWAERT

Mississauga Centre has the largest immigrant population of any federal riding in Canada which means Liberal MP Omar Alghabra’s Ontario riding team is an “incredibly busy” one.

The vast majority of the riding’s casework is related to immigration issues.

“It’s really a window to the world,” said Mr. Alghabra of his riding in an interview with *The Hill Times* last week. “Mississauga is an international city and with that comes with it different dimensions and different needs and different flavours.”

Mr. Alghabra was elected to represent the newly reconstituted riding of Mississauga Centre in 2015 with 54.7 per cent of the vote. Born to a Syrian family in Saudi Arabia, Mr. Alghabra, 48, has lived in the area since 1998. He represented Mississauga Erindale from 2006-2008.

“There is a significant, or disproportionate need for [help with] immigration issues, whether it’s family reunification, whether it’s family visas, whether it’s permanent residency or citizenship applications, so there’s a significant attention on these needs,” said Mr. Alghabra.

“People come to me hoping that I can help and there are a lot of times we can, and there are a lot of times we cannot,” he said.

Along with his MP duties, Mr. Alghabra is currently a parliamentary secretary to Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland (University-Rosedale, Ont.). As a result, the MP is tied up in Ottawa for longer than most colleagues, and during sitting weeks only manages to snatch around 36 hours in his riding, typically leaving Ottawa Friday evening and returning by Sunday night. He opts to drive the almost 450 kilometres himself, as he said it offers him more flexibility in travel.

He also undertakes more travel abroad as a result of his duties. In 2017, Mr. Alghabra visited nine

countries in all: Pakistan, Thailand, the Philippines, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Ethiopia, the U.K., and Côte d’Ivoire.

With so much time spent away from his riding, Mr. Alghabra said his constituency team is key to ensuring “the bridge between Ottawa and the riding is solid,” which means keeping on top of constituents’ issues, and frequent, daily communication between riding staff, Hill staff and the MP.

“At the end of the day, I spend a lot of time in Ottawa and I need to make sure that I have people who look after our constituents’ needs when I’m not physically there,” said Mr. Alghabra. “We have a large volume of casework, we have also a large volume of events ... other types of initiatives, so it’s important for me to be as close as possible to constituents and to other stakeholders in the riding.”

As a result, Mr. Alghabra has stacked his riding office with staff, with six constituency aides in all, two of whom work part-time, and only one legislative assistant in place to staff him on Parliament Hill, Aya Al-Shalchi. With supplements, in part due to the riding’s larger population, Mr. Alghabra was allocated an MP’s office budget of \$388,940 for 2017-18. According to the MP’s 2016-17 expenditure report, he spent \$38,806.16 on his constituency office lease, insurance, and utilities that year; along with \$281,122.83 on staff salaries.

Constituency assistant Daniel Kucirek, 28, is the lead staffer charged with handling casework coming in to Mr. Alghabra’s office, but he said the riding team overall has a “very open concept office,” meaning everyone helps weigh in on event planning and other projects underway, including sharing some casework.

Naila Mahmood, 24, is mainly tasked with community outreach and drafting the Householders and Ten Percenters sent out by the MP; Frishta Bastan, 24, tackles correspondence, outreach, and occasionally casework; and Hector Lopez-Negrete, 28, acts as the MP’s executive assistant, handling scheduling and essentially “has his hand in the pot everywhere,” explained Mr. Kucirek.

The two part-timers are Michael Jackman, 21, who tackles data management in the office, including inputting physical files on office casework into a digital database; and Fares Badr, 65, who helps with casework and community outreach. Combined, staff in the riding can speak Spanish, French, Farsi, Urdu, and Arabic.

Mississauga Centre covers the heart of the Toronto-adjacent city and includes the “high density part of downtown Mississauga,” said Mr. Alghabra, with a con-

centration of condominiums and apartment buildings that comes a “close second” to the fastest growing downtown Toronto ridings. According to the 2016 census, apartments make up roughly 60.5 per cent of dwellings in the riding. With so much rental space available, he said his riding is a “convenient transitional place” for newcomers to Canada.

The riding has the largest immigrant population of any federal riding in Canada, at 77,625 people—or 62.2 per cent of the riding’s 124,849 total residents—of whom 13,260 were recent immigrants from between 2011 and 2016, based on the 2016 census. The top five places of birth for the riding’s immigrant population are: India (11,110 people), Pakistan (7,445), China (6,565, with another 2,260 from Hong Kong), Philippines (6,005), and Poland (2,725). Roughly 70.6 per cent of the riding’s residents identify as a visible minority; and 63 per cent of residents have a mother tongue other than English or French.

The median employment income for the riding in 2015 was \$33,048, and the area has a nine per cent unemployment rate, higher than both the national and provincial average.

Mr. Alghabra’s constituency office is located on City Centre Drive, smack in the middle of Mississauga and directly beside the massive and widely used Square One Shopping Centre.

It’s on the fourth floor of a 1970s-era office building. While there’s no street-level signage indicating the MP’s office is there—a result of the building set-up, according to Mr. Kucirek—the team makes an effort to publicize their address as much as possible, and still get between five to 10 walk-ins on a given day. That’s on top of between 20 to 40 calls to the office each day, hundreds of emails, and upwards of 200 letters on busy weeks.

Aside from casework, the office does a lot of event planning, from setting up “meet your MP” events for Mr. Alghabra in a different local coffee shop, grocery store or the like each weekend, to riding town halls and beyond.

Mississauga is currently entirely represented by Liberal MPs and they often opt to hold joint events. As the centre-most riding in the city, Mr. Alghabra’s office tends to take the lead on organizing these events, said Mr. Kucirek. The MP also hosts a youth council in his riding, and is currently working to set up discussions with local businesses on the idea of creating a business improvement area (BIA) for downtown Mississauga.

In 2017, Mr. Alghabra’s office opened a total of 982 different cases, 95 per cent of which—or roughly 933—were immigration-

related, and closed 718. Those 264 remaining cases combined with 87 cases still open from 2016 and another 51 still-open cases since the start of 2018, means the MP’s office is currently balancing a total of 402 active cases.

By comparison, the last riding profiled by *The Hill Times*, NDP MP Jenny Kwan’s riding of Vancouver East, B.C., reported 256 new cases opened in 2017.

Of the immigration-related cases brought to Mr. Alghabra’s office, spousal sponsorships and refugee applications are the most common, followed by temporary resident visa applications—combined, they make up 80 per cent of all of the office’s immigration cases. The rest includes citizenship cases, permanent resident card renewals, live-in caregiver applications, express entry and parental sponsorship applications.

For the estimated five per cent of casework not related to immigration, Mr. Kucirek said it’s split evenly between Service Canada, Canada Revenue Agency and other ministry related cases. But immigration cases typically take far longer to resolve, with some processes having standard 12-month timelines.

Mr. Kucirek studied business in university, and this marks his first time in an MP’s office. Before Mr. Alghabra’s constituency office was set up, his staff got training from the late Liberal MP Arnold Chan’s office in Scarborough-Agincourt, Ont.

Nonetheless, Mr. Kucirek, who’s been working for Mr. Alghabra since December 2015, said the learning curve was a big one: “the best way to put it is you’re always learning at this job, on a weekly basis I get a case that I’ve never seen before.”

“It was a lot of hit the ground running.... After a few months you kind of get into the swing of things and you realize here’s where I go, here’s what I do, here’s how I figure it out, and obviously there’s other people that you can reach out to,” he said, adding he sees his role as serving as a “voice for our constituents,” and one that’s “part legal, part therapy, part cutting through the red tape.”

“How much of that I use on each day, which hat I need to put on, it changes,” he said.

As the MP’s “eyes and ears on the ground,” Mr. Kucirek said the riding team regularly gives Mr. Alghabra feedback, flagging surges in certain case issues to the MP, as well as the ministry in question at times. Likewise, he said he makes a point of noting when things improve.

“A great example is when [the government] changed the spousal sponsorship [waiting] times. I noticed the difference, I noticed cases happening faster,” said Mr. Kucirek.

When a constituent comes in with a case, Mr. Kucirek said he starts off by whittling down to the heart of the matter: figuring out what type of case it is and what the issue is. From there, he said he sets out to ensure the constituent understands the processes and requirements involved in their case, and the next steps ahead—“the way I kind of look at it is honesty is the best policy.”

“Sometimes there’ll be points where people just are not understanding what’s happening, whether it’s miscommunication because English is a second language for them, maybe it’s because they’re under-privileged, maybe they’ve never dealt with this,” he said.

In handling a case, he often helps liaise with a given department on behalf of a constituent. Mr. Kucirek said it can be a “tough” job to tackle, “like when you’re dealing with refugee cases, you’re dealing with people who are in the worst of states.”

“When you have someone’s wife or husband abroad, they tend to be more antsy about it and understandably so,” he said. “It’s happened where you have people cry in front of you and you just have to offer a shoulder to cry on, and you have to explain to them what’s going on.”

“We had a number of Syrian refugees cases where people were in camps, just sitting there waiting for things to be done and their life is on pause, and it takes a toll on the family [in Canada],” said Mr. Kucirek.

Syrian refugee cases were a big project for the office in 2016, and while both Mr. Kucirek and Mr. Alghabra said they didn’t have exact numbers, hundreds of such individuals ultimately landed in Mississauga.

With some cases taking a year or more to close, Mr. Kucirek said he often forms a relationship with constituents, and it’s not uncommon for people to continue to “touch base” even after their case has been resolved.

*This is the second in a planned series of profiles of constituency offices in some of Canada’s busiest federal ridings.*

[lryckewaert@hilltimes.com](mailto:lryckewaert@hilltimes.com)  
*The Hill Times*



Liberal MP Omar Alghabra, top row, fourth from the left, is pictured with his riding staff and volunteers, including: Daniel Kucirek, top row, second from left; Krishta Bastan, top row, third from left; Hector Lopez-Negrete, right of Mr. Alghabra; Naila Mahmood, far right; and Michael Jackman, bottom row, centre. Unpictured is part-time riding staffer Fares Badr. *Photograph courtesy of Omar Alghabra’s office*

# THE HILLTIMES CAREERS

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La Commission de la capitale nationale (CCN) une société d'État fédérale ayant pour mission de faire en sorte que la région de la capitale du Canada revête une importance et soit une source de fierté pour tout le pays. Ayant son siège social à Ottawa, la CCN a la responsabilité de la gestion, de l'aménagement et de la conservation d'un portefeuille de terrains, de biens et d'immeubles ainsi que de sites patrimoniaux fédéraux dans la région de la capitale du Canada. La CCN offre à un professionnel ou une professionnelle d'expérience une occasion passionnante et stimulante de compléter son équipe fort dévouée en tant que **Directeur ou directrice des Médias stratégiques**.

Relevant directement du directeur général des Affaires publiques et d'entreprise et fonctionnellement du premier dirigeant, le directeur ou la directrice des médias stratégiques joue un rôle essentiel au sein de cette organisation prestigieuse et respectée. Avec l'appui d'un personnel de sept personnes, il ou elle a la responsabilité d'élaborer la stratégie annuelle de la CCN en matière de communications et de médias sociaux, de gestion des enjeux et de relations avec les médias et de soutenir une stratégie et un programme récemment transformés et très fructueux en matière de médias sociaux.

La personne idéale pour le poste est un meneur talentueux ayant un fort esprit d'équipe, une excellente crédibilité personnelle et la capacité de susciter un haut niveau de confiance dans l'ensemble de l'organisation. Vous avez fait vos preuves dans tous les aspects des relations avec les médias et des communications numériques et stratégiques, de préférence en gérant un vaste éventail de questions de communications hautement médiatisées. La pensée stratégique et créative, des compétences exceptionnelles en gestion des relations avec les intervenants internes et d'excellentes aptitudes pour les relations interpersonnelles sont caractéristiques de votre approche.

Idealement, vous détenez un diplôme universitaire dans une discipline connexe. La maîtrise des deux langues officielles est obligatoire, tout comme des compétences rédactionnelles impeccables en anglais. Si cela vous intéresse de vous joindre à cette organisation importante et fière, veuillez communiquer avec Mme Judith Wightman au 613-591-8630 ou lui envoyer votre curriculum vitae d'ici le 14 février à [judith@wightmansearch.com](mailto:judith@wightmansearch.com). La CCN souscrit aux principes d'équité en matière d'emploi et encourage vivement les candidatures des personnes qualifiées, et plus particulièrement des membres des minorités visibles, des Autochtones et des personnes handicapées. Nous apprécions toutes les manifestations d'intérêt, mais ne comuniquons qu'avec les personnes retenues pour une entrevue.

## Feature Spin Doctors | By Laura Ryckewaert

### "Canada has signed on to the new Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Is this a good move? Why or why not?"



**CAMERON AHMAD**  
*Liberal strategist*

"During his recent trip to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, the prime minister announced that Canada and the ten remaining members of the Trans Pacific Partnership concluded discussions in Tokyo on a new comprehensive and progressive agreement—the CPTPP.

"Our government joined this agreement because it is the right deal—we stood up for Canadian interests and workers, and furthered our objectives of creating sustainable economic growth, prosperity, and well-paying middle class jobs today and for generations to come.



**CORY HANN**  
*Conservative strategist*

"As it always has been for our Conservative Party, when it comes to trade, we want to see that Canadians, workers, and businesses all get the best deal possible. We are the party of free trade, and we understand the importance of reliable access to markets for Canadian businesses, and the impact that has for our economy.

"It's a positive development that after



**SARAH ANDREWS**  
*NDP strategist*

"It is no secret that the NDP has been consistently raising concerns about the TPP. Yet, despite promising Canadians more transparency on trade deals, the Liberal government continues to shroud their deals in secrecy.

"During hearings with the International Trade Committee, most witnesses spoke against the TPP. Experts have pointed out that Canada would lose 58,000



**MATHIEU R. ST-AMAND**  
*Bloc Québécois strategist*

"The TPP offers some benefits for Quebec, particularly for pork farmers and maple syrup producers. Being so far from the Pacific Coast, the province has very few economic links with Asia. However, on Oct. 19, 2017, during a byelection, the prime minister made farmers in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region a promise about the TPP. He said, 'We will not make any concessions on supply management.'

"Today, we know that he sacrificed 3.25 per cent of the dairy sector and opened holes in the egg and chicken markets. Obvi-



**DEBRA EINDIGUER**  
*Green strategist*

"We have yet to see the latest text of the revived Trans-Pacific Partnership, but we know that Indigenous groups are concerned their rights could be trampled by foreign companies. Alarms are being sounded by our Indigenous neighbours to the south, the Maori of New Zealand, who believe that the CPTPP may not include explicit references to their treaties and the state's obligations under those treaties. Similarly, Indigenous groups in Canada need reassurances that no trade deal will supersede Crown-Indigenous treaties, nor their rights to protect their unceded territories.

"Our negotiating team made progress to advance these objectives and ensure the deal is more progressive and stronger on issues including intellectual property, culture, and the automotive sector. We know that free trade helps strengthen opportunities for our businesses and helps grow the middle class. But for free trade to work, we must ensure that the benefits are shared with all citizens and not just the few. That's why Canada's membership in the CPTPP is a step in the right direction, and why we ultimately decided to move forward.

"Canadians expect their government to defend Canadian interests, and not simply accede to trade deals for the sake of doing so. We did so with CETA, the CPTPP, and are continuing to stand up for our interests and values as we work to modernize and improve NAFTA."

years of hard work from our Conservative government, this trade deal has been signed, and our shadow ministers and caucus will work hard to keep an open, global approach to trade squarely on the policy agenda.

"The expectation we have for the Liberals at this point, without any details available, is that they did not make any concessions on supply management or our automotive sector, as has been opined at times. Of course, once we have the full details and the revised Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement is made public, we will do our due diligence, review it carefully, and, in fact, ensure Canadians are getting a good deal."

jobs due to TPP concessions that could severely impair our automobile industry and our supply management system. Let us not forget that the Liberals allowed the Canada-Europe Trade Agreement to negatively impact our dairy producers.

"The Liberals are rushing to sign this deal, in hopes of revamping their trade image and seem ready to compromise on important issues for Canadians and their progressive standards to get there. We believe that Canadians deserve clear answers on what is included in this deal and a government that actually listens to concerns raised regarding trade deals."

ously, the farmers of Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean were quite surprised by this outcome. The question is whether the minister of international trade reached an agreement contrary to the prime minister's orders or whether the prime minister was confused when he spoke to our farmers. This is exactly the kind of thing that increases public cynicism. When a politician makes an election promise, the public should not see it broken three months later.

"This turn of events inevitably brings to mind the words of a great Quebecer, Félix Leclerc: 'La veille des élections, il t'appelait son fiston. Le lendemain, comme de raison, y'avait oublié ton nom. (On the eve of the election, he called you his favourite son. Of course, by the dawning of the sun, your name was forgotten.)'"

"For years, Greens have raised concerns about the inclusion of investor-state provisions in our trade deals, which allow foreign multinationals to sue governments if they feel our environmental or other regulations have hindered their profits. These provisions remain in the CPTPP, and Canadians are owed an explanation and an apology for being kept in the dark about such an important trade deal.

"Canada's dairy and poultry industries are rightfully concerned about the impact of the CPTPP on supply management, but secret negotiations mean they don't have answers. It is outrageous that our government—which promised Canadians transparency and accountability—signed onto a secretive trade deal to which Canadians have expressed strong opposition."

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## Parliamentary Calendar



### Chief NATA negotiator headlines conference on Canadian trade

MONDAY, FEB. 12

**The House Is Sitting**—The House is sitting every weekday until Feb. 16. It will then take a one-week break from Feb. 19-23 before returning on 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.

**Canada's Trade Agenda: What Next?**—The Canadian International Council's National Capital Branch will host this event featuring John Manley, president and CEO of the Business Council of Canada, and John Weekes, senior business adviser at Bennett Jones, for a discussion of how Canada is preparing to navigate with more aggressive trade partners in Asia and North America, while enhancing its engagement, and perhaps leadership, in the global economy. 5 p.m. registration and cash bar, 6 p.m. presentation and discussion, 7:30 p.m. optional dinner. The Sheraton Hotel, Rideau Room, 150 Albert St. Register: ottawa@thecic.org or 613-903-4011. More information: <https://cicncb-feb122018.eventbrite.ca>.

**Video Games on the Hill**—The Entertainment Software Association of Canada invites Parliamentarians and Hill staff to join some of Canada's top video-game companies for an interactive showcase. 5:30-8 p.m., Sir John A. Macdonald Building, 144 Wellington St., Ottawa. RSVP at [jkprpan@theesa.ca](mailto:jkprpan@theesa.ca).

TUESDAY, FEB. 13

**Canada's State of Trade: At Home and Beyond**—The Canadian Global Affairs Institute presents this day-long conference, drawing together Parliamentarians, government practitioners, trade policy experts, business executives, diplomats, and other key stakeholders. Speakers include deputy trade minister Tim Sargent and NAFTA chief negotiator Steve Verheul. The Rideau Club, 99 Bank St., Ottawa. \$50-\$175. 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Register via [eventbrite.ca/e/canadas-state-of-trade-at-home-and-beyond-registration-42006716219](http://eventbrite.ca/e/canadas-state-of-trade-at-home-and-beyond-registration-42006716219).

**All-Party Agriculture Breakfast**—The All-Party Agriculture Caucus is hosting a breakfast event at the Parliamentary Restaurant in Centre Block. 7:30 a.m. For more information, contact the office of Liberal MP and chair of the All-Party Agriculture Caucus T.J. Harvey.

**Macdonald-Laurier Institute Canada-U.S. Dinner**—The Macdonald-Laurier Institute is hosting its annual dinner, 5:30 p.m. at the Canadian War Museum, 1 Vimy Pl. Buy tickets via [macdonaldlaurier.ca](http://macdonaldlaurier.ca).

**Let's Celebrate the Food We Love: Networking Reception**—Canada's Agriculture Day is the perfect time to come together to showcase our pride in Canadian agriculture and create a closer connection about where food comes from and the people who produce it. Celebrate with local farmers, agricultural leaders, and stakeholders at the Sir John A. Macdonald Building during the evening reception: Let's Celebrate the Food We Love. 6 to 8 p.m. Admission is free. If you plan to attend, register at [agriculturemorethanever.ca/cdn-ag-day-ottawa](http://agriculturemorethanever.ca/cdn-ag-day-ottawa).

**Book Launch for Mauril and Me, Testimonies to a Legacy; Mauril et moi, Témoins d'un héritage**—A year-and-a-half after his passing, Mauril Bélanger remains a force and an inspiration for many. More than 40 of his friends, former colleagues, and acquaintances have come together to record their fond reminiscences of the former Ottawa MP, to recognize his contributions, and pay tribute. David Small has pulled these stories together and they are issued now in a single volume. Join co-hosts Liberal MPs Greg Fergus and Mona Fortier at the Métropolitain Brasserie in Ottawa at 5 p.m.—or after votes—to launch *Mauril and Me, Testimonies to a Legacy; Mauril et moi, Témoins d'un héritage*.

**Pearson Centre Flag Day Reception**—Canada and the World: The Maple Leaf as our Calling Card is the theme for the annual Pearson Centre Flag Day reception,

which will be co-hosted this year by House Speaker Geoff Regan. 3-5 p.m. House Speaker's Dining Room, Centre Block. All Parliamentarians and staff are invited, in addition to policy leaders in Ottawa. For more, contact [info@thepearsoncentre.ca](mailto:info@thepearsoncentre.ca).

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14

**Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada 2018 Reception**—Come celebrate Canada's mineral exploration and development industry in advance of the PDAC International Convention, Trade Show, and Investors Exchange. 5-7:30 p.m. Commonwealth Room, Centre Block. RSVP to [rsvp@pdac.ca](mailto:rsvp@pdac.ca) Please bring government issued photo ID.

**Ottawa Launch of Report on Women Entrepreneurs & Innovation**—The launch of a new report from BMO Financial Group, Carleton University, and the Beacon Group exploring the implications for business and the Canadian economy resulting from gender differences in approaches to innovation will be celebrated at a breakfast reception at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. Government House Leader and Small Business and Tourism Minister Bardish Chagger and the report's authors, Clare Beckton and Janice McDonald, will be in attendance. The event will be hosted by BMO's senior vice-president for Alberta and the Northwest Territories, Susan Brown. 7:30-8:30 a.m. Registration is required by noon Feb. 13.

THURSDAY, FEB. 15

**The Gift of Jazz: From Africa to New Orleans to The True North Strong and Free**—Deborah Davis and Segue to Jazz will be joined by Stefan Keyes, weekend Ottawa anchor of CTV News; jazz great Michael C. Hanna; Jamaal Jackson Rogers, Ottawa English poet laureate; and former world tap-dancing champion Darin Kyle, for their annual tribute to Black History Month. General audience tickets are \$40; \$25 for seniors and students. 6 p.m. National Gallery of Canada Theatre, 380 Sussex Dr., Ottawa. For more, visit [odysseyshowcase.org](http://odysseyshowcase.org). This event is presented by Odyssey Showcase in partnership with the National Gallery of Canada and sponsored by TD Bank.

**Bacon & Eggheads Breakfast**—The Partnership Group for Science and Engineering (PAGSE) presents a talk 'Canada Takes a Big Stake in the Driver-less Future' with Steven Waslander, University of Waterloo. 7:30 a.m. Parliamentary Dining Room, Centre Block. No charge to MPs, Senators, and media. All others, \$25. Pre-registration required by Feb. 12 by contacting Donna Boag at [pagsc-src.ca](mailto:pagsc-src.ca) or 613-991-6369.

FRIDAY, FEB. 16

**NDP Federal Convention**—The party is set to hold this policy convention Feb. 16-18, at the Shaw Centre, 55 Colonel By Dr., in Ottawa. To become a delegate or for more information, visit [ottawa2018.ndp.ca](http://ottawa2018.ndp.ca).

SATURDAY, FEB. 17

**Prime Minister Trudeau Makes State Visit to India**—Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, at the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is visiting India for a state visit from Feb. 17 to 23. The visit will include stops in Agra, Amritsar, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, and New Delhi.

THURSDAY, FEB. 22

**Conference on Security and Defence**—The Conference of Defence Associations Institute presents this annual conference Feb. 22-23. Fairmont Chateau Laurier, Ottawa. [cdainstitute.ca/events/2017-annual-ottawa-conference](http://cdainstitute.ca/events/2017-annual-ottawa-conference).

**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. February's topic is housing. 2:30 p.m. To join the group or participate in the meeting, please contact [andjelka.vidovic@embassyservices.org](mailto:andjelka.vidovic@embassyservices.org).

**Embassies and Ontario Employment Law**—Join labour and employment lawyers Stephen Bird and Russell MacCrimmon of Bird Richard for a presentation on the law governing embassies' relationships with their locally engaged staff. As many embassies in Canada strive to mirror regional employment standards for their locally engaged staff, this seminar will focus on how to provide comparable benefits while protecting yourself from costly litigation brought by Canadian staff, as well as a discussion on state immunity under Canadian law, minimum standards under Ontario law, and drafting employment contracts for locally engaged staff. Shaw Centre, Ottawa. 8:30-10 a.m. Presentation with Q&A to follow. To register, visit [www.lawyersforemployers.ca](http://www.lawyersforemployers.ca).

FRIDAY, FEB. 23

**Canadian Parliamentary Press Gallery Annual General Meeting**—The press gallery is set to hold its AGM in the National Press Theatre, 150 Wellington St., Ottawa. 12:30 p.m. Members will vote on a new board of directors.

TUESDAY, FEB. 27

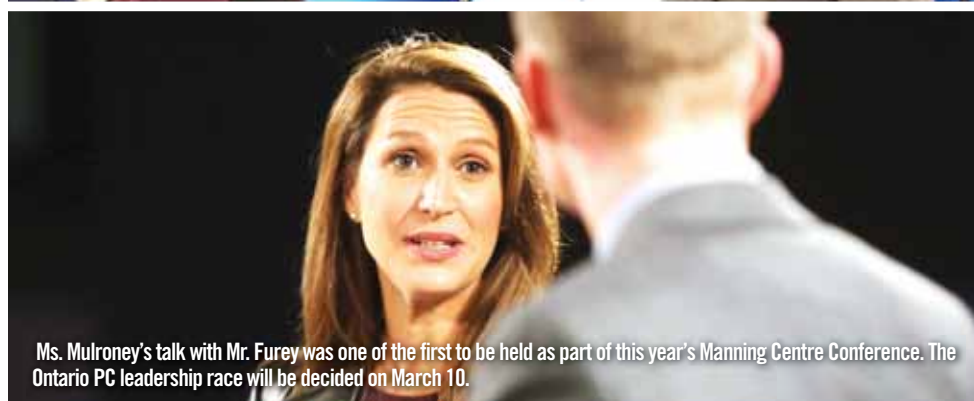
**Engineers Canada Parliamentary Reception**—Engineers Canada cordially invites Members of Parliament, Senators, and their staff to join them for breakfast on

## Mulronev attends Manning conference

The Hill Times photographs by Andrew Meade



Ontario Progressive Conservative leadership candidate Caroline Mulronev pictured in conversation with Anthony Furey as part of the Manning Conference's 'Spotlight on Ontario' event Feb. 9.



Ms. Mulronev's talk with Mr. Furey was one of the first to be held as part of this year's Manning Centre Conference. The Ontario PC leadership race will be decided on March 10.



Ontario Conservative MP Lisa Raitt pictured during a panel on 'Feminism & Conservatism' Feb. 9.



Alberta Conservative MP Rachael Harder also took part in the 'Feminism & Conservatism' panel on Feb. 9.

Parliament Hill, featuring a discussion of the public policy issues currently facing the engineering profession in Canada. Parliamentary Dining Room, Centre Block. 7:30-9:30 a.m.

**Carleton University 2018 Bell Lecture with Jean Charest**—The 2018 Bell Lecture will be delivered by Jean Charest, former Quebec premier, deputy prime minister of Canada, federal Progressive Conservative Party leader, and Quebec Liberal Party leader. He'll speak on "Change, Trends, and Canada," including the topic of NAFTA. 7-9 p.m. Richcraft Hall, Carleton University campus, 9376 University Dr., Ottawa. Register via: <https://carleton.ca/fpa/events/the-bell-lecture/>.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28

**Canadian Federation of Agriculture Annual General Meeting**—This conference will take Feb. 28 to March 1. Speakers include Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay, Conservative agriculture critics Luc Berthold and John Barlow, and Canada's chief NAFTA negotiator Steve Verheul. Ottawa Marriott Hotel, 100 Kent St., Ottawa. [cfa-fca.ca](http://cfa-fca.ca).

**Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries Reception**—CADSI invites all Members of Parliament and Senators to join them for a reception in celebration of the important partnership between government and Canada's innovative defence and security industries. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Commonwealth Room, Centre Block.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

**NPSIA Soirée 2018**—The Norman Paterson graduate School of International Affairs (NPSIA) at Carleton University is hosting a black-tie charity dinner gala at the Fairmont Chateau Laurier featuring former CBC broadcaster Peter Mansbridge, with funds raised going to the Ottawa Food Bank. The evening's theme is "Sound Reporting in a Disquieted World." 6:15-10:30 p.m. \$100-\$250 per ticket. For more information, visit [npsiasoiree.com](http://npsiasoiree.com).

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

**PDAC 2018**—The Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada hosts its annual International Convention, Trade Show & Investors Exchange, March 4-7. Metro Toronto Convention Centre. This industry event attracts cabinet ministers from many of the world's top mining countries.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

**Bank of Canada Overnight Rate Release**—The Bank of Canada will announce its overnight rate target today at 10 a.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8

**OEA/CABE Spring Policy Conference**—The Ottawa Economics Association and Canadian Association of Business Economics are hosting a conference discussing various aspects of inclusive growth in Canada. Sessions cover issues such as the gender wage gap; labour market integration of Indigenous people, women, older workers, and migrants; financial inclusion; inclusive tax policy; and the progressive trade agenda. The keynote speakers are Annette Verschuren, chair and CEO, NRStor Inc., and Douglas J. Porter, chief economist and managing director of BMO. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Chateau Laurier Hotel, Ottawa. Conference fees apply. For more details on speakers, rates and registration, please visit [cabe.ca](http://cabe.ca).

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

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# HEARD ON THE HILL

by Shruti Shekar

## Elizabeth McGuinty dies, mother of Ottawa's illustrious McGuinty clan

Continued from page 2

to the roster. Kian, Valentia, Nazanin & I could not be happier to welcome this little fella to our lineup. Such a blessing, no greater feeling on earth," Mr. MacKay tweeted on Feb. 6.

The veteran Conservative MP was first elected as a Progressive Conservative in 1997 for the riding of Pictou-Antigonish-Guysborough, N.S., and then as a Conservative representing the riding of Central Nova, N.S. from 2004 through to 2015.

In May 2015, Mr. MacKay announced he was leaving politics to focus on his family.

His first child, **Kian**, was born in 2013, and his daughter, **Valentia**, was born in 2015.

He served in former prime minister **Stephen Harper's** cabinet as the foreign affairs minister from 2006 to 2007, the national defence minister from 2007 to 2013, and the justice minister and attorney general of Canada from 2013 to 2015. Ms. Afshin-Jam is an Iranian-Canadian public speaker and human rights activist, president and co-founder of Stop Child Executions and founder of the Nazanian Foundation.

### Elizabeth McGuinty dies, mother of Ottawa's illustrious McGuinty clan

**Elizabeth McGuinty**, the mother of Ottawa's illustrious McGuinty clan, including federal Liberal MP **David McGuinty** and former Liberal Ontario premier **Dalton McGuinty**, died on Feb. 3 at the age of 88.

For the majority of her life Ms. McGuinty was a nurse at the Civic, Wakefield, Riverside, National Defence Medical Centre, and Children's Hospitals, in Ottawa, her obituary said.

Elizabeth and the late **Dalton Sr.**, who was a former Ontario provincial politician who served in the Ontario Legislature from 1987-1990 representing Ottawa South, had 10 children. Her son David has been the fed-



David McGuinty's, left, and Dalton McGuinty's mother Elizabeth has died. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade and Hill Times file photograph

eral MP for the riding of Ottawa South, Ont. for more than 13 years and was first elected in 2004. Dalton Jr., was first elected provincially in the same Ottawa South riding that his father represented in 1990 and was later elected as Ontario premier in 2003 serving for 10 years. **Brendan McGuinty** worked for former Ottawa mayor **Bob Chiarelli**.

### Gerson and Ling launch a podcast by Canadaland

It looks like former *National Post's* **Jen Gerson** and former *Vice's* **Justin Ling** have partnered together to host a podcast called **OPPO**.

The podcast is produced by Canadaland, and includes discussion and debate on all things politics.

"This is episode 1 of mine and @jengerson's inexplicably Soviet-theme podcast. Please forgive the rough audio, my vocal fry, Jen's nihilism, and just @JesseBrown in general," Mr. Ling tweeted Feb. 6.

On a side note, Mr. Ling is also writing for *The Globe and Mail* covering the alleged serial killer **Bruce McArthur's** story in Toronto and freelancing for BuzzFeed News.

"Congrats to @Justin\_Ling on joining *The Globe's* national desk for a short-term contract even though he totally ignored me in the 15th-floor kitchenette yesterday and then walked away muttering something



Jen Gerson and Justin Ling have joined forces to do a podcast produced by Canadaland. *Photograph courtesy of LinkedIn and Twitter*

about the lack of beards among his new co-workers," *Globe and Mail* reporter **Simon Houpt** tweeted on Feb. 7.

In response, Mr. Ling jokingly tweeted that he was "actually muttering a great recipe for almond cheesecake, and you've totally missed it."

### U.S. Congressman Pete Sessions, U.S. Ambassador Kelly Craft to speak at dinner event, Feb. 13



U.S. Ambassador to Canada **Kelly Craft**. *The Hill Times* photograph by Sam Garcia

U.S. Congressman **Pete Sessions** and U.S. Ambassador to Canada **Kelly Craft** will be guest speakers at a dinner hosted by the Macdonald-Laurier Institute on Feb. 13 in Ottawa.

The event will be hosted at the Canadian War Museum and will begin at 5:30 p.m.

The panel discussion will focus

on what a future path for Canada-U.S. relations will look like, and will "explore the issues facing the Trump and Trudeau governments," the event invitation said.

Former Canadian ambassador to the U.S. **Frank McKenna** will moderate the discussion.

Individual tickets cost \$250.

### Get your tickets to Samara's Wonk Prom After-Party

The non-partisan civic engagement charity, Samara, has opened up ticket sales to its Wonk Prom After-Party event that will be hosted on April 12 in Toronto.

The after-party will be hosted right after the Public Policy Forum Testimonial Dinner, where more than 1,000 leaders from different sectors come together to pay tribute to the achievements of leaders who have made an outstanding contribution to public policy.

The dinner will be hosted that same day

from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, and afterwards guests can head on over to the Steam Whistle Brewing building on Bremner Boulevard in downtown Toronto, which is where the after party will be hosted.

This year's Testimonial Dinner honourees include former chief justice **Beverley McLachlin** and **Mark Carney**, former Bank of Canada governor, and it's possible that they will be at the after-party.

Advance tickets are \$30, and \$35 if you buy them at the door.



Former chief justice **Beverley McLachlin**. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

### Democracy Watch challenges former lobbying commissioner on Aga Khan

**Duff Conacher**, co-founder of Democracy Watch, launched a Federal Court challenge on Jan. 19 against former lobbying commissioner **Karen Shepherd's** decision that the Aga Khan did not break lobbying rules.

Ms. Shepherd's decision indicated that the Aga Khan did not break lobbying rules when he vacationed with Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** in the Bahamas.

The CBC reported that Ms. Shepherd had determined that the Aga Khan was not paid by the foundation to lobby, meaning his interactions with Mr. Trudeau were not covered by the Lobbyists Code of Conduct.

"After reviewing the information provided to me in the administrative review report, I have come to the conclusion that the Aga Khan receives no payment for his work on behalf of the Aga Khan Foundation Canada and, therefore, does not engage in activities requiring registration as a lobbyist," Ms. Shepherd wrote in a letter obtained by the CBC.

Mr. Conacher, however, argued the ruling was "legally incorrect" and "violates the spirit and purpose of the Lobbyists' Code of Conduct."

"[It] opens up a huge loophole that big businesses and other organizations will exploit by having their unregistered board members or staff do favours for, and give fights to, politicians and government officials they are lobbying as a way of unethically influencing their policy making decisions," Mr. Conacher said in a statement.



Former lobbying commissioner **Karen Shepherd**. *The Hill Times* file photograph

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# HILL CLIMBERS

by Laura Ryckewaert

## Status of Women Minister Monsef hires new D. Comms straight from Public Safety Minister Goodale's team

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale has overall seen two of his political staffers depart in recent weeks.

Federal Status of Women Minister **Maryam Monsef** last week hired a new director of communications, **Justine Villeneuve**, to her ministerial office, arriving from the office of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Minister **Ralph Goodale**.

Ms. Villeneuve marked her first day on Ms. Monsef's political staff team on Feb. 5, and replaces **Philippe Charlebois** in the role. Before last week, Ms. Villeneuve had spent the last two years working for Mr. Goodale, starting out as a policy adviser in January 2016 and exiting as a senior policy adviser.

During the 2015 campaign, she was a "product development officer" for the federal party, helping to draft press releases, "candidate products," speaking notes, and the like, as described on her LinkedIn profile.

Prior to that, Ms. Villeneuve was a special assistant for communications in **Justin Trudeau's** office when

he was the third-party Liberal leader on the Hill. She had previously been a communications officer in the Liberal leader's office under then interim leader **Bob Rae**.

Her first Hill job appears to have been as a legislative assistant to Liberal MP **Mark Holland**, based on her LinkedIn profile, in 2006. She was campaign manager to Mr. Holland in the former riding of Ajax-Pickering, Ont., during the 2008 federal election, which saw him re-elected with roughly 44.5 per cent support; and again in 2011, which saw him defeated by now former Conservative MP **Chris Alexander**.

The riding was rejigged as part of the 2013 electoral boundary redistribution, and in 2015, Mr. Holland was once again elected to sit in the House of Commons, this time as the Liberal MP for Ajax, Ont., after garnering roughly 55.7 per cent of the vote last time around. Mr. Holland is currently the parlia-

mentary secretary to Mr. Goodale as minister.

After Mr. Holland's electoral defeat in 2011, Ms. Villeneuve briefly worked on the Senate side of the Hill, serving as a legislative assistant and parliamentary affairs adviser to then deputy leader of the opposition in the Senate, then Alberta Liberal Senator **Claudette Tardif**. Ms. Villeneuve's mother is **Cristin Schmitz**, an illustrious Hill journalist for *The Lawyers Daily*.

Ms. Monsef's former communications director, Mr. Charlebois, made his exit on Jan. 31. He had been hired on to serve as communications director to Ms. Monsef roughly a year ago, having started shortly after she was shuffled into the Status of Women portfolio on Jan. 10, 2017.

**Dara Lithwick** is chief of staff to Ms. Monsef. Fun fact: Ms. Lithwick is married to Mr. Goodale's chief of staff, **Marci Surkes**.

Other political staff working for Ms. Monsef include: **Rebecca Caldwell**, director of policy; **Caroline Deroy**, director of parliamentary affairs; policy advisers **Christopher Evelyn**, **Ashleigh White**, and **Lori Lee**

**Oates**; **Célia Canon**, press secretary; **Chitban Sahni**, special assistant for parliamentary affairs; **Saleha Assadzada**, executive assistant to the minister; and **Skye Wolff**, executive assistant to the chief of staff.

Mr. Goodale, meanwhile, is also down an issues manager with the departure of **Jessica Morrison** from his office roughly three weeks ago.

Ms. Morrison is now a policy adviser to Canadian Heritage and Official Languages Minister **Mélanie Joly**.

She first joined Mr. Goodale's staff team around February 2016 as an issues manager for the western region and the prairies. During the 2015 federal election, Ms. Morrison was a national field organizer for the Liberal Party in Manitoba.

A former page at the Manitoba Legislative Assembly in Winnipeg, she has a bachelor's degree in political science and government from the University of Manitoba, and while there was involved in the school's Liberal association, as well as its undergraduate political studies students' association. She also served for a time as vice president of student services for the university's students' union.

Now in Ms. Joly's office, Ms. Morrison is working under director of policy **Caroline Séguin**, and alongside **Kelly Wilhelm**, senior policy adviser; **Faizel Gulamhussein**, senior policy adviser; **Jonathan Kalles**, policy adviser and Quebec regional affairs adviser; and **Mehalan Garoonanedhi**, policy adviser and assistant to the minister's parliamentary secretary, Liberal MP **Sean Casey**.

**Leslie Church** is chief of staff to the heritage minister.

Meanwhile, along with Mr. Goodale's chief of staff, Ms. Surkes, the minister's office currently includes: **David Hurl**, director of policy and parliamentary affairs; **Cory Pike**, director of issues management and regional affairs; **Dan Brien**, director of communications; and **Scott Bardsley**, press secretary.

Also working for Mr. Goodale are: **Olivier Cullen**, senior issues manager for Ontario regional affairs; **Alexandre Allen**, issues manager; **Mackenzie Hird**, policy analyst; **Alyx Holland**, policy adviser; **Eloge Butera**, policy adviser and liaison to the minister's parliamentary secretary, Mr. Holland; **Lynda Bouraoui**, special assistant; **Hilary Peirce**, communications officer; **Michael Milech**, parliamentary assistant; **Hersha**

**Goldberg**, assistant to the chief of staff; and **Jennifer Swan**, scheduling assistant.

## Sports staff team stays on board after change in ministers

Science Minister **Kirsty Duncan** has been wearing two cabinet hats since also being made the minister responsible for Sports and Persons with Disabilities on Jan. 29 in light of former minister **Kent Hehr's** resignation from cabinet amid allegation of inappropriate behaviour.

Mr. Hehr remains the Liberal MP for Calgary Centre, Alta. An investigation is currently being conducted into the allegations raised against him, which first came to public light on Twitter. Kristin Raworth tweeted Jan. 25 that while working at the Alberta provincial legislature, Mr. Hehr, then a member of the legislative assembly, made sexually suggestive comments to her while both were in an elevator at the legislature, saying, "you're yummy."

With the recent front bench changes as a result, Ms. Duncan, who is also the Liberal MP for Etobicoke North, Ont., is a busy bee these days, and was in PyeongChang, South Korea for the 2018 Winter Olympics from Feb. 5 to 12.

Along with her ministerial staff team as science minister, led by **Anne Dawson** as chief of staff, Ms. Duncan has now inherited Mr. Hehr's old ministerial staff team, all of whom currently remain in place.

**Jude Welch** is chief of staff in the sports and persons with disabilities office, along with serving as director of parliamentary affairs and issues management. Also currently in the office is: **Jane Almeida**, director of communications; **Annabelle Archambault**, press secretary; **Kristina Molloy**, director of policy; **Christopher Cohoe**, special assistant for policy; **Julia Duncan**, special assistant for parliamentary affairs and Atlantic regional affairs; **Vincent St-Pierre**, special assistant; **Heather Porter**, scheduling assistant; and **Shae McGlynn**, assistant to the minister's parliamentary secretary, Liberal MP **Stéphane Lauzon**.

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## Cabinet Communications and Chiefs of Staff List 2018

Minister	Portfolio	Chief of Staff	D. Comms	Press Secretary	Main Office #
Trudeau, Justin	Prime Minister, Intergovernmental Affairs, Youth	Katie Telford	Kate Purchase	Eleanore Catenaro, Chantal Gagnon	613-957-5555
Bains, Navdeep	Innovation, Science, and Economic Development	Gianluca Cairo	Mallory Clyne	Karl W. Sasseville	343-291-2500
Bennett, Carolyn	Crown-Indigenous Relations	Rick Theis	James Fitz-Morris	Sabrina Williams	819-997-0002
Bibeau, Marie-Claude	International Development and La Francophonie	Geoffroi Montpetit	Louis Bélanger	Marie-Emmanuelle Cadieux	343-203-6238
Brisson, Scott	Treasury Board	Adam Carroll	Bruce Cheadle	Jean-Luc Ferland	613-369-3170
Carr, Jim	Natural Resources	Zoë Caron	Laurel Munroe	Alexandre Deslongchamps	343-292-6837
Champagne, Francois-Philippe	International Trade	Julian Ovens	Joe Pickerill	Pierre-Olivier Herbert	343-203-7332
Chagger, Bardish	Small Business and Tourism	Caitlin Workman	Jonathan Dignan	—	343-291-2700
Duclos, Jean-Yves	House Leader	Rheal Lewis	Mark Kennedy	Sabrina Atwal	613-995-2727
Duncan, Kirsty	Families, Children, and Social Development	Olivier Duchesneau	Mathieu Filion	Émilie Gauduchon	819-654-5546
Freeland, Chrystia	Science	Anne Dawson	Michael Bhardwaj	Ann Marie Paquet	343-291-2600
Garneau, Marc	Sports and Persons with Disabilities	Jude Welch	Jane Almeida	Annabelle St-Pierre Archambault	819-934-1122
Goodale, Ralph	Foreign Affairs	Jeremy Broadhurst	Alexander Lawrence	Adam Austen	343-203-1851
Gould, Karina	Transport	Jean-Philippe Arseneau	Marc Roy	Delphine Denis	613-991-0700
Hajdu, Patty	Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness	Marci Surkes	Dan Brien	Scott Bardsley	613-991-2924
Hussen, Ahmed	Democratic Institutions	Rob Jamieson	Jordan Owens	Nicky Cayer	613-943-1838
Joly, Mélanie	Employment, Workforce Development, and Labour	Matthew Mitschke	Carlene Variyan	Matt Pascuzzo	819-654-5611
LeBlanc, Dominic	Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship	Ali Salam	Hursh Jaswal**	—	613-954-1064
LeBouthillier, Diane	Canadian Heritage	Leslie Church	Emilie Simard	Simon Ross	819-997-7788
MacAulay, Lawrence	Fisheries, Oceans & Coast Guard	Vince MacNeil	Kevin Lavigne	Laura Gareau	613-992-3474
McKenna, Catherine	National Revenue	Josée Guilmette	Bernard Boutin	John Power	613-995-2960
Monsef, Maryam	Agriculture and Agri-Food	Mary Jean McFall	Guy Gallant	Oliver Anderson***	613-773-1059
Morneau, Bill	Environment and Climate Change	Marlo Reynolds	Julia Kilpatrick	Marie-Pascale Des Rosiers	819-938-3813
O'Regan, Seamus	Status of Women	Dara Lithwick	Justine Villeneuve	Célia Canon	819-997-2494
Petitpas Taylor, Ginette	Finance	Richard Maksymetz	Daniel Lauzon	Chloe Luciani-Girouard	613-369-5696
Philpott, Jane	Veterans Affairs, Associate Defence	Cyndi Jenkins	John Embury	Alex Wellstead	613-996-4649
Qualtrough, Carla	Health	Geneviève Hinse	Yves Comeau	Thierry Bélair	613-957-0200
Sajjan, Harjit	Indigenous Services	John Brodhead	Micol Zarb	Andrew MacKendrick	613-957-0200
Sohi, Amarjeet	Public Services and Procurement	Matt Stickney	Christine Michaud	Ashley Michnowski	819-997-5421
Wilson-Raybould, Jody	National Defence	Zita Astravas	Renée Filiatrault	Byrne Furlong	613-996-3100
	Infrastructure and Communities	Leslie O'Leary	Kate Monfette	Brook Simpson	613-949-1759
	Justice	Lea MacKenzie	David Taylor	Kathleen Davis*	613-992-4621

\* Parliamentary affairs and communications adviser. \*\* Communications manager \*\*\* Communications adviser

### PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS OFFICE:

Kate Purchase, executive director of communications and planning  
Cameron Ahmad, deputy director of communications

—Last updated on Feb. 6, 2018.

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