Libs call Ford’s ‘interlaying’ with federal Conservatives unprecedented, but also say they’re not too worried

BY ABBAS RANA & LAURA RYCKEWAERT

The extent of Ontario Premier Doug Ford’s public posturing against Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and declaration that he wants to see Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer as Canada’s prime minister in 2019 is unprecedented and the rationale behind the strategy is unclear, say Liberal MPs, but Conservatives say Kathleen Wynne used the same strategy as premier and some of her former top staffers now hold the most senior positions in the federal government.

“I can’t think of a time where there’s been interlaying between the provincial and federal politicians in terms of working together,” said Liberal MP Mark

‘When we have to decommission, and turn the lights off for 10 years, it’s going to be hard to say goodbye’

The stairs leading to the Senate Chamber, pictured right, have dips from more than 90 years of use. The iconic Centre Block building, which was destroyed by fire in 1916 and rebuilt in 1927, will close next month for at least 10 years for massive and extensive renovations. Staffers talk about leaving the nationally renowned building when it closes in December after Parliament adjourns for 2018. Read our feature on the big move on p.22 and our streeter interviews with Centre Block staffers on p.32. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

‘Climate change ultimate existential threat,’ PM Trudeau should appoint a war cabinet to tackle this issue, says Green Party Leader May

BY ABBAS RANA

‘Climate change is an ultimate existential threat,’ and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau should set up a “war cabinet” by choosing MPs from all parties so that Canada could do its part to address the most important public policy issue in the country, says Green Party Leader Elizabeth May.

Ms. May (Saanich-Gulf Islands, B.C.) told The Hill Times last week that partisanship and political considerations are the biggest hurdles to addressing climate change effectively and decisively. Citing the dire findings of the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report released in October, she said she wants all parties to understand that time is of essence and that climate change is the fundamental security threat to our future, which requires urgent action and urgent solutions.

‘It takes a very different kind of mindset to respond to a crisis that’s fundamental, where we’re distracted by day-to-day politics,” Ms. May told The Hill Times.

Continued on page 34

Continued on page 36
NDP MP Niki Ashton is travelling to the Green Mountain State—Burlington, Vermont to be exact—on Nov. 29 to Dec. 1, to attend a gathering of progressive leaders at U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders’ think tank. Ms. Ashton will participate in an international roundtable at the Sanders Institute Gathering with Mr. Sanders, as well as former Greek finance minister Yanis Varoufakis, among others.

The gathering will be a venue to develop “bold and progressive solutions” on the environment, healthcare, housing, foreign policy, labour issues, and democracy, according to a press release.

“Canada and the world are at a crossroads as the risks of catastrophic climate change and rising inequalities ask of political leaders to step up and offer real leadership now,” Ms. Ashton said, who finished third in the 2017 NDP leadership race with the support of 17 per cent of the voting NDP membership.

Ms. Ashton felt ‘the Bern’ in 2016, when the Vermont Senator was running to be the Democratic Party’s presidential candidate in 2016. The Manitoba MP volunteered in neighbouring North Dakota with her father, former Manitoba provincial cabinet minister Steve Ashton, on Mr. Sanders’ campaign. He would win the roughrider state with nearly 65 per cent of the vote, but Mr. Sanders ultimately finished second to eventual popular vote winner and electoral college loser Hillary Clinton.

The gathering’s speaker list is a who’s who of progressives, from New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, to author Naomi Klein, as well as actor Danny Glover, who as it turns out is not “too old for this shit.”

“We are thrilled to welcome someone as dynamic and progressive as Niki Ashton to our inaugural Gathering. Niki has a proven track record of standing up for what is right and for her values,” said Jane Sanders, co-founder of the think tank and wife of Mr. Sanders.

The 77-year-old, who most recently was re-elected to his fourth six-year term in the U.S. Senate on Nov. 8 with more than 67 per cent of the vote, will give the keynote address.

Raj Grewal resigns

Rookie Liberal MP Raj Grewal told Government Whip Mark Holland he was resigning his seat on Nov. 21, and he officially announced his resignation on Facebook the next day.

Mr. Grewal said he was resigning his seat due to “personal and medical reasons.” “This has been a decision I’ve struggled with for some time now and one I made with great difficulty and real sadness,” he wrote on Facebook.

Hours after the announcement on Nov. 22, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tweeted: “Yesterday, I learned that Raj Grewal is facing serious personal challenges… While it may have been a difficult decision, it was the right one. I hope he receives the support he needs.

On Nov. 23, the PMO announced that Mr. Grewal is resigning to get treatment for a gambling addiction, which caused him to incur “significant personal debts,” according to multiple press reports.

The resignation came one day after The Hill Times reported that the Liberals will be announcing byelections for three races in January to be held in February.

Mr. Grewal has been the MP for Brampton East, Ont. since 2015, having won with more than half of the vote. He was already re-nominated as the Liberal candidate for 2019. The riding largely covers the same area that NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh previously represented at Queen’s Park from 2011 to 2017. Mr. Singh announced his intention to run in the byelection in Burnaby South, B.C. in August.

Mr. Grewal was the subject of an investigation by the federal conflict of interest and ethics commissioner for having invited a former legal client to India as part of Mr. Trudeau’s visit in February.

Rhéal Fortin’s partner dies

The partner of Bloc Québécois MP Rhéal Fortin passed away on Nov. 4. She was 52-years-old.

Mr. Fortin, who’s been the MP for Rivière-du-Nord, Que. since 2015, authored a note to his community, thanking the health-care staff at the Maison des Soins Palliatifs de la Rivière du Nord.

“I wish to express my admiration for the staff and volunteers of Pallia-Vie, and I wish to express my gratitude for the professionalism and humanity of this team,” he wrote in French.

Health Minister Ginette Petitpas Taylor passed on her condolences to Mr. Fortin in QP on Nov. 19. Mr. Fortin received a
Dear Prime Minister and Ministers:

Canada’s current leadership role in the global space sector and our potential involvement in the exciting new space economy—which is today worth over $500 billion and is growing fast—are at risk.

Canada’s space sector includes some of our brightest minds in science, technology, engineering and math, creating...
- $5.5 billion (revenue)
- 10,000 direct jobs — 4% with university degrees; 22,000 indirect jobs
- $2.3 billion (contribution to GDP)

We are world leaders in satellite communications, Earth observation, space robotics, space science, astronomy, optics and sensors, due to forward-thinking decisions of governments over 20 years ago. But after decades without a long-term space plan, or significant investment, Canada’s future in space is in jeopardy. In fact, Canada has fallen from 8th place to 18th in spending as a share of GDP among OECD countries since 1992, and we are losing investment dollars and capacity as new graduates and established professionals leave to pursue work in countries that invest in space and have space ambitions and funding.

The Canadian space sector is calling for a long-term, fully-funded and balanced space strategy for Canada as part of Budget 2019. It is also decision-time for the first important flagship space mission under that strategy.

Canada’s international space exploration partners, including the US, Europe and Japan, are planning a return to the Moon in the 2020s with a small space station, the Lunar Gateway. It will be the base for lunar surface exploration, a science lab, a communications hub, as well as a staging platform to explore deeper space.

Canadians are supportive of space investments. According to a recent Ipsos survey:
- Four in five Canadians are proud of our activities in space (79%) and think that Canadian success in advanced space technologies contributes to our knowledge economy, innovation, and economic competitiveness (78%).
- Nine in ten say “when I think about or see the Canadarm, I feel proud” (92%) and agree maintaining leadership in space robotics, such as the Canadarm, is important for our country (90%).
- 85% would like to see Canada maintain a role in a new Moon mission.

We are calling on the Government of Canada to invest in this critical sector at this critical time. It’s time for bold vision and wise choices.

Yours sincerely,

[Signatures]

And the 60+ companies and organizations that make up the #Don'tLetGoCanada coalition.
The reluctant Rohingyas

It’s now the 21st century, and there is no excuse for what the Burmese army has done: to understand all is NOT to forgive all. Neither is there any excuse for Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi.

LONDON, U.K.—The Rohingyas are around a million Bengali-speaking people who used to live in Rakhine state in Burma—until late last year. Then the Burmese army attacked them, claiming they were illegal immigrants. Thousands were killed, tens of thousands were raped, their villages were burned—and at least 700,000 of them are now in refugee camps across the border in Bangladesh.

The United Nations has described these Burmese actions as “ethnic cleansing,” “crimes against humanity,” and “genocide,” but the Burmese army denies any wrongdoing. So does its civilian political partner, ‘special counsellor’ Aung San Suu Kyi. (Remember: she used to be a secular saint.)

Bangladesh doesn’t want all these refugees, most of whom have no ties with the country although they speak Bengali, so last month it made a deal with Burma to send them back. But Burma doesn’t really want them back either. If it did, why would it have bothered to drive them out in the first place?

The United Nations has no part in this great “repatriation,” nor any of the NGOs either. It was a private deal between Bangladesh and Burma, and the Burmese army knew perfectly well that the refugees would be too terrified to go back. Agreeing to take them back just made the generals who planned the atrocity look a little less vile.

The Bangladeshi authorities fell for it, and chose 2,200 Rohingya refugees to go back in the first contingent. The Rohingyas weren’t fooled, and most of them immediately went into hiding, changing camps, or fleeing into the woods.

A loudspeaker truck went around the sprawling Unchiprang Camp near Cox’s Bazar last week imploring the “approved” refugees to come out. “We have six buses here. We have trucks. We have food. We want to offer everything to you.” But nobody stepped forward, and the crowd chanted “We won’t go.”

The Rohingyas won’t go back because they are quite understandably afraid for their lives. It wasn’t just the army but their own non-Muslim neighbours who turned on them and took part in the slaughter. If you are recalling images of the massacres and expulsions of Bosnian Muslims by the Bosnian Serbs in the 1990s, you are absolutely right. It’s happening again, and again nobody is doing anything effective to stop it.

How did it come to this? All the South-East Asian countries contain minority groups, but Burma takes it to extremes. Bamar (ethnic “Burmese”) account for two-thirds of the population, but there are eight other recognized ethnic groups, most with their own language or languages. And there are the Rohingyas, who were stripped of their citizenship by Burma’s military dictatorship in 1982.

Why them? They were only two per cent of Burma’s population, they were a minority even in Rakhine state (formerly Arakan) where they almost all lived, and they never did any harm to the majority. They are, however, Muslims, and the Buddhist majority in Burma is paranoid about Muslims.

It goes back a long way. Buddhism once dominated Asia from the Indian subcontinent to Indonesia, but it has been in retreat for a long time. First Hinduism made a comeback in India, and then Arab conquerors brought Islam to north-western India. Islamized Central Asian conquerors spread Islam as far east as Bengal, and finally Malay traders carried it throughout the Indonesian archipelago. The only Buddhist-majority countries left in Asia today are Burma, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

It’s not surprising, therefore, that Burmese Buddhists should feel their faith is jeopardized by the presence of even a single million Muslims—jeopardized especially if rabble-rousing Buddhist monks advance their careers by preaching fear and hatred.

It’s also utterly irrational and reprehensible. The Rohingyas are just as Burmese, in the broader sense, as any of the recognized minorities. The first Bengali-speaking Muslims arrived in Rakhine state in the 15th century as soldiers helping an exiled king regain his throne. The last significant wave of immigration was in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

It’s now the 21st century, and there is no excuse for what the Burmese army has done: to understand all is NOT to forgive all. Neither is there any excuse for Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi.

Yes, she was trying to preserve a hard-won democratic opening that might close if she openly criticized the army. Moreover, the average Burmese heartily approves of what the army has done. (Shades of Serbia again.) But she is condoning and covering up genocide, writes Gwynne Dyer. Photograph courtesy of Wikipedia.
New digital tax-filing partnership will give Canadians more control over their taxes

In 2017, 90% of Canadians filed their taxes digitally using industry software or professional tax preparers; the result of two decades of innovation by the tax software and preparation industry and the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

On September 27, 2018, Tax-Filer Empowerment Canada (TFEC) and the CRA opened a new chapter in this partnership with a joint services collaboration plan that will empower Canadians in their tax filings with better information, faster assessments, and more control over their returns.

TFEC looks forward to continuing to work with the CRA to ensure that all Canadians can file their taxes and receive the benefits to which they are entitled through innovative, accurate and customer-centric tax preparation and software options.

To learn more, visit our web site at tfecanada.ca.
Trudeau’s extra-parliamentary opposition

The future of Canada’s oil industry, the future of oil itself, is a complicated and divisive issue, riven with false claims. It may also be the defining issue of the next federal election. Trudeau will be facing not only aggrieved premiers, but the enormous wealth and reach of the oil lobby.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau pictured in this file photograph on the hill, will be getting it from all sides, writes Susan Riley.

The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

South riding that he will contest, one poll has him running third. Conservatives, meanwhile, moan about ongoing deficits, deficiens as far as the eye can see, deficits that will one day crush our grand children (unlike climate change which doesn’t seem to be a problem for the right). Finance Minister Bill Morneau, who has been out of the spotlight and out of trouble for months, replied, cheerfully, last week that the debt-to-GDP ratio is declining (a good thing), and that Canada’s debt load is the lowest among the G7. It is also one of the smallest of the relative size of the $21.7-trillion U.S. shortfall.

But the specter of national deficits, unless they are monstrously, are the pre-occupation of economists, lobbyists, politicians, and media. Ordinary people are far more affected by high unemployment levels, rampaging inflation and soaring interest rates. None of that is happening at an alarming rate, but it is important to watch always.

While the Liberals enjoy a steady lead in the polls, there is disarray and disagreement on the right. Maxime Bernier and Hill polling in the single digits—as low as one per cent in some sources—but he has an outsized media presence and is attracting motivated followers in small groups across the country. Asked recently if he isn’t concerned about splitting the Conservative vote, Bernier replied that there is essentially no difference between Scheer Conservatives and Justin Trudeau. Both, he said, are equally bad. Spoken like a true purist, one that threatens more damage to Scheer than anyone.

Scheer likely to do well in Bernier’s home province, partly because it is always difficult for an anglophone conservative in Quebec to be noticed, but also because of the federal leader’s insistence on resurrecting the controversial Energy East pipeline, after the idea was soundly rejected by Quebecers. Scheer’s claim that a cross-country pipeline would replace imported Saudi oil in Quebec with Alberta crude was promptly, and decisively, debunked, with a simple look at oil import statistics. (In fact, Central Canada gets most of its imported oil from the U.S.) Scheer’s advocacy of Energy East, which makes questionable economic sense, alienated green-friendly voters in Quebec and also called into question his understanding of the changing oil industry.

Scheer’s more recent refusal to endorse Ontario Premier Doug Ford’s cuts to Francophone services in Ontario is unlikely to help him make up lost ground, partly because Scheer’s objections were so pro forma. So there sits the Conservative leader: ignored in Quebec, which doesn’t seem to care—Trudeau’s fault. Two fabled “Asian markets,” entirely—or even peripherally—Trudeau’s fault. Two pipelines already approved—Keystone XL, and Enbridge’s Line 3—are facing political and regulatory delays in the United States, despite Trump’s enthusiastic support. And the federal government recently spent billions to buy the Trans Mountain pipeline, which no private company wants to build.

To blame this state of affairs on Trump is a ludicrous stretch (which doesn’t mean it isn’t an effective political strategy). First, the price of oil is low for a variety of reasons, including oversupply and a boom in cheap, production of shale oil. Indeed, cheap oil was applauded by Trump in a typical tweet: “Oil prices getting lower! Great! Like a big Tax Cut for America and the World.”

Nor is the current lack of pipelines looking to transport Canadian bitumen south to the refineries in the United States a surprise to those fabled “Asian markets,” entirely—or even peripherally. Scheer’s objections were so pro forma. So there sits the Conservative leader: ignored in Quebec, which doesn’t seem to care—Trudeau’s fault. Two pipelines already approved—Keystone XL, and Enbridge’s Line 3—are facing political and regulatory delays in the United States, despite Trump’s enthusiastic support. And the federal government recently spent billions to buy the Trans Mountain pipeline, which no private company wants to build.

Throwing aside any attempts to limit greenhouse gas emissions, completely ignoring First Nations protests and returning to a Wild West investment climate may have produced pipelines at a faster rate. But no government, Liberal or Conservative, would survive such an abject retreat from its responsibility to manage resources for the greater good—nor should they.

The future of Canada’s oil industry, the future of oil itself, is a complicated and divisive issue, riven with false claims. It may also be the defining issue of the next federal election. Trudeau will be facing not only aggrieved premiers, but the enormous wealth and reach of the oil lobby.

But that is yet to come. For now, he and his party should enjoy their brief respite. Susan Riley is a veteran political columnist who writes regularly for The Hill Times.
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Medal of Honour Recipient
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Recognizing excellence and pivotal contributions to health science for Canada, for the world.

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Letters to the Editor

Nav Canada not a regulator, it’s a private, not-for-profit company: Nav Canada

Re: “Why is Health Canada thwarting a ‘Parliament’s will’?” (The Hill Times, Nov. 14, p. 26). Green Party Leader Elizabeth May mentions Nav Canada as an example of a regulator that “is an instrument of the industry it’s meant to regulate.” Ms. May suggests this because Nav Canada refers to airlines as its clients. To clarify, Nav Canada is not a regulator. It is a private, not-for-profit company, that provides air navigation services to commercial and general aviation, which includes airlines. It is Transport Canada that regulates the airline industry. In fact, it is also Transport Canada that regulates Nav Canada on matters of safety.

Ron Singer
National manager, media relations
Nav Canada
Ottawa, Ont.

World Toilet Day come and gone with little acknowledgment by media

E verybody poops; a universal human reality. But almost a billion people have no choice but to do so in the open, in fields and streets. Aside from the lack of dignity, this places women at risk of violence as they seek the cover of darkness alone. Such lack of sanitation also leads to widespread contamination of drinking water, and unreliable death and disease. Many schools around the world have no toilets and again, this places young women at risk and bars them from attending classes when they are menstruating.

Nobody likes to talk about poop, and maybe that’s why World Toilet Day has come and gone with little acknowledgment in the media. Perhaps that’s also why only one per cent of Canada’s foreign aid goes towards sanitation, but squeamishness about a necessary life function is no reason to ignore sanitation as a critical focus for aid.

Frammy Beckov
Victoria, B.C.

Khashoggi’s murderer will likely not change Canada’s relationship with Saudi Arabia

I’ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s promise of an investigation following the killing of Jamal Khashoggi is likely an example of a military deal (or liberating prisoners didn’t prevent Conservatives from negotiating a military deal (or Liberals from implementing it) it is unlikely the death of a journalist will significantly change Canada’s relationship with the House of Saud. Though I hope I am wrong.

John Dirkil
Pointe Claire, Que.

Gwynne Dyer serves up straightforward, excellent assessment of America’s resentment, says reader

Re: “The shared delusions of Trump, MBZ,” (The Hill Times online, Nov. 21). This is a straightforward assessment by Gwynne Dyer of the American resentment to anyone or country who dares to resist the American view of the world. Ms. Dyer has done an excellent job of capturing this flaw of the American psyche. Unfortunately, I don’t think it will see the light of day in the mainstream press because it doesn’t conform to the accepted storyline.

Roland Trenaman
Vancouver, B.C.

Editorial

Political parties should be working together to stop sexually inappropriate conduct, it’s not a partisan issue

A lice Mills, a veteran Conservative pundit and strategist, recently went public about her “uncomfortable interaction” with former Conservative MP Tony Clement when she said she kissed him on the mouth in 2014. In an interview on Nov. 9 with CBC Radio’s As It Happens, Ms. Mills said she had thought of Mr. Clement as a mentor who respected her work, but said she felt sexualized by the incident. For his part, Mr. Clement, through his lawyer, Joseph A. Neuberger, has denied any inappropriate conduct and said he and Ms. Mills have maintained a friendly and professional relationship since 2014. Ms. Mills said she decided to speak up publicly because sexually inappropriate conduct must be stopped in federal politics and on Parliament Hill. She is absolutely right and she’s also right to ask that men and women across party lines put an end to it. But Ms. Mills said that it’s the hyper-partisanship among the parties that is preventing real change from happening on the issue, and said it’s the women who suffer both personally and professionally because of it. Party leaders and whips should take action, together, because sexual harassment and sexual misbehaviour is a non-partisan issue; it happens in every party.

“I spoke out because I’ve had enough. I’m exhausted and we’re nowhere near fixing this. We’re in the 011 of this. There are far more victims out there and I hope women in politics and media come forward and have discussions,” she told CBC’s As It Happens.

Mr. Clement publicly announced on Nov. 6 that he was stepping down from his critic’s duties, after he had shared sexually explicit images and a video of himself in the last three weeks to someone who he alleges was targeting him for financial extortion. He said he thought he was sharing the images with a consenting woman. The KCMP is investigating. But on Nov. 7, Conservative Party Leader Andrew Scheer asked for Mr. Clement’s resignation from the Conservative caucus after some media reported on numerous other incidents and allegations of inappropriate behaviour. On Nov. 8, Mr. Clement released a statement addressed to his constituents on his MP website, apologizing for and acknowledging more “inappropriate” online exchanges and “acts of infidelity.” Mr. Clement was also forced to resign from the super-secret National Security and Intelligence Committee for Parliamentarians, which handles highly classified intelligence information.

Sexual harassment is not a political issue, and all male and female MPs of all parties should be addressing it in the spirit of non-partisanship. This has to stop and men and women across party lines should be working together to change this.

The Hill Times
Symbols matter when it comes to diversity

In 1946, Viola Desmond was wrongfully convicted simply because she was a black woman determined to exercise her right to full equality. Transgendered people are still denied full equality, and their cause suffered a setback last week as a result of the mean-spirited Progressive Conservative resolution.

Symbols matter when it comes to diversity. That is why the face of Viola Desmond on Canada’s new $10 note is much more than simply an image on plastic. It underscores Desmond’s groundbreaking battle for inclusion, as a black woman who had the audacity to sit in the whites-only section at the cinema. For her troubles, Desmond was convicted of a tax violation based on the price difference in the seat she purchased and where she sat at the Roseland Theatre in New Glasgow, N.S., in 1946.

Desmond became the first person to be pardoned posthumously for the conviction but it took the government 64 years to get around to it. The launch of the new $10 bill makes her the first Canadian non-regal woman to appear alone on Canadian currency.

The Famous Five, and Quebec suffragette Thérèse Casgrain were the first non-monarch women to appear as a group, in a $50 series that was launched in 2001. Emily Murphy, Irene Parlby, Nellie McClung, Louise McKinney, and Henrietta Moore Edwards were responsible for securing the right for women to sit alongside men in the Senate. The Canadian Supreme Court turned down their initial application but the Famous Five ultimately got justice by appealing successfully to the British Privy Council.

That ruling back in 1929 became known as the Person’s Case and cleared the way for women to serve in the Red Chamber. The $50 commemorative bill remained in circulation for a decade but the women’s images were replaced by an icebreaker during the government of Stephen Harper in 2012.

The majority of trans youth are alienated from their families. Some of them end up on the street. Two-thirds of transgendered adolescents report that they have self-harmed in the last year.

The announcement of another female face on our currency is long overdue. The Desmond decision came on the heels of another symbolic gesture that egregiously turned back the clock.

The Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario convention moved forward with a process to endorse a resolution that labelled gender identity as “a highly controversial, unscientific liberal ideology.”

The proposal by former provincial leadership candidate Tanya Granic Allen calls for the termination of gender theory education in Ontario schools. Premier Doug Ford and his cabinet were quick to distance themselves from the move, saying they will not implement the proposal.

But Granic Allen plans to pursue her resolution at the party’s policy convention a year from now and claims that she is “just following Doug’s lead on the issue.” When Ford was running for the Tory leadership, he promised to remove gender theory teaching from the curriculum. In return, Granic Allen’s socially conservative backers moved to Ford when she was knocked off the ballot early.

Now the chickens are coming home to roost. Ford may distance himself from Granic Allen but the majority of members in the party he leads are happy to send the message that transgender identity does not exist. The victims in this narrative are the transgendered people still struggling for equality in society.

The majority of trans youth are alienated from their families. Some of them end up on the street. Two-thirds of transgendered adolescents report that they have self-harmed in the last year.

The sex education curriculum that explores their issues is simply an attempt to create a platform for learning and understanding.

Surely support for diversity in all its forms should be an integral component of the education system.

In 1946, Viola Desmond was wrongfully convicted simply because she was a black woman determined to exercise her right to full equality.

Transgendered people are still denied full equality, and their cause suffered a setback last week as a result of the mean-spirited Progressive Conservative resolution.

The progressives in their party need to follow the lead of their federal cousins. As their agenda has been obviously hijacked by social conservatives, they need to leave the party and go elsewhere. Even though the government will not act on the resolution, the party is not willing to bury the issue.

All minorities still face discrimination but the determined face of Viola Desmond on our $10 bill will remind us every day that we are moving in the right direction.

The return of the Famous Five and Casgrain to the $50 bill would do much to reinforce that message. Young people struggling for their gender identity choices will now face an emboldened opposition as a result of the curriculum controversy.

Shame on the Ontario Progressive Conservatives. They do their name a disservice.

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

The Hill Times
Trudeau and Ford may be political enemies, but they need each other

The Trudeau Party is covertly grateful for Doug Ford: he is (and will be) useful in Liberal fundraising, recruitment and electioneering. And Trudeau's disdain for Ford is deep, and longstanding.

But it happened, just the same.

June 2018: Donald Trump, the crook now holding the White House hostage, unleashed a tirade against Canada’s prime minister on Twitter (where else?). Trump called Justin Trudeau “dishonest and weak” and “one of the worst leaders” who has ever been a Prime Minister in Canada. But few who haven’t been indicted yet—opined that there was “a special place in hell” for him.

It was an astonishing attack on an ally, one that Canadians have never witnessed before. Trudeau, for his part, bit his tongue and said nothing. But Doug Ford? The Doug Ford who had won an absolute majority government, just a few days earlier? That Doug Ford?

Here’s what he said, first: “I want to tell you on the trade deal south of the border. That’s one of the ugliest shoulders with the prime minister and our federal counterparts. My No. 1 priority is in Ontario, especially protect the steelworkers, aluminum workers. That’s going to be a priority.”

“Shoulder to shoulder.”

This writer is not friendly with Trudeau, but is with Ford. So I sent Ontario’s newly-minted premier a note, telling him I was proud that he had placed the onus and interest above the partisan one. Lots of other folks, as Ford loves to call citizens “liberals,” are not so sure. Even if you didn’t like Justin Trudeau all that much, he—and, by extension, we—were under attack, and we needed other to come together.

And then, well, there’s politics.

In the intervening months, Justin Trudeau and Doug Ford have moved, to an extent, to “shoulder” each other—so much. Instead, it’s been more a case of a relationship that’s getting “colder and colder.” Here’s a short list of the sort of things that have taken place since the happier, sunnier ways of spring:

Ford and other Conservative ministers appeared in a much-saturated Maclean’s cover photo and declared themselves “The Resistance” to Trudeau; Trudeau showed up for his requisite first photo-op/meeting with Ford at Queen’s Park, and literally—literally—made a face for the assembled media. Even then, he was obligated to “explain” immigration policy to Ford; Ford and his ministers have blames Trudeau’s government for a rash in gun crime and illegal immigrants—and called the Liberal leader’s carbon tax plan an “vote-buying scheme”; Trudeau’s intergovernmental affairs minister told Ford to keep his nose out of federal affairs, and stop dreaming about a political career on the national stage—

and accused him of “fabricating,” quote unquote, issues; and just this week, the minister responsible for social media self-policing, Catherine McKenna, shot a lighted in Ford’s ceaseless critiques—

Trudeau briefly had a happier time together, too, although it seems to have happened long, long ago, in a galaxy far, far away.

The Trudeau Party is covertly grateful for Doug Ford: he is (and will be) useful in Liberal fundraising, recruitment and electioneering. And Trudeau’s disdain for Ford is deep, and longstanding.

The Ontario premier has never forgotten that attack by Trudeau on Ford and his deceased brother Mark and the federal election was winding down:

“There’s a lot of people talking in the liberal party that, you know, the hypocrisy of the Fords and their drug problems. But that’s not really the issue, as serious as it is, that strikes me most. What bothers me the most is the misogyny. The Ford boys had it, Ford Sr. would have no place on a national campaign stage, much less hosting [Stephen Harper] at an event. … That’s just completely irresponsible.”

As low blows go, that was low. Susan Delacourt wrote about Ford and Trudeau “for the first time in decades, the two seem to have developed an understanding that they are not just political enemies, but that they, as ambassadors of a party, need each other.”

Trudeau and Ford may be political enemies, but they need each other.
The world needs renewed B.C. climate leadership

B.C. is ready to light the way to renewed climate leadership and a clean and prosperous economy. Let’s show Canada there’s plenty of reason to be excited about our clean future.

Karen Tan Wu

Opinion

V ANCOUVER—Twelve years—that’s how little time we have to take serious action to protect our climate. If we fail to act now, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts catastrophic consequences, such as increasingly extreme weather, lower crop yields, shrinking fisheries, and higher rates of poverty.

The findings of last month’s IPCC special report are dire enough to make an optimist want to stay in bed. The same could be said of the increasing political headwinds now facing climate solutions in Canada. Yet this is no time to despair—especially in British Columbia.

Innovators across B.C. are leading the way and showcasing the exciting potential of clean economic growth in Canada. With the imminent release of the province’s new climate strategy, B.C. has the opportunity to be the shining beacon of hope for the future that Canada and the world need.

B.C. isn’t starting from scratch. We have a track record of implementing world-class policies to fight climate-damaging carbon pollution and support a thriving economy.

Under North America’s first revenue-neutral carbon tax and B.C.’s first climate plan, B.C.’s economy continued to grow while the use of motor fuel dropped by 17 per cent and carbon pollution declined by 10 per cent between 2008 and 2011.

Beginning in 2009, B.C.’s LiveSmart rebate program spurred an uptick in energy-efficiency retrofits—reducing carbon pollution from homes and buildings, and stimulating job growth in the industry.

Provincial climate action and moves towards a clean economy stalled between 2012 and 2017. Nonetheless, businesses and communities across B.C. continued to forge ahead with climate solutions.

For instance, B.C. is home to seven of the 10 innovative Canadian firms named to the Global Cleantech 100 list for 2018. B.C.-based manufacturers are the country’s only suppliers of highly energy efficient, Passive House-certified windows. The municipalities of Vancouver, Victoria, Nelson, and Slocan, as well as the Regional District of Central Kootenay, have committed to work toward seeing their communities powered by 100 per cent renewable energy. In Surrey, organic waste is being converted into carbon-neutral biomethane that fuels waste collection trucks. Metro Vancouver also produces biomethane from two landfills.

Let’s be clear—tackling the climate emergency will involve plenty of heavy lifting. But British Columbians have the skills and experience for the task. What we need are a strong climate strategy, programs, and policies to get B.C. back on track to achieving our legislated targets for

Canada’s federal Environment Minister Catherine McKenna. Tackling the climate emergency will involve plenty of heavy lifting, writes Karen Tan Wu. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade.
We need to keep Canada competitive in global tourism growth trend

But there are a number of tangible things that we can do beyond courting international visitors through international trade delegations. Streamlining Canada’s visa processes and bringing all low-risk travellers under the Electronic Travel Authorization for temporary resident visas is one step.

Charlotte Bell
Opinion

The motto “in my country, every minister is the minister of tourism” was first pronounced by the tourism minister from Portugal at the OECD conference in October 2017. This is the mentality Canada’s government needs to adopt if Canada’s tourism industry is to succeed internationally.

Globally, tourism is the world’s fastest growing sector. In Canada, we welcomed a record 20.8 million international travellers in 2017, and have already seen an increase in the first 8 months of this year. Over 1.8 million Canadians are employed in the tourism industry, at over 200,000 tourism related businesses, 99 per cent of which are small and medium sized enterprises.

The travel economy is worth $87.4 billion to our country. Two per cent of Canada’s GDP comes from tourism. And the industry is expected to keep growing. Despite these optimistic numbers, Canada’s tourism growth rate is lagging compared to its international counterparts. In 2017, Canada remained 17th in the UNWTO’s annual survey of the most visited countries in the world while countries like Turkey, Mexico, and Malaysia witnessed stronger tourism growth than Canada.

We need to ensure we keep Canada competitive in this global growth trend. The Government of Canada is taking some positive steps in the right direction. In 2017, the Government of Canada launched the “New Tourism Vision” and set some lofty goals for Canada-entering the United Nation’s top 10 most visited countries by 2025, increasing the number of international overnight visits to Canada by 31 per cent by 2021, and doubling the number of tourists from China by 2021. There is a lot of work to do to make these goals a reality. Current measures will not see these goals succeed.

Chinese visitors to Canada are our country’s second largest inbound international market, and China will continue to play a key role in Canada’s growing tourism sector for years to come. The Government of Canada’s recent efforts to court Chinese visitors to Canada has been commendable – from numerous visits to China by Canadian diplomatic delegations, to naming 2018 the Canada-China Year of Tourism.

However, all levels of government need to consider the tourism industry when discussing policies linking to the broader policy agenda. Tourism touches many ministries, including Finance, Immigration, Infrastructure, Labour, Public Safety, Fisheries, Transportation, Canadian Heritage, Environment, International Trade and so on. Canada’s tourism agenda needs to be treated in a whole-of-government approach, and must consider the positive implications the industry has across the entire threshold of Canada’s economy. But there are a number of tangible things that we can do beyond courting international visitors through international trade delegations. Streamlining Canada’s visa processes and bringing all low-risk travellers under the Electronic Travel Authorization for temporary resident visas is one step. Investing in resources to ensure airport security can meet growing demand is another. Reducing the taxes paid by international visitors either through exemption or a rebate program is another. Strengthening Destination Canada, Canada’s marketing organization, by ensuring long-term sustainable funding is another. Prioritizing tourism job programs, in addition to using industry labour need as the main determinant in immigration streams, are still others.

These are achievable steps that the government can take to bolster Canada’s tourism sector and make our country a more accessible destination for international visitors. But without a whole-of-government approach that recognizes the complexity of Canada’s tourism sector, Canada will continue to fall behind. These opportunities and challenges will be among topics covered at this week’s TIAC Tourism Congress, held at the Hotel Lac Leamy in Ottawa, where delegates, elected officials and decision makers will converge to discuss our travel economy.

Charlotte Bell is the chief executive officer of the Tourism Industry Association of Canada, the only national organization representing the full cross-section of the tourism industry in Canada.

The Hill Times
Pipeline contractors, charities lead October lobbying blitz as activity picks up

Bill Schaper, director of public policy at Imagine Canada, said his group organized a lobbying blitz to push for sweeping reforms that would modernize regulations governing the charitable sector.

BY BEATRICE PAEZ

Lobbying activity has spiked in the last couple of months as groups sought to redouble their efforts in the lead-up to the next election, according to the federal lobbyists registry. Lobbyists filed a total of 3,126 communications reports in September, higher than the 3,088 filed in August, registry records show.

Among the groups logging the most contact with public officials last month was the Mortgage Professionals Canada (MPC), which recorded 44 reports, mainly with MPs. Paul Taylor, the president and CEO of MPC, said his group has been urging the government to tweak the stress test to reduce barriers prospective first-time borrowers have to show they can afford to buy a house.

Under the new requirement, introduced in January, borrowers applying for an uninsured mortgage have to show they can afford to make mortgage payments for three-quarters of a per cent of their income, the stress test. We’re advocating for the barriers prospective first-time buyers face to make it more difficult for them to buy a house, said Taylor.

Top-lobbying cabinet ministers in October and the number of their communications reports for the month, pictured top left to right: Natural Resources Minister Amarjeet Sohi (29), Finance Minister Bill Morneau (23), Treasury Board President Scott Brison (16), Employment Minister Catherine McKenna (15), Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains (13), Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen (12), Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay (12); Health Minister Ginette Petitpas Taylor (11), International Trade Minister Jim Carr (11); Democratic Institutions Minister Karina Gould (11); Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (11); Fisheries Minister Jonathan Wilkinson (10); Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale (9); and Tourism Minister Melanie Joly (9). The Hill Times photos by Andrew Meade

At the top of the list of filings in October was the Pipe Line Contractors Association of Canada, or PLCAC, which posted 56 reports, including one that featured an audience with a group of Conservative Senators from Atlantic Canada: Percy Mockler, Thomas McInnis, Norman Doyle, Fabian Manning, and Paul McIntyre.

A representative from the association was unavailable for an interview, but an email was sent indicating that 24 of its senior leaders were on the Hill to raise concerns about how the government plans to move forward on the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, which has been put on hold after the Federal Court in August quashed approval for the project, ordering Ottawa to redo its consultations with Indigenous peoples and ordering the National Energy Board to redo its assessment. Those consultations are underway and expected to wrap up on Dec. 6.

Charities, international aid group enlist reinforcements to boost Hill presence

Imagine Canada, an organization that works on behalf of charities, and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, an international-aid group that works to end global hunger, were neck and neck in terms of their filings, with each posting 42 reports last month.

Bill Schaper, director of public policy at Imagine Canada, said his group organized a lobbying blitz that brought some 40 representatives from across the charitable sector to Ottawa to push for sweeping reforms that would modernize Canada’s regulatory framework for engaging with charities.

For the past 400 hundred years, Mr. Schaper said, the legal structure that governs the sector’s activities has remained largely unchanged and is long overdue for an overhaul. “There’s not been a real effort for the government and the sector to sit down [and discuss], ‘What do we need this to look like for the 21st century?’” he said, noting that, at the committee level, there’s a recognition that the laws are in need of updating. (The Senate has a special committee studying the government’s role in strengthening the sector.) As an example of one issue Imagine Canada would like to see addressed in a review, Mr. Schaper said that there are varying conditions attached to government grants, depending on the department. One department might restrict the charity from using the grant to cover overhead costs even though the funding is meant to be used for new hires.

Some 40 volunteers and staffers representing the Canadian Foodgrains Bank were in Ottawa to hand deliver 8,000 postcards to International Development Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau. Its postcard campaign, dubbed “I Care,” is an ongoing initiative aimed at nudging the Liberal government into raising its foreign-aid contributions to match, at minimum, what its global peers are offering.

Canada’s aid dollars have been declining over the years. According to a recent report from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, spending has fallen from 0.31 per cent of its gross national income (GNI) in 2012 to 0.26 per cent in 2017. That figure sits short of the global peer average, which is at 0.50 per cent; the global target is 0.7 per cent of GNI.

The campaign was developed in response to feedback it received from the minister’s office after its last campaign that it’s been hard to convince cabinet ministers to support an increase.

“We heard back after the fact was that it was a tough sell around the table, that other cabinet ministers felt it wasn’t a big enough issue for Canadians, that Canadians didn’t care,” said Paul Hagerman, director of public policy at Foodgrains Bank. “So with those very words, we decided to create a campaign. It’s a pretty soft message compared to what lots of advocacy messages are. It doesn’t say, ‘You should do this.’ It says, ‘This is an issue I care about.’”

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“So we’re hoping that that message will feed into conversations around the table as the budget is being prepared for 2019.”
Canada’s exclusion of irregular migrants from health care violates international law

At present, people living in Canada with irregular legal status generally receive no health benefits whatsoever and must pay out of pocket for health needs and emergencies or rely on charitable care. It’s time that changed.

OTTAWA—Should migrants living in Canada without legal authorization be entitled to health care? The answer, according to a decision issued by the United Nations Human Rights Committee in August, was clearly yes, especially if lack of health care threatens migrants’ lives. Sadly, the Government of Canada has yet to respond. At present, people living in Canada with irregular legal status generally receive no health benefits whatsoever and must pay out of pocket for health needs and emergencies or rely on charitable care. It’s time that changed.

People who are often mislabelled as “illegals” in the popular press are actually a diverse group and their life situations are typically much more nuanced than what the overly simplistic label conveys. Most irregular migrants in Canada have had permission to be here at one point and only fell out of such legal status some time later. For example, some have come as temporary workers but lost their authorizations when they sought to escape exploitative employers or when they were fired after becoming injured, ill, or pregnant.

The term “illegal” also ignores the fact that many of these migrants have tried to regularize their status only to be thwarted by a process that is long, arduous, expensive and with a modest chance of success. Nell Toussaint was once one of these irregular migrants. She arrived in Canada in 1989 as a visitor from Grenada and stayed past her visa’s expiration after finding a job here. For nearly a decade, she worked and contributed to Canada’s tax and social security systems through payroll deductions. She twice attempted to apply for permanent resident status based on humanitarian and compassionate considerations. Both times, her effort was stalled partly because she could not afford the cost of the permanent residency application. As Toussaint was trying to regularize her status, her health deteriorated. Like most irregular migrants in Canada, she was neither eligible for public health insurance nor able to pay for health services privately. This forced her to rely on a combination of emergency and charitable care that fell short of halting the progression of her illnesses.

By early 2009, her life was in grave danger. Thankfully, in 2013, Toussaint became a permanent resident of Canada, qualifying her for provincial health care. Her health has stabilized since. Against this background, Toussaint lodged a complaint against Canada before the UN Human Rights Committee, arguing that her rights to life and equality under international law were breached when she was excluded from public health care. The Committee agreed. In a decision issued this summer, it asked Canada to prevent similar rights violations in the future by ensuring irregular migrants’ access to essential health care that would guard against “reasonably foreseeable” risks to lives. And it requested Canada to report back before February 2019 to advise the Committee of the reform measures that are implemented.

As a country long recognized for being a champion of human rights and a defender of international law, it is in Canada’s interest to comply with the Human Rights Committee’s order.

Studies show that extending essential health care to irregular migrants may help save public spending in some cases. Research from the United States reveals that when irregular migrant women are given publicly funded prenatal care, their risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes decreases. This in turn, cuts the costs of postnatal care and treatment for the American-born infants. Similarly, when irregular migrants with end stage renal disease are only provided emergency dialysis, the cost of their treatment is found to be much higher than if they were placed on maintenance dialysis.

The Human Rights Committee’s decision in the Toussaint case does not suggest Canada must provide health care to individuals who enter the country with the sole purpose of accessing health care. It found that denying health care and causing life-threatening risks to someone who had lived and worked in Canada for almost a decade in violation of Canada’s international human rights commitment.

Today, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Switzerland and Portugal—with Spain poised to join the ranks this year—all grant roughly the same health care coverage to irregular migrants and their respective citizens. There is no indication that “health tourism” has plagued these countries as a result.

Most irregular migrants, like Toussaint, are contributing members of society. For too long we have condemned their exclusion from health care. The time for change is now.

Y.Y. Brandon Chen is an assistant professor at University of Ottawa Faculty of Law and a member of the University’s Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics.

The Hill Times
It's time to abrogate the Senate's power to defeat legislation and replace it with a suspensive veto—i.e., the power to delay passage of legislation for a defined period. Such a suspensive veto does not in fact require a constitutional amendment and it is something that could be implemented today through the adoption of a motion by the Senate. (It is also something that has long been in force in the United Kingdom.) I believe that the Senate should adopt this new tool, as a way to reignite debate on the need for a body of 'landed gentry' in Canada's parliamentary democracy—can function as a “less partisan, more independent, accountable, and transparent Chamber.”

The Senate is a national institution. It is my deep conviction that, on the occasion of the next Parliament, a significant initiative to convey the importance of the new Senate would be first, to adopt the suspensive veto, and second, to create one or more special committees to undertake studies on subjects of significance important to Canada that deserve serious examination today.

As a former Senator, I am fully conscious of the normal duties of Senators—regular sitting days, a week, standing committee work, etc.—mean it would not be easy to add additional tasks to their agenda. Nevertheless, there is much that could be done if Senators, in their new, independent role, were interested. Here are some potential subjects of could be of interest, whether by special committee or by individual Senators:

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  to information, and many other matters affecting citizens’ rights and
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These are all areas where individual Senators and Senate committees, with the staff and research tools at their disposal, can make an important contribution to the public interest. They are areas where a relatively non-partisan examination of issues and options would be welcomed by Canadians of all political persuasions.

Pierre De Bané

Opinion

spent 29 years in the Senate and before that nearly 16 years as a Member of Parliament in the House of Commons. During my time in the House, I served more than five years as a minister. I am pleased now to have the opportunity to offer a few suggestions on how a renewed, more “independent” Senate—a bold and promising innovation in Canada’s parliamentary democracy—can function as a “less partisan, more independent, accountable, and transparent Chamber.” It will be no surprise to the reader when I say that my experience as a Senator was, on the whole, a positive one. I saw first-hand how individual Senators and the Senate, as a central institution of our democracy, can contribute to better government in Canada. I saw the recommendations of the Fathers of Confederation when they created a second chamber that would serve as a source of “sober second thought” on bills coming forward from the elected House. I saw how Canadians with a wide range of experience in different sectors of society, drawn from all parts of this country, could bring their experience and their voices to bear on difficult questions of public policy. I saw how regional interests could be reflected at the federal level and expressed in a way that complemented the voices of the provinces.

In 2014, it was the honour of the Senate to ask the auditor general to review the rules and systems of the Senate and to suggest any necessary changes. That initiative culminated in his investigation and eventual report in 2015, in which he made some 15 recommendations aimed at securing more modern, effective, and transparent governance and financial management within the Senate. He recommended the creation of a financial management oversight body; the majority of whose members, including its chair, was to be independent of the Senate. (This model of independent oversight in the Upper House is essentially the same as that followed in the United Kingdom and Australia.)

Like many other Canadians, I had hoped the auditor general’s report would forever transform how Senators did their business. Unfortunately, the report seems to have had almost no effect. No such oversight body has been created, and in May of this year, the Senate’s Board of Internal Economy voted to allow Senators to transfer surplus funds from their office and hospitality budgets to their housing accounts.

Thus my first recommendation with respect to enabling the Senate to play the role intended under our Constitution is to clean up financial management and control, in a way that gives effect to the recommendations of the auditor general and in a manner that will restore public confidence in the Senate as an institution.

A related change would be to impose stricter controls in areas such as conflict of interest and ethics, where misbehaviour by Senators can bring the perceived integrity of the Senate into question.

Beyond that, there is much that can be done to make use of the talents and experience of the independent Senators who have been appointed in recent years. Let me cite five areas where the Senate can contribute significantly to the public interest.

The first would involve using the tools and capacities of the Senate to better effect, notably its capacity to hold hearings, conduct longer-term studies, and issue in-depth and relatively non-partisan reports on subjects of public interest. Senate reports lie truly at the heart of the institution. I am thinking in particular of the work by committees such as those chaired by former Senator Maurice Lamontagne on science policy, former Senator David Croll on poverty, former Senator Henry Hicks on the Middle East and former Senator Michael Kirby on mental health. Those reports were milestones.

In addition, one should not ignore the potential for individual Senators to pursue issues and projects of particular interest to them. This is something that has long been valued in the work of the Senate. I am thinking of such things as Senator Jim Munson’s work on autism, Senator René Cormier as a champion of the Acadians, Senator Ratna Omidvar’s work on immigrants and refugees, or Senator Joan Fraser’s initiatives on literacy among many others.

These activities—both individually and in committee—can have considerable influence on public policy, both in Canada and abroad. We now have Independent Senators—let’s make full use of their independence, their experience, and their imagination.

Second, much can be done to restore and reinforce the regional role of Senators, a function originally intended under our Constitution but one that has not received the attention it deserves in recent years. Individual Senators are not there to replace the views of the premiers and the provinces, but they are members of a federal Parliament who need to speak up and take their region’s voice on legislation and on public policy generally.

Third, the Senate should make a considerable contribution to Canada by taking steps to increase the participation of Canadians in the work of Parliament. Just as the Senate, on its website, is seeking the views of former parliamentarians, so too could it seek the views of members of the public on major issues before the country. This could be something along the lines of the “letters to the editor” pages in the newspapers—that is, a website that is lightly curated and lightly edited but done in a way that encourages people to speak up and encourages responses in turn. To better enable this kind of ongoing dialogue, the database of contributions could be made easily searchable on the website. The Senate would then become a home for an open, responsible dialogue among Canadians on issues that matter to the whole country. All this would increase both the credibility and the effectiveness of the Senate as a national institution.

Fourth, the reader will recall that the 1992 Charlottetown Accord included an agreement, approved unanimously by the federal government and every province including Quebec, to create a new Senate, one that would exercise its powers in a more limited manner. The Senate of 1867, of course, reflected the then-current view that there was a need for a body of “landed gentry” to check the work of the elected Commons. The Charlottetown proposals were aimed at creating a modern Senate, suitable for our times. One of the key changes that would have been to abrogate the Senate’s power to defeat legislation and to do so with a suspensive veto—i.e., the power to delay passage of legislation for a defined period (in the case of

THE HILL TIMES | MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2018

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Pierre De Bané served as a Liberal Senator for nearly 30 years. He retired in August 2013 at the age of 75. This editorial by former Senate Speaker George Furey is part of a series about the renewed Senate by former Senators.

THE Hill Times
CyberWoman.ca project looks at narrowing the gender gap in cyber defence

While DND wants to increase the number of women enrolling in Canada’s cyber defence, it faces a dual challenge on this front: in addition to low participation in cyber, fewer women than men choose a military career in the first place.

For generations, women were discouraged from considering the skilled trades as career or vocational options. Subtly or not-so-subtly, they were guided away from jobs that required physical strength or endurance. While these attitudes are changing, they have effectively left many women out of high-demand skilled trades like welding, plumbing, carpentry or automotive repair.

In the digital economy, we have an opportunity to avoid making the same mistake as our forebears. Cyber and network security represents the first trade of the new economy. Cybersecurity professionals are not building walls, fitting pipes or doing home repairs—as tradespeople they are building firewalls, patching network platforms and installing infrastructure in offices, homes and facilities across the country. Unfortunately, as is the case with the broader tech sector, a gender imbalance is equally evident in the cybersecurity trade. The 2018 (ISC)2 Cybersecurity Workforce Study found women comprise just 24 per cent of the global cybersecurity profession.

The demand for a global cyber workforce is growing rapidly as organizations recognize a need to defend against and prepare for cyber attacks and breaches. Yet governments and the private sector are having difficulty filling these important roles—a situation worsened by the fact that so few women are engaged in the trade.

The global workforce gap for cybersecurity professionals is already close to three million, and will continue to grow, according to the (ISC)2 study. What a tremendous opportunity to look into the barriers women face in joining this workforce.

To understand how and why so few women are choosing well-paying careers in cyber and network security, we are working with the Department of National Defence to identify barriers preventing their engagement. Calian and Willis College’s Veteran Friendly Transition Program have a long and recognized history supporting the Canadian Armed Forces. Whether through health care, training, education, employment, or easing military member transition to civilian life, Calian and Willis are leaders in serving those who serve us.

The Government of Canada is increasing its need of cyber defence analysts to ensure its networks are protected, with recruits coming through the Department of National Defence and the government’s new Canadian Centre for Cyber Security. They’ve made it a priority to recruit more women into these important roles.

Our organizations are engaged in training programs for these cybersecurity defence professionals, where we have seen firsthand that enrollment is predominantly male. With DND, we wanted to better understand why women in the military and defence are failing to choose a cyber career path. Hence our new project: Engaging Women in Cyber Defence. Its website CyberWoman.ca is home to a survey that can help us understand why women in the military and veteran community.

In the spring of 2018, we had an opportunity to apply to the Government of Canada’s Defence Engagement Program. This innovative grant program seeks targeted expertise from academia, NGOs, think tanks and the private sector to inform, confirm or challenge current defence policy thinking. The spring call for applications sought project proposals focused on the priorities outlined in ‘Strong, Secure and Engaged: Canada’s Defence Policy.’

While DND wants to increase the number of women enrolling in Canada’s cyber defence, it faces a dual challenge on this front: in addition to low participation in cyber, fewer women than men choose a military career in the first place. As demand for cyber professionals continues to grow, is the time to identify barriers to such career paths for women and better understand the reasons for low participation.

Rima Aristocrat is president and CEO of Ottawa- and Armbruster-based Willis College, offering industry-led, job-ready skills training and education and enabling adults to transition into careers in business, health care, technology, and cybersecurity. Susanne Cork is the director of business development for the custom training solutions service line with Calian Group, a diversified professional services company based in Ottawa that employs 3,500 people with offices and projects that span Canada, United States, and international markets.
Bottom line? Canada’s potential growth rate remains in decline

But Bill Morneau’s speech was too much a boastful bromide better suited for a partisan political rally than a sober and frank accounting of the core economic challenges facing the country and the risks they pose to future well-being.

Missing from the fiscal outlook statement was an expected announcement of a major review of the overall tax system, something that is sorely needed though the benefits of such a review would depend on the kind of people appointed to carry it out. The biggest tax review in Canadian history was probably the 1962 Royal Commission on Taxation, chaired by Kenneth Carter. The commission found the tax system unfair because different types of income were taxed differently. “A buck is a buck,” the commission declared and all forms of income should be taxed the same way. One result was the introduction of a capital gains tax.

The fiscal outlook also reaffirmed the government’s goal of trade diversification, with various forms of funding for export support services and a reiteration of a 2025 goal of doubling Canada’s exports to emerging economies by 2025.

There was, however, no indication of how this goal might be best accomplished or what it would take. A major challenge for Canada is to expand the number of companies with the scale and scope to engage in international trade. Right now there is much focus on expanding the Trans Mountain pipeline to enable oil exports to China and elsewhere. But it will take more than that to double exports to emerging economies.

The fiscal outlook did also include an increase of $800-million over five years to the Strategic Innovation Fund. The fund had been unveiled in the 2017 budget with $1.26-billion—but almost all of that came from repackaging existing funds with only $100-million of new money. Of the $800-million of new money, $100-million is earmarked for the forestry industry and $250-million is earmarked for the steel and aluminum industries, in both cases offsetting the damage from U.S. protectionist measures—leaving $450-million of new money for the rest of the economy spread over five years.

The fiscal outlook also promises to aid competitiveness by taking a much more aggressive attitude towards regulations affecting business, though it is hard to see away from actually calling this deregulation.

All of these various measures—rich tax incentives, support for trade diversification, more money to support new technology companies and deregulation—will no doubt help some companies, along with the perennial promise to reduce inter provincial trade barriers.

But the bottom line remains that Canada’s potential growth rate is in decline, with growth moving below two per cent a year—and this is insufficient to sustain our way of life, particularly since our population is aging.

Much will depend on our ability to raise our productivity performance by innovation and scaling up our best new companies and we still haven’t figured out how to do this. It’s not clear how much of a difference the fiscal outlook measures, despite about $15-billion in tax measures and new spending, will make and Morneau doesn’t tell us what he expects.

Despite all the optimism in the fiscal outlook on how well Canada is supposed to be doing, there are good reasons to have serious concerns about the future.

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**Toronto—** You almost had the feeling when he read his fall economic statement speech to the House of Commons last Wednesday that Finance Minister Bill Morneau was on the verge of declaring, “Canadians, you’ve never had it so good.” He was smart enough not to say it, even if it was a subliminal message. But his speech nonetheless was too much a boastful bromide better suited for a partisan political rally than a sober and frank accounting of the core economic challenges facing the country and the risks they pose to future well-being.

There was no discussion of our poor productivity performance and how this will affect our future ability to fund health care, education, and the other things we value, nor of our inability to pay our way in the world as reflected in what is becoming a chronic current account deficit, nor of the decline in the employment rate since 2007 with fewer Canadians of working age 25 and older actually working today, compared to just over a decade ago.

In the meantime, in the outside world, the stock market has been in a nosedive and our dollar has weakened, and inequality and wage stagnation remain major issues, despite some offsetting measure by government.

Canadians deserve better from their finance minister—a less boastful partisanship that “Canada’s economy is strong and growing,” and that “the government’s plan is working” and more serious discussion of the big issues we face.

To be sure, Morneau acknowledged that there were challenges—“challenges that range from uncertainty about the global economy to concerns about lingering trade disputes, to the challenges facing the oil and gas sector,” but the biggest challenge is productivity, which depends on our own innovation.

As expected, Morneau did respond to business pressures for help in the face of a major corporate tax cut in the U.S. that threatened the competitiveness of Canadian companies and the ability of Canada to attract future investment. Rather than simply cutting the corporate tax rate, which could simply have meant more money for corporations to buy back shares or use the money to invest elsewhere, Morneau increased the incentives for business investment by slashing depreciation rates (making investments cheaper) so that the only businesses that benefit will be those that invest in Canada.

But there was no indication of what results Morneau expects from just over $14-billion in these projected tax benefits to business between now and 2027—what will they add to total business investment and economic growth, to productivity and exports? But by making the tax incentives time-limited, a future finance minister by 2027 can decide whether or not they have worked, and hence whether there is a case for continuing them or letting them lapse.

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**Opinion**

Bottom line? Canada’s potential growth rate remains in decline

David Crane
Canada & the 21st Century

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**The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade**
OTTAWA—We all know that many nations have a foreign intelligence service that sends spies here, there, and everywhere to collect the information its government tells it to in order to protect state interests. There is the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) which has been featured in more novels and films than I can count. And, of course, there is the MI6—the British Secret Intelligence Service—made famous by Ian Fleming’s James Bond, who taught us all how to drink a martini (shaken, not stirred). And then we have the Canadian foreign intelligence service which is, uh, er, um.

The fact is we do not have a foreign intelligence service in our country, never have had one, and perhaps never will. The best-known spy agency is CSIS—the Canadian Security Intelligence Service where I worked for 15 years—but it is not a foreign service. It is a security service which means it focuses on threats to Canadian national security from menaces like terrorism and espionage. Foreign intelligence refers to the collection of information on the capabilities, intentions, and activities of foreign actors (states or individuals) and is used to help Canada understand what is happening on the world stage, what it means to us, and how we can make better decisions and policies based on that intelligence.

CSIS does have a foreign intelligence (also known as FI) role of sorts. In Sec. 16 of the CSIS Act it says: “the service may, in relation to the defence of Canada or the conduct of the international affairs of Canada, assist the minister of national defence or the minister of foreign affairs, within Canada, in the collection of information or intelligence.” So there you have it: CSIS collects foreign intelligence. But, did you notice the small indented clause towards the end—“within Canada”? In other words, CSIS can be our eyes and ears on what Canada’s economic and political rivals are, provided that it collects what it can within national borders.
Why feds should consider a carbon tariff

To safeguard jobs and ensure that our carbon pricing helps to reduce global emissions, we should adjust the carbon levy at the border, writes Saskatchewan MP Erin Weir.

The federal government’s “backstop” carbon tax for provinces without their own carbon pricing was modelled on Alberta’s existing carbon tax and exemptions. This past summer, Ottawa announced that it would exempt 90 per cent of emissions for producers of cement, steel, lime, and nitrogen fertilizer, and from and 80 per cent of emissions for other industries. Such large exemptions should keep carbon-intensive industry from relocating to jurisdictions with weaker environmental standards. Such relocation would eliminate Canadian jobs and increase global emissions.

To safeguard jobs and ensure that our carbon pricing helps to reduce global emissions, we should adjust the carbon levy at the border. A tariff on imports would ensure that the federal carbon price applies to products consumed in Canada, whether they are produced at home or abroad.

For example, making a tonne of steel in China and shipping it here emits five times as much carbon as manufacturing it at Regina’s steel mill. A federal carbon tax without border adjustments would increase the cost of Regina steel, providing a perverse incentive for Canadian consumers to instead import dirtier steel from China.

By contrast, a Canadian carbon tax with a corresponding carbon tariff would increase the price of Chinese steel more than the price of Regina steel, creating an environmentally appropriate incentive for Canadian consumers to buy local. Regina’s steel mill would have an incentive to minimize its emissions in order to maximize this competitive advantage.

Border adjustments would also rebate the federal carbon price on Canadian-made exports, providing a level playing field for industries selling their products abroad. For a quarter-century, Canada has applied the GST to imports and rebated it on exports. These border adjustments are consistent with international trade agreements and keep Canada competitive with the U.S., which does not charge a value-added tax like the GST.

However, it was provincial governments that began pricing carbon. They do not have constitutional authority to levy import tariffs or issue export rebates. Provinces have, instead, tried to maintain competitiveness by subsidizing their carbon-intensive, trade-exposed industries. Provincial cap-and-trade systems gave free emission permits to these industries, while provincial carbon taxes gave them exemptions based on output. The federal government’s “backstop” carbon tax for provinces without their own carbon pricing was modelled on Alberta’s existing carbon tax and exemptions. This past summer, Ottawa announced that it would exempt 90 per cent of emissions for producers of cement, steel, lime, and nitrogen fertilizer, and from and 80 per cent of emissions for other industries.

Such large exemptions should keep carbon-intensive industry from relocating abroad, but substantially reduce the federal carbon revenues available to fund consumer rebates. Ottawa unveiled rebates for next year, ranging from $609 in Saskatchewan to only $307 in Ontario or $256 in New Brunswick, for a family of four.

Alberta’s output-based exemptions may have seemed like an appropriate model for a federal “backstop” that would apply only to Saskatchewan. It now appears that the federal carbon tax will apply to at least half of Canada’s economy and population. Ottawa should consider using its constitutional jurisdiction over international trade to implement carbon-border adjustments.

Because Canadian industry exports much of its output, the fiscal cost of export rebates would be similar to output-based exemptions. But that cost would be offset by the revenues from a carbon import tariff, enabling larger rebates to consumers.

Even making the cautious assumption that production processes abroad are the same as in Canada, Statistics Canada estimates that the carbon content of our annual imports exceeds 200 megatonnes. A carbon tariff of $20 per tonne next year would collect $4-billion, which could fund a rebate of $110 for every single Canadian, in addition to what was already announced.

In reality, production is much more carbon-intensive in China and many other countries than in Canada. Developing the capacity to properly assess the carbon content of imports would boost carbon-tariff revenues.

The federal government is providing industry exemptions and consumer rebates in an effort to reduce emissions, safeguard jobs, and compensate consumers. A carbon tariff would help to achieve these goals by encouraging the use of Canadian-made products instead of more carbon-intensive imports, and by collecting revenue that could fund larger rebates for all Canadians.

Erin Weir is the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation MP for Regina-Lewvan, Sask.

The Hill Times

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**CANADA’S RAILWAYS**

**LEVERAGING INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE SAFETY**

Our network of wayside detectors feels, listens to, and looks at our equipment, enabling us to proactively maintain our rolling stock and infrastructure. Together, these detectors help reduce costly train delays, prevent derailments, and keep our employees, passengers, and the communities through which we operate, safe.
Opinion

Auditor general’s report on sexual misconduct in military: another can't be won shot, new signal of distress

Immediate legislative changes should be made to ensure that victims of crimes are not only treated with respect, dignity, and compassion, but also that they be entitled to the same protection afforded to every other individual in Canada by the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights.

Michel Drapeau

In April 2015, the general public took note of former justice of the Supreme Court Marie Deschamps’ report to the then chief of the defence staff, in which she called for improved treatment of cases of sexual harassment and sexual assault. In response to her report, the Canadian Armed Forces set up Operation Honour and opened a Sexual Misconduct Response Centre which, contrary to the recommendation of Deschamps, is located within the Defence establishment.

Large survey by Statistics Canada

Then in November 2016, Statistics Canada published the results of a very large survey on sexual misconduct in the military. Among the results, this survey indicated that 51 per cent of women and 36 per cent of men serving in the Regular Forces believed that inappropriate sexual behaviour was a problem in the Canadian Forces. According to the same survey, four out of five Regular Force members saw, heard, or had experienced sexual or discriminatory behaviour in the previous year. Over the previous year, approximately 1,000 Regular Force members, or 1.7 per cent, were victims of sexual assault.

Operation Honour

Since then, the chief of the defence staff saved no effort to demonstrate to the general public that the military does take the problem of inappropriate sexual behaviour very seriously. Using his considerable powers, rank, and authority, he set up Operation Honour with drum and trumpets ordering all Regulars and Reserves to immediately cease and desist from any form of sexual misconduct.

On Nov. 20, the auditor general published the results of an audit, which is aimed at determining whether the CAF has actually taken adequate measures to cope with the issue of sexual misconduct to including the provision of support to victims of sexual misconduct. Admittedly, the AG report is anything but affirmative. There is progress for sure, but there is still a huge hill to climb. We are left to wonder if, after all is said and done, the military is able to put an end to a culture of sexual harassment. Personally, I doubt it.

According to the AG, the CAF provided support services to victims, but these services were sometimes difficult to obtain and not all stakeholders were adequately trained to assist victims. The AG found that significant gaps persisted and that it was not always easy for victims to access the services they needed in a timely manner. When one considers that these same victims are excluded from the same protection offered by the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights by Sec. 18(3), these shortcomings are simply unforgivable. These victims are truly second-class citizens.

The AG also concluded that the CAF has not always dealt with the reported incidents in a timely, consistent, and respectful manner. As a result, some victims chose not to report an incident or withdraw their complaint because they were not convinced that the investigations would lead to concrete results. How is this possible after the hurricane of promises were made to serving soldiers under the moniker of Operation Honour? This distorts the very meaning of the term “honour,” which means commitment, a promise that can not be broken without dishonour.

The AG also reports that the military conducted awareness and training sessions, but it did not address the root causes of inappropriate sexual behaviour. This goes without comments.

The publication of this AG report—and very soon a second survey will also be published by Statistics Canada on Sexual Misconduct in the Canadian Armed Forces—should signal to Parliamentarians that the general public as well as members of the military are demanding immediate, robust and effective actions to deal with this continuing crisis which goes to the very character and reputation of the armed forces as a disciplined, professional force. It is now up to them and to Parliament to assume leadership and provide military members who valiantly serve their country in uniform with a safe workplace allowing them to maintain their physical and mental integrity and safeguarding their dignity.

As a first step, immediate legislative changes should be made to ensure that victims of crimes are not only treated with respect, dignity, and compassion, but also that they be entitled to the same protection afforded to every other individual in Canada by the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights. It is currently not the case. Secondly, it would be timely to amend the National Defence Act to return jurisdiction for sexual misconduct to a disciplined, professional force. It is now up to them and to Parliament to assume leadership and provide military members who valiantly serve their country in uniform with a safe workplace allowing them to maintain their physical and mental integrity and safeguarding their dignity.

As a first step, immediate legislative changes should be made to ensure that victims of crimes are not only treated with respect, dignity, and compassion, but also that they be entitled to the same protection afforded to every other individual in Canada by the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights. Finally, and perhaps more importantly, the time has come to appoint a civilian personality as the first inspector general of the Armed Forces who would act as the permanent adviser to the minister and Parliament to specifically deal with this issue leaving the chief of the defence staff to concentrate on the performance of his military missions and tasks.

Michel W. Drapeau is a lawyer and a professor in the faculty of law at the University of Ottawa.

The Hill Times
More recently, Mr. Malmierca pointed to the launch of a series of new ventures for foreign capital. The portfolio has 25 projects, which involve almost $12-billion across all sectors of the Cuban economy. He said since April 2014, Cuba has added more than $5.5-billion in direct foreign capital investment.

The current welcoming of direct foreign investment is a change from Cuba's typical "ambivalent" feeling towards it, said Mr. Entwistle, a former Canadian ambassador to Cuba from 1993-1997 and a managing partner at Acusta Capital Cuba. The new framework is a "political affirmation" that direct investment would play a fundamental role in the economic development of the country, he said, as well as an acceptance by the Cuban government that its economy could not be self-sustainable.

But he said, Canadian businesses haven't taken advantage "to the full potential" of the foreign investment opportunities in Cuba. "Cuba may not appear like a very large opportunity," said Mr. Entwistle, adding that businesses typically have a north-south outlook solely centred around the United States, making it hard to encourage looking at other markets. But he said: "I do think there's a lot of opportunity [in Cuba] and I do think Canadian corporations and investors would have a good look.

Mr. Malmierca said, Cuba's economic development still remains threatened due to the American embargo against Cuba, which started in 1958 during the Fulgencio Batista regime when the U.S. barred the sale of arms to the country. In 1960, following the Cuban Revolution, the U.S. barred the sale of all goods to Cuba after a period of nationalization, except for essential food and medicine, and in 1962 the embargo was extended to be nearly all-encompassing.

Former U.S. president Barack Obama eased some restrictions, and re-established diplomatic relations with Cuba in 2016. He called the embargo against Cuba "outdated" and said it should be lifted. Within a month of the 2016 U.S. presidential election that saw Donald Trump elected, Mr. Obama said his goal was to make the opening in the U.S.-Cuba relationship "irreversible."

But Mr. Trump enacted harsher rules making it more difficult for American companies to work in Cuba, and for Americans to travel to Cuba.

"The way the Government of Canada and the [current] prime minister talk about the relationship, it's kind of found its natural home again in the kinds of language that dominated [Canada's] relationship with Cuba in the last 60 years, which is mutually respectful." - Patrick Smith
The Centre Block building will officially close this December, almost 130 years after its first opening, and will remain so for at least a decade. The building—the life it will reach a critical state in 2025, and will be shuttered for renovations until the mid-2030s.

In the weeks leading up to the Centre Block's closure, MPs are clearing out their offices, decommissioning their personal effects, and preparing for the move.

BY LAURA RYCKEWAERT

already, I will miss that building': the big, historic, and emotional move for Centre Block's denizens prepare for the big, historic, and emotional move to the new Parliament Buildings.

I think I’m having withdrawal pains for Centre Block's denizens prepare for the big, historic, and emotional move to the new Parliament Buildings.

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I think I’m having withdrawal pains for the big, historic, and emotional move to the new Parliament Buildings.
Ontario PCs taking notes from House of Cards, problematic practice of politicising the naming of legislation

Under Doug Ford, the PCs won a majority, the election period is over, and it’s time to start acting like it. Governments should not politicize legislation to puff up their credentials in an effort to get re-elected.

TORONTO—In the latest season of House of Cards there is a scene in which the vice president is sitting with members of his staff deliberating what they should name their newest act. Should we call it the “Comprehensive Safety Act, or the Comprehensive Chemical Safety Act?” Then the secretary of state pipes up and says “we need a good acronym.” The group then settles on the Federal Universal Toxic and Unsafe Regulation Eradication Act, the Future Act.

Why did they settle on this name? Not because it was the most accurate description of the laws it would enact, but because it sounded nice and would make their government look forward thinking. I imagine a very similar conversation took place when Ontario’s Ford government came up with the name Making Ontario Open for Business Act for Bill 47.

The strategic naming of legislation is not a new practice. Under the Harris government we saw statutes like the Safe Streets Act (SSA) being named to calm the anxieties of constituents by showing them that their government was working to keep streets safe. Who could argue with that idea. Surely everyone wants to feel comfortable walking down the street.

But, the substance of an act does not always live up to its name. In the case of the SSA, the act has proven to be a catastrophic failure. Initially, intended to prevent “squeegee kids” from aggressively soliciting, the SSA has only made matters worse by further burdening the homeless with fines, making the prospect of escaping poverty and being able to no longer depend on practices like panhandling less likely.

Unfortunately, it is typically only those who are directly impacted by an act that will understand the full consequence of its laws. It is unreasonable to expect the average person to be familiar with Ontario’s more than 700 statutes. Most will look or hear about the name and develop an opinion on that alone. That’s fine. What is not all right is when governments actively work to take advantage of this fact because it is misleading and inserting politics into a place where it does not belong.


Most of the changes being made are in direct opposition to the reforms made under the Wynne government’s Bill 148. The Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act 2017. Most notable perhaps is that Bill 47 would freeze the minimum wage to $15 that would have taken effect under Bill 148 in January of 2020. Rather than delving into all the specifics let’s take a step back and examine this from the abstract:

Judging Bill 47 by its cover it is going to “Open Ontario for Business.” Sounds great. Most of us are employees of businesses, and when business is good we might expect that things should get good for us too. But wait a minute, I imagine most of us also want a “Fair Workplace and a Better Job,” and that’s what Bill 148 promised us on its face.

How could both be true? Are both true? The only way to know the answer to these questions are to examine the laws in substance. But as was said before, it is unreasonable to expect the average Ontarian to go to that far. So we are left with the names, which under this practice simply put forth competing and sometimes misleading promises. We are used to this approach around election time but this is very different.

Under Doug Ford, the PCs won a majority, the election period is over, and it’s time to start acting like it. Governments should not politicize legislation to puff up their credentials in an effort to get re-elected. Rather, the focus should be on improving the quality of life for all constituents. It is important to note here that it isn’t only the PCs who are guilty of this practice. The Liberals were doing the same thing when they named Bill 148. But holding the current majority, it is the PCs who have the power to put an end to this practice.

While it is still early for the Ford government, we can anticipate that more of this practice is to follow. Just a few weeks ago Mike Harris junior tabled the “Cutting Red Tape for Motor Vehicle Dealers Act, 2018,” which aims to amend certain sections of the Highway Traffic Act. The resemblance to 5’s naming of the Safe Streets Act is striking. While history may have repeated itself in this case, it doesn’t have to go on forward. Call on your MPPs to put an end to this practice.

Joe Marando is co-director of the Fair Change Legal Clinic and a third-year law student at Osgoode Law School in Toronto.

The Hill Times

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**Did you know...**

- While rates of mental illness are comparable with women, men are less likely to recognize, talk about, and seek treatment for their illness.
- In Canada, 80% of people who die by suicide are men.
- The mental health of adolescent boys and young men needs more attention and resources as early intervention is the best predictor of a healthier adulthood.

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- [cmha.ca/documents/men-and-mental-illness](https://cmha.ca/documents/men-and-mental-illness)
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**Mental Health Commission of Canada**

**Commission de la santé mentale du Canada**
Astronaut Saint-Jacques will be busy on his six-month ISS stay, says CSA head Sylvain Laporte p.26

Canada and space security diplomacy: getting back into the game p.30

Lost in Space? Sector awaits long-promised national strategy as delays continue p.29

Feds’ lack of certainty being noted in international space community p.31

No transition to ‘innovation economy’ without rejuvenating Canada’s space sector p.31
Astronaut Saint-Jacques will be busy on his six-month ISS stay, says CSA head Sylvain Laporte

Canadian astronaut David Saint-Jacques blasts off to space on Dec. 3, along with Russian Oleg Kononenko and American Anne McClain.

BY EMILY HAWS

While astronaut David Saint-Jacques makes himself at home on the International Space Station, he will also be helping to contribute to life sciences experiments that will continue to have an impact long after he’s returned back to Earth, says Sylvain Laporte, the president of the Canadian Space Agency.

Mr. Saint-Jacques will launch into space on Dec 3, staying on the International Space Station until June 2019. While there, he will be participating in scientific experiments related to bones, bone marrow, perception, and other brain-related experiments. He’ll also be wearing a Canadian-made biosensor in the form of a shirt, which will hopefully successfully track his vital signs. If the experiment is successful, “the practical use of such shirts in hospitals will have been proven and I think it will be quite useful in terms of helping patients back here on Earth,” said Mr. Laporte.

A lot of the experiments will be helpful for learning more about how the body ages, with the practical use of being able to help the elderly, which is a growing segment of the population.

The concept of the mission is that basically, a spaceship would leave Earth and go to the gateway. How do you think Canada is going to contribute to this mission? Canada is particularly good at space robotics, especially when it comes to artificial intelligence, making it well-suited to missions like the American Lunar Gateway.

“Canada’s concentrated it’s laboratory time on life sciences, and we’ve been doing quite a bit of work on the heart and the cardiovascular system, as well as the brain and the nervous system,” said Mr. Laporte.

One of the experiments he’s excited about is an Earth-bound application, so a lot of what we’re studying on is particularly useful for the elderly because we’ve concentrated our efforts on illnesses that happen to astronauts. They tend to happen to astronauts in a much faster fashion so that gives researchers a tremendous opportunity to learn about how we can deal with things like the hardening of the arteries or the loss of calcium in bones, for example, so that’s where we’ve been concentrating our effort and that’s really where David will participate in terms of Canadian mission.

Is he going to do social media the same way that Chris Hadfield did?

“Absolutely, we’ve got quite a lineup for David in space. In fact, I’d say we’ve got more than half a dozen, but close to a dozen, types of activities that are planned and are looking at schools. So we are certainly going to benefit from the awe-inspiring opportunity that we’ve got from having a Canadian in space, so there’s going to be quite an effort to engaging Canadians, but also acting as a motivation for our children.”

“Canada is very well-positioned, amongst all the current partners that are participating on the ISS, to be looking at the next adventure for humanity, which is going to the moon, in preparation for eventually going to Mars, we have to ask ourselves, ‘Should Canada participate, and if we do, what could we contribute to the partnership?’ So, the first item of discussion is amongst the current partners that are participating on the ISS, but we’re also looking at expanding the partnerships from the four of us, the five of us that are part of us at the ISS to include more partners as we go forward.”

“Canada is so well-positioned from a robotics perspective and from an artificial intelligence perspective, so we’re one of the global leaders in AI. So combining the two would mean for a great deal of potential.”

ehaws@hilltimes.com

The Hill Times

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2018  |  THE HILL TIMES
Vision and Commitment

Canada is a world leader in artificial intelligence and space robotics. Together, these exciting technologies will drive the next phase of human space flight and deep space exploration. Space-derived science and technology are part of our lives, and in the future will play an even larger role in the form of autonomous cars, smart cities, and intelligent robotics for manufacturing. The potential economic and social benefits are staggering.

By committing to a funded space strategy, Canada will be able to seize the opportunity to expand human reach and understanding of space, and stake its place in the new space economy.
Canada’s Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains says the federal government continues to excel when it comes to aerospace, despite concerns that the Liberals won’t keep their promise to develop and release a national space strategy.

In an email Q&A interview with The Hill Times last week, Mr. Bains (Mississauga-Malton, Ont.) said Canada has “punched above our weight when it comes to aerospace and we have every intention of continuing to do so.” This Q&A has been edited.

With regards to policy initiatives related to aerospace—from Canada’s role in space to working on improving technologies that help everyday Canadians and their businesses—what are your priorities between now and next summer?

“We have always punched above our weight when it comes to aerospace and we have every intention of continuing to do so. In the past three budgets, we’ve shown just how important we think the industry is: In Budget 2016, we had $379-million for the International Space Station Program. In Budget 2017, we had $80-million for satellite quantum-related technology. And in Budget 2018 we had over $100-million for low-Earth orbit satellite investments.

“We’ve also introduced the $1.26-billion five-year Strategic Innovation Fund, with approximately $282-million going to programs to support aerospace and space projects. The coming months will be exciting for Canada in space: in a few days, David Saint-Jacques will be elected to the International Space Station for a six-month mission. The OSIRIS-Rex mission will rendezvous with the asteroid Bennu; a Canadian instrument onboard will help identify and map landing sites on the asteroid before returning a sample back to Earth.

“Lastly, the Canadian-built and government-owned RADARSAT Constellation Mission will be launched. It will provide very detailed images of Canada’s territory, borders, and waters, which can be used by climate scientists to monitor ice melt, the military to protect our sovereignty, and farmers to monitor crop health. We will continue to be an ally for the aerospace industry, both here at home and abroad.”

The Canadian Space Strategy is set to be unveiled this year, according to your remarks in May. If you can talk in broad terms, what are the core themes and main messages of this strategy and how does it speak to the level of commitment from this government to Canada’s role in space?

“This government has committed funding for certain private-sector aerospace-related initiatives, particularly on new technologies. What are the benefits of such funding initiatives?

“Aerospace is one of the most innovative and export-driven industries in Canada, accounting for over 190,000 good, high-quality jobs. It also accounts for over $25-billion to our GDP. The Strategic Innovation Fund, which we introduced in 2017, looks to help innovative businesses scale up and supports R&D in various sectors. We’ve announced approximately $252-million in contributions to projects in aerospace and space.

“For example, I announced $13-million in NorthStar, a company that will use satellite images for forecasting and tracking events like forest fires, rising sea levels and oil spills, and space debris which poses a growing threat to satellites and other objects in Earth’s orbit.”

The Americans are seeking international support as it works on its new Lunar Gateway project, which has plans for a new space station and sending someone into orbit around the moon as soon as 2021. In this government currently evaluating how it can co-operate with the Americans on this project?

“Canada and the United States have built up one of the closest relationships between any two countries in the world. With regard to space exploration, our relationship dates back to the early 1960s when the U.S. launched Canada’s first satellite, Alouette. This made Canada the third nation in the world to have launched a satellite into low Earth orbit. Space exploration is a great leveler, a great unifier and a great opportunity for Canada to assert itself.

“Since then, Canada developed Canadarm 1 and 2, Dextre, and we have participated in the development and operation of the International Space Station. I recently met with NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine and had an extremely productive conversation, where administrator Bridenstine reiterated his appreciation for our leadership and contributions. We also talked about continuing our partnership as we look towards the future, with an eye towards greater discovery of the vastness that is space.”

Canadian astronaut David Saint-Jacques is set to fly to the International Space Station on Dec. 3. What is your message for him and Canadians watching this exciting event?

“Space inspires humanity to greater heights. Rising to the challenge of space pushes the limits of what is possible here on Earth and beyond our frontiers of our planet. Canadian astronauts like David are modern-day explorers and role models for all Canadians.

“Through Canada’s participation in the International Space Station, we develop new technologies and advanced science that improves life on Earth. Space represents the potential for infinite discovery, and inspires curiosity and a sense of wonder. David is an inspiration and we wish him the very best for his upcoming mission.”

David Lametti

Opinion

E very so often as a politician, there are moments when something brings perspective to the work you do. For me, one of those moments was at this year’s Farnborough International Airshow in the United Kingdom. I remember recalling just how influential Canada’s aerospace and space industries are on the global stage. This was especially true as an MP from Montreal and Quebec, where the aerospace sector is particularly important. I felt a real sense of pride for the contributions our government has made in setting the conditions for this success. It helps having a colleague who was an astronaut.

Make no mistake, the success is real. In fact, last year the aerospace sector contributed nearly $25-billion to Canada’s GDP and almost 190,000 jobs to our economy.

We’re No. 1 worldwide in the manufacture of civil flight simulators, and third in the production of civil airplanes and engines. Canada is also one of the world’s top manufactur-ers of space science and exploration. This is a huge source of pride and wonder for Canadians.

Canada’s biggest spender on R&D is the country’s space agency. As a country, we spend more on space and aerospace than all of our G7 counterparts put together.

As these two important industries—space and aerospace—continue to compete and win, we are helping to secure the future of space and the next generation of space exploration. This is a source of great pride for all Canadians. A source of pride I felt at Farnborough last summer, and one that the federal government will be right there, shoulder to shoulder.

The sense of pride I felt at Farnborough is something that the federal government will be proud to propel Canada to bigger and better things.

David Lametti is the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development. The Hill Times

An artist’s rendering of OSIRIS-REx. The satellite will reach the asteroid Bennu in December, and once there, it will use a Canadian instrument to create a 3D map of the surface, allowing the spacecraft to land and extract a sample-collection site, writes Mr. Lametti.

Photograph courtesy of Wikimedia

Aerospace Policy Briefing

By Jolson Lim

Canada’s space sector delivers high-impact revenue, high-quality jobs, and innovation that is transforming the everyday lives of Canadians on Earth, from the development of telecommunications satellites to the launch of a number of announced and upcoming investments via the Innovative Space Initiatives. The coming months will be an exciting time for Canada’s Space Program.

As these two important industries—space and aerospace—continue to compete and win on the world stage, our government will be right there, shoulder to shoulder.

This government has committed funding for certain private-sector aerospace-related initiatives, particularly on new technologies. What are the benefits of such funding initiatives?

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The coming months will be an exciting time for Canada’s Space Program. As these two important industries—space and aerospace—continue to compete and win on the world stage, our government will be right there, shoulder to shoulder.
Lost in Space? Sector awaits long-promised national strategy as delays continue

BY JOLSON LIM

A s the Canadian space sector eagerly awaits a promised and overdue national strategy, enthusiasm for the project is waning, according to Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains, stakeholders say they’re looking for certainty when it comes to future funding and a firm commitment to re-establish Canada’s reputation as a key contributor on the international stage.

However, the release of the strategy, initially slated for June 2017, has been delayed repeatedly. Mr. Bains (Mississauga-Malton, Ont.) told journalists in Montreal that the document would be delivered “in the coming months.” He recently told reporters at the Aerospace Industries Association of Canada’s (AIAC) summit in Ottawa earlier this month that his hope is it will be released ahead of the 2019 federal election.

If released in the coming year, the strategy would arrive at a crossroad moment for the Canadian space sector: federal investment in space activity has sagged in recent years, calling into question Canada’s international reputation when it comes to space-related contributions. That’s after years of involvement through projects such as Canadarm and RADARSAT-2. Other countries, such as the United States, States, and China, are now expressing interest in the next generation of space activity.

“It’s really been a difficult decade for us,” said Rob Thacker, president of the Canadian Astronomical Society and a professor at St. Mary’s University in Halifax. “Canada hasn’t been in a good situation for a number of years.”

Prof. Thacker said for astronomers, who work closely with both the private and public sector on projects, a national strategy is badly needed to offer certainty when it comes to funding. He said the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), while doing the best it can, “is now running on fumes” when it comes to funding made available for projects.

Prof. Thacker, who was in Ottawa on Nov. 22 to meet with politicians from different parties, said there hasn’t been a new project approved in space astronomy in Canada since 2009, and it may be a while before another one: “We can take roughly a decade to design, develop, build, and fly a new telescope into space.”

“We will have, essentially, just one [space astronomy] mission from 2020 to 2030,” he said. “And for me, just having one mission is like watching a football game when all you can see is the 50-yard line and two lines around it.”

The Canadian Space Agency’s headquarters in Longueuil, Que. Photograph courtesy of the CSA

That project is the National Aeronautics and Space Administration-led (NASA) James Webb Space Telescope, a $10-billion replacement for the famed Hubble Space Telescope. It is set to launch in 2021, and Canada helped develop its guidance and infrared camera system, which will offer views far deeper into the cosmos than its predecessor.

Prof. Thacker said space astronomy, while certainly costly, provides researchers penetrating views into deep space that a ground telescope can’t offer.

He hopes the federal government will eventually set aside $100-million in annual funding for the CSA for space-based science, allocated through project competition. He said space researchers mostly get funding through the agency, as opposed to the three research funding councils for other scientific fields that recently saw a boost in the 2018 budget. Doing so would bring greater certainty over the long term, Prof. Thacker said.

“First and foremost, we need a strategy,” he said, noting that major project funding is usually found in line items in a budget that have to be approved individually by cabinet. “Do we want projects to be picked, or do we want a strategy itself?”

In an email interview with The Hill Times, Mr. Bains wouldn’t provide any details as to what could be in the strategy. He suggested work was still ongoing, however.

“The minister has also renewed the Space Advisory Board’s mandate to consult Canadians and their recent report is helping guide our next steps,” said the minister’s office.

Mr. Bains renewed the federal government’s advisory board in 2017, tasked the panel to consult with Canadians on a national space strategy. The board released its final report in August 2017, recommending that the federal government designate the space sector as a “national strategic asset” in the areas of observation and security, and economic growth.

The 10-member panel also wants Ottawa to change policies and regulations to encourage the development of space technologies, ensure “well-balanced” federal programming, and renew public education and outreach for young Canadians. All this would allow Canada’s space program to remain “responsive and relevant” to international partners, according to the board.

There are about 10,000 Canadians employed in the country’s space sector, which generated $5.4-billion in revenue in 2015, according to federal figures. That year, Canada’s space sector spent more than $256-million on research and development of new technologies. Related economic activity is heavily centred in and around Montreal. The CSA headquarters is located in Longueuil, Que.

AIAC president and CEO Jim Quick said Canada needs a long-term vision for the sector as a whole, and hopes the feds will provide a “balanced approach” between space exploration and observation and the development of new technology. He said the federal government needs to provide adequate funding going forward.

“We need it in place now because companies are making decisions for the next investment, [and] because we don’t have a long-term plan, they’re not investing in Canada,” he said.

But Mr. Quick said he has to give Mr. Bains “a lot of credit” because he has been pushing for a national vision on space.

“We talked to the opposition parties and their leaders and said this is one of the things that the country needs in order to move forward,” he said. “I believe Mr. Scheer and Mr. Singh are supportive of that,” he added.

According to its departmental plan, planned spending for the agency is pegged at $348-million for 2018-19. Without a new injection of funding after the winding down of previous projects, it’s set to decline to $274-million in 2020-21.

Recently, the last federal budget included a $100-million commitment for the space sector, including a $10-million replacement for the famed Hubble Space Telescope. It is set to launch in 2021, and Canada...
**Aerospace Policy Briefing**

**AIAC to launch stakeholder meetings in December to look at future of Canada’s aerospace industry**

Vision 2025 will be led by former Quebec premier Jean Charest, who has a ‘great deal of passion’ for the aerospace industry, according to association president.

**BY NEIL MOSS**

The Aerospace Industries Association of Canada (AIAC) will soon begin industry consultations on a long-term plan for the future of the Canadian aerospace, aviation, and defence industries, which it says is in decline.

Vision 2025 was launched by AIAC in October to consult the aerospace industry and the government on a future vision for Canada's aerospace.

"Our goal is to ensure that the Canadian aerospace industry has a long-term strategy for the future, and we have policies that help us to succeed in competing in ... [the] global economy," AIAC president Jim Quick said.

He said the vision for the future has to be a combination of public policy and investment.

It will include both a vision for the future, as well as the basis of programs and policies that the industry would like to be in place for the success of Canadian aerospace, Mr. Quick said. He added that he didn’t want to prejudge what is produced by the report.

"Vision 2025 is a really good opportunity for us to set a new [framework] and have a different kind of discussion that we’re currently having ... around what it will take for us to remain to be a global leader in aviation, space, and defence on the air side," Mr. Quick said.

The project will be led by former Quebec premier and former Brian Mulroney-era federal cabinet minister Jean Charest.

As a former premier of Quebec, Mr. Charest is an ideal candidate to lead the project, as Quebec has made aerospace a priority, Mr. Quick said.

"He knows how to develop industrial strategy and national strategy," Mr. Quick said. "He has personal knowledge. [and] he has a great deal of passion for it.

At the Canadian Aerospace Summit held in Ottawa between Nov. 13 and 14, Mr. Charest said that “global competition has never been fiercer, and we’re at a turning point where Canada must step up to compete, or risk being left behind.”

Canada’s aerospace industry is the fifth largest in the world with 100,000 jobs in 2017, and in the same year it contributed $2.5 billion to Canada’s economy.

Roundtables will be held with AIAC’s partners as well as roundtables with others in the industry, and Mr. Charest will also be speaking publicly through chambers of commerce. In addition, there will be a government perspective to look into the policies that are needed to compete on a world stage.

Mr. Quick said the aerospace industry is different than other Canadian industries because the majority of business is exported.

"[Businesses are operating] from Canada, because Canada is a good place to invest, and a good place to export," he said. "If we see that programs that support investment and export start to erode then companies will make decisions on where they need to go in order to do that."

The AIAC wants to ensure Canada’s aerospace industry remains competitive, and part of remaining competitive is ensuring Canada has the right programs and policies.

Canada’s investment in space has dropped from eight globally in 1992, as a percentage of the GDP, to 18th currently.

Additionally, the number of aerospace manufacturing jobs in Canada has dropped by five per cent since 2012.

Countries with established aerospace industries, like France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States, are building long-term policies for the future of their industries, so they can build up a “competitive advantage,” said Mr. Quick, and Canada has an opportunity to grow its own advantage and they don’t have to lose the advantage.

Companies investing aerospace industries that have a long-term vision, and that are funded, Mr. Quick said.

"We want to make sure that Canada remains a place that attracts and retains investment in our sector," Mr. Quick said, "if [Canada] is not careful, we’re going to lose that advantage."

"It’s a concern," that Canada is taking a different approach by not having a national strategy, he added.

Consultations will start on Dec. 10 in Toronto, and end on Jan. 28 in Winnipeg, with five engagements in total.

Mr. Quick said the timing of the report is significant as they want to submit a report to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Navdeep Bains) and (Andrew) McCallum, and other parties, before the next election, so they hope to have the report finished early in the winter.

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**Canada and space security diplomacy: getting back into the game**

Despite the rapid expansion in the use of outer space and a disturbing deterioration in relations among major space powers, the Canadian government lacks a clear foreign policy for space security.

**Opinion**

**Paul Meyer**

There was a time when Canada was known for its activism on space security issues in the international arena. As an early adopter of satellite technology, Canada appreciated the importance of preserving a safe and secure operating environment in outer space. This acknowledged interest was reflected in Canada’s diplomacy. Among the measures that prime minister Pierre Trudeau advocated during his Peace Initiative of 1983, 84 was a ban on high-altitude anti-satellite weapons recognizing the risk that the debris created by such weapons would pose for all space operations (a risk that has only increased significantly in the interim as use of space has grown exponentially with some 1800 satellites currently active).

In tandem with its diplomatic initiative, the Canadian government invested in a major study of the feasibility of utilizing satellites to verify future outer space arms control agreements. This study, known as PAXSAT, concluded that it would be feasible to provide such verification via space-based technology.

The organizing principle behind Canada’s diplomatic effort was to support the non-weaponization of outer space. The centrality of this objective is best understood against the backdrop of two realities: the cold war and the space-based technology.

In the beginning of the 2000s the Canadian Foreign Ministry had been an eager partner with The Von Braun Foundation’s National Working Group in funding two major projects relating to space security: an annual international symposium on space security held in Geneva and an annual publication entitled Space Security Index that provides a survey of developments in the use of outer space and their implications for space security. Under the previous government the contributions of the Foreign Ministry were reduced and soon terminated. These projects have had to progress with reduced resources and the lack of Canadian governmental engagement.

Despite the rapid expansion in the use of outer space and a disturbing deterioration in relations among major space powers, the Canadian government lacks a clear foreign policy for space security. The Defence Policy Review outcome of June 2017, which contains a look-into section on Canadian Forces engagement in space, also pledges DND’s active support for Global Anti-Satellite Defense (GASSD). The government’s aim is to preserve space for peaceful purposes. It remains to be seen whether Canada will resume participation in outer space development and implementing such a strategy.

Paul Meyer is a former Canadian diplomat and is affiliated with the University of Toronto, The Simons Foundation. He is also a founding member of the Outer Space Institute (wwwouterspaceinstitute.ca). He can be reached at pmeyer@sfu.ca

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**The Hill Times**

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The Hill Times
Feds’ lack of certainty being noted in international space community

Canada needs to act now to ensure that we don’t lose out on the space sector boom due to our inflexibility and inability to adapt to a rapidly changing sector.

Conservative Senator Dennis Patterson
Opinion

According to the Canada Space Agency’s 2016 report entitled, “State of the Canadian Space Sector. Covering the Results from Our 2016 Survey,” the space industry contributed $3.2-billion to Canada’s GDP and supports just shy of 22,000 jobs in the country.

However, Canada’s space sector is subject to industry regulations and an equally out-of-step law called the Remote Sensing Space Systems Act, also known as the RSSSA.


The review, among other findings, found that the act is not flexible enough to keep up with the pace of a rapidly changing space sector. Perhaps most significantly, it found that, “Although the objective of the act is to balance the public interests of Canada with the private interests of commercial remote sensing operators, the act leans more in favour of protecting Canadian national security interests at the expense of technological development and commercial interests.”

This has had a direct impact on our ability to compete.

Let us examine the curious case of the Inuvik satellite ground station in the Northwest Territories. Due to its location, the ground station in Inuvik is one of two of the best places in the world that is well-positioned to constantly download valuable data from low-earth orbit satellites. The Canadian Satellite Ground Station Inuvik (CSGSI) Inc. project was published: “…to support satellite owners and operators with commercial services related to data reception and satellite command and control.”

CSGSI has the potential to become a world-class facility and the resulting investment would help to offset the noticeable $102-million CAD investment of the Northwest Territories used to establish telecommunication infrastructure in the territory. It would also help establish Canada as a stable jurisdiction for international investment in this sector. The call to modernize the act also came directly from Tom Zubko, president of New North Networks whose company has been working with international stakeholders to try and license this world-class facility.

During an appearance before the Special Committee on the Arctic, Zubko stated, “With the proliferation and demand for space-based applications, the new drivers of the global satellite marketplace are high-tech commercial enterprises which are global in scale, multidimensional in services, highly proficient in infrastructure development and consumed by early delivery and short timelines.” Zubko went on to voice his frustration at the government’s seeming lack of “clear protocol on process or timelines with respect to private satellite facilities.”

This lack of certainty is being noted in the international space community. Canada needs to act now to ensure that we don’t lose out on the space sector boom due to our inflexibility and inability to adapt to a rapidly changing sector.

Navanuct Aerospace Senator Dennis Patterson is a former president of the Northwest Territories. The Hill Times

No transition to ‘innovation economy’ without rejuvenating Canada’s space sector

Navdeep Bains is absolutely correct to say the space sector’s importance warrants taking the time necessary to get the long-term plan right. Rejuvenating our space sector and integrating it into the Innovation Agenda is critical to realizing new opportunities between sectors and better position Canada to compete in global economy.

Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains recently stated that Canadians could expect Canada’s long-term space policy “before the end of the administration’s mandate in late 2019.”

Promised in 2017, this delay seems like a misplaced bet. Sadly, federal inaction goes for par on the space file; Canada’s last long-term space plan was set in 1994.

There has been no shortage of dire warnings from industry, former astronauts, and even government appointed experts, like the Emerson Report panel and the current Space Advisory Board. Just like Cassandra’s prophecies, their words go unheeded.

But I’ll set out the tragedy of this inaction. What is newseworthy is why a government that is focused on building an “innovation economy” is treating the space sector with such meekness.

Effective innovation policy requires cultivating an ecosystem with the greatest number and diversity of problems and solutions. This is accomplished by facilitating relationships between as many different sectors as possible.

Space plays a crucial role in our global information-based society. Indeed, the space sector primarily supports other sectors. Agriculture, mining, commercial shipping, finance, telecommunication, national security, environmental conservation; all rely on satellites.

Through its connection to nearly every sector, space is a prime conduit for conveying solutions to problems. Think of space as an “innovation multiplier”: 5G connectivity, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, weather forecasting, satellite communications, etc. are all space sector spin-offs.

It is not like the space sector is a cash sink. In fact, space boasts among the highest economic multipliers in the Canadian economy. Our GDP is increased by $1.2 for every $1 directly invested into space. Another $1.85 in GDP is induced through cooperating sectors. Every space sector job creates an additional 1.5 jobs in supporting value-chains. Moreover, the space sector employee is over double that of the Canadian average: $100,000 versus the $73,000 national average.

Beyond its economic credentials and its ability to accelerate innovation, the space sector is also crucial to transporting the strategic resource of the 21st century: data.

The past two decades have seen exponential growth in our production of and reliance on information. Mobile telephones, human and physical alike, in the most efficient manner possible. This trend will only continue. Consider that all disruptive technologies currently being implemented or developed centre on data: autonomous vehicles, 5G connectivity, artificial intelligence, etc.

Not only are new technologies increasingly integrated and data dependent, but their very use creates new opportunities for further information capture and platform integration. The resulting “innovation feedback loop” demands increasingly potent communications infrastructure that can transfer more data, quicker, farther, cheaper, more reliably and with greater security.

Satellite-based communications have played and will continue to play an integral part in facilitating the global economy’s data needs.

It should come as no surprise that the global space sector has boomed: more than tripling since 2005 to US$300-billion and projected to triple again to over US$1-trillion by 2040 (or to $1.2-trillion by 2030). The Canadian experience demonstrates that government policies which cultivate and read the room. They understood where the global economy was going and space’s role in augmenting innovation and integrating them into vital communications networks. They set focused and robust policies in place and have reaped the rewards.

In fairness, Bains is absolutely correct to say the space sector’s importance warrants taking the time necessary to get the long-term plan right. Rejuvenating our space sector and integrating it into the Innovation Agenda is critical to realizing new opportunities between sectors and better position Canada to compete in global economy.

Otherwise, we are fishing without bait, and our competitors are eating our dynamite. Andrei Litvinenko is the former vice president of policy for the Canadian Space Commerce Association and adviser to the former chair of the Parliamentary Aerospace and Space Caucus. He is a member of the Ontario Law Society. The Hill Times

Policy Briefing Aerospace

ambitious entrepreneurs, and precious investment capital. The 15 competitors we had in 1990 have ballooned to 56—and they are all eager to take our capital, passion, and expertise.

Consider that the U.K. has tripled the size of its space sector since 2001, both in terms of revenue and employment. The long-term strategy they introduced in 2010 helped them nearly double their GDP over the last six years (from $8.3-billion in 2010 to $14.9-billion today).

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When we have to decommission, and turn the lights off for 10 years, it's going to be hard to say goodbye because it's such a grand building. But at the same time, in a very specific part of the building, what I'm going to miss the most is the view from looking out the Peace Tower in the morning, especially when the sun is up.

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Libs call Ford’s ‘interlaying’ with federal Tories unprecedented, but say they’re not worried

Polster Nik Nansos says Ontario Premier Doug Ford’s support is ‘very important’ to Andrew Scheer’s Conservatives, but also says the premier has to ensure his personal brand is not ‘subsumed’ by Doug Ford.

News

Continued from page 1

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, federal Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer, and Ontario Premier Doug Ford. Mr. Ford says he will help Mr. Scheer at the next federal election and could lend his name to Tories across the country.

Quirin has been publicly exchanging verbal salutes since the former was elected in the Ontario PC lead last year, and even more so since he became premier in June with a landslide majority, claiming Mr. Wynne, and the Liberal Party, out of office.

While Mr. Ford has said most of his activities have been focused on running for prime minister, after he made numerous statements opposing this country’s federal carbon tax, but the premier denied that he had any such ambition.

He’s aware of our international obligations to the environment. In February, the Liberal government to cough up $200-million for the province to house these people. He described Mr. Trudeau’s financial burden on the province to house refugees as “a major impediment” to his ability to do the same when she was in office and Mr. Ford was the Ontario premier.

“Mr. Ford, you can’t just do things in isolation,” Mr. Quirin said. “You have to coordinate your actions with the rest of the federal government and the provinces. It’s a conversation that has to happen.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, federal Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer, and Ontario Premier Doug Ford. Mr. Ford says he will help Mr. Scheer at the next federal election and could lend his name to Tories across the country.

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“Mr. Ford, you can’t just do things in isolation,” Mr. Quirin said. “You have to coordinate your actions with the rest of the federal government and the provinces. It’s a conversation that has to happen.

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‘Climate change ultimate existential threat,’ PM Trudeau should appoint a war cabinet to tackle this issue, says Green Party Leader May

War cabinet should be representative of Parliament, says Green Party Leader Elizabeth May

Continued from page 1

“We’re not paying attention to the biggest threat that’s in front of us.”

Ms. May said she’s currently in the process of trying to get a sit-down meeting with Prime Minister Trudeau (Papineau, Que.) to discuss the idea in detail. She said if the prime minister chooses to go ahead with it, it would ultimately be Mr. Trudeau’s decision as to how he wants to structure the climate change cabinet. She, however, said that her suggestion would be that all parties should be represented in this cabinet.

“I should be representative of Parliament, so New Democrats, Liberals, Conservatives, but preferably those who understand climate issues,” said Ms. May. “I could put together a solid effort that’s non-partisan.” Ms. May said that another idea that she would want to discuss with the prime minister is to start a special all-party committee of Parliament on climate change. This committee would be tasked with finding practical solutions for Canada to address climate change. She said that it could be modeled on the special all-party committee that studied the Meech Lake Accord in 1990, which former prime minister Brian Mulroney set up in his second mandate.

But a spokesman for the prime minister did not say clearly if the prime minister would consider either of the two ideas proposed by Ms. May.

“As the prime minister has said, we are the first generation to see the solution to the problem of climate change and we are the last generation who are able to act on it,” wrote PMO press secretary Matt Pascuzzo, in an email to The Hill Times. “We need to leave a clean, healthy planet for our kids and grandkids, which is why our government is taking real action to fight climate change. We are putting a price on pollution, phasing out coal fired power plants, protecting our oceans and investing in clean technology. The prime minister is always happy to work with Ms. May on a variety of issues, including on fighting climate change.”

According to the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) landmark report released last month, countries around the world have 12 years to arrest climate change, or it will lead to devastating effects that will be irreversible, such as the loss of ecosystems. At the 2015 climate conference in Paris, 195 countries agreed to limit global warming to below 2 C above pre-industrial levels, and make efforts to limit it to 1.5 C. The IPCC report examined the effects of global warming of 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels, compared to 2 C above pre-industrial levels. For this examination, the experts reviewed 6,000 scientific reports, and the final report was penned and edited by scientific experts from 40 countries.

According to the report, the global warming will likely hit 1.5 C between 2030-2052, at the current rates, and determined that the negative impacts of global warming are significantly higher at 2 C compared to 1.5 C. The report recommended that the global warming must be limited to 1.5 C. The IPCC report will be presented at next month’s United Nation’s Climate Conference in Katowice, Poland.

In interviews with The Hill Times last week, MPs from different parties offered mixed reactions to Ms. May’s ideas. Liberal MP Mark Gerretsen (Kingston and the Islands, Ont.) told The Hill Times that he takes Ms. May’s views on environment and climate change very seriously, but said he’d want to get more concrete details from Ms. May about her specific ideas of a war cabinet and an all-party committee on climate change before offering any opinion.

“I take any suggestion that Elizabeth May has regarding how to fight climate change, very seriously,” said Mr. Gerretsen. “I would like to hear more about that proposal. I’m certainly of the mindset that this does not need to be a partisan issue, we’re well beyond that. The science is real. We’re seeing it all around us and we need to start doing something to have meaningful change on our climate agenda, not just in Canada or individual provinces but globally.”

Ms. May said she’s currently in the process of writing down the details of both ideas and will share it with Mr. Trudeau and with the All Party Environment Caucus, which is scheduled to meet on Dec. 4 on the Hill. Ms. May said she started this caucus along with Liberal MP Kirsty Duncan (Ethelkoke North, Ont.) in 2011, who is now the Science Minister, and the caucus meets every two weeks. Ms. Duncan now is a member of Mr. Trudeau’s cabinet and holds the portfolio of Science and Sport.

At the next meeting of the all party Environment caucus, MPs will receive off the record briefings from experts on what Canada can do to address the issue of climate change. The caucus does not have a fixed membership, and any MP can show up to attend the meetings. NDP MP Nathan Cullen ( Skeena-Bulkley Valley, B.C.) told The Hill Times that he does not believe the Trudeau government is seriously addressing the climate change issue, and said therefore the idea of a war cabinet is impractical. He said the Liberals are good at consulting but not in taking concrete action.

However, Mr. Cullen said his party would agree to be part of any parliamentary committee if the government agreed in advance to give the committee power to come up with binding targets and concrete actions. In the absence of that, Mr. Cullen said that an all-party committee would be another process body to study an issue, which is not needed.

“We would only see virtue in sitting down at an all-party table if that table had the power to actually legislate targets and actions rather than just being another advisory group to the government,” said Mr. Cullen. Conservative MP Michael Cooper (St. Albert-Edmonton, Alta.) said he takes climate change seriously, but called both of Ms. May’s ideas impractical. He said climate change is not the only important issue, but said there are other issues such as the economy, and the pipelines that are also important and must be tackled urgently.

“It is an important issue, but the economy is an important issue, getting our energy to markets is an important issue, there’s a number of issues that we have to tackle,” said Mr. Cooper. “We need to tackle them together.”
New policy director, adviser for Justice Minister Wilson-Raybould

Elizabeth Cheesbrough recently joined Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale’s office as a new senior policy adviser.

Canada’s federal Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould has strengthened her ministerial policy team, including hiring former Ontario Liberal adviser Nicholas Daube to take over as director of policy in her office.

He officially joined Ms. Wilson-Raybould’s staff team on Nov. 19, and replaces former policy director Keith Smith, who exited the role as of Sept. 18. Since then, senior policy adviser Audrey DeMarisco had been filling in as acting policy director to the minister.

Before coming to Ottawa to work on Parliament Hill, Mr. Daube was busy at work at Queen’s Park in Toronto, last as director of Ontario-U.S. relations in then-Ontario Liberal premier Kathleen Wynne’s office, which he first joined in November 2017, as noted on his LinkedIn account.

Mr. Daube first began working at Queen’s Park in February 2015 as a senior policy adviser to then-finance minister Charles Sousa, and before joining the premier’s office he briefly served as director of policy to the province’s minister of environment and climate change, starting under then-minister Glen Murray and ending under then-minister Chris Ballard.

Prior to entering political work, Mr. Daube spent almost seven years working as a lawyer: almost two-and-a-half years with Adair Morse LLP, and the rest as a lawyer with Norton Rose Fullbright, both in Toronto.

He has a bachelor’s degree in political studies from Queen’s University, law degrees from the University of Toronto and Columbia University in New York City, and articles with McCarthy Tétrault.

Along with Mr. Daube, Nicola Langille was recently hired on as a new policy adviser in Ms. Wilson-Raybould’s office; she started on Nov. 13.

Along with Ms. DeMarisco, also current on the minister’s policy team in her office under Ms. Wilson-Raybould, are Benji Prud’homme, Farzin Yousefi an, and Nicola Langille.

The newly hired Ms. Langille has a couple of new sides in her ministerial office.

For one thing, Chloe Van Bussel joined the minister’s staff team on Oct. 19 as the new assistant to the parliamentary secretary, Liberal MP Marc Miller.

Ms. Van Bussel moved to Ottawa from Quebec City in last month. Up until the Oct. 1 provincial election, which saw now-premier François Legault’s Coalition Avenir Quebec party take power, Ms. Van Bussel was a staffer under the former Quebec Liberal government, last as a policy adviser to then-Quebec native affairs minister Geoffrey Kelley.

She started out working at the national assembly as an aide to Mr. Kelley as the MLA for Jacques-Cartier, Que., at the beginning of 2016.

Policy adviser Jessica Morrison is another recent addition to Ms. Bennett’s team, having started on the job on Nov. 7.

She joined the minister’s office straight from Canadian Heritage Minister Pablo Rodriguez’s office, where she’d been working as a policy adviser since January, starting under then-minister Mélanie Joly, who is now the Minister for Tourism, Official Languages, and La Francophonie.

Jessica Morrison is now a policy adviser to Minister Bennett. Photograph courtesy of LinkedIn

Nicola Langille is a new policy adviser to the Justice Minister. Photograph courtesy of LinkedIn

A national field organizer for the federal Liberals in Manitoba during the 2015 election, Ms. Bennett started off working for the Trudeau government as the communications manager and Western regional affairs adviser to Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale, ultimately spending time in the minister’s office before moving over to heritage.

While studying a bachelor’s degree in political science and government at the University of Manitoba, she spent a year as a volunteer for student services for the university’s students’ union. Ms. Morrison is also a former page at Manitoba’s Legislative Assembly in Winnipeg.

In belated staffing news, policy and regional affairs adviser Annalisa Harris left Ms. Bennett’s office in March. She had been working for the minister since the beginning of 2016.

Daniel Pujdak is now director of policy to Ms. Bennett, while Anne Aningmiq and Emmarking (English) policy team are also now regional affairs advisers. Sarah Welch is chief of staff.

Over in Mr. Rodriguez’s office, the minister has already welcomed a new policy adviser on board, with Sara Korajian having joined the minister’s team as a policy and western and northern regional affairs adviser on Nov. 8. In this role, she’ll be responsible for the Indigenous languages and performing arts files.

Before joining the heritage minister’s office, Ms. Korajian had been working in the Liberal research bureau on the Hill as a special assistant for operations and western and northern regional portfolio since early 2017.

A Vancouver native, she previously spent more than two-and-a-half years as a parliamentary assistant to Liberal MP Hedy Fry on the Hill, starting in September 2014.

Ms. Fry has been the Liberal MP for Vancouver Centre, B.C., since 1993.

Patricia Beh is director of policy to Mr. Rodriguez, while Maxime Dea is chief of staff.

Cheesbrough joins Minister Goodale’s team

Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Minister Ralph Goodale recently welcomed veteran Liberal staffer Elizabeth Cheesbrough onto his team as a senior policy adviser, as of Oct. 29.

Ms. Cheesbrough joins the minister’s team from Liberal MP Adam Vaughan’s office, where she’s been working as an assistant to the MP for Spadina-Fort York, Ont., since he was elected in a June 2014 byelection.

She started out working on the Hill in 1998 as a special assistant to then-secretary of state for parks, Liberal MP Andy Mitchell. She stuck with Mr. Mitchell through his subsequent posts as secretary of state for rural development, and as minister of Indian affairs and northern development, until 2004, when she joined then-human resources and skills development minister Joe Volpe’s office.

Ms. Cheesbrough followed Mr. Volpe to his next cabinet post as citizenship and immigration minister before the Liberal government was defeated in 2006, after which she served as an executive assistant to Mr. Volpe as the MP for Eglinton-Lawrence, Ont.

Since then, she’s also been an assistant to now-former Liberal MP Judy Foote, and was a policy adviser in the Liberal research bureau under Bob Rae as interim Liberal leader.

Marc Sures is chief of staff to Mr. Goodale.

Meanwhile, Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna has made some changes to her communications staff line-up.

Eric Campbell, who had been acting as director of communications, is now a senior adviser for communications and strategy to the minister. Mr. Campbell first joined Ms. McKenna’s office in July, stepping in as interim communications director after Julia Kilpatrick went on maternity leave.

He’s a former director of communications and outreach for the Smart Prosperity Institute, a former director of programs at the Diffusion Project, the QUEST (Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow), and a former principal with PaperBag Consulting in Ottawa, amongst other past roles.

Ms. Kilpatrick remains on maternity leave, set to return this winter; in turn, press secretary Cameron Herrington has stepped up as the minister’s new interim director of communications. Ms. Herrington has been press secretary to Ms. McKenna since March and before then was an assistant to Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland’s parliamentary secretary for Canada-U.S. relations, Liberal MP Andrew Leslie.

Marlo Raynolds is chief of staff to Ms. McKenna.

Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

by Laura Ryckewaert

The Hill Times | Monday, November 26, 2018

HILL CLIMBERS

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37

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“Expense claims by former governors general have come under scrutiny. Should the program allowing such claims be changed?”

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“While governors general are people who have stepped up and offered a great deal of service to their country, Canadians rightfully expect accountability and transparency when it comes to how they spend public money. It is right for Canadians to be informed of expenses they incur but they cover? When it comes to taxpayer dollars, it’s reasonable for Canadians to be asking for greater transparency.”

“The government should examine these cases and revisit their policies accordingly. For example, how long should taxpayers be on the hook for someone no longer in the role? Is it a few years? Does it actually have to be for life?”

“I respect the role of governor general and sometimes it may require helping them continue some of the work they do, but years after they have left the position, and have moved on in their careers, it is fair to continue to cover expenses in the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually? At the least, that should be part of any look the government gives this.”

“The NDP is also concerned that Canadians pay $100,000 a year in office expenses for this former governor general when she no longer appears to be employed by the government. This is wrong, and we can use that money more appropriately: “Instead, the government could use that money to fight to make a real difference in the lives of Canadians who are facing increases in costs and fewer opportunities. From rising out-of-pocket health costs, to out-of-control housing prices, to an environment under threat, Canadians are disappointed with the current government for its failure to deliver actual help.”

“These are the issues that matter most to Canadians, and the NDP is determined to make a positive difference in the lives of Canadians.”

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MPs cheer for chicken at the annual showcase on the Hill

The Hill Times photographs by Andrew Meade

MacAulay celebrates 30 years on Parliament Hill ...MAAAAGINE!

Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Dominic LeBlanc and Senate Speaker George Furey.

Mr. MacAulay thanks the crowd.

Guests sported many buttons of Mr. MacAulay.

Mr. MacAulay and Health Minister Ginette Petitpas-Taylor.

Trade Minister Jim Carr, right, in conversation.

Olympic Swimmer Hillary Caldwell stands with Swimming Canada’s Nathan Adair looking at the Rio Bronze Olympic medal, while another guest looks on.

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The Hill Times | Monday, November 26, 2018 | 41

Policy briefi ng

ENERGY

Publication date: December 3, 2018
Advertising deadline: November 28, 2018

In this important and timely Energy Policy Briefing, The Hill Times will look at the increasing rise of renewables and the federal government’s programs in place to accelerate them. We’ll look at the economic viability of continuing to extract the oilsands. We’ll also look at which pipelines are approved, which ones aren’t and which ones have been dropped. We’ll take a look at the nuclear energy argument. And we’ll take a look at hydropower’s future.

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monday, november 26, 2018 | the hill times

heard on the hill
by neil moss

Standing oustide the House before his question to Ms. Petipas Taylor.

CPC’s 2019 campaign manager talks data and democracy

Hamish Marshall, the 2019 national campaign manager for the Conservative Party, recently took part in a panel, but on it not.

A Parliamentary Flush: World Toilet Day hits the Hill

Tia Bhatia, left, and International Development Minister’s Parliamentary Secretary Kamal Khaira, right, discuss the importance of World Toilet Day on Parliament Hill.

Neha Berti of Resuits Canada, Ms. Bharia, Government House Leader Bardish Chagger, and Tia Bhatia shedding some light on world toilet day.

event, as reported by The Wire Report, a sister publication of The Hill Times.

He said the ability of Cambridge Analytica to predict voter turnout was poor.

The “funny thing about all the attention on political parties is we’re really kind of the rumbling in the room,” Mr. Marshall said. “Political parties actually aren’t very good at this. The people who are really good at it are large corporations who’ve got a much bigger ongoing relationship with their customers.”

The panel, which took place on Nov. 19 at the Chateau Laurier Hotel, was moderated by Global News Ottawa bureau chief Mercedes Stephenson.

Also on the panel was Liberal MP Beradette Jordan, the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Democratic Institutions, national director for corporate affairs at Microsoft Canada, Marlene Floyd; and Ken Hampton, a Carleton University professor and director of the Centre for International Governance Innovation.

Pearson Centre conference to talk 43rd Parliament’s final year

As all eyes turn to the 2019 election, there is another year of governance left for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s Liberal majority.

A conference being hosted by the Pearson Centre for Progressive Policy on Nov. 26 will look at the plan for the 43rd Parliament’s final lap.

Former Ontario Liberal premier Dalton McGuinty, who was in charge of Canada’s most populous province for a decade from 2003 to 2013, will speak, as will Liberal MPs Catherine McKenna and Ruby Sahota, NDP MP Nathan Cullen, and Green Party Leader Elizabeth May, along with Independent Senator Yuen Pau Woo.

Canadian Chamber of Commerce president Perrin Beatty and Professional Institute of the Public Service (PIPS) president Dedi Daviau will talk about the public and private sectors.

The conference is being held at Ottawa’s Delta Hotel on Nov. 26, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tickets are $125 for general admission, and $35 for seniors and students.
Pearson Centre’s Year Four Conference happens Monday in Ottawa

**The Pearson Centre’s conference on Nov. 26 will focus on year four of this Parliament and what this Parliament needs to accomplish in the year ahead before the next election in 2019. Held at the Delta Hotel in Ottawa, at 11:30 a.m., there will be a panel on priorities of the political parties and the Senate, with Liberal MP Ruby Sapnara, NDP MP Nathan Cullen, Green Party Leader Elizabeth May, and ISG Sen. Tuan Pham. The conference is expected to be closed for 10 years for a major renovation and rehabilitation project, so that’s why it’s taking place in 2018.**

**Monday, Nov. 26**

**The Year Four Conference: Tying Up Loose Ends** —The Pearson Centre’s conference will focus on year four of this Parliament and what this Parliament needs to accomplish in the year ahead before the next election in 2019. Ministers, MPs from all parties, and Senators are invited to talk about what they plan to do in the year ahead. Key topics include: labour, academia, NGOs, and other will put forward their top priorities for government action.

8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Nov. 26. At 8:30 a.m., there will be a panel on the political climate with Mark Wilson’s Kevin, former top staffer in the Liberal Research Secretariat. At 11:30 a.m., former Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty will talk about “What is Year Four About?” At 10 a.m., there will be a panel on economic priorities, with: FCM’s Brock Carlton, Council for Aboriginal Business’ J.P. Grud, Carleton University’s Ian Lee, CFB’s Reena Pohlet, and CAF’s Toby Sanger. At 1:30 p.m., there will be a panel on priorities of the political parties and the Senate, with Liberal MP Ruby Sapnara, NDP MP Nathan Cullen, Green Party Leader Elizabeth May, and ISG Sen. Tuan Pham. At 12:30 p.m., there will be a working lunch and a conversation with Environment Minister Catherine McKenna. At 1:30 p.m., there will be a panel on the private and the public sector, with: Canadian Chamber of Commerce president Perrin Beatty, PIPSC president Debi Daviau and Innovation Canada’s Pamela Fralick. At 2 p.m., there will be a panel on economic innovation, with: tMontreal’s Kelly McCoag, gold medal kayaker Adam van Koeverden, the Catholic Church for Immigrants’ Carolin Nicholson, and Ignite youth activist Dara Wawatay Chabo.

**Wednesday, Nov. 29**

**Liberal Caucus Meeting** —The Liberals will meet in Room 709-2 Centre Block on Parliament Hill. For more information, please contact Liberal Party media relations at media@liberal.ca or 613-627-2384.

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

**NDP Caucus Meeting** —The NDP caucus will meet from 9:15-11 a.m. in the West Building. For more information, contact Vito Mancini, at vito.mancini@ndp.ca.

**Bacon and Eggs Breakfast: What Will It Take for Canada to Finally Solve Inequities in Water Health Challenges?** —With Nadja Mohsen, University of British Columbia, is a talk presented by the Partnership Group on Sustainable Water Engineering. Room 279, 7:30 a.m.-8:45 a.m. Sir John A. Macdonald (SJAM) Building. Room 100. Free for Members of the House, Senators, parliamentary staff, and media. Others $15. Breakfast included. Pre-registration is required by November 26 by contacting Megan Johnson at mphotonature.ca or 613-868-7437.

**Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC) An- nual December Special Chiefs Assembly** —First Nations, Elders, youth, and delegates will gather on unceded territory in Ottawa, Ont., for the first annual December Special Chiefs Assembly. First Nations leaders and representatives will discuss current issues and priorities and set direction for the coming year. A parliamentary reception will be held for parlia- mentarians, diplomats, and First Nation leaders on Dec. 4 from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. at the Shaw Centre (for information on the reception contact Naomi Sarazin at NSarazin@blueskystrategygroup.com or 613-978-3643 ext. 135). Information and a provisional agenda for the Special Chiefs Assembly are available on the AFN website at www.afn.ca. More details.

**Yukon Days Reception** —Former Liberal MP Larry Bagnell invited all Parliamentarians and staff to attend the annual Yukon Days Reception with special guests, Intergovernmental and Northern Affairs and Internal Trade Minister, Dominic LeBlanc, Yukon Premier, Sandy Silver, and Yukon College President, Dr. Karen Barnes, on Tuesday, Nov. 26, 9:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 180 Wellington, Room 430. Please RSVP to larry@larrybagnellmp.com (Public entrance at 197 Sparks Street).

**Friday, Dec. 8**

**Prime Minister to Host First Ministers’ Meeting and Meeting With National Indigenous Leaders**—Prime Min- ister Justin Trudeau will host a first ministers’ meeting and a meeting with national Indigenous leaders on Dec. 7 in Montreal. He will be joined by Dominic LeBlanc, minister of intergovernmental affairs, northern affairs and international trade. The first ministers will discuss the new USMCA and how to diversify international trade while improving trade within Canada’s own borders. First ministers will also meet with leaders of the AFN, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and the Métis National Council to discuss how all governments can contribute to continued economic growth and prosper- ity for Indigenous peoples. For more information, call the PMO Press Office at 613-957-5555.

**Monday, Dec. 10**

**Parliamentary Transatlantic Forum** —The Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association will take part on Dec. 10 in the Parliamentary Transatlantic Forum in Washington, D.C. The Parliamentary Calendar is a free events listing. Send in your political, cultural, diplomatic, or governmental event to events@thehilltimes.com or until Dec. 10. Please subject line “Parliamentary Calendar” to news@thehilltimes.com by Wednesday at noon before the Monday paper or by Friday at noon for the Wednesday paper. We can’t guaran- tee inclusion of every event, but we will definitely do our best. Events can be updated daily online too. The Hill Times
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