



# Environment policy briefing

With Catherine McKenna, Alexandre Boulerice, Elizabeth May, Ed Fast, Sean Fraser, Vanessa Corkal, Peteris Ustubs, Myra Hird, Simon Dyer, & more pp.17-28

MP staffers get long service nod: Climbers p. 30



# THE HILL TIMES

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CANADA'S POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER

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News Public service

## Public servants, feds inch closer to contracts with tentative agreements before election

BY MIKE LAPOINTE

A growing number of federal public service unions have made significant progress in their negotiations with the government, with many securing tentative agreements around wage increases and restitution from the problem-plagued Phoenix pay system.

Bargaining units within the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, representing scientists and professionals, have reached tentative agreements with the Treasury Board to secure a seven per cent wage increase over the next four years, but "most of our groups that have achieved tentative agreements also got about another one per cent in their group agreement," said PIPSC President Debi Daviau in an interview with *The Hill Times*. "It just boils down to where the government drew its line this time, which is about eight per cent over four years for pretty much everyone so far."

The agreement also secures 10 paid days of leave for survivors of domestic violence, as well as the expansion of parental leave by five weeks—provisions which are

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News MMIWG

## Indigenous women look to federal parties to commit to national inquiry calls in October platforms



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau receives the final report on the inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls at the Museum of History on June 3. Now that the report is in the hands of politicians, those whose lives have been touched by the history of violence say they're looking for federal parties to include its recommendations in their fall election platforms. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

BY LAURA RYCKEWAERT

With the release of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and

Girls' final report and recommendations, Indigenous women say they're looking to all federal parties to pick up the inquiry's calls in their platforms for October.

"I'm really hoping that all the parties will make a commitment to what their platform will be in addressing the murdered and missing women's inquiry report,"

Viola Thomas, from Tk'emlups Indian Band in B.C., told *The Hill Times* during the national inquiry's

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News Election 2019

## Conservative party leads nominees, NDP lag with quarter of ridings confirmed

BY SAMANTHA WRIGHT ALLEN

Five months out from the federal election, the Conservative Party has the most candidates named, its 277 nominees far ahead of the governing Liberals'

197 candidates, according to the latest numbers from their parties.

That means the Tories have filled 82 per cent of the 338 ridings needed to offer a full slate. Maxime Bernier's (Beauce, Que.) People's Party of Canada isn't far

behind his former party, with 217 candidates chosen, said spokesperson Martin Masse.

The NDP, meanwhile, has filled a quarter of the ridings, lagging behind all others. Its 87 nominees put it more than 50 people behind

the Green Party's 141. The Conservatives, Liberals, and People's Party each more than double the New Democrat numbers.

The majority of the Liberal cohort is pulled from existing MPs, with at least 161 of the 184

elected in 2015 deciding to go for another four-year run.

That's the highest proportion of incumbent MPs running again of the three major parties, noted

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## HEARD ON THE HILL

by Neil Moss

# House Speaker Regan hosts kitchen party at Kingsmere Farm



House of Commons Speaker Geoff Regan joins the band to sing a rendition of the Anne Murray classic *Song for the Mira* during his East Coast Kitchen party hosted at The Farm in Kingsmere, QC on June 3, 2019. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

Members of Parliament and members of the parliamentary press gallery rubbed elbows at the House of Commons Speaker's Residence in Kingsmere on June 3.



Geoff Regan dances with guests at his East Coast Kitchen Party. *The Hill Times* photograph by Neil Moss

Dozens of oysters, shrimp, salmon, and lobster were served at 'The Farm' along with Halifax donairs with the signature special sauce.

House Speaker **Geoff Regan** was spotted on the dance floor with Reuters' **Kelsey Johnson** and *The Hill Times*' **Andrew Meade**, among others. Mr. Regan also took the microphone to sing a rendition of the Anne Murray classic *Song for the Mira* with the band, Hadrian's Wall.

Various local breweries took part in Conservative MP **Scott Reid**'s annual beer tasting, which took place alongside the Speaker's event. Speaker Regan's own scotch was also a popular item for the guests, a 12-year-old Aberlour Highland single malt.

Independent MPs **Tony Clement** and **Erin Weir** were seen chatting. Liberal MP **Darren Fraser** donned a Boston Bruins jersey and cap. Game four of the Stanley Cup Finals was being broadcast at the outdoor kitchen party, Mr. Fraser's beloved Bruins lost to the St. Louis Blues 4-2, evening the series 2-2.

Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction Minister **Bill Blair** was spotted chatting with the *Huffington Post*'s **Althia Raj**.

East Coast MP **Matt DeCoursey** was there, along with fellow Liberal MPs **Jennifer O'Connell**, **John McKay**, **Chris Bittle**, and **Rachel Bendayan**. Conservative MP **Michael Barrett** was among the crowd, as well as NDP MP **Gord Johns**.

The MPs were joined by *The Globe and Mail*'s **Campbell Clark** and **Bill Curry**,

CTV's **Annie Bergeron-Oliver**, **Mackenzie Gray**, and **Rachel Gilmore**, *Huffington Post*'s **Zi-Ann Lum**, CBC's **David Thurton**, *National Post*'s **Marie-Danielle Smith** and **Jesse Snyder**, Global's **Amanda Connolly**, Reuters' **David Ljunggren**, *Journal de Montréal*'s **Christopher Nardi**, *Presse Canadienne*'s **Catherine Lévesque**, and **Stephen Maher**, among others.

## Jeffrey Simpson and other press gallery vets get mugged

Former *Globe and Mail* national affairs columnist **Jeffrey Simpson** recently received a mug in honour of his lengthy journalism career on Parliament Hill.

Mr. Simpson, who was also given life membership in the Parliamentary Press Gallery in the mugging on May 31, first joined *The Globe* in 1974 after working as an intern for then-future NDP leader **Ed Broadbent**.

Mr. Simpson is an award-winning



Former *Globe and Mail* national columnist Jeffrey Simpson. *The Hill Times* file photograph

author and has published eight books on Canadian politics and current affairs; he first started his national affairs column in 1984. Over the years, Mr. Simpson served as Ottawa bureau chief and a European correspondent for the paper.

The Parliamentary Press Gallery gives a mug to every departing member if they have been on the Hill for three years in what's known as a "mugging" ceremony.

A few others received mugs alongside Mr. Simpson at the May 30 event, including former *Hill Times* reporter **Shruti Shekar** and former deputy editor **Derek Abma**. Recently-retired CBC cameraman **Mike de Paul** (now infamous for his ability to walk,

smoke, drink coffee and capture sound) also got a mug, and now-retired freelance cameraman **Willy Puerstl**, who's also a former Olympian, also became a life member of the gallery. Ms. Shekar now works for *Mobile Syrup* in Toronto, and Mr. Abma works in communications at the Department of National Defence.

## Rob Oliphant has emergency appendix removal surgery

Liberal MP **Rob Oliphant** is recovering from emergency surgery in Toronto to remove his appendix.



Rob Oliphant expects a 'quick recovery' from unexpected surgery. Photograph courtesy of Twitter

Mr. Oliphant made news of his surgery public on Twitter on June 2, saying after a couple days in his riding of Don Valley West, Ont., he felt an "increasing pain" in his abdomen and was admitted to Sunnybrook Hospital. The next day, he tweeted an update, saying he expects he's "in for a quick recovery."

The United Church minister was recently appointed parliamentary secretary to Foreign Affairs Minister **Chrystia Freeland**. He was previously chair of the House of Commons' Public Safety and National Security Committee and the House Citizenship and Immigration Committee.

The second-time MP has served in the House non-concurrently from 2008 to 2011 and from 2015 to present.

## Deceased Parliamentarians honoured in Senate

Twenty-eight MPs and Senators who died since May 2018 were celebrated in the Senate Chamber on June 3.

The ceremony remembering five former Senators and 23 past MPs was the 20<sup>th</sup> annual service.

**Pierre Trudeau**-era Liberal cabinet minister **Pierre De Bané**, NDP MP **Paul Dewar**, and **Brian Mulroney**'s former finance minister **Michael Wilson** were among those being honoured.

"The ceremony is a meaningful opportunity to celebrate their legacies in the Parliament they helped to shape," Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians president **Dorothy Dobbie** said in a statement. Ms. Dobbie was a Progressive Conservative MP who served in the House of Commons from 1988 to 1993.

The ceremony brought together family, friends, and colleagues of the deceased former lawmakers.

## Trudeau and Obama grab a beer



Former U.S. president Barack Obama and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau grabbed a beer at the Big Rig Brewery. Photograph courtesy of Adam Scotti/Twitter

Former U.S. president **Barack Obama** was in Ottawa May 31 for a question-and-answer session at the Canadian Tire Centre, and he reconnected with Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** while in town.

It is not the first time the two have caught up since Mr. Obama left the White House in January 2017. In June of that year, the two grabbed dinner at Liverpool House in Montreal.

This time, Mr. Obama and Mr. Trudeau grabbed a beer at the Big Rig Brewery in Ottawa's west end. Mr. Obama had an amber ale and Mr. Trudeau drank an IPA.

The visit came on the tails of U.S. Vice-President Mike Pence's visit to Ottawa on May 30.

## Peter Fragiskatos gets hitched



Liberal MP Peter Fragiskatos and his wife, Katy. Photograph courtesy of Twitter

Liberal MP **Peter Fragiskatos** got married to now-wife **Katy** last weekend.

"Yesterday, I married the love of my life and my best friend. Thank you to our family, friends and the community for your support and well wishes. It means so much to Katy and I," Mr. Fragiskatos tweeted on June 2.

The 38-year-old former political science professor has represented the riding of London North Centre, Ont., since 2015.

## Crestview Strategy expands south of the border

Crestview Strategy is expanding to Washington, D.C., and the new shop will be led by **Maryscott "Scotty" Greenwood**.

Ms. Greenwood has led the Canadian American Business Council since 2001. She was previously chief of staff to former U.S. ambassador to Canada **Gordon Giffin**.



Maryscott Greenwood will lead Crestview's new Washington, D.C. office. *The Hill Times* file photograph

"I have worked closely with, and at times opposed to, Crestview Strategy over the years and am phenomenally impressed with their creativity and work ethic on behalf of clients. The opportunity to join forces with Canada's leading public affairs agency is irresistible," said Ms. Greenwood in a statement.

"There is important work to be done to support the Canadian American business community, and I look forward to building Crestview Strategy's practice in D.C. and serving clients on both sides of the border," she said.

Ms. Greenwood will become a partner at the public affairs firm, as well as the managing director of their U.S. business.

Crestview's D.C. office will be its fifth—with others open in Ottawa, Toronto, Edmonton, and Calgary—and will be located steps away from the Dupont Circle neighbourhood.

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*The Hill Times*

# On Track

# for 100 Years



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## News Lobbying



# Lobbyists increasingly target Senate as Liberals make final legislative push

At 517 lobbying records in the first four months of 2019, the volume of lobbyists targeting the Senate has already surpassed the annual totals common before Mr. Trudeau's government came to power.

BY SAMANTHA WRIGHT ALLEN

With all eyes turned to the Upper Chamber as the government tries to stickhandle its final pieces of legislation through Parliament, lobbyists also increased their attention to the Senate this spring. In the first four months of 2019, the volume of lobbyists targeting the Senate has increased by nearly one-third over the same time period in the last two years, and more than doubled the 2016 rate.

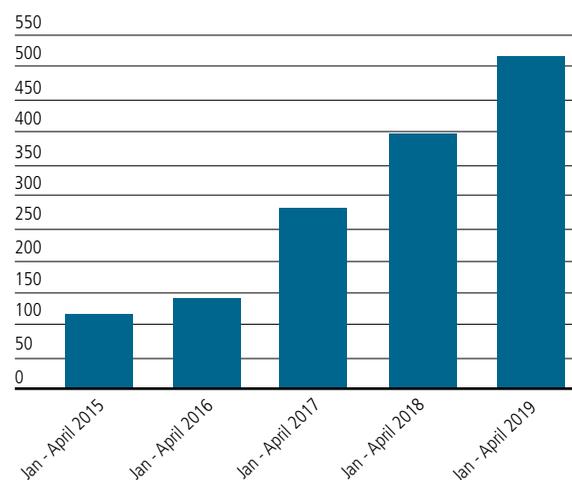
Between January and April 2019, lobbyists listed 517 interactions with Senators and their staff, according to the federal lobbyists' registry, a 29 per cent increase over the previous year. In the first four months of 2018, the number sat at 400, up only slightly from the 384 in 2017, when following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's election, there were more than 25 new Senators appointed under a newly established independent process.

At 517 lobbying records, in the first four months of 2019, the

volume of lobbyists targeting the Senate has already surpassed the annual totals common before Mr. Trudeau's government came to power.

From 2011 and 2015, the numbers for the whole year never reached 500. In 2016, when Mr. Trudeau started naming new Senators, that increased to almost 700. The next year, it doubled to 1,250, and last year it shot up to more than 1,400.

Over the last several weeks, the Senate has been considering key pieces of government legislation as the Liberals push through the last months of their mandate, with April's numbers leading into what's sure to be a breakneck final two months for Senate lobbying.



The House is scheduled to sit until June 21 and the Senate until June 28.

The hotly contested, and highly lobbied environmental assessment legislation, C-69, continued to make progress through the Upper Chamber last week, with Senators approving a report by the Energy, Environment,

and Natural Resources Committee proposing 187 amendments to the bill. Third reading debate began this week, and if the bill is accepted in the Senate in its altered form, it will still have to return to the House of Commons for consideration of the Upper Chamber's changes.

And, this week the Red Chamber will decide whether the tanker ban bill, C-48, makes it through.

The Senate Transport Committee recommended that the Senate kill the bill in its report, finalized late last week. Senators on the committee came to a tie vote on whether to proceed with the bill. Tie votes count as a loss, meaning the vote determined that the committee would

recommend that Senators do not allow the bill to go ahead.

If the Senate accepts the committee's report, Bill C-48 will die, in what would be an exceptionally rare move by the Upper Chamber to defeat a government bill. If the Senate does not accept the committee's report, the bill would go on to be debated at

third reading, where Senators could move amendments to the controversial bill, which Alberta Premier Jason Kenney and others have said would harm the oil and gas industry.

The Liberals' omnibus budget implementation bill, C-97, has been making a parallel path in the House and Senate, with meetings still planned at various committees in the Upper Chamber.

The Senate was among the top institutions that lobbyists targeted in April, a trend that has seen the numbers increase in 2019 compared to previous years.

*The Hill Times file photograph*

ell, who acts as government liaison in the Senate, was mentioned in nine. Independents Eric Forest (Gulf, Que.) and Rosa Galvez (Bedford, Que.), as well as non-affiliated Senator Diane Bellemare (Alma, Que.) each had eight apiece. Sen. Galvez chairs the Energy Committee, which spent the entire spring entrenched in its study of Bill C-69.

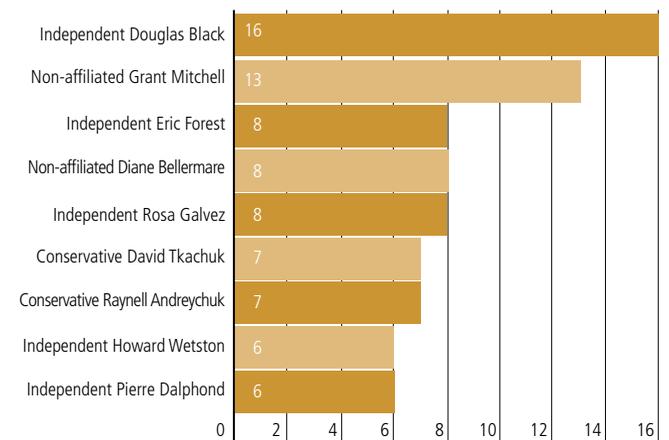
## Bibeau top-lobbied minister, again

Lobbying the Upper Chamber still pales in comparison to outreach among MPs and their staff, which in April at 997 reports, was six times more than the 164 posted to the Senate.

Lobbyists filed 2,423 communications, not quite doubling the 1,459 posted in March, according to the federal lobbyists' registry as of June 3. It's also a 20 per cent uptick over the same time last year when 1,991 discussions were logged in April 2018.

Interactions with Parliamentarians and their staff tripled, from 327 in March to 993 in April, returning to levels seen in the Hill's busier months, February and November.

For the 10<sup>th</sup> month in a row, Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada was the top target, with 196 filings, followed by the Senate (163), and Finance Canada (141). In subject matter,



The top lobbied Senators in April, according to the federal lobbying registry.

Energy, environment, agriculture, health, and aboriginal affairs were among the most commonly cited subjects in the communication reports filed with the lobbying commissioner's office.

The lay of the land in the Senate has changed significantly in less than three years after the Liberals came to power and Mr. Trudeau (Papineau, Que.) followed up on a promise he made as third-party leader that there would be no Liberal partisan Senators, instead appointing independent members. Those Senators, along with previously appointed Senators who left, or were kicked out, of partisan caucuses, now make up the majority of the Chamber.

In April, Independent Alberta Senator Douglas Black, who chairs the Senate Banking, Trade, and Commerce Committee was in the lead, listed in 16 reports. Sen. Black has been a vocal opponent of both Bill C-69 and C-48. His director of parliamentary affairs, Patrick Cousineau, was also high on the Senate list, posted in nine reports. Next in line, Sen. Black's provincial colleague Grant Mitch-

international trade was tied with health as the most important topic at 389, followed by economic development (365), environment (333), and industry (314).

Communications in all subjects increased across the board, with health, agriculture, employment and taxation, and finance all more than doubling reports from the month before.

Aboriginal affairs experienced the most noticeable spike, with conversations increasing by 280 per cent, from the 58 listed in March to 222 in April. In February, there were 174 listings on the subject, and 63 in January. Organizations can list several subjects they cover in a single meeting.

For the second straight month, Agriculture Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau (Compton-Stanstead, Que.), named to the post in a March 1 shuffle, earned the most mentions in the lobbying registry, at 34. That tripled her next closest cabinet colleague, Natural Resources Minister Amarjeet Sohi (Edmonton Mill Woods, Alta.), who was named in 11 reports.

swallen@hilltimes.com  
The Hill Times



**FOR OUR CULTURE, OUR ENVIRONMENT AND OUR ECONOMY**

## Protect our coastal homeland: Pass Bill C-48

The Government of Canada made promises to tackle climate change and advance Reconciliation including protecting the marine areas of the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii, some of the most pristine waters and diverse ecosystems remaining in the world.

It was a great moment when the elected House of Commons passed Oil Tanker Moratorium Act (Bill C-48) prohibiting large tankers on the North West Coast. This is now held up at the Senate which is being usurped to the point where Bill C-48 and every other environmental bill is under attack.

In the age of drought, flood, fire and storms, one would think that governments, including the Senate and even corporations would be doing everything to reduce emissions and change our habits. We appeal to all stripes and layers of government to work together to act responsibly and to do what we can to look after this planet.



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## Comment

# For he's a jolly good fellow: an ode to the best cabinet minister there never was

Rodger Cuzner had a massive impact in Ottawa by being who he is. He did Cape Breton proud because he reminded the rest of us what fine, capable leaders look and act like.



Tim Powers  
*Plain Speak*

OTTAWA—Rodger Cuzner, the Member of Parliament for Cape Breton—Canso, N.S., is retiring this year. It is a damn shame—a loss for Parliament, and Cape Breton loses a strong voice in Ottawa. Cuzner is a first-class person and exemplifies all that is good about politics. Rodger, if you are reading this, I do actually mean it.

You see folks, Cuzner and I like to tease each other—as is expected between a Cape Bretoner and a Newfoundlander—but I actually admire the man a lot. As this, for now, is his political obituary, he may as well see it in print. Please note Rodger, I have made no reference to your actual ability—or not—to read, as I do not want to feel the wrath of your beloved St. Francis Xavier mafia.

I can't remember exactly when I met Cuzner, he'll have a good line about that, but it was not long after he was elected in 2000. Regardless of our supposed partisan differences, the Atlantic Canadians in Ottawa tend to travel in the same circles. That is still a unique and special thing. We are

all conditioned to understand that while you may have to wear a blue, red, or orange jersey during the day, you come from a region where our politics is passionate, but a personable, broad community disposition is always required. Cuzner is, and was, this in spades.

As entertaining an orator as he was in the House in Commons, particularly with his Christmas poems, he was always engaging people outside of that theatre of the absurd working to get things done. He worked across party lines, when you just did it and it wasn't seen to be some sort of special undertaking. Personally, I have seen him fight to save fisheries and the people that work in them. Equally, he was always looking at addressing different injustices, particularly in areas that were important to him and the communities he represented.

His love of hockey and all that it has done for him and his family is legendary. It is real. It is not a bandwagon thing. It explains a lot about him. As a player and former coach, he



Retiring Nova Scotia MP Rodger Cuzner has shown what it means to serve with a smile, writes Tim Powers. *The Hill Times file photograph*

knew the key to success was bringing people of different backgrounds, skills, and abilities together to achieve a common objective. If you have ever been hauled into a Cuzner project, you know what I mean. And you do it willingly because Cuzner has a way of constantly making you laugh, while keeping you on track as you get the job done.

You never leave a conversation with Cuzner without a smile on your face. It usually is because he has ribbed you mercilessly or you have done the same to him. It is just so rare though in this day and age to find someone in politics that can, and actually does, in his own way make it his mission to be a legitimate positive beacon of energy. Cuzner still recognizes that a key role for MPs is to work to make sure people have meaningful experiences with the

people who represent them so not all faith is lost.

It is unfortunate Rodger Cuzner never got into cabinet. His acumen and skill set would have set him up to be an excellent minister. His common sense and ability to actually listen might have helped the current government avoid some of the problems they encountered.

Cabinet or not, Cuzner had a massive impact in Ottawa by being who he is. He did Cape Breton proud because he reminded the rest of us what fine, capable leaders look and act like. While there is truly only one Rodger Cuzner, we'd have a more effective Parliament if we had more MPs cut from the Cuzner tartan.

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

*The Hill Times*

# Canada needs ocean conservation leadership to stem loss of marine life

Progress in ocean protection is indeed happening, but are we doing enough fast enough? Damage to ocean habitat and the resulting impacts on fish populations is a serious concern.



Bill Wareham  
*Marine conservation*

VANCOUVER—Healthy oceans are an invaluable source of life and wonder. Many people look over the ocean and only see a great expanse of water and waves. They don't see the highly productive web of life below the surface—the enormous whales, millions of

salmon, colourful anemones spreading their tentacles, ancient glass sponge reefs harbouring a multitude of marine life and warm hydrothermal vents creating an oasis for many rare species. This abundance and diversity is a spectacular gift to the world.

But oceans are in trouble. Overfishing, pollution, and carbon emissions that warm and acidify oceans are driving many marine species toward extinction or steep declines in abundance.

The good news is that Canada has recently made progress on marine conservation. In 2015, the federal government committed to protect at least 10 per cent of Canada's ocean environments by 2020. Now, 8.27 per cent of our oceans are designated as marine protected areas. In most, oil and gas development, dumping, mining, and bottom trawling are prohibited, while other types of fishing, commercial activity, and recreation are allowed, depending on the conservation objectives. As we near the 10 per cent target, the scientific community is pushing to protect at least 30 per cent of oceans globally by 2030.

It is encouraging to see government improving legislation and regulations to better conserve marine life. The Oceans Act reform bill, C-55, and the Fisheries Act reform bill, C-68, are two

good examples. These bills have provisions to strengthen and speed up protection measures, and mandate recovery of fish populations that fall below a healthy level of abundance.



Fisheries and Oceans Minister Jonathan Wilkinson arrives for a cabinet meeting in Ottawa in February. In the upcoming federal election, Canadians will be looking for leaders willing to step forward as oceans champions, writes Bill Wareham. *The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade*

On Canada's West Coast, communities and government are pioneering regulations to restore salmon populations, reduce the environmental effects of aquaculture, better protect southern resident orcas, and reduce the negative impacts that many industrial activities have on marine life.

Progress in ocean protection is indeed happening, but are we doing enough fast enough? Damage to ocean habitat and the resulting impacts on fish populations is a serious

concern. Many coastal communities understand the economic hardships collapsing fish populations create.

As Canada heads into a federal election, it is important for all parties to commit to strate-

gies and budgets that will ensure our oceans are healthy, and marine life persists well into the future as a benefit to nature and our economies. Canada needs continued leadership on ocean conservation to be prepared for emerging threats to ocean health. In recognition of this need, World Oceans Day, June 8, is a perfect time to encourage all Members of Parliament to commit to doing more for our oceans in the next term.

Support for ocean conservation is rising on many fronts, from citizens to Indigenous communities to corporations to governments. A recent Environics poll shows 92 per cent of Canadians support further ocean protection—more than the percentage of Canadian adults who consider the iconic sport of hockey important to our culture and society. This is understandable given the recent Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services report, which found that an unprecedented species extinction is underway, with oceans taking a serious hit. Much more is needed to ensure we do not contribute to further endangering marine species or driving them to extinction.

In the wake of the 2019 federal election, Canadians will be looking for leaders willing to step forward as oceans champions, who will commit to maintaining meaningful protection standards and to recovering species that are declining. It's up to us all to ensure that marine protection efforts move forward rather than fall back.

With the world's longest coastline, Canada's environment, economy, and history are intricately linked to the oceans. With our dominion historically recognized "from sea to sea," it's fitting that we were the first country to call for establishment of World Oceans Day. It's incumbent on us now to elect leaders who will carry forward the vision of healthy oceans as a vital component of our way of life.

Bill Wareham is the David Suzuki Foundation's science projects manager for B.C. and Western Canada. *The Hill Times*

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## Editorial

# A genocide by any other name would still smell as foul

Apparently the worst thing you can do these days is make someone uncomfortable.

There's really no other explanation for why there was such a hue and cry over the conclusions from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

In the commission's final report, "Reclaiming Power and Place," there were 231 individual calls for justice, aimed at every major facet of society. But these calls were quickly overshadowed by the fragility of the masses who objected to the commission's findings that the persistent violence against Indigenous women and girls amounts to genocide.

"The hard truth is that we live in a country whose laws and institutions perpetuate violations of fundamental rights, amounting to a genocide against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people," Chief Commissioner Marion Buller said in a press release.

And a hard truth it is, with people, including former Conservative Aboriginal affairs minister Bernard Valcourt, going out of their way to diminish it. On Twitter over the weekend, Mr. Valcourt called the finding "propagandist."

The fact that anyone could so easily latch on to one word out of a report of more than 1,000 pages means they were just looking for an excuse not to pay attention, or to brush off the entire exercise.

It is, however, refreshing to see so many people coming out of the woodwork, in staunch defence of the English language, claiming that by using the word "genocide" in this way, it strips it of meaning. Because an abuse of language definitely overpowers the actual abuse of people.

"Who feels better in Canada among First Nations for that thunderous silly conclusion

that all we wanted was to kill them all?" Mr. Valcourt asked his Twitter followers.

Yes, whenever someone wants to make themselves feel better, just go through generations of trauma and then relive it in government-commissioned hearings. It's a sure-fire mood booster.

Being confronted with the fact that there is something systemic in this country that has directly contributed to people losing their lives is not an easy pill to swallow. But avoiding that medicine doesn't make the ailment go away.

Nor does the out-of-sight, out-of-mind strategy Conservative Party Leader Andrew Scheer seems to be employing with Alberta MP Michael Cooper. Mr. Cooper was removed from the House Justice Committee after deciding that the time to read the Christchurch, New Zealand, shooter's manifesto was during a May 28 meeting, to rebut a Muslim witness who had the temerity to say that recent mass shooters had conservative-leaning talking heads in their search history as part of the group's study into online hate.

Mr. Cooper said the witness, Faisal Khan Suri, should be "ashamed" for his comments, which he said were drawing a link between conservatism and "violent extremist attacks."

Mr. Scheer said that after removing Mr. Cooper—who later apologized online and said it was a "mistake"—from the committee, he considers the matter closed. Mr. Cooper remains the Conservatives' deputy justice critic.

Putting aside the fact that Mr. Cooper had the material at the ready, it's incredible that he felt the right time to bring it to the fore was the moment anyone said something that hit a little too close to home for him, regardless of how it was meant.

Hurt feelings aren't an excuse for hate.

## Letters to the Editor

# Talk of replacing Trudeau as Liberal Party head is premature, says reader

I was very surprised to read that there is a discussion going on to replace the prime minister as leader of Liberal Party with Mark Carney. Where is coming from? There has been no serious news about leadership question—at least, I am not aware of it.

Perhaps there are issues, but we are heading into the federal election in a few months. Give him that much space and if he doesn't win, which I doubt, then think about a leadership change. Mr. Carney has

been away from Canada for last few years and I am sure he will make a good candidate, but don't forget what went wrong when Michael Ignatieff became the leader.

If it comes down to that then there is Chrystia Freeland and Catherine McKenna—they both are good, solid candidates and I am sure either of them will make a great leader and future prime minister.

Anant Nagpur  
 Ottawa, Ont.

# Afghanistan memorial apology may be falling deliberately short, says reader

The apology and statement from General Jonathan Vance, Canada's chief of defence staff, ring hollow with a lot of dancing around the reasons for relocating the cenotaph to a permanent site within DND headquarters without inviting families of the Afghanistan fallen to the dedication and hiding it from open public access on the pretext that it needs protection from the

elements and vandalism—apparently more so than it did on the airfield in Kandahar.

The bottom line is that the cenotaph is no more accessible to the general public now than it was in Kandahar. And maybe, just maybe, that suits the government of the day just fine.

Kope Inokai  
 Toronto

# Renovating democracy starts with overhauling the public service

Re: "Is democracy possible?" (*The Hill Times*, May 27, p. 31). Many years ago, when I was working for a senior minister of the government of Québec, a now deceased deputy minister, to whom I was addressing a request that did not please him, told me, with a smile, that in four years, I probably would be gone and he surely still would be there.

I am always amazed that activists and intellectuals never see, or admit seeing, how powerful and pervasive the bureau-

cratic machine is (see the late auditor general Michael Ferguson's numerous reports). One can always dream of modifying the rules for politicians, but nothing will change until, if at all possible, the bureaucracy is better controlled.

That does not mean we are excused of voting or getting involved. But there is no magic wand, whatever the author may think.

P. Michel de Grandpré  
 Gatineau, Que.

# Stalling critical Indigenous rights bill would be a 'setback' for Canada, says reader

Re: "Time is ticking for MPs, Senators to pass human rights bills," (*The Hill Times*, May 22, p. 13). Alex Neve highlights several important bills whose fate hangs in the balance as the dissolution of Parliament quickly approaches. One of them is Bill C-262, an Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

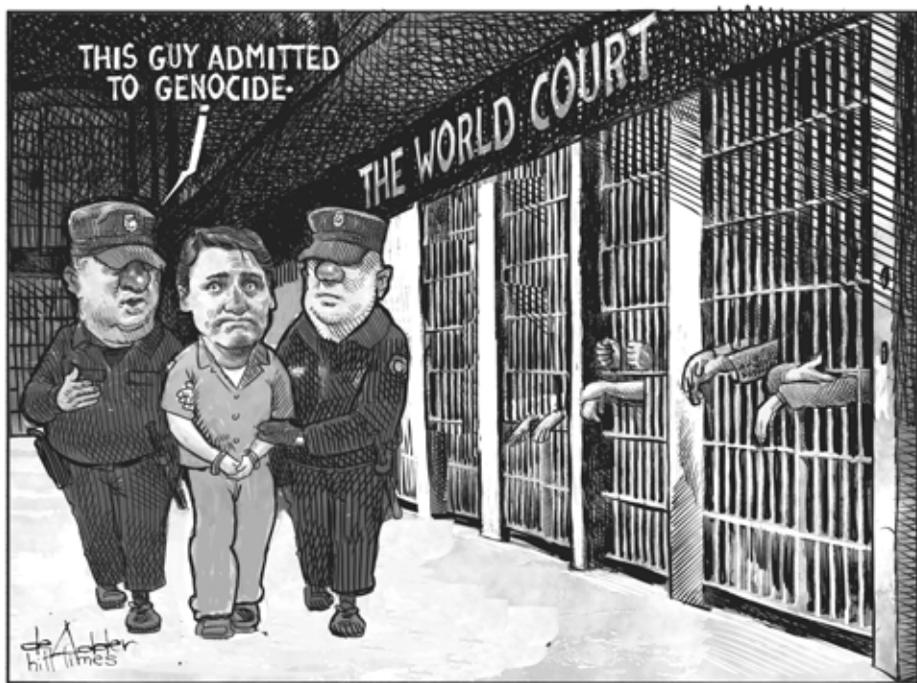
As Neve points out, Senators can still pass this bill, but time is tight and if it should die on the order paper, it will be a significant setback for Canada because of its potential to contribute in a substantive way to mutuality and respect between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples by providing a framework for reconciliation, as called for by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Bill C-262 provides clear principles for implementation of the declaration in Canadian law. It will require Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous people to work together to develop an implementation plan and provides transparency and accountability through annual reporting to Parliament on progress.

Fears that the bill will provide Indigenous communities with a veto over development projects are unfounded. The declaration provides provisions for resolving disputes and balancing conflicting rights, and the Supreme Court of Canada has affirmed and interpreted consent requirements.

Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada support this critical bill. We call on Senators to do the same.

Ed Bianchi  
 Program manager, Kairos Canada



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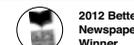
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# Feds, Irving need to clean up their act and find a better PR move than threatening reporters

In two recent instances of media requests for comment, Irving Shipbuilding overreacted and behaved like a schoolyard bully instead of simply providing requested information to the government.



Scott Taylor

*Inside Defence*

OTTAWA—Last week the *Globe and Mail* broke the story about Irving Shipbuilding being allowed to claim a \$40-million industrial benefit for a french fry factory as part of a contract to build navy ships. As odd as this might sound, that was not the bizarre part of this news story.

Shortly after the *Globe and Mail* had asked the government to confirm the investment in an Alberta french fry plant was considered an allowable industrial offset for the navy contract, a lawyer from Irving contacted the newspaper. The message was that the shipbuilder was prepared to take legal action if necessary.

This was the second time in recent weeks that Irving resorted to the tactic of libel chill by threatening reporters with lawsuits over potentially damaging stories.

Back in March, my colleague David Pugliese from the *Ottawa Citizen* made an inquiry to the media liaison desk at the Department of National Defence as well as to Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC). Sources had told Pugliese that there was some alleged welding problems with one of the newly built Arctic Offshore Patrol Ships (AOPS), and he was seeking to confirm the story.

Just hours later, Pugliese was surprised to receive a phone call from none other than Kevin McCoy, the president of Irving Shipbuilding. According to Pugliese, McCoy threatened to sue the *Ottawa Citizen* if they published a story containing false information.

What *The Citizen* did publish instead was the story of how the government had shared not only the question about welding problems, but also the identity of the reporter working on the story.

In this more recent case of the *Globe and Mail* french fry story, it was the Department of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development that breached the privacy of the reporter by providing the information to Irving. The fact that Irving did not learn from their earlier public relations fiasco with *The Citizen* makes me question the competence of their communications department.

In defending the decision to threaten lawsuits, Irving Shipbuilding spokesperson Sean Lewis told reporters: "We did advise reporters that we would pursue legal action because we knew the reporters had highly inaccurate information that would cause our company, and the reputation of our hard-working employees considerable reputational damage."

Fair enough, a company should have the right to protect its public image. The problem is that in both cases, the reporter's information was not "highly inaccurate." Irving did indeed receive a \$40-million credit towards its industrial benefit obligations on a navy shipbuilding contract, from a \$425-million investment in the Cavendish Farms frozen potato-processing plant in Lethbridge, Alta. Nobody has ever alleged that there was any misconduct on the part of any of the parties involved.

The crux of the matter is the way in which the AOPS contracts are structured on this major Crown shipbuilding project—valued at more than \$2.4-billion—that allows for investment in french fry jobs to offset re-investment obligations. If there are any questions about how that is the case, then it is the government of Canada that has the explaining to do, not Irving.

In the case of the alleged welding problems with the AOPS, DND did subsequently admit there were indeed some *minor* problems. In other words, without the threatening call from McCoy, which revealed a breach of privacy on the part of DND, there would likely have been no story.

In both instances, suffice to say that Irving overreacted and behaved like a schoolyard bully. Had they simply provided the requested information to their client, the government of Canada, who in turn would respond to the media, they would have avoided controversy.

However, it is also true that had DND, PSPC, and the Department of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development simply safeguarded the identity of the journalists as per the existing guidelines under the Privacy Act, Irving would not have known whom to threaten.

The Canadian Surface Combatant project has only just begun and there are bound to be countless more media requests made regarding Irving in the coming decade of production. Let's hope that government officials have learned from these two lessons that Irving is unrepentantly self-protective.

Public Services and Procurement Minister Carla Qualtrough tried to deflect the blame onto Irving when she told reporters that their threat of a lawsuit was "certainly not a behaviour I would engage in, and I wish there was respect shown to journalists for doing their jobs."

I'm sorry minister, but that respect would start with government officials not turning over the names of media requests to industry.

Scott Taylor is the editor and publisher of *Esprit de Corps* magazine.  
*The Hill Times*

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# Doing politics differently? Sure, Jan

When women tend to be the first in and the first out, why would any woman of substance, conviction, and integrity run for office, let alone leadership?



Amy Kishek, Erica Ifill

*Bad+Bitchy*

OTTAWA—Often considered to be the season of change and rebirth, spring has finally arrived in the capital and that is evident for no party more than the Liberals, for whom the comings and goings reveal their true regard for the women in their ranks.

Last week, Jody Wilson-Raybould and Jane Philpott announced their candidacy for

re-election as Independents after having been tossed out of the Liberal caucus by Justin Trudeau last month. They, along with Celina Caesar-Chavannes were recruited by the Liberal Party to, in part, support a multicultural agenda which played a significant role in Trudeau's 2015 election campaign. Seeking an unmistakable shift from the reign of Stephen Harper, a Trudeau government would demonstrate the party's commitment to communities oft-marginalized by the political process: women, Indigenous peoples, people of colour, and youth, all of whom were a huge part of the "real change" marketing.

Only, it was just that—marketing. Women, and particularly women of colour, are the first in, and the first out. They were part of a "Because it's 2015" catchphrase and political zeitgeist, and promptly set aside when they actively exercised a modicum of independence in carrying out their duties. A gender and racially diverse cabinet was a nice dalliance, like Miley Cyrus' hip-hop phase, but the Liberals are returning to their respectable girlfriend, the typical white male of the Old Boys' Club.

Now Liberal insiders, would-be king-makers, are looking to tap Bank of England governor Mark Carney to lead the Liberal Party after Trudeau's presumably inevitable failure in the fall fed-



Former Liberal, turned-Independent MPs Jane Philpott, Jody Wilson-Raybould, and Celina Caesar-Chavannes were promptly set aside when they actively exercised a modicum of independence in carrying out their duties, say Erica Ifill and Amy Kishek. Now, shadowy Liberal insiders are looking to king a new member of the Old Boys' Club as the new party leader. *The Hill Times* photographs by Sam Garcia and Andrew Meade

eral election. Though it is unclear who these "insiders" are and what power they yield, it should concern everyone that Carney is the political future envisaged.

As Chantal Hébert, who broke the story in the *Toronto Star*, writes: "The eternal quest for the next bright shining leadership object is in the political DNA of the Liberal party. In the past, it has sent some of its best and brightest on a quest for what turned out to be fool's gold." From Martin, to Ignatieff, to Trudeau, Liberals are drawn to these elite white male saviours in a crisp suit and polished leather shoes, not sullied by sidewalks or subways—all of whom came to power through forces beyond the ballot.

Ironically, the SNC-Lavalin scandal was about a loss of public trust in public institutions. Trust in public institutions is waning globally, and in part it is directly related to the dissonance between citizens and their elected officials—they neither look like us, live like us, nor are they connected to us. And news items like the Carney rumours undermine whatever trust remains, because they are a brutal reminder that our democratic systems are not really ours.

In this context, when women tend to be the first in and the first out, why would any woman of substance, conviction, and integrity run for office, let alone leadership? Although there are

campaigns to increase the participation of female candidates, many of them have the effect of infantilizing women, much like Catherine McKenna's (Ottawa Centre) infamous "Run Like a Girl" campaign. In an op-ed in the *Ottawa Citizen* McKenna wrote, "Many people told me to worry about the old boys' club in politics. And if you don't feel like you're part of it, you can feel like an imposter. But the good news is there's a new girls' club."

Sure, Jan.

While the Liberal Party continues to put lipstick on a pig, nothing has been done to change the structure of politics to encourage a greater range of women to participate. And when women do enter politics, there is very little opportunity for those women to exercise their agency in representing the constituents who voted for them in the first place, lest they be "ungrateful."

The Liberal Party is the only federal party never to be led by a woman, (and certainly never by a person of colour). Is a woman's name ever top of mind when these kingmakers gather? If there is, she is most likely a woman who invests more in the status quo than in change. And then we must ask, when will the Liberal Party cease being beholden to backroom dealings that place members of the Old Boys' Club in positions of power?

*Erica Ifill and Amy Kishek are co-hosts of the Bad+Bitchy podcast. The Hill Times*

# NAFTA faces new risks as Trump mixes trade and immigration

Regardless of how the latest U.S.-Mexico tension unfolds, the takeaway for Canada is that the outcome of the NAFTA redo forced by Trump is as unpredictable as ever.



Les Whittington

*Need to Know*

OTTAWA—The general thinking was that U.S. Vice-President Mike Pence had popped up in Ottawa as part of a publicity campaign to promote support for U.S. Congressional approval of the new NAFTA deal—and to

hold out an olive branch to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Canadians.

Maybe it was just a coincidence that Pence arrived a day before former president Barack Obama, who on the night of May 31 reminded Ottawans he has "a little bit of a love affair with Canada."

In any case Pence said the right things, telling Trudeau that "we're grateful for the prime minister's efforts seeing ratification [of NAFTA] here in Canada," and that he hopes for a similar result in the U.S. Congress this summer.

No one could doubt Canada was owed a conciliatory gesture, given the way President Donald Trump insulted the prime minister after the G7 Summit a year ago, calling Trudeau "very dishonest and weak."

But no sooner had Pence left town than Trump announced a new tariff onslaught that puts the renegotiated NAFTA (or CUSMA) very much at risk—thus imperiling both Canada's economic prospects and Trudeau's politically invaluable claim that he has managed despite everything in Washington to protect Canadian interests.

Trump, who began a state visit to the United Kingdom on June

3, surprised everyone on May 30 by threatening Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador with economically crippling import taxes. The U.S. will do so, the president said, unless Mexico blocks the flow of would-be immigrants, mostly from Central America, passing through its territory to the U.S.

Whether the White House will follow through with this much-criticized move was unclear. Nonetheless, Trump, before heading off to Europe, had managed to remind the world that there is no such thing as good trade relations with the U.S. on anything resembling a consistent, reliable basis.

It turns out that the president sandbagged López Obrador only moments after the Mexican leader had sent the new NAFTA accord to the Mexican Senate asking for early passage. In Canada's case, two years of assiduous efforts to fend off the damage—real and potential—of the Trump administration's anti-free-trade fixation were suddenly in danger of never paying off.

What made it more shocking was the fact that the U.S. only two weeks previously had finally removed its falsely justified tariffs on Canadian and Mexican steel and aluminum imports.

The Mexican broadside is Trump at his most thuggish, vengeful best. In a tweet on June 2 about the threatened tariffs, he said Mexico has long been an "abuser" of the U.S., allowing an "invasion" by drug dealers, cartels, human traffickers, coyotes, and illegal immigrants. "America has had enough!"

It appears that, angered over the refusal of Democrats in Congress to agree to quickly pass the new NAFTA or to provide funding to fulfill Trump's bid for a wall on the Mexican border, the president is shaking up his options for the 2020 election, where immigration fear-mongering is expected to feature heavily in Trump's appeals.

In a twist on his absurd, fanciful (as it turned out) 2016 election campaign claim that Mexico would pay for a border wall, Trump has decided to use trade as a weapon to force López Obrador to solve the U.S. border issue in another way—by keeping migrants from crossing through Mexico.

The Mexican president has said his government will try to comply—to the extent it can be done within human rights norms. But it remains to be seen whether the Mexicans will be able to do enough to satisfy Trump's de-

mands. If not, the likely trade war will certainly make it impossible for Mexico to pass legislation approving a new NAFTA.

Regardless of how that unfolds, the takeaway for Canada is that the outcome of the NAFTA redo forced by Trump is as unpredictable as ever. Unlike the optimistic Pence, many observers were saying even before this latest potential roadblock that, given Democratic doubts about labour and environmental measures in CUSMA, the U.S. Congress was unlikely to pass the implementing bill until next year. And some were saying it was unlikely until after the 2020 presidential election.

Trump seems to be calculating that he needs a big win in advance of the next campaign on at least one of the two now-entwined issues—putting a renegotiated CUSMA in place or slowing migration at the Mexican border. And some think the president has decided he can campaign effectively on CUSMA if it doesn't pass by blaming it on the Democrats.

None of this is good news for Trudeau and his election-bound Liberal government. It's obvious that Canada's hopes to secure its much-needed free-trade arrangement with the U.S. could easily become collateral damage as a checkmated Trump thrashes about in advance of next year's election.

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

*The Hill Times*

# Indigenous women look to federal parties to commit to national inquiry calls in October platforms

Mohawk activist Ellen Gabriel says the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' findings and recommendations should be an election issue this fall.

Continued from page 1

closing ceremonies in Gatineau, Que., on June 3.

"I will be spending my summer trying to garner public support and put pressure ... so that becomes part of their political platform[s]."

Ms. Thomas shared her own story with the national inquiry during its hearings in Vancouver, and said she came to Ottawa for the closing ceremonies to honour her aunt, who was murdered, with the perpetrator never found.

"It's in her loving memory that I'm here, along with all the other women who've suffered violence and abuse," she said.

After two-and-a-half years of work, the national inquiry



Viola Thomas says she's looking for all parties to address the national inquiry's findings in their election platforms. *The Hill Times* photograph by Laura Ryckewaert

released its 1,071-page final report on June 3, divided into 11 chapters of findings plus 231 recommendations, or calls for justice. On top of that are two supplemental reports: a 159-page report focused on experiences in Quebec, with 21 recommendations; and a 46-page report focused on the inquiry's genocide analysis.

The inquiry makes no bones about describing the policies and actions of Canada's provincial and federal governments towards



The four national inquiry commissioners (clockwise from left: chief commissioner Marion Buller, Brian Eyolfson, Qajaq Robinson, and Michèle Audette) took part in a sacred ceremony to hand over the final report. Sitting on a red star blanket, the report was touched with sacred objects, including ash, tobacco, cedar, sweetgrass, sage, and copper cups of water from each coast before being wrapped in seal skin and tied with a Métis sash. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples as genocide, writing that the definition of genocide in international law "encompasses the past and current actions and omissions of Canada towards Indigenous peoples," and calling for a paradigm shift.

"The insidious and gradual nature of the obliteration of Indigenous peoples and the lack of a uniform national policy spearheaded by a totalitarian mastermind, differentiate colonial genocide from our traditional understanding of what constitutes a genocide," reads the report.

That traditional understanding has allowed the "Canadian consciousness to dismiss Canada's colonial policies as racist and misconceived rather than acknowledge them as explicitly genocidal and, even, ongoing," it continues.

In the end, 2,380 people participated in the \$90-million national inquiry, including 468 survivors and families.

The inquiry's 231 calls for justice include 46 Inuit-specific calls, 29-Métis specific recommendations, and 32 2SLGBTQIA-specific calls. Other calls are divided by subject area—from culture, to health and wellness, to human security, to justice—and by industry-specific calls, for media and social influencers, attorneys and law societies, educators, health and wellness service providers, social workers, police and transportation services, the hospitality industry, and resource extraction and development industries, among others. There are also eight calls for all Canadians, including: to speak out

and denounce violence, become strong allies who "actively" work to break down barriers, and to help hold all governments accountable for the implementation of the calls for justice.

The recommendations begin with a call for all levels of government in Canada to work in partnership with Indigenous peoples to develop and implement a national action plan, including regionally specific plans, to address the issue of violence against Indigenous women, girls and gender-diverse people; to establish an independent National Indigenous and Human Rights Ombudsperson; and for the federal government to create a mechanism for annual reports to be made to Parliament on the implementation of the inquiry's calls for justice.

Other recommendations include: calling for the federal First Nations Policing Program to be replaced with a new legislative and funding framework to transform Indigenous policing into "an exercise of self-governance and self-determination," and for "well-funded" Indigenous civilian police oversight bodies to be set-up; and for the creation of a Deputy Commissioner for Indigenous Corrections, among many others.

An estimated 500 people took part in the closing ceremonies at the Museum of History in Gatineau, Que., on June 3. The heads of the national Indigenous organizations were there, as were many elected officials, including NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh (Burnaby South, B.C.) and Green Party Leader Elizabeth

May (Saanich-Gulf Islands, B.C.). Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer (Regina-Qu'Appelle, Sask.) was not at the event, but Conservative MPs Cathy McLeod (Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo, B.C.) and Kevin Waugh (Saskatoon-Grasswood, Sask.) were spotted.

With Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (Papineau, Que.) and Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett (Toronto-St. Paul's, Ont.) seated in the front row, directly across from the podium on stage—and Indigenous Services Minister Seamus O'Regan (St. John's South-Mount Pearl, N.L.) right behind them—the four commissioners and members of the inquiry's advisory and grandmothers' circles read through many of the final recommendations, with speakers at times overcome by emotion and a number addressing the recommendations directly to Mr. Trudeau.

## Report 'not the end' of the work, says Trudeau

Chief commissioner Marion Buller said the truths made public in the final report "cannot be unheard," and told the crowd: "you have started to rewrite history, in a good way." The calls for justice are not mere recommendations she said, but "legal imperatives" which must be implemented to ensure the safety and well being of Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals.

"The Canadian state has, and continues to enact, laws and enforce policies that perpetuate the violation of human and

Indigenous rights. This is colonization. This is discrimination. This is genocide. There needs to be a transformational change in how we build and maintain relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, she said in a press conference later in the day.

In his address, Mr. Trudeau said the final report is "not the end" and that the inquiry's work and stories collected "will not be placed on a shelf to collect dust." He said his government would conduct a "thorough review" of recommendations and work with Indigenous partners to figure out next steps, including developing and implementing a national action plan, as called for by the inquiry.

In a press release following the closing ceremony, Mr. Scheer said if his party forms government, it "will develop and implement a National Action Plan, in partnership with Indigenous peoples, to advance reconciliation, address violence, and achieve measurable improvements in the day-to-day lives of Indigenous women and girls."

In a tweet June 3, Mr. Singh said, "It is our duty to ensure this report doesn't sit on a shelf. We have to read it, carefully, and implement the 231 Calls for Justice."

The atmosphere at the museum was one of both optimism and release—with calls for the government to be held to account consistently met with applause from the crowd—and of grief, with sporadic eruptions of tears throughout the room. Red dotted the crowd, with the red dress a symbol to memorialize missing and murdered women, and

Continued on page 13



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Indigenous Services Minister Seamus O'Regan were front and centre while many of the national inquiry's 231 recommendations were read out. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

Continued from page 12  
red carnations handed out. One woman holding up a child-sized red dress began sobbing during a moment of silence held to honour victims; with health support workers and others quick to flock to her side.

Ms. Thomas said she added her voice to those calling for a national inquiry into the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada decades ago, but with the final report's release in the dying days of the current Parliament, she's "not optimistic that anything's going to happen" between now and the election in October to "lift up any of those calls for justice."

"I think that's the real challenge, is how do we garner the public, critical mass support to make effective, systemic change?" she said, adding that media, too, have a role to play, including in challenging misconceptions about Indigenous people.

"We know that the systemic racism and stereotypes that are prevalent to Canadian society continue to contribute and compound the issue of systemic violence against women and girls," said Ms. Thomas.

Lily Jorgensen, a Nisga'a woman from B.C., got involved with the national inquiry through her work at the WISH Drop-In Centre in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, which provides a safe space for sex trade workers.

Ms. Jorgensen said the final report's release and seeing the prime minister hear the recommendations read out "gives [her] hope."

"I have to say in the beginning when I became involved, I thought it was just another report



Lily Jorgensen says she hopes the unity around the need for change she felt at the closing ceremony stays. *The Hill Times* photograph by Laura Ryckewaert

that would probably fall on the wayside, but I'm feeling quite hopeful for changes," she told *The Hill Times*.

Ms. Jorgensen said she's "thankful" to have been able to witness the "unity" in the room at the closing ceremony, and said she hopes that "unity stays." The coming election is "of course" an opportunity for Canada's federal parties to include the inquiry's findings in their election platforms, and she said even the thought that they wouldn't "is discouraging."



Betsy Kennedy, chief of Manitoba's War Lake First Nation. *The Hill Times* photograph by Laura Ryckewaert

War Lake First Nation Chief Betsy Kennedy said she wanted to be at the closing event to let families of the missing and murdered know they're being supported, and she said "each and every one of us" needs to work now to make

those recommendations a reality. "We need to make this thing—bring it out, and make more of an awareness to make things happen," she said.

Speaking by phone with *The Hill Times* later in the day, Ellen Gabriel, an activist and member of the Kanesatake Mohawk First Nation, said while criticisms remain about how the national inquiry operated—from its slow start to the staff many resignations—what ultimately matters is whether the families are happy with the final product, and whether it results in real change or becomes yet another study on the already-crowded shelf.

"Are the recommendations going to be listened to? Is this going to be part of the election platforms of every single party?" she questioned.

Ms. Gabriel said she thinks the timing of the report's release, on the threshold of the next federal election, is an "advantage" for advocates.

When Amnesty International's 2004 Stolen Sisters report was released, she said "even Indigenous leaders at the time" dismissed the issue as a domestic one.

"We've gone from minimizing what it actually meant in 2004 to now calling it genocide, and I think that's a great leap. So I think there's quite a lot of progress being made, and this should be an election issue [in October]," she said.

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*The Hill Times*



Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde is joined by great aunt of Tina Fontaine, Thelma Favel, left, and Marilyn Courchene at the closing ceremony. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade



The closing ceremony for the national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls at the Museum of History in Gatineau, Que., on June 3 began with a ceremonial entrance, including an Eagle Staff created for the national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade



An attendee at the MMIWG's closing ceremony event holds a sign about a murdered loved one. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade



Dancers took the stage at the MMIWG's closing ceremonies while drummers and singers performed a Woman Warrior song. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade



An elder cradles the sacred bundle in which the MMIWG's final report was wrapped. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

## Missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls: the numbers

The RCMP has confirmed 1,181 cases of police-recorded instances of missing or murdered Indigenous women and girls between 1980 and 2012, over which time the force estimates that Indigenous women—who make up four per cent of Canada's overall population—accounted for roughly 16 per cent of all female homicides. Currently, the national inquiry's final report states, Indigenous women and girls make up almost 25 per cent of all homicide victims and are 12 times more likely to be murdered or go missing than other women in Canadian, and 16 times more likely than Caucasian women.

The rates of violence against gender-diverse individuals are "equally alarming" reads the report, citing one Ontario study of gender-diverse and Two-Spirit individuals which found that 73 per cent "had experienced some form of violence due to transphobia, with 43 per cent having experienced physical and/or sexual violence."

But the report also notes that, as learned through its concurrent forensic document review project, there's "still not a complete understanding" of the true number of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada, in part because the RCMP's numbers were largely based on statistics gathered through the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics Homicide Survey, in which "half of all police services, including the RCMP, do not report information on the Indigenous identity of homicide victims." The RCMP itself stopped reporting on Indigenous identity in the Homicide Survey in 2001, according to Statistics Canada.

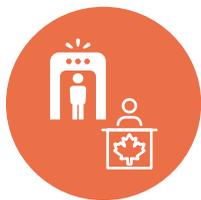
—By Laura Ryckewaert



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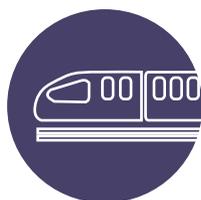
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## DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES

by Samantha Wright Allen

# Diplomatic spouses find community, give back with Wabano fundraiser



Members of the Heads of Mission Spouses Association, from left, including Elbia Meghar of Algeria, Olga Kamalidinova of Kazakhstan, Aparna Swarup of India, Jane Haycock of Australia, Khin Myint Kyi of Myanmar, and Maria Do Carmo de Souza Pinto of Brazil. Photograph courtesy of HOMSA

For the last six months, a group of diplomats' spouses have been hard at work preparing for a fundraiser aimed at helping Indigenous children in Ottawa access basic necessities.

This year for their annual fundraiser, the Heads of Mission Spouses Association (HOMSA) is working with a team at the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health, an Ottawa-based health centre aimed at supporting the Indigenous community in the capital. Their goal is to raise \$10,000 at the June 11 invitation-only event to supply 50 children at the centre with school essentials as part of the centre's "Walk in Beauty" program.

Aparna Swarup of India and Jane Haycock of Australia have been leading the planning of the event, with about 20 others from HOMSA's Asia-Pacific chapter.

"Our hearts bled for that project," said Ms. Swarup, especially as mothers, making sure the basics are covered, something that "every child deserves."

When they were brainstorming ideas for the chosen charity, which often is directed at women and children groups, Wabano "came to the top of the list" for everyone, Ms. Haycock said.

"It seemed a very nice match," she said, as a centre based in the capital that draws in people from many parts of the country, "often providing community" to them. In their roles "we've come to Ottawa in a different way," she said, and the group wants to give back and help build community, too.

They described being swept away by the beautiful building on Montreal Road in Ottawa's Vanier neighbourhood, designed by Douglas Cardinal, the same renowned Indigenous architect behind the Museum of History. But even more than the environment, they were struck by the stories of local children who go to school hungry, and need clothing, shoes, and basic supplies.

According to the centre, two in five Indigenous children in Canada live in poverty. Every year more than 5,000 Indigenous children and youth visit the centre, and 81 per cent of them live in poverty.

It's "unbelievable" that in Canada there are children without shoes, said Elbia Meghar, who is from Algeria and is HOMSA's president. The group was "quite impressed" with Wabano, she said, which gives off the feeling of community where there are "no closed doors."

"The whole approach is so holistic, you come out healed," said Ms. Swarup.

They said the exclusive event will be "a feast," featuring foods from around the world, as well as a silent auction of beautiful cultural pieces.

Money isn't the only goal, added Ms. Swarup, who was struck by how few people were aware of the centre's good work.

She said she hopes the charity event is just a start, bringing some more attention to the cause and perhaps more donors.

"We are just a drop in the ocean."

### Cyprus forms new friendship group

Cyprus High Commissioner **Vasilios Philippou** is celebrating his first year in Ottawa with the launch of the country's first parliamentary Canada-Cyprus Friendship Group, which he said is a "sign of unity and friendship."

The group can help his small embassy promote parliamentary interaction and, he said in a phone interview June 3, will "strengthen the culture, economic, and tourism ties" because it "opens immediately" opportunity for more events and exchanges.

"Usually the parliamentary groups will exchange visits, exchange experiences, organize common events. From my experience, it will enhance bilateral relations between Canada and Cyprus," said Mr. Philippou, who presented his credentials at the end of June last year.

Noting the Ottawa embassy is only a few years old, Mr. Philippou said the country is doing everything it can to strengthen bilateral relations, especially given Canada's long history of peacekeeping in the country, from 1964 to today.

It joins more than 40 other countries that have friendship groups, which don't receive administrative or financial support from Parliament.

The group will likely officially launch after the fall election when it will name its chair. The group has about 10 Senators and MPs on board, including Conservative Senator **Leo Housakos** and Conservative MP **Brad Trost**, who Mr. Philippou said helped bring the group together. Other inaugural members of the all-party group include NDP MP **Guy Caron**, Liberal MPs **Randy Boissonnault** and **Joe Peschisolido**, and Conservative MPs **Ziad Aboultaif**, **Kerry Diotte**, **Todd Doherty**, and **Ted Falk**.

### New envoys arrive in Ottawa

Governor General **Julie Payette** accepted the letters of credence for five new heads of mission on May 28:

- Ambassador of Mexico **Juan José Ignacio Gómez Camacho**
- Ambassador of Ethiopia **Nasise Challi Jira**
- Ambassador of Indonesia **Abdul Kadir Jailani**
- Ambassador of Nepal **Bhrigu Dhungana**
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## Comment

# Tiananmen, D-Day, and the new world war

The image of a man staring down a column of tanks in Beijing 30 years ago is an indestructible tribute to what the tanks of D-Day were defending 45 years earlier.



Lisa Van Dusen

*What Fresh Hell*

This column posts one day after the 30th anniversary of the suppression by massacre of thousands of pro-democracy protesters in Tiananmen Square, and a day before June 6, the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

Both days commemorate hinges of history; before-and-after turns in the course of human events in the absence of which outcomes might have been significantly different. Both saw history

decisively altered by military action.

Indeed, tanks figured prominently in both operations, but that's where the stories truly diverge. Not in the faces of those risking their lives, or in the courage it took for them to do so. But in what the tanks were doing.

On D-Day, the Allied armies stormed the beaches of Normandy to defend democracy and restore freedom. In the Tiananmen massacre, the People's Liberation Army (a gruesome irony) was used to prevent democracy and extinguish any hope for freedom. On D-Day, 150,000 troops—14,000 of them Canadian—were up against the German army. In the Tiananmen massacre, the army was fighting unarmed civilians.

That distinction was evident in the most iconic image not just from 30 years ago today—June 5, in Beijing, as the tanks were leaving Tiananmen Square—but of what was arguably the most iconic act of resistance from the past half-century. The moment an individual still known only as “tank man” stood in front of a column of tanks until he was dragged away—after the lead tank swivelled its turret and diverted—may be the most potent symbol of what the tanks on D-Day were defending 45 years earlier. Tank man remains unidentified by Chinese authorities, presumably to prevent his deification as a martyr, and the image itself, like everything about Tiananmen, is suppressed and censored.



An unidentified man stares down a line of tanks in China's Tiananmen Square on June 5, 1989. The issue with the image for a regime that thinks technology has solved its democracy problem isn't about the image itself, it's about the stakes and the example, writes Lisa Van Dusen. Screenshot courtesy of CNN

The issue with the image of one man staring down a column of tanks for a regime that thinks technology has solved its democracy problem isn't about the image itself, it's about the stakes and the example. There's not a lot that despots hate more than people who flout the behavioural heuristics of overwhelmingly asymmetrical power dynamics on principle. Not only is it an affront to their weaponization of fear and their power-reliant self-image; it's bad for business.

The men who landed on D-Day didn't need to be reminded of the stakes involved in saving democracy. The whole world had been reminded as the full scale of Hitler's horror became clear.

Today, this battle is being fought again, in China and elsewhere, without the tanks. Tyrants have discovered that you don't need hardware if you can deploy lies and software, specifically surveillance, to dominate a population. They think that

if you can control every aspect of an environment based on the perversion of the Fourth Industrial Revolution slogan that information is power, you can dictate the outcome of any narrative, personal or political. Beijing, thanks to ridiculous post-Tiananmen levels of Western economic amenability and covert technology transfer, has been the non-democratic early adopter of this ideology on an industrialized scale.

The soldiers who stormed the Juno, Omaha, Sword, Utah, and Gold beaches on June 6, 1944, were fighting the quest for domination of a similarly malignant worldview. In the current fight, tanks won't be of much use. What today's walking threats to democracy fear more than tanks is truth. So much so that they've tried corrupting it, shrinking it, killing it, misrepresenting it, degrading it, discrediting it, and pretending it never really existed in the first place.

D-Day today would begin with an unremitting barrage of truth, starting with the recognition that Donald Trump's belligerence, ignorance, outrageousness, and mendacity are neither organic nor incidental. They are a means to an end.

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

*The Hill Times*

## Spare a moment this week for the D-Day Dodgers, Canada's forgotten soldiers

There is no commemorative coin for the Italian campaign, no CBC specials, no documentaries. Aside from a Facebook page and some blogs, the Italian campaign is a forgotten chapter in our history.



Andrew Caddell

*With All Due Respect*

OTTAWA—Seventy-five years ago this week, my father, Captain Philip Caddell, of the 57<sup>th</sup> Battery, First Canadian anti-tank regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, First Canadian Division, was sitting in a jeep by the road about 20 kilometres outside of Rome.

He and 90,000 Canadian comrades had landed on the beaches of Sicily in July, 1943, and fought their way through Sicily and Italy against crack German troops after resistance from the Italian army gave way. In places like Agira, Campobasso, Ortona, Montecassino, and through the once-impenetrable Liri Valley to Rome, they fought Hitler's best and won. He and his mates presumed they had earned the right to the honour of entering Rome as liberators.

Instead, on June 5, 1944, the Canadians sat by the side of the road and watched as the Americans rolled by. They had struggled in the Italian campaign, and entered Rome to much fanfare as compensation. The American general in charge in Italy, Mark Clark, allegedly gave the order to shoot any Allied soldier who got in front of the Americans on the way to Rome. So my father sat by the side of the road and watched

them go by. He later said, “It was the first time I saw a Yank in Italy.”

After Rome, the Canadians continued to fight through mud and snow in the relentless Italian winter until February of 1945. In all, there were 25,264 Canadian casualties in Italy, 5,900 of them dead.

Until the liberation of Holland, which integrated some of the Canadian Divisions in Italy, the Italian campaign was the largest Canadian engagement of the Second World War. By comparison, D-Day, which occurred the day after the liberation of Rome, involved about 30,000 Canadian soldiers, sailors, and airmen.

D-Day has always figured in the narrative of the Italian campaign; men who fought in Italy were accused of avoiding the invasion of France and called “D-Day Dodgers,” a name rumoured to have been given to them by Lady Nancy Astor, a British parliamentarian, and immortalized in song.

The sarcastic lyrics, rife with obscenities, conclude with sobering thoughts:

*When you look 'round the mountains, through the mud and rain  
You'll find the scattered crosses, some which bear no name.*

*Heartbreak, and toil and suffering gone*

*The boys beneath them slumber on*

*They were the D-Day Dodgers, who'll stay in Italy.*

In his 80s, I talked to my father about his war experiences. He enlisted two days after the war was declared in September of 1939, trained in England for three years and rose from Gunner (private) to Captain, and was responsible for taking out both tanks and snipers. A friend who served with him told me my father was a “very good soldier,” which meant he was good at leading his men, but also effective in killing the enemy. In his later years, my father suffered from PTSD, as did many vets.

On his first home leave in March of 1945, he came back to Montreal, and the next day married my mother, whom he had not seen for five-and-a-half years. On their honeymoon, he told her all the awful stories of war; they sat and sobbed, and then he said, “Now, I just want to get on with life.” Within a few weeks, the war in Europe was over.

Sadly, the sacrifice he and so many others made is overshadowed by D-Day. There is no

commemorative coin for the Italian campaign, no CBC specials, no documentaries. Aside from a Facebook page and some blogs, the Italian campaign is a forgotten chapter in our history.

A few years ago I asked Peter Mansbridge why there was such a heavy media focus on Normandy and none on Italy. He suggested the invasion of France was “iconic.” Indeed it was, but it has also gained that status thanks to American involvement in the invasion. He, like so many, did not seem to know there were more Canadians in Italy than in France.

In 1996, I was living in Geneva, and my then 83-year old dad came over to visit. We drove to Italy and stopped in Ortona, Cassino, and Florence. When we entered the Moro River Cemetery near Ortona where 1,375 Canadians are buried, he stood at attention.

As we drove through Ortona later, he said he felt satisfied to see the prosperity there, as the last time he was there, the city was rubble. “I guess we did something worthwhile.”

Yes, you did. And so did 90,000 others.

Andrew Caddell is retired from Global Affairs Canada, where he was a senior policy adviser. He previously worked as an adviser to Liberal governments. He is a fellow with the Canadian Global Affairs Institute and a principal of QIT Canada. He can be reached at [pipson52@hotmail.com](mailto:pipson52@hotmail.com).

*The Hill Times*



# ENVIRONMENT

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# Liberals to move 'quickly' after Alberta chops carbon pricing, says McKenna

In a wide-ranging interview, the environment minister also says she hopes Japan will respond to outreach efforts and sign on to the Ocean Plastics Charter at this month's G20 summit.

BY AIDAN CHAMANDY

As Alberta's carbon tax is on the chopping block, Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna wouldn't provide a specific timeline for implementing the federal backstop in Alberta, but said the government will "move as quickly as possible" and that she'll have "more to say in the coming weeks."

Alberta's new United Conservative government ended the province's tax on gasoline and home heating on May 30. Though Bill 1, An Act to Repeal the Carbon Tax, has yet to receive Royal Assent, fuel sellers are no longer able to collect the tax. Alberta's provincial carbon tax has been in place since Jan. 1, 2017 and was instituted under Rachel Notley's NDP government. Bill 1 passed third reading on June 3.



Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna wouldn't provide an exact timeline on how the federal government will implement the carbon tax on Alberta, but said she will have more to say in the coming weeks. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

In a phone interview with *The Hill Times* on May 30, Ms. McKenna (Ottawa Centre, Ont.) touted the federal government's accomplishments at tackling climate change both domestically and internationally. With an eye towards the October election, she criticized Conservative politicians like Alberta Premier Jason Kenney, Ontario Premier Doug Ford, and federal Conservative Party Leader

Andrew Scheer for making it "free to pollute." This interview has been lightly edited for clarity, length, and style.

**Can you provide an update on how the federal government will implement the carbon tax on Alberta if Bill 1 passes?**

"Well, look, we've been clear that it's no longer free to pollute anywhere in the country. And so

we've had to step in, and unfortunately, in provinces that are led by Conservative politicians. From Doug Ford, his first act as premier was to make it free to pollute, and cancel a whole range of programs that were helping small businesses, schools, hospitals, and cities be more energy efficient and save money. This is more of the same from Conservative politicians. Ironically, we have energy compa-

nies that support putting a price on pollution. And in Alberta, the folks I talked to want to see serious climate action but, of course, they also want to grow the economy and create good jobs. If you're going to get your resources to market, you need to have a serious climate plan. I think this is unfortunate, but we will do what we've done in other provinces, which is have a price on pollution, but give them money

back. In fact, a number of people will be better off. Everyone will get a climate action incentive. So that means right now, not everyone is getting one, but every Albertan will get the same amount of climate action incentive, depending on the size of their family. So 80 per cent of people will be better off under this, especially lower income and middle class Albertans. And we're looking at the timing, I don't want to prejudge what's going to happen today, but we're going to move as quickly as possible."

**CBC recently obtained a list of Ontario Liberal MPs' priorities heading into the election, and climate change came in seventh on that list. So if I'm correct in assuming that you would place it higher than seventh, how do you go about convincing those MPs within your caucus, and any other MPs who might be feeling a similar way that fighting climate change is not only a good policy, but something that can help your re-election chances in October?**

"Well, so I'm in Ontario caucus and I know it's a top priority for Ontario caucus. They want to see continued action on climate change, they're very supportive of making it no longer free to pollute, and in giving the money back to Ontarians. And also we just announced, for example, today, a small- and medium-sized business Energy Efficiency Program for rebates on appliances that small

businesses would use and also a retrofit program. So they're very supportive. I mean, obviously, there's a range of things that we're trying to do. But everything fits in our overarching frame, which is how do you grow the economy, support the middle class, make life affordable, and tackle climate change? And so I don't think that's changed."

**In a recent interview with the *Toronto Star*, you mentioned that the government has measures other than carbon taxes "up its sleeve." You said that while "unmodelled," these measures, such as spending on public transit, will help Canada meet its emissions targets. Can you elaborate a bit on what you have up your sleeve?**

"I don't know the exact quote, but there are unmodelled measures. So let's talk about our climate plan, our climate plan is more than 50 different elements. Putting a price on pollution is extremely important, it represents around 20 per cent of our emissions, but it's part of any credible climate plan. You see that in other jurisdictions around the world, they have a price on pollution. Because, one, you don't want it to be free to pollute, but also you want people to choose cleaner solutions. But the other parts of our plan include phasing out coal, and ensuring a just transition for workers and communities, making historic investments

in renewable energy and public transportation, in clean solutions, supporting innovators and entrepreneurs. We just announced today another Energy Efficiency Program, but it focused on small businesses and retrofit programs for small businesses, rebates and retrofit programs for small businesses. When you look at public transportation, we are investing in LRT in Ottawa. It will be the largest reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in our history, but it hasn't started yet. We are going to be announcing shortly how we're going to tackle plastic pollution, we have a zero-plastic waste strategy. When you create plastics, it creates greenhouse gas emissions. So there's a number of different measures. And of course, we're going to have our platform."

**Now, in the same *Toronto Star* interview you mentioned the imperative of not getting ahead of public opinion, citing examples in the U.S. and France of maybe overly ambitious climate policies producing backlash. And recent polling suggests that Canadians overwhelmingly view climate change as a threat, and that the government should do something about it. But other polls also show that many Canadians are worried about things like rising fuel prices, which are a necessary byproduct of federal action to fight climate change. So how do you go about navigat-**

**ing these seemingly contradictory impulses in crafting a climate plan and selling it to the public?**

"Well, look our climate plan is a plan for the environment and for the economy. And that's what you have to be doing. And people have to be at the heart of it. So we're phasing out coal. But we're making sure there's a just transition for workers and communities, because we need to make sure that we have thriving communities, and people have jobs. We're putting a price on pollution, but we're giving all the money back. And people will be better off in the great majority of provinces where we've done this."

"I'm now the second-longest serving environment minister, and I've seen a lot because we started off with the Obama era and now we've got President Trump where they're backtracking on commitments that we jointly made together, while we're still moving forward on them. And so I think the lesson I've learned in this job, is that you have to always be thinking about people—through the people I meet, and it doesn't matter where I go anywhere in the country, the people I meet, whether they're small business owner, or they're a farmer, or they live in downtown Toronto, or they live in the Arctic, they want to see serious climate action. But of course, they care about life being affordable. And of course, they care about jobs. And so you always have to think

about that. But in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the environment and economy go together.

**At the G7 last year, both Japan and the U.S. declined to sign on to the Oceans Plastic Charter. Given the current climate in the U.S., it seems rather obvious that they would decline. But Japanese reluctance seems a little more surprising. Have there been any efforts to reach out to Japan and try to get them back into the fold?**

"Yeah, absolutely. There were a number of reasons that they didn't want to sign on, including haven't done consultations with their industry. They've made plastic pollution at priority at the G20, which they're hosting. I think that they support action to tackle plastic pollution. Once again, everyone should, because not only is there an environmental case—so we're actually choking our lakes, rivers, streams, oceans with plastics—we're also losing the value of plastics. There's a \$120-billion to \$150-billion opportunity to recover the plastics instead of throwing it out. I always say environment in the economy go hand in hand. And plastics is another example. Also, when you tackle the production of plastics, if you have less single-use plastics, you'll be producing less greenhouse gas emissions, which also have an environmental impact."

*The Hill Times*  
achamandy@hilltimes.com

# Lack of clear definitions behind Liberal lag in phasing out fossil fuel subsidies: experts

Despite the Liberals' 2015 commitment to phase out fossil fuel subsidies, the oil and gas industry continues to receive them, says Environmental Defence's Julia Levin.

By NINA RUSSELL

Ten years after the federal government's commitment to phase out fossil fuel subsidies by 2025, the Liberals are lagging in slashing funding for non-renewable energy sources.

The plan to cut subsidies was established during a G20 summit in 2009, and aims to mitigate the consumption of fossil fuels and encourage the growth of the low-carbon energy industry.

A 2018 report by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) titled "Public Cash for Oil and Gas" found that Canada is the largest provider of fossil fuel subsidies in the G7 per unit of GDP.

In 2015, the Liberal government promised to phase out subsidies

as part of its campaign platform. Despite this, environmental groups have expressed disappointment at the lack of clarity and slow pace of Ottawa's progress.

"Despite having made this commitment, and having reaffirmed this commitment on various occasions, including in the mandate letters of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change and the Minister of Finance, in the last six months Canada has continued to give subsidies to the oil and gas industry," Julia Levin, the climate and energy program manager for Environmental Defence, told *The Hill Times*. "In the most recent budget, we saw \$100-million in subsidies. In December 2016, we saw \$1.6-billion to oil and gas."

The federal government's plan has also been criticized by Julie Gelfand, the commissioner of the environment and sustainable development, who in April described the Departments of Finance and the Environment and Climate Change's efforts to identify inefficient subsidies as "incomplete and not rigorous."

In the 2019 budget, the Liberals announced that they had either phased out or rationalized eight tax expenditures, including tax measures providing preferential treatment to the oil and gas industry. Through rationalization,

the Department of Finance aims to eliminate the benefits gained from these tax measures.

In April, Ms. Gelfand released two reports, directed at the departments of Finance and Environment and Climate Change, which are working to eliminate tax and non-tax subsidies, respectively. Both reports criticized the departments for failing to clarify key definitions, including those for "inefficient" and "non-tax subsidy." Ms. Levin argued that the failure to use clear definitions has allowed the departments to justify not eliminating large subsidies.

"The problematic thing about not having a definition and then using it [those words] is that it lets you off the hook from having to be accountable to the decisions you're making," Ms. Levin said. "[The departments are] using a broad explanation that the commissioner pointed out was full of inconsistencies and it does appear that it is done in a way that lets the government off from having to do the real work of eliminating the subsidies."

Environment Canada has also identified 36 non-tax subsidies and concluded that four benefit the fossil fuel sector, but it determined that none are inefficient and will remain in place. Non-tax subsidies consist of research funding, loans at favourable rates, and grants. According to the department, the four

non-tax subsidies include funding for electric vehicle infrastructure and clean technology research, and support to help Indigenous communities keep electricity prices down.

Given the lack of definition, the IISD has questioned the department's failure to classify the four subsidies as inefficient.

"If the commitment was to phase out fossil fuel subsidies, we would know exactly what we need to phase out," Philip Gass, senior policy advisor at IISD said. "But because they've added this word that isn't really defined anywhere, it isn't defined at the G20 level, we don't really know what the government has to phase out. So groups like the IISD can suggest what we think is inefficient, but there's no definition of that word that would clearly allow the commissioner or us or anybody to know what exactly this means."

Though the department failed to eliminate any of the four subsidies it identified as targeting the fossil fuel sector, a September 2018 IISD report found that federal support for the industry is higher than the department suggests. The IISD found at least six major tax subsidies totalling \$3.3-million benefiting the fossil fuel industry, despite the Finance Department having only identified two out of twelve benchmark tax measures that ben-

efit the fossil fuel sector, according to Ms. Gelfand's report.

The discrepancy between the IISD's numbers and the department's are in part because the two used different definitions of "inefficient." Mr. Gass said he regards subsidies that work against the government's UN Paris climate targets—to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent below 2010 levels by 2030—while constituting an unnecessary burden to taxpayers as inefficient.

In response to the commissioner's report, the department claimed that providing a definition of "inefficient" would restrict them from considering the full breadth of issues.

The commissioner also criticized both departments' failure to consider the economic, social, and environmental impacts of subsidies.

In response to Ms. Gelfand's report, Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna (Ottawa Centre, Ont.) has committed to a consultation process with key stakeholders to define an inefficient fossil fuel subsidy. The Finance Department has yet to announce a similar undertaking, despite public support for a transparent, collaborative process.

"The very first thing I'd like to see is Finance Canada doing what Environment Canada is doing

now: publishing a list of subsidies, and then inviting comment from experts, from outsiders, or even to the public to know exactly where taxpayer money is being used," said Mr. Gass. "Transparency is the first step. Once we've got this list of subsidies, we'd like to see what the plan is to meet the goal."

Both departments have committed to a peer-review process with Argentina, another G20 country with a similar commitment to phase out fossil fuel subsidies. Canada will first develop a self-review report, including a list of subsidies and plans to reform them, followed by an international expert review panel chaired by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which will provide recommendations for further action. The findings of both reports will be released to the public upon their finalization, according to the 2019 budget.

"I think the reason we actually created this peer review, because it is voluntary, is because we actually want to help to develop those best practices, we want to showcase transparency, and we want to encourage international dialogue," said Liberal MP Julie Dzerowicz (Davenport, Ont.), who sits on the House of Commons Environment and Sustainable Development Committee. "What we're going

through in terms of the challenges we're having and defining the inefficient fossil fuels tax subsidies is shared by many other countries."

**Feds' Trans Mountain pipeline purchase could constitute subsidy**

The IISD report said that Ottawa's \$4.5-billion purchase of the Trans Mountain pipeline will most likely constitute a subsidy if the pipeline is sold to a private company at a price below market value, or sold with financial assurances that are not factored into the sale price.

NDP MP Wayne Stetski (Kootenay-Columbia, B.C.), vice-chair of the House Environment Committee, expressed similar doubt, arguing that the government is committing to up to forty more years of non-sustainable energy to recover the costs of purchasing the pipeline.

"[The purchase of the pipeline] means we aren't going to be moving to a new greener energy future with the same kind of immediacy that if we continue to do what we've done in the past," Mr. Stetski said. Ms. Dzerowicz denied this and argued that while Canada transitions to a low-carbon economy, it's important that Canada is receiving the best value for the resources it is currently producing.



A photo of an oil sands operation in Fort McMurray, Alta. The International Institute for Sustainable Development says the federal government's \$4.5-billion Trans Mountain pipeline purchase could constitute a subsidy if the pipeline is sold to a private company at a price below market value. Photograph courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

"I think that ... the intention is not that we're increasing the amount of fossil fuels we're taking out of the ground, but just providing, or redirecting, whatever it is that we're already producing, so that it goes to markets that's going to get maximum value for the resources that we are taking out of the ground while we're transitioning to a low-carbon economy," Ms. Dzerowicz said.

Liberal MP John Aldag (Cloverdale-Langley City, B.C.), chair of the House Environment and Sustainable Development Committee agreed, and expressed optimism about the government's ability to phase out subsidies by 2025, providing it is done in a way that doesn't shock the fossil fuel industry.

"I would hope that there would be timelines and steps so that the

industry can adjust," Mr. Aldag said. "We are also going to be using Canadian energy including carbon based products for the foreseeable future but we need to start with the transition, and so as we work to remove those subsidies we also don't want to see an immediate upset or upheaval given the challenges they've had."

*The Hill Times*  
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## Environment Policy Briefing

# Environmental groups urging government to add plastics to toxic substances list

Some provinces and municipalities have already banned plastic bags, but adding certain single-use plastics to a federal list makes it easier to coordinate across the country, advocates say.

BY AIDAN CHAMANDY

As domestic and international opposition to plastics and plastic pollution increases, some advocates are urging the federal government to take a tougher approach to regulation.

While some municipalities and provinces are already pushing forward with initiatives such as banning plastic shopping bags, the Liberals could go even further by naming certain types of single-use plastics as toxic substances under the law, say environmental and other groups.

In an interview with *The Hill Times*, Environment Minister Catherine McKenna (Ottawa Centre, Ont.) said the Liberals were “going to be announcing our zero plastic waste strategy soon, in terms of how we’re



Less than 11 per cent of plastic in Canada is recycled. The remainder ends up in landfills or on beaches. Photograph courtesy of Pxhere

going to tackle plastics pollution in Canada.”

Adding plastics, or a subset of plastics, to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) toxic substances list would give the federal government new regulatory powers to curb plastic production and use. The existing list, schedule 1, contains hundreds of substances, such as asbestos and lead.

According to Vito Buonsante, plastics program manager at Environmental Defence, getting these plastics onto CEPA’s schedule 1 list is “our top priority.”

CEPA allows for individuals or organizations to request a certain substance be added to the priority substance list. Once on the priority list, the government initiates an assessment to determine whether the substance meets CEPA’s definition of a toxic substance.

Adding a substance to the schedule 1 list allows for the federal government to harmonize regulations across the country. Certain provinces and municipalities have already taken action against plastics, but they don’t have the authority to regulate throughout the production and distribution cycle. Groups such as EcoJustice and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities have argued that an effective approach to plastic pollution must be done at the federal level.

“No one municipality has the ability to control what’s being brought in and sold on the marketplace, or what the global commodity markets are for recycled products,” Matt Gemmel, policy and research manager for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, told the House Environment and Sustainable Development Committee on May 8. The committee began studying plastic pollution on April 1, and moved to begin consideration of their report on the subject on May 27.

For plastics to be regulated under CEPA, they must meet the act’s definition of toxicity, which requires a substance has or may have an “immediate or long-term harmful effect on the environment or biodiversity,” constitute or may constitute a danger to the environment on which life depends,” or “constitute or may constitute a danger in Canada to human life or health.”

Either the environment minister or health minister can begin the toxicity assessment, and if a particular substance is found to meet the definition of toxicity the minister has 18 months to propose a regulation or take some form of action towards preventing or controlling the production of the substance.

In June 2016, microbeads less than five millimetres in size were added to the schedule 1 list. Microbeads are minuscule plastic particles commonly used in exfoliating products or toothpaste. A study by Sherri Mason of the State University of New York found that Lake Erie has the highest concentration of microbeads of

any body of water in the world, while lakes Huron and Superior are also seriously affected by microbead pollution.

The act gives broad regulatory authority to limit or ban the production, sale, or use of a substance. If a substance is deemed toxic and is added to the schedule 1 list, the federal government is then able to regulate “the quantity of the substance that may be manufactured, processed, used, offered for sale or sold in Canada,” or implement a “total, partial or condition prohibition of the manufacture, use, processing, sale, offering for sale, import or export” of the substance.

Advocates say another potential route the government could take on plastics regulation is under a different section of CEPA, which states that if another government chooses to ban a substance, and the minister is notified, they “shall review the decision in order to determine whether the substance is toxic or capable of becoming toxic.”

Several municipalities across the country, including Victoria, B.C., and Montreal, already have plastic bag bans in effect. Last June, Prince Edward Island was the first province to take action against plastic bags. The Plastic Bag Reduction Act is set to come into effect on July 1. Businesses in the province will no longer be able to provide plastic bags to customers at checkout.

In April, Newfoundland and Labrador announced they would join P.E.I. in banning plastic bags. The province said they would give businesses and consumers a six- to 12-month grace period to adjust to the changes. The specifics have yet to be finalized and it is unclear how the ban will work and when it will come into effect.

The action by the two Atlantic provinces follows an international outcry to curb plastic usage and subsequent responses from legislatures. The European Parliament recently voted to ban single-use plastic cutlery, single-use plastic plates, plastic straws, and other forms of “throwaway” plastics. In 2017, Kenya implemented a tough policy on plastic bags; fines of up to \$40,000 or four years jail time for anyone producing, distributing, or even carrying plastic bags.

Nancy Hamzawi, Environment Canada’s assistant deputy minister of the science and technology branch, told the House Environment Committee that such a process “will help us in terms of fast-tracking” a potential toxicity determination.

Another pathway for beginning the toxicity assessment process is if water pollution originating in Canadian waters affects the waters of other countries. CEPA also deals with controlling international water pollution, allowing the minister to instruct the governor in council—essentially a cabinet decision—to regulate a substance if it creates or could reasonably create “water pollution in a country other than Canada,” or “water pollution that violates, or is likely to violate, an international agreement binding on Canada in relation to the prevention, control or correction of pollution.”

Last year, at the G7 summit in Charlevoix, Que., Canada signed on to the Oceans Plastics Charter, now signed by a total of 21 countries and 60 businesses and organizations. In the charter, signatories committed to “take a lifecycle approach to plastics stewardship on land and at sea, which aims to avoid unnecessary use of plastics and prevent waste, and to ensure that plastics are designed for recovery, reuse, recycling and end-of-life management to prevent waste through various policy measures.”

*The Hill Times*  
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# We can, and must, act to stop climate change in its tracks

Climate action is the defining issue of our times. We must also take urgent action to fight climate change.



Peteris Ustubs

*Climate change*

Today we think the coffee we enjoy every morning is a given. But is the supply of clean water and coffee beans inexhaustible and readily available in the decades to come? Many take it for granted that it will. Unfortunately, facts say otherwise.

A recent UN report on the state of our natural world shows the extent to which we are eroding our environment—at our own peril. The report paints a dire picture of the health of ecosystems—and our future—with far-reaching implications for our livelihoods, economies, and health.

According to a 2016 World Health Organization study, some 12.6 million people worldwide die prematurely every year due to exposure to environmental risk factors.

In the European Union, despite significant progress made, air pollution still causes more than 400,000 premature deaths every year. The economic costs of air pollution are estimated at well over \$30-billion per year.

But we can act.

A few weeks ago, one of the first pieces of environmental legislation in Europe—the Birds Directive—marked its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the EU, governments, organizations, and volunteers, iconic species like the white-tailed eagle and the bearded vulture have recovered from the brink of extinction.

The EU is one of the major actors leading efforts to protect the environment. Environmental policy is a transversal element that all other European policies must take into account. Before the European Commission finalizes a proposal for a new law or a new financial program, it will carry out an impact assessment, which looks at the likely economic, environmental, and social impacts of the proposal envisaged. This provides the necessary evidence to inform and support the decision-making process, ensuring that the environmental dimension of a project is systematically taken into account.

Our priorities are to protect, conserve, and enhance Europe's natural resources; turn the EU into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy; and safeguard Europeans from environment-related risks to their health and well-being, such as those caused by plastic pollution.

Studies show that billions of people are drinking water contaminated by plastic particles. The European Union recently adopted ambitious measures to drastically decrease plastic pollution. Very soon single-use products made of plastic—for which alternatives exist, such as cotton bud

sticks, cutlery, or straws—will be banned; and so will plastic food containers and beverage cups. What's more, by 2029, 90 per cent of the plastic bottles will be collected separately for recycling. These measures aim to reduce 70 per cent of the marine litter produced by plastic products most often found on European beaches and, as a result, avoid environmental damages that would otherwise cost an estimated \$33-billion by 2030.

As highlighted at the Nature Summit in Montreal last April, more must be done to step-up nature preservation worldwide. Canada and the EU are leaders in this matter. Thanks to such initiatives as the recently established Edézhie Protected Area and Scott Islands Marine National Wildlife Area, Canada has succeeded in preserving

1.66-million square kilometres of land and oceans. Stretching over 18 per cent of the European Union's land area and almost 9.5 per cent of its marine territory, Natura 2000 is the largest co-ordinated network of protected areas in the world.

Climate action is the defining issue of our times—as the students rallying in the streets worldwide make a point in reminding us. We must also take urgent action to fight climate change.

In November, the European Commission presented its strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive, and climate-neutral economy by 2050. This strategy builds on the Paris Agreement objective to keep temperature increase to well below 2 C and pursue efforts to keep it to 1.5 C.

The strategy shows how we can achieve climate neutrality by investing in realistic technological solutions, empowering citizens, and aligning action in key areas such as industrial policy, finance and research. In January, the EU and Canada co-hosted a conference in Brussels that brought together business, civil society, and policy communities from both sides of the Atlantic to explore how best to leverage the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and encourage further joint actions in support of the Paris Agreement implementation.

Reaching a climate-neutral economy by 2050 is feasible from a technological, economic, and social perspective. But the challenges we face are global and they demand a global response. The EU and Canada have an important leadership role to play in guaranteeing the Paris Agreement objectives are met and in reversing the fate of biodiversity and ecosystem loss.

*Peteris Ustubs is the ambassador of the European Union to Canada.*  
*The Hill Times*



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#CDNMINING

## Environment Policy Briefing

# The clean fuel standard is coming to Canada and there's lessons to be learned from past Canadian struggles

We have seen the federal government struggle to get Canadians onboard with other environmental legislation. Clearly, the best of intentions don't necessarily translate to success in implementation.



Jade McLean & Marla Orenstein

*Clean Fuel Standard*

Soon, the federal government will be requiring that all fossil fuels consumed in Canada be less emissions intensive. And no, we're not talking about the carbon tax. We are talking about the Clean Fuel Standard (CFS)—the government's latest and potentially most ambitious climate policy yet.

The goal of the CFS is to strengthen Canada's efforts towards achieving a 30 per cent reduction in total emissions from 2005 levels by 2030. Yet, this raises the question: isn't that why we have a carbon tax?

Although both policies are intended to chip away at Canada's overall emissions levels, they deploy different and complementary strategies to do that. While a carbon tax is intended to reduce the amount of fuel consumed by making it more expensive, the CFS is intended to make the fuel that is used less carbon intensive. One bird, two stones.



The coming Clean Fuel Standard is wading into uncharted territory in that it will be the first policy of its kind to extend beyond transportation fuels to include building and industry fuels, write Jade McLean and Marla Orenstein. *Pexels photograph by Edwin José Vega Ramos*

The development of the CFS has been in the works for more than two years; the details of the policy will be released in the coming weeks, with implementation starting in 2022.

In a nutshell, the CFS will require all suppliers (producers, importers, and distributors) of fossil fuels in Canada to reduce the carbon intensity (CI) of the fuel—that is, the amount of greenhouse gas emissions associated with producing and consuming the fuel.

In Canada, our fuels are currently regulated under the Renewable Fuel Regulation, which mandates that all gasoline and diesel contain a minimum biofuel content. But we know that biofuels have varied environmental records. In fact, some biofuels generate greater emissions over their lifecycle than some fossil fuels. The CFS partly avoids this issue by being technology-agnostic, meaning that CI reductions under the CFS can be achieved in any way, and at any point in the lifecycle, from production through transportation to consumption. While biofuels are one option, so are electrification, increased energy efficiency, or switching to less energy-intensive hydrocarbons (e.g., from coal to natural gas). An additional benefit of broadening the policy beyond biofuels is that it may stimulate more innovative and less expensive approaches to reducing GHGs.

The experience of other jurisdictions suggests that the policy is likely to succeed in avoiding emissions—at least with respect to transportation. B.C., California, and the EU have had similar policies in place for transportation fuels (gasoline and diesel) since 2011, and in all cases, the CIs of fuels were successfully reduced. However, the CFS is wading into uncharted territory in that it will be the first policy of its kind to extend beyond transportation fuels to include building and industry fuels. While similar policies have succeeded in reducing carbon emissions for transportation, it will remain to be seen if similar outcomes will be realized in these other sectors.

We support the intentions of the CFS; reducing global GHG emissions is critical. At the same time, we have seen the federal government struggle to get Canadians onboard with other environmental legislation, such as the carbon tax and Bill C-69. Clearly, the best of intentions don't necessarily translate to success in implementation.

Luckily, every struggle brings a lesson. There are several key lessons to be learned from these efforts. Critical considerations for the ultimate success of the CFS include:

- **Involvement of the provinces.** We've seen environmental policies founder when there is insufficient flexibility on how they are implemented across dif-

ferent provinces. The CFS necessarily interacts with other provincial legislation—whether the cap-and-trade system in Quebec, or B.C.'s own version of the CFS. Ensuring the CFS is responsive to different provincial contexts and Canada's regional differences and is harmonized with legislation across 13 jurisdictions will not be easy. And to accomplish that, collaboration with the provinces and respect for their distinct challenges and policy approaches is critical.

- **The CFS will create winners and losers—within and across sectors, within and across regions, and for the competitiveness of Canada in the global marketplace.** How will the policy ensure that different groups aren't unfairly impacted? How can the details avoid resentment and pushback?
- **Regulatory burden.** The implementation of the CFS will be complex, requiring substantial work on the part of both fuel suppliers and government agencies to demonstrate that compliance has been achieved. If the policy is to be successful, the administrative costs of the policy must not outweigh its benefits.
- **A key question is what the CFS will cost.** This is much more difficult to answer than for carbon tax, where the price is clear and is borne by the end consumer, and for which offset rebates are provided. Under the CFS, any costs will be borne by the fuel supplier. Whether those costs are low or high will depend on the cost of the approach that the supplier uses to implement the CI reduction. This may be high (for example, purchasing offsets at \$180 per tonne) or low (if a technology is implemented that winds up saving the supplier money). In some cases, costs may be passed on to the end consumer, but the challenge is different for trade-exposed industries that have to compete with international imports. Ultimately, the costs of the CFS will be less visible to consumers than the carbon tax—and therefore perhaps more palatable politically—but the costs will still be present.

Many questions remain as to how this policy will play out among different sectors over time. The details provided by the federal government in June will help establish how successful—politically, economically, and environmentally—the policy is likely to be.

*Jade McLean is a policy analyst and Marla Orenstein is director of the Natural Resources Centre at the Canada West Foundation.*

*The Hill Times*



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# Canada slow to come clean on removing fossil fuel subsidies

Without adequately addressing subsidies, the federal government undermines benefits from its own commendable carbon pricing policies.



Vanessa Corkal

*Fossil fuel subsidies*

A few weeks ago, researchers in Hawaii found our atmosphere's concentration of carbon dioxide is the highest it's been in three million years. Back then, humans didn't exist. Earth was significantly hotter. Sea levels were 15 metres higher.

We're heading toward a similarly unrecognizable world. The need to take bold climate change action could not be clearer.

A vital action Canada must take to avoid a future of runaway climate change is reform of fossil fuel subsidies. By distorting the market, these subsidies incentivize the emissions that cause climate change. As well as being fiscally irresponsible, they help lock in pollution and slow our transition to a low-carbon economy.

Over the past few months, there have been repeated, high-level calls to end fossil fuel subsidies. The United Nation's recent biodiversity report, which projected one million species approaching risk of extinction, denounced these subsidies for their devastating impact on wildlife. World leaders, such as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the International Monetary Fund's Christine Lagarde, have condemned fossil fuel subsidies as a driver of climate change.

Ten years ago, Canada and other G20 countries committed to phase out fossil fuel subsidies, but progress has been slow. Our country is still the largest funder of fossil fuels per unit of GDP in the G7. While the federal government has taken steps to address subsidies, including committing to a peer review of its subsidies with Argentina, phasing out some subsidies such as the Atlantic Investment Tax Credit (AITC), and opening consultations on non-tax subsidies,

more work is needed to meet the G20 goal—because our subsidies are still significant.

In past years, federal subsidies have reached more than \$1-billion per year. From 2016 to 2018, the federal government committed to some reforms including removing the AITC, but still provided hundreds of millions of dollars annually on fossil fuel subsidies.

To be clear, ensuring access to affordable energy is important, particularly for vulnerable groups.

However, the reality is many Canadian fossil fuel subsidies go to producers, not consumers. Our priority should be reclaiming taxpayer dollars and foregone public revenue handed to private companies that promote fossil fuel production.

The kicker is, we don't understand the full scope of this problem. Canadians don't have access to information on who directly benefits from these subsidies, or just how many taxpayer dollars are being spent. Numerous organizations have pushed for subsidy transparency, but pressure to act has also come from inside government. Earlier this year, the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development criticized Canada's lack of transparency and progress on this issue.

In response, Environment and Climate Change Canada began a public consultation on non-tax subsidies, open until the end of June. This is a positive step and the results could build support for subsidy reform and improved policies to transition to a low-carbon economy.

However, more needs to be done. Despite clear calls to action from the commissioner, Finance Canada has yet to begin a similar public review process or consultation on tax provisions that benefit the oil and gas sector.

Without adequately addressing subsidies, the federal government undermines benefits from its own commendable carbon pricing policies. Significant emission reductions will only happen if Canada



Finance Minister Bill Morneau and Environment Minister Catherine McKenna speak to reporters in Ottawa in April. While Environment Canada has begun consulting on non-tax fossil fuel subsidies, the Department of Finance has not yet followed suit, writes Vanessa Corkal. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

addresses those policies that encourage emissions in the first place.

The economics are clear. With billions redirected away from harmful subsidies, Canada has an incredible opportunity to support issues that matter to Canadians, such as job creation, healthcare, and education.

We can move towards a low-carbon economy and a clean future for Canadians, and at the same time use savings from subsidies to support industry, workers, and communities that are affected by this transition. Canada already has a model to do this: the Just Transition Task Force on coal gave clear policy options to chart a safe, sustainable future beyond fossil fuels.

The question is: are we ready to come clean?

*Vanessa Corkal is an energy policy analyst for the International Institute for Sustainable Development.*

*The Hill Times*

## CANOLA'S SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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INCREASE LAND EFFICIENCY

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SEQUESTER MORE CARBON

5

sequestering additional MILLION tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions in Canadian soils, every year

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50% OF

CANOLA ACRES

PROTECT BIODIVERSITY

Safeguard over

2,000

BENEFICIAL INSECTS

that call canola fields and surrounding habitat home

## Environment Policy Briefing

# The clock is ticking on tackling climate change

The NDP's climate platform includes establishing a Climate Accountability Office, investing \$3-billion in a Canadian Climate Bank, and increasing the number of zero-emission vehicles on the roads.



NDP MP Alexandre Boulerice

2019 election

Eleven. That's how many years we have left to get our act together before we reach the point of no return. As a father of four, it's a fact that I'm reminded of every single day. How will future generations look back upon us? As a Member of Parliament, I feel twice as responsible.

Humans tend to be a complicated bunch, but ultimately we all want the same thing: to live in a society that allows us, and our future generations, not just to survive, but thrive.

Climate change threatens this. And political inaction has compounded it.

Make no mistake: the effects of climate change are already here. They're not some far-off consequence of today's willful blindness. The severe floods, ravaging wildfires, pollution, and rising sea levels are already destroying communities and ecosystems across our vast country.

For far too long now, neither the Liberals nor the Conservatives have had the courage to do what is needed to ensure our future. Concerned more by short-term gains rather than long-term viability, they've denied the existence of climate change, destroyed protections for our air and water, protected big polluters, and they've consistently put corporate interests above the genuine well-being of workers and families.

Actions matter. That's why the NDP has decided to release "Power to change: the NDP Plan for Climate Action and Good Jobs," its most comprehensive climate action plan to date, one that respects Indigenous rights, and integrates reconciliation, economic justice, and climate responsibility to build resilient communities.

Ottawa *must* spearhead the transition. It's going to mean following



The NDP, led by Jagmeet Singh, released their 2019 climate action platform. The plan is the party's most comprehensive climate action plan to date, one that respects Indigenous rights, and integrates reconciliation, economic justice, and climate responsibility to build resilient communities, writes Alexandre Boulerice. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

the path set out by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report and legislating the obligation for all future governments to establish a plan to meet ambitious, science-based greenhouse gas reduction targets that will help stabilize the global temperature rise to 1.5 C. It's going to mean doing away with the weak targets set by the Liberals and Conservatives for 2030, working with provinces to set and meet interim emissions reductions targets, as well as establishing the Climate Accountability Office, which will be tasked with doing regular audits of progress towards our climate goals.

It's going to mean setting Canada on the path towards becoming powered by 100 per cent net carbon-free electricity by 2030, and, by 2050, 100 per cent non-emitting electricity. To do

this, the NDP will establish a new Canadian Climate Bank, which will be mandated with investing \$3-billion in federal funds in initiatives related to the low-carbon economy, to accelerating the adoption of clean technology, creating good jobs, and supporting local economic development.

It will also provide support for interested provinces to interconnect power grids and introduce smart grid technology with federal loan guarantees, to help bolster Canada's energy security, and distribute clean power across the country.

Oil and gas companies will never have access to this money. It's time Ottawa stops spending billions of taxpayer dollars to fund the backwards practices of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. That's why we will also be eliminating all subsidies to the fossil fuel industries.

Our greenprint plans to retrofit all housing and commercial stock by 2050 so they are energy efficient, as well as increasing the number of zero-emissions vehicles—built in Canada by Canadians—on our country's roads. More importantly, we will create a permanent, direct, allocation-based funding mechanism to modernize and expand low carbon public transit throughout our communities, offering more opportunities for mobility, and with better fares.

These are just some of the measures we believe are necessary to allow Canadian families and workers to thrive in the new green economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

It won't be easy—nothing this big ever is. But as New Democrats, we've never stepped down from a fight we believe in. Decades ago, many called Tommy Douglas and the NDP's plan for universal health care a pipe dream. It has now become a defining characteristic of our country and a source of pride.

This plan, too, is a rallying cry for all Canadians to join forces. If we are to tackle climate change—really tackle climate change—we are going to have to all work together in the same direction. The countdown is ticking away.

NDP MP Alexandre Boulerice, who represents Rosemont—La Petite-Patrie, Que., is his party's environment critic.

*The Hill Times*

## Trudeau's climate failures call for a new approach

The truth is that, despite all of the hype over the prime minister's Pan-Canadian Framework on Climate Change, each year Canada is falling further and further behind its emission-reduction targets.



Conservative MP Ed Fast

Emissions reduction

In the weeks ahead, Canada's Conservatives will put forward a climate change plan that will give Canada the best possible chance of meeting its Paris greenhouse gas emission targets. That plan will recognize that climate change is a global problem that requires global solutions, which Canadians are well-positioned to deliver. With that in mind, the Trudeau Liberals have become increasingly desperate to distract from their own climate failures.

The truth is that, despite all of the hype over the prime minister's Pan-Canadian Framework on Climate Change, each year Canada is falling further and further behind its emission-reduction targets. By the government's own documents, what began as a 44-megatonne shortfall in emissions reductions has now become a shortfall of 79 megatonnes, and growing. Depending on how you crunch the numbers, the 2018 shortfall could be as high as 115 megatonnes.

What is clear is that the Liberal plan will not come anywhere close to meeting Canada's Paris Accord targets. The environment commissioner, the auditor general, the UN, David Suzuki,

and many other ENGOs have all said so.

Despite overwhelming evidence that the Liberal climate change plan is not delivering what it promised, Environment Minister Catherine McKenna continues to promote the canard that Canada is on track to meet its Paris Agreement targets. This is the same minister who was recently caught on camera describing her strategy to misinform Canadians as, "If you repeat it, if you say it louder, if that is your talking point, people will totally believe it." Canadians are smarter than that. This is not how leaders should respond when faced with an inconvenient truth.

The Liberal climate plan included the recent announcement that Loblaw's, one of Canada's most profitable billion-dollar companies, had received a government grant of \$12-million to help it purchase new fridges and freezers. This was done under the guise of promoting the Liberal government's climate change plan. From the public's reaction, it is clear that Canadians were not amused over this misuse of their money. Why is it that the richest and most well-connected

companies are the beneficiaries of Liberal largesse when ordinary Canadian families have to buy their own energy efficient fridges?

Among other things, the Liberal plan imposes an escalating national carbon tax on Canadians that, according to government documents marked "secret," could result in the tax moving from \$20 per tonne of emissions to \$300 per tonne. That translates into an additional \$0.66 per litre of gas at the pump. Of course, it was Justin Trudeau who famously described high gas prices as "exactly what we want." With skyrocketing gas prices, and half of Canadians being less than \$200 away from insolvency, life is becoming less and less affordable for the average family under the Trudeau government.

There is little to no evidence that the carbon tax will deliver the results that the Paris Accord requires. One is then left to ask: Why, out of the 50 "tools" that the minister has identified in her plan, is the carbon tax the only one that has been made mandatory and is being foisted upon the provinces and territories in a heavy-handed manner?

The truth is that the Liberals do not have a climate plan. They



Canadians are not amused with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government and its climate plan, which included money for a grocery giant to buy new fridges, writes Conservative critic Ed Fast. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

have a tax plan. Like the British Columbia carbon tax, and notwithstanding all of the solemn promises about returning the tax to Canadians, the Trudeau government—we believe—will, after this year's federal election, quickly eliminate the so-called neutrality of the tax and convert it into a revenue stream for Liberals to spend on their own political priorities rather than leaving that money in the pockets of Canadians.

When it comes to climate change, Justin Trudeau has again over-promised and under-delivered. His so-called "climate action plan" is not as advertised.

Conservative MP Ed Fast, who represents Abbotsford, B.C., is his party's environment and climate change critic.

*The Hill Times*

# Can Canada break its fossil fuel addiction?

A lot of work will be required to make the transition off of fossil fuels. This should be embraced as a collective, nation-building project.



Marc Lee

*Fossil fuels*

Canada has an uneasy history when it comes to fossil fuels and climate change. Our leaders have been great at setting far-off targets for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) or carbon emissions, then failing to meet them.

As part of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change, Canada committed to a 30 per cent reduction in carbon emissions by 2030, relative to 2005 levels. As of 2017, Canada's emissions were less than one per cent below 2005 levels, so we have a lot of work to do.

New modelling by the federal government shows that Canada is not even

close to being on a pathway to meeting its 2030 target—even after including all of the recent measures tabled by federal and provincial governments.

Canada's challenge is not just that we are a consumer of fossil fuels for our energy needs, we are also a major producer of fuels for export. More than one-quarter of Canada's total carbon emissions come from the extraction and processing of oil and gas.

Those oil and gas production emissions in 2017 were 21 per cent higher than 2005 levels and the federal government projects they will grow another nine per cent by 2030.

Plans to further increase Canada's exports of fossil fuels are thus contradictory to the spirit and intentions of the Paris Agreement. By accommodating growing oil and gas emissions, all other sectors of the economy need to tighten their belts even more if Canada is to meet its target.

To walk its talk on climate, Canada must contemplate how to wind down those fossil fuel sectors, not ramp them up. Some of this thinking is now happening when it comes to shrinking coal production used to generate electricity, but it has yet to be integrated into policy for oil and gas.



Alberta Premier Jason Kenney meets with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in Ottawa May 2. We need to be mindful of the regional nature of resource employment, and Alberta is already leading the way with a strategy and programs for workers affected by the province's phase-out of coal-fired electricity, writes Marc Lee. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

Such a managed wind-down should be built on four pillars.

First, Canada should commit to a carbon budgeting framework similar to the United Kingdom, which would compel policy-makers to confront the classic economic problem of how to allocate resources subject to a budget constraint.

Carbon budgeting would be more like the way we plan for annual government budgets: a target is stated at the start of the year along with actions on how it will be achieved, followed by routine monitoring and reporting.

A carbon budget would also provide a lens with which to evaluate new proposed infrastructure. For example, approval of bitumen pipelines and liquefied natural gas (LNG) export terminals will lock in higher production emissions for many decades into the future.

Second, divesting from fossil fuels will require major new investments in green infrastructure and a national green industrial strategy. At a macroeconomic level the best defence is a good offence: efforts to create new employment in areas that decarbonize the economy, as well as supporting more inherently green jobs in

the service sector such as child care and seniors' care.

A lot of work will be required to make the transition off of fossil fuels. This should be embraced as a collective, nation-building project.

Third, we need to be mindful of the regional nature of resource employment and develop a "just transition" for workers and communities.

Alberta is already leading the way with a strategy and programs for workers affected by the province's phase-out of coal-fired electricity (although this may change with the new Alberta government).

A federal Just Transition Task Force recently added to this conversation, but the same dialogue needs to be extended to oil and gas production.

Fourth, enhancing public returns to resource development through carbon pricing and royalty reform will be needed to pay for the transition. An increase in revenues of just one per cent of GDP, for example, would raise \$20-billion per year. Investing in green areas would, conservatively, support 140,000 jobs.

In addition to reducing our carbon emissions, climate action would reap many other health and environmental benefits.

These ideas for a managed wind-down are currently unthinkable in the Canadian political context, but the times are a-changing. To do its share of the heavy lifting, a managed wind-down of oil and gas production must be on the table.

Marc Lee is a senior economist at the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' B.C. office.

*The Hill Times*

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## Environment Policy Briefing

# Building a cleaner, stronger economy—today and for the future



Liberal MP Sean Fraser

Government policy

Canada's most recent job numbers are absolutely staggering. Our economy has added more than one million jobs across the country since 2015. Unemployment is at the lowest level ever recorded since we started tracking this statistic more than 40 years ago. More than 300,000 children have been lifted out of poverty and thousands of Canadian families are joining the middle class, building better futures through hope and hard work.

As we recognize World Environment Day on June 5, it's worth considering the link between the environment and the economy. For instance, among the most impressive job numbers I've seen lately are ones from the clean

energy sector. Across the country, 300,000 Canadians are already working to grow renewable power generation, develop cleaner fuels and transportation, install energy-saving technology, and more. Between 2010 and 2017, job creation in the sector has outpaced the rest of the economy by 60 per cent.

Those findings are from a new report by Clean Energy Canada, a think tank based at Simon Fraser University, and modelling firm Navius Research. Their work found that, in every province, the jobs that reduce carbon pollution are growing, and growing fast. Since 2010, the sector has grown in value by almost five per cent per year, outpacing Canada's already solid growth rate of 3.6 per cent. The rise in renewable and alternative energy is one of the main drivers of this sector's growth, but clean transportation is another runaway success.

Canada's clean energy sector attracts billions of dollars from international businesses. Foreign direct investment in Canada grew by a whopping 60 per cent last year compared to 2017. The landscape is shifting for Canadian compa-

nies and workers, and we can't afford to miss the opportunity that comes from taking action on climate change—an opportunity worth US\$26-trillion world-wide between now and 2030, according to the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate.

Many Canadian companies and workers are already tapping into that opportunity, as global demand for cleaner energy and technologies grows, and as the full range of climate-fighting policies kicks in at the federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal level. Meanwhile, more emissions-intensive sectors are seeing the business case for investing in solutions that will allow them to reduce pollution and remain competitive as market conditions and customers' expectations change.

The clean economy is here, and it is growing. Clean energy is just one sector that's due to expand as Canada and the world ramp up efforts to fight climate change. We have to position ourselves on the front end of this wave of demand for cleaner technology and fuels, to capitalize on the enormous economic opportunity it represents.

Yet, despite the boom in clean economic growth, the economic and environmental policies of the Conservatives are straight out of the 1950s. Rather than investing in a cleaner future for our kids and grandkids, they want to take Canada backwards. Alberta Premier Jason Kenney just made pollution free again and says climate change is the flavour of the month. Doug Ford is cutting funding for all kinds of programs people care about, and wasting millions of taxpayers' dollars fighting climate action—in- stead of fighting climate change.

That's no way to make Canada's economy stronger in the long run. Our approach is ambitious but sensible. We've put in place dozens of measures to reduce pollution while working with Canadians to grow the economy and create more than one million jobs. We're investing in more than 1,200 public transit projects, phasing out coal, launching a national strategy to reduce plastic pollution, providing rebates and incentives to support electric vehicles, building green infrastructure and improving the energy efficiency of buildings.

Let's be clear—if you don't have a plan for the environment,

you don't have a plan for the economy. According to global reinsurer Munich Re, last year natural disasters caused over US\$160-billion in damage. And when the Bank of Canada released its 2019 Financial System Review last month, it listed climate change as one of six major vulnerabilities facing Canada's economy. In April, Mark Carney, governor of the Bank of England, warned global financial communities not to ignore climate change. "If some companies and industries fail to adjust to this new world," he said, "they will fail to exist."

By fighting climate change and investing in Canadian innovation and clean power, we're making Canada's economy cleaner and more competitive. When the status quo involves "once-in-a-century" floods happening every other year, or a wildfire season that burns an area half the size of my home province, or heatwaves that kill dozens of Canadians in Ontario and Quebec, we cannot listen to people who want to stand down in the fight against climate change and argue we should do less. Our government will continue to stand up and fight for a bright future for our kids, with great jobs, a clean economy, and a healthy environment.

*Liberal MP Sean Fraser, who represents Central Nova, N.S., is the parliamentary secretary to the minister of environment and climate change.*

*The Hill Times*

# Northern Canada facing the climate change challenge in practical, culturally meaningful ways

BY ADAM FISER, KAITLYN RATHWELL & SOHA KNEEN

The threat of climate change to property and infrastructure has become increasingly apparent to Canadians. With increasing intensity and frequency, forest fires and floods are having a devastating impact on all kinds of communities, whether rural or urban. But imagine a world where climate change puts your way of life and cultural identity at risk. This is an urgent reality faced by many of Canada's remote northern communities. Their experiences and efforts to adapt and find strength, despite extreme vulnerability, has a lot to teach us.

Environmental science and Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge are revealing a complex pattern of changes across the North. The growing list includes thawing permafrost and unpredictable sea ice formations; disrupted migratory patterns of traditional subsistence species such as caribou; the appearance of unexpected terrestrial and marine invasive species; and increased levels of contaminants entering the food chain, alongside unfamiliar vector-borne diseases.

This complex pattern of environmental changes can be highly disruptive for remote northern communities. Aside from weathering increased threats to infrastructure and transportation networks,

they now contend with a range of climate-related stressors on population health and wellness, including increased food insecurity from not having reliable access to resources on land and sea.



Climate change has visible impacts, such as the disturbing of the migratory patterns of subsistence species like caribou, but there are intangible challenges as well for northern and remote communities to deal with. Flickr photograph by *peupleloup*

Current research, including our own work at the Conference Board of Canada, confirms that the impacts on infrastructure alone will require governments and industry to dedicate more resources to climate change adaptation and mitigation. But the monetizable impacts are only a small part of the environmental changes disrupting life in Arctic communities.

The intangible, but no less real, impacts of climate change are threatening the very cultural

fabric of many remote northern communities. Such intangibles are difficult or impossible to monetize, but their intensity can be no less devastating for community well-being. The sense of self and

identity of people and communities can be fundamentally shaken when their connections to vital ecological systems are severed. Participating residents have described their limited access to sea ice as a kind of spiritual death or ecological grief. Unsurprisingly, depression and anxiety are not uncommon for communities that are losing not only their homes but also their way of life.

There are ways to minimize these impacts, and there is no time to lose. Collaboration is

fundamental. At the Conference Board, we've seen firsthand how remote northern communities are rolling up their sleeves and working together to share knowledge, practices, and resources.

New partnerships that cross cultures, disciplines, industries, and governments are needed to help distribute the burden of risks and stimulate innovation to address the range of impacts. The northern experience is already fostering new ways to design, build, and manage infrastructure. Adaptive approaches to ice road construction for example have emerged from collaborations between Indigenous communities, territorial governments, and industry partners.

In this context, traditional ecological knowledge accumulated and refined by northern Indigenous peoples over millennia, helps them make sense of the practical and emotional/spiritual dimensions of climate change adaptation. Effective counselling techniques for how to live well in a radically changing environment are anchored, for example, in traditional Inuit values of patience, focus, connection, and gratitude.

These values are being imparted to youth through innovative on-the-land programming that also exposes them to environmental science concepts. These values are also reflected in creative art forms such as sculptural and

graphic arts that help Arctic residents express the deeper intangible dimensions of climate change adaptation. Recent artworks made by Inuit artists from Pangnirtung and Cape Dorset, Nunavut, for example, depict the Inuit lived experience of climate change, and their resilience in confronting radical change. We must find ways to elevate these lessons and to make them accessible to young northerners.

Residents of Canada's North are building capacity to navigate climate change in both practical and culturally meaningful ways. There is an opportunity for all Canadians to support their efforts and to apply their lessons at home.

Remote northern communities have learned that surviving climate change requires collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and a refusal to give up on one's cultural heritage. In this context, Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge as practiced, and held, in Northern Canada is a complement to environmental science, and a source of strength for communities that are grappling with extreme changes to their cultural identity and fundamental ways of life.

*Kaitlyn Rathwell, Adam Fiser, and Soha Kneen are research associates with the Conference Board of Canada.*

*The Hill Times*

# Canada's effort to reduce plastics pollution have been found wanting

Somewhere along the line, we focused our attention away from reducing material use and reusing as much as possible, to recycling as the solution to our waste problem.



Myra Hird

Recycling

Recently, Canada has been getting some bad press. Since 2013, the Philippines has been asking Canada to take back some 69 shipping containers filled with garbage, erroneously labelled as recyclable material. Fed up with the Canadian federal government's inertia, Philip-

pines President Rodrigo Duterte finally threatened to "declare war" on Canada if we continue to let our trash rot in their Manila port.

And now, a second embarrassing incident: one or more shipping containers of materials labelled "recyclables" has made its way from Canada to Malaysia only to be found to contain grocery store plastic bags that are too low grade to be economically viable as recyclable material.

Certainly, the Canadian government needs to take responsibility for all of this waste. Since various loopholes in our regulations mean that the chain of private companies and brokers that likely handled these containers from source to final destination cannot be held financially or legally responsible, Canadian taxpayers will end up footing the bill. But these compromises to our international reputation should lead to more than business-as-usual responses such as closing these loopholes (as our government claims it has now done). These incidents should provoke serious questions about why Canada is producing so much waste, why we are moving our waste outside of Canada in such enormous quantities (or at all), and why we are so focused on recycling.

According to the Conference Board of Canada, Canada is the highest municipal solid waste (MSW) per capita producer in the



Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte, pictured in 2017, threatened to declare war on Canada for the containers of garbage labelled as recyclable material sent to his country. Wikimedia Commons photograph

world. This reality is even more shocking when we consider that the vast majority of Canada's waste—some 97 per cent or more—is actually produced by the mining, oil sands, and agricultural industries (we are missing accessible data on how much waste our military produces). And whereas much of this industry waste stays where it is created, we're moving increasing volumes of MSW to other regions, and clearly, to other countries. Somewhere along the line, we focused our attention away from reducing material use and reusing as much as possible, to recycling as the solution to our waste problem. Recycling, after all, doesn't disturb capitalist circuits of production and consumption.

The problem is that recycling isn't a solution to waste generation.

Both waste disposal and recycling are privatized in Canada. This means that materials we place in recycling boxes are only recycled if there is an economic profit to be made: waste intended for recycling is often disposed of when recycling costs outweigh the profit derived from the recycled materials.

Recycling often diminishes the quality of the material such that recycled products can only often be used once, and recycling some materials (such as paper) requires the use of toxic materials and creates hazardous waste that must then be disposed. And, as the Philippines and Malaysia examples illustrate, recyclables are often transported significant distances, using non-renewable fossil fuels. Polystyrene (Styrofoam) is a good example.

In Kingston, Ont. (where I work), polystyrene is collected by the municipality (i.e. taxpayers pay a private company to pick up this material) and taken to the Kingston Area Recycling Centre. From there, it is trucked to North Bay (about 450 kilometres away) to be super-compressed (using a chemical process, creating waste), and then trucked to Montréal (some 540 kilometres) where it is shipped to South Korea and the United States. All of this transportation uses non-renewable fossil fuels, which increases our carbon footprint, which affects climate change.

Recycling isn't a solution. Moving our trash to other countries isn't a solution. Instead, I propose the following calls to action:

1. Start a national dialogue about Canada's waste issues;
2. Focus all educational initiatives away from recycling and towards reduction, reuse and refurbishment;
3. Require all levels of government (federal, provincial/territorial, municipal) to introduce, and enforce, strict regulations and policies with regard to waste management and recycling;
4. Focus attention away from technological solutions (better recycling) and towards industry and government responsibility for waste, for example in greatly increased extended producer responsibility.

Myra Hird is a professor at Queen's University's School of Environmental Studies, a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and founder of Canada's Waste Flow research group.

The Hill Times

# On fuel-efficient cars, where do Canada's federal parties stand?

In the lead-up to the election, prospective legislators should be clear on whether they want to keep and strengthen current standards, or follow U.S. President Donald Trump in rolling them back.



Joanna Kyriazis &amp; Dan Woynillowicz

Vehicle emissions

When it comes to regulations, there are few things that automakers have wanted more than certainty and harmonization across borders. Flash back to 2012, when prime minister Harper's government decided to harmonize vehicle emission regulations with president Obama's Environmental Protection Agency, laying out a schedule of improved performance to 2025.

Looking out to 2025, cars, trucks, and SUVs in North America would consume up to 50 per cent less fuel than 2008 vehicles, cutting carbon pollution from these vehicles by that same amount: 50 per cent. While a more fuel-efficient vehicle would likely have a slightly higher sticker price at the dealership, drivers would break even after two years, beyond which they would continue to benefit from lower fuel costs.

More than a decade of certainty, Canada-U.S. harmonization, and regulations that held the promise of both saving consumers money through more efficient vehicles and reducing pollution,

leading to healthier communities and a significant effort to reduce the climate impact of driving.

A win-win-win for Canadians and the auto sector alike.

So why is the Trump administration now weakening these standards? In short: lobbying from automakers who profit from bigger, less efficient vehicles, and an oil industry that fears declining demand for gasoline.

As for Canada, if we were to follow Trump and weaken the standards, we'll fall further behind our 2030 pollution targets and international commitments under the Paris Agreement.

And then there's the savings. While fuel-efficient vehicles can cost more upfront, within a couple years drivers come out ahead. The average car built to comply with 2025 standards will save about \$383 a year on fuel, according to one study—for pickup trucks and SUVs, it's \$662.

Trump's rollback would mean more pollution and bigger fuel bills.

Enter California. The Golden State is able to set its own pollution and fuel efficiency standards

and is taking the Trump administration to court. It is joined by 16 other states, who together—if Canada were to join them—would make up more than half the U.S.-Canadian market.

So, does Canada maintain the current standards with those 17 states, or do we follow Trump and weaken them?

Let's start with what Canadians think. According to a recent public opinion survey from Pollara and Clean Energy Canada, two-thirds supported keeping the Obama-era standards. Their reasons were what you'd expect: lowering pollution, improving public health, spending less at the pump.

In fact, just 14 per cent of Canadians favoured aligning with Trump's freeze. Conversely, 27 per cent said we should strengthen them more, with 36 per cent saying maintain them as planned.

What's more, a majority of U.S. auto suppliers back the current standards, and the head of the Canadian Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association has signalled concern with a potential rollback, stating, "We have been investing

hundreds of billions of dollars in lightweighting and also alternative propulsion .... If that standard is lowered, at this late stage, in some cases, it threatens to strand some of that advanced research and development spending."

The good news is the federal government has signalled that it's likely to stay the course with California and others, though we await a final decision. As Environment Minister Catherine McKenna put it earlier this year, "Canada must very seriously consider following the leadership of California on vehicle efficiency regulations. We cannot afford to roll back clean technology—we need to advance it and make it affordable for everyone."

But given the timing of the Environmental Protection Agency's finalization of the rollback, Canada's response isn't going to be determined by the current government, but by whoever forms government after Oct. 21.

So the question to all parties is: where do you stand? With California and its 16 state counterparts, or with President Trump?

The answer has big implications for Canadians' wallets and our efforts to fight climate change.

Dan Woynillowicz is the policy director and Joanna Kyriazis is a senior policy advisor at Clean Energy Canada, a think tank at Simon Fraser University.

The Hill Times

## Environment Policy Briefing

# When Canada knew how to lead on the environment

I cannot think of any other issue aside from tackling global warming where Canadian politicians would proudly proclaim their own country as irrelevant.



Green Party Leader Elizabeth May

*Emissions targets*

This is Environment Week in Canada. It was created decades ago by an act of Parliament to raise awareness and support environmental action. The first week of June was chosen in order to bracket June 5, World Environment Day.

Back in the 1980s, when I was the senior policy advisor to the



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau signs the Paris Agreement in New York in 2016. As a country with one of the highest per capita carbon footprints in the world, Canada should be shooting for greater emissions reductions targets, writes Elizabeth May. *United Nations photograph by Amanda Voisard*

minister of the environment, Environment Week was an opportunity for community projects, big and small. The \$1-million available to environmental groups was split into grants as small as \$500 per group. It was not a lot of money, but it was well-spent on necessary community projects.

The issues we worked on then have largely been resolved—the threats solved.

We didn't obsess about whether Canadians were ready for government action. Decisions were based on science and evidence. If a threat required action, action was taken.

Leaded gas a major public health problem, reducing the intellectual capacity of children across North America? Solution: Ban lead in gasoline.

Acid rain a scourge caused by sulphur dioxide pollution in Canada and the United States? Solution: Slash emissions by 50 per cent through negotiations—

one province at a time—with the seven eastern provinces, leading to legally binding agreements, and then get the U.S. to match our effort.

DDT threatening species, ecosystems, and public health? Solution: Ban DDT

Phosphates in detergents causing deteriorating water quality, over-fertilization, and eutrophication? Solution: Ban phosphates in detergents.

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) bio-accumulating and threatening health? Solution: Ban PCBs.

Use of chlorofluorocarbons—once thought to be benign, stable, “miracle” chemicals—floating to the stratosphere and attacking the ozone layer, the layer that protects the Earth from the sun's most dangerous, harmful UV rays? Solution: Lead the world in the development of a treaty to eliminate those chemicals.

It would not be accurate to leave the impression that all problems were solved, but then, much more than now, governments acted even if industry objected. In the case of acid rain, Inco threatened to close down if the Ontario government of David Peterson insisted on reducing sulphur dioxide pollution. But political resolve led the industry to comply. The result was the addition of scrubbers, capturing sulphur and selling it, creating a new profit centre in Inco operations.

Sure, it took decades to get the Sydney tar ponds cleaned up, and Canada never did ban Agent Orange, letting its registration lapse when action in the U.S. banned export of the killing herbicide, but still, it is hard to miss the contrast with how governments have reacted to the climate crisis.

I find it incredible that so many conservative politicians fail to believe in Canada's talent for moving world opinion. We are, against all odds given our recent record, still respected in the world. We may be a relatively small contributor to global warming, but we can and must do more than pull our own weight. We must punch above our weight if our children are to have a livable world. Claiming we are too small to make a difference is an odd way to establish credentials of leadership.

I cannot think of any other issue where Canadian politicians would proudly proclaim their own country as irrelevant. In the 80s, Canada led in the successful efforts to save the ozone layer. Were we a big contributor to ozone layer thinning? Not at all. Did Canadian operations contribute in a small way to the hole opening up over Antarctica? No. Similarly, we led the charge for a treaty to ban land mines. The Ottawa Treaty has saved thousands upon thousands of lives. Did we ever use or manufacture land mines? No we did not. But leadership can come with clean hands.

In 2019, true Canadian leaders acknowledge that as a fossil-fuel producing country, with one of the highest per capita carbon footprints in the world, we are ideally placed to increase the resolve of the community of nations to stop using fossil fuels as quickly as possible. We must double our current target, from that developed under Harper and maintained under Trudeau, from 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030, to an ambitious goal of 60 per cent by 2030 and zero by 2050. It can be done because it must be done.

It is time to dust off the tools of global leadership. It is not too late. It is Mission: Possible.

Green Party Leader Elizabeth May represents Saanich-Gulf Islands, B.C.

*The Hill Times*

# A made-in-Canada climate plan can't rely on outsourcing the solution

Any outsourcing of our emissions reductions, including selling our natural gas abroad, needs to be subject to a rigorous, yet-to-be-built international accounting system to ensure real emissions reductions are achieved.



Simon Dyer

*Climate plans*

Any political party serious about governing in Canada and sincere about slowing cli-

mate change will put forward a climate plan designed to rapidly and significantly drive down greenhouse gas emissions here at home to improve the lives of Canadians and honour our international commitments.

What's more, given the incredible economic opportunity that decarbonizing presents, that climate plan will be fair (by including carbon pricing that internalizes the costs of this pollutant), it will reduce emissions now (as opposed to years from now when new technologies are operationalized), and through investment in renewable energy and innovation it will position our industry as competitive in a low-carbon economy and our nation as a purveyor of the cleanest energy (yes, including cleaner oilsands exports) in the world.

Canadians need this, considering climate change is already costing Canadians billions of dollars in disaster relief and insurance coverage for floods in New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, and Alberta, and for wildfire damage in British Columbia, Alberta, and the Northwest Territories. And then there are the still-to-be accounted costs to Canadians' health due to increasing wildfire smoke, air pollution, and vector-

borne diseases (such as ticks), loss of way of life for Indigenous people in the rapidly melting North, and climate-change-accelerated wildlife loss.

Canada is among the top 10 emitters of greenhouse gases in the world. Canada's contribution to the solution must at least match our contribution to the problem, and it must be multi-sectoral in approach to succeed in reducing emissions across our economy.

Solving our emissions problems here at home offers environmental gain with a massive economic upside. The low-carbon economy is predicted to be worth \$26-trillion by 2030, supporting 65 million jobs. Canada's energy sector has long been a beacon of innovation and excellence. The potential for Canada to become a leading exporter of clean energy technology—throughout our economy—is very real.

A strong climate plan doesn't rely on outsourcing the solution. Any outsourcing of our emissions reductions, including selling our natural gas abroad, needs to be subject to a rigorous, yet-to-be-built international accounting system to ensure real, permanent, verifiable, and additional emissions reductions are

achieved. There's no way, currently, to verify outsourcing will lead to overall global emissions reductions.

A strong climate plan doesn't rely on shifting the burden within our economy and federation, either—it treats all sectors fairly. A strong national climate plan must include a coherent plan to deal with all of Canada's largest sources of emissions—including from the oil and gas industry. Alberta's commitment to cap oilsands emissions should be applauded, but further action is needed.

A strong climate plan should also include increased efforts to reduce emissions of methane—which is 96 times more powerful than carbon dioxide and is leaked into the atmosphere during the exploration for and production of oil and gas. And while a key step for driving down emissions is to finish phasing out coal, a strong climate plan won't replace the dirtiest fossil fuel with another greenhouse-gas emitting energy source. Instead, it will invest in the creation of a renewable energy grid that will make Canada's oilsands exports more attractive by ensuring each barrel is as low-carbon as possible.

Investment in innovation must be accompanied by investment in job training programs that ensure Canada's workers are part of this new low-carbon economy. And the fact is, economic and policy upheaval isn't beneficial for investors or Canadians workers who want good-paying jobs in sectors with long-term stability and growth potential.

A strong climate plan will include a multi-sector, transformational approach. Because the second largest source of GHG emissions in Canada is transportation, a strong climate plan will transform our transportation systems by decarbonizing our vehicles, including medium- and heavy-duty fleets. Deep energy retrofits to buildings and strong energy efficiency programs are also essential, as are enhanced measures to conserve landscapes with high-carbon storage value.

This is no time for half measures. Canadians don't take politicians at face value on promises for jobs or economic growth—they demand to see how plans will deliver on results being promised. We will assess climate plans on their ability to achieve actual emissions reductions in Canada, and to capitalize on the economic opportunity diversification presents—and Canadians should, too.

Simon Dyer is executive director of the Pembina Institute, a non-profit think tank that advocates for strong, effective policies to support Canada's clean energy transition.

*The Hill Times*



Andrew Scheer's Conservatives lead in candidate nominations, followed by his former leadership competitor Maxime Bernier's People's Party of Canada, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberals. *The Hill Times* photographs by Andrew Meade

# Conservative party leads nominees, NDP lag with quarter of ridings confirmed

The Conservatives have named 277 candidates, followed by 217 named to the People's Party of Canada, and 197 for the Liberal Party.

Continued from page 1

Liberal spokesperson Braeden Caley by email. The Greens are also seeing "more potential candidates expressing interest than we've ever seen before," added Mr. Caley, pointing to nearly 500 possible candidates who have asked for nomination paperwork in the remaining ridings across Canada.

The NDP, on the other hand, has seen a high proportion of its smaller cohort of MPs opting not to run again. Of the 44 elected in 2015, 14 members won't be campaigning in 2019, meaning it's lost a third of its incumbents. Some former MPs have come back into the fold, with Andrew Cash running in the Toronto area after being defeated in 2015, and Svend Robinson returning after a decade hiatus from federal politics, running in the riding neighbouring NDP leader Jagmeet Singh (Burnaby South, B.C.).

The Conservatives will have 83 of 97 MPs return to the ballot, said spokesperson Cory Hann, and at least 16 former MPs are running under the blue banner again. He said another 20 nomi-

nation races are currently open and ongoing.

## 'Upsurge' in candidates who want to run Green, party says

The Green Party has been gaining momentum across the country, both in the polls and in provincial seats. It took eight seats and official opposition status in Prince Edward Island's April election, building off the three New Brunswick seats won in September 2018, and two years in B.C. as a coalition partner. The party also won a seat in last year's Ontario provincial election as well as its second federal seat in May's byelection. New MP Paul Manly (Nanaimo-Ladysmith, B.C.) took his seat in the House of Commons on May 27.

The latest Abacus Data poll, published June 1, puts Green Party support at 12 per cent compared to the NDP's 16 per cent—numbers the pollsters said "suggest some strengthening of the Green Party, and an ongoing weak trend for the NDP."

The Green Party is "firmly on track" to get all 338 ridings filled, and has plenty of nomination meetings planned in the coming weeks, said John Chenery, the party's communications director.

"There's been a noticeable upsurge in interest in running for the Greens in 2019 and consequently we're seeing an unusually high number of hotly contested nominations," said Mr. Chenery by email.

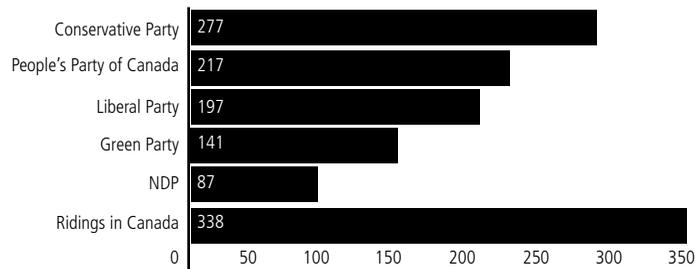
That uptick in interest to compete under the Green banner

has been "coast to coast," he said, with contested nominations in B.C., Quebec, the Maritimes, and several in Ontario.

In B.C., where leader Elizabeth May holds her Saanich-Gulf Islands seat, the two are neck-

and-neck in what appears to be a four-way race, according to Abacus Data, with the Greens "eating into NDP support."

The Greens have named 16 candidates in the coastal province, while the NDP has con-



The number of candidates named to the Conservative, Liberal, Green, New Democrat and People's parties as of June 3, according to their respective numbers. *Graph created with Infogram*

Provincial seats	Total	Conservatives	Liberals	Green Party	NDP	PPC*
Alberta	34	32	6	9	1	9
British Columbia	42	33	24	16	20	11
Manitoba	14	12	7	11	6	5
New Brunswick	10	6	8	2	0	2
Newfoundland and Labrador	7	2	6	1	0	1
Northwest Territories	1	1	1	0	0	0
Nova Scotia	11	7	8	8	3	4
Nunavut	1	1	0	0	0	0
Ontario	121	108	83	53	39	29
Prince Edward Island	4	3	3	1	0	0
Quebec	78	58	46	37	13	23
Saskatchewan	14	13	4	3	4	7
Total	338	277	197	141	87	92
Yukon	1	1	1	0	1	1

The number of candidates named in each province, according to each party as of June 3. \*The People's Party of Canada's numbers are based on the 92 names posted online, which doesn't show the full slate. *Graph created with Infogram*

firmed 20. The NDP is furthest behind in naming candidates in Quebec, where Mr. Singh has struggled to get support, and the party has hovered in single-digit territory for months. The Abacus poll puts the New Democrats at 10 per cent, but still two points ahead of the Greens.

Eight of the 13 candidates the New Democrats have confirmed in Quebec are former MPs. That's only a third of the 37 named by the Greens so far, and even further behind the 46 Liberal and 58 Conservative candidates.

The NDP's place at the back of the pack isn't a surprise. It's lagged behind others in naming candidates since earlier this year, with only 21 confirmed in January and some analysts saying MPs and candidates were waiting to decide based on how Mr. Singh performed in B.C. in the February Burnaby South byelection. It was a decisive win, with Mr. Singh taking the seat with 39 per cent of the vote.

The party reached 40 candidates in mid-March, and the pace has picked up in the months since.

NDP spokesman Guillaume Francoeur said the party also has 36 nomination meetings scheduled so far in the next month, which would push the party over the 100-candidate mark by the end of June.

"The process is following its course as planned and we are confident that we will put together a remarkable slate of candidates everywhere across the country," said Mr. Francoeur by email.

## People's Party plans to fill 338 spots by September

By the end of June, the People's Party of Canada will have candidates in "well over" 70 per cent of ridings, said Mr. Masse, and will fill any leftover ridings during the summer. "Even though the party has existed for barely eight months, we are doing very well and are on track to have candidates everywhere by Sept. 1," said Mr. Masse by email.

The party has publicly posted 92 names, with the majority, 23, coming from Ontario, followed by 23 in Quebec, and 11 in British Columbia. Alberta is next with nine public nominees, followed by Saskatchewan's seven.

Mr. Bernier, as the party's founder and only current MP, is vying for a spot, though his fledgling party will have two former Conservative MPs, including Steven Fletcher, who left federal politics in 2015 after 11 years when the Liberals took his Manitoba seat. Mr. Fletcher attempted to run again for the Conservatives, but was rejected last year by the party as candidate. One-term Conservative MP Corneliu Chisu is also running under Mr. Bernier's banner in the rejigged Pickering-Uxbridge riding. Mr. Chisu represented Pickering-Scarborough East between the 2011 and 2015 elections and is making the switch after he said the Tories were delaying the nomination and looking for another candidate.

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## HILL CLIMBERS

by Laura Ryckewaert

# Long service awards handed out to 109 MP staffers



House of Commons Speaker Geoff Regan, pictured bottom centre, alongside a number of the Hill staffers who were honoured with long service awards at a ceremony in the Sir John A. Macdonald building on May 28. Photograph courtesy of the House of Commons

The now-annual award was resurrected for the first time last year. Last week's ceremony honoured 110 staffers who reached service milestones in 2018.

A total of 109 staff to Members of Parliament were honoured with long service awards, meted out by House of Commons Speaker **Geoff Regan** in a ceremony on the Hill last week at the Sir John A. Macdonald building.

Resurrected by Mr. Regan for the first time in decades last year, the long service awards are now an annual event, and this year's ceremony honoured staffers who had hit certain milestones, all at five year intervals—this time either the five-year, 10-year, 15-year, 20-year, 25-year, 30-year, or 35-year mark—in 2018.

"There is certainly something about the House of Commons that fosters loyalty and commitment; those of us who work here, both Members of Parliament and those who support them, are here because we care—about our jobs, of course, but also about our co-workers, our institution, and our country," said Mr. Regan, who's also the Liberal MP for Halifax West, N.S., in a speech at the awards ceremony on May 28.

"The work that you perform for your Member of Parliament, House officer, or research office is quite simply invaluable. Certainly as an MP, sometimes it feels like you have to be in six places at once, so it is reassuring to know that your team is holding the fort and working on your behalf to serve the people of Canada."

All award recipients were given a letter of congratulations from the House Speaker, a certificate of recognition, and a House of Commons pin. Those marking milestones of 10 years of service or more were also able to choose a special "recognition gift" from a set list of items, which includes things like cufflinks or a watch engraved with the House of Commons emblem, headphones, a ring, a pendant, and even frying pans.

Of the 109 recipients this year, 57 celebrated five years of service, 28 marked 10 years, 10 hit 15 years, four marked 20 years, six reached the 25-year mark, two celebrated 30 years, and two hit the 35-year service milestone. The ceremony was focused on MP staffers, with another planned to honour House administration staff at the end of June, said **Heather Bradley**, director of communications to the House Speaker.

A list of this year's recipients was not made available, with privacy reasons cited.

That said, longtime staffer **Colleen Knight** was among those honoured last week, as noted in the House by her boss, Liberal MP **T.J. Har-**

vey, who represents Tobique-Mactaquac, N.B., during Members' Statements on May 29.

Ms. Knight has spent the last four years working for Mr. Harvey, but before then spent years as former Nova Scotia NDP MP **Peter Stoffer's** sole Hill assistant, during which time she helped spearhead planning for the annual All-Party Party. She marked 30 years of service in 2018. Mr. Stoffer was an MP from 1997 until 2015.



NDP Whip's assistant Christian Brideau marked 15 years of work on the Hill in 2018. Photograph courtesy of Audrey Moey

"Throughout her time on the Hill, she has not only worked with MPs and staff, but also developed long-standing relationships with the staff at the parliamentary restaurant, the custodial staff, all the security staff, the IT staff, and across all party lines. She has gone above and beyond to advocate for necessary changes to benefit others," said Mr. Harvey in the House.

Mr. Harvey said Ms. Knight's "outstanding reputation precedes her," and called her "the glue" in his office.

"I thank Colleen for not only her unwavering devotion to my office, but for her commitment to working for so many years toward a better Canada," he said.

Ms. Knight has been a frequent name on *The Hill Times'* annual Terrific 25 Staffers List over the years.

**Christian Brideau**, a longtime assistant to various NDP Whips including current Whip, NDP MP **Ruth Ellen Brosseau**, was also among those honoured last week, marking 15 years of service on the Hill. He, too, has previously ranked on *The Hill Times'* Terrific 25 Staffers List.

Mr. Brideau began working as a staffer in 2003, under a one-year contract in now-former Quebec NDP MP **Yvon Godin's** office in 2003; he first joined the Whip's office in 2005, after Mr. Godin took over the post.

He told *Hill Climbers* last week that while "lots" has changed over his 15 years, much has stayed the same.

"The pace has changed since 2003. I guess the [successive] minority governments kind of programmed us to be on our guard 24/7. The communications tools—BB [Blackberry], and then smart phones, social media—made things go even faster. But routine and protocol kind of stayed the same," he said.

Mr. Brideau said the award is a reminder of "how fast time flies."

"I was on the Hill for a one-year contract to see how Parliament worked .... I'm still here and still enjoying it," he said in an email.

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## Norwegian envoy hosts Conservative Leader Scheer at Constitution Day party

The Hill Times photographs by Sam Garcia



Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer with Norwegian Ambassador Anne Kari Hansen Ovind and her husband, Tom Oscar Ovind, at Norway's official residence for a May 17 reception to mark the country's Constitution Day.



Mr. Ovind with British High Commissioner Susan le Jeune d'Allegre.



Portuguese Ambassador João da Camara, with his spouse, Raquel da Camara, daughter Maria Esperança, and Vicente da Camara, son of the ambassador.



Patrick Parisot, the newly named ambassador of Canada to Norway, Ms. Ovind, Carmen Altamirano, wife of Patrick Parisot, and Indian High Commissioner Vikas Swarup.



The new ambassador of Cyprus, Vasilios Philippou, with Ms. Ovind.



The high commissioners of Guyana and South Africa, Clarissa Sabita Riehl and Sibongiseni Dlamini-Mntambo.

## New edition of guide for foreign diplomats in Canada launches



Andjelka Vidovic, publisher of the 2019 edition of *Canada for the Diplomatic Community: A Guide for Foreign Representatives and Their Families*, laughs alongside Croatian Ambassador Marica Matkovic, and Slovak Ambassador Vit Koziak at the book's April 25 launch at Mr. Koziak's embassy.



Ms. Vidovic and Polish first secretary Karolina Willmann-Duralska.



Ms. Vidovic, Mr. Koziak, and Belgian Ambassador Johan Verkommen.

# Public servants, feds inch closer to contracts with tentative agreements before election

The Public Service Alliance of Canada remains at an impasse with the federal government however, with national president Chris Aylward saying they won't take an 'inferior' deal just to get it done before the election.

Continued from page 1

now also equitable for adoptive parents.

With the dissolution of Parliament and the upcoming election in mind, the ratification process on both the part of the government and PIPSC will be accelerated.

"Traditionally in a normal round of bargaining, we would go out to ratify with our members—some of our groups have up to 15,000 people and they are spread across the country, so it takes us between six weeks and two months to ratify a collective agreement," Ms. Daviau said.

"Normally the Treasury Board would have it approved after that, but because there is an election coming up and the writ will drop sometime soon and the government goes into caretaker mode, there is a crunch to approve these things," said Ms. Daviau. "The employer will be taking the agreement to ratification while we're doing our process to try to ensure that the deals are concluded before the writ drops."

She added: "It was ambitious of us to even try to get there on time but we did, so the deadline really is middle of June for there to be enough time for the Cabinet to ratify deals."

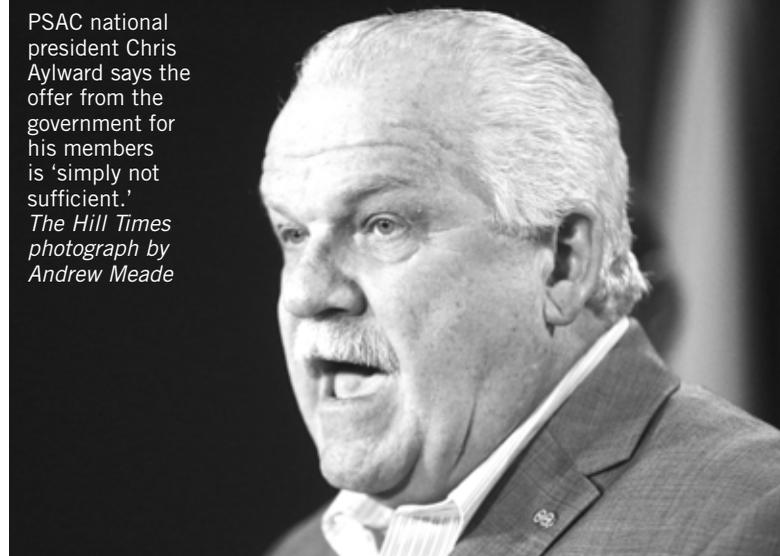
The agreement also addresses the problem-plagued Phoenix pay system, a long-standing issue for federal service union contract

negotiations with the government. PIPSC's agreement secures collaboration with the Treasury Board on replacing Phoenix, as well as financial penalties for late contract implementation and retroactive pay.

"PIPSC is probably the most involved of all the unions in the replacement system because we represent IT workers in government—IT workers who were bypassed in the creation of Phoenix, so we were adamant that they will be an integral part of any new system," said Ms. Daviau.

First launched to streamline payment services for public

PSAC national president Chris Aylward says the offer from the government for his members is 'simply not sufficient.' *The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade*



service employees, Phoenix has experienced ongoing issues since its introduction in early 2016, at times leaving tens of thousands of bureaucrats underpaid, overpaid or unpaid, and hundreds of thousands of unresolved pay issues in its wake.

According to the Public Service Pay Centre dashboard, although the number of financial transactions beyond normal workload decreased by 3,000 between March 20 and April 17, there are still 245,000 remaining. Public Services and Procurement Canada was able to continue to decrease the number of transac-

PIPSC president Debi Daviau says the government will be taking the tentative agreement to ratification at the same time as her organization 'to ensure that the deals are concluded before the writ drops.' *The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade*



tions awaiting processing, despite increased volume due to the end of the fiscal year. The number of transactions that are able to be processed each month depend on a number of factors, including the "complexity of cases, collective agreement implementation and seasonal trends," according to the website.

## CAPE's EC group reaches agreement with Treasury Board

The Canadian Association of Professional Employees announced June 5 that they reached a tentative agreement with the Treasury Board Secretariat for the Economics and Social Science Services group, also known as

long time," said CAPE president Greg Phillips. "We're full-on supporters of promoting bilingualism in the government and standing behind everybody's linguistic rights. It's a practical advantage for our members and it's under the principal of professional development."

The bargaining team had been negotiating with the employer since October 2018 according to the press release, with the agreement coming together late in the evening on June 3.

"The agreement is sort of rare in that it took us less than a year to negotiate and also that we had an agreement at the table," said Mr. Phillips. "Generally speaking, our agreements are obtained through binding arbitration and it takes a lot longer than a year. Through the hard work and dedication of the volunteer bargaining committee members and the dedication of our staff, we were able to get this done in under a year's time."

The parties also agreed to provisions "for this round and this round only," according to the press release, with regards to the implementation of the collective agreement.

The government has also reached a tentative agreement with the FI group of the Association of Canadian Financial Officers (ACFO), who secured a "strong tentative collective agreement that will see salary increases of eight per cent over four years, including five per cent in the first two years," according to the ACFO's collective bargaining update on their website on May 28. This increase includes wage adjustments in addition to increases in rates of pay at different increments from November 2018 to November 2021. The FI community in the federal public service voted in support of the new tentative agreement on June 3.

## PSAC still at impasse with government

But the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), Canada's largest public sector union representing 90,000 members, is still far from reconciling with Treasury Board.

"What the government has on the table is simply not sufficient,"

said PSAC national president Chris Aylward in an interview with *The Hill Times*. "When this government, after four years of putting our members through hell because of Phoenix, put a wage offer on the table that does not match the cost of living, that is simply not acceptable. We will not accept that and this government knows that. They've got to do better than that, they've got to put more money on the table or else we are not going to get a deal."

Although Mr. Aylward said the upcoming election certainly factors into their strategy, and that PSAC would ideally like to reach a deal before the writ drops, "we are not going to take an inferior deal just to say that we got a deal before the election."

"I know some of the other organizations have come out and said that they were basically afraid to get to that point because it remains to be seen who will form the next government," said Mr. Aylward. "We are not worried about that. We can't take an inferior offer just because we don't know who will form the next government."

## Government to negotiate in 'good faith,' says spokesperson

Bruce Cheadle, spokesperson for Treasury Board President Joyce Murray (Vancouver Quadra, B.C.), said restoring, rebuilding, and then maintaining a culture of respect for Canada's public service has been an ongoing commitment for this Liberal government," in an emailed statement. Mr. Cheadle said that in the fall of 2015, all 27 collective bargaining agreements in the core public service had expired "due to a decade of neglect under the previous Conservative government" and some negotiations had been stalled for years.

"We're now returning to the bargaining table, and have reached new agreements covering more than 37,000 public servants. We're going to continue to negotiate in good faith, and out of respect for the bargaining process and agents, we will not comment further at this time," said Mr. Cheadle.

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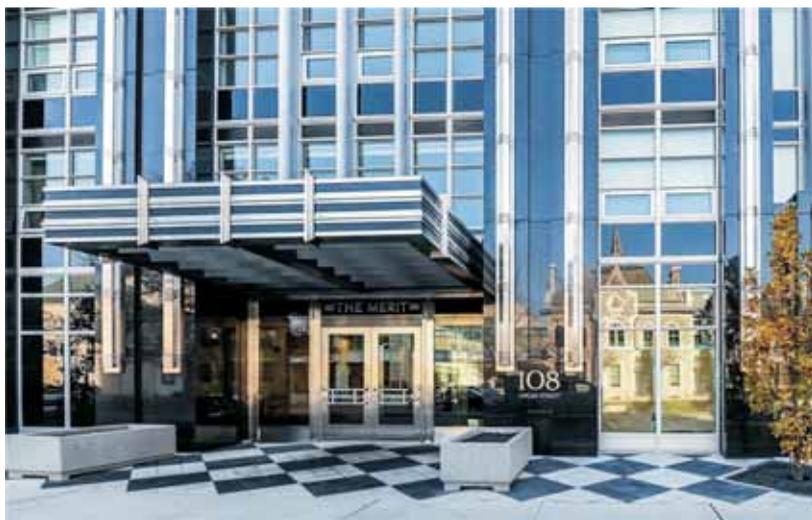
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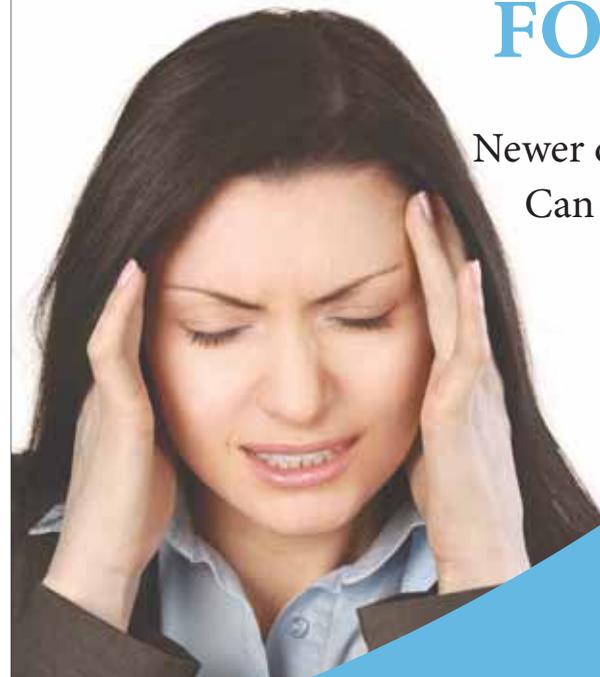
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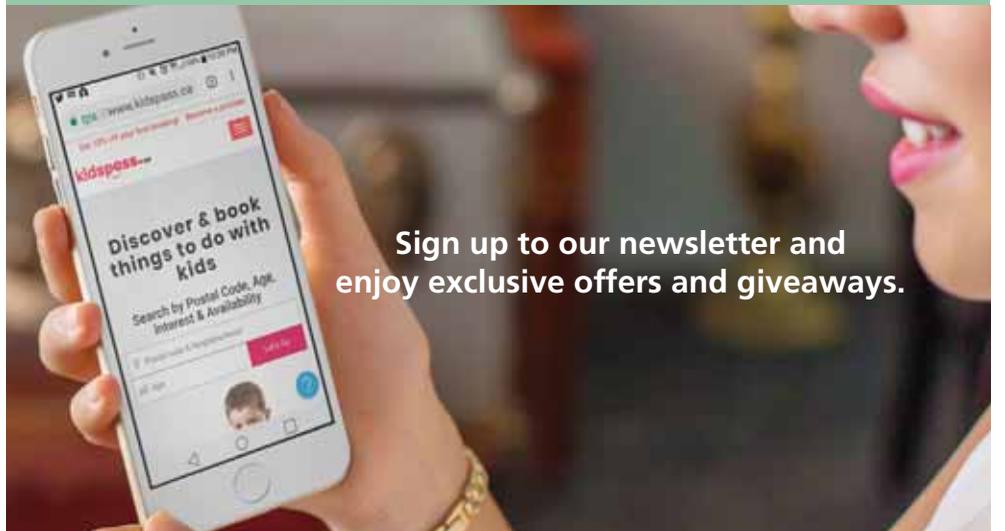
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# INDIGENOUS RELATIONS



Photograph by Andrew Meade

In *The Hill Times'* Indigenous Relations Policy Briefing, we'll look at: Indigenous relations and the corporate world in Canada; the need to consult with Indigenous populations on resources and development; the importance of allowing Indigenous peoples real opportunity to move forward in the 21st century; and how Indigenous peoples can embrace their cultures, and live healthy and productive lives within Canada.

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## Parliamentary Calendar



### Rodger Cuzner gets roasted and toasted in Ottawa on June 5

#### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

**House Sitting**—This is it. The House is sitting from June 3-June 21, the final three weeks before it adjourns and Parliament is later dissolved for the October 2019 election.

**Senate Sitting**—The Senate will sit June 4-June 6, and could sit on Friday, June 7. It could possibly sit on Monday, June 10, but is scheduled to sit June 11-June 13, and could sit on Friday, June 14. It is scheduled to sit June 17-June 21 and June 25-June 28.

**Liberal Caucus Meeting**—The Liberals will meet in West 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 gather for their national caucus meeting in West Block. For more information, contact Cory Hann, director of communications with the Conservative Party of Canada, at coryhann@conservative.ca.

**NDP Caucus Meeting**—The NDP caucus will meet from 9:15 a.m.-11 a.m. in West Block. For more information, please contact the NDP Media Centre at 613-222-2351 or media@ndp.ca.

**Bloc Québécois Meeting**—The Bloc Québécois caucus will meet on Wednesday morning starting at 9:30 a.m. in Room 241A in the West Block.



The outgoing—and outgoing—Nova Scotia MP Rodger Cuzner will take his lumps at a roast in his honour at St. Brigid's Well on June 5. *The Hill Times* photograph by Cynthia Münster

5 and Thursday, June 13 for OrKidstra's end-of-year concerts. Tickets not required. Donations welcome. Vanier Hub Concert: Wednesday, June 5 at 6 p.m. at Ottawa Technical Secondary School (485 Donald St.). OrKidstra's mission is to empower kids and build community through music. These concerts will feature an array of classical, jazz, world music, and sing-along favourites.

**Toast and Roast of Rodger**—An evening to celebrate outgoing Liberal MP Rodger Cuzner, who's not running after nearly 19 years in the House. Wednesday, June 5, Brigid's Well, 310 St. Patrick St., corner of Cumberland and Murray streets. Reception: 6:30 p.m., light snacks & cash bar, followed by the Roast of Rodger Cuzner 7:35 p.m.-8:30 p.m., followed by music and entertainment until closing.

#### MONDAY, JUNE 10

**Indigenous Environmental Justice, Knowledge and Law**—Deborah McGregor presents the 2019 Katherine A.H. Graham Lecture on Indigenous Policy. The event takes place from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. and is preceded by a reception (5-5:30 p.m.). The event takes place in Carleton University's Richcraft Hall Conference Rooms and is free to attend and open to the public. More information and registration is available at carleton.ca/fpa.

hosting the eighth annual Canada-Korea Dialogue Series on the Hill. This year's theme is Future Prospects for Security and Prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and in Asia. Speakers include International Trade Diversification Minister Jim Carr and South Korean Ambassador Maeng-ho Shin. The event begins Thursday, June 13, with registration beginning at 5:30 p.m., dinner,

opening remarks, panel presentations and a Q&A at 6 p.m., followed by a Korean buffet dinner and reception at 7:30 p.m.; Senate of Canada Building, Room C128. Tickets \$30, by invitation only; RSVP by June 9.

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

*The Hill Times*

Extra! Extra!  
Read the full  
Parliamentary  
Calendar  
online



## Women on the Ballot & Social Media

Thursday June 13, 2019  
7:30 to 9:00 am

Wellington Building, 197 Sparks Street,  
Ottawa (Parliamentary Precinct)

A discussion on women on the ballot in this year's general election and the role of social media especially as experienced by women politicians. The panel discussion will include:

- Social media industry representatives
- An All-Party Panel of MPs
- Scholars.



Co-hosted with the **All-Party Women's Caucus, House of Commons**  
And the participation of **Famous 5 Ottawa**

**RSVP is required by June 10. Please send your name and affiliation to [rsvp@thepearsoncentre.ca](mailto:rsvp@thepearsoncentre.ca)**

For further info: [www.thepearsoncentre.ca](http://www.thepearsoncentre.ca)

Or Anne Clarke: [anne@thepearsoncentre.ca](mailto:anne@thepearsoncentre.ca)

The issue: While social media offers many opportunities in politics, the nature of the medium has allowed for extensive sexism and misogyny directed at women politicians, sometimes made more intense over controversial policy issues or for racial and religious minorities, Indigenous women and sexual minorities.



Conservative Party Leader Andrew Scheer and wife Jill will welcome members of the press to Stornoway on June 11 for a spring garden party, from 6 to 8 p.m. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Scheer

#### TUESDAY, JUNE 11

**WE are emPOWERED to fight cancer**—The Canadian Cancer Survivor Network (CCSN) is hosting the breakfast event WE are emPOWERED to fight cancer on June 11 from 8-9:30 a.m. on Parliament Hill in Room 325 of the Wellington Building. Join CCSN, CARP, and the cancer community to discuss how to build our health system so that older Canadians, who are disproportionately affected by cancer, have the care and treatments they need to get better. Please RSVP to [jmanthorne@survivornet.ca](mailto:jmanthorne@survivornet.ca).

**Andrew Scheer Hosts a Garden Party**—Conservative Official Opposition Leader Andrew Scheer welcomes members of the media to his official residence on June 11 for a garden party. The "strictly off-the-record" event takes place at Stornoway, 541 Acacia Ave., from 6-8 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, JUNE 13

**OrKidstra End-of-Year Concert**—Come celebrate the joy of music with OrKidstra. Join in on Thursday, June 13 for OrKidstra's second end-of-year concert. Tickets not required. Donations welcome. Thursday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre at 355 Cooper St., Ottawa. OrKidstra's mission is to empower kids and build community through music. These concerts will feature an array of classical, jazz, world music, and sing-along favourites.

**Canada-Korea Dialogue Series on the Hill**—The Canada-Korea Interparliamentary Friendship Group (CKIFG) and the Canada Korea Society (CKS), in partnership with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea (ROK), are

**Tim Horton Foundation Camps invites parliamentarians to celebrate Camp Day**—Members of Parliament are invited to Tim Hortons locations close to their parliamentary office (including Sparks Street), and in their ridings to celebrate and support Camp Day and help kids change their lives. This 24-hour event is the largest annual fundraiser for the Tim Hortons Foundation Camps and helps them sustain their leading youth development programs. Spend some time at a nearby Tim Hortons location on June 5 by pouring coffee or greeting and thanking guests for their donations. Your presence will help drive attention to this important cause. The best time for a drop-in is after the morning rush, just after 9 a.m. Please RSVP to [hussain@blueskystrategygroup.com](mailto:hussain@blueskystrategygroup.com) or call 613-241-3512, ext. 228.

**Ottawa Regional Trauma Programs Offers Training on the Hill**—Every day, people die needlessly from uncontrolled bleeding. Trauma surgeons from the Ottawa Hospital, including those who responded to the recent OC Transpo collision, will be offering the Stop the Bleed training on managing uncontrolled bleeding to all interested Parliamentarians and staffers. This multi-partisan training session will be offered in two sessions on June 5, 2019 from 12 to 12:30 and 1 to 1:30 p.m. in Room 410 Wellington Building. Come speak to the surgeons and trauma experts to learn how to manage uncontrolled bleeding and how you can save lives. Please email [mlebreton@toh.ca](mailto:mlebreton@toh.ca) to RSVP and note which session you wish to attend.

**OrKidstra End-of-Year Concert**—Come celebrate the joy of music with OrKidstra. Join it on Wednesday, June

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