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News Conservative Party

Conservative Party a 'rudderless mess,' say some Conservatives

BY ABBAS RANA

Some senior Conservatives are describing the party's internal political climate as "chaotic" and a

"rudderless mess," and predict the return of Parliament this week will be a major challenge for the Tories. The divisive leadership contest is on, there's "bad blood" between

the all-powerful Conservative Fund and the party's national council over the firing of its executive director, the leader is the subject of an internal audit of \$900,000 of

his office expenses, and some top leadership positions in the OLO are still vacant. "There is some [chaos] yes, because, as you know, the execu-

tive director [Dustin van Vugt] has just been unceremoniously dispatched," said Yaroslav Baran, Continued on page 32

News Cabinet priorities

Budget, foreign affairs, and fighting climate change among top cabinet priorities as Parliament returns

Liberal MPs have been asked to hold consultations about the government's priorities in their ridings, and report back to cabinet. By Peter Mazereeuw & Abbas Rana p.30



It's show time: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, pictured on Jan. 11, 2020, laid out a long list of priorities for members of his cabinet following the election, and challenges on the world stage will put him to the test as well in the 43rd Parliament. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

News Foreign policy

Signs of political opportunism emerge as MPs on Canada-China Relations Committee urge collaboration

BY NEIL MOSS & PETER MAZEREEUW

MPs of all political stripes argue that the upstart special committee dealing with Canada's relationship with China is not a place to score political points. Debate over the size of the Special Committee on Canada-China Relations' subcommittee, and whether there is a desire to see a "consensus" or a "spirit of collaboration" brought the Jan. 20 first meeting to a crawl. In the end, all MPs agreed that Canadian Ambassador to China Dominic Barton would be called in front of the committee before Feb. 7. A Conservative motion initially called for Mr. Barton to appear on Jan. 27. "I felt a partisan temptation with the Conservatives with their initial motions in the House," Bloc Québécois MP Stéphane Bergeron (Montarville, Que.) told *The Hill Times* last week. "I felt

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HEARD ON THE HILL

by Neil Moss

Fisheries, seas, and globalization: three new reads to look out for



Rick Williams's *A Future for the Fishery: Crisis and Renewal in Canada's Neglected Fishing Industry*, left, Jeff Rubin's *The Expendables: How the Middle Class Got Screwed by Globalization*, middle, and Laura Trethewey's *The Imperilled Ocean: Human Stories from a Changing Sea*, right. Book cover images courtesy of Nimbus Publishing, Random House Canada, and Pegasus Books

Three new books on Canada's struggling fishing industry, changing seas, and how globalization has left the middle class behind are set to hit the shelves.

A new book by Canadian economist **Jeff Rubin** dives into how the middle class got "stuck with the bill" for globalization and how the populist wave of Brexit and the Trump administration will alter established economies.

In *The Expendables: How the Middle Class Got Screwed by Globalization*, Mr. Rubin finds that the populist wave was foreseeable starting with the first NAFTA negotiations when labour unions contended that Canadian and American manufacturing would end up in Mexico.

"What we are not told," writes the former chief economist at CIBC World Markets, "is why we should care about GDP. GDP is a

measure of the value of all goods and services produced in the economy. It would be nice to think that living in a country that's getting richer means that you're getting richer too, but that's not the way it works anymore."

Mr. Rubin wrote the award-winning *Why Your World Is About to Get a Whole Lot Smaller: Oil and the End of Globalization* in 2009.

His new 304-page book will come out in April. It is being published by Random House Canada.

While Mr. Rubin writes about the struggling middle class, **Rick Williams** argues that Canada needs a renaissance in its fishing industry in *A Future for the Fishery: Crisis and Renewal in Canada's Neglected Fishing Industry*.

In his book, which includes a foreword by **Donald Savoie**, Mr. Williams argues that

Canada's fishing industry is not dead, but needs an injection and retention of young Canadians to the docks and vessels.

The fisheries, Mr. Williams finds, are a vital economic power in a region that needs economic revival and new strategies to address the looming demographic crisis in fishing as baby boomers retire.

Mr. Williams was a deputy minister to the Nova Scotia premier for policy and priorities from 2009 to 2013.

The book was published by Nimbus Publishing at the end of 2019.

Stretching out from ports, **Laura Trethewey's** new book looks at the people who decide to challenge one of the world's last untamed frontiers.

In *The Imperilled Ocean: Human Stories from a Changing Sea*, the ocean journalist looks at how to save the ocean threatened by climate change through looking at those who have spent their lives amongst its waves—a migrant, a cruise ship workers, a biologist, and others.

Ms. Trethewey's 240-page book comes out on Feb. 4.

"By the sea, we live in the moment. We feel our fear and happiness for the future even more keenly. We cluster into groups and defend our turf. Across a world of differences, the ocean makes us more alike. We might never feel that conscious connection with the sea, but it's there. For our survival, as well as the ocean's, it's time to look past the surface and discover the connection down below," she writes in her Goose Lane-published book.

Rookie baker and former MP Nathan Cullen joins StrategyCorp

Former NDP MP **Nathan Cullen** has joined advisory firm StrategyCorp as a senior adviser.

Mr. Cullen represented the riding of Skeena-Bulkley Valley, B.C., in the House from 2004 until 2019.

As a former MP, he's now subject to a five-year lobbying ban. In turn, Mr. Cullen confirmed that he won't be doing any lobbying for the group, but instead has been brought on to provide advice to StrategyCorp and its clients "from time to time" on how Parliament works, including the "intricacies of a minority Parliament," explained Mr. Cullen, whose first seven years as an MP were spent in a minority Parliament (three in all; one Liberal, two Conservative).

"It's its own animal, the minority Parliament, and I actually think it's a time where the power of the Prime Minister's Office, for example, and others, is dissipated a bit; it's spread out amongst other Parliamen-

tarians, and that's a good thing," Mr. Cullen told *The Hill Times*. "I actually think it's going to be a really exciting couple of years, if not longer."



Nathan Cullen was an NDP MP from 2004 to 2019. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

Mr. Cullen said he's excited about his new role, which he officially began on Jan. 10, and is "interested to learn and understand the other side of the table."

"I'll obviously be quite prescriptive with the types of clients I work with, because I want to make sure they always line up with my values," he added.

StrategyCorp has offices in Toronto and Ottawa, but Mr. Cullen confirmed that he'll continue to live and largely work from Smithers, B.C.

"I'll be coming back and forth on occasion," said Mr. Cullen, noting plans to come to the capital in early February. "I should be around maybe more than people want," he later joked.

Along with his part-time work for StrategyCorp, Mr. Cullen said he'll be "some other things here in British Columbia," which he said should be announced in "the next little bit."

On top of spending more time with his young children—something which he said was previously difficult as a West Coast-based MP—Mr. Cullen said he'll be busy baking bread.

"I just recently discovered a bread-maker that my mum had and wasn't using, so right now as we speak bread is baking, and I'm quite excited about that, too," said Mr. Cullen on Jan. 23. "I delivered some to some local hereditary chiefs yesterday and it went over really well—I think I may have a future in this."

While Mr. Cullen said he's a bit envious of former colleagues who will be experience the exciting, "shifting" culture of the first minority Parliament in eight years, he said he has "no regrets" about his decision to not run for re-election.

"I also feel good with my time served over those 15 years, and I can hold my head up when I'm walking down Main Street," he said.

—by Laura Ryckewaert

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Vincent Rigby named national security and intelligence adviser

Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** has a new permanent national security and intelligence adviser.

Vincent Rigby was appointed to the position by Mr. Trudeau on Jan. 22. The post—responsible for giving the prime minister advice on national security matters—was being temporarily filled by **David Morrison**, the prime minister's foreign and defence policy adviser, since the abrupt retirement of **Greta Bossenheimer** in November.

Mr. Rigby has held a variety of intelligence-related roles in the public service. He was most recently the associate deputy minister at Foreign Affairs. Prior to the Global Affairs posting, he was associate deputy minister of Public Safety and assistant deputy minister of strategic policy at Global Affairs. He also was the executive director of the Privy Council's Office's Intelligence Assessment Secretariat.



Manitoba 150 - Métis Nation 2020

Winterlude Celebrations in the National Capital Region

2020 marks the 150th anniversary of the Métis Nation joining the Canadian federation through the establishment of the Province of Manitoba as Canada's fifth province through the efforts of President Louis Riel and his Provisional Government.

Louis Riel, the first premier of Manitoba and one of Canada's founding fathers, was a strong defender of minority rights who fought to preserve Métis rights and culture. Elected three times as a Member of Parliament but unable to take his seat, Riel would lead the Métis and negotiate the entry of Manitoba into Confederation through the Manitoba Act 1870. This important part of Canadian history is worthy of recognition and cause for celebration.

We invite you to join the Métis Nation and our partners, Heritage Canada and Winterlude, as we begin to celebrate this milestone year.

Friday, January 31 Winterlude Kick-off		
Noon - 1:00pm	Louis Riel Ice Sculpture International Ice Carving Challenge and Children's Ice Pick	Sparks and O'Connor
7:00pm - Kick-off Party	Performances by Métis fiddler Morgan Ginther , Sarahmée, DJ NDN and Virginia to Vegas	Rogers Stage Sparks and Bank (outdoor)
Saturday, February 1		
11:00am and 2:00pm	Two performances of the play, The Life of Louis Riel	Theatre Canadian Museum of History 100 Laurier St, Gatineau Quebec
6:00pm - 10:00pm	<i>Métis Nation Gala - Manitoba 150</i> MPs and senators are asked to RSVP to events@metisnation.ca	Scotia Great Hall National Gallery of Canada
Sunday, February 2, 2020		
10:30am - French Mass 12 noon - English Mass	Church Service	Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica 385 Sussex Drive, Ottawa
10:00am - 4:00pm	Red River Métis Village Métis Elders, Michif speakers, Métis dancers and other performers on main stage throughout the day	Grand Hall Canadian Museum of History 100 Laurier St, Gatineau Quebec
10:00am - 4:00pm	Métis songs and crafts for children World renowned Métis Master Beader - Jennine Krauchi	Douglas Cardinal Salon Canadian Museum of History 100 Laurier St, Gatineau Quebec

Visit - Winterlude Website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/winterlude/calendar-events.html>

Feature House Speaker

Rota, first Speaker of Italian descent, encourages MPs to break the glass ceiling

New House Speaker Anthony Rota promises to be fair but firm and he's starting to host regular social gatherings with small groups of MPs across party lines so they can get to know each other on a personal level. He's also going to have a suggestion box, prominently displayed, for MPs to offer their ideas on how to improve House decorum.



Newly elected Speaker Anthony Rota, pictured in his West Block office on Dec. 11, 2019, says, 'It's important to all Canadians, whose parents have come to Canada as immigrants, [to know] that all positions in government are open to them.' He is Canada's first House Speaker of Italian descent. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

BY PALAK MANGAT

When Anthony Rota stood in the House last month to deliver his first remarks as the newly elected House Speaker, he may have caught even himself off guard.

"I want to thank all Members for giving me the biggest honour of my political career in being chosen as Speaker," he told MPs on Dec. 5, 2019.

An emotional Mr. Rota (Nipissing-Timiskaming, Ont.), midway through his acceptance speech, choked back tears as he looked at the crowd of MPs before him. "Indulge me for a moment, some of you may not understand what I'm about to say, but I'm very proud to be the first Speaker of Italian descent to sit in this chair," he said.

Smiling, he turned and apologized to the translators, before briefly speaking in Italian, his mother tongue.

"I didn't plan a speech at all, so it came from the heart," Mr. Rota said in a phone interview with *The Hill Times* last week.

Mr. Rota, a low-profile backbencher who served as assistant deputy Speaker in the last Parliament, was elected in a surprise upset over his Liberal colleague, Geoff Regan (Halifax West, N.S.), who some Conservative MPs sought to oust from the non-partisan post because they thought Mr. Regan was not impartial enough, *The Hill Times* recently reported.

Mr. Rota's remarks in Italian were an ode to those who paved the way before him, he later explained.

"I think it's important to all Canadians, whose parents have come to Canada as immigrants, [to know] that all positions in government are open to them,"

he said. "But it always still seems like there's a glass ceiling there for you, and I think just by stating that, for me, it was saying, 'Look, that glass ceiling that seems to be there, it can be shattered.'"

Mr. Rota's roots can be traced back to the small northeastern city of North Bay, Ont., a city home to just over 50,000, which is located four hours away from the Speaker's sprawling official residence near Chelsea, Que.

Born and raised in North Bay during the 1960s, Mr. Rota, 58, said the city was "typical" of the rest of the country at the time, with a number of francophone and Italian families in his neighbourhood.

But he's quick to not dwell on hurdles that he might have faced growing up. "At the time, we didn't really have the term visible minority; everybody knew who we were," he said. "There's no question there was some discrimination at the time, but I think we've come a long way, and there's still a long way to go as Canadians."

Rota name has deep ties to city

The Rota name runs deep in the area. His father's family ran the City Bakery, which was founded in 1924 and later became Canada Bread. Eventually, it closed up shop in 2016 to move its production of rolls, buns, and sliced bread to other bakeries in Quebec and Ontario.

"My uncle and my father's family started the business, and they ran it up until 1971 when [my father] was the last shareholder and sold it," said Mr. Rota.

According to reports, the bakery used horse-drawn wagons to deliver bread to customers until 1963, with deliveries travelling

throughout Pembroke, Moosonee, and Gravenhurst, in Ontario.

But Mr. Rota said his involvement was limited.

"I worked and played around there when I was a kid, but no, I wasn't running a bakery," he laughed, noting he was about 11 years old when the site was sold.

It was Mr. Rota's paternal grandfather who first landed in North Bay in 1903 from the southern Italian town of Pietrafitta, in the Calabria region. He set his sights on working on the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway.

Sam, Mr. Rota's father, was born in the city in 1915. His wife, Olga, immigrated to North Bay in 1960. The pair met when the MP's father visited the Italian city of Cosenza, where his mother was born and raised.

It was also his father who initially warned the future Liberal MP about entering politics, the *North Bay Nipissing News* reported, telling him, "They'll chew you up and spit you out." But a determined Mr. Rota persisted, serving as a city councillor from 1994 to 1997. First elected as an MP in 2004, he has won the riding in three elections. In 2011, he lost to Conservative Jay Aspin, but won the seat back in 2015, when the Liberals rebounded to a majority.

In the 2019 election, Mr. Rota won with 40.5 per cent of the vote to Conservative Jordy Carr's 27.2 per cent.

His credentials include a political science degree from Wilfrid Laurier University, a diploma in finance from Algonquin College, and a master's in business administration from the University of Ottawa. He joined Nipissing University as a political science lecturer in 2011, and served as president of the North Bay and District Chamber of Commerce.

During his time as an MP, he chaired the sub-committee on veterans affairs and was a critic for the Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario.

Asked how he ended up defying his father's advice, a reflective Mr. Rota said "politics is a blood sport, it is a difficult thing, but it is also something where you can make a difference."

"Whether it's helping someone with their Canada Pension or their Old Age Security to getting a new infrastructure grant into the area, there are different scales, but they really do make a difference in people's lives," he said.

That desire to help others may have led him to taking an interest in learning a few phrases in Ojibwe.

"These are people in my riding, people who are very important to me; they are citizens in my riding and a little bit of Ojibwe is more of a greeting to just show respect more than anything else," he said.

Though he can greet and thank people in the language, he doesn't see himself becoming fluent in it. He is already fluent in Italian, Spanish, and French.

"When I grew up, my mother spoke to me in Italian and my father spoke to me in English—and when I was five years old, they decided they were going to send me to French school," he said.

While he stayed in French school all throughout high school, he also picked up Spanish courses for four years.

Mr. Rota has a daughter, Samantha, who he gave a shoutout to in his acceptance speech as she wrapped up her exams, along with his wife, Chantal. An avid athlete, Samantha joined her father during his 2015 swearing-

in with the Nipissing University women's basketball team.

His daughter is now considering teacher's college at the University of Ottawa, he said, so she may join him in the capital. For his part, Mr. Rota plans to split his time between his riding and Ottawa.

Speaker to encourage more camaraderie

Now presiding over what could be an unpredictable minority Parliament, Mr. Rota said he wants all MPs to know that his door is always open.

"When I decided to become Speaker, defining your own path is probably one of the important things," he said. "My wish [is] to see more order and decorum in the Chamber, and my intention is to work with all the Members to that end."

While he has spoken with Mr. Regan since being named Speaker, a position he observed as assistant deputy speaker during the last Parliament, Mr. Rota preferred to speak to his own goals, noting that he is making good on his promise to hold more social functions to foster camaraderie among members.

"Basically, what I'm looking at is one dinner a week where I bring in members from different parties so they can get to know each other. Let's say it's scheduled and it's happening," he added when asked for details. Mr. Regan also held such gatherings in the Speaker's dining room, usually on Wednesday evenings, Mr. Rota said previously.

Another one of his pitches includes setting up a suggestion box where MPs can submit feedback. He said it will be "prominently displayed." Conservative MP Dan Albas (Central Okanagan-Similkameen-Nicola, B.C.) came up with the idea for the box.

Mr. Rota said he hopes to unveil it sometime next week as the House resumes on Jan. 27, but details are still being finalized.

But he has promised MPs that he will be "firm, respectful, and, above all else, fair," skills he picked up in the last Parliament when he served as assistant deputy Speaker.

"The concern expressed most often by you was maintaining order and respect within the Chamber. The Standing Orders and precedents have a lot to do with how we can enforce decorum. However, the pertinent factor to maintaining decorum is how the rules are implemented and enforced by the Speaker. Maintaining a balance between the right to express oneself and respecting the dignity of others is key. The Speaker's personality is a core component to ensuring that we have a respectful House," he told MPs on Dec. 5, in his speech before MPs elected him as the Speaker.

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The year ahead in EU-Canada relations

‘The European Union is the world’s largest and most integrated single market. Even as EU27 post-Brexit, the European Union will remain the largest trading block in the world—and a major partner for Canada,’ writes EU chargé d’affaires Brice de Schieter.



Brice De Schieter

Opinion

This year promises to be another significant year for Canada and the European Union.

With our respective leaderships now in office following the 2019 elections in the EU and Canada, the stage is set for the next chapter in our relations.

Canada and the European Union are closer than ever. Recent geopolitical shifts

have reinforced already existing momentum in our bilateral relationship, thanks to the Strategic Partnership Agreement and the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (both signed in 2016). Our views and policy objectives are closely aligned on a broad range of issues from climate change, trade, and gender equality to the digital agenda, artificial intelligence, and foreign policy.

At a time when multilateralism is persistently called into question and our traditional partners are retreating from international engagements, partnerships such as ours are more vital than ever to safeguarding the rules-based international order. Canada and the European Union have worked tirelessly to address numerous international crises in recent years, whether standing up for the territorial integrity of Ukraine or showing solidarity with the people of Venezuela.

Climate action is another area where Canada and the European Union share the same ambitions. The urgency of climate action cannot be overstated. As highlighted in the Throne Speech, climate change is the defining challenge of our time. Last month, the new European Commission unveiled the European Green Deal. It is the green thread that will run through all our policies—from transport to taxation, from food to farming, from industry to infrastructure.

Furthermore, two weeks ago, the European Commission unveiled a one-trillion euro investment plan over the next decade, in efforts to put Europe on track to becoming the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. This is a goal we share with Canada.

We work side by side to protect our planet. At the EU-Canada Summit last July in Montreal, we signed the Ocean Partnership to combat together the negative effects of illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries, marine pollution and climate change. The conservation and sustainable use of natural resources can only be guaranteed through international cooperation. The European Union and Canada speak with one voice in the different multilateral fora and seize on each and every opportunity to rally international support for climate action, placing the Paris Agreement at the core of tackling climate change.

On the digital agenda too, Canada and the European Union have set ambitious goals. The EU’s general data privacy regulation sets high standards for the protection of personal data, a precious currency in the digital economy. We are keen to engage with our Canadian counterparts as they work to advance Canada’s Digital Charter. We are also keen to deepen cooperation on artificial intelligence and develop a human-centric approach to these technologies globally.

Indeed our economies are part of global supply chains, intertwined in unprecedented ways and depending on each other for growth and prosperity. We believe in open societies and open economies.

The European Union is the world’s largest and most integrated single market. Even as EU27 post-Brexit, the European Union will remain the largest trading block in the world—and a major partner for Canada.

The European Union is the first trading partner for over 80 countries in the world, and

has 41 trade agreements with 72 countries—the largest trade network in the world. As CETA marks its third anniversary this year, businesses, large and small, are experiencing benefits first-hand, with increases in merchandises trade by 15 per cent—from wood to pharmaceuticals and clean technologies.

Thanks to CETA, businesses can count on the stability and predictability of the EU’s single market, which is what they need to develop. We encourage Canadian businesses to diversify their exports and investments to Europe and across the European Union. Partners worldwide know the European Union is and will remain a reliable trading partner.

A functioning World Trade Organization (WTO) is critical to ensure that trade continues to be rules-based. Canada and the EU are partnering to reform the WTO and to advocate for an interim appeal arbitration arrangement to operate during the current stalemate of the WTO Appellate Body.

Also on the agenda this year: security and defence cooperation. In the coming year, we will advance exchanges in this area, including on Canada’s participation in EU missions and operations around the world. EU-NATO cooperation is strong and constitutes an integral pillar of the EU’s work aimed at strengthening our security and defence.

The European Union is a credible, culturally-diverse and engaged global partner—and we are privileged to count Canada among our most trusted friends.

Brice de Schieter is chargé d’affaires at the Delegation of the European Union to Canada.

The Hill Times



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The Intellectual Property Institute of Canada would like to welcome you back to Parliament.

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Nous nous réjouissons à l’idée de collaborer étroitement avec vous pour soutenir l’innovation verte grâce à la création d’un programme national de premier brevet vert, d’un fonds d’innovation pour la propriété intellectuelle verte et d’un incitatif fiscal pour la PI verte.



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News Rookie MPs

Rookie MPs get crash course on life in 'Ottawa bubble'

Learn to reach across party lines for relationships and resist sticking to talking points, new MPs told at a Carleton University-hosted orientation event.

BY BEATRICE PAEZ

Minority parliaments provide MPs an unusual opportunity to exert more political influence and to collaborate, even in the face of pressures to bow down to party discipline, a former NDP MP told new politicians assembled on Jan. 22 in Ottawa for a crash course on the parliamentary ecosystem.

Addressing a modest crowd of MPs, Senators, academics, and civil servants at the Sir John A. Macdonald Building, Megan Leslie, the former Halifax MP and current CEO of World Wildlife Fund Canada, said, "the power of a single MP is really profound right now. You see that in their roles in the House, and at committee."

Citing her own experience in a minority Parliament, Ms. Leslie pointed to her

work as the sole New Democrat at the House Health Committee where she was able to shape the scope of its studies, as an example.

"It was really about relationships. Talk to MPs across party lines," Ms. Leslie said, adding that it's a useful starting point to understand what opposition parties' mandates are. "It's about putting in the effort."

The October election resulted in the Liberals falling 13 seats short of a majority, with just 157 seats, followed by the Conservatives' 121, the Bloc's 32, NDP's 24, the Greens' three, and one Independent. Ninety-eight new MPs, including eight former MPs, were elected, though not all were on hand to attend Wednesday's event. In anticipation of the House's return on Jan. 27, the NDP and Liberal caucuses were simultaneously holding their respective retreats.

Former Conservative MP James Rajotte echoed Ms. Leslie's point, saying MPs are often faced with the choice of whether "to make a political statement to embarrass the party" or to work with colleagues across the aisle to get legislation passed. Mr. Rajotte advised MPs to consider tackling issues at committee that are less likely to stoke partisan grievances and tensions.

As chair of the House Finance Committee from 2009 to 2015, Mr. Rajotte said he



Privy Council clerk Ian Shugart says that his job as Ottawa's top bureaucrat is to ensure that public servants don't cross the 'red lines.' *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

oversaw the passage of an unanimous report on the manufacturing sector—a product of consensus building. When all but one of the 23 recommendations initially proposed were embraced by the members, he added, the committee decided to drop the recommendation, in respect of the NDP MP's opposition.

Ms. Leslie and Mr. Rajotte were among a variety of seasoned politicians and Hillites, including Privy Council clerk Ian Shugart, chief statistician Anil Anora, Abacus Data CEO David Coletto, Samara Centre for Democracy's Kendall Anderson, and *The Toronto Star's* Susan Delacourt, who were enlisted for an orientation event hosted by Carleton University to offer advice to rookie MPs on adjusting to life in the Ottawa bubble, including dealing with prying journalists and working with bureaucrats.

Former NDP MP Megan Leslie, pictured with former Conservative MP James Rajotte, says talking points were helpful in reminding her what the party's values are.

Resist using talking points as a crutch, says journalist, former MP

Repeating canned talking points from the party is a surefire way to repel journalists, Ms. Delacourt told MPs. "There will be a big temptation to read talking points, or the disciplined messages you've been told," she said. "We won't call you again because we can see that on Twitter or wherever."

Instead, she said, levelling with journalists about what one can and can't disclose helps MPs forge the relationships they need with the media to relay their message to constituents.

Ms. Leslie pushed back against the notion that talking points are useless. "I really appreciate them because they gave me a focus. These are my values reflected," she said. "But the trick is to read them, and to put [them] down, think about how can I express this in my terms, with my experience. When you're speaking to a journalist, tell those stories differently. You don't have to be a robot repeating things line for line."

Some criticisms of Trudeau's Senate 'project' warranted, says Independent Senator

Independent Senator Frances Lankin (Ontario) said the changes ushered under Mr. Trudeau to nudge the Senate to exercise greater independence have been slow to take root, but are underway. Ms. Lankin, appointed in 2016, sits with the Independent Senators Group, the largest bloc in the Red Chamber. She was part of a panel discussion that included Independent Senators Peter Boehm (Ontario) and Diane Bellemare (Alma, Que.) on how the Senate's role is evolving.

"I've said for years that the Senate needs to be reformed," Sen. Lankin said, noting that, as someone who ran for the NDP, she previously thought the Senate didn't have much value. "Change is happening. It's slow. I would say glacial."

But, she said, Mr. Trudeau won her over when he told her that it would be "for the

new Senate to define" what independence looks like. "If the Senate can provide a different lens to look at these issues, that's different from the political party structure, I think that's an important contribution," Sen. Lankin said.

Some criticisms about the Liberals' Senate project are wanted, though, she said, it's unfair to say that it's a "ruse to eliminate the voice of the official opposition."

"We [the ISG] do not try to convince each other. We do not work to a common position, or a common vote," she said. "What is true in that criticism is that the majority of people who have been appointed are centre-centre-left in their politics."

Sen. Boehm agreed that the Senate increasingly is no longer as tethered to partisan leanings. "The ISG doesn't caucus in a formal sense," Sen. Boehm said. "We're beyond experiment, we're into a new reality."

While "some rebalancing" was needed after years of the Conservatives at the helm, she said, the "success" of the "project" hinges in part on the government's "willingness to appoint centre-centre-right thinkers."

'My job is not to get you re-elected,' PCO clerk says

In addressing MPs, Ottawa's top bureaucrat sought to demystify the work of the public service, noting that interactions between MPs and bureaucrats typically revolve around resolving constituency issues, and on occasion, issues at the committee level. Mr. Shugart also emphasized his office's role in providing non-partisan advice to ministers and Parliamentarians.

"My job is not to get you re-elected," Mr. Shugart said, in jest.

The office of the Privy Council was under the public glare at the height of the SNC-Lavalin affair, which ensnared Mr. Shugart's predecessor, Michael Wernick, who was among those accused of pressuring then-attorney general Jody Wilson-Raybould (Vancouver Granville, B.C.) to cut the company a deal. Mr. Wernick was forced to resign due to backlash from opposition parties over his involvement.

Conservative MP Greg MacLean (Calgary Centre, Alta.) raised concerns about bureaucrats' ability to remain above the partisan fray, questioning Mr. Shugart on the mechanisms in place to prevent them from crossing those lines, and alluding to the affair that led to Mr. Wernick's resignation.

Mr. Shugart, in responding to those criticisms, said that such an "exceptional case" does have an "enormous power to affect public perception."

"All institutions are at risk of an institutional gingivitis, where the decay is slow and the consequences are real," he said. "The solution is being reminded all the time, and reinforced in our behaviour, of what the lines are. ... My responsibility is to know what certain things are not to be pursued, why they're absolutely red lines."

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The Hill Times

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To the Prime Minister, Parliament and the Federal Government

The undersigned organizations have grave concerns about the handling of Canada's federally-owned radioactive waste by a private-sector consortium that includes SNC-Lavalin and two Texas-based multinational corporations.*

- Canada has no adequate federal policies and strategies for the long-term management of radioactive wastes and the consortium has been given a free hand to advocate and implement proposals that, in our view, are unequal to the task of protecting people's health and the environment.
- Under its federal contract with Atomic Energy of Canada Limited the consortium is receiving billions of our tax dollars to advance radioactive waste disposal and reactor "decommissioning" projects that fail to even meet existing international safety guidelines.
- The consortium's current plans include entombing the radioactive remains of nuclear reactors in cement next to the Ottawa and Winnipeg Rivers, against the explicit advice of international bodies and independent nuclear scientists; these "entombed reactors" would leak radioactivity into the rivers for thousands of years and contaminate drinking water for millions of Canadians.
- The consortium also plans to erect a massive above-ground mound adjacent to a swampy area that drains into the nearby Ottawa River; the mound would hold more than one million tons of mixed radioactive waste including a multitude of long-lived, human-made radioactive materials such as plutonium-239 and hazardous non-radioactive materials such as PCBs, lead, arsenic and asbestos.
- The consortium is already transporting large quantities of radioactive waste along public roads from Pinawa, Manitoba, from Douglas Point, Ontario, and from Gentilly, Quebec, all the way to Chalk River, site of the proposed mound, located upstream from our nation's Capital.

We request that the Federal Government terminate its contract with the consortium at the end of the first six-year term in 2021 or as soon as possible.

We also request formulation of exemplary policies and projects for Canada's radioactive waste that meet or exceed international obligations. Such policies and projects would:

- be developed with meaningful consultation with First Nations and the broader Canadian public
- create many long-term, well-paying Canadian jobs while protecting health and property
- safely store radioactive waste in state-of-the-art facilities away from sources of drinking water
- re-establish Canadian leadership in the nuclear field with world-class science-based solutions to address the growing global radioactive waste problems

* Membership in the consortium, known as Canadian National Energy Alliance, has changed more than once since the consortium assumed control of Canada's federally-owned nuclear waste in 2015, when it received all shares of Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, a wholly owned subsidiary of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited. Current consortium members include SNC-Lavalin, which is debarred by the World Bank for 10 years and faced charges in Canada for fraud, bribery and corruption; Texas-based Fluor Corporation, which paid \$4 million to resolve allegations of financial fraud related to nuclear waste cleanup work at a U.S. site; and Texas-based Jacobs Engineering, which recently acquired CH2M, an original consortium member that agreed to pay \$18.5 million to settle federal criminal charges at a nuclear cleanup site in the U.S.

Signatories:

Alliance of the Anishinabek Nation and the Iroquois Caucus
Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
Sierra Club Canada Foundation
Friends of the Earth Canada
Ontario Clean Air Alliance
Ecology Ottawa
Ottawa River Institute
Unifor
FTQ - Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec
Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital
National Council of Women of Canada
Provincial Council of Women of Quebec
Provincial Council of Women of Ontario
Concerned Citizens of Renfrew County and Area

Northwatch
Les Artistes pour la Paix
Concerned Citizens Committee of Manitoba
Prevent Cancer Now
Action Climat Outaouais
Ralliement contre la pollution radioactive
Bonnechere River Watershed Project
Old Fort William Cottagers' Association
Pontiac Environmental Protection
Petawawa Point Cottagers Association
Coalition Against Nuclear Dumps on the Ottawa River
Esprit Whitewater
Durham Nuclear Awareness
First United Church (Ottawa) Water Care Allies

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Editorial

Dear MPs: the campaign is over, let's focus on governance

The House of Commons is back for its first meaningful stretch following October's election. Let's hope that MPs and ministers are ready to hang up their campaign hats, for now, and get down to the business of governing.

Canada needs a strong government and a serious Parliament to weather some of the real challenges facing the country right now. The U.S. election, the ongoing diplomatic battle with China, and the challenge of holding Iran to account for its attack on Canadians killed on flight 752 could have major consequences for the country.

Opposition MPs from every party should give the government fair treatment, and enough breathing room to present a unified front to Canada's allies and rivals on the world stage. There will be plenty of room to criticize the government where it is warranted on the domestic front.

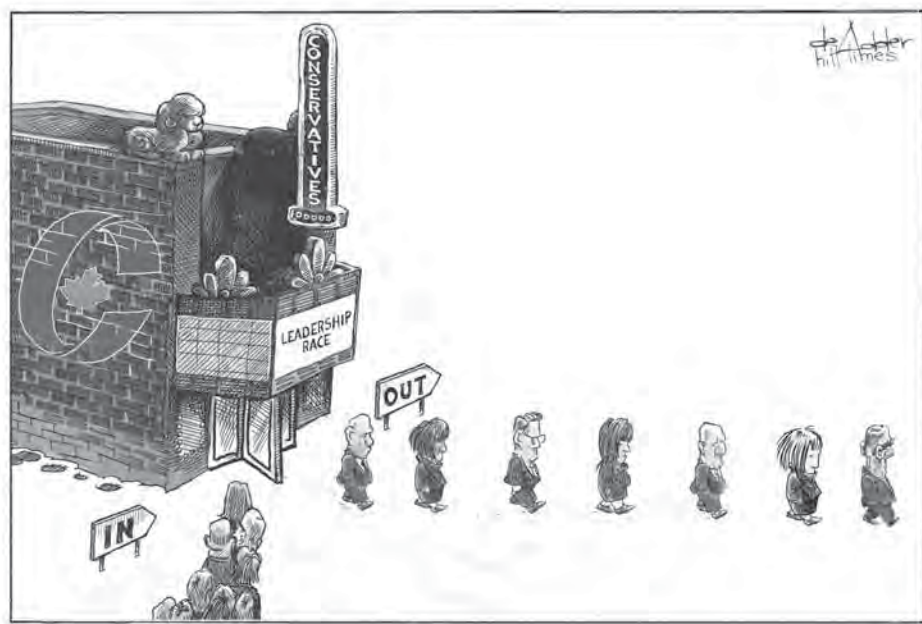
Government ministers and MPs should use the opportunity of a minority Parliament to seek real, useful compromise with the opposition in the legislation and policy that it puts forward. The Liberals will be expected to fight to pass bills that stay true to their campaign promises; they don't have to dig their heels in, and turn their noses up at amendments or compro-

mises that really make their legislation better, as was sometimes the case in the last Parliament.

Committees will be the acid test for productivity in the House. They will hear from smart witnesses, weigh useful legislative changes, and demonstrate publicly the outcome of the strategizing among and between party back-roomers. We will see just how much MPs and leaders want to get things done, and how much they want to posture and squabble.

Nobody wants an election anytime soon. The Liberals have a mandate to deliver on; the Conservatives have a new leader to elect; the NDP has money to raise; and the Bloc has little to gain. Canadians certainly don't want to go to the polls again.

MPs should tone down the campaign-style rhetoric and virtue signalling that so often dominates in the House, and get down to the business of governing. Canadians gave plenty of thought last summer to what each party had to offer; there will be no better time for Parliamentarians to focus on getting things done, instead of denying their opponents a win. Many non-partisan Canadians don't hold politicians in very high regard; this is the time to give them a reason to change their mind.



Letters to the Editor

'I will never forget his loyalty': Ross Reid remembers John Crosbie

Three weeks shy of 45 years ago, John Crosbie hired me to be his executive assistant in the provincial Department of Fisheries. Two weeks ago, he was celebrated and mourned at his funeral in St. John's, the culmination of a week of reminiscences, profiles, kind words, much deserved compliments, and condolences. I wasn't able to be there. I'm back in northern Sri Lanka, for me, an appropriate place to sort through my own memories and reflect on the impact John Crosbie has had on my life.

John Crosbie took me to meetings with John Shaheen in London and we hung out with Margaret Thatcher and Jimmy Carter in Tokyo. Mukluk budgets; the excitement and drudgery of election campaigns; the exhilaration of the 1983 race for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada; the honour of serving with him in the House of Commons and so many other adventures, good and bad, followed.

He taught me that good government was good politics and that partisanship has its place, but shouldn't get in the way of getting things done. His accomplishments, tenacity, his sense of humour, his preparation, his intellect have all been justly acknowledged and celebrated.

My memories tend to focus on things I did with him, experiences shared. The most intense was the 1988 election campaign during which my sexuality became a topic of great interest and consternation for some. His support of me personally and publicly were unconditional and unflinching. I will never forget his loyalty.

Not enough can be said about the contribution and important role played by Jane Furneaux Crosbie. She is as tough, perceptive, determined, and committed as her husband ever was. He depended on her more than perhaps he knew and she was always his partner in every phase of their shared career.



John Crosbie, the former Mulroney-era cabinet minister and a former provincial Newfoundland and Labrador cabinet minister who died on Jan. 10 at the age of 88, hired Ross Reid more than 45 years ago to be his executive assistant in the provincial Department of Fisheries. Mr. Reid, who is gay, recalls that during the 1988 election when his sexuality became an open issue, Crosbie publicly and personally offered his 'unconditional and unflinching' support for him. *The Hill Times file photograph*

These few words are so incomplete, inadequate, and self-indulgent but they serve as my small contribution to the celebration of a great man half a world away.

Ross Reid
(The letter writer is a former Progressive Conservative MP and former federal cabinet minister who represented St. John's East, N.L., from 1988-1993).

Conservative Party still trying to rebrand itself to win an election

Re: "Ten lessons for the Conservatives as they seek to rebuild," (*The Hill Times*, Jan. 20, p. 3). Having just read Yaroslav Baran's opinion piece, my overall takeaway from the "10 lessons" is that the Conservative Party of Canada is still trying to rebrand itself in a way that will win an election. Most political parties, it seems, are focused on the power and ideology thing. This, of course, is in contrast to a more simple problem-solving model of policy development. Rather than considering a best-practices approach, based on

the best information, there is this constant urge to have policy and practice fit the philosophy. Climate change might be the most obvious example where philosophy ignores the best information. Perhaps the CPC and all parties should consider "the scientific method" as they develop policy. This might also include a change in the electoral system, so that we have a more representative sample in Parliament—it makes for better science and policy.

Ron Robinson
 Nelson, B.C.

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Politics

MacKay must be verily relieved

Decisions by Jean Charest and Rona Ambrose to stay out of the Conservative leadership race were met with huge sighs of relief on more than one front.



Sheila Copps

Copps' Corner

OTTAWA—The Liberal government of Justin Trudeau dodged a couple of political bullets last week.

Decisions by Jean Charest and Rona Ambrose to stay out of the Conservative leadership race were met with huge sighs of relief on more than one front.

The immediate beneficiary of the sorties was Peter MacKay,

who now leaps to the position of frontrunner amongst progressives in the party.

He was closely followed by Pierre Poilievre who was working hard to solidify his support amongst the more right-wing members of the party until he dropped out of the race last week.

MacKay must be verily relieved that neither Charest nor Ambrose will be in the race.

Most of the media attention had been focused on Ambrose's star status, but Charest would have been a tougher adversary.

Ambrose did a terrific job as interim Tory leader. But her ministerial record was anything but stellar.

Charest, on the other hand, introduced progressive environmental legislation and, under the leadership of prime minister Brian Mulroney, his government was the first to focus on going green.

Ambrose was the minister responsible for the controversial decision to for defund pro-choice women's organizations. Post politics, she has been very active in promoting her private member's bill to incorporate gender sensitivity training into the judiciary.

But when she had the levers of power to accomplish that as a minister, she did not.

To be fair, both were dealing with constraints imposed by their leaders.

Mulroney wanted to capitalize on the world environmental reck-



The immediate beneficiary of Jean Charest and Rona Ambrose not running for the leadership was Peter MacKay, pictured on the Hill in June 2014, who now leaps to the position of frontrunner amongst progressives in the party, writes Sheila Copps. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

oning which began at the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit. The meeting was spawned by a report entitled "Our Common Future" authored by Norwegian prime minister Gro Harlem Brundtland in 1987. Rio marked the beginning of a world consensus that we must "Think globally and act locally" to stem environmental degradation. Mulroney mirrored that message back to Canada, launching a \$3-billion Green Plan in the leadup to the summit.

Mulroney supported the global consensus that we needed to start treating the planet differently.

Then-prime minister Stephen Harper went the other way. Like Donald Trump, he ignored the world climate change consensus, and spent most of his political capital on a rearguard action to blame the environmentalists. He also forced all ministers to delete

gender analysis from their cabinet analysis and was probably the key driver in cutting women's funding across the country.

The other element that would have put Charest squarely in the leader's seat, should he have decided to run, was his ease of communication in both official languages.

A weak command of one of Canada's official languages may not be the deciding factor in an in-house Conservative leadership campaign. But it certainly makes a difference when someone is wooing one-quarter of the Canadian population in an election campaign.

In Quebec, New Brunswick, northern Ontario and the southern shore of Nova Scotia, one cannot expect to get any support if she or he cannot speak to voters in their mother tongue.

But speaking both languages is not enough. The leader must also reflect the values of the country.

And that is where the current leadership race gets tricky. The entrance of Quebecer and social conservative Richard Décarie has provided the perfect foil for other would-be candidates to show their progressive side. Harper's former deputy chief of staff is the self-described leader of the so-cons in the party. He claims to be the only voice representing the values that true social conservatives hold dear, including sanctity of heterosexual marriage and a ban on abortions.

Décarie told CTV news that being gay is a choice, providing an opportunity for other putative candidates to contradict him.

By the end of the week, the campaigns of Erin O'Toole and MacKay began to narrow the focus of delegate support.

Most are moving away from the social conservative constructs that proved fatal in the last election.

MacKay hails from the former Progressive Conservative party so he won't fall into the trap of boycotting gay pride parades. Some are calling for an eastern-based choice for leader, so the party can finally make the breakthrough it needs in Ontario and Quebec.

In five short months, we will have the answers to all these questions. The result could well turn Canadian politics on its head.

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

The Hill Times

Why Harper still dominates the news

What's driving this 'Harpermania' are two opposing emotional sentiments: nostalgia and anti-nostalgia.



Gerry Nicholls

Post-Partisan Pundit

OKVILLE, ONT.—When you hear the name "Stephen Harper," the last word that springs to mind is "charismatic."

Words that do spring to mind, on the other hand, include: bor-

ing, brooding, stodgy, plodding, and pedantic.

Yet amazingly, despite his ostensibly anti-charismatic personality, and despite being off the political stage for nearly five years, Harper has become, of late, a magnet for media attention.

Indeed, over the past few weeks he's been all over the news. For instance, when he recently stepped down from the Conservative Fund, it became a big story, sending pundits off into an overdrive of wild speculation.

Questions abounded: why was Harper stepping down? What's his game plan? What did this mean for the Conservative Party? Was this a sign of an impending Armageddon?

Suddenly Harper seems totally exciting!

So what's going on here? Why this Harper obsession? What explains his allure?

Well, in my opinion, what's driving this "Harpermania" are two opposing emotional sentiments: nostalgia and anti-nostalgia.

The Harper nostalgia part, I think, is obvious; a lot of people in the Conservative Party and also probably in the media simply miss the Harper era.

After all, love him or hate him, you have to admit that since Harper's departure the political right in this country has become a lot less interesting, at least at the national level; simply put, the current crop of leading federal Conservatives are not Harpers, they all lack his toughness, his sharp intellect, his sense of gravitas, and his innate political savvy.

In other words, when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau mocked current Conservative Party Leader Andrew Scheer as "Harper with a smile," the only part he really got right was the bit about the smile.

It's easy to see then why Harper still looms in the background like a conservative colossus; his experience, combined with his articulateness and insightful nature, still make him the country's most credible spokesman for conserva-

tive thought and for conservative opinion.

Hence, when Harper talks, the media listens.

Plus, as is often the case when it comes to nostalgia, we tend to forget the bad and focus on the good, and the good for Harper was he won three federal elections in a row and for a lot of conservatives who are tired of losing, that's more than enough to make him an appealing figure.

This now brings us to the Harper anti-nostalgia.

Even though Harper is admired by many, there are still legions of Canadians for whom his time in office was a dark period in Canadian history.

For such people, Harper was a bête noire, a right-wing ideologue, who as prime minister was implementing a terrifying agenda.

This fear from the past, which time only seems to magnify, lives on today.

Hence, they're always on the lookout for signs that Harper's supposedly malevolent influence

still lingers within the Conservative Party, that he's still directing the show from the shadows, that (horror of horrors) he might even return to politics and seek the Conservative leadership!

Heck, if the evil Emperor from Star Wars movies could make a comeback, why not Harper?

So, just as a rumbling volcano attracts the attention of seismologists, anytime Harper says or does anything, it'll attract the attention of his fearful detractors.

At any rate, the point is, there's a built-in audience out there, part of which remembers Harper with nostalgic-fuelled reverence, part of which, with an anti-nostalgic-fuelled dread, meaning an appetite exists for any news surrounding the former Prime Minister.

The media obligingly feeds that appetite.

So come to think of it, maybe, in an odd sort of way, Harper really is charismatic.

Gerry Nicholls is a communications consultant.

The Hill Times

Global

Time to start shredding?

Even if we finally start taking serious measures against global warming now, a lot of people are going to die from the damage that has already been done: millions at least, and possibly a great many more than that.



Gwynne Dyer
Global Affairs



Donald Trump, pictured in this file photograph in North Dakota. His speech to the World Economic Forum in Davos on Jan. 20 contained no surprises: half an hour of chest-thumping self-praise, although without the usual xenophobia and dog-whistle racism, writes Gwynne Dyer. Photograph courtesy of The White House

LONDON, U.K.—Donald Trump's speech to the World Economic Forum in Davos on Jan. 20 contained no surprises: half

an hour of chest-thumping self-praise, although without the usual xenophobia and dog-whistle racism. It was, after all, an audience of the ultra-rich and powerful in which most of the movers and shakers were not American.

There was no point in insulting them, and he didn't. Presumably for the same reason, he downplayed his climate denial at a conference whose theme this year is sustainability: just two minutes denouncing climate scientists as "the heirs of yesterday's foolish fortune tellers," and then back to the boasting. But you couldn't help wondering what the audience was thinking.

Most of them are owners or senior managers of businesses with a global reach, and their views on economic issues often chime with Trump's. In the past, they echoed his views on climate change as well, because taking it seriously threatened their business models, but they are not stupid.

Some of them always knew the science was right, and just muddled the waters deliberately to win a few more decades of profit. Others drank the Kool-Aid and truly believed for a while that it was a Chinese-sponsored hoax, but they know it's not the Chinese who are melting the glaciers and setting Australia on fire.

So a majority of the people in that audience now realize that the climate threat is very real, and some are starting to take serious action against it. One of the world's three biggest asset-management firms, BlackRock, has just started pulling its investments out of the coal industry. It's a small start, and it's very late, maybe too late, but the wind is clearly changing.

Over the past few months Goldman Sachs, Liberty Mutual, and the Hartford Financial Services Group Inc., have all taken similar steps. The European Investment Bank has announced that it will stop lending to fossil-fuel projects altogether. But beyond wondering when and how to take their own businesses in the same direction, a lot of the CEOs at Davos will be asking themselves: is it time to start shredding the evidence?

I am speaking metaphorically, of course. There are doubtless still megatons of paper documents that contain incriminating

material about how companies deliberately subsidized climate denial campaigns in the past, but much of it was 'restricted circulation' and never saw a photocopier. Just call in the shredders. But the real problem is the electronic evidence.

There will be metaphorical tons of damning internal email chatter about how a great many companies conspired to cast doubt on the scientific evidence for global warming over a period of several decades. Tracking it down and killing it will be very hard. In fact, it will be close to impossible.

People do what they have to in order to make a living. Many people who profoundly disapproved of what the guilty companies were doing nevertheless took the job and kept their mouths shut. But a few of them, at least, will have been quietly saving documents and emails for the day when the lawsuits start.

In fact, the class-action lawsuits are already getting underway, especially in the world's most litigious country, the United States. It's unexplored legal territory, and it may be some time before one of the cases makes it in court, but the model everybody has in mind is the Tobacco Master Settlement of 1998, in which the four major cigarette companies ended up paying out \$206-billion over 25 years.

In this case, we are not just talking about fines, although they may ultimately be immense and even crippling. We are also talking about criminal liability.

Even if we finally start taking serious measures against global warming now, a lot of people are going to die from the damage that has already been done: millions at least, and possibly a great many more than that.

Most of them will live in developing countries, and have no access to the legal systems of the countries where the headquarters are. But enough people will die in the rich countries that those who led or financed the denial campaign will almost certainly end up facing criminal charges ten or twenty years from now. Time to get shredding.

Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy (and Work)'. This column was released on Jan. 22. The Hill Times



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Politics



Conservative MP Marilyn Gladu, pictured, is so far the only high-profile woman running for the Conservative Party's leadership. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

Women in politics: every party should have a few

It is early days, there may be other candidates stepping up, but at the moment it looks as if that prize will go to yet another ambitious, confident and aggressive white male politician straight from central casting. History repeats itself; old power dynamics endure.



Susan Riley

Impolitic

CHELSEA, QUE.—Will the time ever come when every leadership race does not require a “woman” candidate, primarily to make the party look inclusive? In other words, will women in politics, and women in leadership, ever become so routine as

to be unremarkable—candidates judged on their merits, not as part of a political sub-category, not as tokens of their party’s virtuous ambitions?

Maybe, but we’re not there yet. In fact, in some areas, we appear to be retreating.

The still-unfolding Conservative leadership race offers mixed signals, but, overall, suggests that women are still outsiders at the heart of political power. So far, only one woman has put her name forward, Conservative MP for Sarnia-Lambton, Marilyn Gladu. Notwithstanding an impressive career as a professional engineer for Dow Chemical, an engaging forthrightness and a proven ability to work across party lines, no one, but no one, expects her to win.

She is a relative newcomer, first elected in 2015. She hasn’t had a particularly high profile as her party’s science critic; indeed, she and her Liberal counterpart, former science minister Kirsty Duncan, agreed privately to work together instead of shouting at one another across the aisle. She has shown an independent streak, but in quiet ways—criticizing the Harper government’s decision to eliminate the long-form census and supporting Liberal moves to unmuzzle the federal scientists silenced by Harper’s factotums.

She has favoured the House with the odd poem and showed up at a 2016 Conservative convention in Vancouver dressed as the Grim Reaper—a highly unusual attempt to get her colleagues to shed the “gloom and doom” of their recent defeat. She has a black belt in Tae Kwon Do and two grown daughters.



On the other hand, former interim leader Rona Ambrose, would have entered the race a strong favourite had she decided to run. On the other hand, she didn’t. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

And her professional resumé clearly surpasses that of some of her higher-profile rivals (notably Pierre Poilievre) and that of the former leader, Andrew Scheer: she was director of engineering for Suncor, chair of the Canadian Society of Chemical Engineers, a member of the dean’s engineering advisory committee at Queen’s University and, during her time with Dow, she travelled the world overseeing the company’s 250 operations.

She may yet dazzle. Or she may—like a Belinda Stronach without the family money—fizzle. She may be running primarily to enhance her profile as many second-tier candidates do. She may not be able to raise the

\$300,000 and find the 3000 cross-Canada signatures by March 25 to enable her to stay in the race. That could leave the party with no women candidates which would be awkward, but hardly unprecedented.

On the other hand, former interim leader Rona Ambrose, would have entered the race a strong favourite had she decided to run. On the other hand, she didn’t. Because she is a woman with an interesting life, a good career, and no appetite for the time-wasting nonsense of partisan politics? Because she doesn’t want to give up her regular hiking expeditions in Alberta’s stunning wilderness areas? Because she has already spent 13 years in federal politics, including one as interim leader and doesn’t need the ego jolt?

These are all sensible reasons—for a man, or a woman—and Ambrose cannot be faulted for refusing the pick up the torch for her gender and her party. She has served her time. But if she was a man in the same position—with the same wide support in the party—would she have stepped away?

We can’t know, of course. Every potential candidate juggles many considerations before taking on the financial risk, the gruelling hours and the certain abuse that comes with any political contest. Peter MacKay—with three young children and a career with a Toronto law firm—couldn’t resist a return to the ring. Jean Charest was sorely tempted, but bowed out for his own reasons—an old ethics controversy that continued to dog him, the avowed hostility of some party heavyweights who consider him dangerously liberal, and, perhaps, a belated realization that Red Tories are an endangered species.

GTA lawyer Leslyn Lewis, who holds a PhD in international law and who ran unsuccessfully in 2015 in Scarborough-Rouge Park, Ont., also said last week that she intends to run for the Conservative Party’s leadership. A Black woman, she told friends in an email, according to the *Toronto Sun*: “It’s the first time in Canadian history that a visible minority woman has run for leader of either major federal party, and potentially for prime minister of Canada!”

But while speculation about individual choices is risky, patterns are obvious. There has not been a woman as permanent leader of a major political party in the Commons since Alexa McDonough of the NDP retired in 2003. (Ambrose was an interim leader; Elizabeth May led a party of one—admirably, but it isn’t the same thing.)

In 2012, half the federal premiers were women. This year there is only one female face at meetings of premiers and territorial leaders—and few Canadians would recognize her. She’s Caroline Cochrane, premier of the North West Territories.

To his credit, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has followed



GTA lawyer Leslyn Lewis is interested in running for the Conservative Party’s leadership. *Photograph courtesy of Facebook*

through on his promise of gender-balanced cabinets and has handed some of the highest-profile jobs to women—especially, of course, deputy prime minister Chrystia Freeland, although she has been less visible so far than she was as foreign affairs minister.

But will Trudeau’s reform succeed him? Gender parity within provincial cabinets is enjoying a vogue: premiers John Horgan and François Legault both campaigned on the promise and, to varying degrees, attempted to fulfil it. Former Alberta premier Rachel Notley’s 2015 cabinet actually included 53 per cent women—a number that has tumbled drastically with the election of Jason Kenney and far fewer women MLAs.

At a recent symposium, former Conservative deputy leader, Lisa Raitt noted that “not all cabinet jobs are equal” and that men still tend to hold the “line-item” portfolios.

It’s an old story. Political parties make fitful, well-intentioned, efforts to recruit women but those women too often end up in unwinnable ridings. And it is still difficult to convince talented women to run. Ambrose herself, an advocate for women’s empowerment long before her political career, told an interviewer once: “If you ask a man to run, he’ll say ‘where, when, how?’” But ask a woman and “they’ll explain to you ‘I need to get my MBA first.’”

Almost two years ago, Ambrose and her friend, Laureen Harper, started a non-profit called SheLeads, with the intention of persuading Alberta women to get into politics. There is no doubting the sincerity and necessity for the initiative—and no recriminations for Ambrose, who has served her time—but it is bitterly ironic that she will not be a candidate for the leadership of her party.

It is early days, there may be other candidates stepping up, but at the moment it looks as if that prize will go to yet another ambitious, confident and aggressive white male politician straight from central casting.

History repeats itself; old power dynamics endure.

Susan Riley is a veteran political columnist who writes regularly for The Hill Times.

The Hill Times



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Former prime minister Stephen Harper co-founded the Conservative Party alongside then-Progressive Conservative Party leader Peter MacKay. He remains a hugely influential figure in the party. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

The party of Stephen Harper isn't going anywhere

The former prime minister's fingerprints are all over the leading contenders to replace Andrew Scheer atop the Conservative Party.



Michael Harris

Harris

HALIFAX—With the disappearance of Jean Charest from the Conservative leadership race, Justin Trudeau has been dealt another ace by a party that can't seem to get over Stephen Harper.

Unless a meteor enters the political firmament—someone new and estimable not now on the candidate radar screen—the person who replaces the hapless Andrew Scheer will be a captive of their record as a Harper cabinet minister.

Oddly enough, the only way for any of them to escape that trap is to come up with new policy directions certain to upset a significant portion of the party's socially conservative base—and of course Harper himself.

To win the leadership will likely mean towing the Harper line—a tack that will lead by a direct route to a third straight national election loss. One more after that, and the CPC would equal the dubious record of the British Labour Party, which has also refused to adapt to new times, and paid the price at the polls in four consecutive elections. The Harper model was already old and soundly rejected in 2015. Today, with issues like the environment eclipsing the prosperity of the corporate sector, it just seems grumpy, irrelevant, and dangerous.

Jean Charest's decision not to enter the race shows that the CPC is still a closed shop. He was seamlessly bilingual, nationally known, highly intelligent, and most important of all, a winner at the ballot box. He was also a Quebecker, offering a new field for the CPC to plough.

The fact that Charest was not wanted on the Conservative voyage is further proof that elements in the CPC just can't get over themselves; people like Richard Décarie, the former Harper staffer who is entering the leadership race on behalf of socially conservative values, and to stop Jean Charest; the guy who said

being gay is a choice. So instead of setting a bold, new course, the party braintrust has cobbled together a convention process that guarantees that only Harper hacks need apply.

There has been much harumphing about Peter MacKay, the man who was Harper's impotent deputy-leader for nearly a decade. People like Tom Flanagan, the University of Calgary professor who is also a former campaign manager for the Conservatives, has gushed that now more than ever, MacKay is the right choice for party leader.

Flanagan points to MacKay's co-founding role in the CPC, and the three senior portfolios he held: foreign affairs, national defence, and justice. And, of course, his loyalty to Harper.

That is one way of looking at MacKay. But it is not the only way.

Progressive Conservatives like David Orchard will not remember Peter MacKay the co-founder of the CPC. They will remember the guy who buried the knife in his former party after winning its leadership and promising not to preside over the demise of the Progressive Conservatives.

MacKay has been called an electable centrist with the Maritimes as a power base. But the Harper defeat was greatest in the Maritimes, where the CPC lost every seat in 2015 and won only four of 32 seats in 2019.

Since resigning his Central Nova seat, which had been a family trinket for many years, MacKay's former riding has gone Liberal in both elections, despite the ardent efforts of MacKay and his father, Elmer MacKay, to get people like country-singer George Canyon elected as Conservatives.

And where, one wonders, was the electable centrist in 2015 when his party went to war against Justin Trudeau for the first time?

While his colleagues in the party tried to hold the fort, MacKay slipped away from the front lines and back into private life, avoiding Stephen Harper's Waterloo. He was clearly biding his time for a more opportune moment to assert his conservatism. That may be remembered by other people sniffing at the CPC leadership, like Pierre Poilievre and Erin O'Toole, who manned the ramparts in 2015 with the Liberal hordes closing in.

And although it is true that MacKay held senior cabinet posts, it is debatable whether that is a blanket recommendation. MacKay helped lead the disinformation campaign on the Harper government's acquisition of the dubious F-35 stealth fighter. Had it been successful, Canadians would have had to pay for the biggest boondoggle in their history.

While MacKay was perfectly happy to offer photo-ops hopping in and out of the cockpit of

the troubled aircraft, he was part of the team that tried to pull the wool over the eyes of Canadians regarding the ruinous cost of the jets. It took Canada's first parliamentary budget officer, Kevin Page, to reveal the true costs involved in purchasing the F-35.

MacKay was then, and continues to be, a cheerleader for the military industrial complex and all that it stands for. Not necessarily an attribute that will be rewarded in mainstream politics.

MacKay was also at the centre of an embarrassing scandal for the Harper government in July 2010. The then-minister of defence was holidaying at a private fishing camp on the Gander River in Newfoundland. Although there were other ways to get out of the camp and back to Ontario for a government announcement, a Search and Rescue Cormorant helicopter served as a flying limousine for MacKay to make the trip.

The request raised hackles inside the Department of Defence. What if a search and rescue event occurred while one of a small fleet of helicopters was winching the minister up from his fishing hole?

MacKay told Parliament that it was all part of a long-planned military demonstration, but emails subsequently published in *The National Post* contradicted the minister's claims. In one of the emails, a member of the armed forces said that the "mission will go under the guise" of search and rescue training. The opposition thought MacKay had handed them more than a fishing story. They accused the minister of misleading the House.

The other candidate who, until last week when he dropped out of the race, was deemed by some to be in an advantageous position to take over from Scheer is Pierre Poilievre. A Harper minion who carried loyalty to the point of obsequiousness, the Ottawa MP was seen as the most Conservative of the bunch—at least the ones on display right now.

But like MacKay, Poilievre's inclusion in two Harper cabinets was at best a mixed blessing. True, he was seen as having executive ability by Stephen Harper, but what did that mean, and how did he exercise it?

Not only was he one of the most toxically partisan Harper ministers, Poilievre disgraced himself and the party as the front man for the Fair Elections Act. It should have been called the Voter Suppression Act.

Even *The Globe and Mail* called the act the worst piece of legislation in 2014. And the paper characterized Poilievre's performance as Stephen Harper's front man in selling it as "unctuous." The *Globe* also advised Canadians to "Rejoice" when the Trudeau government repealed the odious legislation with Bill 33.

Where is Rona Ambrose when you need her? Exercising better judgment than people who think they can win the big poker game with Harper dealing the cards.

That might be a new milestone on the road of delusional ambition.

Michael Harris is an award-winning journalist and author. *The Hill Times*

Opinion

Correctional investigator's scathing report illustrates Canada's refusal to protect its own citizens

Reconciliation demands that we deconstruct the status quo. Listen closely, central agencies and parliamentarians: reconciliation demands two things of you, first, you are asked to learn more to do better, and second, this is going to cost some funds. If it were your kids, would you fight for it?



Rose LeMay

Stories, Myths, and Truths



Last week the Office of the Correctional Investigator issued a scathing report on the state of Indigenous people in federal prisons. It's bad. The overall proportion of Indigenous people is at 30 per cent, and for Indigenous women the figure is even higher. Photograph courtesy Pixabay

OTTAWA—Is reconciliation dead? Last week the Office of the Correctional Investigator issued a scathing report

on the state of Indigenous people in federal prisons. It's bad. The overall proportion of Indigenous people is at 30 per cent, and for Indigenous women the figure is even higher.

About 10 years ago, I toured the Saskatchewan Penitentiary at Prince Albert. It was difficult to see, even then, the majority of people in that institution were Indigenous. Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler of the Chiefs of Ontario noted recently the Thunder Bay District Jail include 75 per cent Indigenous peoples.

Inquiring minds will start to ask the question why? Why is this a national problem? Inquiring minds need to be comfortable with some discomfort in one potential reason: pervasive racism. If there is resistance to this perspective then try this on for size: does anybody want to argue that the reasons is that all Indigenous peoples are criminals? All drunks? It's all their fault? That sounds pretty Trumpish to me.

The sad truth is that the corrections system is where the most vulnerable of Canadians find themselves when education, health, mental health and housing systems have failed them. Ivan Zinger's scathing report is scathing, then, not only on corrections, but also on education and health and mental health and housing. It's a scathing report on Canada's refusal to protect its own citizens.

And this scathing report is now sitting on top of many such scathing reports that cover the sectors of justice, health, child welfare and more.

What evidence do we have that political leaders and parliamentarians will address this? Not much evidence. One may argue this is simply cynicism, except for the piles of scathing reports that continue to gather dust on the Hill. It's very likely that policy analysts are frantically writing briefing notes right now that line up the key factors to fix this problem and attach a price tag. And this is where the good policy responses die—on the price tag at the central agencies.

Yes! We believe in reconciliation! But no, we won't pay for it. Insert policy defence of status quo here. Defending the

status quo is much easier when you're not living in it.

If the City of Ottawa suffered similar challenges that many Indigenous communities endure, here is how it might look:

- the water is unsafe to drink, and has been like that for years;
- your K-12 schools would be condemned but still used even with mould and safety issues;
- your kids might graduate school, but without math and science, as there are no labs in schools, so university is so much more difficult;
- there might be a hundred or so physicians, but they only fly in periodically;
- the hospital is 500 km away by flight or ice road, and the decision-makers say it will cost too much to build a hospital for this place;
- the police might just as easily arrest you rather than protect you;
- you know all the people incarcerated because they are all family members, and you know almost all of them are jailed because the system itself has a bias against people like you;
- most everybody you know can share a story about how they experienced discrimination from police or the courts;
- and your Members of Parliament will say they care...repeatedly.

Sounds harsh? That's because it is harsh. First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities might face some or all of these risk factors, every day.

Reconciliation demands that we deconstruct the status quo. Listen closely, central agencies and parliamentarians: reconciliation demands two things of you, first, you are asked to learn more to do better, and second, this is going to cost some funds. If it were your kids, would you fight for it?

Rose LeMay is Tlingit from the West Coast and the CEO of the Indigenous Reconciliation Group. She writes twice a month about Indigenous inclusion and reconciliation. In Tlingit worldview, the stories are the knowledge system, sometimes told through myth and sometimes contradicting the myths told by others. But always with at least some truth.

The Hill Times



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**OPEN LETTER TO MPS AND SENATORS OF THE 43RD PARLIAMENT
UNE LETTRE OUVERTE ADRESSÉE AUX DÉPUTÉS ET SÉNATEURS DE LA 43^E LÉGISLATURE**

**Re: Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement
must be ratified as soon as possible**

Dear Parliamentarians,

On behalf of tens of thousands of songwriters, composers and music publishers in Canada, we welcome you back and most of all wish you a productive Parliamentary session.

We thank the government for signing the Canada-U.S.-Mexico (CUSMA) trade agreement last year. Under it, copyright in Canada will be strengthened by extending the term of protection by 20 years, to the life of the author plus 70 years.

**What does this mean for
innovation in Canada?**

Canadian songs and scores are heard daily on the radio, on streaming services, in video games, and in film, television and other screen-based productions around the world.

Modernizing the Copyright Act to ensure Canadian rights holders have the same protections as their international competitors is a much-needed move to help Canadian creators, and the companies that invest in them, to continue exporting their creations around the world. A forward-looking, digitally attuned copyright regime will foster Canadian innovation, investment, and growth in a key economic sector for our great country.

It is imperative that CUSMA be ratified quickly to ensure that Canadian songwriters, composers and the small and large businesses that invest in music publishing are properly compensated for their work. The term extension provisions in CUSMA should be enacted immediately, without unnecessary delay and with no conditions.

Adding another 20 years to the life of a copyright means a robust creative sector, more Canadian cultural exports, and the growth of many innovative businesses that have embraced the digital market. It is long past time for Canada to catch up to its international trading partners in this respect.

CUSMA presents an amazing, tangible opportunity to expand Canada's music publishing industry, invest more in emerging songwriters and composers and make our Canadian companies even more competitive globally. We urge all Parliamentarians to make the early ratification of CUSMA their top legislative priority.

Sincerely,

**Objet : L'accord Canada—États-Unis—Mexique
doit être ratifié le plus rapidement possible**

Chers parlementaires,

Au nom de milliers d'auteurs-compositeurs canadiens et d'éditeurs de musique, permettez-nous de vous souhaiter un bon retour et une fructueuse session parlementaire.

Nous tenons à remercier le gouvernement d'avoir signé l'accord commercial Canada—États-Unis—Mexique (ACEUM) l'an dernier. Le texte prévoit que les droits d'auteur au Canada seront renforcés, en prolongeant la durée de protection pour une période de 20 ans de plus, soit la vie de l'auteur plus 70 ans.

**Quelle est l'importance de cette mesure
pour l'innovation au Canada ?**

Les chansons et compositions canadiennes sont diffusées quotidiennement à la radio, dans les services numériques en continu (streaming), dans les jeux vidéo et dans les productions cinématographiques, télévisuelles et autres productions audiovisuelles.

En modernisant la Loi sur le droit d'auteur pour assurer que les titulaires de droits canadiens aient accès aux mêmes protections que leurs concurrents internationaux, nous aidons les créateurs canadiens et les entreprises qui les appuient à être concurrentiels et à exporter leurs œuvres à travers le monde. Un régime du droit d'auteur orienté vers l'avenir et adapté au monde numérique favorisera non seulement l'innovation, mais aussi l'investissement et la croissance au Canada au sein d'un secteur économique qui joue un rôle clé pour notre pays.

Il est donc essentiel que l'ACEUM ne tarde pas à être ratifié afin que les auteurs-compositeurs et les petites et grandes entreprises d'édition musicale soient rémunérés adéquatement pour leur travail. Les dispositions de l'ACEUM relatives à la prolongation de la durée des droits d'auteur doivent être adoptées sans délai et sans conditions.

En prolongeant de 20 ans la durée de protection du droit d'auteur, nous renforçons le secteur créatif, nous faisons croître les exportations culturelles canadiennes et nous favorisons la croissance de nombreuses entreprises qui saisissent les opportunités du marché numérique. Il est grand temps que le Canada rattrape ses partenaires commerciaux internationaux à cet égard.

L'ACEUM représente une occasion à saisir afin de dynamiser l'industrie canadienne de l'édition musicale, permettant d'investir davantage dans les auteurs et compositeurs, en plus de rendre nos entreprises canadiennes encore plus performantes sur la scène internationale. Nous invitons donc les parlementaires à prioriser la ratification de l'ACEUM.

Cordialement,



Opinion

Ottawa's got something to look forward to

Not since Scholastic Book Fairs sold Goosebumps and Babysitter's Club to millennials in the 1990s, or since Ontario's 'Book It' program sought to incentivize young readers with free personal pans at Pizza Hut, has walking to an actual library to check out an actual book been all that exciting for a kid.



Jenn Jefferys

Opinion

OTTAWA—For the first time in a long while, the City of Ottawa has something to look forward to.

The city recently announced its approved structural plan and location for the new Ottawa Public Library-Library and Archives Canada joint facility ("OPL-LAC"): opening in late 2024.

According to project collaborators the OPL-LAC design is the result of "an unprecedented public co-design process" drawing on ideas from Ottawa residents, Indigenous communities, and Canadians from across the country.

This OPL-LAC announcement is surely a welcome distraction for the capital, where the long delayed and scandal plagued public transit system has been dominating the local news cycle for months. Since Ottawa's new Light Rail Transit line (the "LRT")



Judging by the previews circulating on social media, this building will be a beautiful one. Along with photos, the OPL-LAC has released a 3D promo video for a clearer dive into the physical structure both inside and out and exactly where it will be situated. *Image courtesy of Ottawa Public Library*

opened to the public in September last year, the system has been fraught with problems, even pushing some residents to swear off public transit entirely.

Not since Scholastic Book Fairs sold Goosebumps and Babysitter's Club to millennials in the 1990s, or since Ontario's "Book It" program sought to incentivize young readers with free personal pans at Pizza Hut, has walking to an actual library to check out an actual book been all that exciting for a kid.

For the many post-secondary students who come to Ottawa each year, however, there are still professors whose syllabi point their digitally driven students to the library. Carleton University took years to expand its campus library—annoying plenty of students in the process—but some may say it was worth the wait.

With design led by Diamond Schmitt Architects, construction will soon be underway at the OPL-LAC's future location near LeBreton Flats. Per the press release: "the design connects the facility to Ottawa's rich history and natural beauty: its shape is reminiscent of the Ottawa River; its stone and wood exterior reflects the adjacent escarpment and surrounding green space. The large windows and top floors offer unparalleled views of the Ottawa River and Gatineau Hills."

Judging by the previews circulating on social media, this building will be a beautiful one. Along with photos, the OPL-LAC has released a 3D promo video for a clearer dive into the physical structure both inside and out and exactly where it will be situated. That video is available in both official languages.

Inside, the OPL-LAC will have what they're calling a "children's discovery centre," along with reading rooms and a large multipurpose room for public lectures. There will also be a "genealogy centre," presumably to replace the more old school tools employed by researchers over the years. Numerous documents belonging to the Library and Archives Canada collection have been copied to microfiche and microfilm, but Archives have been working away diligently in recent years to digitize their entire collection in keeping with Canada's commitment to open data.

Library and Archives Canada remains "the custodian of Canada's distant past and recent history" while acting as a key resource for anyone wishing to gain a better understanding of who they are, individually and collectively. To this day LAC "acquires, processes, preserves and provides access to our documentary heritage and serves as the continuing memory of the Government of Canada and its institutions."

The OPL-LAC's new "genealogy centre" as its proposed raises some questions—maybe even red flags, given growing international concerns around state surveillance, personal privacy and data mining. Companies like Ancestry.ca and 23andme are said to infringe on any number of privacy laws.

Ownership of the new OPL-LAC is said to be split, with the City of Ottawa owning 61 per cent of the facility and Library and Archives Canada owning 39 per cent. According to their press release a governance agreement formed between the City, Ottawa Public Library and Library and Archives Canada will "guide the project, cost-sharing, decision-making and dispute resolution."

Let's hope any future 'disputes' look nothing like those raised by the LRT. Ottawa kids are well overdue for some reading-related excitement—and some overdue library books.

Jenn Jefferys is a freelance writer and communications consultant based in Ottawa. Follow her @jennjefferys. *The Hill Times*

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Canada



On major confidence matters, such as approval of the budget, outreach to opposition parties should occur at a very early stage. In this Parliament, that task could be given to Associate Minister of Finance Mona Fortier, pictured. If budget promises are made to opposition parties, they must be fulfilled, writes Bruce Carson. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

Muddling through a minority Parliament: a view from government and opposition benches

Trust, vigilance, respect, hard work, compromise, and the ability of MPs to work together are the key elements required for muddling through a minority Parliament. Life is going to be very different on Parliament Hill in 2020.



Bruce Carson

Opinion

OTTAWA—Whether a government is a strong minority—as now—or a weak one—as in 2006

under Stephen Harper—the challenges and opportunities are pretty much the same, perhaps just not to the same degree.

The main theme throughout the period of the minority, on which all efforts must be focused, has to be election readiness.

A political party just never knows when it might be back in an election. So it's important that the parliamentary wing of the party, the party's membership and those at party headquarters are prepared and ready to go.

There are obviously varying degrees of readiness, but "ready to go" at any time must be the standard. Surviving means never taking anything for granted.

Those in Parliament, party headquarters, and those out in the field need to appreciate that the government could fall at any time, triggering an election.

The government could fall by accident, miscounting votes heading into a confidence vote. Or the government may pull the plug on itself, perhaps when the polls are positive or when a crucial issue is before the government when the stars are aligning.

The most recent example of that occurring was in the fall of 2008 when Harper wanted to go to the electorate after more than two years of leading a minority government.

He spent time during the summer meeting with opposition

leaders individually then after meeting with them all, declared Parliament to be unworkable and sought dissolution.

There is no reason why that can't happen in 2020 or 2021 with Justin Trudeau.

Therefore, vigilance on government and opposition benches is crucial to ensure that when an election comes, it comes not by accident, but because either the government wants to try its luck or the opposition gets together to remove the government from office.

Leaving aside the issue of triggering an election, there are opportunities and challenges for both government and opposition parties in Parliament.

Last month, the Trudeau government, while concentrating on winning its first confidence vote on supply, let the opposition take control of the Commons and push through a Conservative motion to establish a special committee on Canada-China Relations over the government's objections.

The government needs better intelligence as to what the opposition is planning. It can then decide whether what is being planned makes sense and need not be opposed, or if it isn't agreeable, try to block it, or work with the opposition parties to change the matter into something the

government could support. Surprises are to be avoided.

The same goes for the opposition parties; they need to know what the government is planning so they can perhaps combine to stop it or amend it to make it more palatable.

Government should be especially vigilant on opposition days. This is when one opposition party controls the day's agenda, private members' bills and motions coming from the opposition.

For opposition parties, these tools present glorious opportunities to get their messages out, get exposure for platform ideas and generally run the government ragged.

With a minority, gone are the days when a government can shut the parliamentary process down by using its majority.

In this Parliament, it looks like the government has decided it will buy into the importance of pharmacare when one parses the comments on Dec. 16 in the government's fall economic statement.

New Democrats should be alert to this to ensure the Liberals, as they have done so often in the past, don't steal this policy as their own, implement it, leaving the NDP with yet another moral victory.

Both the NDP and Bloc should realize that the government can't implement pharmacare without the help of the provinces. So both parties should be ready to act on this matter.

For the government, as explained above, the main question on private members' bills, motions, and opposition days is whether it can live with the matter being approved or whether it could through negotiation.

Just because the idea originated on the opposition side doesn't mean it can't be supported. Both the government and opposition must pick their fights carefully.

Work in House committees presents the biggest opportunity for opposition parties and the big-

gest challenge for government in a minority. The government does not have a majority and therefore does not control the agenda.

That means on the government side members can no longer attend committees unprepared.

The chief government whip is usually the person on the government side who, in conjunction with the PMO, deals with the government's actions at committee.

The mandate here for the whip is to keep the government out of trouble or be alert to trouble on the horizon and implement strategies to counter what the opposition wants.

For the opposition, committees present a superb opportunity to take control of the agenda. Again, the government must be vigilant to ensure this doesn't occur or if it does, the government is ready for it.

In order to protect and advance the government's agenda at committee, all government members need to be present at all times, or at least have a substitute member ready to attend.

House committees during a minority also present the greatest opportunities for all parties to work together on policy matters.

Managing the day-to-day work in the House of Commons and its committees in a minority is more than a full time job, because accidents can happen.

Outside of the Chamber, parties must be engaged in constantly updating election platforms so they are immediately election ready. Parties should be constantly dealing with candidate recruitment and fundraising.

On major confidence matters, such as approval of the budget, outreach to opposition parties should occur at a very early stage.

In this Parliament, that task could be given to Associate Minister of Finance Mona Fortier. If budget promises are made to opposition parties, they must be fulfilled.

This gets us to the foundation of what makes for a productive minority Parliament—trust.

No trust among the parties will soon become an ugly, bitter experience for all. If one's word is given on a matter, there has to follow through. If matters change parties cannot be blindsided.

This means that those in charge of negotiating among the parties cannot promise more than they can deliver.

Also, Andrew Scheer's notice to resign and subsequent Conservative leadership race does not mean that parties can be less vigilant. Accidents can still happen and are most likely to occur when members aren't being vigilant.

Trust, vigilance, respect, hard work, compromise, and the ability of MPs to work together are the key elements required for muddling through a minority Parliament.

Life is going to be very different on Parliament Hill in 2020.

Bruce Carson has been a senior aide to three prime ministers, Stephen Harper, Brian Mulroney and Joe Clark. He is the author of *14 Days: Making the Conservative Movement in Canada*, published by McGill-Queen's University Press and a veteran of many surprise votes on the floor of the House of Commons.

The Hill Times

Opinion

Canada's oil and gas sector can be part of the climate change solution, not the problem

'No energy company will be unaffected by clean energy transitions,' warns Fatih Birol, the executive director of the International Energy Agency.



David Crane

Canada & the 21st Century

TORONTO—In a stark new report that needs to be read in Canada, the International Energy Agency warns that the oil and gas industry has two choices as the world transitions to a low-carbon world: it can be part of the problem, or it can be part of the solution.

The industry can be part of the problem by refusing to change its ways, or it can become part of the solution by transitioning into energy companies that help create a low-carbon world. So far, in Canada, it

is largely part of the problem, promoting a narrative that assumes a prosperous future based on steady growth in oil and gas production delivering economic growth, jobs, and growing federal and provincial tax revenues.

But what if they are wrong?

The IEA seems to think they are. Or as *The Economist* put it recently, "the 2020s may be do-or-die for the oil industry," suggesting that the industry is in denial and in for what it calls "a seismic shock." Markets seem to share this view. According to the Boston Consulting Group, no major industry had a poorer record for shareholders in the second half of the 2020s than oil and gas.

This doesn't mean the demand for oil and gas will disappear overnight. Production of existing oil and gas fields are falling, so some new investment is needed, the IEA says. But as oil and gas markets become more competitive only those countries with "low-cost resources and tight control of costs and environmental performance would be in a position to benefit," it says. This would appear to rule out the oil sands.

Currently there is a global glut in both oil and gas, and both markets and public policies are pointing to a future of declining demand.

The World Bank and the European Investment Bank have ended loans for new fossil fuel projects. Meanwhile, many countries are moving to reduce their use of fossil fuels—for example, "some of the world's biggest markets, such as China



Alberta's oil sands circa 2008. Canada's oil sands operations are in for tough times as the world transitions to clean energy, writes David Crane. *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright

and the European Union—have enacted policies that incentivize a rapid move away from oil. France, the United Kingdom, China, and India have all announced future bans on the sale of gasoline-powered cars. Rising targets for renewable energy in the United States, Europe, and Asia have clouded the prospects for natural gas." Amy Myers Jaffe writes for the U.S.-based Council on Foreign Relations.

So it's hard to see why Environment Minister Jonathan Wilkinson, next month, would approve the Frontier Oil Sands Mine Project, which would have a production capacity of 260,000 barrels per day of bitumen, starting in 2026 and continuing, year after year, to 2066. This would further weaken Canada's chances of meeting its climate change commitments, let alone the Trudeau government's promise of net zero emissions by 2050. The honest challenge for Alberta is to diversify its economy.

Climate change will become much more visible and "more severe" in the future, but "solutions cannot be found with today's oil and gas paradigm," as the IEA points out. Fatih Birol, the IEA's executive director, warns that "no energy company will be unaffected by clean energy transitions. Every part of the industry needs to consider how to respond. Doing nothing is simply not an option."

Companies can make the transition from their traditional focus on oil and gas and become energy companies instead, diversifying into electricity distribution,

fuel cells, solar and wind power, electric recharging networks for electric vehicles, batteries and other energy services. Some companies are doing this, mainly in Europe.

But not much of that is happening in Canada. If, instead of one of the world's top fuel cell companies, Canadian-based Hydrogenics, being sold to a U.S. multinational, it had been acquired by a Canadian oil and gas company such as Suncor, then using, say, Suncor's experience and capital, it could have been scaled up as a Canadian company in an energy transition with much promise.

As the IEA argues, "electricity provides long-term opportunities for growth, given that it overtakes oil in accelerated energy as the main element in consumer spending on energy." It is the growth sector in energy.

There are some things that the industry can also do to improve its own activities, the IEA said—such as minimizing flaring of natural gas, tracking methane emissions, and integrating renewables and low-carbon electricity into its upstream and LNG projects.

"Reducing methane leaks into the atmosphere is the single most important and cost-effective way for the industry to bring down these emissions," says the IEA. At a White House press conference in March 2016, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and U.S. President Barack Obama pledged to jointly reduce methane gas emissions from the oil and gas industry by 40-45 per cent below 2012 levels by 2025. To keep its side of the agreement, Environment Canada was to work with the provinces and territories to develop new regulations for new and existing facilities by 2017.

Despite repeated requests, Environment Canada failed to provide information as to whether Canada met its promised deadline or what methane reductions have occurred since then—suggesting not much has been done.

It's also important for companies to boost their investment in low-carbon hydrogen, biomethane, and advanced biofuels since they "can deliver the energy system benefits of hydrocarbons without net carbon emissions," the IEA says. The industry would also need to invest heavily in carbon capture and storage systems.

More broadly, the IEA adds, companies need to invest much more in low-carbon businesses and related R&D. "The costs of developing low-carbon technologies represents an investment in companies' ability to prosper over the long term."

All of this points to the big need in Canada: a 21st century low-carbon energy strategy. With so much focus on the oil sands industry, we are missing the much bigger picture and new kinds of opportunities. We need to be part of the transition.

David Crane can be reached at crane@interlog.com.

The Hill Times



Avis de nomination - Julien Baudry

Julien Baudry, directeur des affaires publiques, Administration portuaire de Montréal.

Auparavant directeur et leader de secteur au sein du cabinet de relations publiques NATIONAL, Julien Baudry, ARP, a œuvré auprès d'entreprises et d'organisations nationales issues des transports, du commerce international, de la finance, des technologies, du développement immobilier et du tourisme. Au cours des 15 dernières années, il a notamment agi comme attaché de presse, conseiller en communication, chef de section et directeur de cabinet tant au niveau municipal que québécois. Sa très grande connaissance des enjeux métropolitains, de même que son expertise en affaires publiques seront des atouts indéniables pour permettre à l'Administration portuaire de Montréal de poursuivre son développement. Julien Baudry est titulaire d'un baccalauréat en communication et science politique de l'Université de Montréal. Il est également détenteur d'un MBA pour cadres de l'ESG UQAM et EMBA de l'Université Paris-Dauphine, ainsi que d'une maîtrise en administration publique de l'ENAP.

Notice of Appointment - Julien Baudry

Julien Baudry, Director, Public Affairs, Montreal Port Authority

Formerly a director and sector leader with NATIONAL Public Relations Inc., Julien Baudry, APR, has worked with national companies and organizations in such areas as transportation, international trade, finance, technology, real estate development and tourism. Over the past fifteen years, he has served as press attaché, communications advisor, section head and chief of staff at both the municipal and provincial levels. His extensive knowledge of urban issues and his expertise in public affairs will be invaluable assets in the Montreal Port Authority's ongoing development. Mr. Baudry holds a BA in Communications and Political Science from Université de Montréal, an Executive MBA from ESG UQAM, an EMBA from Université Paris-Dauphine and a Master's in Public Administration from ENAP.

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Opinion

No such thing as privacy intrusions in the age of oversharing

If we elect to put ourselves out there, do we not give up our right to privacy? In other words, do we not lose control over who sees it and how they choose to use it?



Phil Gurski

National Security

Law-enforcement and security agencies use a wealth of sources in their investigations, including openly available data.

We live in a world where everyone seems to want to share a lot, sometimes too much, about their lives. Whether it's Face-

book, WhatsApp, or Twitter, people think that we all need to know what they are doing, eating, or whom they are dating. Don't get me wrong, I, too, use it to share information, both professional and personal, but many think that some data should really not be blasted out to the world. There is such a thing as "oversharing" after all.

If we elect to put ourselves out there, do we not give up our right to privacy? In other words, do we not lose control over who sees it and how they choose to use it? I have certainly learned that, in writing pieces for *The Hill Times* and posting lots of material online, I have opened myself up for all kinds of reactions, ranging from two thumbs up to "what a load of garbage!"

Let me take this in a different direction. Should those we expect to keep us safe—agencies such as the RCMP and CSIS—have the right to look at open-source data to help them do their work as they are legislatively mandated to do?

One Canadian appears to think not. A Toronto activist named Rachel Small, who is concerned about the "abuses" committed by the mining industry, is now also concerned that the RCMP compiled a six-page "profile" of her by scouring her social media postings. She found this action "creepy and unsettling." For her part, RCMP Sgt. Penny Hermann, stated that



Those who work in national security and public safety do not profile, writes columnist Phil Gurski. Photo by Thought Catalog on Unsplash

the force does its "due diligence to ensure there are no threats or concerns for public safety," according to *The Canadian Press*. (The RCMP's analyst found that she is not "involved in criminal acts.")

Readers know that I am biased and should not be shocked that I support the RCMP 100 per cent on this. First, Small is wrong: those who work in national security and public safety do not profile. We look for information to suggest that there are either reasonable grounds to believe (RCMP) or suspect (CSIS) someone poses a threat to the civil order before we begin an investigation.

Canadians are constitutionally allowed—as we should be—to protest and to express dissent. We are not, however, permitted to do so through the use of violent methods. That is a criminal offence.

Furthermore, legitimate investigations are based on a wide variety of information. Some of this is obtained through court-ordered wiretaps (Part VI warrants for the

RCMP and other law-enforcement agencies and Sec. 21 warrants for CSIS). These methods are subject to rigorous scrutiny—as they should be, since they are serious incursions into Canadians' privacy. But intercepted private communications are not the only tools in the box.

Scrolling through an open Facebook page to see if someone stupidly calls for acts of violence to protest the mining sector is no such invasion of privacy. If your Aunt Betty can look at your postings, so can CSIS and the RCMP. If you want to prevent that from happening I highly advise you to change your privacy settings.

Small's complaint is frivolous and betrays a woeful ignorance as to how national security works. Maybe she should use another online tool, say Google, to educate herself.

Phil Gurski is a former senior strategic analyst at the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

The Hill Times

Opinion

Indigenization as one path to reconciliation

The Liberal government has taken action to close that gap over the last few years, but it remains neither fair, nor rational, that in 2020, First Nations children on reserve receive at least 30 per cent less funding for their education as do children under provincial jurisdiction.



Brenda Austin-Smith & David Newhouse

Opinion

Members of the federal governing party gathered in Winnipeg for three days recently, to discuss and establish their key priorities for the next few months. It should not have been lost on them—and those watching—that they met in a city with three post-secondary institutions and where a significant portion of the population is First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.

The public were not privy to the discussions, but with the imminent resumption of Parliament, we urge the federal government to recognize that including the Indigenization of education in their list of newly established goals would send a strong signal that reconciliation is more than words.

Almost five years have passed since the ink dried on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report. In many places across the country, this important report instigated change; little change in some instances, but change nevertheless. The government has made some moves related to reconciliation during its first mandate, but there is much more to do and different paths to be taken.

In its final report, the TRC included 94 Calls to Action to "redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation" and a number of these recommendations speak to the role of educational institutions in colonization and in reconciliation.

The Canadian Association of University Teachers has advocated for years that the inherent and treaty rights of Indigenous peoples to education be recognized, and that substantial increases be made to federal support for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students. The Liberal government has taken action to close that gap over the last few years, but it remains neither fair, nor rational, that in 2020, First Nations children on reserve receive at least 30 per cent less funding for their education as do children under provincial jurisdiction.

The federal government must take a nation-to-nation approach and, together, find a way to end the backlog of aboriginal learners seeking post-secondary education, and close the gap in educational and economic



Women, pictured on Sept. 30, 2019, at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, Que., at the Honouring National Day for Truth and Reconciliation ceremony. As this government meets in this particular place, it faces a unique opportunity to lay out a plan of action for this Parliament to reduce education inequalities and strengthen post-secondary education in Canada, through Indigenization, write Brenda Austin-Smith and David Newhouse. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

attainment that exists between aboriginal peoples and non-Indigenous Canadians.

That said, the government also needs to adjust its approach, just as our universities and colleges must, and realize that systemic change means moving beyond merely increasing the numbers of aboriginal staff, leaders, students, Indigenous-based curriculum and spaces—although these are important. It means recognizing and respecting aboriginal rights, systems of knowledge creation and dissemination, and reconnections to communities' cultures and languages. It is not an add "Indigenous and stir," approach as First Nations academic, Priscilla Settee, has noted, but ultimately one of power-sharing.

What does Indigenization mean? What does an Indigenized university or college

look like and how does it act? Can we extend traditional Indigenous practices to scholarly endeavours? Can we create norms and methods of scholarship that are appropriate to Indigenous intellectual traditions? How do we bring and value Indigenous knowledge to post-secondary institutions? These are all examples of the questions we ought to be asking each other while working together as we move along the path.

The federal government must invest in Indigenous education, students, faculty and research. It can also make other changes, to support Indigenization. For example, the Copyright Act takes a Euro-American approach to ownership of ideas. Legislators should know this interpretation has led to unjust results for Indigenous peoples' communities, such as when a professor at the University of New Brunswick became the owner of the rights of oral stories of the Maliseet people living on Tobique First Nation Reserve simply because Elders were recorded by the professor in the early 1970s. The Copyright Act must change to ensure that Indigenous Tradition Knowledge remains with the communities.

As this government meets in this particular place, it faces a unique opportunity to lay out a plan of action for this Parliament to reduce education inequalities and strengthen post-secondary education in Canada, through Indigenization.

Brenda Austin-Smith is president of the Canadian Association of University Teachers. David Newhouse is Onondaga from the Six Nations of the Grand River and executive member of the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

The Hill Times

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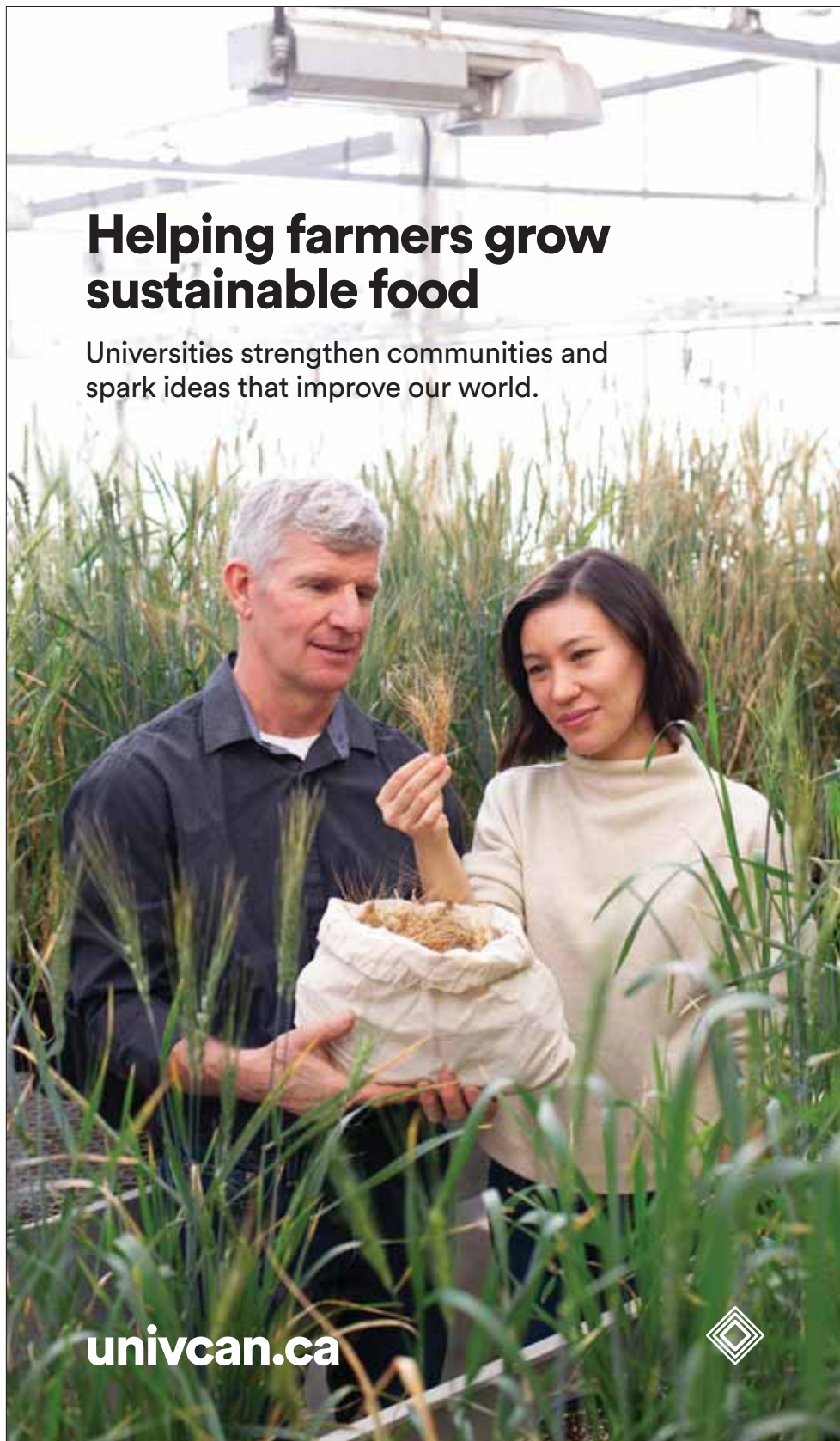
Canadian Seed Trade Association
L'Association canadienne du commerce des semences

The many stages of

Veteran diplomat Jeremy Kinsman first met Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland over dinner at a mutual friend's apartment in Moscow in the tumultuous early 1990s, when he was Canada's ambassador to Russia and she was a young journalist. Since that moment, he has seen her dance on a tabletop at the Hungry Duck pub, provoke Vladimir Putin, finesse Donald Trump, and become the most powerful woman in Canada. It's been a trip.

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BY JEREMY KINSMAN

Seeing Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland on Dec. 10, 2019, holding up the just-signed NAFTA II agreement in Mexico City on live television alongside President Manuel López Obrador, towered over by U.S. and Mexican negotiators, was a reminder of how very far she has come. Freeland was named foreign affairs minister in January 2017 to defend Canada's vital interests against a hostile overturning of the very notion of North American cooperation by Donald Trump.

It was doubtful that anybody else in government had the chops, the knowledge, the chutzpah, and perhaps decisively, the status beyond Canada to effectively counter the bullying, grandstanding, and outright misrepresentation that can characterize White House negotiation in the age of Trump. With a superb professional team, Freeland pulled it off.

As evidence mounted over the course of the last year that the prime minister's judgment could use buttressing from people with significant experience, he called on Chrystia Freeland to step up as a clear No. 2 in the country. He needs her help.

Given that the dangling question—how much farther can she go?—has only one answer, the situation is a bit delicate for both Freeland and Trudeau. In the meantime, it's worthwhile to look back at who she is, where she's from, and what she's done.

I have known Chrystia Freeland since she turned up in Russia 25 years ago as a newbie reporter, stringing out of Kiev in newly independent Ukraine for several A-level U.K. publications. We first met her for dinner in Moscow at John and Elizabeth Gray's, back when *The Globe and Mail* and every other Canadian outlet of consequence maintained a Moscow bureau to cover the

monumental story of the end of communism, the Cold War, the Soviet Union, and, in effect, the 20th century. Canadians, especially—possibly because of the culturally and politically potent Ukrainian-Canadian community—had also to cover the new story of how an independent Ukraine was working out. This bright, Ukrainian- and Russian-speaking, high-energy, dauntless young woman fresh out of Oxford, a Rhodes Scholar from Alberta, was a real find.

She had come to Kiev to join her mother, Halyna, who was helping the Ukrainians draft their inaugural constitution. Both Chrystia's parents were legal professionals. Halyna was a scholar, who had met Donald Freeland at law school in Edmonton. He is also the son of a lawyer, whose family roots were on a farm in Alberta's Peace River district, though Donald earned his living mostly practising law in the provincial capital. Donald's dad had returned to Peace River from overseas war duty with a war bride from Glasgow. Grandmother Helen dressed Chrystia and her sister in kilts as little girls; Scottish blood mingles with Slavic in those ministerial veins.

But back in Moscow at the Grays, the dinner table talk wasn't about Scotland: it was all Ukraine. Chrystia was trying out the idea, then simmering in Kiev, that maybe Ukraine ought to hold on to its Soviet-legacy nuclear weapons to bargain for air-tight security guarantees from Russia, which clearly had trouble coming to terms with the idea of Ukraine as a separate state, no matter what deal Boris Yeltsin had struck with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk to bust up the U.S.S.R. and thereby enable Yeltsin to replace Mikhail Gorbachev. For a Canadian ambassador

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Chrystia Freeland



Here comes the deputy prime minister: Then-foreign affairs minister Chrystia Freeland, pictured on March 18, 2019, on her way into a press conference at the National Press Building to talk about the military extension of missions in Ukraine and northern Iraq. 'As evidence mounted over the course of the last year that the prime minister's judgment could use buttressing from people with significant experience, he called on Chrystia Freeland to step up as a clear No. 2 in the country. He needs her help,' writes Jeremy Kinsman. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

Continued from page 24

then in the thick of a massive and costly NATO campaign to help Ukraine and Kazakhstan rid themselves of their worrisome "loose nukes," this was a destabilizing and unwelcome thought.

We settled warily but amicably, and parted as new friends. Ukraine did become officially a non-nuclear weapons state, and Chrystia soon after joined the swelling crowd of Westerners in Moscow, hired as a reporter by the *Financial Times*. John Lloyd, who was the *FT*'s Moscow bureau chief recalls, "It was very clear she was bright, driven to get the story right, always after the minister/official/dissident who could tell the story best. She was, of course a Ukrainian patriot: but she was clear about keeping her views out of the reportage."

And she did, doing excellent reporting from Russia, initially on the economic chaos that nobody understood, detailing how Western treasury departments and multilateral institutions (notably the International Monetary Fund) were whipping shock therapy on Russia—at the grotesque cost, as *The New Yorker*'s David Remnick put it, of "the destruction of everyday life."

There was an exuberance to Freeland. Montreal take-no-prisoners freelancer Sandy Wolofsky recalls our post-Chretien visit "wheels-up" party in the unforgettable, Canadian-operated Hungry Duck pub, when Freeland was late-night dancing on a tabletop. Still, to quote Lloyd again, she came across as a young "woman of huge intelligence, energy, and good sense." When John Lloyd left Moscow at last, Freeland, still in her twenties, was named bureau chief for the *FT*.

She had been super-bright as a kid, winning a scholarship out of high school

in Edmonton to a world college stint in Italy followed by a scholarship to Harvard where she studied Russian history. But she didn't surf her way through exams—she did all the work, all the way.

And so she did at the *FT*, in London, before being hired away to be deputy editor of *The Globe and Mail* in 1999, then heading back to the *FT* in London as its deputy editor. When a male colleague 20 years older got the top job, Freeland went to New York as the *FT*'s U.S./Americas editor and columnist on international finance and business. In 2010, looking for new challenges, she got hired away as *Reuters* global editor at large, based in New York, and then spearheaded their leap into the new media world as editor of Thomson Reuters Digital. Her rise in journalism had been phenomenal. As a journalist, Freeland

produced top-flight deadline copy that was out there for all to see. As an editor of top-flight operations, she got the best out of talented people and, said Lloyd, was "loyal up and down."

Along the way, she had married a soft-spoken, fine British writer, Graham Bowley (now with *The New York Times*, commuting to NYC from Toronto). Together, they have raised three non-passive children. But it would have been impossible without help, especially from her mother, Halyna, who, having done her best on Ukrainian constitution-drafting, moved into the New York household for her grandkids. When she tragically died a decade ago, it was "the Ukrainian ladies" of Nannies International who helped keep it all afloat.

Freeland somehow found time to write two big books. *Sale of the Century* (2000),

about Russia's rigged privatizations, remains a must-read for those of us who still care about what the hell went wrong with the naive best intentions for Russia's forward journey from Mikhail Gorbachev's heroic acts that changed the world. *Plutocrats* (2012) is a sweeping survey of the landscape of international capitalism, in the wake of its breakdown, which exposed 2008's financial frauds, and led to the near-collapse of the global system. It is clear from her scathing narrative that Freeland is no neo-liberal.

So, she was super-busy. It wasn't her ambition to get into politics, but as she did tell me over some Chardonnay on a shared flight to Newark a decade ago, she wanted to come back to Canada. But Canadian media space doesn't offer many opportunities to operate at the very top. When the Liberals came calling, having done a big and ambitious book, and with enough already of New York City, she wondered if public service could be a rewarding Canadian alternative.

Freeland agonized about running for office. The Liberals were in third place, going nowhere fast. But party politics is actually pretty close to the family bone. Halyna had run in Edmonton Strathcona in 1988—for the NDP! And father Donald Freeland's paternal aunt Beulah was married to longtime Peace River MP Ged Baldwin, who was Progressive Conservative opposition House leader for years.

She went for the Liberal nomination to replace Bob Rae in a byelection in Toronto Centre in 2013 and was elected to Parliament. It was around then that Ukraine began to boil. The Conservative Party had been trying under Jason Kenney's organization to break into the Liberals' traditional appeal to immigrant communities.



Chrystia Freeland, who was the foreign affairs minister at the time, and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, pictured on Aug. 22, 2019, shortly before holding a joint press conference after a bilateral meeting in Ottawa. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

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Middle East ambassadors and embassies

With rising tensions in the Middle East between the United States and Iran and the Iranian military downing of Flight 752 on Jan. 8 in which 176 died, including 57 Canadians and 29 permanent residents, former diplomats have raised questions of Canada's diplomatic presence in the region. Last week, the NDP called on the Canadian government to look re-establishing diplomatic ties with Iran. Source: GAC—Compiled by Aidan Chamandy

Afghanistan



Canadian Ambassador
David Metcalfe
Since Sept. 7, 2018



Ambassador to Canada
Mohammad Hassan Soroosh Yousufzai
Since Nov. 1, 2019

Bahrain



Canadian Ambassador
No embassy.
Government advises going through Saudi Arabia. Consulate temporarily closed.



Ambassador to Canada
Abdullah bin Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa
(Bahrain ambassador to US with responsibility for Canada)
Since Jan. 29, 2018

Egypt



Canadian Ambassador
Jess Dutton
Since Aug. 21, 2017



Ambassador to Canada
Ahmed Mahmoud Abdelhalim Abu Zeid
Since Nov. 13, 2018

Iran



Canadian Ambassador
No embassy since 2012. Embassy in Turkey has consular responsibility for Iran.



Ambassador to Canada
No ambassador

Iraq



Canadian Ambassador
Ulric Shannon
Since Oct. 24, 2019



Ambassador to Canada
Wadee Batti Hanna Albatti
Since July 9, 2019

Jordan



Canadian Ambassador
Donica Pottie
Since Sept. 5, 2019



Ambassador to Canada
Majed Thalji Salem Al Qatarnah
Since Nov. 1, 2019

Kuwait



Canadian Ambassador
Louis-Pierre Emond
Since Sept. 7, 2018



Ambassador to Canada
Reem Mohammad Khaled Zaid Al Khaled
Since Nov. 1, 2019

Lebanon



Canadian Ambassador
Emmanuelle Lamoureux
Since Aug. 17, 2017



Ambassador to Canada
Fadi Ziadeh
Since Jan. 29, 2018

Oman



Canadian Ambassador
No embassy. Government advises going through Saudi Arabia. Consulate in Muscat.



Ambassador to Canada
Oman represented in Canada by Hunaina al-Mughairy, ambassador in embassy in Washington, D.C.
Since Dec. 2005

Qatar



Canadian Ambassador
Stefanie McCollum
Since Sept. 7, 2018



Ambassador to Canada
Saoud Abdulla Zaid Al-Mahmoud
Since Sept. 18, 2018

Saudi Arabia



Canadian Ambassador
No ambassador (expelled in summer 2018)



Ambassador to Canada
Naif Bin Bandar Al Sudairi (currently recalled)
Since 2014

Syria



Canadian Ambassador
No embassy since 2012 due to Syrian Civil War.



Ambassador to Canada
No ambassador

Turkey



Canadian Ambassador
Jamal Khokhar
Since Sept. 9, 2019



Ambassador to Canada
Kerim Uras
Since Dec 17, 2018

United Arab Emirates



Canadian Ambassador
Marcy Grossman
Since Oct. 24, 2019



Ambassador to Canada
Fahad Saeed Mohamed Abdulla Al Raqbani
Since Jan. 24, 2018

Yemen



Canadian Ambassador
No embassy. Government advises going through Saudi Arabia.



Ambassador to Canada
Jamal Abdullah Yahya Al-Sallal
Since Nov. 21, 2016

It was Freeland head to head against Lighthizer

Continued from page 25

The Canadian-Ukrainian community, more than a million strong, was a prime target.

Ukrainian Canadians, refugees from the Soviet Union's revolution and oppression, especially from the tragic Holodomor, the forced famine of the early 1930s that killed an estimated 3.5 million Ukrainians (and many Russians), are mostly sourced to Galicia, Western Ukraine. It was historically part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which was more permissive of Ukrainian cultural autonomy and language rights than the Soviet Union, which repressed them. So, there is ample historic, anti-Mos-

cow nationalist sentiment in Lviv, which was the capital of Galicia, that still animates Canada's Ukrainian community.

When the Euromaidan protests broke out in 2014 between the wary union of reformist and nationalist Ukrainians and the Moscow-supported regime of Viktor Yanukovich, Stephen Harper, Kenney and the Conservatives chose the side of Ukrainian diaspora votes. Harper wouldn't shake Vladimir Putin's hand at a G20 meeting without (so he boasted to Canadian media) snarling, "Get out of Ukraine."

But the diminished Liberals had one Ukrainian/Canadian parliamentary card to play. They sent Freeland off to Kiev, where she encouraged the young reformers occupying the Maidan. Speaking the language, being a master communicator, owning an apartment with her sister, Natalka, overlooking the Maidan, she was a hit, carrying weight precisely because she was an old Moscow hand. The Russians noticed.

After the Liberals won in October 2015, Freeland was a shoo-in for a top economic portfolio. She must have been hoping for Finance. Over-reaching? Hardly—read her book. But Bay Street doesn't read books, so she became minister of trade.

There haven't been that many political leaders in Canada who actually had a record of running operations of consequence—Brian Mulroney and Paul Martin stand out. Freeland stood out in that first Trudeau cabinet for competence and experience, including a sound instinct for knowing whom to connect with and what made them tick.

Her biggest task was to deliver the CETA trade deal with the European Union. As a 21st-century economic partnership treaty that breaks new progressive ground,



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Chrystia Freeland, pictured on Oct. 1, 2018, at the National Press Theatre in Ottawa speaking with media about the agreement-in-principle with the United States and Mexico on the United States Mexico Canada Agreement. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

CETA makes the new NAFTA look almost clunky. It's said that it took seven years to negotiate. Actually, it began in 1972, but that's another story. Jean Chrétien reanimated it, Quebec premier Jean Charest forced the issue with France, and ultimately it fell to the Harper government to open formal negotiations. But it would take Freeland's leadership to pull off a complex and ground-breaking comprehensive deal

through very hard work, superb personal connections with top Europeans, and political persuasion of parliamentary doubters in several capitals.

Cut to November 2016, and the world gets Donald Trump and his vow to tear up NAFTA. It was hard to imagine the all-important NAFTA renegotiation with the

Continued on page 28

“
After the Liberals won in October 2015, Freeland was a shoo-in for a top economic portfolio. She must have been hoping for Finance. Over-reaching? Hardly—read her book. But Bay Street doesn't read books, so she became minister of trade.



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Opinion

Freeland has risen to new heights

Continued from page 27

America Firsters under anyone else, and so she replaced Stéphane Dion as foreign minister.

At the top, it was Freeland head-to-head against U.S. Trade Representative Bob Lighthizer. They seriously underestimated her (always a plus for a negotiator) and weren't very nice, resenting her exceptional media impact, especially in Washington, D.C. Who the hell did she think she was? Only Canada's foreign minister. And she was about as good as any, ever. As John Delacourt recently wrote in *Policy* magazine, she never negotiated in public but somehow came out with all the good lines, that, bit by bit moved the political dial in our direction.

She was tough and she and her team were tough-minded enough to know Canada could live without a deal if we had to. It showed. In the end, it was Trump who ended up most needing the win. It was Freeland who could say at the end win-win-win, and who made Bob Lighthizer dinner in her Toronto kitchen with the kids.

The U.S. deal was the essential national existential defensive save. It was historic. But as foreign affairs minister, she began some other things that are also very important. I thought they would rank her tenure with Joe Clark's and Lloyd Axworthy's as among the very best if she stayed to press these themes across the global board. They have laid the groundwork for her successor, François-Philippe Champagne, to pursue, especially mounting a like-minded rally in support of inclusive democracy and liberal internationalism. In the pro-Rus-

sian, anti-Western, pro-nationalism media out there she is caricatured as an adversary, a human rights interventionist.

In reality, her much-publicized stand in favour of Saudi women was not from some longstanding human rights vocation. She had been primarily an international business writer. But in the summer of 2018, the facts were eloquent and dark. University of British Columbia mentors reported that Loujain al-Hathloul, who had done a degree there while becoming committed to gender equity was being tortured back home for advocating women's rights. She wasn't a Canadian citizen but the news distressed Freeland, and when Samar Badawi, the sister of jailed and flogged blogger Raif Badawi, got arrested a few weeks later, the minister took a critical stand against Saudi behaviour on behalf of Raif Badawi's wife, Ensaf Haidar, who had fled to Canada for asylum.

Freeland believed the sincerity of our values was on the line. She wasn't content just to signal our virtue. She believed we had to help.

A tweet from our Embassy in Riyadh that they should at once release Samar Badawi provoked the Saudi theocracy to a massive over-reaction. Freeland was then slammed by some pro-business groups for letting do-gooder naiveté put Canadian jobs at risk. She didn't get much international support at first—until Jamal Khashoggi was butchered.

The experience was jarring. It made Chrystia Freeland want to use her ministry for value issues as well as macro-trade deals.



On the move: Chrystia Freeland, pictured on the Hill on Aug. 14, 2017. *The Hill Times* photograph by Sam Garcia

Trump's reversal of U.S. policy on human rights and international cooperation, notably climate change, as well as what he was doing to democracy's reputation were preoccupying other like-minded democratic leaders. Freeland found herself building a caucus, an informal alliance with her colleagues in Berlin, Paris, Stockholm, and elsewhere. Last year, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas invited her to address Germany's heads of mission from around the world. Germany awarded her the prestigious Warburg Award—for the first time to a Canadian—for steering Canada's firm commitment to multilateralism and to shared transatlantic values. He praised Freeland for standing by her convictions. "You are an activist in the best sense of the word—both principled and realistic."

She has tried to apply the rights and democracy value proposition to other relevant international conflict issues where Canada had some standing. But a few outreach efforts fell flat or didn't happen. For example, as minister, she didn't go to Africa. She would have, but had to triage her time. Overall, our relationship with Russia could scarcely be worse. It's partly their fault, obviously. Chrystia Freeland actually did want to connect even though she was on their sanctions list. But when she did meet Putin and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov at a G20 event, Putin's well-known inner misogynist seems to have reacted badly to this rather small, very bright Russian-speaking minister setting out some ideas that weren't wholly congenial to Putin's souring world view. The relationship flat-lined near zero.

On China, the ruination of relations is not her fault. She wasn't part of the Meng Wanzhou ambush but has loyally defended what happened as respecting the rule of law. The cruel reprisal captivity of the two Michaels sears at her, as it should. China insiders confide that her Beijing counterparts respect her. Still, however the immediate hostage situation plays out, things with China have changed. We'll not be as friendly with Beijing as we once thought we would be, but nor can we be hostage to an emerging epochal duel for global leadership between the world's two biggest economies.

As last year produced government blunders and polls indicating minority gov-

ernment prospects, her own performance in the government stood out. As veteran Liberal strategist Peter Donolo puts it, "Her well-tuned sense of political theatre was a contrast to the slavish attachment to talking points exhibited by most of her cabinet colleagues," who seemingly hadn't been given her latitude. Once the election results were in, it became inevitable that she would be transferred out of foreign affairs because of the Alberta credibility deficit and the evident need of Trudeau to have a strong deputy.

It now makes her a potentially decisive figure across the Canadian landscape. Let's be candid. Her good judgment is going to be calling some big shots in this minority government, in place of big shots in the PMO calling them in the last one. When the ministerial mandate letters surfaced on Dec. 13, 2019, Freeland's described an unprecedented level of deputized executive power. Justin Trudeau ought to be the beneficiary, and good for him for understanding her value.

Howard Balloch who was a long-time ambassador to China, comments: "Chrystia Freeland listens, deeply and intently, to as wide a spectrum of informed views as possible as she formulates her own." In this, she reminds Balloch of previous very successful foreign minister Joe Clark whose "same respect for both facts and the complex prisms that refract perception of those facts when seen from other cultures and backgrounds," also put him in charge of federal-provincial relationships at a vexed time in our history.

Let's hope it works out for Freeland, for Trudeau, and for the country; that the Peace River part of the Alberta girl clicks in enough to win back the public's trust that the government is listening while it leads.

Chrystia Freeland has risen to new heights. Everyone knows she may go higher. It's an impressive story. We should count ourselves lucky that she had a hand-ker for home.

Jeremy Kinsman is a former Canadian ambassador to Russia, and the EU, and high commissioner to the U.K. He is a distinguished fellow of the Canadian International Council. This piece has been reprinted with permission from the January/February issue of *Policy* magazine, edited by L. Ian MacDonald.

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New legislation around privacy fits well within existing SRO structure

The existing regulatory framework in the securities industry, and in fact across the financial sector, can be modified or adopted to the proposals within the draft privacy legislation for making relevant codes and guidelines to manage individual online rights and impose a formal enforcement and certification process.



Ian Russell

Opinion

In May 2019, the federal government requested public comments on proposed amendments to federal privacy legislation. These amendments are sweeping, including changes to existing privacy laws and incorporating a set of “online rights” for Canadians. These new online rights include data portability; the ability to withdraw, remove and erase basic personal data from a platform; the knowledge of how personal data is used; and the ability to review and challenge the amount of personal data a company or government has collected. The purpose of these amendments is to bring Canadian privacy laws compatible with the new digital era for the economy; and to bring Canadian laws into step with privacy legislation in Europe, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Additionally, the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) provides a number of broad and specific provisions to protect personal information.

While the timeline of completion of the amended privacy laws has not been announced, the European Commission is required, on an ongoing basis, to monitor privacy-related developments in Canada with a view to assessing whether Canada continues to ensure an adequate level of protection of personal data. The commission is required to report to the European Parliament on Canada’s adequacy status by May 25 this year, adding to the likelihood that we may see changes to Canadian privacy laws sooner than later.

The proposed privacy amendments—strengthening individual rights on personal

decision and access to online information—will impose significant challenges for Canadian business which must routinely manage personal information for various purposes, and meet the required standards of full protection of personal data. The legislation must be structured carefully to limit costs and inefficiencies for both businesses and individual clients in managing personal data to mitigate risk, and impose an effective oversight mechanism to ensure compliance with the guidelines and practices with respect to handling personal data.

A key online right is to permit individuals to transfer personal data between institutions and entities holding information. Businesses in a particular industry, such as the financial services industry, should be subject to a uniform regulatory framework to ensure the proper protection of personal data.

For the Canadian investment industry, government could delegate regulatory authority to the designated investment industry self-regulator, the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada (IIROC). IIROC is the long-standing and recognized self-regulator of 170 registered investment dealers across the country under the oversight of the provincial securities commissions. Registered mutual fund registrants are under the oversight of an analogous self-regulatory organization, the Mutual Fund Dealers Association of Canada (MFDA).

IIROC writes rules and guidelines, developed in conjunction with participating investment dealers, conducts business conduct

compliance review, and imposes enforcement and penalties for rule infractions through a formal public IIROC disciplinary process. The existing self-regulatory structure for investment dealers and registered mutual fund dealers can be easily modified to establish privacy codes, practices and guidelines, and a related compliance process, as envisioned by the privacy legislation. Moreover, other small financial institutions in the capital markets, such as investment funds, regulated directly by the provincial securities commissions, could introduce guidelines and practices to manage online rights for personal data, and an appropriate compliance oversight process.

The regulatory framework for relevant privacy laws will need to integrate a role of the privacy commissioner to oversee the compliance process of the proposed privacy codes and guidelines related to the online rights. It will also be important to introduce an independent and objective certification process to qualify under those privacy codes and guidelines.

The existing regulatory framework in the securities industry, and in fact across the financial sector, can be modified or adopted to the proposals within the draft privacy legislation for making relevant codes and guidelines to manage individual online rights and impose a formal enforcement and certification process. This approach, integrating the privacy commissioner within the structure, can establish an effective regulatory framework of the proposed privacy legislation, and can facilitate the quick implementation of a cost-effective regulatory structure. On the other hand, an alternative system such as building a detailed independent regulatory structure to give effect to the proposed legislation will stretch existing resources and take too long to implement.

Ian Russell is president and CEO of the Investment Association of Canada.

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News Cabinet priorities

Budget, foreign affairs, and fighting climate change among top cabinet priorities as Parliament returns

Liberal MPs have been asked to hold consultations about the government's priorities in their ridings, and report back to cabinet.

Continued from page 1

BY PETER MAZEREEUW & ABBAS RANA

The governing Liberals will focus on their most high-profile election promises in this new minority 43rd Parliament when the House returns on Jan. 27 to continue its first full session, after nearly a seven-month break from Ottawa, say MPs and insiders.

The special committee on Canada-China relations, a bailout bill for resource workers, a Liberal-style tough-on-crime agenda, and the government's efforts to live up to its rhetoric on climate change will be worth watching in the weeks ahead.

Liberal MPs told *The Hill Times* that the CUSMA implementation bill and the party's campaign promises would shape the government's agenda when Parliament returns. Making permanent the middle-class tax cut, promoting the sale of electric cars, and boosting the Canada Child Benefit were among some of the specific measures mentioned by members of the caucus.

"I can't imagine that we're going to veer from what we said in the campaign," said three-term Liberal MP Sean Casey (Charlottetown, P.E.I.) in an interview with *The Hill Times* after the first day of a caucus retreat on Parliament Hill last week.

"During the campaign, we said that we're going to increase the base personal exemption. We're going to plant two-billion trees. We're going to introduce a home retrofit program. We're going to move forward with ban on assault rifles and give responsibility to cities to deal with handguns. I don't anticipate any surprises," said Mr. Casey.

Two-term Liberal MP Greg Fergus (Hull-Aylmer, Que.) also raised implementing the CUSMA trade deal and the forthcoming budget in an interview with *The Hill Times*, and Liberal MP John McKay (Scarborough-Guildwood, Ont.) said a boost to the Canada Child Benefit could be coming.

During the two-day retreat on Thursday and Friday ahead of the start of winter sitting, Liberal caucus members held strategy sessions to plot parliamentary strategy and discuss policy initiatives for the government going forward. They received briefings from a number of cabinet ministers about legislative priorities that the government hopes to accomplish. MPs were asked to hold consultations with their constituents about the government's priorities, and report back to relevant ministers.

The House adjourned last June and was later dissolved for the October federal election. The new Parliament officially opened last month when MPs and Senators returned for the Throne Speech, but the House only sat for five days.

The Liberal caucus also received briefings from the party headquarters about the party's performance in the last federal election, and what they are planning on doing to prepare for the next election.

The average age of a minority government in Canada is about 18 months, but it remains to be seen how long this Parliament lasts, as the governing party has a number of options in the House from



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his caucus members say climate change will be a top priority in this Parliament—but how they will act to lower carbon emissions is still unclear. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

which to seek support on different pieces of legislation. In the 338 seat Parliament, the Liberals won 157 seats, the Conservatives 121, the Bloc Québécois 32, NDP 24, and the Green Party three. Jody Wilson-Raybould also won her seat in Vancouver Granville, B.C. as an independent. If government MPs vote together, they could pass legislation with support from any of the Conservatives, NDP, or Bloc.

The Hill Times has broken down the top issues on the government's radar now, based on comments from MPs and cabinet ministers, ministerial mandate letters, election campaign promises, and current events.

Senate schedule could slow NAFTA 2.0 bill

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (Papineau, Que.) promised to introduce legislation to implement the new CUSMA trade agreement with the United States and Mexico as soon as Parliament returns, and told his caucus on Jan. 23 that Canadian jobs depended on passing the legislation quickly.

"If it's not job one, it's job one-A to get that through," said Mr. John McKay.

The Conservatives don't oppose implementing the trade deal, but have questions about how it would affect the automotive, agricultural, and aluminum sectors, said a Conservative source, speaking on a not-for-attribution basis. How the Liberals address those questions will be an early test of how the Grits plan to operate in this minority Parliament, the source said.

The CUSMA implementation bill should progress through the Senate without major opposition. ISG Senator Peter Boehm (Ontario) will sponsor the bill in the Senate; he told *The Hill Times* on Jan. 21 that he expected the bill to go through the Upper Chamber without much trouble.

Conservative Senate Leader Don Plett (Landmark, Man.) told *The Hill Times* in an emailed statement that his caucus supports free trade, and expects a "fulsome debate" in the Senate on the implementation bill when it arrives.

While it's almost certain that the bill will pass in the Senate, that may not happen until the week of Feb. 18. The Senate does not reconvene until Feb. 4, with three sitting days scheduled for that week. As of Jan. 24, Senate committees had not yet been struck—the bill would normally go to the Senate Foreign Affairs and International Trade Committee for study.

The Senate's first week back in session is followed by a break week, from which Senators will return on Feb. 18.

It's possible that Senators could sit as a committee of the whole to study the bill

and advance it more quickly than usual, if the Foreign Affairs Committee has not yet been struck.

The Independent Senators Group currently holds 50 of the 99 occupied seats in the Senate. A spokesperson for Sen. Yuen Pau Woo (B.C.), who leads the group, said he wasn't yet prepared to take a position on the CUSMA implementation bill or how quickly it should pass through the Senate.

Climate change, energy projects, and an oil worker bailout?

The Liberals are expected to make some effort to temper anger towards their government—mostly over their environmental policies—in Alberta and Saskatchewan, in which they didn't win a single seat during the last election. They have already signalled that they will bring in a bill to send some kind of financial support to those affected by a downturn in the natural resource sector.

Natural Resource Minister Seamus O'Regan (St. John's South—Mount Pearl, N.L.) has been assigned to work with Employment Minister Carla Qualtrough (Delta, B.C.) and Labour Minister Filomena Tassi (Hamilton West—Ancaster—Dundas, Ont.) to introduce a bill "to support the future and livelihood of workers and their communities in the transition to a low-carbon global economy," according to his mandate letter.

Mr. Trudeau has signalled repeatedly that mitigating climate change was a top priority for his government in this Parliament. It's not yet clear how the Liberals will do so in a minority Parliament; they have so far shied away from suggestions that they would increase the national carbon tax beyond the levels already planned.

Environment Minister Jonathan Wilkinson (North Vancouver, B.C.) has been assigned to introduce new measures to reduce greenhouse gases, and strengthen existing ones, according to his mandate letter.

Government bills that died with the dissolution of the 42nd Parliament

C-98—An Act to amend the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act and the Canada Border Services Agency Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts.

C-99—An Act to amend the Citizenship Act.

C-100—An Act to implement the Agreement between Canada, the United States of America and the United Mexican States.

The government will also likely continue to press ahead with the Trans Mountain Pipeline, and is labouring over a decision to approve or reject a huge new bitumen mine proposed for Alberta by Teck Resources, *The Tyee* reported Jan. 21.

Continued on page 31

Cabinet committees

Source: the Prime Minister's Office

Agenda, results and communications

Addresses major issues affecting national unity and the strategic agenda of the government, tracks progress on the government's priorities, coordinates the implementation of the government's overall agenda, and considers strategic communications issues.

Chair: Justin Trudeau **Vice-chair:** Chrystia Freeland

Members: James Gordon Carr, Mélanie Joly, Dominic LeBlanc, Bill Morneau, Carla Qualtrough, Pablo Rodriguez

Treasury board

Acts as the government's management board. Provides oversight of the government's financial management and spending, as well as oversight on human resources issues. Provides oversight on complex horizontal issues such as defence procurement and modernizing the pay system. Responsible for reporting to Parliament. Is the employer for the public service, and establishes policies and common standards for administrative, personnel, financial, and organizational practices across government. Fulfills the role of the Committee of Council in approving regulatory policies and regulations, and most orders-in-council.

Chair: Jean-Yves Dudos **Vice-chair:** Joyce Murray

Members: Bardish Chagger, Catherine McKenna, Bill Morneau, Jonathan Wilkinson

Operations

Provides the day-to-day coordination of parliamentary planning, addresses urgent and emerging issues, and supports coordination of Cabinet Committee business.

Chair: Dominic LeBlanc **Vice-chair:** Pablo Rodriguez

Members: Navdeep Bains, Bardish Chagger, Jean-Yves Dudos, Chrystia Freeland, Carla Qualtrough

Economy and the environment

Considers issues concerning the strength and growth of the middle class, sustainable and inclusive economic development, the stewardship of Canada's natural resources, and Canada's fight against climate change.

Chair: Chrystia Freeland **Vice-chair:** Jonathan Wilkinson

Members: Navdeep Bains, Marie-Claude Bibeau, Mona Fortier, Steven Guilbeault, Ahmed Hussen, Mélanie Joly, Bernadette Jordan, Catherine McKenna, Maryam Monsef, Mary Ng, Seamus O'Regan, Carla Qualtrough

Reconciliation

The Government of Canada is committed to a renewed nation-to-nation, Inuit-Crown, and government-to-government relationship with First Nations, Inuit, and the Métis Nation based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership. This committee examines initiatives designed to strengthen the relationship with Indigenous Canadians.

Chair: Carla Qualtrough **Vice-chair:** Bernadette Jordan

Members: Anita Anand, Carolyn Bennett, Mona Fortier, Marc Garneau, Patricia Hajdu, David Lametti, Marco Mendicino, Marc Miller, Seamus O'Regan, Harjit Sajjan, Dan Vandal, Jonathan Wilkinson

Health and social affairs

Responsible for initiatives that will improve the health, quality of life, and economic security of Canadians, including strengthening and promoting a more diverse and inclusive Canada.

Chair: Bardish Chagger **Vice-chair:** Jean-Yves Dudos

Members: Mona Fortier, Karina Gould, Steven Guilbeault, Patricia Hajdu, Ahmed Hussen, Diane LeBouthillier, Lawrence MacAulay, Marc Miller, Maryam Monsef, Deborah Schulte, Filomena Tassi, Dan Vandal

Global affairs and public security

Considers issues concerning Canada's engagement with and participation in the international community, including trade promotion and diversification. Responsible for issues related to domestic and global security.

Chair: Navdeep Bains **Vice-chair:** Mélanie Joly

Members: Anita Anand, Marie-Claude Bibeau, Bill Blair, François-Philippe Champagne, Marc Garneau, Karina Gould, David Lametti, Marco Mendicino, Mary Ng, Harjit Sajjan

Continued from page 30

Budget 2020

Putting together the spring budget will no doubt be one of the top priorities for the government over the coming weeks. MPs will likely use speaking time in the House to preview some of their parties' "shopping lists" for the budget, said Mr. McKay.

For the Liberals, that could include a beefier Canada Child Benefit, said Mr. McKay.

"It does seem to actually work, and it seems to have a more positive effect on the reduction of income equality and the increase in opportunity for less advantaged people," he said. "So I think that this would be looked at very carefully."

The Liberals promised in their campaign platform to boost the Canada Child Benefit 15 per cent for children under the age of one.

The budget will likely include new spending on items related to key themes in the government's Throne Speech: climate change, reconciliation with First Nations, helping the "middle class," and keeping Canadians safe and healthy, said Don Moors, a lobbyist at Temple Scott Associates, and a former Liberal staffer.

Those same themes are highlighted on the government's pre-budget consultation website.

Tax reform

More tax changes are on the way as well. The government still has to pass legislation—possibly via a budget implementation bill—to make permanent the raise to the basic personal amount that they touted as their new "middle class tax cut" during the summer election campaign. Finance Minister Bill Morneau (Toronto Centre, Ont.) has also been assigned to deliver on campaign promises to bring in new taxes on luxury goods, big, multinational tech-

The cabinet of the 43rd Parliament

Justin Trudeau, prime minister of Canada
Chrystia Freeland, deputy prime minister and minister of intergovernmental affairs
Lawrence MacAulay, veterans affairs and associate minister of national defence
Carolyn Bennett, Crown-Indigenous relations
Dominic LeBlanc, president of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada
Navdeep Bains, innovation, science and industry
Bill Morneau, finance
Jean-Yves Duclos, treasury board
Marc Garneau, transport
Marie-Claude Bibeau, agriculture and agri-food
Mélanie Joly, economic development and official languages
Diane Lebouthillier, national revenue
Catherine McKenna, infrastructure and communities
Harjit Sajjan, defence
Maryam Monsef, women and gender equality and rural economic development
Carla Qualtrough, employment, workforce development and disability inclusion
Patty Hajdu, health
Bardish Chagger, diversity and inclusion and youth
François-Philippe Champagne, foreign affairs
Karina Gould, international development
Ahmed Hussen, families, children and social development
Seamus O'Regan, natural resources
Pablo Rodriguez, House leader
Bill Blair, public safety and emergency preparedness
Mary Ng, small business, export promotion and international trade
Filomena Tassi, labour
Jonathan Wilkinson, environment and climate change
David Lametti, justice and attorney general of Canada
Bernadette Jordan, fisheries, oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
Joyce Murray, digital government
Anita Anand, public services and procurement
Mona Fortier, middle class prosperity and associate minister of finance
Steven Guilbeault, Canadian heritage
Marco Mendicino, immigration, refugees and citizenship
Marc Miller, Indigenous services
Deb Schulte, seniors
Dan Vandal, northern affairs

nology companies, and foreign speculation in the housing market.

Iran air attack

Iran's attack on a Ukrainian International Airlines flight that killed 57 Canadians earlier this month is one of the toughest tests Mr. Trudeau has faced on the international stage. He has called on Iran to cooperate in an international investigation into the crash, to repatriate the bodies of Canadians who were killed, to respect the burial wishes of their families, and for the Iranian state to compensate those families. Canada has very little leverage over Iran, and no diplomatic presence in the country. It could be some time before Canada's government is able to put this issue to rest.

China

Canada's ongoing feud with China will doubtless be a top priority for the government as well. The Canada-China parliamentary committee will provide the opposition with a chance to make themselves heard on the issue, and call the government to account, said John Delacourt, a vice-president at Hill and Knowlton Strategies and former Liberal Research Bureau communications director.

"There will be a lot of activity there," said Mr. Delacourt. "From the very inception of this committee, it has been clear that there are wedge issues that the opposition would seek to drive [through] this as effectively as possible."

Canada's relationship with China will likely be a topic of discussion for MPs on and outside of the parliamentary committee, said Mr. McKay, who served as chair of the Public Safety and National Security Committee in the last Parliament.

"The committee will face a choice. Do they want to be a serious, useful contribution to the debate, or do they want to chase every political rabbit down the rabbit hole?" said Mr. McKay, who does not sit on the Canada-China parliamentary committee.

Preparing for the U.S. election

Canada's most important ally and biggest trading partner will hold a presidential election in November, and Canada will be affected, regardless of who wins.

President Donald Trump took aim at the original NAFTA trade deal with Canada and Mexico during his election campaign in 2016, and embroiled the three countries in a miniature trade war after he took office. Canada's economy is still feeling the effects. It's almost impossible to predict what Mr. Trump, or his still unknown Democratic challenger, will do or say about relations with Canada in the coming campaign and beyond.

Mr. Trudeau reorganized his government at the highest levels in 2016 in response to Mr. Trump's victory, an effort to minimize the potential fallout for Canada. The government may be forced to renew those efforts at the end of 2020 if Mr. Trump or an unfriendly Democrat wins November's election.

Crime, assisted dying, and gun control

Getting tough on crime, Liberal-style, is also likely to be among the government's priorities. Mr. Trudeau told Public Safety Minister Bill Blair (Scarborough Southwest, Ont.) and Justice Minister David Lametti (LaSalle-Émard-Verdun, Que.) to bring in a handful of changes to criminal law and justice in this Parliament, which could be made through one or more pieces of legislation. They include moves to crack down on money laundering and organized crime; ban "conversion therapy"—programs that try to turn gay people straight—and stiffen penalties for elder abuse; create "legal remedies" for victims of hate speech; make drug treatment courts the default penalty

for first-time, non-violent offenders charged with drug possession; and to require that judges be trained in sexual assault law.

Mr. Lametti must also introduce changes to the assisted dying legislation the Liberals passed during the last Parliament. The Quebec Superior Court ordered the government to change the law in September, ruling that restricting medically-assisted dying to those whose death was "reasonably foreseeable" violated the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Mr. Blair will also be bringing in new gun control laws to ban the sale of "assault"-style rifles, "strengthen" gun storage requirements, and make it possible for municipalities to ban handguns. Toronto Mayor John Tory and Vancouver Mayor Kennedy Stewart are among those who have called on the government to grant cities that power over the past few years. Mr. Blair is also working through a plan to buy back assault rifles already owned by Canadians.

Pharmacare and dental care

A CBC report on Jan. 22 highlighted the overwhelming demand straining many of Ontario's hospitals. Health care falls

under provincial jurisdiction, but pressure is building on the Liberals to play a role in solving some of the shortfalls in the system. Any major changes would likely require negotiating with the provinces; the Liberals will have to get started soon if they want a health overhaul in place before the next election.

The NDP made a promise of universal pharmacare and dental care one of the key planks of its election platform, and Leader Jagmeet Singh (Burnaby South, B.C.) will be under pressure from his party members and supporters to use his leverage in a minority Parliament to force the government to shore up its healthcare offering. An advisory panel struck by the Liberals in the last Parliament, led by former Ontario health minister Dr. Eric Hoskins, also called for a single-payer, universal pharmacare system. The Liberals, however, have promised more patchwork improvements to the health care system, including improvements to home care and palliative care and new standards for mental health services.


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News Conservative Party

Conservative Party a

The 'huge overstep by the Conservative Fund' to fire executive director Dustin van Vugt has created 'bad blood' between the party's national council and the fund, says Yaroslav Baran, a former senior Conservative Hill staffer.

Continued from page 1

now a partner with the Earncliffe Strategy Group, who in the past served as a senior Conservative staffer both in government and opposition. "There is tension between the elected national council of the party and the [Conservative] Fund which is supposed to be essentially an audit committee but which, you know, flexed some muscles to try seemingly to force the firing of the executive director. So, not only is the party itself decapitated in terms of its senior person, but you also have some lingering bad blood and tension between the fund and the elected council [over] who's really calling the shots. So yeah, there's a bit of a mess there."

The seven-member Conservative Fund is the fundraising wing of the party that raises money and oversees the spending of donor money. The Fund's directors include some of the most powerful figures in the party, including, until his recent resignation, former leader and prime minister Mr. Harper, as well as former Senator Irving Gerstein, who currently heads the influential body. The 20-member national council headed by the party president has representation from all provinces and territories, and is the elected governing body that oversees the operations of the party.

Mr. van Vugt, a well-regarded senior staffer, was let go after it became public that the party was partly subsidizing tuition fees for Mr. Scheer's four children, who attend a private Catholic school in Ottawa. Members of the Conservative Fund have claimed to be unaware that the party was partly covering the costs, according to reporting by *The Globe and Mail*.

When news of the tuition payouts broke, Mr. van Vugt issued a statement saying all proper procedures were followed and were "signed off on by appropriate people." Sources close to Mr. Harper at the time made it known that the former prime minister did not know and was upset that the party never shared this information with the Fund. After Mr. van Vugt was let go, some members of the National Council took to social media to publicly state that



Yaroslav Baran, pictured in this file photograph, told *The Hill Times*: "There is some [chaos] yes, because, as you know, the executive director [Dustin van Vugt] has just been unceremoniously dispatched." *The Hill Times* photograph by Jake Wright

Mr. Baran, a former ministerial staffer in Stephen Harper's government who held senior positions in communications and parliamentary affairs, told *The Hill Times* last week that the cause of "bad blood" between the party's fundraising arm and the elected National Council is the Conservative Fund's "overstep" by suddenly dismissing party executive director Dustin van Vugt.

The constitution of the party does not say who can fire the party's most senior staffer, but specifies that the leader has the authority to appoint one, subject to approval from the national council. Mr. Baran predicted that the party would undertake some "constitutional cleanup" at the next policy convention that would provide clarity on who can dismiss the executive director, should such a situation arise again in future. The party's policy convention is scheduled to run between Nov. 12 and Nov. 14 in Québec City. The leadership election is scheduled for June 27 in Toronto.

"There's probably going to be some constitutional cleanup at the convention, this fall. And I think that we're going to see some bylaw changes that more clearly delineate bounds of authority," said Mr. Baran. "And I think it was a huge overstep by the fund, and they got away with it once. But I think it's universally recognized that one should only be once, because your wings are going to be clipped ... in the next convention."

it was the Conservative Fund's decision to dismiss the party's most senior staffer, not the national council's.

"This sensitive employment situation was exclusively handled by the Fund in consultation with the president," wrote Matthijs Van Gaalen, a member of the national council on his Facebook page, on Dec. 15. "The National Council (other than the president) neither was involved nor had prior knowledge of this matter prior to its coverage in the media."

A source close to Mr. Lamb told *The Globe and Mail* in mid-December that the president "did not have any say in the decision."

The Globe also reported in the same story that Steven Dollansky, a member of the national council, sent out an email to party members in his home province Alberta, calling the Fund's "unilateral" decisions disrespectful to the national council, and illustrations of the "very real need to repair this relationship." In the email, he called Mr. van Vugt as "one of our party's greatest assets."

"People on the council are baffled at the idea that the Fund would be so officious as to insist on the firing of the executive director," Mr. Baran told *The Hill Times*. "Their take was, 'Excuse me, we hire and appoint and review the executive director."

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'rudderless mess,' say some Conservatives

Continued from page 32

That's our job, not yours.' And the Fund's response to that was, 'That may be true technically, but we control the taps and we'll just turn off the taps unless you do what we say.' And that just left the council stunned: like, really, you guys would actually do this, and you actually feel that you have the authority to do that? So, it left a bit of a bad blood."

Conservative Party President Scott Lamb, Mr. Gerstein, and the party's communications director did not respond to interview requests from *The Hill Times*. Through a political aide, Saskatchewan Conservative Sen. Linda Frum, a member of the Fund, also declined an interview request, arguing the work of the Conservative Fund is confidential and she can't comment.

Mr. van Vugt also did not respond to an interview request.

A Conservative source told *The Hill Times* last week that the party does not need approval of any expenses from the Fund under \$25,000, and the amount of money in question was "far short of that threshold." The source said that the school Mr. Scheer's children go to has a family maximum tuition fee of less than \$25,000 per year, and the party was paying for the difference between what the Scheer family was paying in Saskatchewan and what the fees are in Ottawa. The source added that the Fund directors get "four-inch-thick binders" of information to go through, but directors are volunteers who and may not have gone through all the information that was provided. The source said they wondered why Mr. Harper took issue with the tuition fee subsidy, but had no issue in



Then prime minister Stephen Harper, pictured campaigning in the 2015 federal election campaign, still has a significant amount of influence over the Conservative Party of Canada today. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

billing for a makeup and hair stylist for himself when he was the leader, first on the public payroll and later on the party payroll.

Around the same time the controversy erupted, Mr. Scheer told his caucus that he was stepping down as party leader. It was not clear if the tuition controversy was the catalyst for the leader's decision, or if he had already made up his mind to step down beforehand. In a subsequent caucus meeting, MPs and Senators agreed to let Mr. Scheer to stay on as the leader until the party elects his successor in June.

Shortly after, the Conservative Party's National Council called for an audit of \$900,000 of Mr.



Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer, pictured on Dec. 4, 2019, about a week before he announced he was resigning as party leader, will have an uphill battle to bring back order and to hold the government to account in the coming months before the party elects a new leader, say some Conservatives. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

Scheer's office expenses, paid for by the Conservative Party.

As of deadline last week, the party had not said publicly if the the audit was still ongoing, or had been completed.

The OLO should bring in some seasoned senior staffers who can hold the government to account in this minority government, said Mr. Baran, as Parliament resumes for the first extended period following the election. He said the party needs some veterans to coordinate the work of shadow cabinet members in the Parliament, as an election could happen at any time.

Some of the senior staff positions like the OLO chief of staff and director of communications were vacant—instead filled by staff on an acting basis—as of last week. Now-former OLO chief of staff Marc-André Leclerc and director of communications

Mr. Baran described the hiring of Mr. Brodie as a "smart move" as the veteran Conservative has experience working both in government and opposition in senior positions.

"A pro. A fixer," wrote Mr. Baran in an email to *The Hill Times*, describing Mr. Brodie's past experience in the Harper OLO and the PMO. "Has done this before — come in to both the OLO and the Party at a senior fixer capacity to stabilize and professionalize. A smart move by Mr. Scheer."

A Conservative MP interviewed for this article on a not-for-attribution basis in order to be more candid agreed that Mr. Scheer will have an uphill battle on his hands in the coming weeks in trying to bring the chaotic internal environment in the party under control. The MP said Mr. Scheer himself is in a difficult situation; the findings of the audit are not yet known, and a negative report could prove to be fatal for the leader's career.

"Let's wait and see," said the MP. "I don't know when the report is going to come out but Andrew is in a tricky situation."

Conservative MP Michael Cooper (St. Albert-Edmonton, Alta.) said in an interview with *The Hill Times* that his party will not have any issue in holding the government's feet to the fire in this interim period before the leadership election. He said that in the 2019 election, his party not only won in popular vote, but also has 22 more MPs than it did in 2015. In contrast, the Liberals have been reduced to a minority, and will need the support of opposition parties to get every piece of legislation passed in Parliament. He said the party handled itself well after the 2015 election when it went through a leadership election, and that he is confident it will this time as well.

"I just don't think it's going to have a significant impact in terms of how we're able to function as an opposition," said Mr. Cooper. "There are good people in the OLO in various positions, and people come and people go, but one thing that is a continuum is a strong united Conservative caucus, which really is a group of people that are going to be there

in the House of Commons, fighting on behalf of Canadians to hold the government to account."

Jim Armour, former director of communications in the Harper OLO, agreed.

"The official opposition is actually in pretty good shape, at least from a parliamentary perspective," said Mr. Armour, now vice-president of Summa Strategies, who in the past held senior communications staff positions in the Reform, Canadian Alliance, and Conservative parties. "And when it comes to holding the government accountable, you know, you've got a lot of people, not

from the conservative leadership race."

Garry Keller, former chief of staff to interim Conservative leader Rona Ambrose from 2015 to 2017, said the OLO during that period suggested that all MPs and staff do their job with pride and honour, since Canadians had chosen the government as the party to hold the government to account. He urged the current team to use the same approach.

He said the caucus has some experienced MPs who have the required expertise to do the job of the official opposition in the House and in committees. Mr. Keller said



Ian Brodie was hired last week to work as a top adviser in Andrew Scheer's office. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

only ... on the front bench, but also the parliamentary leadership who are...pretty seasoned hands."

Conservative political insider Tim Powers said the official opposition needs to strike a balance between its responsibility to hold the government to account, and to be cognizant of the fact that the party is in the midst of electing a new leader. During this interim period, the Conservatives have to make sure that the government is not defeated by accident.

"They also need to recognize though, they do have to play an important role in holding the government to account, but I think they have to be responsible with it," said Mr. Powers, vice-chairman of Summa Strategies.

"I don't think Conservatives are going to want them to bring the government down in the next little while, or do anything that's going to distract too significantly

the caucus also has some bright, newly-elected rookies, and OLO staffers who are new but are qualified to help the leader do his job in holding the government to account. He conceded, however, that the OLO does need some veterans, and added that the leadership was in the process of trying to bring those people into the leader's office.

"That is the exact approach we took [in 2015]: Whether you like the position we're in or not...the Canadian people have elected us to [be the official opposition]," said Mr. Keller. "And we're going to do with honour, we're going to do it with pride, and we're going to do with forcefulness. And so, I think if the [current] caucus and the team focuses on that approach, between now and June, I think that's a wise approach."

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Signs of political opportunism emerge as MPs on Canada-China Relations Committee urge collaboration

Bloc Québécois MP Stéphane Bergeron says he thinks motions put forward by the Conservatives show signs of a 'partisan temptation.'

Continued from page 1

a partisan temptation from the Conservatives with the motion they brought forward to make the Canadian ambassador appear on the 27th of January."

"That being said—after a long discussion—we finally came to an agreement. ... I'm still optimistic that everybody wants to work in order to achieve results. But I can't put aside the fact that the Conservatives gave the impression that they might want to use this committee for partisan matters."

Mr. Bergeron was able to resolve a couple of impasses during the committee's first meeting. During a debate on whether the subcommittee on agenda and procedure should change from six to five members—losing a Liberal member—he said he admitted he had a decisive vote, and that he could see the merits of both arguments, but ultimately sided with the opposition. During a debate over whether the subcommittee should be required to work by "consensus"—an idea forwarded by the Liberals—Mr. Bergeron broke the deadlock by suggesting the motion to create the subcommittee use the language a "spirit of collaboration" instead.

"I might have [a] big influence within this committee and I want to use this influence in a positive way," he said. "I think that I proved on [Jan. 20] that I want to use this influence that I have within this committee in a positive way, in a constructive way to try to find

ways to bring everybody together, to come to something together."

The special committee was formed in December after all opposition parties voted in favour of its establishment, with the Liberals voting against. The committee has the power to call Mr. Barton, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (Papineau, Que.), Foreign Affairs Minister François-Philippe Champagne (Saint-Maurice-Champlain, Que.), and Public Safety Minister Bill Blair (Scarborough Southwest, Ont.) to appear.

With Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor detained by Chinese authorities for more than 13 months in apparent retaliation for Canada's arrest of Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou at the behest of the U.S.—whose extradition hearing began the same day as the first committee meeting—the special committee has been assigned to look at "all aspects" of the Canadian-Chinese relationship, including but not limited to "consular, economic, legal, security and diplomatic relations."

Former House speaker Geoff Regan (Halifax West, N.S.) was charged with chairing the committee by its members.

Guy Saint-Jacques, who served as Canada's ambassador to China from 2012 to 2016, said the committee can be useful if it operates in a non-partisan way.

Mr. Saint-Jacques, who has not been contacted by the committee yet but said he would appear if invited, said his message would be for MPs to work together in order for Canada to have better engagement with China.

Conservative committee member Dan Albas (Central Okanagan-Similkameen-Nicola, B.C.) said the goal is to work collaboratively with other committee members across all parties.

"But," he said, "the purpose of the committee is to study these issues that are uncomfortable for the government, and I understand that they didn't like the idea of having scrutiny, and that's why they don't like the idea of this committee."



Liberal MP Robert Oliphant says he wants to see the Special House Committee on Canada-China Relations operate on a consensus basis, like the Subcommittee on International Human Rights. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

He said the debate over the routine motion was necessary, as it's a committee without a long-standing history.

"The headaches are always in the front end, and so by doing some of the heavy procedural lifting now it is my hope that we can focus more and more on the issues that the committee was there to study and make recommendations on," Mr. Albas said.

Liberal MP Robert Oliphant (Don Valley West, Ont.), parliamentary secretary to Mr. Champagne, said the contentious work of the committee—establishing its structure—has already been completed. He said he doesn't anticipate the committee would hold formal votes on its work. He said he hopes the witnesses that appear before the committee are chosen by consensus.

"I don't think there will be a lot of discrepancies among the witnesses we want to hear from," Mr. Oliphant said.

He added: "I am hoping we'll operate like the Subcommittee on International Human Rights does and that's they work until they get consensus."

Mr. Oliphant said there was a desire among committee members to work together collaboratively, but added the Liberals and opposition won't agree on everything.

NDP MP Jack Harris (St. John's East, N.L.), his party's committee representative, said the committee should not be a place for "verbal sabre rattling."

"This is something that ought not to be taken as a political exercise."

China 'wishes to do us harm,' says Liberal MP McKay

MPs who are not on the Canada-China committee will also be talking about relations with China when the House of Commons returns, said Liberal MP John McKay (Scarborough-Guildwood, Ont.) in an interview Jan. 22.

Mr. McKay is not a member of the Canada-China committee, and did not vote on the motion to create the committee.

"I think that the larger narrative is recalibrating the relationship Canada has with China," said Mr. McKay, who chaired the House Public Safety and National

Security Committee in the last Parliament, and served as the parliamentary secretary to Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan (Vancouver South, B.C.) from 2015 to 2017.

"I think the Chinese are the new colonial power in the world, and see the rest of us as colonies to be exploited in whatever way they see fit. So that will calibrate our trade relationship, our academic relationship, our property relationship, our immigration relationship, you name it," said Mr. McKay, who serves as the Canadian co-chair of the Canada-United States Permanent Joint Board on Defence.

Canada should "strike a much more independent posture, and recognize that the attraction of doing business in China has its limitations. And we need a serious diversification strategy," said Mr. McKay, who pointed to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership with Japan and other Pacific countries as one avenue for diverting Canadian trade and international business away from China.

"I don't think we've got our heads around the notion that China wishes to do us harm, and bring us within an orbit of influence—where influence means, we will do what they wish, when they wish it done," said Mr. McKay.

"I think that that will be a very significant debate over the entire life of the Parliament."

Mr. Saint-Jacques said he hopes the "crisis" with China has changed the Liberals' approach.

"It will require on the part of the Liberals a bit of swallowing to realize that—of course—the engagement strategy pursued so far needs considerable adjustment," he said.

Mr. Albas said the Mr. Trudeau and his government have "failed to take action or explain itself to Canadians."

"They've been very muted on the area of Hong Kong, they've been very muted on the area of Uyghurs, the Huawei decision we have," he said. "It seems that nothing is happening and the government says it's still studying the issue."

Mr. Oliphant said the government is "very open" to examining the bilateral relationship between Canada and China.

"We have an important relationship. It is in a difficult situation right now. We want this committee to make it better, not worse.

We want the two Michaels to be released and we want farmers to be able to sell their products in China" he said. "If this committee can offer the government some good advice on how to do that, we want it. We want to listen to the opposition if they have some very good, constructive ideas that we've not thought of. I don't there's a silver bullet here."

Mr. Harris said he would also like to hear from the American perspective, which has so much influence over Canada's relationship with the emerging superpower.

"We want to know to what extent the Americans are able to provide some support for Canada's position with respect to the problems we [have] with China," he said, adding he would like the committee to hear from Kirsten Hillman, Canada's acting ambassador to the U.S.

The committee could also hear from the Chinese perspective, including from Ambassador Cong Peiwu. Mr. Saint-Jacques said hearing from Mr. Cong would be useful for politicians to hear how "doctrinaire" the Chinese government has become.

The special committee and its subcommittee will meet privately on Monday to plan future meetings and schedule witnesses.

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Members of the Special Committee on Canada-China Relations

Liberal MP Geoff Regan (chair)
Liberal MP Robert Oliphant (parliamentary secretary)
Liberal MP Emmanuel Dubourg
Liberal MP Peter Fragiskatos
Liberal MP Jean Yip
Liberal MP Lenore Zann
Conservative MP Chris Warkentin (vice-chair)
Conservative MP Dan Albas
Conservative MP Leona Alleslev
Conservative MP John Williamson
Bloc Québécois MP Stéphane Bergeron (vice-chair)
NDP MP Jack Harris (vice-chair)

Mark your social calendar: 2020 party primer

From Stornoway to Sir John A, the party circuit gets cooking when the weather gets warm.

BY AIDAN CHAMANDY

Whether you're the type who prefers to play with the dog, water the wall-flowers, or double-fist a couple of pints at a party, the Ottawa political social circuit has lots to offer this year.

It seems nearly every recent event **Party Central** has attended was hosted at the Métropolitain Brasserie (no complaints), but other popular spots include the lavish and iconic Château Laurier Hotel, and the swishy Sir John A. Macdonald Building. The latter two are admittedly on the higher end of the swank scale, but luxury is neither a necessary nor sufficient condition for a good party. Before your **Party Central** correspondent was admitted into the ranks of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, he'd experienced low-budget university parties at their finest: all you need is an aux cord and a subwoofer. And beer. Maybe some gin, too. Heck, pot is even an option now. There will be plenty of parties this week in Ottawa as the House returns.

Video games on the Hill: Feb. 3, 2020

Celebrate Canadian video games at "the most interactive showcase of the year" at the Sir John A. Macdonald Building from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The organizers say mature content is advised, so here's hoping for some Call of Duty.

Dairy reception: Feb 4, 2020

The Dairy Farmers of Canada will host Parliamentarians and staff at its annual Dairy Reception to indulge in treats made from Canadian dairy. The reception will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Château Laurier Ballroom.

Universities Canada networking reception: Feb 4, 2020

Universities Canada is set to host MPs and Senators at TwentyTwo, a gorgeous hall on the top floor of the Westin, to celebrate Canadian research excellence.

Post-budget party: March (usually) 2020



Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett arriving at the post-budget party in 2019. *The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade*

What started off as an informal gathering between exhausted reporters, consultants, politicians, and staffers has turned into a can't miss party. Held annually by Earncliffe Strategy Group—who last year partnered with *iPolitics*—at the Métropolitain, the post-budget party is well attended by some of the most powerful people in Ottawa. The bar usually fills up pretty quickly, so if you want elbow room, get there early. Attendees are also usually in pretty good spirits, as many are locked-up for most of the day reading the document.

There are usually other post-budget parties. The Riviera on Sparks Street has been known to host quite the shindig, though a bit more exclusive.

SOCAN reception: May 2020

The Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada hosts



The party circuit picks up once the weather turns. *The Hill Times photograph by Jake Wright*

an annual celebration, normally in the East Block courtyard, now at the Château Laurier. The party brings Canadian music icons to the Hill for a night of fun and Canadian content.

Politics & the Pen: May 13, 2020



Then-natural resource minister Jim Carr and NDP MP Charlie Angus at the 2016 edition of Politics and the Pen, where Kamal Al-Solaylee took home the \$25,000 prize for Brown: What Being Brown in the World Today Means (To Everyone). *The Hill Times file photograph by Matthew Usherwood*

Held annually at the Château Laurier, Politics & the Pen is organized by the Writers' Trust of Canada. The Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing, and its \$25,000 prize, is awarded at the event.

The event is also used to fundraise for the Writers' Trust, a charitable organization that supports the Canadian literary community. Last year, Politics & the Pen netted the organization \$385,000. This is a really great party.

Press Gallery Dinner: May 2, 2020

The Parliamentary Press Gallery dinner, to be held on May 2, isn't as far away as it seems: get your dates soon. **Party Central** is still in the market, so feel free to drop me a line. I do own a bowtie, though it may be clip on.

Last year, nearly 500 Parliamentarians, lobbyists, media, staffers, and others gathered at the Canadian Museum of History, and raised \$5,000 for the Canadian Association of Journalists' CBC Indigenous Fellowship.

Like the pregames, Press Gallery after-parties are key, but haven't been as big of a deal in recent memory. Play Food and Wine has held some raucous parties in the past, with dancing occurring at many locations other than the dance-floor itself. In the old days, guests flock to the National Press Club after the press gallery dinner and would stay until breakfast was served the following morning.

Ottawa Riverkeeper Gala: May/June 2020

The event is normally held around June. Though details on the 8th annual edition have yet to be announced, the website says they'll be coming shortly.

An all-around beautiful event that takes advantage of Ottawa's natural landscape,

right where the Ottawa, Gatineau, and Rideau rivers converge. The gala raises money to support the (real) Riverkeeper's initiatives, aimed at protecting the 1,300-km waterway. Last year, the event raised a record \$303,000.

Speaker's party: June 2020

With the surprise election of Liberal MP **Anthony Rota** as House Speaker, the first person of Italian descent to hold the post, this party is due for a shakeup. At least this Italian is hoping for one. The party is held annually in June at the Speaker's official residence, known as The Farm, in the Gatineau Hills, former-Speaker Geoff Regan was known to put a Maritime spin on the party. He also served the Speaker's scotch, a hot commodity in Ottawa. Considering Mr. Rota's Italian descent, **Party Central** would like to put in a request for some signature Italian beverage to replace the scotch. Grappa? Amaretto? Campari? The possibilities are endless.

The Hill Times' Party on the Hill: June 2020



Former CTV reporter Roger Smith and former science minister Kirsty Duncan stole the floor at the 2019 Hill Times Party on the Hill. *The Hill Times photograph by Sam Garcia*

Last year, the Party on the Hill was the scene of an attempted heist. Charcuterie boards were laid out for all to sample, but one anonymous attendee thought it would be wise to sneak an entire block of cheese into his suit jacket. Sources with firsthand knowledge of the incident tell **Party Central** he was trying to impress a female colleague.

Former science minister **Kirsty Duncan** and former CTV reporter **Roger Smith** took to the floor around 7 p.m. last year, and put noted dancer **Pablo Rodriguez** on notice. **Party Central** is going to put in a request to both Mr. Rodriguez' and Ms. Duncan's offices this year to see if the two would go head-to-head for best dancer in the Liberal caucus.

If you had any inkling of skipping this one, I'd suggest reconsidering. *The Hill Times* publisher Anne Marie Creskey knows how to throw a party.

Stornoway Garden Party: June 2020

Like the Speaker's party, this one is likely due for a shakeup, depending on

who takes over from Andrew Scheer as leader of the official opposition.

Prime Minister's garden party: June 2020

Still held at 24 Sussex despite the residence being under construction, last year's party was slightly dampened by the rain, even if spirits remained high just before the 2019 election. Hopefully, this year's party will also coincide with a deep Raptors (or Leafs) playoff run.

U.S. Embassy Fourth of July party: July 4, 2020



Former U.S. ambassador Bruce Heyman, known for throwing a great party, dancing with Mounties at the 2015 Fourth of July Party. *The Hill Times file photograph*

Even when the ambassador doesn't attend, as was the case last year, the Fourth of July party is legendary. The party is normally held at Lornado, the U.S. ambassador's official residence at the northeast corner of Rockcliffe Park. Last year, however, the party was at the NAC. **Kelly Craft**, then-U.S. ambassador to Canada, was in Calgary celebrating with friends.

Last year's party was Cajun themed, and brought the bayou to Bytown. What's in store for the first Fourth of July of the new decade? Well, for starters, an ambassador would help. The U.S. has yet to name a replacement for Ms. Kraft after she was appointed U.S. ambassador to the U.N. last year. The Lornado residence is one of the most beautiful in the city, and **Party Central** would not be opposed to the party being held there this year.

NAC Gala: October 2020

Another black tie, red carpet-style party, the NAC Gala is held annually to support the National Youth and Education Trust. Last year's edition was headlined by Alexander Shelley leading the NAC Orchestra, and Canadian royalty Sarah McLachlan adding her voice to the performances.

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News Lobbying

Gatekeepers for Innovation, Finance, and Environment top lobby target lists



Clare Demerse, senior policy adviser to the environment minister, left; Ian Foucher, deputy director of financial sector policy in the finance minister's office, centre; and David McFarlane, policy director to the innovation minister, right, were the three most lobbied political staffers in 2019. Photographs courtesy of LinkedIn and Twitter

In an election year, lobbying activity dropped by 30 per cent compared to 2018, but some staffers kept busy.

BY SAMANTHA WRIGHT ALLEN

In 2019, the most popular target for lobbyists were cabinet policy advisers who have become fixtures as influential gatekeepers over the past three years in the departments for innovation, finance, and the environment—all key departments connected to Liberal promises and potential funding.

Though politicians will often move between ministerial offices, the staff who appeared time and again at the top of the federal lobbyist registry were longstanding aides to their ministers, who not only stayed in the same office, but in the same senior post.

David McFarlane, director of policy to Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains, was the most lobbied person in 2019, cited in 221 filings, according to an analysis by *The Hill Times* of more than 23,000 filings pulled from the federal lobbying registry on Jan. 20.

Mr. McFarlane was lobbied 334 times in 2018. Lobbyists didn't have as many opportunities to contact public officer holders last year because of months lost before and after the election, with the government first in caretaker mode and then ramping up again with new staff, cabinet, and directives. Lobbying activity dropped 30 per cent in 2019 to 16,500 interactions, down from the 23,564 monthly communications reports published in 2018's federal registry.

Since Mr. McFarlane was hired as Mr. Bains' (Mississauga-Malton, Ont.) director of policy in February 2016, he's been a popular communication line for the minister's office and its mammoth mandate, with big spending initiatives and promises, like the \$2-billion Strategic Innovation Fund. That's put him top of the pack three years running. Following the election he served as interim chief of staff to Mr. Bains before former PMO issues management head, Ryan Dunn, moved into the role before Christmas.

Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada was also the most cited department in lobbying communication reports in 2019, listed in 1,620 reports, and Mr. Bains the second-most lobbied in cabinet with 73 mentions. Political staffers as gatekeepers to their ministers routinely field more visits, as lobbyists pitch ideas and put out feelers for interest, but Agriculture Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau (Compton-Stanstead, Que.) was an exception to that rule, fielding 145 interactions, which put her sixth on the most-lobbied list for the year and at the top in cabinet.

Next on the staffer list is another familiar face. Lobbyists cited contact with Finance Minister Bill Morneau's (Toronto Centre, Ont.) policy director, Ian Foucher, 180 times. That's on par with what he logged last year, with the finance office a must-stop for groups vying for funding ahead of the budget or in connection with other Liberal promises. Mr. Foucher has been in the office since 2015, and in the last year on the policy file moved from deputy director, to director, to his current post as director of appointments and special adviser on economy and the financial sector.

Close behind Mr. Foucher came Clare Demerse, senior policy ad-

viser to then-Environment Minister Catherine McKenna (Ottawa Centre, Ont.), with 172 mentions. She'd been in the office since 2017 but now Ms. Demerse has switched gears and is a senior adviser at the related department, Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Rounding out the top 20 cabinet staffers are three more in the innovation office, two in environment, two in agriculture, and four advisers from the Prime Minister's office. First in the PMO was Ben Chin (mentioned in 160 filings), who left his chief of staff post to Mr. Morneau in the spring to act as a senior adviser, also weighing in on communications. PMO policy adviser Bud Sambasivam, whose 148 mentions put him in fifth spot, also became a popular choice among lobbyists during his first full year on the job. The former Calgary-based McKinsey & Company manager and former director of Engineers Without Borders Canada joined the government in October 2018. Simon Beauchemin, the former PMO adviser on the small Canada-U.S. relations team, was logged in 93 filings during his time on that important file.

The person handling stakeholder relations for former Conservative leader Andrew Scheer (Regina-Qu'Appelle, Sask.) matched government staffers in her pace of meetings with lobbyists. Karina Rolland-Sardana had at least 98 interactions with influencers last year before the election, including conversations with agriculture associations, housing groups, universities, and energy companies. She joined the office in spring 2018 to support the party's caucus in the research office after previously working as vice-president of administration for an Ontario hockey league, and also worked as a president of the Australian and New Zealand Wine Society.

Two staffers who cracked the top 10 in 2018 weren't high on the list this year: Hilary Travis, a policy adviser to Mr. Bains, was mentioned in 39 reports last year compared to 140 in 2018; and Maxime Dea, who during his year as chief of staff to then-heritage minister Pablo Rodriguez (Honoré-Mercier, Que.) in 2019 garnered 20 interactions with lobbyists, compared to his 140 in 2018 at the PMO, where he recently returned to be director of issues management and parliamentary affairs.

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Top-lobbied political staffers in 2019

Name	Lobbied	2019 post
David McFarlane	221	Director of policy to the innovation minister
Ian Foucher	180	Deputy director of financial sector policy in the finance minister's office
Clare Demerse	172	Senior policy adviser to the environment minister
Ben Chin	160	PMO senior adviser
Bud Sambasivam	148	PMO policy adviser
Parvinder Sachdeva	135	Senior policy adviser to the innovation minister
Dan Lussier	122	Policy director in the agriculture minister's office
Erin Flanagan	106	Director of policy to the natural resources minister
Karina Rolland-Sardana	98	Stakeholder relations adviser, Conservative leader's office
Marlo Reynolds	94	Chief of staff to the environment minister
Simon Beauchemin	93	Former PMO Canada-U.S. relations adviser
Celine Caira	88	Innovation policy adviser
Alison Porter	85	Chief of staff to the agriculture minister
Travis Gordon	82	Policy adviser to the health minister
Dominic Cormier	79	PMO policy adviser
Mikaela McQuade	79	Senior policy adviser to the environment minister
Jason Easton	76	Chief of staff to then business minister
Christopher Berzins	74	Ex-policy director to the foreign minister (now policy and parliamentary affairs director to the transport minister)
Gianluca Cairo	73	Chief of staff to the innovation minister
Justin To	71	Director of policy and deputy chief of staff to the finance minister
Dev Saxena	71	Senior policy adviser, Finance Canada
Hendrik Brakel	67	Senior policy advisor, House of Commons
Mike Burton	63	Director of policy, Natural Resources Canada
Stephanie Keron	63	Stakeholder relations, opposition leader's office
Mathieu Bouchard	62	Adviser, PMO
Jamie Innes	62	Deputy chief of staff to the trade minister
Kathryn Nowers	62	Director of policy, Health Canada
Taras Zalusky	60	Chief of staff to the public services minister
Ryan Dunn	57	Chief of staff to the finance minister
Miled Hill	55	Policy adviser, transport minister

Top-lobbied bureaucrats in 2019

Name	Lobbied	2019 post
Paul Halucha	141	Assistant secretary to the cabinet, Privy Council Office
Jay Khosla	107	Assistant deputy minister, energy sector, Natural Resources Canada
Chris Forbes	94	Deputy minister for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
John Moffet	89	Assistant deputy minister, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Steve Verheul	85	Assistant deputy minister, Global Affairs Canada
Simon Kennedy	82	Deputy minister, Health Canada
Frédéric Seppey	77	Assistant deputy minister (Economic Development and Corporate Finance)
Tom Rosser	73	Assistant deputy minister, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Nipun Vats	72	Assistant deputy minister, Science & Research Sector
Christyne Tremblay	67	Deputy minister of Natural Resources Canada

Top-lobbied Senators in 2019

Name	Lobbied	Affiliation
Douglas Black	89	CSG
Grant Mitchell	70	Non-affiliated, government liaison
Paula Simons	31	ISG
Diane Griffin	27	CSG
David Tkachuk	24	Conservative
Howard Wetston	22	ISG
Elaine McCoy	20	CSG
Diane Bellemare	19	ISG (formerly government representative)
Peter Harder	18	(Formerly government representative)
Peter Boehm	18	ISG

Top-lobbied MPs in 2019

Name	Lobbied	Party
Agriculture Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau	145	Liberal
Francis Drouin	91	Liberal
Wayne Easter	91	Liberal
Elizabeth May	86	Green Party
Francesco Sorbara	76	Liberal
Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains	73	Liberal
Associate Finance Minister Mona Fortier	72	Liberal
Ed Fast	65	Conservative
Dan Albas	64	Conservative
Former trade minister Jim Carr	63	Liberal
Finance Minister Bill Morneau	61	Liberal
Marilyn Gladu	58	Conservative
Kelly Block	57	Conservative
Randy Hoback	55	Conservative
Dean Allison	55	Conservative
Infrastructure Minister (formerly environment) Catherine McKenna	55	Liberal
Luc Berthold	52	Conservative
Environment Minister (formerly fisheries) Jonathan Wilkinson	52	Liberal
Omar Alghabra	52	Liberal
Former natural resources minister Amarjeet Sohi	50	Liberal
Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer	50	Conservative
Earl Dreeshen	49	Conservative
Former health minister Ginette Petitpas Taylor	48	Liberal
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau	48	Liberal
Deputy Prime Minister (former foreign affairs) Chrystia Freeland	46	Liberal
John Barlow	45	Conservative
Transport Minister Marc Gameau	44	Liberal
Karen Vecchio	44	Conservative
Bev Shipley	44	Conservative
Adam Vaughan	44	Liberal

Bourrie brings New France explorer Pierre-Esprit Radisson's story to life in *Bush Runner*

Mark Bourrie talks about his book, *Bush Runner: The Adventures of Pierre-Esprit Radisson*.

BY KATE MALLOY

Mark Bourrie has written 14 books, but his most recent book, *Bush Runner: The Adventures of Pierre-Esprit Radisson*, a groundbreaking biography of the adventurous New France fur trader, explorer, and co-founder of the Hudson's Bay Company, is attracting attention in Canada and the U.S.

It's been nominated for this year's prestigious \$30,000 RBC Charles Taylor Award, it's been on *The Globe and Mail's* bestseller lists, and it could be made into a movie.

France-born Pierre-Esprit Radisson (1636-1710) arrived in New France when he was 15, was kidnapped by Mohawk warriors and adopted and assimilated. He was later captured and tortured by Iroquois, escaped, took part in a Jesuit mission to Onondagay, and became a trail-blazing coureur-des-bois who co-founded the Hudson's Bay Company in 1670 with his brother in law Médard des Groseilliers.

"About 15 years ago, I looked Radisson up for some reason. I can't remember why. I couldn't believe his life story. For example, I didn't know he was in one of the greatest naval disasters in French history, or that he was in London for the Great Plague of 1665 and the Great Fire of 1666. I thought I could tell a story around that. None of the publishers I knew at the time thought anyone would buy it, so I just stashed all the work I had done on Radisson and, basically, forgot about it," said Mr. Bourrie.

But one of his editors had kept his pitch and had ended up with a publisher, Biblioasis, who liked it.

The 62-year-old Toronto-born former Parliament Hill journalist who lived most of his life near southern Georgian Bay before moving to Ottawa in 1994, has freelanced for *The Globe and Mail*, *The Toronto Star*, *The National Post*, *The Ottawa Citizen*, *The Law Times*, *Toronto Life*, *Canadian Business*, *Ottawa* magazine, and *The Hill Times*. He was a busy freelancer until 2004, when he started his PhD studies at the University of Ottawa, but writing books is his passion. He's had book deals since 1993.

The Globe and Mail calls *Bush Runner* "compelling, authoritative, not a little disturbing—and a significant contribution to the history of 17th-century North America."

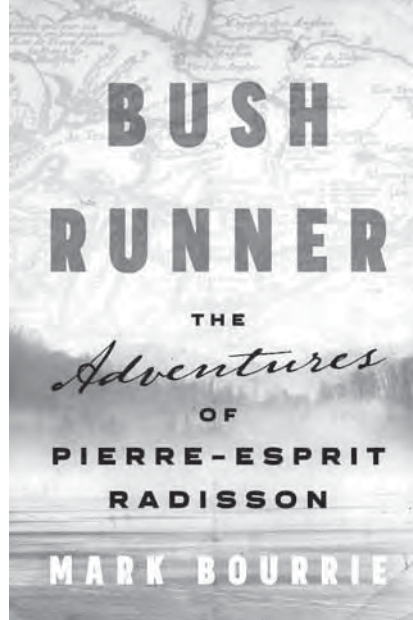
"I see books as a permanent thing, a way of conversing with my descendants after I'm gone," said Mr. Bourrie who is no longer a member the Parliamentary Press Gallery and is now a practising lawyer.

What's your book about?

"On the face of it, the book is about Pierre Radisson, who was a real scoundrel. It's really about the two worlds that collided in what's now Canada and the northern United States in the early 1600s: the worlds of the Indigenous people of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence valleys and the



Author Mark Bourrie, a former Hill journalist, said he looked up Pierre-Esprit Radisson about 15 years ago and couldn't believe his story. 'Radisson had an amazing life, and it stayed interesting all the way through. And he lived that life in a world that vaguely resembles ours, yet is alien.' Photographs courtesy of RBC Taylor Prize



world of the French, Dutch, and English. You may think you know these worlds, but you probably don't."

What inspired you to write it?

"About 15 years ago, I looked Radisson up for some reason. I can't remember why. I couldn't believe his life story. For example, I didn't know he was in one of the greatest naval disasters in French history, or that he was in London for the Great Plague of 1665 and the Great Fire of 1666. I thought I could tell a story around that. None of the publishers I knew at the time thought anyone would buy it, so I just stashed all the work I had done on Radisson and, basically, forgot about it."

Why did you write this book?

"The answer: I was asked to. One of my editors had kept the pitch all those years and had ended up with a publisher who liked the idea and would take a chance. Why I took the deal when I was already overwhelmed with work, writing bar exams and jumping through the hoops to get my law licence: I had written an academic paper on Iroquoian property law. I knew I could use that as part of an argument to rebuff Tom Flanagan (*First Nations, Second Thoughts*) and Conrad Black (*Rise to Greatness: The History of Canada from the Vikings to the Present*) who argued First Nations simply did not exist as nations. There's an awful lot more to *Bush Runner*, but that part is my public service."

How long did it take you to write it?

"I had spent about six months on it, off and on, in the early 2000s. It took less than a year to pull the rest together. I spent four months working full-time on it in the summer of 2017, and worked on it part-time for about another year."

How long did it take you to research it?

"I didn't clock the hours, but I was lucky because Radisson left a lot of written material behind, and it was in

English or had been translated. Several scholars tackled Radisson about a hundred years ago. I had already read every book I could find on the Huron (Wendats) and other corn-growing nations in the Great Lakes country. I was also a freak for English civil war stories. That all came together. I got help from the strangest places, including Charles, Earl Spencer, brother of Princess Diana. He'd written a book on Prince Rupert, who was Radisson's patron. Turned out Winston Churchill had also written a bit about Radisson, but he got it wrong."

What did Churchill get wrong?

"Churchill, in his biography of his ancestor the Duke of Marlborough—who was, for a while, head of the Hudson's Bay Company and Radisson's boss/patron, said Radisson defected to the English because he was a Protestant. That was false. It was just about the money, finding a backer for a Hudson Bay trade to come in the back door of Canada and do an end run around the Indigenous people who owned the Great Lakes trade routes."

What was the research process?

"Mostly reading Radisson's own writings and a lot of academic papers about Radisson, 'exploration,' First Nations' life, and histories of France, England, and Holland at that time. Strangely, the hardest part was researching the French marine disaster of Los Aves, off the coast of Venezuela. A very well-connected French admiral sailed an entire navy and pirate fleet, at full sail, into an area of reefs and islands. The disaster was covered up then, and it's still covered up. And, even more strange, there isn't a decent, serious history of Caribbean pirates of that period. The books that are out there are crap. I keep that in mind on cold days."

Why is this book important?

"It uses the life story of one oddball man to tell about the very foundation of Canada. It explains how an extremely dysfunctional Eu-

rope, devastated by war and revolution, collided with a North American continent full of people who were very human: who wanted metal pots, rather than clay pots, to cook with; and who wanted to arm themselves to protect their people from changes that were impossible to stop. You'll see two worlds that make today's seem quite placid."

Who should read it?

"Everyone. Seriously, it's a great story. Radisson had an amazing life, and it stayed interesting all the way through. And he lived that life in a world that vaguely resembles ours, yet is alien."

Your book was on bestseller lists in Canada, but didn't receive a ton of coverage. Why do you think that is?

"No Canadian non-fiction books get much publicity in mainstream private-sector media anymore. I was lucky. *Bush Runner* received a great review in *The Globe and Mail*. It's also got positive reviews in *The Washington Times*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and *The Minneapolis Star-Tribune*. *The Toronto Star* also printed a very large excerpt. It was the subject of a one-hour special on the radio show *CBC Ideas*. Every time that interview was broadcast through the summer, the book shot up bestseller lists. At one point, *Bush Runner* was Amazon Canada's fourth best-selling book. It's had at least five printings, been nominated for the \$30,000 RBC Charles Taylor Award (no media outside *The Toronto Star* and the CBC ran the list of nominees), and we're working on selling foreign rights and on a movie pitch. The only coverage it didn't get was from Canadian print media, outside of the ones I mentioned. Frankly, they don't matter. In Canada, the only thing that sells books in any serious way is coverage by the CBC and, later, word of mouth. But it can be frustrating. If the CBC stopped covering Canadian non-fiction, our country's story would be almost completely ignored. I would call that a cultural crisis."

Why did you decide to leave the media and become a lawyer?

"I thought, and still think, the courts are the last line of defence of democracy. I no longer believe that about the media. I have been able to protect the rights of people in a lot of trouble, from small newspapers, to politicians, to whistleblowers. I have also been able to help victims of elder abuse, and done pro-bono legal work for the poor. I've also kept writing, but very little of that work could be called journalism."

You've written a lot of books. What's next?

"At least one more Canadian biography, and, quite likely, another one on an American that has no connection to Canada whatsoever. I have a contract for the Canadian biography. I am also writing a guidebook of basic law for journalists that's supposed to come out in 2021."

Bush Runner: The Adventures of Pierre-Esprit Radisson, by Mark Bourrie, Biblioasis, 391 pp., \$22.95.
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Feature Hill Life & People

A guide to Parliament Hill's cafeterias



Hill Times reporter Aidan Chamandy, pictured in the West Block cafeteria last week on the Hill. *The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade*

Need a bite and short on time? The Hill cafeterias may be your best bet.

BY AIDAN CHAMANDY

PARLIAMENT HILL—No one wants to go outside for long in winter. Ottawa is cold. The Ottawa River doesn't help with windchill. Despite there being tunnels connecting some buildings on the Hill, there's no equivalent to Toronto's PATH, a 30-plus kilometre underground pedestrian walkway serving most of downtown.

If you're one of those who'd rather not slip on a pair of fluorescent galoshes, but still prefer eating to starving, then one of the Hill cafeterias may be the spot for you. They're all very affordable, which, unfortunately, is just about the only plus for the Confederation Building's cafeteria.

Each cafeteria has the same menu and pricing, but different capabilities. The

larger cafeterias in the Wellington Building and the West Block can serve just about everything on the main menu used by all of the cafeterias. The Confederation and Senate cafeterias are quite a bit smaller and, apart from on-the-go meals, only offer grill and deli selections.

Daily specials are also available anywhere. At the time of writing, the week's specials have been: a smoked chicken and quinoa bowl, curry beef, tandoori cauliflower wraps, and the classic spaghetti and meatballs.

The Wellington Building's cafeteria was *The Hill Times'* top choice. The white decor and intense lighting will definitely wake you up before your coffee, that is, unless getting an early morning workout trying to open the building's front doors didn't already.

The space offers ample seating: from booths, to high counters, to couches. A note for the taller boys and girls in short pants; the tables next to the couches are short, so you'll need to crane over your meal.

It also offers the best selection. It has anywhere from six to eight different types of coffee, including three regular roasts and additional flavoured roasts, for less than a toonie. The tea is also surprisingly nice, with several varieties of Pluck-brand teabags available for those closeted monarchists.

A normal egg or omelet breakfast will run you about \$5, but can easily be augmented by a muffin or bagel with a few extra dollars.

A make-your-own salad bar, priced per hundred grams, serves those who want energy for the rest of the day without over-caffeinating. For the slightly more indulgent Hillite, the Wellington Building has a made-to-order pasta and stir fry bar, depending on the day.

The grill produces pretty standard fare, such as burgers, hot dogs, and poutine. Some of the fancier offerings include lemon pepper chicken and grilled fish tacos. You can grab a fresh sandwich at the deli bar, or spice it up and get a panini.

To-go meals, such as salads, sandwiches, and pre-boxed pizza, appeal to the staffer eager to impress by taking a working lunch.

The Senate cafeteria is quite small. While there's tons of seating throughout the building as a whole, the cafeteria itself has none. It might be able to fit eight to 10 people, shoulder to shoulder, standing in line. It has a full deli, but a limited grill, and no pasta or stir fry bar. Burger- and poutine-lovers beware, the Senate cafeteria can't do fries, only chips.

The Confederation Building's cafeteria, on the eighth floor, is the unfortunate ugly duckling of the flock. While the building's exterior is the same gorgeous gothic revival style as the rest of the Hill buildings, the interior, cafeteria included, is quite drab. Unlike its Wellington Building cousin, the Confederation's cafeteria is painted a dull colour and complimented by dull lighting.

It has essentially the same capabilities as the Senate cafeteria, and is larger. The Confederation Building cafeteria actually has seating, though this is hardly consolation, as the Senate's seating is steps from the cafeteria itself. In a head-to-head battle, the Senate is the place to go (note, your House of Commons pass might not get you in the door).

While downtown Ottawa has a number of good lunch options, choices in the Parliamentary Precinct are limited. Should you want to stay closer to work, the cafeterias may be your best bet. And the prices are right.

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The salad bar and grill area in the West Block cafeteria. *The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade*



A \$8.02 fully-loaded chicken stir fry from the Wellington Building cafeteria, taken on Jan. 23, 2020. *The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade*



Chicken burgers in the West Block cafeteria are, thankfully, ubiquitous on the Hill. *The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade*



A \$6.67 club sandwich from the Senate cafeteria. *The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade*

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Canada



HEARD ON THE HILL

by Neil Moss

House of Commons listed as one of Canada's top employers for young people

The House of Commons is not just a good gig for those 338 MPs who Canadians elected last October, it turns out it's a pretty good office for young people who want to work near the centre of the political action.

The House administration was named by Mediapro Canada as one of the top 100 employers for young people.

In 2019, there were nearly 100 university students working on the Hill for the Administration, which included more than 60 summer students and 36 co-op students.

One program where young Canadians can work in the West Block, now the temporary home for the House of Commons Chamber, and rub shoulders with influential political leaders is with the House Page Program, which has been operating every year since 1978. Some alumni include Treasury Board President **Jean-Yves Duclos** and his parliamentary secretary **Greg Fergus**, as well as PMO chief of staff **Katie Telford**.

The House administration was also named a top 100 Canadian employer last November.

Continued from page 2



Vincent Rigby is pictured appearing in front of the House Committee on Public Safety on May 13, 2019, with then-Public Safety minister Ralph Goodale, left, and RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki. *The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade*

Mr. Rigby is the fourth national security and intelligence adviser that Mr. Trudeau has had. In addition to Ms. Bossenheimer, **Richard Fadden** and **Daniel Jean** have served in the post.

Mr. Trudeau also announced **Gina Wilson** as the new senior associate minister of diversity, inclusion, and youth at Canadian Heritage. She was a senior adviser at the Privy Council Office following time as the deputy minister of Public Safety and deputy minister for Women and Gender Equality.

Also taking new positions are **Lori MacDonald** and **Caroline Xavier**. Ms. MacDonald is the new senior associate deputy minister of Employment and Social Development and the chief operating officer of Service Canada. Previously, she was an associate deputy minister of immigration, refugees, and citizenship. Ms. MacDonald has also held high-level positions at Transport Canada, Public Safety Canada, and Correctional Service of Canada. Ms. Xavier, who is the assistant secretary to

cabinet for security and intelligence in the Privy Council Office, is becoming the associate deputy minister of immigration, refugees, and citizenship. She has held a number of positions at Canada Border Services Agency.

Separated at birth, eh?



Former national security and intelligence adviser and CSIS director Richard Fadden, left, and past U.S. president Harry S. Truman, right. *The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade and photograph courtesy of Wikimedia Commons*



Hill journalist Stephen Maher, left, and Academy Award-nominated actor Joaquin Phoenix, right. *The Hill Times file photograph and photograph courtesy of Wikimedia Commons*

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The Hill Times

MacEachern's fundraiser for ovarian cancer raises more than \$15,000

Photographs courtesy of Cynthia Münster



Proof's Greg MacEachern hosted a fundraiser for ovarian cancer research on Jan. 23 at the Métropolitain in Ottawa along with George Wamala and Bobby Sutherland and they raised more than \$15,000.



House Speaker's director of events Anthony Carricato and Liberal MP Geoff Regan.



Tara Frotten from Ovarian Cancer Canada, George Wamala, Bobby Sutherland, and Gudie Hutchings, parliamentary secretary to the minister for women and gender equality and Greg MacEachern.



Elyse Banham, Roselyne Zamor, and Marjo Rocheleau.



Katy Crane and George Wamala.



Jean-Luc Ferland, Celine Cairn, and Renee Filiatrault.



Bobby Sutherland, George Wamala, and Greg MacEachern, the three hosts.



Liberal MP Geoff Regan and Crown Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett.



Pascal Chan and Nathan Bowers-Krishnan.



Craig Robinson, Elyse Banham, André Albinati, and Greg MacNeil.



Megan Hatch and Greg MacNeil.



Enya Bouchard, Madison Pearson, and Hadeel Aziz.

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HILL CLIMBERS

by Laura Ryckewaert

Justice Minister Lametti's adds a rights implementation director to his team



Justice Minister David Lametti, pictured outside the House of Commons Chamber in the West Block on Dec. 12, 2019, has created the new role of director of rights implementation in his office. *The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade*

Meanwhile, Government House Leader Pablo Rodriguez is entering the new sitting with a director of Senate affairs—a new position in the office—Kornelia Mankowski.

Justice Minister David Lametti has created a new position in his ministerial office, director of rights implementation, and Jesse McCormick has been tapped to take on the role.



Jesse McCormick is director of rights implementation to Mr. Lametti. *Photograph courtesy of Twitter*

In this capacity, Mr. McCormick, who's a member of the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, has been tasked with helping "facilitate collaboration with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners on the development and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples," as explained by Mr. Lametti's press secretary, Rachel Rappaport.

Implementation of UNDRIP—passed by the international body in 2007—was a 2015 Liberal platform promise, reiterated in 2019.

In addition, Mr. McCormick has been tasked with advising Mr. Lametti "on a range of policy files relating to the advancement of reconciliation and the justice system," explained Ms. Rappaport, including on the federal government's directive

on civil litigation involving Indigenous peoples, which was issued by then-justice minister Jody Wilson-Raybould in January 2019.

He'll also be the office's "primary point of contact" for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis groups "and will work closely with other minister's offices across government to advance reconciliation."

Last week, the Correctional Investigator of Canada, Ivan Zinger, called for Correctional Service Canada—which falls under the justice minister's oversight—to do more to address the rising disproportion of Indigenous people in federal custody, which has reached more than 30 per cent. Indigenous women, meanwhile, account for 42 per cent of Canada's female prison population, according to Mr. Zinger.

Mr. McCormick has spent the last four years working in then-environment minister Catherine McKenna's office as director of policy and Indigenous relations.

He's got a background in law—having studied a bachelor of laws at the University of Ottawa and a masters at Harvard Law School—and is a former law clerk with the Federal Court, a former legal counsel with Olthius Kleer Townshend LLP and Donovan & Company, and a former 2012 senior Indigenous fellow with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Mr. McCormick recently ran as the Liberal Party's candidate in Lambton-Kent-Middlesex, Ont., but ultimately lost to Conservative Lianne Rood, herself a former Harper-era cabinet staffer.

Mr. Lametti, who's office is run by chief of staff Rachel Doran, has had a busy start to the year with consultations on medical assistance in dying—with a view to updating existing legislation in the wake of a September 2019 Superior Court of Quebec ruling—and a meeting with his provincial and territorial counterparts in B.C. last week.

Émilie Simard has joined Mr. Lametti's team as director of communications. A former Quebec Liberal staffer, Ms. Simard made her way to Ottawa in the fall of 2017 to become communications director to then-heritage minister Mélanie Joly. In 2018, she moved over to fill the same role in Transport Minister Marc Garneau's office. Mr. Lametti's communications director last Parliament, David Taylor, is now filling that role in Infrastructure Minister Catherine McKenna's office, as previously reported.

A former press secretary to the Indigenous services minister and a senior communications adviser to the heritage minister before that, Ms. Rappaport first joined the justice minister's team in April 2019.

There are two other new additions to Mr. Lametti's team: special assistant for policy Nadia Kadri and special assistant for parliamentary affairs Morgan MacDougall-Milne.



Nadia Kadri is now a special assistant for policy to the justice minister. *Photograph courtesy of Twitter*

A graduate of McGill University's law school, Ms. Kadri was previously an associate with Davies Howe LLP and previously articulated at Dentons. She's also a former assistant in Mr. Lametti's constituency office as the MP for LaSalle-Émard-Verdun, Que., and while in university was president of the Young Liberals campus club. Ms. MacDougall-Milne also has a background in law and is a member of the Law Society of Ontario.

A number of staff have remained in place post-election, including: Nicholas Daube, director of policy; Jim Kapches, director of litigation; Alexander Steinhouse, director of parliamentary affairs; Ana Fujarczuk, issues and parliamentary affairs adviser; Alicia Castelli, regional affairs adviser; Léo Newman, regional assistant; Seth Pickard-Tattrie, special assistant for operations; François Giroux, judicial affairs adviser; Joanne Surette, executive assistant; and policy advisers Olivier Jarda and Nicola Langille.

Meanwhile, a handful of staff from last Parliament have made their exit, including director of issues management Nathalie Roberge, who's now general manager at Montreal law firm Poudrier Bradet Avocats, and director of operations Joanne Ghiz, who's now a senior communications adviser with the Canadian Human Rights Commission. Policy adviser Véronique McKinnon has also left, along with special assistant for judicial affairs François Landry and parliamentary affairs adviser Izbel Czuzoj-Shulman, who's joined Government House Leader Pablo Rodriguez's team.

Government House leader names Senate affairs director

Mr. Rodriguez is entering the new sitting of the minority Parliament with a new position in his office, that of director of Senate affairs, filled by Kornelia Mankowski.

With its increasing independence, the Senate has become more unpredictable of late, and according to a recent Samara report, Senators spent 60 per cent more time considering government bills in the 42nd Parliament compared to the 41st.

Ms. Mankowski first joined the House leader's team under Ms. Chagger in September 2017 and before then was an assistant to then-Liberal Senator Joan Fraser, including during her time as deputy opposition leader in the Upper Chamber. She's also a former assistant to then-Senators Bill Rompkey and Sharon Carstairs.

Ms. Czuzoj-Shulman is among the new additions to Mr. Rodriguez's team, having been hired as a senior adviser for parliamentary affairs. She spent the 2019 election assisting Liberal campaigns, including Mike Bossio's unsuccessful bid for re-election in Hastings-Lennox, Ont., and Rubin Marini's failed attempt to unseat Conservative MP Cheryl Gallant in Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, Ont. She's also a former assistant to Liberal MP Anthony Housefather and has a background in law.

Working alongside her is fellow senior adviser for parliamentary affairs Trevor Harrison. Mr. Harrison spent the last two plus years tackling policy in then-foreign affairs minister Chrystia Freeland's office. He's also a former issues manager to the veterans affairs minister and a former legislative assistant to Ms. Freeland as the Liberal MP for Toronto Centre, Ont., amongst other past Hill experience. Mr. Harrison spent the 2019 election as team lead for surveys for the national Liberal campaign, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Rob Jamieson has joined the House leader's team as a senior adviser. From 2010 until November 2016, Mr. Jamieson worked for the federal Liberal Party as a senior director, having exited to become chief of staff to the democratic institutions minister, starting under Maryam Monsef and continuing under her predecessor Karina Gould. Post-election, that portfolio's been wrapped up under Dominic LeBlanc's responsibilities as President of the Queen's Privy Council.



Rob Jamieson is among the new additions to Government House Leader Pablo Rodriguez's team. *Photograph courtesy of Twitter*

Samar Assoum is another new addition as parliamentary affairs adviser. She was previously working in Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains' office as an assistant for parliamentary affairs and issues management. Before joining Mr. Bains' team in September 2018, Ms. Assoum spent about a year tackling parliamentary affairs for Finance Minister Bill Morneau. She's also a former assistant to Liberal MPs Joël Lightbound and Paul Lefebvre.



Samar Assoum is now a parliamentary affair adviser to the government House leader. *Photograph courtesy of LinkedIn*

Mark Kennedy, who previously held the title of communications director in the office, is now a senior communications adviser. A former Hill reporter, Mr. Kennedy was a communications adviser in the Prime Minister's Office before joining the House leader's team under Ms. Chagger in early 2017. As previously reported, Simon Ross has joined the office as press secretary.

Rheal Lewis remains chief of staff to the House leader. Other staffers continuing in their roles from last Parliament are: Hugo Dompierre, director of parliamentary affairs; Daniel Arsenault, director of issues management; John Matheson, director of policy; Jean-Luc Plourde, senior special assistant for parliamentary affairs; and policy adviser Jérôme Miousse. Rounding out the exempt staff list in the office is driver David Sousa.

Three staffers who were in the office last Parliament, and have since exited are: executive assistant Jessica Saikaly, general assistant Gurjiven Sandhu, and special assistant Shahnaz Mouhamou.

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Feature Events

House of Commons is back and



Stairway to the West Block: The House, now located for the next decade in the West Block, is scheduled to return on Monday, Jan. 27, and it will sit for a total of 76 days or 15 weeks until it adjourns for the summer on June 23. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

Parliamentary Calendar



MONDAY, JAN. 27

House Sitting—The House of Commons is scheduled to return on Monday, Jan. 27, 2020.

Senate Sitting—The Senate has adjourned and is scheduled to return on Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020.

House Returns—The House is scheduled to return on Monday, Jan. 27, and will sit for a total of 76 days or 15 weeks until it adjourns for the summer on June 23. It will sit on Monday, Jan. 27 for two weeks until it adjourns again on Friday, Feb. 7 for one week. It will return on Tuesday, Feb. 18 and will sit until Friday, Feb. 28. It will take a one-week break and resume on March 9-March 13. It adjourns again for one week and will sit from March 23-April 3. It will take a two-week break and will resume sitting again on April 20 and will sit for four straight weeks until May 15. It will take a one-week break and will resume again on May 25 and will sit straight through for the next four consecutive weeks, until it's scheduled to adjourn on June 23. The House adjourns again for three months and will return in the fall on Monday, Sept. 21, for three straight weeks. It will adjourn for one week and will sit again from Oct. 19 until Nov. 6. It will break again for one

week and will sit again from Nov. 16-Dec. 11. And that will be it for 2020.

Cannexus20 by Ceric—Canada's largest career services conference, Jan. 27-29, Shaw Centre, 55 Colonel By Dr., Ottawa. For information, registration@ceric.ca.

Justin Trudeau and the Politics of Federalism—McGill University and the Institute for Research on Public Policy present a panel discussion on the implication of the results of the 2019 federal election: "Justin Trudeau and the Politics of Federalism." *IRPP* editor Jennifer Ditchburn will moderate the discussion featuring Chantal Hébert of the *Toronto Star*, Daniel Béland of McGill University's Institute for the Study of Canada, and Christopher Ragan of McGill's Max Bell School for Public Policy. This free event will take place at the Faculty Club Ballroom, 3450 rue McTavish, Montreal, beginning at 5 p.m. RSVP through Eventbrite.

TUESDAY, JAN. 28

Justice Dies in Darkness—The Group of 78 hosts a luncheon presentation with Carleton University Prof. Hassan Diab on "Justice Dies in Darkness." Diab will discuss the repercussions of the little-known oppressive Canadian Extradition Act. This event will take place Tuesday, Jan. 28 at the Palais Imperial Restaurant, 311-313 Dalhousie St., Ottawa, at noon. For reservations, contact: Group78@group78.org, 613-565-9449 ext. 22 or Eventbrite.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29

Modernization of North American Defence—The Canadian Global Affairs Institute hosts a one-day conference to discuss the modernization of North American defence, with specific attention placed on current and future cyber, space, air, and maritime-based threats, and exploring the type of capabilities and command arrangements required to properly defend against these. The discussion will not only look at these matters through the lens of NORAD, but will also explore adaptation to new threats in the context of the U.S. and

Canadian national militaries, the Northern Command (NorthCom), as well as the Tri-Command Agreement. Perspectives will come from military practitioners, academics, and stakeholders in the defence industry. Wednesday, Jan. 29, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., at Westin TwentyTwo, 11 Colonel By Dr., Ottawa.

Land Needs Guardians Campaign—You are cordially invited to join the Indigenous Leadership Initiative, in partnership with Indigenous Guardians and Indigenous leaders in conservation from across the country, in launching an exciting new campaign, the Land Needs Guardians. Wednesday, Jan. 29, 5 to 7 p.m. at the National Arts Centre, Lantern Room, Terrace Level, 1 Elgin St., Ottawa. Please RSVP before Jan. 17 to RSVP@summa.ca or (613) 235 1400.

THURSDAY, JAN. 30

Canada 360° Economic Summit—The Canadian Chamber of Commerce invites you to join us in shaping the growth and direction of the Canadian economy at the inaugural Canada 360° Economic Summit at MaRS Discovery District in Toronto, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., 101 College St., Toronto. Hear policy recommendations directly from business leaders on what Canada can do to improve growth and competitiveness, including: Ian Bremmer, CEO of Eurasia Group; Mark Little, CEO of Suncor; Michael Doughty, CEO of Manulife Canada; Heather Chalmers, CEO of GE Canada; Jad Shimaly, CEO of EY Canada; Philippe Jette, CEO of Cogeco; Sabrina Geremia, head of Google Canada; Bilal Khan, managing partner and head of Deloitte Data; and many more. Register online at Eventbrite.

Costing Proposals for the 2019 General Election—The Ottawa Economics Association hosts a luncheon event on "History in the Making: Costing Proposals for the 2019 General Election," featuring Yves Giroux, Canada's parliamentary budget officer, who will share experiences and insights gained working with political parties to provide voters with the price tags of their election promises. This event will take place at the

Rideau Club, 99 Bank St., Ottawa, on Thursday, Jan. 30. Register online by Monday, Jan. 27 at cabc.ca.

The Great Delusion—Carleton University hosts John J. Mearsheimer, Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science, University of Chicago, who will give a lecture on "The Great Delusion," on why liberal hegemony (the foreign policy pursued by the United States after the Cold War ended) was doomed to fail, and contributed to Donald Trump winning the White House. This event will take place in Room 2228 Richcraft Hall, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Dr., Ottawa, from 5:30-7 p.m. Free admission.

Women and International Trade: Governance and Public Policy Issues—The CN-Paul M. Tellier Chair on Business and Public Policy at the University of Ottawa is organizing a panel discussion on "Women and International Trade: Governance and Public Policy Issues," with Judit Fabian (visiting researcher, University of Ottawa), Amy Karam (president, Karam Consulting), Lars Nilsson (deputy head of unit, chief economist and trade analysis unit, DG trade, European Commission) and Marie-France Paquet chief economist, Global Affairs Canada). The event will take place on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020, between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. in Room 4004, Social Sciences Building, University of Ottawa. The event is open to all and free of charge. No advance registration is required.

FRIDAY, JAN. 31

Global Economic Relations in the Trump Era and After—Carleton University hosts a research workshop on "Global Economic Relations in the Trump Era and After: Challenges for the EU and Canada." Scholars from the fields of political science, economics, and law will take stock of global trade relations as a result of the Trump presidency, Brexit, and upcoming European elections, and discuss potential policy options to address anti-globalization sentiments. This free event will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Richcraft Hall, Rooms 2220-2228, Ottawa.

Continued on page 43

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there's going to be some drama

Continued from page 42

FRIDAY, JAN. 31

Financing a Global Green New Deal: Trade and Development Report 2019—The International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), and Group of 78 invite you to a dynamic conversation, presenting the key findings from the Trade and Development Report 2019. Published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), this report calls for bold action in the face of the climate change crisis to finance a Global Green New Deal and meet the Sustainable Development Goals. This event will launch our International Development Week activities and we would be delighted if you would join us. French and English simultaneous interpretation will be available. Jan. 31, 10 a.m.-12:00 p.m. International Development Research Centre, 150 Kent Street, 8th floor, Hopper Rooms, Ottawa. RSVP: Seating is free but limited, so please register for the event at www.idrc.ca/tradedevelopment.

MONDAY, FEB. 3

Video Games on the Hill—Celebrate one of Canada's most vibrant industries and meet some of our nation's biggest video game developers. Join us for the Hill's most interactive showcase of the year. Video games and refreshments on the agenda. Who's invited? Members of Parliament, their Hill and constituency staff, and House administration. When? On Monday, Feb. 3, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., in the Sir John A. Macdonald Building. Please RSVP to Jennifer Krpan, communications co-ordinator, ESAC, at jkrpan@theESA.ca. Mature-rated content is advised. Guests must be 17+ to attend. All guests must provide photo ID.

Year One Conference—The Pearson Centre hosts a two-day "Year One Conference: Navigating the new Parliament" focussing on the first year and beyond of the newly elected government and Parliament. What do you want to see the government and opposition parties accomplish? Feb. 3-4. Further details to be announced.

TUESDAY, FEB. 4

Dairy Reception—Dairy Farmers of Canada invites all Parliamentarians and staff to attend its annual Dairy Reception to enjoy delicious treats made from 100 per cent Canadian milk. The reception will take place on Feb. 4, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Château Laurier Ballroom, 1 Rideau St., Ottawa. RSVP is required at rsvp@dfc-plc.ca.

Universities Canada networking reception—Universities Canada invites MPs and Senators to join university leaders and international prize-winning researchers from across the country as we celebrate Canadian research excellence. Tuesday, Feb. 4, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at TwentyTwo, The Westin Ottawa, 11 Colonel By Dr., Ottawa. RSVP at rsvp@univcan.ca or 613-563-3961 (226).

Fight for our Lives: Perspectives on the New Federal Price Controls for Medicines—The Economic Club of Canada is hosting the event "Fight for our Lives: Perspectives on the New Federal Price Controls for Medicines" on February 4th from 11:30am-1:30pm at the Fairmont Château Laurier (1 Rideau Street). The event will bring together renowned former Canadian journalist, Tom Clark, patient representatives, health policy experts, and former Quebec Health Minister, Yves Bolduc, for a candid discussion on how recent policy announcements at the federal level will impact patient access to life-saving medicines. The event will also help mark February 4th as World Cancer Day. Please RSVP to natasha@economicclub.ca or visit www.economicclub.ca for more info.

THURSDAY, FEB. 6

International Development Week—In celebration of International Development Week 2020, organizations from across Canada's international cooperation community will be in Ottawa on February 6 to discuss with Parliamentarians how we can continue to work better together. For more information or to schedule a meeting, please contact intldevelopment-week2020@tsa.ca

THURSDAY, FEB. 13

The Gift of Jazz—Deborah Davis and Segue to Jazz will be joined once again by Stefan Keyes (Ottawa anchor, CTV News), jazz great Michael C. Hanna, Jamaal Jackson Rogers (Ottawa English poet laureate), and former world tap dancing champion, the dynamic Darin Kyle, for their annual tribute to Black History Month. From its African and Gospel roots to modern day expressions, including the arrival and influence of jazz in Canada, The Gift of Jazz is a tribute to Black History Month and a celebration of the profound impact of Black history and culture on music. Presented on Thursday, Feb. 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the National Gallery of Canada auditorium, 380 Sussex Dr., Ottawa. Tickets \$40, \$28 for seniors/students. Call 613-321-2066, visit www.odysseyshowcase.org or Eventbrite.

SATURDAY, FEB. 15

Generation SDG Summit—The United Nations Association in Canada's first Generation SDG Summit will

be held in Ottawa on Saturday, Feb. 15. The summit will convene 600 youth, in addition to our ambassadors, to engage national leaders and local industry professionals. Guest speakers include Autumn Peltier, water protector and human rights advocate; Valerie Leloup, founder and CEO of the Zero Waste Nu Grocery; Thierry Lindor, founder and president of Influence Orbis; Alexandria-Marie Kazmerik, co-founder of the Canadian Council of Young Feminists and youth activist; and many more at this youth-led event. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lansdowne Park's Horticultural Building, 1525 Patricia Way.

TUESDAY, FEB. 18

Grain Growers of Canada 20th Anniversary Reception—You are cordially invited to join agriculture leaders from across Canada to celebrate 20 years of grain farmers on the Hill. Part of National Grain Week 2020. Tuesday, Feb. 18, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Sir. John A. Macdonald Building, 44 Wellington St., Room 200. Open to Parliamentarians and staff. RSVP before Feb. 10 to Lea, office@ggc-pgc.ca or call 613-223-9954 ext. 200.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19

MLI 2020 Annual Dinner—The Macdonald-Laurier Institute is devoting its premier forum, the MLI Annual Dinner to a vital discussion of Canada's place in the new global order. We are bringing some of Canada's and the world's top experts together to discuss the challenges and opportunities for Canada in the Indo-Pacific region. Don't miss out on one of the premier events of the 2020 Ottawa social calendar. Wednesday, Feb. 19, from 5:30-9:30 p.m., at the Canadian War Museum, 1 Vimy Pl., Ottawa. Tickets available through Eventbrite.

THURSDAY, FEB. 20

IoT Cybersecurity Forum—The Internet Society Canada chapter launches its multi-stakeholder Mitigating Consumer IoT Cybersecurity Series with its inaugural Forum on Contextualizing Consumer IoT Cybersecurity Threats in Ottawa on Thursday, Feb. 20. For more information, please contact Franca Palazzo at palazzoconsulting@outlook.com.

TUESDAY, FEB. 25

Marine Day on the Hill—The Chamber of Marine Commerce is hosting a Marine Day on the Hill reception for all MPs and Senators. The event will highlight climate change resiliency and infrastructure investments which are vital to support Great Lakes-St. Lawrence shipping as a national trade and transportation corridor. 5:00-7:30 p.m. Room 425 Wellington Building. RSVP by Feb. 18 to Sarah Douglas at 613-899-6417 or sdouglas@cmc-ccm.com

THURSDAY, FEB. 27

RBC Taylor Prize—The five finalists for this year's RBC Taylor Prize Best Books in Literary Non-Fiction are: *Bush Runner: The Adventures of Pierre-Esprit Radisson*, by Mark Bourrie (Biblioasis); *Had It Coming: What's Fair in the Age of #MeToo?* by Robyn Doolittle (Allen Lane); *Highway of Tears: A True Story of Racism, Indifference and the Pursuit of Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*, by Jessica McDiarmid (Doubleday Canada); *The Reality Bubble: Blind Spots, Hidden Truths and the Dangerous Illusions that Shape Our World*, by Ziya Tong (Allen Lane); and *The Mosquito: A Human History of Our Deadliest Predator*,

by Timothy C. Winegard (Allen Lane). Public events already confirmed for the finalists include a free 90-minute round-table discussion with the shortlisted authors in the Lakeside Terrace at Harbourfront, hosted by *Toronto Star* books editor, Deborah Dundas, on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020, at 7 p.m., presented by the Toronto International Festival of Authors. There is also the Ben McNally authors' brunch on Sunday, March 1, at the Omni King Edward Hotel in downtown Toronto (for tickets, please contact Ben McNally Books at 416 361-0032 or visit benmcnallybooks.com).

FRIDAY, FEB. 28

WAMS Gala Luncheon—Women Against Multiple Sclerosis (WAMS) is a collective of professional women dedicated to building awareness and raising critical research funds for better treatments and a cure for MS. The luncheon will feature a VIP champagne reception, gourmet meal, silent auction and an inspirational talk by a nationally recognized keynote speaker. Friday, Feb. 28, VIP reception from 11 a.m., seated lunch from 12-2 p.m. Ottawa Conference and Event Centre, 200 Coventry Rd. Tickets for individuals and tables of 10 are available at wamsottawa.ca or by phone at 613-728-1583 ext. 3326.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

Super Tuesday Watch Party—Join Fasken LLP's Super Tuesday Election Watch Party on March 3 at 8 p.m. RSVP by Feb. 20 by contacting: Kai Olson at kolson@fasken.com.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

Air Canada Reception—Air Canada is inviting Parliamentarians, ministerial staff, and senior officials to an evening reception to discuss the aviation sector, and enjoy food and drink. Thursday, March 26, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the South Block Whiskey Bar, 148 Sparks St., Ottawa. RSVP at rsvp@summa.ca.

FRIDAY, APRIL 2

PPF Testimonial Dinner and Awards—Join us at the 33rd annual event to network and celebrate as Public Policy Forum honours Canadians who have made their mark on policy and leadership. Anne McLellan and Senator Peter Harder will take their place among a cohort of other stellar Canadians who we've honoured over the last 33 years, people who have dedicated themselves to making Canada a better place through policy leadership and public service. The gala event will be held on April 2, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, 255 Front St. W., Toronto.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2020

Library and Archives Canada Scholar Awards Ceremony—Presented by the Library and Archives Canada and The Library and Archives Canada Foundation, Wednesday, April 22, 2020, 5:30 p.m., 395 Wellington St., Ottawa. More details to come.

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2020

Parliamentary Press Gallery Dinner—The Parliamentary Press Gallery Dinner happens on Saturday, May 2, 2020, in the Sir John A. Macdonald Building on Wellington Street.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

Politics & The Pen—Considered one of Ottawa's most anticipated parties, the annual Politics & the Pen party

celebrates Canadian political and literary cultures. The highlight of the night features the presentation of the \$25,000 Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing, named in honour of the late and spirited, inspired parliamentarian. It happens May 13, 2020, Fairmont Château Laurier Hotel, 1 Rideau St., Ottawa. For more information, contact Julia Yu, events manager, jyu@writerstrust.com or 416-504-8222, ext. 241.

THURSDAY, MAY 14

ACC-AAEC Ottawa Convention—It's the ACC International Convention and the ACC will be joined in Ottawa by the AAEC and cartoonists from New Zealand, Australia, the U.K., Norway, and Germany for three days of editorial cartooning magic from May 14-May 17, 2020, in Ottawa, at the Marriott Hotel, 100 Kent St. There will be three days of exciting speakers, tours, and cartoon-related thrills in store. Booking information and more at acc.format.com.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

Conservative Party Leadership Election—The 2020 Conservative Party of Canada leadership election will be held on June 27, 2020, in Toronto to choose a successor to Andrew Scheer.

SATURDAY, OCT. 3

Green Party Convention—The Green Party will hold its convention Oct. 3-4, 2020, at the Delta Hotels Prince Edward in Charlottetown, P.E.I. For more information, contact 613-562-4916.

THURSDAY, NOV. 12


Liberal Party National Convention—The Liberal Party of Canada announced the 2020 Liberal National Convention will be hosted in Ottawa, from Nov. 12-15, 2020. For more information, please contact: media@liberal.ca, 613-627-2384.

Conservative Party National Convention—The Conservatives will hold a convention in Quebec City from Nov. 12-14. For more information, please contact 1-866-808-8407.

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@hill-times.com by Wednesday at noon before the Monday paper or by Friday at noon for the Wednesday paper. We can't guarantee inclusion of every event, but we will definitely do our best. Events can be updated daily online, too.
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