With skyrocketing deaths due to COVID-19 in the United States, cases on the rise in that country, and the extension of the Canada-U.S. border closure until Aug. 21, Canadians are paying very close attention to the U.S. political situation as the presidential election campaign heats up, which some pollsters expect to be “uglier than last time because of Donald Trump’s survival instinct.”

Pollster and president of Ekos Research Frank Graves told The Hill Times that Canadians are extremely tuned in to what’s going on down south, and that the presidential election is “an area of deep concern.”

Charity scandal won’t change the outcome of the next election unless new developments deepen the controversy, but polister Nik Nanos says the scandal should stamp out rumours that the Liberals could trigger an election this fall.

“I think the polling tells us so far that people who like the prime

...Continued on page 21

WE scandal won’t shape next election, say strategists, but say goodbye to fall election talk

BY PETER MAZEREEUW

Political strategists with ties to three parties say the WE Charity scandal won’t change the outcome of the next election unless new developments deepen the controversy, but polister Nik Nanos says the scandal should stamp out rumours that the Liberals could trigger an election this fall.

“I think the polling tells us so far that people who like the prime

...Continued on page 21

U.S. presidential campaign likely to be ‘ugly or uglier than last time,’ and of ‘deep concern’ to Canadians

BY MIKE LAPOINTE

The presidential election campaign in the United States continues to be characterized by acrimony and divisiveness, and Canadians are paying close attention to what is happening on the other side of the border.

...Continued on page 20

RCMP, Canada Elections commissioner probing O’Toole campaign allegation it was hacked by MacKay campaign, says O’Toole campaign

BY ABBAS RANA

The RCMP and Canada Elections commissioner have started probing the Erin O’Toole campaign’s hacking allegation against the Peter MacKay campaign, a spokesperson for the O’Toole campaign told The Hill Times.

...Continued on page 4
Heard on the Hill
by Palak Mangat

Conservative leadership hopefuls square off in late July debate hosted by Independent Press Gallery of Canada

Former CTV reporter Rosemary Thompson, left, is fresh off a three-year stint at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, where she was vice-president of marketing and development for the Alberta centre. Before that, she served with the National Arts Centre for eight years, until 2017 as its director of communications and public affairs, following two decades of experience in network TV with CBC and CTV.

As a reporter, she covered campaigns in the U.S., Quebec, and Ottawa, and was CTV’s first female Washington correspondent, making guest appearances on programs like Question Period and Mike Duffy Live, among others. “A fond farewell from @BanffMayor she’s sending me back to #Ottcity to hang with @mtkemachenna. Thank you ... for the best 3 years of our lives! We’ll miss you!” tweeted Ms. Thompson on July 15, alongside a photo of her elbow bumping Karen Sorenson, Banff’s mayor. Ms. Thompson begins her new job as a Global Gallery of Canada vice-president of corporate/public affairs and marketing on Aug. 17.

Tory MP paired up on TVO’s Political Blind Date

Conservative MP Cathy McLeod said last week that she was filming for TVO’s Political Blind Date show, a six-part series that brings together politicians of different stripes to talk shop on important topics to voters. “You never know who you will get set up with,” she tweeted on July 14, adding that she’s been filming in Kamloops, B.C. “Will show in fall 2020 and #COVID19 precautions in place for the day.”

Who’s been paired up with is anybody’s guess though (her office did not return a request for comment in time for publication).

Over its three seasons so far, the show has featured Parliamentarians like Conservative MPs Shannon Stubbs, garnet gems, Pierre Paul-Hus, and Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer. Liberals featured on the show included MPs Marco Mendi- cino, Wayne Easter, and Gary Ananda- sangaree, while NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh and his party colleagues Jenny Kwan and Romeo Saglanah have also made appearances. “Half of these instal- ments have covered hot-button topics like the carbon tax, transportation, affordable housing, and marijuana.

‘Defend democracy,’ says politician

Some former Parliamentarians have lent their names to an open letter calling for governments to “defend democracy” amid the pandemic. The Hill Times file photograph

Former prime minister Joe Clark is among the signatories on a letter calling on world powers to “defend democracy” amid the pandemic. The Hill Times file photograph

and that we must not take them for granted. Through democracy, citizens and their elected leaders can learn and grow. Never has it been more important for them to do that,” the letter said.

It continued that democracy “is the best system of government” to address the pandemic, as opposed to the “self-serving claims of authoritarian propaganda.” Among those whose names are attached to the document are former foreign affairs minister Lloyd Axworthy, former prime ministers Stephen Harper and Joe Clark, Conservative Party leadership hopeful Peter Mackay, former NDP leader Tom Mulcair, former premier of Ontario Kathleen Wynne, and the current Conservative Party leader, Erin O'Toole.

The Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences’ Big Thinking Lecture Series is looking for speakers for its Big Thinking Lecture series in the fall on their topic of governance in the U.S. election, which has seen President Donald Trump try to defend his record. “Protest our common cause of movement.”

Time to start thinking big

The Federalation for the Humanities and Social Sciences’ Big Thinking Lecture Series is looking for speakers for its Big Thinking Lecture series in the fall on their topic of governance in the U.S. election, which has seen President Donald Trump try to defend his record. “Protest our common cause of movement.”

Since 1994, the series has seen more than 50 researchers present their findings to thou- sands of civic leaders involved in policy and decision-making in Ottawa. The series is held up six times each year, and the lectures are held when the House and Senate are in ses- sion, presenting “a high profile [opportunity] to introduce evidence from Canadian research on the most pressing public policy issues.”

Those who often tune into the series are MPs, Senators, the media, and policymakers. Among the topics have included the promotion of refugees’ health and artificial intelligence. Interested applicants must submit a title and abstract of up to 200 words of proposed talk and a resume by Aug. 7. This year’s event will be held virtually sometime between Oct. 19 and Nov. 17, though a date has yet to be finalized.

WE Charity, fed controversy deepens

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his government’s involvement in handing a now- mixed $890-million contract to00 for a troubled student service grant remained in the spotlight last week. On July 16, Ethics Commissioner Mario Dion said he was launch-
THE COMPLETE, **MADE IN CANADA** PROPELLER SHAFT SOLUTION

Thordon Bearings Inc., Dominis Engineering Ltd. and Patriot Forge Co., three world-class, family-owned and operated high-performance manufacturing businesses in Ontario, have joined forces as a consortium to provide fully integrated and complete vessel shaftline systems for Canada’s most important vessels included in Canada’s National Shipbuilding Strategy. These global industry leaders will provide the highest quality shaftline system to significantly improve operational performance, lower costs for Canada’s Navy and Coast Guard and create sustainable jobs in the critically important Canadian manufacturing sector.

For the past 30 years some of the most critical and core major ship equipment have been supplied from overseas. Now more than ever the times call for world quality, Canadian manufactured components for Canada’s ships; supporting high skilled, high tech, high paying jobs right here in Canada.

www.ThordonBearings.com/CISSpartners
RCMP, Canada Elections commissioner probing O’Toole campaign allegation it was hacked by MacKay campaign, says O’Toole campaign

‘No one from our campaign, including our legal counsel, has been contacted about this investigation by any authorities or police organizations,’ says Chisholm Pothier, a spokesperson for the Peter MacKay campaign.

A Conservative source familiar with the file told The Hill Times that a Toronto Police detective who works with the cyber crimes wing has interviewed some O’Toole campaign staff to gather evidence and other information relevant to the allegations. Reached by email, the detective told The Hill Times that the RCMP has now taken over the file. He did not provide any details. The RCMP in response to a query from The Hill Times declined to share the status of the investigation.

“The RCMP is examining this matter carefully with all available information and will take appropriate actions as required,” wrote the media relations services of the RCMP’s national division. “It would be inappropriate for us to provide any more comments on this matter at this time.”

Myriam Croussette, a spokesperson for the commissioner of Canada Elections, said the office does not confirm or deny the existence of any investigations for privacy reasons. She said the office reviews all complaints it receives and will launch an investigation only if it sees any evidence that a violation may have occurred. The office makes the information public on its website about a specific complaint only after the conclusion of an investigation, if there is a violation of the act, she said.

“In keeping with the confidentiality provisions of the act, the Office of the Commissioner of Canada Elections does not confirm whether it is conducting an investigation, or not, into a particular matter,” said Ms. Croussette. “As a result, I’m not able to speak to the specifics of your question.”

At issue is the allegation by the O’Toole campaign that a 19-year-old intern of Conservative MP Greg McLean (Calgary Centre, Alta.), a supporter of Mr. O’Toole, allegedly gave the log-in and password credentials to Jamie Lall, an Alberta organizer for Mr. MacKay.

According to a letter sent by the O’Toole campaign to the RCMP, Toronto Police and OPP on June 19, the log-in credentials were used to download a significant amount of strategy information, more than 100 hours of Zoom videos of strategy meetings, and other information allegedly by supporters of Mr. MacKay in Alberta and in Ontario. The intern in question, who has now been let go by Mr. McLean, has taken full responsibility and in a statement to The Toronto Star and CBC last month has said that he downloaded the information and sent it to Mr. Lall but does not know if Mr. Lall accessed the information. Mr. Lall and the MacKay campaign have categorically denied any wrongdoing. But the O’Toole campaign stands by its allegation.

“We believe it is important to present the complete set of facts regarding the recent data breach which impacted our campaign,” Ms. Paradis told The Hill Times last week.

“A significant amount of our confidential and strategic strategy was illegally accessed and stolen after an individual outside our campaign obtained an administrative password to our Zoom video conferencing account,” Ms. Paradis alleged.

Mr. Lall and the intern did not respond to interview requests from The Hill Times, but Mr. Lall, however, in an interview with The Toronto Star denied all allegations and added that he “aggressively pursuing legal action against the O’Toole campaign.”

“All of these allegations are categorically deny, every single one of them,” said Mr. Lall. “I had nothing to do with this.”

Mr. Lall also tweeted on June 20 that “not a single word” of the O’Toole campaign’s allegations is true.

None of the allegations have been tested in a court of law. The O’Toole campaign has also provided information about its hacking allegation against the MacKay campaign to the Conservative Party’s Leadership Election Organization Committee, but has not made a formal request for investigation.

“We do not need this hanging over if Peter MacKay wins, and if it did, that he and his team stole the data from the O’Toole people, then it’s an illegitimate win fair and squarely, particularly if it’s close. But if they didn’t, it had nothing to do with it, they should be given a clean pass and not be blamed for anything to do with it. So, LEOC should actually get involved and try to investigate this ASAP and clear the matter up,” said Mr. Trost.

Mr. Trost said the allegation is tough to prove in a court of law and that an investigation could be completed long after the leadership election. But if LEOC undertook an investigation, he said, it wouldn’t have to meet the same burden of proof that a police force has to file any possible charges. Also, he said, LEOC could complete its investigation a lot earlier than a criminal police investigation.

But some Conservative sources familiar with the issue disagree, arguing that LEOC would not have been able to conduct this investigation at all if it involves potentially a criminal matter and does not have the legal authority to complete the task.

“We have provided information, but we have not asked them to investigate bc this is a criminal matter,” wrote Ms. Paradis in a tweet, last month. “The request for an investigation has been submitted to the RCMP, OPP, and Toronto Police.”

Ms. Paradis echoed this view in her interview with The Hill Times.

“Mr. Paradis alleged.”

“As we understand from media reports that this may be a matter of concern by legal authorities, the party and LEOC will not be making comment,” said Mr. Lall, director of communications for the Conservative Party.

Conservative sources, meanwhile, told The Hill Times last week that LEOC is not investigating the issue.

“It is not unusual for leadership campaigns of any party to get nasty and divisive but calling in a police force to investigate a rival candidate’s campaign’s alleged questionable tactics is a rarity.”

Former Saskatchewan Conservative MP Brad Trost who came in fourth place in the 2017 leadership election said that LEOC must investigate this issue and take appropriate action in order to reassure party members that the Conservative Party is committed to holding a fair nomination contest and will not allow dirty tricks.

“The LEOC needs to get involved and find out what’s true and what’s not, and sort this out for the good of the party nationally,” said Mr. Trost who is supporting Toronto lawyer Leslyn Lewis and Conservative MP Derek Sloan in the leadership campaigns.

“We do not need this hanging over if Peter MacKay wins, and if it didn’t, that he and his team stole the data from the O’Toole people, then it’s an illegitimate win fair and squarely, particularly if it’s close. But if they didn’t, it had nothing to do with it, they should be given a clean pass and not be blamed for anything to do with it. So, LEOC should actually get involved and try to investigate this ASAP and clear the matter up,” said Mr. Trost.

Mr. Trost said the allegation is tough to prove in a court of law and that an investigation could be completed long after the leadership election. But if LEOC undertook an investigation, he said, it wouldn’t have to meet the same burden of proof that a police force has to file any possible charges. Also, he said, LEOC could complete its investigation a lot earlier than a criminal police investigation.

But some Conservative sources familiar with the issue disagree, arguing that LEOC would not have been able to conduct this investigation at all if it involves potentially a criminal matter and does not have the legal authority to complete the task.
If MacKay doesn’t win on the first ballot, social Conservative voters critical in the leadership outcome, say political players

Campaign Life Coalition has signed up 30,000-40,000 members to help Leslyn Lewis and Derek Sloan, the two social conservative candidates, according to Jack Fonseca, director of political operations for the organization.

BY ABBAS RANA

A committed group of thousands of socially conservative voters will play a critical role in deciding the Conservative Party’s leadership election if presumed front-runner Peter MacKay doesn’t win the contest on the first ballot, say political insiders.

“If Peter MacKay doesn’t win on the first ballot, then that seems likely [social conservatives deciding the outcome],” said pollster Greg Lyle of Innovative Research in a phone interview with The Hill Times. “Social conservatives can make a huge difference.”

Mr. MacKay, a former cabinet minister in the Stephen Harper cabinet, has positioned himself as the progressive option in the four-candidate leadership contest. He is the front-runner in this election, followed closely by Conservative MP Erin O’Toole (Durham, Ont.), a former cabinet minister and a former Air Force colonel, who is running on the slogan of “True Blue Leadership.” His campaign has made a concerted effort to seek the support of social conservatives and to be their second or third choice, if not first. Toronto lawyer Leslyn Lewis and Conservative MP Derek Sloan (Hastings-Lennox & Addington, Ont.) are running as social conservative candidates. The party is using a preferential-ballot or ranked-ballot system for the leadership election. That means all eligible party members could vote for all four candidates, ranking them from one to four, in order of preference. If none of the candidates wins 50 per cent-plus one of the votes after the first ballot, the candidates wins 50 per cent-plus one of the votes after the first ballot, the leadership contest will go to a second ballot, where the candidates will choose their preferred successor. The winner will be the candidate who wins the most votes after the second ballot, and the loser will be eliminated from the race.

Conservative Party members are currently in the process of choosing the successor to outgoing leader Andrew Scheer. The Hill Times photograph by Samantha Wright Allen

Even prior to the catastrophic consequences of COVID-19, Canada’s aerospace sector was losing ground. In fact, we raised alarm bells a year ago when we released the Vision 2025 report that outlined industry and stakeholder feedback and recommendations needed to protect Canada’s slipping aerospace position.

Despite these alarm bells, the federal government took little action. And now, facing pressures and losses that are the biggest in aviation history, Canada has slipped even further.

While our major competitor countries have implemented sector specific plans and recovery measures, Canada has continued to sit idly. Our once-held fifth place ranking on the global stage has fallen to number seven. And international experts predict that we will continue to fall in ranking if no action is taken. With this loss in standing comes losses in jobs and annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to Canada.

These are real consequences and now is the time to act.

New polling data compiled by Pollara Strategic Insights shows overwhelming support from Canadians for a comprehensive aerospace strategy. While the results showed Canadians don’t have a strong familiarity with the industry (18% saying they are not at all familiar and 3% being very familiar), they are very supportive of investments into the industry.

• When told of the economic benefits of the aerospace industry ($31 billion in revenue, has contributed more than $25 billion to Canada’s Gross Domestic Product, provides jobs to 215,000 Canadians), almost all Canadians agree it is at least somewhat important that it stay in Canada (91%), with almost half (46%) saying this is very important.

• When hearing that Canada’s ranking in this industry has slipped from fifth to seventh place, a vast majority say it is important that Canada remains competitive (85%). Likewise, 85% also feel it is important that Canada invest in this industry, similar to other countries like Hong Kong, France, Germany and the USA.

• More than one-third feel it is very important that Canada remain competitive (39%) and invest in this industry (38%).

• Almost four-fifths (78%) of Canadians agree that Canada needs a comprehensive aerospace strategy to ensure the industries long-term future as well as to protect the more than 215,000 jobs and financial contributions.

For over 80 years, governments of all political stripes have made Canada’s aerospace sector a policy priority through strategic action and investments. They built Canada into a global aerospace leader with an impressive worldwide reputation that is now coming under threat.

If we fail to keep up with our competitor countries, our industry’s $25 billion annual GDP contribution will be gutted and Canada will no longer be in a position to attract and keep highly-trained skilled workers. This represents 215,000 highly skilled, well-paying jobs across the country that support more than 500 small businesses.

Our question to the political leadership of the day, and indeed all parliamentarians, is this: Do we want to keep our aerospace industry in this country or not? If the answer is yes, we need to face up to the new reality and take action.

Canada must act now, as our competitors are, before we lose it all. The commitment we made as a nation 80 years ago to be a global leader, is needed again.

Sincerely,
Jim Quick
President and CEO
AIAC
Jean Charest
Chair of Vision 2025 and Partner at McCarthy Tétrault
Former Deputy Prime Minister of Canada and Premier of Quebec (2003-2012)


Continued on page 18
National president of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) Chris Aylward says the timing ‘couldn’t be worse’ for this government to start looking at cuts to public service jobs.

BY MIKE LAPointe

A

lthough there is a projected federal deficit of just under $350-billion for 2020-21, Canada’s former parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page said the government needs to think about spurring economic growth before thinking about austerity measures to cut down on government debt.

In an emailed statement to The Hill Times, Mr. Page said he did not think it would be wise for the federal government to pursue austerity policies until the Canadian economy has fully recovered.

“Various economic forecasts from domestic and international institutions do not have the Canadian economy returning to fourth quarter 2019 GDP levels until late 2021 or 2022 assuming no vaccination is in place,” wrote Mr. Page. “Austerity exercises are contractionary from an macroeconomic perspective. Over the next two years, government macro policy needs to be focused on economic growth.”

Mr. Page also wrote that it is possible the scope and depth of an austerity exercise could be part of the next federal election, alluding to targets, spending controls, areas of focus for spending reductions, and tax increases.

“While an austerity exercise could be a few years off it would be wise for the public service to develop possible options for future political consideration in a post COVID19 environment,” wrote Mr. Page.

Perhaps, the more the public service can involve itself in the post-COVID-19 economic recovery project, by developing a sustainable, resilient and more equitable economy, positive change in the public service may be become intrinsic, wrote Mr. Page, alluding to a more evidence-based, open, transparent, and digital apparatus.

Could a post-COVID-19 public service imprint be smaller, even if government transfers (basic income, infrastructure, federal-provincial fiscal arrangements) get relatively larger? Yes,” tunities to work more efficiently with a smaller work force will be examined.

Sen. Dean also said that any government would want to go into an election with a clear fiscal plan to start tackling the deficit.

“I think it has to be a long-term plan,” said Sen. Dean. “I think the important thing is having a rigorous, defensible strategy, but also a commitment to public sector spending,” said Sen. Dean.

“Communities depend on federal public service workers getting paid, to bolster their economy,” said Mr. Aylward.

“Number one, for the economy, it would absolutely be terrible to cut the public service jobs.”

Number two, the public service has gone above and beyond providing services to Canadians, and to cut any service at all from the federal public service, you’re hurting the most vulnerable in our society—the people who depend on those services day in and day out, whether it’s veterans, whether it’s students whether it’s those on social benefit programs, that’s who you would eventually end up hurting,” said Mr. Aylward.

Senior economist with the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (PIPSC) Ryan Campbell told The Hill Times that “first and foremost, austerity shouldn’t be on the agenda right now.”

“That thinking is counterproductive at the moment, and what we need now is investment—and cutting at a time when you need investment is not good,” said Mr. Campbell.

“The focus right now should be on the health crisis, on containing the virus, protecting people and making sure that basic needs are met, repairing the damage—and then hopefully re-building the economy better than it was before.”

Mr. Campbell said that he hopes what comes out of this situation is “more confidence in government’s public service capacity” as opposed to contracting out.

Our public service employ-ees have—a—stood up and showed their colours and done a really impressive job, and I think it would be wise for the public service and not feeling the need to outsource those services,” said Mr. Campbell.

BY MIKE LAPOINTE

‘Would not be wise to pursue austerity’ before recovery, says Kevin Page

MONDAY, JULY 20, 2020 | THE HILL TIMES
Liberal bill would need more oversight, more power for RCMP: Goodale

‘What we really need is some more official announcement by somebody who actually holds power, which is the current public safety minister, Bill Blair,’ says former police watchdog Ian Scott.

BY PETER MAZEREUW

The Liberal government may need to introduce new legislation to shore up the powers of the RCMP’s civilian oversight body, and take many more steps to address calls for police reform in Canada, says former Liberal public safety minister Ralph Goodale.

“It might be more effective in terms of parliamentary rules to introduce a new bill, instead of trying to amend C-3,” said Mr. Goodale, referring to a bill currently before the House of Commons—nearly identical to one he introduced during his time as minister in the last parliament—that would change the name and responsibilities of the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP.

“It needs to be remembered that this draft legislation (like its predecessor in the last parliament) was designed to resolve an issue with the Canada Border Services Agency, not the RCMP!” Mr. Goodale said in an emailed statement to The Hill Times.

“CBSA does not currently have a review agency for complaints about officer conduct. C-3 would effectively correct that problem by expanding (and renaming) the review agency for the RCMP to also cover CBSA.”

Mr. Goodale proposed three reforms to Bill C-3 in an interview with the CBC published July 12. Bill C-3, as currently written, would change the name of the body that manages public complaints about the RCMP from the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission (CRCC) to the Public Complaints and Review Commission (PCRC).

The government should either scrap the RCMP’s contract policing relationship with the CBSA, or give them more powers to investigate inquiries into misconduct, Mr. Goodale said.

The three reforms that Mr. Goodale first proposed to the CBC, on their own, wouldn’t do enough to rein in police misconduct, he said, and give them more powers to investigate inquiries into misconduct, Mr. Goodale said.

Mr. Goodale suggested three changes to Bill C-3: setting dead- lines for the RCMP commissioner to respond to a complaint; and recommendations from the renamed complaints commission; creating an appeal mechanism for cases in which the complaints commission and the RCMP don’t agree on how to respond to a complaint; and creating panels of experts from minority communities in Canada, and involving them in the review of complaints from members of that minority group.

With the legislation before the House, it might be a good idea to add some additional things to it other than the original intent to cover also the CBSA,” Mr. Goodale told the CBC.

Mr. Goodale served as the Public Safety Minister in Justin Trudeau’s Liberal government during the forty-second Parliament, from 2015 to 2019. He was defeated in last fall’s election.

Mr. Goodale is currently working for the government as a “special adviser” to the investigation into Iran’s attack on Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 in January, which killed 63 Canadians.

NDP MP Jack Harris (St. John’s East, N.L.), his party’s critic for public safety, said Mr. Goodale’s suggestions are worth considering, but—whether by amending C-3 or introducing a separate bill—it likely not be allowed, he said.

“Creating an appeal mechanism through a contracting out would likely not be allowed, he said.

“Where you have an organization in Parliament is that you wouldn’t be able to put a whole new process in the same line that is in the original bill,” he said.

He said Mr. Goodale’s suggestions are worth considering, particularly giving the RCMP commissioner a deadline to respond to reports from the complaints commission.

The NDP will likely push for more changes to the powers of the complaints commission when the bill is sent to committee.

“It really should be re-engineered to conform to recommendations that the committee might put forward,” he said.

In response to questions from The Hill Times, Mr. Goodale said that he had not been asked by the government to publicly propose those reforms to Bill C-3. He said his suggestions were not meant to be a “panacea” for the problems with policing in Canada.

“The challenge of overall police reform is a much, much bigger problem,” Mr. Goodale said, particularly in the country’s indigenous communities—e.g., inclusive recruitment and promotion reflecting diversity, among other things (among other things) Indigenous expertise like that available at First Nations University of Canada and the University of Regina, the importance of building and nurturing community roots and resources to Bill C-3’s inclusive operational capabilities in close partnership with other service providers and first responders.”

A final report to the complainant, the commissioner, the federal public safety minister, and the relevant provincial minister.

The CRCC also has the ability to start its own investigations if a case of questionable police conduct becomes public, but no complaint is made. The CRCC has completed only a handful of its investigations over the last several years.

The CRCC received nearly 3,000 public complaints in 2014-19 about excessive use of force were among the most common. The CRCC determined that only 1.6 per cent of the allegations of excessive use of force made against its officers through the complaints process over the last three years were “substantiated.” Another 22 per cent were resolved informally, 63 per cent were found to be “not substantiated.” 18 per cent were withdrawn by the complainant, and six per cent were terminated by the RCMP.

The complaints commission should be given the powers and resources to conduct more of its own investigations into public complaints, said Mr. Scott.

As it stands, the RCMP controls the investigation and the disciplinary process connected to the vast majority of public complaints that aren’t picked up by a provincial police oversight body or result in criminal charges. The CRCC can only make recommendations, which the RCMP is not required to act on.

“There is a system where the consequences are not merely interim reports that bounce back and forth between two government offices, with the ultimate decision maker having the ability to ignore it in any event,” said Mr. Scott.

“What we really need is some more official announcement by somebody who actually holds power, which is the current public safety minister, Bill Blair,” he said. Mr. Blair is the Liberal government’s minister responsible for the RCMP commissioner to respond to reports from the complaints commission, and establishing an appeal mechanism for disagreements between complaints commission and the RCMP would be improvements, but “very small steps,” said Alec Mukherjee, who served as the chair of the Toronto Police Services Board—another civilian oversight body—between 2005 and 2015.

“I don’t know exactly what have we can we add some value that value they would add. It’s not clear to me,” said Mr. Mukherjee, who also served on the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

Mr. Mukherjee ran unsuccessfully as an NDP candidate in Toronto-St. Paul’s, Ont., in the 2019 federal election. He was defeated by Conservative Candidate Michelle Rempel. Mr. Goodale would be allowed under the original intent to add some additional things to the powers of the complaints commission, said Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott said the changes proposed by Mr. Goodale would not meaningfully improve police oversight in Canada, and called the complaints commission a “pretty toothless organization.”

“Even if all of them are implemented, it’s really not going to make any difference. It’s frankly a very thin veneer on the issues,” he said.

The CRCC does not investigate most of the complaints made to it by members of the public; instead, it refers them to the RCMP, which conducts its own investigations, the results of which are sent to the complainants. If a complaint is not satisfied with the outcome of the RCMP’s investigation, the CRCC can look over the RCMP’s reports produced by the RCMP’s investigation into the complaint, and, if it deems the RCMP’s findings and actions (or lack thereof) unsatisfactory, the CRCC can issue an interim report recommending a change of approach to the RCMP commissioner. Once the commissioner responds, the CRCC sends a new report to the complainant, the commissioner, the federal public safety minister, and the relevant provincial minister.

The CRCC also has the ability to start its own investigations if a case of questionable police conduct becomes public, but no complaint is made. The CRCC has completed only a handful of its investigations over the last several years.

The CRCC received nearly 3,000 public complaints in 2014-19 about excessive use of force were among the most common. The CRCC determined that only 1.6 per cent of the allegations of excessive use of force made against its officers through the complaints process over the last three years were “substantiated.” Another 22 per cent were resolved informally, 63 per cent were found to be “not substantiated.” 18 per cent were withdrawn by the complainant, and six per cent were terminated by the RCMP.

The complaints commission should be given the powers and resources to conduct more of its own investigations into public complaints, said Mr. Scott.

As it stands, the RCMP controls the investigation and the disciplinary process connected to the vast majority of public complaints that aren’t picked up by a provincial police oversight body or result in criminal charges. The CRCC can only make recommendations, which the RCMP is not required to act on.

“It needs a system where the consequences are not merely interim reports that bounce back and forth between two government offices, with the ultimate decision maker having the ability to ignore it in any event,” said Mr. Scott.

“What we really need is some more official announcement by somebody who actually holds power, which is the current public safety minister, Bill Blair,” he said. Mr. Blair is the Liberal government’s minister responsible for the RCMP commissioner to respond to reports from the complaints commission, and establishing an appeal mechanism for disagreements between complaints commission and the RCMP would be improvements, but “very small steps,” said Alec Mukherjee, who served as the chair of the Toronto Police Services Board—another civilian oversight body—between 2005 and 2015.

“I don’t know exactly what have we can we add some value that value they would add. It’s not clear to me,” said Mr. Mukherjee, who also served on the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

Mr. Mukherjee ran unsuccessfully as an NDP candidate in Toronto-St. Paul’s, Ont., in the 2019 federal election. He was defeated by Conservative Candidate Michelle Rempel. Mr. Goodale would be allowed under the original intent to add some additional things to the powers of the complaints commission, said Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott said the changes proposed by Mr. Goodale would not meaningfully improve police oversight in Canada, and called the complaints commission a “pretty toothless organization.”

“Even if all of them are implemented, it’s really not going to make any difference. It’s frankly a very thin veneer on the issues,” he said.

The CRCC does not investigate most of the complaints made to it by members of the public; instead, it refers them to the RCMP, which conducts its own investigations, the results of which are sent to the complainants. If a complaint is not satisfied with the outcome of the RCMP’s investigation, the CRCC can look over the RCMP’s reports produced by the RCMP’s investigation into the complaint, and, if it deems the RCMP’s findings and actions (or lack thereof) unsatisfactory, the CRCC can issue an interim report recommending a change of approach to the RCMP commissioner. Once the commissioner responds, the CRCC sends
Editorial

Politicians should try harder to unite Canadians, not divide them.

On Feb. 21, 2019, Michael Wernick, then the PCO clerk and the top federal bureaucrat in the country told members of the House Justice Committee studying the SNC-Lavalin controversy that he feared for our country. He said he was afraid of the rise of political violence in Canada and said he was worried about the next election campaign. “I worry about the rising tides of incite-ments to violence, when people use terms like treason and traitor in open discourse. Those are the words that lead to assassina-tion. I’m worried that somebody is going to be shot in this country this year, during the federal campaign,” said Mr. Wernick.

His comments were unusual and dramatic and appeared out of place in the middle of a critical meeting looking into political interference at the highest levels of government. But he said it for a reason and his words resonated. Today, Mr. Wernick’s comments are particularly poignant. On July 2, an armed man tried to crash through the gates of Rideau Hall where Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his fam-i-ly and the Governor General live. Corey Hurten, a Canadian Armed Forces reservist, faces weapons charges and uttering threats against Muslims, prime minister standing in the gallows.

“He really does seem to inspire a particular level of animosity, mostly in the West but also in other parts of the country as well,” she said. “It’s really quite extreme.”

Pollster Frank Graves says he’s seen an “alarming” development over the last 10 years of “a very intense polarization into this new, ordered, authoritarian camp.”

The ending of the war in Afghanistan shines a light on what the future can look like for ordinary Afghan people. The war has two ways it can be ended: one way is the American operation began in 2001. According to the World Bank, Afghanistan’s GDP for 2019 was around $19-billion (highest of anytime) an increase from Talibans opium economy. Opposition leaders in Pakistan are also against the odds of peace in Afghanistan and are saluting the continued war due to geopolitical tensions between Pakistan and India. Several Taliban safe havens are in Pakistan, including the Quetta group, something that the current vice-president of Afghanistan, Amrullah Saleh, has repeatedly warned governments about.

So now after two decades of never-ending war in Afghanistan, is Canada doing anything on the conflict resolution path? Just recently, Canada lost its vote to win a seat on the UN Security Council, after spending a great amount of energy by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. If the war in Afghanistan ends as portrayed, we will all lose.
Blanchet denies anonymous sexual misconduct allegations but damage is done

OTTAWA—Bloc Québécois Leader Yves-François Blanchet is the latest victim of social media internet justice. He has vigorously denied the allegations and challenged his accuser to go to the police so charges can be tested in a court of law. But the court of public opinion has already weighed in on Twitter and in the mainstream media with a vicious attack that is the flavour of the month.

Blanchet’s accuser posted her claims on a website called “We Charity” and on social media. The allegations are serious, but猷ube it will also be very hard to prove a 21-year-old claim made by an anonymous source.

But simply throwing out the accusation in the social media world does nothing to secure justice and simply besmirches the reputation of the accused, who has little power over anonymous allegations.

Unfortunately, like it or not, some of the dirt is going to stick. And that is why direct accusations of this nature need to be raised in a court of law, not in a social media setting.

As long as anonymous complaints are given credibility by coverage in the mainstream media, we do a disservice to those who should face their accusers in a court of law.

The justice system used to be tipped against complainants who alleged sexual misconduct, assault, and improprieties.

Now it appears the pendulum has swung the opposite way. You are guilty until proven innocent.

So how do they do that? How do they take a 21-year-old claim and turn it into a simple narrative that fits into a 30-second TV attack ad?

How do the Conservatives and New Democrats take the ‘We Charity’ controversy, with all its facets and all its variables and forge it into a simple narrative that fits into a 30-second TV attack ad?

I’m talking about its “nepotism” angle, specifically how Trudeau seemingly wanted to use tax dollars to lavish fund an organization that’s known to pay lucrative fees to his family members.

Make no mistake, this particular transgression could sting the Liberals since voters, who might otherwise excuse more typical corruption, will often get outraged if they believe politicians are rewarding their cronies or relatives at the expense of taxpayers.

This is why, for instance, the “adscom” scandal that devastated the Conservatives and New Democrats took off at Mr. Trudeau’s lead in the polls, it still needs to be weaponized, writes Gerry Nicholls, The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade.

But keep in mind, the default position for many voters when they’re contemplating government scandals is “all politicians are crooks,” so as long as they figure the prime minister is doing a good job on the major issues — managing the economy, handling COVID-19 — they likely won’t be swayed by arguments that he’s unethical or corrupt.

However, that said, the WE Charity scandal does offer up one juicy little sin, that, if properly exploited, could potentially draw Liberal blood.

Weaponizing the WE scandal
Trudeau better hope that his base is pissed off, but still with him.

Instead of favourable and deserved reviews based on its handling of the COVID–19 pandemic, the government will be dragged before two parliamentary committees, and subjected to months of scrutiny from Ethics Commissioner Mario Dion—he who never subjected to months of scrutiny from Ethics before two parliamentary committees, and subjected to months of scrutiny from Ethics Commissioner Mario Dion—he who never subjected to months of scrutiny from Ethics Commissioner Mario Dion—he who never subjected to months of scrutiny from Ethics Commissioner Mario Dion—he who never subjected to months of scrutiny from Ethics Commissioner Mario Dion—he who never subjected to months of scrutiny from Ethics Commissioner Mario Dion—he who never subjected to months of scrutiny from Ethics Commissioner Mario Dion—he who never subjected to months of scrutiny from Ethics Commissioner Mario Dion—he who never subjected to months of scrutiny from Ethics Commissioner Mario Dion—he who never subjected to months of scrutiny from Ethics Commission...
A warning from Poland

So what relevance could Polish politics have for the forthcoming election in the United States? Quite a lot, actually, starting with the very similar ways in which the two countries are polarized politically.

The history is different, too. Just as the United States was a great power in the late 19th century, Poland was carved up by Germany as the great historic enemy in Polish nationalist thought. But in terms of targeting minorities, the PIS and Duda actually outdo Trump.

The PIS makes a great song-and-dance about hordes of Muslim immigrants threatening Polish national identity (although no sane Muslim would ever choose to move to Poland). But the best targets in the culture wars are people who actually live in the country, and since Poland has no minorities of different colours, that mainly means gays and Jews.

Duda made homophobic rhetoric the centrepiece of his re-election campaign, promising to “defend children from LGBT ideology” and comparing the LGBT rights agenda to communism. He promised a new constitutional amendment to ban same-sex adoption, which he described as the “enslavement” of children. Since the government has already turned the once impartial state-owned media into the PIS’s propaganda arm, it now concentrates its fire on the private media, much of it owned by U.S. and European companies, which still try to offer independent analyses. Duda’s line was therefore to attack the evil foreign-owned media—and, of course, to suggest that they are really serving “Jewish interests.”

It’s not pretty, but Trump recognizes a kindred spirit in Duda, whom he has met 11 times since 2017, including an invitation to the White House last month and a phone call to give The Donald hope. Trump promised a tiny disingenuous “basic income” like that for the average family, gave Duda a last-minute electoral boost. Duda attacks the media, his party is busily packing the judiciary with his liberal opponent, but Trump doesn’t even need that many votes. The Poles vote for their president directly, but gerrymandered electoral districts and the “electoral college” system in the United States let Trump win last time with only 46.1 per cent of the popular vote. He could do it again.

It’s not a perfect comparison, of course. Duda is more intelligent than Trump, and the COVID-19 death toll is only 40 per million people in Poland, compared to 420 per million in the United States. Moreover, the Law and Justice Party he is linked to is generally seen as competent and honest.

The PIS ‘base’ is also invested in the culture wars, but there’s little doubt that this subsidy, running around $3,000 a year for the average family, gave Duda a vital extra push in the election. If Trump promised a thinly disguised ‘basic income’ like that for the United States, he could probably win too.

He wouldn’t have any serious ideological objection to that, because he actually doesn’t have any coherent ideology. However, the Republican Party’s loyalty to its traditional conservative beliefs, though heavily eroded, is probably still strong enough to make that impossible.

Gwynne Dyer’s new book is ‘Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy (and Work).’ This column was released on July 15. The Hill Times
A rare insight into Canada’s most secretive spy agency

All in all, CSE’s report is a very welcome peek behind the espionage curtain.

Phil Gurski
National Security

OTTAWA—I never thought I’d see this day. My old stomping ground, the Communications Security Establishment, also known as Canada’s “electronic spy agency,” has just put out its very first public report. Let the trumpets sound and the banners fly.

Okay, technically it is not my old stomping grounds as I was there from 1983 to 2001, and that was at the Sir Leonard Tilley (SLT) Building, and not at the ultramodern new CSE HQ right next to the CSIS HQ where I also “stomped” from 2001-2015. Trust me, the new building is a wonder of the 21st century when compared to the freezing cold in winters and stiflingly hot in summers at SLT.

The report is short and light on details but this should not surprise anyone. It is an intelligence agency, after all, and we all know that our spies are discreet with what they say and what they don’t say. These organizations are in the business of keeping secrets, not splashing them all over the internet.

This first-ever “public report” is divided into six sections: a message from the chief (Shelly Bruce, with whom I worked way back in the mid-1980s; she was not chief then); setting CSE’s strategic outlook; Canada’s security, prosperity, and competitiveness; engaging Canadians; our people: a culture of community; and CSE by the numbers.

In all honesty, a lot of this is typical Government of Canada dry, boring pablum, unlike the actual work that CSE does on our behalf. Or at least I assume that the work is exciting as it sure was when I was there (I can only imagine how sexier it is now).

To me, the most interesting part is the third one (Canada’s security, prosperity, and competitiveness). It is here that we gain a tiny window into what CSE does from day to day. The first part talks a little of the new Cyber Centre, described as “delivering” world-class dynamic defence of Canadian government networks.” It goes on to say that it foils a billion “malicious actors” who try to penetrate Government of Canada systems every day. Wow, that’s a lot and sure wasn’t the reality when I worked there.

The CSE is also liaising with private industry to keep companies apprised of what the spies have learned on cyber threat. I always believed that expanding the remit of information sharing was the way to go, but there were always obstacles on the road (secrecy, i.e., sources and methods), so this too is a good thing. And one more: CSE worked alongside CSIS, the RCMP, and Global Affairs Canada (GAC) to keep an eye on foreign threats during the 2019 election. Given that we know certain nations are engaged in these activities, it is important for these agencies to stand on guard for us.

Finally, there is the section on foreign intelligence. Where I laboured for 17 years. CSE states that it “provided foreign intelligence reports to more than 2,100 clients in more than 25 departments and agencies within the Government of Canada in response to a range of priorities related to international affairs, defence, and security.” My bias aside, this was indeed a very fascinating part of the organization that the work is exciting as it sure was.

History could be in the making, and Canadians should pay attention

Based on the numbers that have presented themselves so far and based on anecdotal evidence of voter-identification figures coming from inside each of the four campaigns, the long-shot candidate of four months ago has become anything from a long-shot today.

In a cautious but confident manner, Leslyn Lewis has made her way to close the helm and taking over the Conservative Party’s leadership. Photograph courtesy of Commons Wikipedia

In a cautious but confident manner, Leslyn Lewis has made her way to close the helm and taking over the Conservative Party’s leadership.

By all accounts, she’s an underdog candidate. As a newcomer to politics with very little name recognition, most Conservatives thought her chances of meeting the high entrance thresholds were slim. She surpassed the fundraising threshold with more than $100,000 to spare.

Fast forward to today, her campaign has cranked $1 million in fundraising, and of the four candidates running, she’s gained the highest number of unique donors in the second quarter, as well as the highest number of donations made. She continues to hold the highest level of engagement on social media. She’s making waves, and hers is the fastest-growing campaign in the history of Conservative Party leadership campaigns.

The combination of COVID-19 and political tensions at home set the stage for Lewis’s highly successful campaign. In a world of fear, confusion, frustration, and hate, her voice of reason, compassion, and common sense is striking a chord deep within the hearts of grassroots conservatives across Canada.

And while the “perceived” front-runners continue to shoot arrows at each other and play classic political games, they’ve paved the way for her positive, constructive, and no-nonsense approach to politics to resonate in Canada and make her the next prime minister.

The odds of her winning the leadership on Aug. 21 are growing significantly.

To add to the suspense, the current prime minister is under his third ethics controversy—one that’s looking increasingly problematic for him—and the chances of an election this fall are rising dramatically. If that were to happen, and assuming that Trudeau would remain on as leader and Lewis would lead the Conservatives, Lewis would have a big advantage.

And so, Canadians would do well to pay attention, as we may well see a Black female prime minister leading our country by the close of 2020.

Gerrit Van Dorland is executive assistant to Conservative MP Jeremy Patzer on Parliament Hill, and holds a BA in history from Western University. This op-ed was written independently for his work for Mr. Patzer, and all opinions expressed are his own.

The Hill Times
U.S. election will have real outcomes for us, no matter who wins

A Biden administration would make much greater use of Buy American laws, with massive increases in public procurement or funding that would be confined to products and services made in the U.S.

It’s on: While the approaches of Donald Trump and Joe Biden are clearly different, both are promising protectionist policies to voters who fear their country is falling behind—and either will create problems for us, even if Biden is the preferable choice, writes David Crane.

In fact, the Biden campaign promises to tighten Buy American provisions. As his platform says, “Biden will use the government’s purchasing power to Buy American, boosting U.S. industries through a historic procurement investment,” as well as “an ambitious extension of his infrastructure and clean energy plans.” These Buy America provisions would “require that all steel, iron, and manufactured products used in transportation projects are melted, mined and manufactured in the U.S.,” since “they are critical for the U.S. manufacturing industry.” Early on, a Biden administration would spend an extra US$400 billion on government procurement to create new demand for “American products, materials and services.” “It will invest an extra US$300 billion in research and development to strengthen U.S. capacities in next-generation industries, from artificial intelligence, 5G communications and biotechnology to electric vehicles, advanced manufacturing, clean energy, and smart infrastructure.” This will be the largest mobilization of public investments in procurement, infrastructure and R&D since World War II, the Biden documents claim.

The auto industry gets special attention from the Biden campaign which says the goal is “to ensure that the American auto industry wins the 21st century.” The auto industry is described as “the heart of American manufacturing” and Biden says it must be “the global leader for generations to come.” For starters, the U.S. government will spend “tens of billions of dollars” on clean vehicles and parts produced in the U.S., drawing on Buy America, to create near-term demand for U.S.-made vehicles and parts. But the bigger goal is to spur U.S. auto innovation through public and private investments in technology and innovation, using part of the promised US$300 billion boost in federal R&D spending, with a big focus on electric vehicles, batteries, and low-carbon hydrogen fuel cells.

The Biden campaign promises a total of US$1.7 trillion in spending on clean energy to lead America “to become the world’s clean energy superpower.” It promises high-speed electric-powered freight and passenger rail in crowded transport corridors and even for a cost-to-coast network.

There are plans to accelerate and promote next-generation infrastructure, energy and manufacturing through U.S. companies and to develop technologies and intellectual property so that U.S. companies will be poised to grab a much greater share of world markets—in the process, Biden’s campaign says, creating millions of well-paying and unionized American jobs.

So how will Canada respond? We should be planning for a much more challenging future now, not waiting to see who wins in November. The U.S. election will have real outcomes for us no matter who wins.

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

The Hill Times
Forget the second wave of lockdowns, prepare for the recessionary tsunami

Although this pandemic is novel, the laws of economics remain unchanged.

Ash Navabi
Opinion

TORONTO—In the midst of multi-phase reopening plans, COVID-19 cases are back on the rise around the world. This has caused talks of a second round of lockdowns to circulate before COVID-19 cases are back on the decline. And in many ways we have all been forced to adapt to a world that has changed almost overnight. Business closures, remote work, and social distancing have become the new normal for businesses that will last mean cacophony of higher input prices and disrupted distribution networks.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau’s fiscal snapshot delivered on July 8 predicts a very sharp recovery in GDP, with a gentle tapering of unemployment. This is a bad prognosis. Why with or without a second round of lockdowns, the economy will face sharply ill again. Simply put, the global economy of the past few months has produced less stuff to use in trade, production, and manufacturing. What makes it worse is that these disruptions have happened at the arbitrary whim of bureaucrats. Even if demand returns to pre-COVID levels tomorrow, businesses may not be able to support their existing workforce or capital structure. The invisible hand of supply and demand will soon be greeting the market not with a socially distant salute; but rather with an invasive groping of revenue streams and supply chains. Investors and business owners must prepare for the worst. Expect more layoffs, store closures, and bankruptcies, as entrepreneurs unmask what the new normal will look like.

Politicians themselves will never admit to these problems. Many will tout that the decision-making has been prudent and shrewd, as they’ve been seeking expert advice. Officials tell us to expect the economy to bounce right back, even though these advisers are not economists themselves. Whether the recovery will look like a “V” or an “U,” we should seriously question the alphabet soup of optimism that we’re being told to swallow.

Foremost, politicians have no objective measure for determining what is and isn’t essential. The global supply and distribution system is, quite literally, unimaginably complex. The metaphor of a supply chain is misleading, as it implies a clear beginning and end. Since what may be a consumption good for one person may be a capital good for another, it’s more accurate to talk about an economic ecosystem—an intricate interweaving of supply threads and demand threads, coming together in an ever growing pattern of commerce. Plucking away at random threads may seem harmless at first, but it fundamentally alters the structural integrity of the whole economy.

The impacts are already being felt. Scholars estimate an increase of more than 253,000 cases of infant mortality this year due to the global lockdowns (compare that number to 520,000, the worldwide death total of COVID-19).

Between overloaded mental health crises, deferred cancer testing and treatment, an increase in domestic abuse, disruptions in supplying pharmaceuticals, and a global food supply crisis that the UN’s World Food Programme says could lead to 270 million people being “scarcely food secure,” it will be years until the full effects of these lockdowns will be reckoned with.

Governments around the world have been almost uniform in their response: hand out money to seemingly anyone who asks for it. With what will we make come from, in a time when many are working and earning less? The central banks. Yet printing money to prop up financial assets devalues the currency overall. Ultimately, all of us will be forced to pay higher prices for everyday goods and services.

Although this pandemic is novel, the laws of economics remain unchanged. Prices are determined by supply and demand, and enterprising individuals will find a solution to anything profitable. Understanding these principles will be the key to a healthy prognosis for recovery. The only complication to worry about is more meddling by politicians, which has a simple cure: civic vigilance.

Ash Navabi is an economist based in Toronto. He is also the senior economist at Housing Matters (a Toronto-based YIMBY organization), and has been writing about a broad range of economic topics in Canada and the world since 2011. You can reach him at ashnavabi.com.

The Hill Times

How COVID-19 changed Canada’s conversation on digital infrastructure

Much has changed in the past few months, and in many ways we have all been forced to adapt. Let’s embrace this opportunity to change by laying the groundwork of a digital infrastructure that works for every Canadian, today and tomorrow.

Trevin Stratton & Ulrike Bah-Radhedalia
Opinion

In a matter of months, Canadians’ primary thoughts about broadband connectivity went from cost to need, and from “nice to have” to “must have.” In between virtual meetings, conference calls, and running work laptops from home, Canadians everywhere were not only using their internet services like never before, but also became relentlessly dependent upon them. In the language of COVID time, digital infrastructure became an unprecedented essential service, showcasing accelerated technological adoption at best. There’s no point of return from where we are today.

Before COVID, so much was made of Canada having among the highest wireless prices in the G7. Scarcely apparent from that political vantage point were two critical determinants. First, the inconvenient truth of the costs associated with building a high-speed broadband network across one of the largest countries in the world that also has one of the smallest populations in the G7. Second, the incompressible fact that Canadian government charges are among the highest broadband licence fees globally. This two-fold set of critical determinants is what has made the Canadian digital infrastructure so expensive.

COVID-19 changed how Canadians think about internet services. Now is a good time for Canada to think about the big picture of its digital infrastructure. Even as Canadians continue supporting each other today, we must also begin looking over the horizon to the post-COVID-19 world to start planning how our country and economy can emerge stronger. There will be stark changes ahead with a focus on economic recovery, opportunity, acceleration, and collaboration—using both inclusive technology adoption and global competitiveness being top of mind.

Today, the focus is on ensuring all Canadians have access to broadband services, including rural and remote communities. Let’s think about virtual health care in this context for a moment. Canada has a growing aging population with more people over the age of 65 than under the age of 15. In some rural communities, citizens don’t have regular, direct access to a general practitioner which is why revolutionizing access to healthcare via virtual means is critical to Canada’s overall well-being. In addition to the time-saving benefit, safety aspect, and undeniable convenience of utilizing healthcare services remotely from your home, digitally accessible services also create a better carbon footprint.

Canada needs to accelerate its national plan for the rollout of broadband to all locations across the country, and for the government to partner with service providers to invest in infrastructure where there isn’t a business case for the private sector to do so alone. The digital divide is no longer an option—and never should have been.

Part of this plan includes recognizing the undeniable importance of our digital infrastructure and the central role it plays in helping Canada compete. We need to catch up to G7 peers by getting our policies focused on enabling next-generation technology. That starts with prioritizing the auction of the 3.800-megahertz spectrum so Canadians can take advantage of 5G networks, as well as accelerating the pace of mmWave spectrum allocation so businesses can use the power of the internet of things for logistics, smart cities/towns, and other industrial purposes.

But there’s more to the wireless story than services. An increasingly digital economy will require major investments in sophisticated networks, cybersecurity, and electronics. It will also force businesses to accelerate their adoption of new technologies, and mandate models to interact with customers, suppliers, and employees more efficiently.

Canada is at an early stage thinking about programs, funding, and incentives for technology adoption in businesses of all sizes and across all sectors, to improve Canadian productivity and global competitiveness.

Much has changed in the past few months, and in many ways we have all been forced to adapt. Let’s embrace this opportunity to change by laying the groundwork of a digital infrastructure that works for every Canadian, today and tomorrow.

Dr. Trevin Stratton is vice president of policy and chief economist of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Ulrike Bah-Radhedalia is senior director of digital economy, technology & innovation, Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

The Hill Times
We must curb the wildlife trade to prevent future pandemics

While China needs to be encouraged to do more, other countries need to step up to the plate. Wildlife markets exist around the world. This is a global problem, requiring a global solution.

TORONTO—While we look forward to the future and immunity to COVID-19, a vaccine won’t stop a pandemic from happening again. To prevent another global health and economic crisis, we need to understand how this virus emerged.

It is widely acknowledged that a wildlife market in Wuhan, China, played a significant role in the outbreak of COVID-19. Scientific research suggests the coronavirus may have been transmitted from bats to pangolins to humans. While scientists are still investigating the evolution of this virus, we can no longer afford to ignore that this pandemic and previous major epidemics around the world (e.g., SARS, MERS, Ebola) are fundamentally linked to the cruel treatment of animals and encroachment on their habitats.

Picture a diverse array of live animals, who would never encounter each other in the wild, kept close together, in filthy, cramped cages, next to dead animal parts—often for the bushmeat trade. These animals are stressed, they can shed more pathogens and become more vulnerable to infections. Add crowds of people and you can see why wildlife markets are the ideal environment for the spread and spread of deadly, infectious diseases. It doesn’t matter how the animals were sourced or what they are sold for—it is how they are treated that got us into this mess. It is an animal welfare problem at the core which is why a growing number of animal protection organizations, zoontic disease experts and ecologists are calling on the Canadian government to recognize this in their pandemic prevention strategy.

The high cost of this pandemic has moved China to ban the consumption of many wildlife species for food, but a more comprehensive ban is needed to cover the farming, sale, and trade of wildlife for other purposes. To be effective, it must also be backed by strong enforcement and initiatives to reduce consumer demand and transition livelihoods and the ban must be permanent. Had these wildlife markets remained closed after the SARS outbreak, this pandemic might never have happened.

The U.S. and Australia are calling for a permanent shut-down of wildlife markets. And Germany’s environment minister is urging more ambitious international action to restrict the wildlife trade.

While China needs to be encouraged to do more, other countries need to step up to the plate. Wildlife markets exist around the world. This is a global problem, requiring a global solution.

Millions of wild animals are captured, bred and traded for meat, traditional medicine and pets every year and sold at different types of markets around the world. This is a global problem, requiring a global solution.

While China needs to be encouraged to do more, other countries need to step up to the plate. Wildlife markets exist around the world. This is a global problem, requiring a global solution.

Alarming, 75 per cent of new or emerging infectious diseases affecting human health come from animals, mainly wildlife. A new UN report on pandemic prevention and the wildlife trade as a key driver of emerging diseases. This should be reason enough to compel Canada to support a ban on wildlife markets and commit to curbing the global and domestic wildlife trade at the G20 summit in November. This would not only prevent this type of wildlife trade from spreading to extinction, and biodiversity loss, it is also one of the most effective strategies for preventing future pandemics. The enormous cost of this pandemic to Canadian lives and our economy warrants nothing less than bold and firm action.

Melissa Matlow is campaign director for the World Animal Protection.

Opinion

Coronavirus: why Canada must recalibrate its foreign aid policy

We can increase our international aid contributions and reform our foreign aid program, an approach that will be mutually advantageous to Canada’s national interest as well as its global standing.

VANCOUVER—The Trump administration has officially begun to withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO), creating a budget vacuum that will limit the organization’s ability to help impacted countries fight COVID-19. Meanwhile, the pandemic has demonstrated that in our interconnected world order, we cannot protect the Canadian maintained developing countries from our reach abroad. While closing borders can be a short-term solution, the Canadian economy will inevitably open its doors to cross-border travel and international casual labour. Under these conditions, vulnerable to the ongoing pandemic and other potential viruses. Once a vaccine is produced, its distribution will not be immediate. The global economy is in a recessionary period and developing countries have been hit the hardest. This environment will most likely translate to higher numbers and thus become a matter of health security for Canada. In this light, Canada must increase its cooperation with multilateral institutions to recalibrate its foreign aid efforts, and assist the most vulnerable countries.

Thus far, the pandemic has dealt a heavy blow to developing countries. Limited testing capacity, poor health infrastructures, and weak social security programs have exacerbated the crisis. In low-income countries, social distancing carries a high cost. Vulnerable communities with limited options and resources have experienced food and medicine shortages, while the elderly and those with pre-existing medical conditions who need special care remain isolated.

To help these nations, Canada needs to significantly improve its foreign aid contributions and reform its foreign aid program. While Canada has been a leader on the global stage, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has only recorded 37 cases. According to the OECD, Canada’s average aid spending has remained stagnant.

Recently, the Trudeau government has pledged $300 million to address humanitarian concerns of COVID-19 abroad. This contribution includes $120 million toward the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, recently created by the World Health Organization, the European Commission, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the French government, aimed at ensuring equitable access to medical treatments.

The contribution also includes $180 million to address the developmental and humanitarian ramifications of the pandemic. Since the emergence of COVID-19, the government has channelled much of its foreign aid through international organizations. This effort is highly welcome, particularly as the United States has failed to take the lead on this front. Canada must stay on course and build on this effort.

On the other hand, Canada must recalibrate its foreign aid agenda and prioritize fighting COVID-19, until a vaccine is produced and distributed in adequate quantities around the world. We can begin targeting the most affected countries, help strengthen their health infrastructure and keep their economies from falling.

To help these nations, Canada needs to significantly improve its foreign aid contributions and reform its foreign aid program. While Canada has been a leader on the global stage, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has only recorded 37 cases. According to the OECD, Canada’s average aid spending has remained stagnant.

Recently, the Trudeau government has pledged $300 million to address humanitarian concerns of COVID-19 abroad. This contribution includes $120 million toward the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, recently created by the World Health Organization, the European Commission, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the French government, aimed at ensuring equitable access to medical treatments.

The contribution also includes $180 million to address the developmental and humanitarian ramifications of the pandemic. Since the emergence of COVID-19, the government has channelled much of its foreign aid through international organizations. This effort is highly welcome, particularly as the United States has failed to take the lead on this front. Canada must stay on course and build on this effort.

On the other hand, Canada must recalibrate its foreign aid agenda and prioritize fighting COVID-19, until a vaccine is produced and distributed in adequate quantities around the world. We can begin targeting the most affected countries, help strengthen their health infrastructure and keep their economies from falling.

The recent United Nations Security Council vote must serve as a reminder that the Trudeau government has so far failed to improve its global profile as a proactive middle power. The negative impact on Canada’s soft power and global economic downturn and the resurgence of the second wave, originating from a resurgence of poverty and hunger and the link between these and the crisis.

Pouyuan Kimiayjan is a researcher at Global Affairs Canada.

Opinion

THE HILL TIMES | MONDAY, JULY 20, 2020

Opinion

Melissa Matlow is campaign director for the World Animal Protection.

Opinion

The Hill Times


demand for wild animals and wildlife products to grow. This is enabled by a patchwork of inadequate and insufficient resources to crack down on the illegal trade. A variety of wild animals are coming into Canada from around the world, including those sourced from beyond our borders. More than 500,000 live wild animals were imported into Canada since 2014, which is just a fraction of the total as permits are only required for those species regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). With limited tracking and data, public surveys have been used to estimate 1.4 million wild animals are kept as pets in Canada.

The recent United Nations Security Council vote must serve as a reminder that the Trudeau government has so far failed to improve its global profile as a proactive middle power. The negative impact on Canada’s soft power and global economic downturn and the resurgence of the second wave, originating from a resurgence of poverty and hunger and the link between these and the crisis.

Pouyuan Kimiayjan is a researcher at Global Affairs Canada.

Opinion

The Hill Times

The Hill Times
Opinion

Police reboot: there’s an urgent need to listen and focus on community needs, not police needs

To those who are tasked with the responsibility of examining police operations and budgets, be brave and be innovative; your work is important. It is in the public’s best interest.

While these words may be good common sense to most people, the reality is that the police are not often at odds with the needs of the community. This is not to say the police, or any other governmental officers. It is the outdated, traditional organizational components of the police, not well-intentioned police officers from doing their work.

Police organizations in Canada are bureaucratic, centralized, highly structured, impersonal, process-oriented and law-enforcement based. The basic operational components are random patrol, rapid response and investigation, after the fact. This is simply the way it is. Many empirical studies of police operations have shown that random patrol has no effect on the prevention or incidence of crime, victimization rates, or public perception of police effectiveness.

Rapid response by police is only marginally effective and in the majority of cases, response occurs during or after a crime has been committed, leaving the police to spend countless hours investigating. Again, empirical studies have proven that there is no evidence that rapid response increases apprehension rates or has any effect on crime rates.

Unfortunately, investigation after the fact is exceptionally time-consuming and has no effect on the reduction of crime and disorder in our communities. The COTT officers are skilled, well-equipped and committed to their work. Generally, they are there when you need them and act immediately to bring some calm to a difficult situation. However, your police have both the ability and opportunity to do much more. It is the organizations that they work within that impede them from doing so.

To make matters worse, the traditional manner in which police are deployed has the majority of police personnel in cars, responding to a variety of calls-for-service. The calls received at the dispatch centre drive the actions of your police. They respond, conduct an investigation, report and apply law enforcement as the only tool available to them, and then they are back in the car responding to another call. This is the way it is. It is time for a reboot.

Many Canadians including some police officers do not know Sir Robert Peels Principles of Policing.

Two of these principles are significant and particularly relevant today: to prevent crime and disorder, as an alternative to their repression by military force and severity of legal punishment; and, to recognize always that the power of the police to fulfill their functions and duties is dependent on public confidence of their existence, actions and behaviour, and on their ability to secure and maintain public approval.

Many marginalized groups in Canada are small but significant. They require help. These are the people that police serve. City councillors in Canada are beginning to listen. Police agencies are beginning to listen. Canadian police leaders have both the authority and ability to make change. Police leaders with a true understanding of Sir Robert Peels Principles and with their personal commitment to community well-being can achieve success through consultation with community leaders and the decisive, focused leadership.

While there will always be a need to have police available to respond to urgent calls for service and conduct investigations, there are many opportunities to redeploy police officers to local troubled communities with a mandate to listen, then focus on helping people in neighbour-hoods by reducing or eliminating recurring crime and disorder problems. This establishes both trust and understanding. These police officers will have much more success reducing crime than simply driving around waiting for something to happen. Innovative solutions are needed.

Enforcement must not dominate policing strategies. There are many skeptics who do not recognize the value in reviewing police budget allocations and looking for a better way to do business. Many of the functions performed by police today need not be done by police officers. There are many opportunities to examine administrative police functions and eliminate them, freeing up police officers for reassignment to help communities deal with their problems.

To those who are tasked with the responsibility of examining police operations and budgets, be brave and be innovative; your work is important. It is in the public’s best interest.

David Cassels

The Hill Times

Why it is time for smart protectionism

Put simply, Canadian governments have a responsibility to practise smart protectionism where the risks to Canadians’ personal security and national security are high.

Free trade is good economics. Protectionism is bad. Global supply chains are efficient. Favoring domestic goods, services and industries is inefficient. Canada has long adhered to these orthodoxies. And most of the time it makes sense to do so.

However, through the COVID-19 pandemic, both the public and private sectors have been made aware of weaknesses associated with heavy or total reliance on foreign sources and global supply chains for essential goods, notably personal protective equipment (PPE). As of June 2, for example, the Government of Canada had ordered close to 122 million N95 masks from international suppliers, yet 12 million had been received and 9.8 million of those failed Canadian standards.

We were taught that it was necessary that foreign sources cannot necessarily supply the products we need in the time, quantity or quality required during a national or global emergency.

China, as the dominant global producer of many of these PPE supplies, has become the focal point for an emerging debate around domestic control over certain goods, technologies, and services. A recent report from the Henry Jackson Society in the U.K., for example, has argued that “the Five Eyes”—the U.S., U.K., Canada, Australia and New Zealand—are far too often at odds with high-tech sources for all kinds of strategically important goods, and that this is a threat to the national security of those countries. The Canadian Security Intelligence Service, too, has warned that Canadian companies that produce certain critical technologies are vulnerable to foreign takeovers by entities with agendas hostile to Canada’s interests.

This is not just an issue with China, though. In Canada, we like to believe that in national or global crises we can rely on the U.S. or other allies for help. Canada, in other words, would be at or near the front of the line with allies. The COTT police, in the COTT po-lice logic, and the behavior of the U.S. and European countries, suggests this is naive.

Italy, a founding EU member, has highlighted the need for focused and integrated global supply chains for certain critical technologies—in part to ensure security of key industry in the U.S., Europe and elsewhere have been doing for generations. We are lagging that idea by years that foreign sources cannot necessarily supply the products we need in the time, quantity or quality required during a national or global emergency.

China, as the dominant global producer of many of these PPE supplies, has become the focal point for an emerging debate around domestic control over certain goods, technologies, and services.

Foreign Affairs Minister François-Philippe Champagne, pictured on the Hill on Feb. 7, 2020. While we can still hold free trade and integrated global supply chains as the goal, we also need to recognize that the view of the economy does not always serve our national interests, writes Christyn Cianfarani.

The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

The Hill Times

Opinion

E D M O N T O N — Policing is first and foremost a service to the community; the more it is at odds with the needs and values of the community, the less it works.

While the argument has fallen down to one of efficiency versus security are high.

Canada has long adhered to free trade and integrated global supply chains as the goal, we also need to recognize that the view of the economy does not always serve our national interests. Put simply, Canadian governments have a responsibility to practise smart protectionism where the risks to Canadians’ personal security and national security are high.

Christyn Cianfarani is president and CEO of the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries (CADSI).

The Hill Times

Opinion

The argument has fallen down to one of efficiency versus security are high.

Put simply, Canadian governments have a responsibility to practise smart protectionism where the risks to Canadians’ personal security and national security are high.

Christyn Cianfarani

The Hill Times

Opinion

Why it is time for smart protectionism

Put simply, Canadian governments have a responsibility to practise smart protectionism where the risks to Canadians’ personal security and national security are high.

Free trade is good economics. Protectionism is bad. Global supply chains are efficient. Favoring domestic goods, services and industries is inefficient. Canada has long adhered to these orthodoxies. And most of the time it makes sense to do so.

However, through the COVID-19 pandemic, both the public and private sectors have been made aware of weaknesses associated with heavy or total reliance on foreign sources and global supply chains as the goal, we also need to recognize that the view of the economy does not always serve our national interests. Put simply, Canadian governments have a responsibility to practise smart protectionism where the risks to Canadians’ personal security and national security are high.

Christyn Cianfarani is president and CEO of the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries (CADSI).

The Hill Times

Opinion

Why it is time for smart protectionism

Put simply, Canadian governments have a responsibility to practise smart protectionism where the risks to Canadians’ personal security and national security are high.

Free trade is good economics. Protectionism is bad. Global supply chains are efficient. Favoring domestic goods, services and industries is inefficient. Canada has long adhered to these orthodoxies. And most of the time it makes sense to do so.

However, through the COVID-19 pandemic, both the public and private sectors have been made aware of weaknesses associated with heavy or total reliance on foreign sources and global supply chains as the goal, we also need to recognize that the view of the economy does not always serve our national interests. Put simply, Canadian governments have a responsibility to practise smart protectionism where the risks to Canadians’ personal security and national security are high.

Christyn Cianfarani is president and CEO of the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries (CADSI).

The Hill Times
Canada should keep Security Council seat campaign alive: reach out to Africa; use Mulroney; be authentic

There are many lessons to learn from such a loss; chiefly that any leader in the Prime Minister’s Office should be keeping the Security Council election file alive and ready to pass it on, in the case of a change in political leadership in the country.

TORONTO—Canada had a decade to campaign for a seat on the UN Security Council and it was disappointing to see us defeated again. There are many lessons to learn from such a loss; chiefly that any leader in the Prime Minister’s Office should be keeping the Security Council election file alive and ready to pass it on, in the case of a change in political leadership in the country. Our country will also have to strongly consider employing the diplomatic capital at its disposal.

South Africa’s President Cyril Ramaphosa, left, is a seasoned diplomat and if Canada could have a strong relationship with him, it would help re-establish the once strong relationship Canada had with South Africa and other countries on the African continent, writes Tshweu Moleme.

Photo courtesy of Commons Wikipedia

Bob Rae, pictured in this file photograph at the National Press Theatre in Ottawa, could help in restoring and employing Canada’s historic relations and strengthening ties with old friends, writes Tshweu Moleme. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

Former Progressive Conservative prime minister Brian Mulroney, pictured in Ottawa at a public speaking engagement on March 5, 2019. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

Tshweu Moleme
Opinion

Opinion

So, what can be done? First, if Canada really wants the seat, a lot of work will need to be put into it. Again, Canada will need to focus on strengthening relations with African countries. A country such as South Africa, with an influential leader, who is also the current head of the African Union, would be a good first step. South Africa’s President Cyril Ramaphosa is a seasoned diplomat and if Canada could have a strong relationship with him, it would help re-establish the once strong relationship Canada had with South Africa and other countries on the African continent. So, it’ll be wise to make use of a person like former prime minister Brian Mulroney, who is well-regarded in South Africa, given his history with the country, particularly, his fight against apartheid and his support for South Africa’s black majority.

South Africans have not forgotten what Mulroney did—standing up to the apartheid regime. At a time when some leaders and countries around the world wouldn’t. This is the man you want to see meeting with Ramaphosa and, through him, the rest of the continent, working through issues, and strengthening Canada’s relations with Africa. If Canada can sustain such a campaign, with authenticity, there’s a very good chance we’d win the Security Council seat next time.

The second consideration for Canada will have to be the upkeep and strengthening of the election machinery that just failed in the attempt to win Canada the coveted UN Security Council seat. This means that the minute Canada learned of its loss, that should have been the minute Canada restarted its new campaign for the seat, maintaining an active relationship-building presence. Third, Canada, uniquely positioned as a country with people from just about every part of the world, should make use of this advantage.

Finally, while it is unclear whether Trudeau will remain in office beyond the next election, or not, he needs to build up a transferable, politically inclusive Security Council campaign that takes into consideration the possibility of him and his party losing power and another party taking over. This is an issue of national interest, and doing the right thing in this respect will also be considered an important part of his legacy, likely alongside his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For Canada to have a real chance, however, to succeed in attaining the Security Council seat, we would first need to assemble a strong, non-partisan campaign group who can help in the next election.

Enough with licking wounds. Go get that seat, Canada. Our friends at the UN are still waiting for us to show up, as a real friend. Perhaps we need Bob Rae and Brian Mulroney to tell...

Tshweu Moleme is a PhD student at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at University of Toronto.

The Hill Times
If MacKay doesn’t win on the first ballot, social Conservative voters critical in the leadership outcome, say political players

A poll of 7,858 party members by Mainstreet Research in May found that Mr. MacKay had the support of 45 per cent of decided respondents, versus 36 per cent for Mr. O’Toole, 12 per cent for Ms. Lewis, and seven per cent for Mr. Sloan, iPolitics reported.

Many Conservative insiders say they also believe that Mr. MacKay is the front-runner.

The Conservative Party announced last week that 270,000 party members are eligible to vote in the leadership election.

The last date to sign up new members allowed to vote in the leadership contest was May 15. At the start of the leadership contest in January, the party had about 170,000 members, which means the leadership candidates signed up about 100,000 new members.

The contest is expected to wrap up Aug. 21, the deadline for mail-in ballots. The party has started to mail ballots to party members, and the party must receive the completed ballots by 5 p.m. on Aug. 21. The winner of the election would be announced right after the party completes the counting process.

Neither the party nor individual candidates have made it public how many members each candidate has signed up during the leadership election campaign.

Currently, the four leadership campaigns are busy ensuring that all of their supporters cast their votes in the election. Getting supporters to vote is crucial to the success of all of the campaigns, no matter how many members they signed up.

Fourteen candidates ran in the 2017 leadership election, and it took 13 rounds of voting for the winner, Andrew Scheer, to be named.

Jack Fonseca, director of political operations for the anti-abortion group Campaignt Life Coalition told The Hill Times that his organization has endorsed only Ms. Lewis and Mr. Sloan, and is encouraging their supporters to vote for these two candidates. He said that his supporters, including Richard Decarie and Jim Karahalios, both of whom have been barred from running in the leadership contest.

The Conservative Party never officially said why they had barred Mr. Decarie from taking part in the leadership election as a candidate. In January he made national headines for making controversial comments in a CTV interview that being gay is a choice and that he was against same-sex marriage and government abortion services. A number of senior Conservative and caucus members condemned these comments.

The Conservative Party also backed Karahalios' potential candidacy after the O'Toole campaign filed a complaint with the party that the Cambridge, Ont. lawyer had made "racist Islamophobic" comments against Waled Sollman, the chair of the O'Toole campaign. Mr. Karahalios challenged the party's decision in court, arguing that it was made by a subcommittee of Leadership Election Organization Committee, which was not authorized to make the decision. The court accepted his position and overturned the party's decision, but a day after that the full 18-member LEOC decided to bar Mr. Karahalios.

Meanwhile, Mr. Trost told The Hill Times that social conservatives are not a homogeneous bloc of voters. Even though a significant majority of MPs have voted to support social conservative leadership candidates, some would likely vote for Mr. MacKay or Mr. O'Toole as their first choice for a variety of reasons, including regional loyalty, organizational personnel may vote for Mr. O'Toole, he said.

Mr. Trost has endorsed Ms. Lewis and Mr. Sloan. He said social conservative party members who have participated in the past in leadership elections know how the ranked ballot system works, but a significant number of the new members may not, and may only indicate only their first or second choices on the ballot. Both social conservative candidates must encourage their supporters to fill the ballot completely, he said, and explain how the system works.

Mr. Trost said this will increase the influence of the social conservative voters in the leadership election.

"Voters need to be educated on how the preferential ballot works," said Mr. Trost. "The preferential ballot is still something that's new to a lot of people. [Party members] who have voted more than once in a leadership race or a nomination race are comfortable with it. But what I’m hearing [is] there is a number of new voters in this race, and they don’t understand how the preferential ballot works unless it is explained to them."

Mr. Trost also said that leadership candidates who will not be the first choice of social conservatives should make an effort to reach out to those voters to ask for their help in winning the election, including Mr. MacKay and Mr. O’Toole.

"So this race could come down to how well the leader candidates and conservatives can educate second, third, fourth place voters and how much they go after those voters," Mr. Trost said.

Steve Outhouse, Ms. Lewis's campaign manager, said social conservative members are an important part of the Conservative Party's base. He said social conservatives are "not necessarily single issue" voters, but they are "people whose lives are shaped in part by their faith. Once they decide to support a candidate, they not only vote but also donate money and volunteer for the campaigns they’re supporting," he said.

"We grow up and live our lives, hearing messages about how it’s just not enough to have faith, you need to put your faith into action to help other people," said Mr. Outhouse, a former Hill staffer.

"And so when there are causes that we believe in, and when there are candidates that we believe in, it’s not enough to just sort of say, ‘Yes, I’m voting for you.’ A lot of social conservatives then want to give their money and time to help advance good people running for office or advance causes that they believe in."

He said that his campaign is sending out information to all of their supporters on how to vote in a ranked ballot system, but won’t tell them to who to vote for as their second, third, or fourth choices. Mr. Outhouse said it’s up to each individual candidate to reach out to social conservative voters on their own and earn their support.

"We’re certainly going to be talking to members on how to fill in their ballot, at least on the instructions on how to do that," Mr. Outhouse. "In fact, we are, we are sending out a mail out to support- ers and encouraging them to do just that. So we’re not going to tell people who to put in second, third, fourth or third, we think everyone will make their decision."

TERRY DOWDALL

The Hill Times

Conservative leadership election endorsements

Peter MacKay's endorsements

- Josia Hallam
- Tom Spall
- Karen Stick
- Kevin Vagnon
- Leonor Almeida
- Dean Allan
- Tony Baldino
- John Bateman
- Lucas Berthoud
- James Bezan
- Steven Blaney
- Blaine Calkins
- Colin Carrie
- Michael Cooper
- James Cumming
- Scott Davidson
- Chris D'Entremont
- Todd Doherty
- Terry Donald
- Ed Fast
- Kerry-lynne Findlay
- Cheryl Gallant
- Jack Collins
- Bernard Gimenez
- Jacques Gourde
- Matt Jeneroux
- Randy Hieatt
- Dale Lake
- Ben Lobb
- Tom Lukiwski
- Dave MacKinnon
- Kelly MacLeod
- Phil McColeman
- Manny Morantz
- Rob Mitchel
- Bob Zimmer
- Pierre Paul-Hus
- Niki Ashton
- Michael Ballantyne
- John Barlow
- Karen Bayliss
- Kyle Beattie
- Cindy Blackstock
- Olga Belcaro
- Steve Bell
- Rob Brinkman
- Matt Blais
- Ryan Brecklin
- Michael Brown
- Mike Breller
- Simon Brice
- Tamara Brown
- Tom Braithwaite
- Michael Bryant
- Kevin Brethour
- Arnd Drozdy
- Stan Drakulich
- Joe Drumm
- Michael Drury
- Ernie Eves
- Julian Fantino
- Arnold Ferrier
- John Findlay
- Rivka Furstenberg
- Ravi Jayachandran
- Yasir Tanwarna
- Lillian Fouchereau
- Bob Frenette
- Will Frame
- Jody Freeland
- RobՖreese
- Michael Frenette
- Philip Fyffe
- Jim Garlock
- Andrew Gagnon
- Mike Galbraith
- Jean Genereux
- Brian Gobbo
- Mary Goulet
- Ben Green
- Ian Greig
- John Greig
- Michael Green
- Peter Gravelle
- Matt Granger
- Linda Guardino
- Tanya Granic Allen
- John Grassia
- John Gary
- Peter Galbraith
- Margaret Gardiner
- John Giesbrecht
- Bill Gillies
- Brian Glenn
- Tony Glusk
- Jimmy Gordon
- Ralph Goodale
- Frank Goodale
- Ben Green
- Lisa Goodwin
- Bob Goodpare
- Bob Goodale
- Mike Goodale
- Mark Goodale
- Barry Golding
- Dave Goldrich
- Darrell Gidney
- Colleen Gillies
- Jeff Gigliotti
- Gary Gillis
- Ivan Giesbrecht
- John Girard
- John Girard
- Barbara Gomery
- Adelina Gontier
- Garett Genuis
- Dave Epp
- Raquel Dancho
- Bob Benzen
- Michael Barrett
- Pat Kelly
- Corey Tochor
- Victor Oh
- Thanh Hai Ngo
- Jamie Schmale
- Greg McCrae
- Mike Lake
- Dan McKeough
- Cathy McLeod
- Eric Melillo
- Rob Monte
d
- Ian Hill
- Richard Marceau
- Greg McLean
- Steve Olford
- Randy Hilliard
- Blake Richards
- Marlin Schmidt
- Martin Shadbolt
- Aliph Hu;;f
- Jamie Sherow
- Bruce Stanton
- Gerald Serikar
- Warren Shinkey
- Corey Tochor
- David Sweet
- Talos poppa Van Veld
- Brad Viss
- Gary Viss

Senators

- Lesלא Lewis
- Judith Sgro
- Larry Smith

Lesley Lewis's endorsements

- Richard Bagdon
- Rosemarie Falk
- Tamara Jansen
- Cathy Wragg
- Jennifer McCallum
- Glen Motz

Derek Sloan's endorsements

No cause endorsement
Christopher Evelyn takes over as chief of staff to Women and Gender Equality Minister Monsef

He has both a bachelor's degree in international political economy and history and a master's degree in history from Trent University, which sits in Ms. Monsef's riding of Peterborough-Kawartha, Ont. While a student at the school, Mr. Evelyn spent time working as a liaison officer and then enrolment adviser for the university. He also has a master's degree in international affairs, with a specialization in intelligence and national security, from Carlton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, as noted on his LinkedIn profile.

A former Ontario Liberal staffer, before she took the helm in Ms. Monsef's office, Ms. O'Leary spent a year as director of issues management in the Prime Minister's Office. She's also a former director of issues management and alternate chief of staff to then-infrastructure minister Amarjeet Sohi.

Stayed tuned to Hill Climbers for an update on where she's landed. As of filing deadline, a new director of operations had not been hired yet in Ms. Monsef's office.

With Mr. Evelyn's promotion, it means there are now two cabinet chiefs of staff who are Black, out of 37 (including the PMO). Marjorie Michel, chief of staff to Treasury Board President Jean-Yves Duclos, became the first Black person to lead a ministerial office under the Trudeau government; she was first promoted to the role roughly one year ago. It also means that now five out of cabinet's 37 chiefs of staff—or 13.5 per cent—are not white.

Also currently at work in Ms. Monsef's office are: Yanique Williams, director of communications; Marie-Pier Boutilier, press secretary; Mike Bossio, senior adviser for rural affairs; Rosalyn Stevens, senior special assistant for communications and planning; Isabella McKenna, special assistant for parliamentary affairs and issues management; Kendra Wilcox, policy adviser; Laurence Harvey, policy and Quebec regional affairs adviser; Skye Wolf, Ontario regional affairs adviser; Harry Burton, special assistant for operations and Atlantic regional affairs; Joanna Lam, regional affairs adviser for Western Canada and the Territories; Heather Porter, executive assistant and scheduler to the minister; and Danielle Moriatry, assistant to the minister's parliamentary secretary, Liberal MP Gudie Hutchings.

Rodriguez adds director to Quebec Lieutenant team

Government House Leader and Quebec Lieutenant Pablo Rodriguez recently welcomed Agathe Aile to his political staff team as director of operations and outreach in his office as cabinet's point-person for La Belle province.

Agathe Aile is now director of operations and outreach to Mr. Rodriguez as Quebec lieutenant. Photograph courtesy of LinkedIn

Ms. Aile officially joined Mr. Rodriguez's office on June 2 and in her new role works on “co-ordinating the minister’s tours in Quebec,” noted Mr. Rodriguez's press secretary, Simon Ross.

Previously, Ms. Aile spent almost 18 years in all-working for the Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group in Montreal, the last seven and a half years of which she was principal director of public affairs.

Mr. Wozny had previously working in Innovation, Science, and Industry Minister Navdeep Bains' office since December 2019 and in the summer of 2019 interned in then-intergovernmental, northern affairs, and internal trade minister Dominic LeBlanc's office. He's also a former House of Commons page and proceedings and verification officer—all while studying for a bachelor's degree in political science and communications at the University of Ottawa.

Rheal Lewis is chief of staff to Mr. Rodriguez as government House leader. That team also includes: John Mathesson, director of policy; DanielArsenault, director of Senate affairs; issues management; Hugo Dompierre, director of parliamentary affairs; Kornelia Mankowski, director of Rob Jamieson, senior adviser; senator advisers for parliamentary affairs Trevor Harrison and Isabel Cuzzo-Shulman; Jean-Luc Poudre, senior special assistant for parliamentary affairs; Jérôme Mousseau, policy adviser; Samar Assoum, special assistant for parliamentary affairs; and special assistant Shahnaz Mouhamous.

Photograph courtesy of LinkedIn
News

U.S. presidential campaign likely to be 'ugly or uglier than last time,' and of ‘deep concern’ to Canadians

Former Liberal foreign affairs minister and deputy prime minister John Manley says the U.S. election campaign ‘is going to be a very touchy thing for Canadian politicians to handle.’

“They’re, I think, hoping and waiting for a change in government in November,” Nik Nanos of Nanos Research told The Hill Times that the first inclination for Canadian politicians and policy-makers should be to “stay clear” of U.S. politics. “Right now, we’re in a very volatile situation in the United States because of the rising number of cases, the perceived lack of coordination in the response, the potential recurrence or emergence of a second wave, and from a political perspective, the best thing Canada can do is to stay clear of all of that because we’d rather have Canada to be part of the narrative.”

The worst case scenario for Canada is when Americans don’t pay attention to us because that just means everything is working well,” said Mr. Nanos. “To enter into a scrap over the border, for example, basically immerses us into a hyper-partisan context in the United States where people are exceptionally polarized.”

Mr. Nanos said from a political establishment perspective, our federal party leaders should govern themselves in a way for us to stay out of the debate that’s happening in the United States—and to not get immersed in what’s going to be a very turbulent fall for the presidential election.”

Mr. Nanos said that the presidential campaign will be “as ugly or uglier than last time because of Donald Trump’s survival instinct.”

“We have to realize that the Trump strategy has never been to get people to like him or to be popular,” said Mr. Nanos. “The Trump strategy has always been to suppress voter turnout for his opponents.”

“I don’t think that he’s going to attack Biden four months before election day—he’s going to look to smear and question the integrity of Biden in the fall,” said Mr. Nanos, who added that polling leading up to an election is a tricky time for campaigns. “If you’re so far ahead, when the technical correction comes to your true level of support, it’s going to look like your losing support and that your opponents have momentum, when in reality you’re just artificially ahead right now.”

The worst thing for U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden is to show a massive lead against Trump, because the reality is, that’s probably not his true level of support, said Mr. Nanos. “It just happens to be how people feel today on Donald Trump,” said Mr. Nanos. “If Biden has a 10-point lead, and then the next month he has a seven point lead, and the month after that he has a five-point lead, and there will be a narrative that he is losing support.”

Social media will play a bigger role in this campaign compared to 2016, says Senator Boehm

Independent Senator Peter Boehm (Ontario) said “in Canada, we are always very avid observers of what is happening in the U.S. electoral cycle, whether it’s midterm elections or the big one that’s coming up in November,” said Sen. Boehm.

“When I was posted in Washington, during the Gore versus Bush election, the one that was won by the hanging chad and eventually went to the Supreme Court, there’s always drama in U.S. elections in a way that we don’t seem to have by comparison,” said Sen. Boehm. “There will be a lot of observation, and I think at the political level, a lot of attention is going to be seen as favouring one candidate over another, just like the last time,” said Sen. Boehm.

Sen. Boehm also said he thinks social media, which Mr. Trump has made such considerable use of, will play a bigger role in the campaign than it did in 2016, and Twitter is obviously a tool that President Trump uses, and uses to his advantage, but I would say there’s always naivete in political campaigns [but] the real naivete will be seen on social media,” said Sen. Boehm. “That’s, frankly, where it could get dangerous because you have an unprecedented situation with the pandemic, you have the racism issue which is significant, and you have some global geopolitical issues that are more prevalent than they were before—I’m speaking obviously of China, in this instance.”

Former diplomat Colin Robertson, with more than 30 years in Canada’s foreign service, told The Hill Times “we’ve never had a presidential campaign compared to 2016, and the tenor of Mr. Trump’s campaign against Democratic nominee and former vice-president Mr. Biden, Mr. Manley said the U.S. election campaign “is going to be a very touchy thing for Canadian politicians to handle.”

“There’s always a balance that you need to project on the Canada-U.S. file—on the one hand, historically, it’s always been important to have to be too close to the United States. On the other hand, Canadians intuitively know they have important interests tied up, especially economic interests, many family ties, they like traveling there and going there freely,” said Mr. Manley. “When asked to predict the tenor of Mr. Trump’s campaign against Democratic nominee and former vice-president Mr. Biden, Mr. Manley said in Canada, “Donald Trump doesn’t do a leopard changes its spots.”

“I look at him as somebody who is incapable what’s true and what isn’t,” said Mr. Manley. “He just makes stuff up, and he defines a reality according to his own purposes, so I think he’ll continue to do that.”

“The way I see the election playing out, is that I don’t think we have to worry too much about his allies to his side that isn’t already with him, so I think it all becomes a question of who shows up to vote,” said Mr. Manley. “For the Democrats, the good thing is that Donald Trump really motivates their base.”

Former prime minister Pierre Trudeau once characterized the relationship between Canada and the United States as “sleeping next to an elephant.” “It appears that the elephant now has rabies, and that does not make a comfortable bedfellows,” said Mr. Graves. “What to do about it? It really is hard to say—I don’t think most Canadians have any confidence that Donald Trump is going to turn things around,” said Mr. Graves.

Continued from page 1

"I seems to be definitely affecting how we’re looking at things within our own borders, but there’s a high level of anxiety of what’s going on to the south,” said Mr. Graves. “I’ve never seen Canadians so alarmed about what’s going on with our neighbours to the south, and this includes things like the Iraq War, George W. Bush, but nothing even close to the levels of concern that we see right now.”

Former prime minister John Manley says the U.S. election campaign ‘is going to be a very touchy thing for Canadian politicians to handle.’
WE scandal won’t shape next election, say strategists, but say goodbye to fall election talk

The WE scandal is a problem for Justin Trudeau, but it ‘doesn’t stack up’ to Canadians’ concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic, and how it is affecting them personally, says Nik N anos.

“I don’t see that this is more important and bigger in scope” than those scandals, said Mr. Belanger.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is being investigated by the federal ethics commissioner for the third time, after a charity with close ties to him and his family was awarded a sole-sourced contract that could have paid it up to $43-million. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

The Hill Times | Monday, July 20, 2020

News

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is being investigated by the federal ethics commissioner for the third time, after a charity with close ties to him and his family was awarded a sole-sourced contract that could have paid it up to $43-million. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade
 MPs return July 22 to meet as a committee of the whole in House

### MONDAY, JULY 20
The House has not met regularly since mid-March, when it was suspended amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The regular summer recess was scheduled to begin on June 24, but MPs agreed to meet as a committee of the whole on July 8, July 22, Aug. 12, and Aug. 24. Ottawa was scheduled to return in the fall on Monday, Sept. 21, for three straight weeks, as per the original House sitting calendar.

### HOUSE SITTING
The Senate has adjourned until Sept. 22. The House has not met regularly since mid-March, when it was suspended amid the global pandemic. The regular summer recess was scheduled to begin on June 24, but MPs agreed to meet as a committee of the whole on July 8, July 22, Aug. 12, and Aug. 24. Ottawa was scheduled to return in the fall on Monday, Sept. 21, for three straight weeks, as per the original House sitting calendar.

### THURSDAY, JULY 23
Canada, the World and the UN—A webinar with the new Canadian ambassador to the UN will take place at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 29. The webinar will be hosted in Ottawa, from Nov. 12-15. For more information, please contact: media@liberal.ca, 613-627-2384.

### TUESDAY, NOV. 3
The Canadian Journalism Foundation Awards will be held on Oct. 30, 2020, at the Ritz-Carlton, Toronto, hosted by Rick Mercer, former host of The Rick Mercer Report. The CBC’s Anna Maria Tremonti will emcee the event in a paragraph with all the relevant details under the subject heading. The gala event will be held on Thursday, Oct. 15, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, 255 Front St W, Toronto.

### SATURDAY, OCT. 24

### FRIDAY, OCT. 30
Giff Awards Celebrating 30 Years of Excellence in Journalism—The Canadian Journalism Foundation Awards will be held on Oct. 30, 2020, at the Ritz-Carlton, Toronto, hosted by Rick Mercer, former host of The Rick Mercer Report. The CBC’s Anna Maria Tremonti will emcee the event in a paragraph with all the relevant details under the subject heading. The gala event will be held on Thursday, Oct. 15, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, 255 Front St W, Toronto.

### TUESDAY, NOV. 3
U.S. Presidential Election—The U.S. presidential election is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020. U.S. President Donald Trump is the Republican candidate and former vice-president Joe Biden is the presumptive Democratic candidate. The winner is scheduled to be inaugurated on Jan. 20, 2021.

### 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. For more information, please contact: liberal.ca, 613-627-2384.

### FRIDAY, NOV. 13
Bringing Divides in Wake of a Global Pandemic—The University of Victoria (UVic) and the Senate of Canada are bringing together change-makers at the Victoria Forum to help generate solutions to some of the world’s most divisive problems. The two-day virtual forum will be held Nov 13, 14 to examine issues that fall under the theme of “Bringing divides in wake of a global pandemic.” The forum will draw on emerging trends and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic through webinars for more information or to register, visit www.victoriaforum.ca.

The Parliamentary Calendar is a free events listing. Send your political, cultural, diplomatic, or governmental event in a paragraph with all the relevant details under the subject line “Parliamentary Calendar,” to newspolitics@thehilltimes.ca by Wednesday, July 22, at 4 p.m. for more information, please contact: thehilltimes.ca, 613-234-3952.
A quiet summer day in the Parliamentary Precinct

It’s been four months since Ottawa was virtually locked down, but it’s slowly creeping back to life. The Hill Times’ photographer Andrew Meade captured scenes from the Hill and the neighbourhood on Wednesday, July 15.

Passersby, pictured walking up Wellington Street and past the Peace Tower and Centre Block.

A woman, wearing a protective face shield, pictured walking past the Bank of Canada on Wellington Street.

Hill construction workers pictured working on the Hill.

This way to the West Block. The iconic Centre Block is closed for a major, multi-billion-dollar renovation project, expected to be finished in a decade, at least.

Construction workers shoot the breeze while working on Parliament Hill.

Do not enter, indeed.

It’s quite the backdrop, Martha. People pictured taking a break on the front lawn of the Supreme Court of Canada building and next to the Justice Building.
Stay connected to decision-makers
Inside Ottawa & Inside Canada
Now in stock

Save time, have all political phone numbers and email addresses at your fingertips.

**Inside Ottawa includes:**
- Federal riding profiles
- MP contact details, both Hill and constituency
- House committee clerks and membership
- Senators' contact details and committee membership
- Current photos in colour
- Prime Minister's Office and Privy Council Office staff contacts
- Ministers’ offices staff contacts
- Speaker’s office contacts
- Committee charts with current photos
- List of shadow cabinet and opposition critics
- Key political, government and media contacts
- Sitting calendar 2020
- Remuneration
- Session tip sheet

**Inside Canada includes:**

Contacts for every Province and Territorial Government:
- Legislature key contacts
- Members of the Legislative Assembly with photos
- Cabinet ministers’ executive departments
- Party and Government Posts (ministers and critics)
- Opposition contacts
- Agencies of Parliament
- Media contacts
- Remuneration
- Committees members and clerks
- Sitting calendars for 2020
- Seat breakdown by province
- Next election forecast

**Order Now**
www.hilltimes.com/the-hill-times-store-package
circulation@hilltimes.com • 613-688-8821