



pp. 16-17

25 MPs to watch this fall

Bruce Carson:
Three possible election scenarios
p. 18



Scott Taylor
p. 12



Andrew Caddell
p. 13

News

Presidential election could change course on unilateral tariff use, but Canada-U.S. trade tensions will remain: experts

BY NEIL MOSS

With the removal of national security tariffs on Canadian aluminum exports, the fast-approaching U.S. presidential election will shape Canada-U.S. trade for the next four years, but a

Continued on page 14

News

Foreign policy focus in new session should be on China, U.S., and human rights, say Parliamentarians

'The No. 1 [foreign policy] priority is our relationship with the United States,' says Independent Senator Peter Boehm as the U.S. presidential election quickly approaches.



Foreign Affairs Minister François-Phillippe Champagne, pictured in a scrum in the West Block pre-pandemic on Feb. 5. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

BY NEIL MOSS

As Parliament returns for another session, MPs and Senators say they want to see a foreign

policy focus on Canada's fraught relationship with China, the ever-important relationship with the U.S., and the declining human rights situation around the world.

Continued on page 6

News

Parties close to agreement on voting plan, Parliament return, but committees prove sticking point, says Bloc MP

BY SAMANTHA WRIGHT ALLEN

On the eve of Parliament's return, government and opposition parties had reached a broad agreement on how the House of Commons and remote voting by Zoom would function—including making the required rule changes temporary—but details around committee work remained a sticking point, according to Bloc Québécois deputy House leader Christine Normandin.

In order for the House to adopt a hybrid system that includes remote electronic voting, it'll require changes to the Standing Orders—something ideally, but not necessarily, done by unanimous consent. Though that proposition had previously been raised by the Liberals and sunk by Conservative opposition, Ms. Normandin (Saint-Jean, Que.) said in an interview with *The Hill Times* on Sept. 21 that there's been a "shift" in the official opposition's perspective, bringing parties closer to a working solution.

"There's been a shift during the summer, seeing that there's more cases, seeing that there are MPs and now party leaders have had positive results for COVID. I feel that we tend more to agree with the way we will be proceeding with remote voting," said Ms. Normandin (Saint-Jean, Que.), noting that "some fine tuning" is still needed when it comes to how committees will operate.

Bloc Québécois Leader Yves-François Blanchet (Beloeil-Chambly, Que.) and Conservative

Continued on page 4

News

COVID-19 containment, economic recovery expected to drive fall lobbying

BY SAMANTHA WRIGHT ALLEN

A return to Parliament means renewed lobbying efforts, and this fall session will likely see those efforts focused on trying to shape the Liberal government's plans to contain COVID-19, push plans for economic recovery and

Continued on page 15



HEARD ON THE HILL

by Neil Moss

PMO shuffles public service, with new PHAC president named



The Prime Minister's Office recently announced a shake-up in the senior public service ranks, with past the Public Health Agency of Canada president joining the Privy Council Office as a 'senior official.' *The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade*

The Public Health Agency of Canada, a once little-known and underreported government agency that's now in the crossfires of Canadian political and public policy, has a new leader at the helm—just days after president **Tina Namiesniowski** stepped down from the role amid the highest uptick in COVID-19 cases in Canada since the mid-summer.

Following the abrupt resignation of Ms. Namiesniowski on Sept. 18, who told her staff she “must step aside so someone else can step up,” Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** announced **Iain Stewart** would take the lead at PHAC.

Mr. Stewart, who previously headed the National Research Council of Canada since 2016 as president and who was re-appointed for a five-year term in 2018, was named as Ms. Namiesniowski's successor by Mr. Trudeau on Sept. 21.

Ms. Namiesniowski will move to the Privy Council Office as a “senior official,” according to the PMO, effective Sept. 28.

As of Sept. 21, there were 10,653 active cases of COVID-19 in Canada

In other moves, **Sarah Paquet**, currently executive vice-president of Shared Services Canada, becomes director of the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada, effective Nov. 18.

Sony Perron will assume the role of executive vice-president of Shared Services Canada, effective Sept. 28, on the same day that **Valerie Gideon**, who is currently senior assistant deputy minister, First Nations and Inuit health branch, Indigenous Services Canada, becomes associate deputy minister of Indigenous Services.

—by Mike Lapointe

Past Grit PM Turner dies at 91

Canada's 17th prime minister died on Sept. 18 at the age of 91.

John Turner served as leader of the official opposition across the way from **Brian**

Mulroney's Progressive Conservative government from 1984 to 1990, and was the finance minister in **Pierre Trudeau's** government from 1972 to 1975 and justice minister from 1968 to 1972 over a 22-year career as a Liberal MP.



After serving as PM in 1984, John Turner occupied Stornoway from 1984 to 1990. *The Hill Times file photograph*

Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** called Mr. Turner a “gifted politician” in a statement, adding that he “was deeply committed to the law and democratic process, bringing about much needed reforms to the Criminal Code.”

Mr. Turner, who was the oldest-living prime minister, led his party to losses in both the 1984 and 1988 elections. He is Canada's second shortest-serving PM.

In a statement, past Liberal prime minister **Paul Martin** said in the years after the 1984 election loss, Mr. Turner rebuilt the Grits as “a national political institution.”

“He was an enormous source of support and advice to me during my years in office,” Mr. Martin said.

“But one of the moments that stands out most was when my Dad [Paul Martin Sr.] had just lost his campaign to become Liberal leader and prime minister—in a race that John had also unsuccessfully contested. However, my father was at the end of his career and John's was only beginning. What John did was to invite our family to his home the day after the convention for brunch. The kindness, respect and generosity he exhibited with that invitation touched me deeply.”

Bureau chief Russo leaves CBC parliamentary team

One of the most influential journalists on Parliament Hill is leaving his role as bureau chief of the precinct's largest newsroom.

Rob Russo announced his decision to exit as the head of the CBC's parliamentary bureau chief earlier this month.

“It's the best job in Canadian journalism besides being the host of [CBC's] *Power and Politics*,” Mr. Russo told host **Vassy Kapelos**. “But it's not the kind of job that one should stay in for very long.”



Rob Russo was previously bureau chief for The Canadian Press' parliamentary newsroom. *The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade*

“It's an important job, so it should be moved around it,” he said. “I've done it. I'm so lucky to have done it. We are so lucky that we get to work for the people of Canada as public broadcasters and it's time for somebody else to do it.”

Before joining the CBC as bureau chief seven years ago, Mr. Russo had filled the same role at The Canadian Press' parliamentary bureau, during which he was honoured with the Charles Lynch Award by fellow Parliamentary Press Gallery members for lifetime achievement in the gallery.

Mr. Russo has said he isn't retiring but is taking some time before deciding on his next step.

“All good wishes to Rob Russo, a real pro in the Press Gallery in Ottawa,” tweeted former Liberal MP **Bob Rae**, current Canadian ambassador to the United Nations, in response to the news.

Petrou named editor-in-chief of Open Canada

Former *Maclean's* magazine foreign correspondent **Michael Petrou** has been named the new editor-in-chief of *Open Canada*, a foreign policy-focused digital publication.

Open Canada is owned by the foreign affairs think tank Canadian International Council. It was founded in 2011 by the group and from 2015 to 2019 was run by the Centre for International Governance Innovation.

“[I am] excited about the promise that *Open Canada* offers to connect Canadians to international affairs at a time when it is



Michael Petrou was a foreign correspondent for *Maclean's* magazine from 2006 to 2016. *The Hill Times file photograph*

more urgent than ever,” said Mr. Petrou in a statement. “I imagine *Open Canada* as akin to a public square in which analysts, scholars, writers, and readers interact, debate, and generate new ideas about international affairs and Canadian foreign policy.”

He has reported from across the world, including the Middle East, Central Asia, Africa, and Europe, and has won three National Magazine Awards for his work. Mr. Petrou won the 2012 Ottawa Book Award for non-fiction for his 2012 book, *Is This Your First War? Travels Through the Post-9/11 Islamic World*. In 2008, he authored *Renegades: Canadians in the Spanish Civil War*.

Ketty Nivyabandi named new secretary general of Amnesty International Canada

A Burundian human rights activist and poet has been appointed to lead the English branch of Amnesty International Canada.

Ketty Nivyabandi, who has previously appeared before the House Subcommittee on International Human Rights, has lived in Canada, where she has refugee status after fleeing government persecution for organizing women to campaign for greater representation during the Burundi constitutional crisis, since 2015.

Ms. Nivyabandi will succeed **Alex Neve** later this year. Mr. Neve has led the branch for more than 20 years.

“I am thrilled that someone of Ketty's experience, talents and passion is the next Secretary General of Amnesty International Canada,” he said in a release. “I have had several opportunities to work with her over the past few years and have always been inspired by her insights, moved by her eloquence, and energized by her unwavering commitment to the very essence of universal human rights. Ketty's leadership comes at a crucial time of challenge, responsibility and opportunity for human rights change and transformation, both nationally and internationally.”

Ms. Nivyabandi is a former journalist and most recently worked as the Nobel Women's Initiative's advocacy and research manager.

nmoss@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

CORRECTION: *The Hill Times*,
Sept. 21 issue

“Ping-pong” gun politics continue to divide voters, as O'Toole courts GTA seats; *The Hill Times*, p. 36, Sept. 21, 2020. This story incorrectly stated that there are two gun lobby organizations in Canada. There are three: the Canadian Coalition for Firearms Rights, the National Firearms Association, and the Canadian Sports Shooting Association.

BUILDING BACK BETTER STARTS WITH OUR DEMOCRACY.

Higher economic growth & greater economic stability

Higher levels of emotional well-being including health, education & community support

Stronger environmental protections

Healthier citizens who live 12 years longer on average

Lower levels of income inequality

7.5% higher voter turnout. More women and MPs under 40 elected

Higher scores on the UN Index of Human Development (quality of life)

Lower levels of incarceration. Citizens support a less punitive approach to law enforcement



Proportional representation delivers...



74%

of Canadians want to see a

National Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform in the government's fall plan

Leger national poll September 4-6, 2020

fairvote.ca/buildingdemocracy

News

Parties close to agreement on voting plan, Parliament return, but committees prove sticking point, says Bloc MP

The Standing Orders have to be amended to allow MPs to vote remotely, and according to Bloc deputy House leader Christine Normandin, there's agreement among parties for those changes to be made temporary.

Continued from page 1

Leader Erin O'Toole (Durham, Ont.) have both recently tested positive for COVID-19.

Given the different time zones, for example, the early morning committee time slot would have to be rescheduled to another block during the week. During normal sittings, up to six committees could meet at the same time, she added, but technical limitations mean only four committees can meet remotely at once, so there's a "prioritization" that needs to be finalized with committees.

"That's the thing that parties don't necessarily agree on so far," she said.

A motion is required to amend the Standing Orders, and Ms. Normandin, who said Sept. 21 she'd seen a draft motion, noted agreement had been reached to make the changes to the Standing Orders required to allow for remote electronic voting temporarily, with Dec. 11 set as the expiration date.

Typically, a written notice of motion is required (48 hours in advance) to bring substantive proposals before the House, but if there's unanimous agreement—as parties hope to reach in this case—a motion to amend the Standing Orders could come as early as this week. If unanimity isn't reached—meaning the notice requirement isn't waived—the earliest a motion to amend the Standing Orders could be dealt with is Sept. 25. Alternatively, the government could post notice through use of a Special Order Paper, which must be distributed to MPs 48 hours ahead of time—however, *The Hill Times* had no word of this option being pursued as of filing deadline.

The Liberals, NDP, and Conservatives were keeping mum about details of the draft motion and negotiations when reached by *The Hill Times*, but signalled in interviews that progress was being made. Another sign the parties are closing in on agreement came in the evening on Sept. 21, when MPs held a mock voting session on Zoom from their homes across the country. That



The day before the Throne Speech, the party leadership teams had yet to reach unanimous agreement on how the House will operate this fall. Pictured from left: Government House Leader Pablo Rodriguez, Conservative House Leader Gérard Deltell, and Bloc Québécois deputy House leader Christine Normandin. *The Hill Times* photographs by Andrew Meade

test had hiccups, and took much longer to complete than expected, according to CTV News.

Government House Leader Pablo Rodriguez's (Honoré-Mercier, Que.) office said in an emailed statement that reaching a consensus is possible.

"We are still in a pandemic. It is not wise for all 338 MPs to travel to Ottawa, so we support a hybrid approach," said press secretary Simon Ross by email Sept. 22. "It worked well this spring and it's the responsible thing to do. Remote voting is necessary to ensure that all MPs can represent their constituents. We made a proposal to other parties and we think it is possible to reach a consensus. We made a reasonable proposal to other parties and we hope they'll work with us to reach a consensus."

'Everything is on the table'

New Conservative House Leader Gérard Deltell (Louis-Saint-Laurent, Que.) said discussions were going well and it's important the House leaders don't negotiate in the public, and that he'd committed to that approach.

"I deeply appreciate the quality of discussion and the fact that nobody talks publicly about where we are, and where we have been and where we will go, and I want to keep that and I will never be the first one to cross the line," he said in an interview Sept. 21, noting it's his first time on the leadership team. "This is the key way to address the issue. If we start to talk publicly [about negotiations]... it's the beginning of the end."

Asked about negotiations around committees, Mr. Deltell again said he couldn't comment, and pointed out Conservative MPs had been "very loud" calling it "totally unacceptable" that Mr. Trudeau's decision to prorogue Parliament killed committee work, including three investigations into the WE Charity scandal.

"Everything is on the table," he said.

Conservative Whip Blake Richards (Banff-Airdrie, Alta.) also declined to offer details, but said the question of why it's taken so long to reach agreement is better directed at the government.

"We want to see the ability for the House to do all of its usual functions... very importantly including the committees, getting them up and running as soon as possible and not having the government delay that," he said. Pressed on whether there's been resistance on that front, he said there hasn't been "explicit resistance to anything."

"We don't understand the reasons for the delay, but we certainly believe there should be no trouble getting things up and running and working as usual," said Mr. Richards.

The goal, he said, is to have 86 MPs in the Chamber—the number he said the House administration has said could be present at two-metres distance while safely following health guidelines. That range will mean eight Bloc MPs can be in the Chamber, up from the five allowed during hybrid Committee of the Whole meetings last session, Ms. Normandin said.

Parties agree to sunset clause: Bloc

Ms. Normandin said the draft motion for amendments to the Standing Orders includes a Dec. 11 sunset clause, an addition she called a "good compromise."

Though she said it would have been easier to have something longer term, this approach gives Parliamentarians a chance to see how remote voting works out and whether anything should be changed.

That sunset clause would be in keeping with a strongly worded dissenting report from Conservative members of the Procedure and House Affairs Committee (PROC), which studied how to adapt regular House

business amid the pandemic. PROC, in its main report, had recommended, among other things, that remote electronic voting be adopted (point-blank). In the July 21 report, Conservative members came out against permanent change to the Standing Orders, and called for an expiration date of Dec. 31, 2020 be set for PROC's proposals, at which point they could be reviewed and reconsidered.

Mr. Deltell wouldn't comment on whether a sunset clause had been agreed to, but said it's smart to review any agreement given how quickly things can change in a pandemic. Mr. Richards, too, said it's important a sunset clause be included.

"Nobody thought two leaders of parties [would be] positive, nobody thought that Quebec and Ontario would have an uprise of cases. So obviously we have to be very careful when we make decisions, so this is why reviewing the fact after a few months is not a bad idea," Mr. Deltell said.

NDP Whip Rachel Blaney (North Island—Powell River, B.C.) said in an interview Sept. 18 that she's been frustrated that, just days away from Parliament's return, no agreement had been reached.

"The clock is ticking," she said, giving Parliamentarians less than a week to figure out and test the system—an "unfortunate choice" on the government's part, she said.

Parties finally agreed to do roll call vote testing on Zoom far too late in the game, said Ms. Blaney, given PROC's report called for "significant testing" to be done in advance back in July.

A few weeks ago, she said she and NDP House Leader Peter Julian (New Westminster-Burnaby, B.C.) sent a letter to House Speaker Anthony Rota (Nipissing-Timiskaming, Ont.) asking about testing, but were told nothing could move forward on that front until all House leaders came to an understanding.

"Three-hundred and thirty-eight people voting, plus others working [like interpreters] could lead to some challenges, which is why testing is so important," she said, adding problems with internet access in rural ridings could also have been addressed earlier if testing had occurred over the last month.

Voting app still up in air

The Zoom approach is likely temporary, according to Ms. Normandin, calling it an "in-between."

"It's [Zoom] not what we're expecting to use in the long run," she said, pointing to preparations for an app that could be used on cell phones. The delay on that app could also be why the testing for the mock Parliament came so late, with some holding out hope the app would be ready by now, she suggested.

The NDP has been neutral on whether an app is the right approach to remote electronic voting, said Ms. Blaney, and how it performs in testing will determine whether the party thinks it's a good idea.

It's likely to get opposition from the Conservatives, with Mr. Richards raising concerns about the approach and comparing it to the dating app Tinder, where romantic hopefuls swipe left or right on potential matches.

"The idea of an app voting is something that does concern me," he said, and while the Zoom approach isn't perfect, he thinks it's better. "The idea that an MP might be sitting at home in their pyjamas on their couch swiping left and swiping right like they're on Tinder, this is not something that is an acceptable way for Members of Parliament to be voting."

Green parliamentary leader Elizabeth May (Saanich—Gulf Islands, B.C.) said the draft motion she'd seen as of Sept. 18 was fine with her, though she wants some clarifications and doesn't think a new app for remote voting is necessarily, preferring the Zoom approach similar to what's being used by the B.C. legislature, wherein MLAs can register their votes vocally, while also holding a piece of paper that signals "yay" or "nay" as a second assurance in case of glitches in sound quality.

The Green Party's three-member caucus has been left out of these discussions, said Ms. May noted. Once there's consensus among the four recognized parties, she expects they will share the final draft motion to see if there's unanimous consent.

The Greens plan to have all three MPs in Ottawa for the Throne Speech Sept. 23, and will make a decision by consensus on whether to support it. Ms. May said her hope is that with remote voting in place, she can return to B.C. to fulfill her parliamentary duties while also helping the Green Party in B.C. prepare for the snap election to be held on Oct. 24.

Ms. May said she wasn't surprised to see agreement coming so late in the game.

"My impression of these conversations is that there's a lot of brinkmanship, there's a lot of horse-trading and back-and-forth between House leaders," she said.

swallen@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

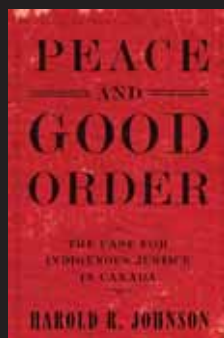


Congratulations to the Finalists

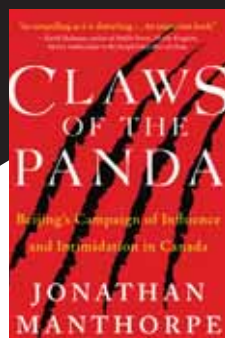
2019 Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing



Canada on the United Nations Security Council
Adam Chapnick



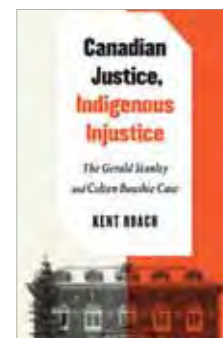
Peace and Good Order
Harold R. Johnson



Claws of the Panda
Jonathan Manthorpe



Truth Be Told
Beverley McLachlin



Canadian Justice, Indigenous Injustice
Kent Roach

An empty ballroom won't stop us from celebrating great Canadian books.

Join us online at writerstrust.com/polipen on September 23 at 7pm ET for #PoliPen 2020, featuring past highlights and the presentation of the \$25,000 #ShaughnessyCohen Prize.

Special thank you to our leading sponsors for their continued support of Canadian literature through the digital edition of Politics and the Pen:



News

Foreign policy focus in new session should be on China, U.S., and human rights, say Parliamentarians

‘The No. 1 [foreign policy] priority is our relationship with the United States,’ says Independent Senator Peter Boehm as the U.S. presidential election quickly approaches.

Continued from page 1

Liberal MP Hedy Fry (Vancouver Centre, B.C.), who served on the House Foreign Affairs Committee in the last parliamentary session.

She said more has to be done to fight authoritarianism around the world and protect human rights, including by strengthening multilateral institutions.

“You are seeing what is happening with Belarus. You are seeing what is happening with Hong Kong. You’ve seen what is happening in other parts of the world. And Canada needs to do more, I think, than saying, ‘Oh, that’s terrible. We don’t agree with it.’ We need to actually be looking at what steps we can take with other countries to put an end to it and to ensure that human rights and safety of those who are victims now of the kind of new world changes that are occurring,” Ms. Fry said.



Liberal MP Hedy Fry says Canada needs to ‘to show that we don’t just talk the talk, but we walk the walk.’
The Hill Times file photograph

Foreign Affairs Minister François-Philippe Champagne (Saint-Maurice-Champlain, Que.) has condemned human rights violations in Belarus, as well as the poisoning of Russian opposition figure Alexei Navalny. Canada is working with members of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe to investigate human rights violations in Belarus.

Ms. Fry said more has to be done to protect those being subject to human rights abuses while migrating throughout the world.

as Canada’s deputy permanent representative at the UN from 2010 to 2013. “We seem to forget that we have these multilateral institutions because everyone is looking into their own courts to fix the solution.”

He said Canada needs to rebuild its “credibility and leadership” in strengthening multilateral organizations, Mr. Rivard said, especially if it wants to win a seat on the UN Security Council in the future.

Restarting the Canada-China Relations Committee

NDP MP Jack Harris (St. John’s East, N.L.), his party’s foreign policy critic, said his top priority is on restarting the Special House Committee on Canada-China Relations.

“We need the Canada-China Committee to be reinstated as a special committee and able to carry on its work, and include the evidence that has already been heard,” said Mr. Harris, adding that the committee has to be able to meet virtually.

Mr. Harris said the Canadian government should be open to receiving migrants from Hong Kong and broaden family reunification. He also said Canada needs to work with other countries to put pressure on China through Magnitsky sanctions.

Former Canadian diplomat Colin Robertson, vice-president of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, said Ottawa needs a new policy on China that both the Liberals and Conservatives can get behind. He said it should be based on “realism,” and avoid “paranoia or complacency.” He added that it is his hope to see the Canada-China Committee restarted.

Former Canadian ambassador Jeremy Kinsman, who served as Canada’s envoy to Russia, the United Kingdom, and the Euro-

pean Union, said while Canada does not want a new Cold War with China, it needs to be communicating with concerned partners “about how to ensure China and others play by universally agreed rules.”



Independent Senator Peter Boehm says Canada’s primary concern with the U.S. will be the handling of the border.
The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

Conservative Leader Erin O’Toole (Durham, Ont.) has taken a tougher stance on China, which includes pitching a divestment from the Chinese economy and pushing to expel Chinese officials who “intimidate Canadians.”

New Conservative foreign affairs critic Michael Chong (Wellington-Halton Hills, Ont.) wasn’t available for an interview last week.

Before the prorogation of Parliament, the House Subcommittee on International Human Rights heard testimony about China’s Uyghur minority, a large part of which has been incarcerated by the Chinese government. The committee was set to release a statement on the testimony it heard when Parliament was prorogued.

At the time, Conservative MP Garnett Genuis (Sherwood Park-Fort Saskatchewan, Alta), his party’s human rights critic, said the subcommittee heard “clear-cut” evidence of genocide taking place.

NDP MP Heather McPherson (Edmonton Strathcona, Alta.), her party’s representative on the subcommittee, said it is “pretty universally agreed upon” that more needs to be done.

Activists and human rights experts encouraged Parliament to recognize the persecution of the Uyghurs by Chinese authorities as a genocide.

Canada-U.S. relationship remains No. 1 priority: Sen. Boehm

As the U.S. presidential election approaches on Nov. 3, Canada’s relationship with the United States will still be of central concern, despite the removal of U.S. national security tariffs on Canada aluminum exports and the new North American trade pact being in force, said Independent Senator Peter Boehm (Ontario), a former career diplomat.

“The No. 1 [foreign policy] priority is our relationship with the United States—it’s always our No. 1 priority—but as we get closer to the U.S. election, there will be the to and fro of the campaign and how we figure in that,” he said.

The top issues between the two countries will be the Canada-U.S. border and everything related to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the Canadian and American economies, he said, and the movement of goods and services across the border.

“The government is going to have to watch that very closely, and as committees are struck and reconstituted this will be a subject of some analysis, I would expect,” Sen. Boehm said.

If the Nov. 3 election produces a new administration, Sen. Boehm said the two countries will continue to have disputes over international trade.

Mr. Rivard echoed Sen. Boehm, agreeing that the Canada-U.S. relationship is the most important priority.

“There are so many issues that [the relationship] has be our [first] priority,” he said, noting the economy, the pandemic, and the border as examples.

nmoss@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times



NDP MP Jack Harris says the Canada-China Relations Committee should be reinstated.
The Hill Times file photograph

The House Foreign Affairs Committee could bring together experts and analyze how Canada can meet the global challenges, she said.

“We need to show that we don’t just talk the talk, but we walk the walk,” she said. “This is urgent. We’re talking about urgency right now. You just have to look around the world and see what’s going on.”

“We need to stop looking at ourselves and our vested self interest, because our vested self interest lies in the global self interest.”

Former Canadian ambassador Gilles Rivard, president of the Retired Heads of Mission Association, said Canada needs to take care of multilateral institutions.

“We are in quite a dramatic period,” said Mr. Rivard, who served

At last, a break from the tyranny of supply-siders

Bringing new ideas about creating a better Canada to life will require time and an ongoing, historic commitment once the pandemic recedes.



Les Whittington

Need to Know

OTTAWA—I may have missed it, but I don't think we've heard from Conservative finance critic Pierre Poilievre on his new party leader Erin O'Toole's position that a Conservative government would take 10 years to balance the government's books.

The usual Conservative obsession with deficits has been evident in Poilievre's repeated complaints as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government ran up Ottawa's debt to levels unseen since the Second World War to fight COVID-19. But O'Toole, who has infused his middle-of-the-road political personality with a more populist tone, is not making a big deal about the need to bring the fisc, as some call it, back into traditional alignment.

It's not clear where O'Toole is headed with all this, but we have seen that those of the populist persuasion, as a rule, are less interested in the size of budget deficits as long as what is happening on the spending front enhances their power. In the U.S., for example, President Donald Trump has ignored the Republican's longstanding concern about debt financing and is on the verge of becoming the biggest spending president ever. Not counting extra outlays related to the pandemic, the president in four years has caused the annual U.S. budget deficit to nearly double to more than US\$1-trillion. This splurge has included increased military spending and tax cuts that created an enormous windfall for Trump's wealthy backers.

This sort of thing is not surprising. Right-wingers fire up concerns about profligate spending to chastise governments run by their political opponents but,



Conservative finance critic Pierre Poilievre and new party leader Erin O'Toole. O'Toole, who has infused his middle-of-the-road political personality with a more populist tone, is not making a big deal about the need to bring the fisc, as some call it, back into traditional alignment, writes Les Whittington. *The Hill Times* photographs by Andrew Meade

when in office, let deficits proliferate (see Brian Mulroney, Ronald Reagan or Stephen Harper). In any case, from the point of view of someone like O'Toole, you don't need a lot of polling to realize that prattling on about the evils of deficit spending while the government is struggling to keep millions of people from winding up on the street during the worst health crisis in a century may not be a winner.

Like all momentous events, the pandemic has challenged Canadians' beliefs and opened the way for possible once-in-a-generation changes. The Liberals are of course aware of this and are laying out their conception of what is possible as the country heads into the third decade of the century beset by uncertainty and crises on nearly every side. By all accounts, the COVID-19 catastrophe has altered Canadians' views

on the importance of activist government and the value of community. Whether that will hold, and for how long, is unknowable, but it is certain that the austerity fixation that has dominated politics in this and other Western countries for decades has lost momentum.

This in itself is significant. Led by the likes of Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan, conservative supply-side ideologues managed

since the 1980s to fundamentally transform public discourse about the purpose of government and society. Instead of a debate about what democratically elected governments could do on behalf of the populace, the discussion became increasingly focused on the need to restrict government to empower the private sector so entrepreneurs could be freed up to ostensibly grow the economy, create wealth, and address the citizenry's needs.

This selfishness disguised as policy usually included fanning distrust of elected officials, demands for smaller government, reducing personal and especially corporate taxes, undercutting labour unions, slashing social programs to pay for tax cuts, and duping the public about the imaginary trickle-down rewards from policies favouring business and the rich. And austerity became an article of faith. By the 1990s in Canada, a centrist party like the Liberals was buying into this without reservation, with Paul Martin (temporarily) becoming the most popular political figure in the country because of his deficit-trimming campaign.

The results have been obvious for years, but the pandemic has brought them into stark relief. The belt-tightening crusade, amplified by changes in global trade patterns, technology-driven restructuring, and the deification of share prices in the corporate world, has prompted an explosion in inequality and stalled average workers' wages. The consequent damage to the social safety net and erosion of the middle-class dream have emerged as among the most potent forces in Western politics.

Trudeau has sought to tap into this unrest since 2015, and the Liberals are now open to the possibility of comprehensive change in the government's role in support of a new, more generous, and fairer socio-economic vision. The building blocks—whether it's universal childcare, more support for the working poor, wealth taxes, or pharmacare—are well known. And there is no doubt many Canadians see the pandemic as a trigger for change along these lines.

But fighting COVID-19 has already stretched the federal government's financial wherewithal beyond previously imaginable limits, plus the resurgence of the virus is slowing everyone's thinking about the recovery. So, bringing new ideas about creating a better Canada to life will require time and an ongoing, historic commitment once the pandemic recedes.

Les Whittington is a regular columnist for The Hill Times.
The Hill Times



Government House Leader Pablo Rodriguez, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Deputy PM and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, and Environment Minister Jonathan Wilkinson during a press conference in Ottawa on Sept. 16 ahead of Parliament's return. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

EDITOR Kate Malloy
 MANAGING EDITOR Charelle Evelyn
 DEPUTY EDITORS Peter Mazereeuw, Laura Ryckewaert
 ASSISTANT DEPUTY EDITOR Abbas Rana
 DIGITAL EDITOR Beatrice Paez

THE HILL TIMES

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY BY
 HILL TIMES PUBLISHING INC.
 246 Queen Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5E4

PUBLISHERS Anne Marie Creskey,
 Jim Creskey, Ross Dickson
 GENERAL MANAGER, CFO Andrew Morrow

Editorial

And now back to our regularly scheduled programming... hopefully

A new session of the 43rd Parliament begins today.

It kicks off amid weeks-long speculation of an early election call, which has federal parties ramping up their fundraising efforts in preparation.

The Conservatives are entering the session with a newly minted leader, Erin O'Toole, and Greens will soon elect a new party head of their own. And with new leaders—particularly new leaders who could soon find themselves fighting a federal election campaign—come renewed efforts to communicate party policies and attract supporters.

But partisan posturing, while a natural and necessary part of the political process, can prove an impediment to parliamentary progress.

And there is much parliamentary progress to be made.

Action on the Liberal government's 2019 campaign promises aside, the feds have a mounting must-do list as a result of time lost this year thanks to COVID-19.

Along with a roster of overdue legislative reviews, among the most pressing examples are court-ordered changes to Canada's medical assistance in dying laws, which are required following a Quebec Superior Court ruling in September 2019 that found sections to be unconstitutional and which still have yet to be finalized. Justice Minister David Lametti tabled legislation to respond to the ruling—Bill C-7—back in February, but the bill didn't make it past first reading before it died on the Order Paper upon Parliament's prorogation in August. The government has been given until Dec. 18 to make the needed changes.

Derailed by COVID-19, the last parliamentary session saw the House of

Commons sit for a grand total of 43 days of business (excluding Dec. 5, 2019, the date of the last Speech from the Throne, on which no other matters were dealt with)—30 sitting days before the Chamber suspended in mid-March as a result of the pandemic, and 13 regular sittings since (meetings of the Committee of the Whole do not count), which were dominated by COVID-19 response measures.

If the House sticks to the sitting calendar currently set out, it has 47 days—excluding today—to conduct regular parliamentary business before it rises for the winter break.

The need to quickly re-establish parliamentary committees—work which was delayed in the Senate during the last session due to squabbles over caucus budget allocations and membership lists—has already been implored in these pages. And it's worth repeating.

But outside of committees, the precious hours allocated for government business and parliamentary debate should not be squandered.

MPs extolled their ability to put partisanship aside and co-operate to pass emergency COVID-response legislation in the early days of the pandemic—collegiality that had seemingly disappeared by last session's end.

As the House of Commons strives to return to its regularly scheduled programming, let's hope Parliament's work—including the important work of holding the government to account—isn't overshadowed by simple partisan one-upmanship.

Good sound bites might help fill party coffers, but there's more than electoral fortunes at stake.

The Hill Times

Letters to the Editor

Preserve Canada's oceanographic and wildlife conservation research by rethinking national museums

The recent closure of the Vancouver Aquarium puts an important part of Canada's oceanographic research at risk; we shouldn't let it slip beneath the waves. And the same could happen to wildlife conservation at the Toronto Zoo. Adding both institutions to Canada's national museum system could preserve their valuable and leading environmental work.

For more than 60 years, Canadians have learned about the ocean from the Vancouver Aquarium. We know the surface of the moon better than our own ocean floors but, thanks to this place, 1.2 million visitors annually see what is hidden beneath the waves. And as a laboratory for innovation about the environment, oceans, water, and marine life, it is acknowledged as an incredible resource for advancing researchers' understanding about the pressures marine mammals face.

No visitors means no money for operating this private non-profit organization; 80 per cent of its revenue comes from gate receipts. The Toronto Zoo is owned by the City of Toronto and has been educating Canadians for almost 50 years, but COVID-19 similarly restricts its ability to stay afloat.

Both institutions are worth saving: as leaders in rescuing and rehabilitating wildlife life, and as researchers adding vital knowledge to the world's understanding of environmental science, both are vital arteries for explaining environmental ideas to Canadians. A national aquarium that is the centrepiece of oceanographic research in Canada, and a national zoo that is the focal point for discussions about wildlife conservation, would be worthwhile vehicles for communicating scientific messages.

Our current government values science and is looking for an environmental angle to assist with COVID recovery. Both the aquarium and zoo are ready-made scientific research organizations that should be added to Canada's national museum system in the upcoming Throne Speech. This year's speech will send important signals about new directions for Canada's COVID-era economy. Expanding our national museum system, and broadening it beyond the National Capital Region, should be part of this discussion and would serve all Canadians well.

Rob Ferguson
 Principal, Retool Lab
 Toronto, Ont.

Canadians will accept higher deficits as benefits of spending materialize, says reader

Re: "Trudeau Liberals risk leaving ideological centre open by tilting further to the left in Throne Speech, say some Grit MPs" (*The Hill Times*, Sept. 14, 2020, p. 6).

The Canadian public will accept higher deficits as the benefits materialize. Canadians did not object to massive deficit spending during the Second World War. Mobilizing the economy under government direction helped the Allied victory, and despite increased public debt, the post-war period was a golden era of prosperity when highways and hospitals were built, and new social services introduced.

Though the war-time debt was never paid off, the economy continued to grow. Today's debt-to-GDP ratio is half of what it was in 1946, though the current debt is exponen-

tially larger. Pundits need to explain the simple truth, that the size of the deficit can match the size of the resources unused by the private sector. That is what happened during the war. The massive unemployment of the Great Depression fell to one per cent, even requiring recruitment of women into factory production.

Since we have more than two million Canadians unemployed today as a result of a pandemic slow-down, another war-like mobilization is needed to fight today's urgent challenges—a virus that threatens to rage out of control, and worsening climate change that menaces world food production with all the global instability that would follow.

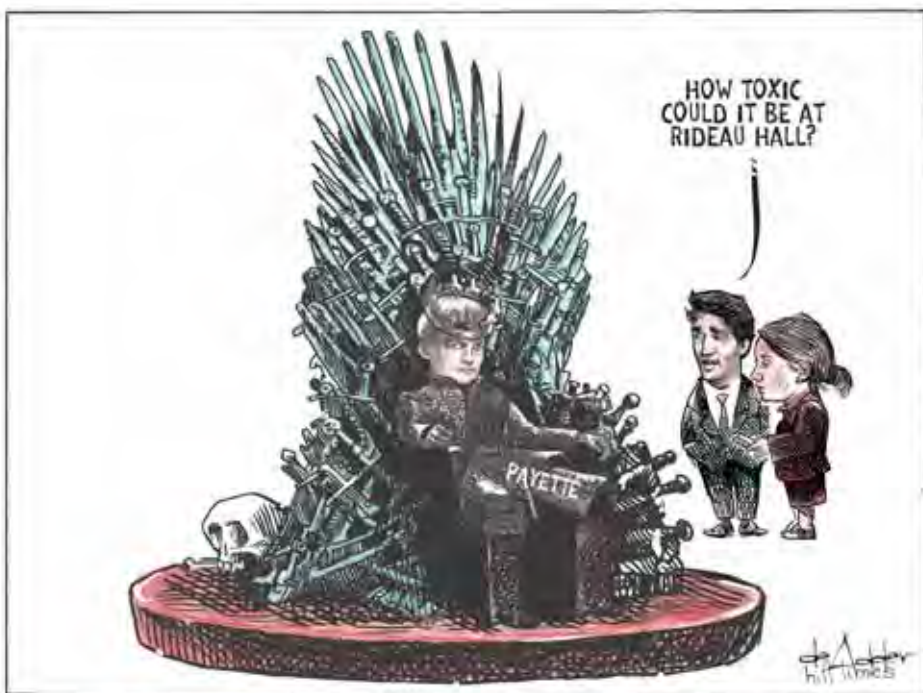
Larry Kazdan
 Vancouver, B.C.

Copps said it all when it comes to end of WE in Canada, says reader

Re: "The death of WE in Canada is shameful," (*The Hill Times*, Sept. 14, p. 10). Sheila Copps said it all. What a disgusting display of ignorant, immoral, and unethical behaviour by the Conservatives, NDP, and other naysayers to destroy a charity that had such a strong influence

for providing a moral beacon for so many young Canadians. While I'm not supportive of Justin Trudeau himself, in my view, the Liberal government is 100 per cent blameless in this situation.

Roland Trenaman
 Kootenay, B.C.



EDITORIAL

NEWS REPORTERS Aidan Chamandy, Mike Lapointe, Neil Moss, Samantha Wright Allen, and Palak Mangat
 PHOTOGRAPHERS Sam Garcia, Andrew Meade, and Cynthia Münster

EDITORIAL CARTOONIST Michael De Adder
 COLUMNISTS Cameron Ahmad, Andrew Caddell, Andrew Cardozo, John Chenier, Sheila Copps, Éric Couture, David Crane, Jim Creskey, Murray Dobbin, Gwynne Dyer, Michael Geist, Dennis Gruending, Phil Gurski, Cory Hann, Michael Harris, Erica Ifill, Joe Jordan, Amy Kishek, Rose LeMay, Alex Marland, Arthur Milnes, Tim Powers, Mélanie Richer, Susan Riley, Ken Rubin, Evan Sotiropoulos, Scott Taylor, Lisa Van Dusen, Nelson Wiseman, and Les Whittington.

ADVERTISING

VICE PRESIDENT MARKETING AND MULTIMEDIA SALES Steve MacDonald
 DIRECTORS OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
 Craig Caldbick, Erveina Gosalci, Martin Reaume, Ulle Baum

PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION MANAGER Benoit Deneault
 SENIOR GRAPHIC, ONLINE DESIGNER Joey Sabourin
 DESIGN MANAGER Serena Masonde
 WEB DESIGNER Jean-Francois Lavoie
 ASSISTANT WEB DESIGNER Ian Peralta

CIRCULATION

DIRECTOR OF READER ENGAGEMENT Chris Rivoire
 DIRECTOR OF MARKETING Leslie Dickson
 SUBSCRIPTIONS AND LICENSING EXECUTIVE
 Darryl Blackbird, Lakshmi Krishnamurti
 VICE PRESIDENT OF CONTENT LICENSING SALES Sean Hansel
 CIRCULATION MANAGER Dan Lahey

ADMINISTRATION

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER Tracey Wale

DELIVERY INQUIRIES

circulation@hilltimes.com
 613-288-1146

THE HILL TIMES

Published every Monday and Wednesday by Hill Times Publishing Inc.

246 Queen Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5E4

(613) 232-5952

Fax (613) 232-9055

Canadian Publications Mail Agreement No. 40068926
 www.hilltimes.com

Please send letters to the editor to the above street address or e-mail to news@hilltimes.com. Deadline is Wednesday at noon, Ottawa time, for the Monday edition and Friday at noon for the Wednesday edition. Please include your full name, address and daytime phone number. *The Hill Times* reserves the right to edit letters. Letters do not reflect the views of *The Hill Times*. Thank you.

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40068926
 RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO: CIRCULATION DEPT.
 246 Queen Street Suite 200, Ottawa, ON K1P 5E4



The Atlantic bubble needs to burst

While Atlantic Canada has done a good job of managing COVID-19 counts, it is breathtakingly short-sighted to assume that the retention of the 'bubble' for a sustained period is effective policy.



Tim Powers

Plain Speak

OTTAWA—This year has been brutal for so many people and we still have nearly 4 months to go before 2021 is upon us. While I have never been a big fan of wishing time away, I am close to adopting it as a short-term strategy.

Atlantic Canada has had a particularly brutal year. At the time of writing, the region is bracing for the remnants of Hurricane Teddy. On top of COVID-19, the region

had to deal with the worst mass shooting in Canadian history in Nova Scotia in April. And in Newfoundland and Labrador, the province was shut down for nearly a week in January with "Snowmageddon."

It has been punch after punch for the Atlantic, and in part that explains the overwhelming public support for keeping the "Atlantic bubble" in place. Polls have recorded nearly 80 per cent of respondents are in favour of keeping Atlantic Canada locked down from the rest of the world. The region, normally known for its open-arm embrace of all, is laying down a stiff arm to the rest of the country and the world.

Under the current system, anyone from Atlantic Canada can travel freely throughout each of the four provinces. With certain exceptions—like rotational or essential workers—other Canadians who want to travel east are subject to exemption requirement conditions (sick family, etc.), and must quarantine for 14 days. Some regional health authorities proudly champion how well they have done in keeping COVID-19

scores at low or no levels. This is being defined as the success the region should be striving for, and on the surface that might appear to make sense as we all cluelessly look at COVID-19 scores as if they are part of the morning's sports report.

Recently, the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador heard the case of Kim Taylor, a woman who felt her constitutional right of mobility was violated

when she could not initially gain entry to Newfoundland to visit her dying mother. Last week, the court ruled that while Taylor's right of mobility was violated, the

government of Newfoundland and Labrador's actions were acceptable under Sec. 1 of the Charter, which allows for reasonable exemptions. The decision did go on to say, however, that the government needs to be regularly seeking other options.

While Atlantic Canada has done a good job of managing COVID-19 counts, I think it is breathtakingly short-sighted to assume that the retention of the "bubble" for a sustained period is effective policy.

Public health is not a linear thing, though you could assume that based on a regional obsession with single or no-digit case counts. Atlantic Canada—and I say this lovingly—is putting itself in a fiscally unsustainable position by shutting itself off to the rest of the world. Whether it be the ravaging of the tourism industry, the inability now to solicit much-needed immigration to the region, or the real mental health and wellness impacts of telling family who live elsewhere to stay away—there will be repercussions well past the virus' life.

As a Newfoundlander, I find it heartbreaking that my own province makes it very hard for me to come home. With others in the business community, we have recently been trying to start a dialogue on reasonable options to entry beyond what currently exists. But at times, I have found it gut wrenching to see how insular some have become in their thinking, saying the only way is to stay away for now. We are, after all, the province that immortalized "Come from Away" and helped strangers after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The mind shift between now and then has been mesmerizing.

The Atlantic bubble needs to be gradually burst—more advanced thinking and practices beyond what exist now are vital to the region's sustainability. Our success has always been tied to advancing our interests throughout Canada and the world; now is no different, no matter how virulent the COVID-19 virus.

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

The Hill Times



The Confederation Bridge, which connects Prince Edward Island to New Brunswick, is pictured in 2019. Atlantic Canada is putting itself in a fiscally unsustainable position by shutting itself off to the rest of the world, writes Tim Powers. Photograph courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE MEANS INVESTING IN CANADIANS

Canada is facing an unprecedented crisis, and we need a plan to keep Canadians working. History has proven, investments in infrastructure put people to work and address the critical needs of communities from coast to coast. But investing in infrastructure needs to mean more than just bricks and mortar. Through Community Benefits Agreements, we can incorporate additional physical, social, economic and environmental benefits for local communities, and ensure projects are built with the most highly trained and skilled workforce. There's no time to wait.

Learn more at www.buildingtrades.ca

60% OF CANADIANS ARE SUPPORTIVE
OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS THAT
INCLUDE COMMUNITY BENEFITS
AGREEMENTS*



CBTU SMCC

CANADA'S BUILDING TRADES UNIONS
LES SYNDICATS DES MÉTIERS DE LA CONSTRUCTION DU CANADA

VALUE ON DISPLAY. EVERY DAY.

* Earncliffe Study on Community Benefits Agreements, July 2020

Adopting a culture of resiliency

Government agencies have an obligation to be resilient in the face of an unexpected crisis. There's no ducking it: If a business takes a bit of time to restabilize when a crisis like COVID-19 suddenly causes its revenues to plummet or its workplace to close, we all understand. But the public relies on government to help it through a crisis, to provide the services that businesses and individuals need to help them survive. If people suddenly find themselves unemployed and need to collect unemployment insurance, it's not OK for the computers that provide it to crash, as happened in several US states, even if they are facing an unprecedented number of claims. Governments should provide continuity, stability, reassurance, and appropriate responses.

Whether or not we could have foreseen COVID-19, the important thing is that new crises will come, and many of them will be unexpected. The next crisis might not be a pandemic. We live in a complex, networked, interdependent world, where any change in one place might cause unexpected results elsewhere. Geopolitics, technological developments, health issues, natural disasters—all can suddenly and unexpectedly affect our lives, in a big way.

It might seem impossible to ask government agencies to be prepared for every possible unexpected emergency. And yet we must. And they can. Their only solution—and it is a good one—is to build agility and resilience into all of their everyday operations. When the unthinkable happens, it is their ability to respond to change and the resilience of their people, processes, and technologies that allow them to continue performing their missions. In today's digital world, resilience and agility are simply the norm—they're best practices. The bar is higher today, and the tools are available.

The Government of Canada responded to COVID-19 by working with Amazon Web Services (AWS) and its partner Accenture to launch a cloud-based call center for its Emergency Response Benefits program (CERB). Using Amazon Connect they created a 2,400-person



call center in Canada that could seamlessly expand as necessary, eventually handling 40,000 calls per day in April. Those calls helped Canadians apply for the tens of billions of dollars the Canadian government was making available to residents—a critical lifeline for them in this time of emergency.

Pacific Blue Cross, British Columbia's largest provider of health, dental, and travel benefits, was already taking advantage of the agility and resilience of the AWS cloud before COVID-19 struck. With the sudden need to get their most critical team members—their call center and claims workers—working from home quickly, they were able to get 600 people online again within a few days by using Amazon Workspaces.

By using the cloud, agencies and businesses can scale their infrastructure up or down at any time. We call this the elasticity of the cloud, and it helps AWS customers grow quickly when they experience sudden increases in demand, and shrink quickly to reduce their costs when demand declines. During the COVID-19 crisis, we've seen a lot of both. Ontario Health (OTN), one of the world's largest virtual care networks, saw demand for its services spike five-fold compared to pre-March volumes registering 350,000 visits between March 1–April 22. The cloud helped them handle the sudden spike, including hosting more than 1,900 concurrent visits during peak hours.

These are examples of what I mean by building technical resilience and agility to be prepared for the unexpected. You'll notice that the capabilities that helped these organizations respond were not specific to COVID-19. In any type of crisis, you'll need to get employees working again. You'll need to adjust the scale of your operations—up or down. And you'll need to communicate with your customers. To respond to truly unexpected events, you need to start building agility and resilience into everything you do.

For a government agency, resilience is not just a matter of continuing to accomplish its mission. It is the government that empowers its citizens and businesses to successfully accomplish their missions. Every effort, every success, every failure is magnified and multiplied by its impact on the public. The public looks to the government for leadership when disaster strikes. Its services are critical to the nation, and the fact that they have been disrupted by the unexpected is simply no excuse to stop providing those services. Responding to crisis is simply part of the government's mandate.

The very good news is that an entire generation of new tools is available to help. The complex of technologies and processes that we refer to as the digital world is founded on the ideas of agility and resilience. When used properly, the cloud and the other tools of the digital age shorten lead times, provide platforms for innovation, and allow for flexibility.

The private sector has largely discovered the importance and value of these new tools: companies in every industry take advantage of the cloud to support innovation, reduce time to market, maintain flexibility and nimbleness, and reduce risk. It's time that all government agencies caught up and accepted the value—the importance—of agility. The next crisis might not be a pandemic. But we can be sure that unexpected, disruptive events are lurking in our future.



Mark Schwartz has been an IT leader in organizations small and large, public, private, and nonprofit. Currently, he is an Enterprise Strategist for Amazon Web Services (AWS) where he shares his CIO wisdom with the world's largest organizations. As the former CIO of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, he provoked the federal government into adopting Agile and DevOps practices. Mark holds a BS in computer science from Yale, a master's in philosophy from Yale, and an MBA from Wharton.

Mark is the author of *The Art of Business Value, A Seat at the Table, War and Peace and IT*, and the soon to be released *The (Delicate) Art of Bureaucracy (Fall 2020)*. He lives in Boston, Massachusetts.

Comment

Driving right-wing extremism out of the Canadian Armed Forces

Lieutenant-General Wayne Eyre's recent message to the CAF was clear: 'If you have those types of beliefs—get out. We don't want you.'



Scott Taylor

Inside Defence

OTTAWA—Last week Army Commander, Lieutenant-General Wayne Eyre presided over the annual army council meeting. Although the sessions were held in Ottawa, the majority of the attendees participated virtually due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Reaching out directly to 450 top- to mid-level army officers, Eyre outlined to his chain-of-command a new set of explicit directions that will expedite the removal from the ranks of right-wing extremists or racists.

Eyre's message was clear: "If you have those types of beliefs—get out. We don't want you."

Most Canadians would find it startling that our army would have any such alt-right fascists in the ranks, let alone enough to warrant such strong a statement from the commander.

However, in recent months there have been a number of separate high profile cases reported in the media wherein members of the Canadian Armed Forces were not only affiliated with right-wing extremists, but also involved in committing alleged illegal activities.

Patrik Mathews, a former combat engineer, generated headlines when it was revealed that he was recruiting for a white supremacist group while still serving in the Canadian Armed Forces.

When the story broke, Mathews bolted across the border and now faces weapons and other charges in the U.S.

On July 2, Corey Hurren made international news when he drove



his pickup truck onto the grounds at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. Hurren was armed at the time and he had threatened to harm Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

What was even more startling is the fact that Hurren is still a serving member of the 4th Ranger Group in the CAF. Hurren also promoted right-wing ideology on his social media platforms. He now faces multiple criminal charges.

Hurren's incident prompted a CBC investigation into the 4th Ranger Group, wherein reporter Murray Brewster was quick to uncover another right-wing sympathizer.

Erik Myggland had been flagged by Canadian military counter-intelligence and interviewed about his membership in

two separate right-wing organizations back in 2016. Despite his affiliation with these groups, Myggland was allowed to continue serving.

When that story broke, Eyre had stated that Myggland was allowed to remain in uniform because he was a reservist and he had only pursued his right-wing interests during his own time. According to Eyre, when he was in civilian mode, Myggland was not subject to military discipline.

It was also pointed out that the legal administrative process to remove undesirable members from the payroll is a lengthy one.

This latest "explicit direction" issued by Eyre is to be commended, and I hope that it is echoed across all the other service branches.

However one still has to wonder, what would compel individuals with right-wing extremist views to enlist in a military that prides itself in having defeated Hitler's Nazi regime?

Perhaps the answer to that question lies in the results of a recent poll out of the U.S. that revealed nearly two-thirds of young adults had no idea that six million Jews perished in the Holocaust. Nearly a quarter of the survey respondents thought that the Holocaust was a myth, while nearly one-in-ten actually believed that the Jews perpetrated the Holocaust.

While one would like to presume that Canadian schools do a better job of teaching about this horrific chapter in mankind's history, the reality is that we need to do better ourselves.

Such widespread ignorance of the Holocaust creates the vacuum into which the right-wing anti-Semites are able to re-write history. One would think that Canadian military units would be best situated to teach their members about the Holocaust, because it was those units' forefathers that helped destroy Hitler's murderous regime.

Knowing what the Nazi's did should help soldiers to drive out any of their comrades who share such right-wing ideology: With or without 'explicit direction' from the Army commander.

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

The Hill Times

Schitt's Creek II: The Roses of Rideau Hall is the reality show the world needs

The Canadian comedy that just swept the Emmys can't possibly stop now. Here's a suggestion.



Lisa Van Dusen

What Fresh Hell

As much of the world takes up a new form of foxhole God-bargaining in which the divine intervention deliverable is ending the reality show in the White House, a new Canadian offering could take its place.

Amid a cascade of apocalyptic news about the COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. President Donald Trump's proxy, rolling, broad-daylight heist of American democracy and a series of celebrity

deaths so relentless it's beginning to look like an Agatha Christie dinner theatre mystery, *Schitt's Creek*, the subversively humanist six-season CBC sitcom master-minded by Dan Levy and his father, Eugene, swept the comedy category of the socially-isolated, remotely staged Emmys on Sept. 20.

one extreme of the socioeconomic scale to the .001 per cent who live in dusty, rural roadside motels is so Canadian that it's not overtly Canadian. It just reminds you, every third episode or so, with a moment that makes you go, "Omgod, that's so Canadian."

In between, legendary Second City alumnae Catherine O'Hara



Canadian comedy *Schitt's Creek* won big at the Emmy's on Sept. 20, the show stars and creators Eugene Levy, Catherine O'Hara, Dan Levy, and Annie Murphy are pictured. Maybe when Governor General Julie Payette's term is up in 2022, the questions of both successorship and the demand for more of *Schitt's Creek* could be solved by appointing Eugene Levy as Canada's first Jewish governor general, writes Lisa Van Dusen. *Photograph courtesy of Schitt's Creek's Twitter*

The fact that *Schitt's Creek*—a sort of Green Acres-meets-Northern Exposure-meets-nothing-you've-seen-before—isn't aggressively, obnoxiously Canadian is the most Canadian thing about it. The story of the hilariously hyper-entitled Rose family and their fall from the one per cent at

as the loopy, sublimely unself-aware former soap opera star Moira Rose and Eugene Levy as her recovering billionaire husband, Johnny, vaguely preside over the lives of their spoiled son and daughter David and Alexis, played by Dan Levy and Annie Murphy.

As with the best classic sitcoms, much of the comedy comes from the sit, in this case the head-spinning change of circumstance for the Roses, who've gone from multiple residences in all the world's wretched-excess date-lines to adjoining rooms at the low-occupancy Rosebud Motel in *Schitt's Creek*, a town Johnny once bought as a joke.

Anyone who grew up in a small town knows that they contain no shortage of melodrama as well incredible examples of generosity and solidarity. *Schitt's Creek*, through the adaptation arcs of the Roses and the way in which the writers have taken small town stock characters—including waitress Twyla, played by sibling Sarah Levy—stripped them of all their clichés and rebuilt them as fully original humans, becomes a show about, as Dan Levy said Sunday night, the transformational power of love and acceptance. In the process, it only gets funnier and funnier.

At a time when so much of what we scroll through, over and over again, looking for something to watch that doesn't feel like masochistic, anti-human propaganda—*Schitt's Creek* uses its platform to unabashedly peddle values that honour the species. That

includes through the good kind of normalization—not the kind that makes rage and racism and homophobia and corruption seem normal, but the kind that presents identity as a product of character, not label, that values love as any deeper variation of friendship and that defines family as any group of people who love each other.

To make that funny without ever veering too far into mawkishness is almost as great a feat as making that funny without ever veering too far into snark. From someone who has veered too far into snark more often than she should've because a punchline happened to be low-hanging fruit, deep respect.

One of the sweetest revelations of *Schitt's Creek*, along with the perpetual revelation of O'Hara's virtuosity in making a superannuated, wig-addicted diva lovable, is Levy senior as a distinguished patriarch and sort of Canadian elder statesman of comedy.

Maybe when Governor General Julie Payette's term is up in 2022, the questions of both successorship and the demand for more of *Schitt's Creek* could be solved by appointing Eugene Levy as Canada's first Jewish governor general. *Schitt's Creek II, The Roses of Rideau Hall*, would be brilliant.

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

The Hill Times



Quebec Premier François Legault and Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole. Meeting with the premier last week, Mr. O'Toole endorsed Quebec's 'provincial right' to pass the odious secularism law Bill 21, and apply Bill 101 to federal companies. In doing so, he sounded like George Wallace or Neville Chamberlain, writes Andrew Caddell. *The Hill Times* photographs by Andrew Meade

Pandering to Quebec is unseemly, and it rarely works

Applying the constraints of Bill 101 to federal employees won't change the status quo, and could prevent English-speaking Quebecers from working or being served in their mother tongue, a right they hold as Canadians.



Andrew Caddell

With All Due Respect

KAMOURASKA, QUE.—This week's word is "pander," defined as "to please other people by doing or saying what you think they want you to do or say." Canadian politicians have a rich history of pandering, notably in Quebec.

NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh, pictured during a press conference on Sept. 18. Like the Conservatives, the NDP has indicated it wouldn't intervene in the Quebec government's plan to apply Bill 101 to federal workers in the province. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade



In the summer of 1967 then-Conservative leader Robert Stanfield embraced an idea from his Quebec lieutenant, Marcel Faribault, that "Canada is composed of two founding peoples (*deux nations*)."

Notwithstanding its failure to mention Indigenous peoples, the proposal went on to recommend the Constitution be re-written so that Quebec would be an "equal partner" with the other nine provinces of Canada.

The purpose of the policy was to throw off the vestiges of the old Conservative Party—John Diefenbaker's Red Ensign flag, Borden's Conscriptio Crisis, and

Macdonald's hanging of Louis Riel—and attract the votes of Quebec nationalists.

Of course, it failed. As Pierre Trudeau, an unapologetic federalist, swept Quebec in the 1968 election, and Faribault lost by 8,000 votes in an east-end Montreal riding.

In the years since, federal parties have courted nationalists in Quebec with varying degrees of success. There was Brian Mulroney's 1984 landslide victory over the late John Turner, mainly due to voter antipathy towards the previous PM Trudeau. The Mulroney Quebec connection had later consequences in

Western alienation, the creation of the Reform Party, and Lucien Bouchard's departure to form the Bloc Québécois. And, of course, the Progressive Conservative Party was reduced to two seats in the 1993 election.

In 2005, the NDP drafted the Sherbrooke Declaration, which endorsed a 50 per cent plus one Quebec referendum result, a position contrary to the 1998 Supreme Court of Canada reference. Many NDPers credit their breakthrough in Quebec in 2011 to the declaration; however, the "Orange Wave" really occurred because Quebecers were tired of the Bloc and

warmed to the personality of Jack Layton. In 2015, the wave died.

In 2006, the Harper government proposed: "That the Québécois form a nation within a united Canada." Anyone observing knew few would make the distinction between "Quebec" and "Québécois." To this day, Quebec politicians wrongly point out Parliament recognized "Quebec as a nation."

Fast forward to today and the Coalition Avenir Québec government's promise to apply Bill 101, the French Language Charter, to all federally regulated companies like banks, ports, airlines, broadcasters, and federal agencies. Cue the NDP and the Conservatives, who, trolling for votes among "soft nationalists" in Quebec, have both endorsed the idea. Except... Bill 101 is a provincial law, and these are federally regulated employees, so it is clearly unconstitutional. The Trudeau Liberals have so far, avoided the trap.

While the NDP's Jagmeet Singh has the luxury of being able to promise anything because he can't deliver, Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole really should know better, as he could be prime minister. I have observed him at conferences in the past and he seemed a reasonable person. He cites his membership in the Churchill Society with pride. And yet, meeting with Premier François Legault last week, he endorsed Quebec's "provincial right" to pass the odious secularism law Bill 21, and apply Bill 101 to federal companies. In doing so, he sounded like George Wallace or Neville Chamberlain.

One person with genuine perspective on this issue is Graham Fraser, the former commissioner of official languages. He points out he never received a complaint of a bank teller or a dock worker not being able to work in French in Quebec, "and if there were, I would have heard about it." He makes a reasonable suggestion: work for changes to the Official Languages Act for all federally regulated employees in Quebec, thus ensuring services in both English and French.

Regular readers of this column know I am a bilingual Quebecer who supports the growth of French. But applying the constraints of Bill 101 to federal employees won't change the status quo, and could prevent English-speaking Quebecers from working or being served in their mother tongue, a right they hold as Canadians.

If the leaders of the Conservative Party and the NDP want to do something practical, they could support a renewed Official Languages Act. But if they simply want to throw Anglos under the bus to get votes in Quebec, they should admit it. Otherwise they are being mendacious and pandering. And if history is a guide, it is not going to help them on voting day anyway.

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

The Hill Times

News

Presidential election could change course on unilateral tariff use, but Canada-U.S. trade tensions will remain: experts

If Joe Biden wins the U.S. presidency, he will be constrained in the use of unilateral tariffs, say experts, while Donald Trump's re-election may leave Canada once again targeted by national security tariffs.

Continued from page 1

Biden administration won't spell a reprieve from acrimonious trade relations, say experts.

U.S. President Donald Trump's trade relationship with Canada has been defined by the weaponization of national security tariffs, which trade experts say will likely be constrained if former U.S. vice-president and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden wins the Nov. 3 election.

"A change in presidency would certainly deal with the new No. 1 threat that we have with the U.S., which is this exercise of unilateral power," said Carlo Dade, the director of the Centre for Trade and Investment Policy at the Calgary-based Canada West Foundation. "That threat has always been kind of there, but we've never worried about it because no president has used it so recklessly, carelessly, and with such blatant disregard for the consequences."

In the midst of the renegotiations of NAFTA, Mr. Trump imposed tariffs under Section 232 of America's Trade Expansion Act, a provision in the 1962 legislation which allows the U.S. government to impose quotas or tariffs on imported products for national security reasons.

"The genie goes back in the bottle. Pandora goes back in the box," Mr. Dade said of a Biden presidency, but he noted that given the precedent set by Mr. Trump, it becomes more likely a future president would use the national security tariffs to further their trade objectives.

Mr. Dade said Mr. Biden is unlikely to expand or introduce new unilateral tariffs, but rolling back tariffs that were introduced by Mr. Trump and remain in place may prove to be politically difficult.

Tony Blinken, a foreign policy adviser to Mr. Biden, has said the former vice-president would use tariffs that are backed by strategy.

"We would use tariffs when they are needed but backed by a strategy, a plan to use them to succeed not to fake toughness and



Trade experts say U.S. President Donald Trump has weaponized the use of national security tariffs, some of which have targeted Canada, which Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has called 'unjust.' Democratic candidate Joe Biden may be more constrained in their use. *White House photograph by Andrea Hanks and the Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade and file photograph*

to harm our own people instead of getting results," he said during a Sept. 22 webinar hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Trump reimposed aluminum tariffs at the request of two U.S. aluminum companies in early August, but they were removed on Sept. 15, hours before Canada was set to introduce counter measures. In place, the U.S. announced a quota system on Canadian aluminum exports, but Ottawa did not agree to abide by the new regime.

"This is not a negotiated deal between Canada and the U.S.," Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland (University-Rosedale, Ont.) said on Sept. 15. "We have not agreed to anything. We have not negotiated an agreement with the U.S. on quotas."

Trade consultant Eric Miller, president of Rideau Potomac Strategy Group, said the quota introduction was a "pretty elegant" retreat as Canada was planning to target politically important U.S. states with its countermeasures.

"Where the irritants will lie in the next administration will depend on who the next administration is," said Mr. Miller, a former senior policy adviser at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. "If Trump gets re-elected,

it is pretty clear that tariffs are coming back because this move was tactical in the broader strategic play of the Trump re-election campaign, but it wasn't any fundamental change in policy."

The U.S. needed to walk back the tariffs, but kept the options open to reapply tariffs after the election, he said, adding the quota

unwrought and wrought aluminum," he said.

Mr. Herman said no matter who wins the Nov. 3 vote, there will always be trade tensions between Canada and the United States.

"If there's a Biden administration, I think it's fair to assume that he would not weaponize unilateral tariffs [in] the way Trump

has," he said. "I think Biden will be more moderate and more reasonable in his approach to bilateral trade."

"That doesn't mean that there won't be ongoing trade tensions between Canada and the United States. There always will be. There has been for three or four decades and there will continue to

be tensions," Mr. Herman added. "Under a Biden administration, I think there will be a much more mutually accommodating way of resolving those tensions without resorting to unilateral tariffs."

Softwood lumber, government procurement, and other areas will be some of the ongoing issues between the two countries, Mr. Herman said.

Last month, a World Trade Organization (WTO) panel ruled the U.S. had broken its obligations through its tariffs on Canadian



Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland said Canada has not agreed on a quota system with the U.S. on aluminum exports. *The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade*

limits are low enough that the odds are "reasonable" that Canadian exports will exceed them.

International trade lawyer Lawrence Herman, a former Canadian diplomat, said he thinks the aluminum issue has been resolved.

"The reason I don't think [the U.S. will reimpose aluminum tariffs] is because the aluminum industry at large—the bulk of the aluminum producers in the United States—have strongly opposed those tariffs, because they need Canadian

softwood lumber. But if the U.S. decides to appeal the decision, it will effectively be put on hold as the organization's appellate body currently doesn't have enough members to make rulings.

Christopher Sands, director of the Canada Institute at the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C., said Congressional support for the new NAFTA shows a bipartisan support of U.S. trade policy, where in the past Democrats were known to be more protectionist and Republicans were noted as free traders.

"In its simplest form [U.S. trade policy] is, 'We want market access abroad where we are strong and we want to protect our declining industries,'" Mr. Sands said.

Mr. Biden announced a more than \$700-billion Buy American program, which includes \$400-billion of federal government purchasing of U.S. goods and services. The new NAFTA doesn't include a government procurement chapter between Canada and the U.S., which was covered under the previous North American trade pact.

Mr. Sands said domestic procurement policies are as politically popular in the U.S. as they are in Canada.

"I think Congress in both parties is kind of terrified of the voters and they are likely to say that we have to have Buy American [provisions]," he said, adding an option for Canada would be if the U.S. allowed for a Canadian exception.

Mr. Sands said the the reimposition of aluminum tariffs wasn't largely tied to the election, but more about hearing from petitioners who want increased protection.

Trade policy analyst Simon Lester, an associate director at the Washington, D.C.-based Cato Institute, said if there is a Biden administration, there will be attempts to reconcile with close allies, like Canada and the European Union. But if Mr. Trump is re-elected it will be more of the same.

"We have to wait for the election and see which way things go," he said, adding there always will be issues that persist in the trading relationship.

Buy American programs are an area where Canada and other U.S. trading partners will have to keep guard, as they are supported by both the Democrats and Republicans, Mr. Lester warned.

"Buy America is not some recent invention. It has been there for decades and other countries do similar things," he said. "You can implement these policies in compliance with the rules if you do it carefully. So what I imagine you will see is from Biden is to do Buy America to the extent possible, but we'll try to stay within the rules and not aggravate our allies too much."

"Whereas with Trump—he and many people in his administration just don't care about the international rules or what our allies might think."

Mr. Lester said Mr. Biden has similar rhetoric around Buy American programs as Mr. Trump, but the implementation of that rhetoric might not be as extreme as it has been over the course of the Trump administration.

nmoos@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

COVID-19 containment, economic recovery expected to drive fall lobbying

Lobbyists will also be keeping an eye on progress on the government's backlog of big-ticket legislation and regulatory reforms this session.

Continued from page 1

the social programs that underpin them, and get progress on the Liberal climate change agenda.

Sheamus Murphy, vice-president of federal advocacy at Counsel Public Affairs, puts the fall's expected lobbying into three buckets: vigilance on Canada's COVID-19 response and helping the sectors most impacted, economic recovery, and climate change. In each of those buckets, there are opportunities for lobbyists to influence policy with high financial stakes, he said.

"There is a real need for Canada to get a handle of testing situations, that includes the approval of rapid tests that work, finding a way to increase testing both in community and at the border to see travel resume, because that's a major economic driver," said Mr. Murphy.

With a worrying spike in Canada's COVID-19 case numbers, late last week Chief Public Health Officer Theresa Tam warned Canada "could lose the ability" to keep the numbers down at "manageable levels." The average of 779 new cases reported daily are a doubling of July's levels, and the uptick has hit home on the Hill with two party leaders—the Bloc's Yves-François Blanchet (Beloeil-Chambly, Que.) and Conservative Erin O'Toole (Durham, Ont.)—now confined to their homes with COVID-19.

Supply chains for personal protective equipment and the ability to secure vaccines also fit into that first bucket, added Kate Harrison, vice-president at Summa Strategies Canada.

The federal pandemic response will remain a front-burner issue, she said, and while Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's (Papineau, Que.) initial signals around the Sept. 23 Throne Speech suggested a clear shift towards recovery, she expects it will be much more immediate in its scope, rather than a pursuit of the big, bold recovery ideas that have been floated.

"There is certainly a dampening of expectations," around the Throne Speech, she said, noting there are other opportunities for direct advocacy further down the road, including the anticipated fall economic update, spring budget, and party platforms more generally.

Additional sector-specific financial support for those hardest hit will be a likely demand from businesses whose models require physical presence of people to survive, said Mr. Murphy. Restaurants, energy, tourism, and transportation—especially airlines—groups have been actively lobbying since the pandemic's immediate hit to their bottom lines and will have to be

active this fall session to push for tailored solutions to their sector's needs, he noted.

"It's becoming increasingly clear that the government's one-size-fits-all approach is not going to work in the long run," said Mr. Murphy.

Business-led recovery plan needed, says chamber

While health and getting COVID-19 case numbers under control will remain No. 1 priority for the feds this fall, those efforts have to go hand in hand with a recovery plan that would be best led by businesses, said Trevin Stratton, vice-president of policy at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

"While we're easing Canadians' health care anxieties, we also have ease their economic anxieties at the same time," he said,



Lobbyists say they will be watching for signals from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in the Sept. 23 Throne Speech to give focus to their fall government relations efforts. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

noting with limited loosening of lockdowns across the country, the initial reopening brought back about two million of three million jobs lost. That rebound has petered out, and will need a plan to boost the remaining gap in jobs, said Mr. Stratton.

The chamber has been among the most active organizations, filing regular communications in the federal lobbying registry, including 42 communications with officials over the last three months.

Economic development was the most-discussed subject in lobbying last month, representing 275 of the 1,547 filing lobbyists made in August, followed by industry (213), health (205), and environment (183).

"The government [should] put in place policies to encourage investment and increase productivity in Canada, which would lead to business growth and job creation," said Mr. Stratton.

That includes addressing a skills gap if they don't match the jobs available in the new reality, and looking at rural broadband to support communities in working from home, as well as e-commerce, as a "crucial" part of recovery in those regions, he said.

Making the recovery green has been a stated goal of the Liberal government, and lobbyists are taking that as a signal that major commitments are due this fall to tackle climate change.

With speculation of a package in the works focused on making home and building retrofits more energy efficient, Mr. Murphy said "energy efficiency is a massive way to reduce emissions" and help achieve the Paris 2030 climate targets, which will be top of mind. There's also an opportunity for a hydrogen strategy, and clean power is likely to be a big focus this fall, he added.

The delayed implementation of the clean fuel standard (CFS) has been something businesses are eyeing warily, said Mr. Stratton, who warned increasing the cost of fuel by too much could hamper economic recovery.

He suggested the government should try to improve, not eliminate, its clean fuel standards and ensure they're "aligned with similar [standards] in other countries to make sure Canada is competitive," and that those efforts should also be business led.

Reforming the employment insurance system is another likely conversation this fall, and Mr. Stratton said it's important both labour and business, which pays about 58 per cent of the costs, have a voice. In August, the Liberals extended the Canada Emergency Response Benefit for another month, to end Sept. 27, after which it will transition to a modified EI program.

Media reports have suggested an overhaul of the EI system is coming when Parliament returns, with CBC News reporting the government plans to address a gap in the program that meant it couldn't support gig-economy workers or self-employed Canadians affected by the pandemic.

Shaping childcare aid and making sure women are supported in the workplace are also part of recovery discussions that Ms. Harrison said she expects lobbyists to bring to officials.

Backlogged files a focus

Legislation will become more of a focus this fall after being on pause since the pandemic was declared in mid-March, when Parliament agreed on a special COVID-19 Committee of the Whole rather than regular proceedings, noted Joe Jordan of Bluesky Strategy Group.

Still, in a minority Parliament, the government is generally reluctant to open up major legislation, because it could lose control of it, and tends to look for efforts that can be accomplished through an order-in-council instead, said Mr. Jordan.

"Knowing that businesses are going to be in survival mode and recovery mode, I would expect the government won't jump into major regulatory forms that pass costs on to business," he added.

The government has yet to table its action plan to respond to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' calls for justice, and, among other things, is due to bring forward legislation in response to a Quebec court's ruling invalidating the preconditions set out in medical assistance in dying law.

There are also a few things that were previously slated for fall introduction that are now up in the air, but are likely to be a point of discussion even if there isn't regulatory movement, noted Ms. Harrison. Implementation of the clean fuel standard, banning single-use plastics, privacy law reform of the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA), are a few such examples.

"These are big, big pieces that industry in particular is waiting on, but the political agenda has been hijacked by the pandemic and now there's quite a question about whether those other priorities sit," she said.

"Businesses still need to operate in an environment that has certainty and if those things remain uncertain—CFS and PIPEDA are good examples—that can impact investment environment and the business environment, so it's important for the government to approach both things at the same time," said Ms. Harrison, because for businesses to invest more, they need regulatory foresight and clarity.

The Liberals have committed to modernizing Canada's data privacy laws, a move that would be welcomed, said Jason Kerr, vice-president of Government Relations Institute of Canada (GRIC), adding it's difficult to tell which of the files that have been collecting dust will be brought forward this fall.

"Canada risks falling behind on the privacy front and of course that can be very challenging," he said.

GRIC members have been going "full throttle" since the pandemic started, and Mr. Kerr said he doesn't anticipate lobbying efforts will let up this fall, adding the U.S. presidential election on Nov. 3 is yet another signal influencers will be tracking for its business impacts.

"We're starting to hear from some of our members that things are starting to come back, but it's really just at that tipping point," said Mr. Kerr. "To this point it really has been firing on all cylinders. Virtually everyone was in crisis at the same time. Policy was being made at lightning-fast pace, and the moment it was out the door, people were knocking on door telling them what was missed, what needed to get tweaked. So [it's been] this constant process of trying to update that policy and make sure there weren't gaps."

swallen@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

Now offering Laser Therapy - Kanata
TCM Acupuncture - All locations

PHYSIOCARE
PHYSIOTHERAPY & REHAB CENTRE

**WOMEN'S
HEALTH**

Now serving 4 locations: Carling Ave - Hazeldean Rd - Greenbank Rd - Innovation Dr - Free Parking



Our expert team can help.

613.714.9495
physiocarephysiotherapy.com

Opinion



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole, Bloc Québécois Leader Yves-François Blanchet, and NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh. Hovering over any decision to force an election by either the government or opposition is the possibility of a second wave of COVID-19, writes Bruce Carson. *The Hill Times* photographs by Andrew Meade

Three possible election date scenarios

It is arguable that in the calculation as to whether to go or not, there is more pressure on Trudeau to get it right than falls on the shoulders of the other three leaders.



Bruce Carson

Opinion

There are three possible election date scenarios facing Canadians: the first coming on the heels of the Speech from the Throne, presumably on a non-

confidence vote; second, a non-confidence motion put after a fall budget or economic update; and lastly, a vote of non-confidence following a spring budget.

In all three scenarios Prime Minister Justin Trudeau could simply decide that he wants Parliament dissolved, go to the Governor General, seeking a fresh mandate based on the measures outlined in the Speech from the Throne (SFT).

It is arguable that in the calculation as to whether to go or not, there is more pressure on Trudeau to get it right than falls on the shoulders of the other three leaders.

This would be Trudeau's third election as leader and unless the Liberals win a sizeable majority, his days at the party helm may be numbered. Anything less would be seen as a failure and a rejection of his and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland's "Build Back Better" plan for Canada.

The choice for Canadians, or perhaps the ballot question, could be framed with the Conservative Party focused on jobs and health care and the Liberals touting their green agenda.

Also hovering over any decision to force an election by either the government or opposition is the possibility of a second wave of COVID-19. Do politicians want to be out campaigning during a second wave with Parliament dissolved and support needed? Or as Hershell Ezrin, former principal secretary to David Peterson, put it "will a six-week campaign help?" The obvious answer is no.

The arguments for an early campaign are dependent on how well the SFT is received, combined with the government's need to shut down any House committees investigating the WE affair. That WE Charity now is shuttering its Canadian operations demonstrates how volatile that situation could become.

There is also the unknown attraction of the new Conservative Party leader, Erin O'Toole. His first couple of weeks have been fairly solid as Canadians get to know him. Will they see a sensible, pragmatic leader who not only shares their concerns but lives them and may do something about them? This is an unknown for Liberals and Conservatives.

The SFT, if it is to be successfully received by Canadians, must address shortcomings in Canada's social safety net revealed during the pandemic. Childcare, seniors' long-term care, women in the workforce, and continuation of economic support programs for 1.1-million Canadians still unemployed are a must.

When these issues are addressed in a meaningful way, then Trudeau can move to climate change and the environment. If the Liberals put pet projects ahead of the real needs of Canadians, they may well be punished.

Although it may not be an exact fit in this SFT, given O'Toole's tougher approach to China and his desire to work with allies on trade issues, Trudeau would be wise to include something in the SFT on foreign affairs—with solutions, or at least new approaches.

If the SFT establishes the right tone with substantive content, it may be wise for the government to move to an election quickly.

Waiting for the fall economic update or next spring's budget is full of unknowns, and some knowns that may be unpalatable for the government, but make a concerted run by the opposition a possibility.

Former parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page in an article in *The Hill Times* Sept. 9 spoke about the need for a broader planning document which puts money behind the policies for parliamentary debate. He argued that a longer-term fiscal plan is needed.

While Page is right, such a plan may scare the hell out of Canadians when they see the debt and deficit numbers and stand in stark contrast to a plain "meat and potatoes" approach dealing with the health care and jobs as offered by the Conservatives.

Also, the longer the wait, the closer one gets to the release of the ethics commissioner's report on the government's WE Charity dealings and the consequences of a second COVID-19 wave.

The third scenario—next spring after the budget—seems almost logical until one drills down on that option. Waiting may suit the opposition much more than the government. By spring 2021, the ethics commissioner will have reported, the country could be in the middle of the second wave, and there is no predicting how long it will take for the economy to recover. In turn, it may be best for the government to go now and for the Conservatives and their new leader to wait.

The first scenario will begin to play out after Sept. 23.

Bruce Carson worked in the offices prime ministers Brian Mulroney and Stephen Harper and has spent many hours agonizing on whether to go to the polls.

The Hill Times

International COVID-19 recovery efforts will be lessened unless all nations are included

Without Taiwan's meaningful inclusion in the UN system, the efforts of the UN will be hampered and the ability of countries like Canada to pursue an ambitious international agenda will be reduced.



Winston Wen-yi Chen

Opinion

When named Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations, former Ontario premier and interim Liberal Party leader Bob Rae stated that, to fight COVID-19 and recover from the

pandemic, an effort must be made on Canada's part to "rebuild a successful world order."

"The well-being of the world really depends on a rebuild and a reconstruction of our international institutions, and I think that's the task ahead for Canada and a great many countries," said Rae.

Rae is correct—only by having nations work together in co-operation through strong international institutions can we restore the world to pre-pandemic prosperity. Indeed, the theme for the general debate at the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly will be, "The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism—confronting COVID-19 through effective multilateral action."

Global Affairs Canada has praised multilateralism as the "cornerstone" of Canada's foreign policy. "Global security and prosperity can only be achieved by working together," reads its website, and Canada hopes to leverage this multilateralism to advance the causes of human rights, development, peace and security, environmental stewardship, diversity and inclusion, and more.

In this context, Taiwan can be a ready and willing partner for Canada's important agenda. We share the same values and the same commitment to an interna-

tional order predicated on fairness, equality, and co-operation. We are a likeminded ally committed to progress on the international stage.

However, while Taiwan is eager to advance a world order that is supported by strong international institutions, the People's Republic of China continues to use coercion to block Taiwan's meaningful inclusion in the UN system. In what is an affront to freedom of the press and human rights, even Taiwanese journalists and passport holders are barred entirely from UN premises.

The impacts of Beijing's political coercion campaign against Taiwan were made most apparent in the early days of the pandemic, when the World Health Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization effectively excluded Taiwan from important and timely information sharing. This not only endangered and disenfranchised the 23.5-million people of Taiwan, it also created the potential for gaps in the global response to COVID-19. As the virus knows no borders, no country (especially one with one of the world's best track records on the pandemic) should be excluded from global efforts to combat it.

Moreover, if we are to move beyond COVID-19, the international community must restore its

focus on many other crucial goals, including battling climate change, accomplishing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), advancing human rights, supporting Indigenous peoples, building peaceful and prosperous societies, and more.

Taking SDGs as an example, Taiwan has made strides both domestically and internationally. By reducing poverty to historic lows, expanding the franchise of health coverage to the whole nation, improving our environmental record, achieving low infant mortality, and more, Taiwan has succeeded in developing in a sustainable and exportable fashion.

It is from this position of strength that Taiwan has been able to export its model in the form of unconditional development assistance in co-operation with partner countries throughout the world. Dozens of countries already benefit from this, and Taiwan could do so much more if allowed to participate in UN activities, meetings, and mechanisms.

All of these goals—goals which Canada aspires to accomplish—require ensuring that all parties are at the table, working in tandem with one another. Thus, the unjust and counterintuitive exclusion of Taiwan must end.

With this in mind, the world should be urging the UN to uphold its own principles of inclusivity.

Taiwan will continue to appeal to the UN to end the exclusion of 23.5-million Taiwanese citizens from its system. As well, the discriminatory policy of excluding Taiwanese passport holders and journalists from UN premises must end. And of course, the UN should ensure that Taiwan has the right to meaningfully participate in an equal and dignified manner in all activities toward advancing SDGs.

If we are to restore normalcy and engage in the kind of institution building which Rae has identified as a crucial component of the post-COVID recovery, then we must ensure that all nations are included. Without Taiwan's meaningful inclusion in the UN system, the efforts of the UN will be hampered and the ability of countries like Canada to pursue an ambitious international agenda will be reduced.

Whether the goal is to battle a once-in-a-generation pandemic, or to rebuild after it, or to return to those crucial tasks that will define our legacy as an international community, we must resolve to work in co-operation with one another. For these efforts to be as effective as possible, Taiwan—like all other nations—must be included.

Winston Wen-yi Chen is the representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Canada.

The Hill Times

Canada needs to step up support for international tropical conservation

The tropics are key to regulating climate, supplying and filtering water, and providing pollinators for the world's food crops.



Molly Bartlett

Opinion

Canada is a global cheapskate when it comes to supporting the world's most threatened and biologically rich tropical ecosystems—despite the risks to food, water, climate, and health when these ecosystems are destroyed.

This week, our organization, the International Conservation

Fund of Canada (ICFC), published a ground-breaking report on Canadian support for tropical conservation. We found that Canada—while recently increasing conservation efforts at home—is near the back of the pack among wealthy nations when it comes to paying to save tropical nature.

Our findings come just days after the release of a devastating new United Nations report card on global efforts to protect wildlife. That report, the fifth Global Biodiversity Outlook, found that, a decade after setting targets to stop the decline and loss of nature, countries around the world—including Canada—have collectively failed to reach any of them. Biodiversity, the UN report suggests, is in a freefall; life on earth, including human life, is in peril.

The lesson for Canada is clear: we can't stem the global tide of vanishing wildlife just by saving it at home. Ottawa's lopsided focus on protecting nature within Canada while offering little support for it elsewhere ignores a vital truth: conservation is needed most where the variety of life is richest, where it's at greatest risk, and where it's most likely to unleash existential threats to humanity—including

pandemics and worsening climate change. Conservation is needed most, that is, in the tropics.



Environment and Climate Change Minister Jonathan Wilkinson is pictured in a pre-pandemic media scrum on Jan. 28. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

The lesson is not being heard. Our report compares biodiversity-related bilateral official development assistance—the main source of international conservation finance—from donor nations of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development between 2002 and 2018.

While other donors generally increased support for international conservation—some dramatically—during that period, Canada's conservation aid has been and remains scant. The country's average annual contribution between 2016 and 2018, for example, was just over \$10-million—less by two orders of magnitude than that contributed by France and Germany (more than US\$1-billion each) to help lower-income countries save nature.

Even though Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced in 2019 that Canada was "stepping up as a world leader in biodiversity and nature conservation," the country has not been among the top 10 donors of biodiversity-related international aid since 2012.

Yet, Canada needs the tropics as much as the tropics need Canada. More than three-quarters of the world's amphibians, land mammals, freshwater fish, ants, flowering plants, and marine fish live there. A third of Earth's productivity goes on there, converting sunlight into energy that supports life. The tropics are key to regulating climate, supplying and filtering water, and providing pollinators for the world's food crops.

More than a billion land birds migrate from the vast boreal forest of Canada (and Alaska) to winter in tropical South and Central America. Other migratory species linking us to the tropics include fish, whales, and insects.

Importantly, tropical landscapes are also home to wildlife diseases that exist in a delicate balance with their animal hosts. They are the same diseases—such as COVID-19, Ebola, SARS, and others—that can crossover to humans when their balance in nature is upended.

In our report, we argue that Canada can still become a champion for tropical conservation. We do the math and recommend that Canada match or exceed other top donors by increasing Canadian funds for international conservation to at least \$650-million per year.

We call on the federal government to urge other industrialized countries to up their support for conservation within developing nations as well. Our report also recommends that more of Canada's international funding to help fight climate change goes to nature-based climate solutions that simultaneously help biodiversity and people.

Canada needs to step up now. We can stop the destruction of tropical nature before the harm done reaches around the world—like the pandemic—to remind Canadians that we're all connected.

Molly Bartlett is executive director of the International Conservation Fund of Canada.

The Hill Times

THE HILL TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

Information and advertisement placement:
613-232-5952
classifieds@hilltimes.com

FINANCIAL SERVICES



\$\$ CONSOLIDATE YOUR DEBT NOW \$\$
HOME OWNER LOANS FOR ANY PURPOSE!! Pay down other high interest debt! Bank turn downs, Tax or Mortgage arrears, Self-Employed, Bad Credit, Bankruptcy - We Can Help! Even in extreme situations of bad credit. Borrow: \$50,000 Pay Monthly: \$268 • Borrow: \$100,000 Pay Monthly: \$537. LARGER AMOUNTS AVAILABLE!! Decrease monthly payments, up to 75%!! Based on 5% APR. OAC FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY NOW BY PHONE OR ONLINE: 1-888-307-7799. www.ontario-widefinancial.com ONTARIO-WIDE FINANCIAL 1801347inc, FSCO Licence #12456, !! WE ARE HERE TO HELP !!



LOWER YOUR MONTHLY PAYMENTS AND CONSOLIDATE YOUR DEBT NOW!!!
1st, 2nd, 3rd MORTGAGES Debt Consolidation Refinancing, Renovations Tax Arrears, No CMHC Fees \$50K YOU PAY: \$208.33 / MONTH (OAC). No Income, Bad Credit. Power of Sale Stopped!!! BETTER OPTION MORTGAGE. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL TODAY TOLL-FREE: 1-800-282-1169 www.mortgageontario.com (Licence # 10969)

FREE CONSULTATION
HOME OWNER LOANS FOR ANY PURPOSE!! Pay down other high interest debt! Bank turn downs, Tax or Mortgage arrears, Self-Employed, Bad Credit, Bankruptcy - We Can Help! Even in extreme situations of bad credit

Borrow: Pay Monthly:
\$100,000 \$420.60
\$200,000 \$841.21

LARGER AMOUNTS AVAILABLE !!Decrease monthly payments up to 80%!! Based on 3% APR. OAC FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY NOW BY PHONE OR ONLINE: 1-888-307-7799. www.ontario-widefinancial.com. ONTARIO-WIDE FINANCIAL. 1801347inc. FSCO Licence #12456. !!WE ARE HERE TO HELP!!

FINANCIAL SERVICES

1ST & 2ND MORTGAGES
from 2.04% 5 year FIXED OAC. All Credit Types Considered. Serving all Ontario for over 36 years. Purchasing, Re-financing, Debt Consolidation, Construction, Home Renovations... CALL 1-800-225-1777, www.homeguarantdfunding.ca (LIC #10409).

PRIVATE & BANK MORTGAGES!
homementors.ca "Everything Home Starts Here: Text: Samantha at 519-854-4565 or Nick at 519-636-4366. Mtge. Agents (M180001739) (M18000133), Real Mortgage Associates, License #10464. Quote this ad for FREE APPRAISAL.

HEALTH:

GET UP TO \$50,000
from the Government of Canada. Do you or someone you know Have any of these Conditions? ADHD, Anxiety, Arthritis, Asthma, Cancer, COPD, Depression, Diabetes, Difficulty Walking, Fibromyalgia, Irritable Bowels, Overweight, Trouble Dressing...and Hundreds more. ALL Ages & Medical Conditions Qualify. Have a child under 18 instantly receive more money. CALL ONTARIO BENEFITS 1-(800)-211-3550 or Send a Text Message with Your Name and Mailing Address to (647)560-4274 for your FREE benefits package.

ARTICLES FOR SALE/WANTED

WANTED: OLD TUBE AUDIO EQUIPMENT.
50 years or older. Amplifiers, Stereo, Recording and Theatre Sound Equipment. Hammond Organs, any condition. CALL Toll-Free 1-800-947-0393 / 519-853-2157.

CAR COLLECTOR SEARCHING ...
I want your old car! Porsche 356/911/912, Jaguar E-Type or XKE. Tell me what you have, I love old classics especially German and British. Whether it's been in the barn for 25 years, or your pride and joy that is fully restored. I'll pay CASH. Call David 416-802-9999

A look back at the 2019 Throne Speech

The Hill Times photographs by Sam Garcia and Andrew Meade

The Hill Times took a look back at scenes from the last Speech from the Throne, which took place on Dec. 5, 2019.



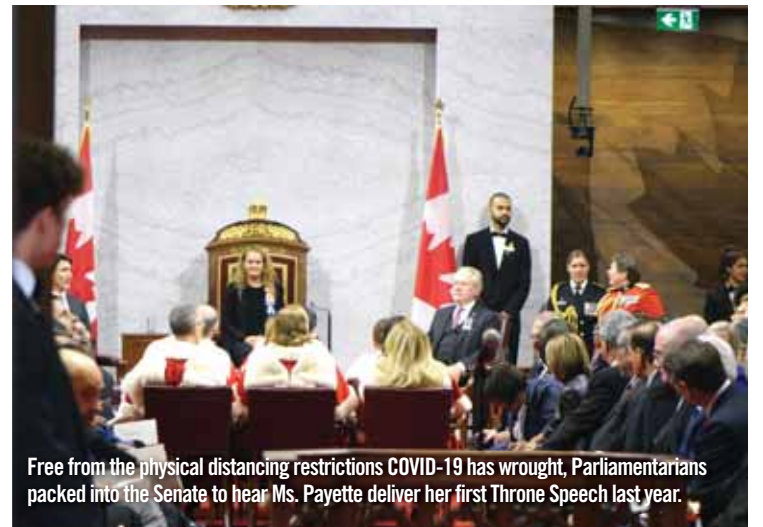
Greg Peters, the Senate's Usher of the Black Rod, is pictured exiting the West Block building as part of the Speaker's parade to the Senate on Dec. 5, 2019. MPs and clerks were transported to the new, temporary Senate building at 1 Rideau St. by bus as part of the rejigged parade last year.



Sophie Grégoire Trudeau, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, then-government representative in the Senate Peter Harder, Governor General Julie Payette, and others watch a performance by Indigenous drummers in the Senate of Canada Building ahead of the last Throne Speech, the first to be held in the newly renovated building.



Members of Parliament—including now Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole, Derek Sloan, Bryan May, Brad Redekopp, Kate Young, Richard Cannings, and Heather McPherson—crowd in to watch the procession into the Red Chamber for the Speech from the Throne.



Free from the physical distancing restrictions COVID-19 has wrought, Parliamentarians packed into the Senate to hear Ms. Payette deliver her first Throne Speech last year.

Parties of the past

The Hill Times photographs by Sam Garcia

With COVID-19 putting a pause on diplomatic gatherings in Ottawa, The Hill Times is offering a look back with (some never-before-seen) images of celebrations and special events that have occurred at this time in years past.

Malaysia marks its national day



Then-Malaysian ambassador to Canada Selwyn Das greets the late Herb Gray, a former longtime Liberal MP, at celebrations to mark his country's national day on Oct. 1, 2009.

Italian PM visits Canada



Then-prime minister Stephen Harper and then-Italian PM Enrico Letta walk down the Hall of Honour on Sept. 22, 2013, during Mr. Letta's official visit to Canada.

Mali celebrates its independence



The ambassador of Mali to Canada Mamadou Bandiougou Diawara is pictured with his wife, Assetou Diakite, right, and the then-Swiss ambassador's wife, Susanna Baumann, at a reception to celebrate Mali's Independence Day on Sept. 28, 2010.



Then-Jamaican high commissioner to Canada Ruby Evadne Coye is pictured with the ambassador's wife, Hannah Renuka Devanesan.



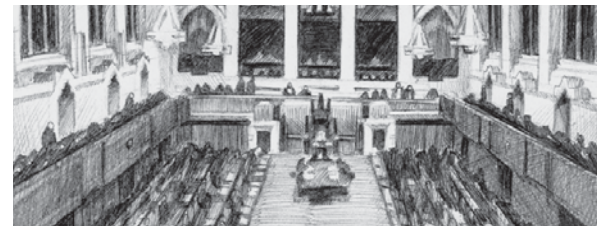
The two former leaders are pictured during a press conference that day.



Then-French ambassador François Delattre, Ms. Diakite, and Cameroon High Commissioner Solomon Azoh-Mbi Anu'a-Gheyile.

Have a house to rent or sell?
Items or products to sell?
Advertise them in The Hill Times
For info contact Kelly:
kmore@hilltimes.com
613-232-5952

Parliamentary Calendar



WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 23

Return of Parliament and Speech from the Throne—The House of Commons will return from the first mid-mandate prorogation called by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Aug. 18. The government will lay out its priorities in the Throne Speech.

Politics and the Pen 2020: Digital Edition—Politics and the Pen will hold a virtual event on Wednesday, Sept. 23. Politics and the Pen is a highlight of political Ottawa's social calendar and an important annual fundraising event benefiting the Writers' Trust. The in-person event regularly attracts 500 guests from Canada's political and literary circles. The 2020 digital event will feature a special presentation of the 20th Shaughnessy Cohen Prize as well as memorable moments from past galas. To date, Politics and the Pen has raised more than \$4.5-million to support the programs of the Writers' Trust. This year's finalists are: *Canada on the United Nations Security Council: A Small Power on a Large Scale*, by Adam Chapnick; *Peace and Good Order: The Case for Indigenous Justice in Canada*, by Harold R. Johnson; *Claws of the Panda: Beijing's Campaign of Influence and Intimidation in Canada*, by Jonathan Manthorpe; *Truth Be Told: My Journey Through Life and the Law*, by Beverley McLachlin; and *Canadian Justice, Indigenous Injustice*, by Kent Roach. For information and sponsorship, contact Julia Yu, events manager, at jyu@writerstrust.com

THURSDAY, SEPT. 24

Canada Briefing for Ambassadors and High Commissioners—Former Liberal cabinet minister Gar Knutson continues a longstanding tradition of offering ambassadors, high commissioners, and senior officials within the diplomatic community a behind-closed-doors analysis of the current political landscape and the impacts on domestic and foreign relations. Knutson will speak on "Trudeau's Liberal Agenda: Challenges that Lie Ahead" and former Liberal cabinet minister David Pratt will deliver remarks on "Towards a Darwinian Foreign Policy for Canada: Adapt and Thrive." Thursday, Sept. 24, from 10-11 a.m. Register via Eventbrite.

Donald Trump: Four More Years?—The University of Ottawa's Centre for International Policy Studies hosts a webinar on "Donald Trump: Four More Years?" exploring the state of the U.S. presidential campaign, the Democratic Party, and U.S. democracy in the Trump years. Former columnist Jeffrey Simpson will moderate the discussion featuring three Americans: Regina Bateson, political scientist at the University of Ottawa; James M. McCormick, professor of political science at Iowa State University; and David M. Shribman, former executive editor of the *Post-Gazette* and *Globe and Mail* columnist. Thursday, Sept. 24, 4:30-6 p.m. Register via Eventbrite.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25

Examining the Options—ISG Senator Diane Bellemare will take part in a panel discussion on "Examining the Options," part of a four-day online conference on "Choosing the Right Target: Real Options for the Bank of Canada's Mandate Renewal," hosted by McGill University. She will be joined by former Bank of Canada governor David Dodge; Evan Siddall, CEO at the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation; David Andolfatto, professor of Economics at Simon Fraser University; Kevin Carmichael, journalist at the *Financial Post*; and Angela Redish, professor at the Vancouver School of Economics, University of British Columbia. Friday, Sept. 25, at 3 p.m. Conference registration available at mcgill.ca/maxbellschool.

Vulnerable: The Law, Policy and Ethics of COVID-19—The five editors of the new open-access book discuss a range of topics on the impact of the pandemic and take Q&A in a free webinar for all audiences. Registration is required for the zoom link at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/vulnerable-the-law-policy-and-ethics-of-covid-19-tickets-117933635679>. 12-2 p.m. (EDT).

Back in business: Parliament kicks off a new session



NDP MP Charlie Angus held an animated press conference on Sept. 21 on the ethics commissioner's recent ruling that former ambassador David MacNaughton violated the Conflict of Interest Act in his dealings with government for Palantir. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

who have made their mark on policy and leadership. Anne McLellan and Senator Peter Harder will take their place among a cohort of other stellar Canadians who've been honoured over the last 33 years, people who have dedicated themselves to making Canada a better place through policy leadership and public service. The gala event will be held on Thursday, Oct. 15, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, 255 Front St. W., Toronto.

SUNDAY, OCT. 18

War: How Conflict Shaped Us with Margaret MacMillan—Margaret Macmillan shares her insights into the very nature of war—from the ancient Greeks to modern times—with CBC's Adrian Harewood. In her sweeping new book, international bestselling author and historian MacMillan analyzes the tangled history of war and society and our complicated feelings towards it and towards those who fight. It explores the ways in which changes in society have affected the nature of war and how in turn wars have changed the societies that fight them, including the ways in which women have been both participants in and the objects of war. The free, pre-recorded event is Sunday, Oct. 18, at 2 p.m. RSVP at writersfestival.org.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 21

Munk Dialogues Returns—The Munk Debates announced a second series of Munk Dialogues, live, hour-long conversations with some of the world's sharpest minds and brightest thinkers. The autumn 2020 Munk Dialogues will focus on the big issues transforming our world, from the U.S. election to the continuing fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic to geopolitics and international relations. On Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 8 pm EDT it will feature dialogue with Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of U.S. House of Representatives and bestselling author, on the legacy of Trump's first term as president, and the future of U.S. politics, two weeks out from November's vote. The Munk Dialogues will be available live and on-demand on the free CBC Gem streaming service (cbcgem.ca) and on the Munk Debates website (www.munkdebates.com/dialogues).

SATURDAY, OCT. 24

B.C. Election—On Sept. 21, B.C. Premier John Horgan called a snap election for his province, to be held on Oct. 24.

MONDAY, OCT. 26

Voting Day for Toronto Byelections—Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced on Sept. 18 that byelections to fill two previously Liberal-held ridings—Toronto Centre, Ont., and York Centre, Ont., won by Bill Morneau and Michael Levitt, respectively, in 2019—will be held today.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 28

Munk Dialogues Returns—The Munk Debates announced a second series of Munk Dialogues, live, hour-long conversations with some of the world's sharpest minds and brightest thinkers. The autumn 2020 Munk Dialogues will focus on the big issues transforming our world, from the U.S. election to the continuing fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic to geopolitics and international relations. On Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 8 pm EDT it will feature dialogue with James Carville, U.S. Democratic Party stalwart, political strategist, and bestselling author, on the likely outcomes of the November 3, 2020, U.S. election, one week out from this high-stakes global event. The Munk Dialogues will be available live and on-demand on the free CBC Gem streaming service (cbcgem.ca) and on the Munk Debates website (www.munkdebates.com/dialogues).

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

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26

Green Party Leadership Online Voting Begins—Online voting to choose the next leader of the federal Green Party begins today and will continue until Oct. 3.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 27

Commanding Hope with Thomas Homer-Dixon—Calling on history, cutting-edge research, complexity science, and even *Lord of the Rings*, Thomas Homer-Dixon lays out the tools we can command to rescue a world on the brink. Journalist John Geddes sits down with the bestselling author and thinker to discuss his latest book, *Commanding Hope: The Power We Have to Renew a World in Peril*. The free, pre-recorded event is Sunday, Sept. 27, at 2 p.m. RSVP at writersfestival.org.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 30

Munk Dialogues Returns—The Munk Debates announced a second series of Munk Dialogues, live, hour-long conversations with some of the world's sharpest minds and brightest thinkers. The autumn 2020 Munk Dialogues will focus on the big issues transforming our world, from the U.S. election to the continuing fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic to geopolitics and international relations. The series will air weekly for ten weeks launching Wednesday, Sept. 30, 8 pm ET with *New York Times*' White House correspondent, Maggie Haberman, in dialogue with Munk Debates Chair, Ruyard Griffiths. Ms. Haberman, one of

world's leading investigative journalists, will talk about the behind the scenes of U.S. President Donald Trump's re-election bid. The Munk Dialogues will be available live and on-demand on the free CBC Gem streaming service (cbcgem.ca) and on the Munk Debates website (www.munkdebates.com/dialogues).

SATURDAY, OCT. 3

Green Party Leader Announcement—The Green Party of Canada is set to announce its new leader in a virtual event at 8 p.m. EST.



B.C. Premier John Horgan, pictured during a first ministers meeting in 2017, has called for a snap election in his province. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

THURSDAY, OCT. 8

Munk Dialogues Returns—The Munk Debates announced a second series of Munk Dialogues, live, hour-long conversations with some of the world's sharpest minds and brightest thinkers. The autumn 2020 Munk Dialogues will focus on the big issues transforming our world, from the U.S. election to the continuing fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic to geopolitics and international relations. On Thursday, Oct. 8, at 8 pm EDT it will feature dialogue with Michael Eric Dyson, bestselling author,

scholar, and racial justice campaigner, on the future of the politics of race and social justice in the shadow of the most consequential U.S. election in a generation. The Munk Dialogues will be available live and on-demand on the free CBC Gem streaming service (cbcgem.ca) and on the Munk Debates website (www.munkdebates.com/dialogues).

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14

Munk Dialogues Returns—The Munk Debates announced a second series of Munk Dialogues, live, hour-long conversations with some of the world's sharpest minds and brightest thinkers. The autumn 2020 Munk Dialogues will focus on the big issues transforming our world, from the U.S. election to the continuing fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic to geopolitics and international relations. On Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 8 pm EDT it will feature dialogue with Robert Reich, former U.S. labor secretary, economic inequality activist, and filmmaker, on how to meet the once in a generation societal challenges presented

by COVID-19 and its shakeout of the global economy. The Munk Dialogues will be available live and on-demand on the free CBC Gem streaming service (cbcgem.ca) and on the Munk Debates website (www.munkdebates.com/dialogues).

THURSDAY, OCT. 15

PPF Testimonial Dinner and Awards—Join the Public Policy Forum at the 33rd annual event to network and celebrate as the Public Policy Forum honours Canadians

New podcast for Canadian political junkies



An insider's look at the political issues of the day, The Hill Times' Hot Room takes you deep into the nitty-gritty issues, policies, politics, and people behind the headlines. Hosted by The Hill Times' deputy editor Peter Mazereeuw, this podcast keeps you sharp about the stories blowing up your phone.

Subscribe today.

[HillTimes.com/podcast](https://hilltimes.com/podcast)

Via Apple Podcasts | Spotify | Via Stitcher | Google Podcasts

