COVID management more catchphrase than constructive



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Follow the Fab Four's lead against Beijing's bullying



Boosting morale not worth the human cost





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News

'It's about time we started to push back': Conservative Alberta MPs support beleaguered energy war room

BY ALICE CHEN

Despite a string of controversies since its December 2019 launch, Conservative Alberta MPs say the province's energy war room is an important support and voice for the energy sector.

The Canadian Energy Centre's website describes its mandate as being in place "to promote Canada as a supplier of choice for the world's growing demand for responsibly produced energy."

To that end, it's received millions of dollars of funding from the Alberta provincial government. While its original annual budget was \$30-million, it was cut by 90 per cent in March 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, with the tabled 2021 budget for Alberta noting a continued reduction to

Continued on page 4



Premier Jason Kenney, pictured in Ottawa in May 2019 with Energy Minister Sonya Savage, promised an energy war room while campaigning for his seat. Since its inception, it has been plagued with controversy and criticism. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

News

CPC policy process tweak lauded as way to hear more ideas, more often, from members

BY LAURA RYCKEWAERT

New wording added to the Conservative Party's guidance on policy development is being lauded by party members, who see it as an avenue to make the party's policy process more flexible and open to input from grassroots members.

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Comment

Canada's continuum of hate: time to address COVID-accelerated bigotry

BY LES WHITTINGTON

OTTAWA—How big of a problem is hate-motivated violence in Canada? The fact is, no one knows. Only a small

Continued on page 5

Feature

Students set sights on 24 Sussex rehab, offering ideas for NCC to mull

BY ALICE CHEN

As the prime minister's official residence continues to sit

empty in need of major repairs, a group of Carleton University students have weighed in with ideas to transform the space. Though the short-term grades are paramount, having the opportunity to submit ideas to the body that will eventually make a decision on what happens to the landmark home is "pretty monumental," according to one student.

Redesign proposals for 24 Sussex Drive were presented by 14 Carleton University architecture students in the winter term of 2020. Designs ranged in theme

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HEARD ON THE HILL

by Alice Chen

Ford's critiques of federal vaccine procurement rebutted by Minister Anand





Procurement Minister Anita Anand, left, responded on CTV to criticism leveled at the vaccine procurement process by Ontario Premier Doug Ford, right. The Hill Times photographs by Andrew Meade

Services and

In response to a condemnation of vaccine procurement by Ontario Premier Doug Ford, Public Services and Procurement Minister Anita Anand fired back.

Mr. Ford called the current vaccine acquirement efforts "a joke" on March 26, pointing to federal procurement processes as the root cause of shortages at the municipal level.

He further said they lack the reliable and steady supply of masks and vaccines they need, highlighting the Moderna formula delays that week, while noting that the province has the people and the infrastructure to administer more vaccines than it currently is.

Taking umbrage with these comments, Ms. Anand responded on CTV's *Power Play*.

"I'm actually surprised by those remarks because they're not supported by the facts," she said.

She pointed to the fact that 9.5 million vaccine doses were set to have been delivered to Canada as of the week of March 30, including the Moderna doses Mr. Ford referred to, and said the government has been transparent about delivery schedules. More importantly, she said in Ontario supply currently outpaces the delivery of vaccines

Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** chimed in, too, during a March 31 Liberal Party fundraising event, praising Ms. Anand for doing an "incredible job" and saying that "one of the easiest things to do is to try and point fingers and deflect," as reported CityNews

Also being circulated on Twitter around that time by members of the Ontario Progressive Conservative caucus was an infographic about vaccine deliveries which suggested the government had fallen short, as noted by Queen's Park Global News bureau chief Travis Dhanraj, who later highlighted that Mr. Ford had deleted his own tweet with the graphic. Globe and Mail reporter Marieke Walsh tweeted that the Ontario premier later refused to answer questions about his critiques and said that the different levels of government are all one family.

Meanwhile, Liberal MP **Iqra Khalid**, called out the fact that 800,000 doses were still sitting in Ontario's freezers.

Michael Coteau seeks federal nomination

Liberal Ontario MPP **Michael Coteau** will be seeking the federal Liberal Party's nomination in the riding of Don Valley East.

He confirmed this news March 31. He's represented the riding provincially for a decade, and said that in making this step, he wants to inspire people.



Excited to share some great news! #canpoli #onpoli



"I would like to be the first person who grew up in Flemingdon Park to sit in the House of Commons. I want young people there to know their voices can be heard, that they can make a difference," he told the *Toronto Star*.

Q 46 & Copy link to Tweet

An MPP since 2011, Mr. Coteau ran for Ontario Liberal leadership in the 2020 race that ultimately saw him place second to Steven Del Duca.

Right now, Don Valley East, Ont., is being represented in the House by Independent MP **Yasmin Ratansi**, who left the Liberal caucus last year after coming under scrutiny for a misuse of House funds in light of news that she had hired her sister as a constituency assistant.

Mr. Coteau will stay on as the co-chair of the provincial party's platform development committee.

A nomination meeting has not currently been announced for Don Valley East.

Mike Lake speaks about his son for Autism Awareness Day

Inspired by World Autism Awareness Day, Conservative MP **Mike Lake** spoke passionately about his own experiences raising his son with autism on March 25.

Serving the riding of Edmonton-Wetaskiwin, Alta., Mr. Lake spoke about the 23 years since his son, **Jaden**, was diagnosed.



Conservative MP Mike Lake spoke from the heart about his son with autism and the many things he offers to the world. The Hill Times file photograph

"Jaden often needs help to navigate the world around him. Let's face it—we all need help sometimes," he said in a statement in the House.

However, he emphasized that his son also has "many things that the world needs right now."

He expanded on that note, pointing to the need for quiet in the midst of unrelenting noise, with his son challenging them to slow down "to wait for his thoughts to find expression in their own time and form."

He further said that there is a lot to learn from his son in terms of grace, especially with regard to the pure and unconditional love he offers and in the endless encouragement he provides, including the "enthusiastic high-five [he has] for quite literally anyone."

"The world needs gratitude and I'm so thankful for the tens of millions of people around the world with autism, whose unique abilities and perspectives will benefit all of us if we build societies that better include them."

Canadian Taxpayers Federation criticizes MPs for taking a pay raise amidst a pandemic

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation has levelled criticized against the automatic annual pay raise for Members of Parliament, for taking place during a pandemic and a severe economic downturn, even as taxes are set to go up.

As dictated by legislation, MP salaries were

subject to a 2.1 per cent increase for 2021-22, bumping the basic salary for MPs from \$182,600 to \$185,800 as of April 1.

"Our MPs should know that [this] ... is the worst possible time to be padding their pockets with a pay hike," said **Franco Terrazzano**, the federation's Alberta director, in a March 30 statement.

"Millions of Canadians have been struggling with COVID-19 for more than a year



Canadian **Taxpavers** Federation Alberta director Franco Terrazzano criticized the government for issuing out pay raises to its MPs during a pandemic. Photograph courtesy of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation

now, so it's long past time for our MPs to get off their butts and put an end to their automatic pay increases."

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021 | THE HILL TIMES

In the past, in response to the 2008 recession, the federal government stopped automatic pay raises from 2010 to 2013. Last year, following a similar outcry, dozens of MPs donated the bump in pay to charity.

Also coming on April 1 was a federal carbon tax increase and an increase in the cost of alcohol, noted the federation.

Statistics Canada estimates that 700,000 private-sector jobs were lost over the last year.

The Change Conference starts this week

The Pearson Centre for Progressive Policy will be hosting its Change Conference over a three-week period starting April 8 and going until April 21.

Over this time period, 10 webinars will be held with more than 30 experts across Canada and beyond.

Some of the headliners include Natural Resources Minister Seamus O'Regan, former Bank of Canada governor Stephen Poloz, president of the Professional Institute of Public Service of Canada Debi Daviau, Transport Minister Omar Alghabra, and special representative for the Prairies Jim Carr. Also appearing is Independent Ontario Senator Frances Lankin, President of the Canadian Labour Congress Hassan Yussuff, president of the Progressive Policy Institute Will Marshall, Green Party Leader Annamie Paul, and Independent Senator Julie Miville-Deschene.

Some of the topics covered will include energy Policy for economic recovery, Canadian broadcasting for the future, transport policy and economic recovery, and several conversations with leaders.

Leaders' debates producers announced for next election

While the exact date of the next federal election still remains unclear, the producers of the leaders' debates for the next race were announced on April 1.

A partnership of news organizations the Debate Broadcast Group—will together produce two debates during the next federal race, the Leaders' Debate Commission said.

Included in the hosting partnership is CBC News, CTV News, Global News, and APTN News, which will produce and distribute the English-language debate, and Radio-Canada, Noovo, La Presse, Le Devoir, L'actualité, and Les Coops de l'information which consists of Le Soleil, Le Droit, La Tribune, Le Nouvelliste, and Le Quotidien et La Voix de l'Est, which will tackle the French-language debate.

Both debates will be broadcast for free in both official languages, as well as in some Indigenous languages. Also included is close captioning, described video, and American and Ouebec Sign Language.

The partnership's changes from last year include dropping the *Toronto Star*, and HuffPost Canada and HuffPost Québec, the two latter of which were shut down after Buzzfeed acquired the brand at large, from the line-up. APTN, Noovo, and Les Coops de l'information are new additions.

achen@hilltimes.com The Hill Times

OPEN BANKING

the financial tool Canada needs for recovery

In its 2018 Federal Budget, the Government of Canada created the Minister of Finance's Advisory Committee on Open Banking. In January 2020, they recommended "that the Government announce a bold, clear and concrete timeline for delivering consumer-directed finance."

A year later and in the middle of a crisis, we are about to discover through Budget 2021 the path our government envisions for economic recovery. Instead of a return to our pre-pandemic situation, many Canadians are looking for bold changes to tackle rising inequalities and provide a breadth of fresh air after a long, tormenting period of financial distress. To that end, it is essential for Canada to put forward an open banking framework that will assert data mobility rights for Canadians in the financial system. It represents nothing less than an era-defining opportunity to operate deep-reaching changes for a better and more inclusive financial system for all Canadians.

In essence, an open (or "consumer-directed") banking environment is one where a customer (whether a consumer or a SME) has the ability to exercise data portability rights. In other words, they would enjoy a prerogative to request that a financial institution shares – seamlessly and conveniently, through secure dedicated digital channels – the information they hold about that customer with another organization of that customer's choosing. Currently, in Canada, financial institutions have no clear legal obligation to facilitate data mobility for their customers, let alone any kind of direction about how to do it appropriately. This is problematic since new-generation financial services have the potential to significantly improve the financial health of Canadian consumers and SMEs, but they require proper data mobility rails to be leveraged effectively.

The worst part? Our current system disproportionately disadvantages the least privileged Canadians; those who are underbanked. They are no small group; they were estimated at about five million (roughly 15% of our population) according to ACORN Canada in 2016.

These Canadians are trapped within a negative feedback loop. Those with less than three years of credit history are basically excluded by the current legacy credit system. Because they have no other option, a lot turn to high-fee, high-anxiety services like payday lenders. Perhaps the most deplorable element is that many of these Canadians are actually creditworthy. Our homegrown Canadian fintech companies are able to fix this and could serve them through novel, cashflow-based credit risk models. SMEs are also being left behind in the same way. Access to capital and accounting are vital for them, yet they can't easily access the cutting-edge innovation that's out there to assist them with it. The lack of data portability rights in our country means that such offerings are out of reach for underprivileged Canadians and SMEs.

A customer-driven open banking system is the way forward to right some of these wrongs and to bridge the gap between our current financial system and the less fortunate Canadians desperately trying to get by.

What's more, Canada is already late when it comes to regulating open banking. Our closest allies like the United Kingdom, the European Union, Australia, New Zealand have all moved forward, some of them years ago. All of these jurisdictions are currently at an advantage against us in developing consumer-centric financial systems and breeding the innovators that drive it forward. The only other G7 country who has not yet regulated open banking is the US, whose financial system can't be hailed for its stability, to say the least. And make no mistake, open banking is already here. One in five Canadians are using open banking services today; it is simply unregulated and under-tapped.

As aforementioned, we need open banking to make sure all Canadians have access to the best financial options available, to equip our SME owners for success in these difficult times, and to maintain Canada's competitiveness on the global stage. We should also be mindful that ultimately, open banking is all about giving data back to their rightful owners: the Canadian consumers and SMEs that originate it. Let's act now to ensure we keep their data in the hands of Canadian companies.

We ask the Canadian government to make open banking a reality in Canada by creating, through Budget 2021, an arm's length secretariat in charge of delivering such a framework. In order to uphold consumer-centricity – the cornerstone of open banking – this secretariat should be accountable to the government, vested with sufficient authority to regulate industry, and have the explicit mandate to implement consumer data mobility rights in the financial sector.

Open banking is the most powerful tool within our grasp to improve the financial well being of Canadians. Now that it's needed more than ever, let's not delay this initiative anymore.



















'It's about time we started to push back': Conservative Alberta MPs support beleaguered energy war room

Alberta NDP MP Heather McPherson says she supports the energy industry but that the war room is 'absurd' and pulls attention from existing opportunities for strong oil and gas and renewable energy sectors.

Continued from page 1

just \$12-million annually, the government told CBC News.

Over its run, the centre has made headlines for having initial logos that were found to be already in use, and for having a social media presence whose tone "did not meet CEC's standard for public discourse," according to an apology from the centre's CEO. Most recently, the centre received mixed press for its stand on Netflix's Bigfoot Family movie, with the organization decrying the children's film for villainizing energy workers and telling lies about the oil industry.

However, support is still strong for the war room among Conservative Alberta MPs and organizations.

Conservative MP Michael Cooper (St. Albert-Edmonton, Alta.) supports the centre and said in an email statement to follow-up questions that its mandate to support Alberta's energy industry "is something that should unite all Albertans. Its work has no bearing whatsoever on the Conservative Party of Canada."

"It's about supporting one of the most vital sectors in the Canadian economy that employs hundreds of thousands of Canadians," he said in an interview with *The Hill Times*.

Ron Liepert, Conservative MP for Calgary Signal Hill, Alta, said it's about time there was a voice for the sector, and that he wished more Canadians in central Canada would speak up for the importance of the energy industry.

"The environmental lobby groups have done a much better job communicating than we have, and it's about time we started to push back," he continued. Mr. Liepert also noted that the more avenues there are to get the message out, the better.

Similarly, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, a group that advocates for oil and natural gas, said in an email that it hopes the Canadian Energy Centre can continue to find its place in the energy conversation.



MP Michael Cooper emphasized that support for the Alberta energy industry should be something that unites all Albertans. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

Conservative

On a more critical bent, NDP MP Heather McPherson (Edmonton Strathcona, Alta.), who is the province's sole non-Tory MP, said that while the oil and gas sector is important, the war room itself is "dumb"

"I know that's not a very nuanced answer, but it's one of the most absurd things to see," she added, pointing to the war room as a waste of funds that could be directed towards things like post-secondary education and health as well as the fact that it makes Albertans "laughing stocks" with news coverage that she said has centred around mocking it.

She said the war room signals an inability or disinterest in diversifying the energy economy, ignoring the opportunities that exist for having a strong oil and gas sector and a strong renewable sector. "When you're already in the [supposed] sub-basement of human morality, what [else] could you do to the oil and gas industry to make things worse?" he said.

While he couldn't comment on how effective the energy centre has been, he did note that if it contributed at all to boosting prices, it would pay for its budget "many times over."

Mr. Cooper said he sees it as more of a single tool in the box and not a panacea for supporting the industry. Overall, he said that it's a net positive for the oil industry.

Mr. Liepert said he feels similarly that any opportunity to educate people about the importance of the energy industry is the "right thing to do."

"We cannot have too many different strong spokespeople for this industry," he added.



NDP MP



For the industry overall, David Yager, an energy analyst and oil and gas writer, said that the war room isn't likely to change public perception of the industry for those who are already determined to look down on it.

University of Western Ontario energy policy professor Adam Fremeth said that there's a "dearth of facts" in Canada on the energy sector, and that any information that can be generated by governments is a benefit. Specifically, he said that it gives a stronger fact base for decision makers.

The Alberta oilsands have also been unfairly targeted, Mr. Yager said in an email response to follow-up questions. He raised issues like tanker bans, which became law in the 42nd Parliament with Bill C-48, that have limited the country's ability, and by extension Alberta's ability, to export crude oil off of British Columbia's north coast.

"If oil tankers are unsafe for environmental reasons, why do international suppliers like Saudi Arabia and other countries with questionable human rights and environmental protection legislation supply Quebec with oil down the St. Lawrence River every day?" he wrote.

Another reason the industry may be struggling, according to Robert Evans, professor emeritus of engineering at the University of British Columbia, is that the world is moving towards climatefriendly options like electric cars. While he noted there would likely still be a need for petroleumbased fuels for a long time, he also said a larger move to electric vehicles would make a huge impact on the sector. He added that "the folks in the oilsands will find it even tougher to compete, I would think, because people will want to use the lightest crude with the lowest emissions.

The exact environmental impacts of oilsands gas production are somewhat a point of contention. Mr. Cooper pointed to a 2014 California Environmental Protection Agency study that pinpointed the dirtiest oil in North America as coming from Los Angeles. Another Natural Resources Canada report he provided found that greenhouse gas emissions per barrel produced in the oilsands had dropped by 36 per cent as a result of technological upgrades.

Ms. McPherson acknowledged these improvements, praising the industry for doing a good job. But, she also said that she doesn't think it's fair to say "that this is the cleanest oil and gas in the world."

A 2020 Pembina Institute report found the life cycle carbon dioxide emissions per barrel of crude from the Canadian oilsands came in anywhere from 621 to 736 kilograms, significantly above the North American weighted average of 541 kilograms.

However, Mr. Yager, citing a Canadian Energy Centre report, said that flaring—meaning the controlled burning of waste gases resulting in greenhouse gas emissions—was much lower in Canada compared to other countries. It came in at 22nd out of 30 in this category, as compared to other major countries that produced petroleum.

Another boon for the industry, Mr. Yager said, are the ethical production practices in Canada. He said the Alberta energy industry cares about safety, the environment, social programs, and operates with full transparency.

Ms. McPherson agreed with this but raised the point that "we should be held to a higher standard on some of these things than countries that have atrocious human rights records."

Mr. Liepert raised the issue of environmental lobby groups targeting the energy sector. Mr. Cooper said that it is "well established that foreign entities have been interfering ... to undermine Canada's energy sector."

As an example, he pointed towards a 2008 "Tar Sands Campaign" that brought together advocacy groups from Europe, the U.S., and Canada to campaign against Alberta's oilsands.

However, Ms. McPherson called the idea that there is a legion of well-funded groups targeting Alberta energy a "convenient myth." While there are environmental NGOs targeting the oilsands, she said, based on her experience working for NGOs prior to entering politics, the well-funded ones are few and far between.



David Yager, oil and gas writer, says the oil industry can be attacked with impunity. *Photograph courtesy of LinkedIn*

"I find it funny to hear massive, extraordinarily wealthy multinational companies engaged in oil and gas speaking about how hard it must be to be attacked by wealthy NGOs," she said.

Mr. Yager said the oil industry can be targeted without consequence.

"You can pretty well say anything you want about oil ... you can trash oil companies, you can trash oil workers, you can trash oil-producing provinces, and there are no checks and balances anymore," he said.

Returning to the *Bigfoot Family* movie, he noted that the film centred around an evil oil executive who kidnaps the good guys, whose workers attempt to murder them, and who focuses on bombing a valley to get petroleum.

"The cancel culture, the woke generation, when you say awful things about anything, there seems to be some public outrage. But except for oil because there's no limit.

The question he raises then is "can you write absolutely salacious bullshit about oil with impunity?"

In the end, Alberta is one of the top oil-producing regions in the world, and for that Mr. Yager said he feels no qualms.

"We're not embarrassed. We're not ashamed. The [Canadian Energy Centre is] sticking up for us."

> achen@hilltimes.com The Hill Times

Comment



of anti-Asian antagonism has been fed by political Beijing's early handling of the outbreak, in particular by former Trump, who has repeatedly referred to "Chinese virus" as part of his effort to deflect blame for his of the pandemic when it first broke out in the U.S. Unsplash photograph by Jason Leung

The climate figures criticizing president Donald COVID-19 as the own mishandling

Canada's continuum of hate: time to address COVIDaccelerated bigotry

Regardless of COVID-19, the federal government needs to go beyond rhetoric and marshal a national consensus to get a lot tougher on hateful behaviour.



Les Whittington

Need to Know

Continued from page 1

portion of all hate crimes are reported to unreported ranging from 60 per cent to 95

That's partly because many people, particularly newcomers to Canada, avoid involvement with the police and don't make a report or because the police don't evaluate a report as credible.

Even so, all indications are that hatemotivated incidents have been on the rise, with a big uptick, not surprisingly, since Donald Trump's election as U.S. president in 2016 was seen as a signal for bigots everywhere to come out of the shadows.

In 2017, police reported 2,073 criminal incidents in Canada that were motivated by hate, a stunning 47 per cent increase from the previous year, according to Statistics Canada. That increase was largely attributable to an increase in police-reported hate crimes motivated by hatred of a religion or of a race or ethnicity. Since 2017, the rate of reported hate crimes has stayed historically high. For 2019, police counted 1,946 cases, with more incidents targeting people over their race and sexual orientation.

And in Canada as elsewhere, the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated hate incidents, violent and otherwise, against people of Asian descent. Vancouver police witnessed a large jump in hate crimes last year, reporting 98 cases compared to 12 in 2019. And it seems to be getting worse as the pandemic drags on. A report from the Chinese Canadian National Council's Toronto chapter said it had received information on 1,150 incidents of anti-Asian racism since COVID-19 emerged, with almost half of them happening early this year. Most of the incidents involved "verbal harassment," though 11 per cent of the reports involved physical force, aggression, or unwanted physical contact. In 10 per cent of incidents, the victims were coughed at or spat

"Collectively and individually, these racist incidents have resulted in deep and long-lasting impacts on the Asian Canadian community as a whole," Avvy Go, director of the Chinese and Southeast Asian Legal Clinic, said in a statement calling for action by Parliamentarians. "As Asian Canadians, our lives have been taken over by a constant sense of paralyzing fear. Every time we step out of our home, we wonder if the attack will happen to us, again."

The climate of anti-Asian antagonism has been fed by political figures criticizing Beijing's early handling of the outbreak, in particular by Trump, who has repeatedly referred to COVID-19 as the "Chinese virus" as part of his effort to deflect blame for his own mishandling of the pandemic when it first broke out in the U.S. This kind of incitement has had an impact in Canada, as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has ac-

These incidents are an element in a larger pattern of increasing right-wing extremist presence in Canada. Although hard to keep track of, hate groups, including online organizations, are estimated to number between 200 and 300 now, perhaps double what they were a few years ago.

In February, after the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, the Trudeau government said its intelligence agencies consider ideologically motivated violent extremism a "growing threat" and added 13 extremist groups, including the Proud Boys and several other neo-fascist organizations, to the Criminal Code list of terrorist entities. At the same time, the government said countering the online component of these organizations remains a "complex and ever-evolving is-

And last month, after the attack that killed six Asian-American women in Atlanta, MPs passed a motion condemning the rise of anti-Asian racism and urging the government to do more to confront hate crimes.

The government has several programs in place to address discrimination and systematic racism and plans to tighten up regulation of hate speech on the internet. But the legal system has been grappling for decades with trying to balance laws against hate incidents with free speech protections and most racist incidents don't meet the threshold of a criminal offence. Of those that do, only a small portion result in charges being laid.

Regardless of COVID-19, the federal government needs to go beyond rhetoric and marshal a national consensus to get a lot tougher on this kind of hateful iour. A good place to start would be to follow through on NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh's House of Commons motion calling for Ottawa to convene a federal-provincial meeting on tackling hate crimes, co-ordinate efforts to upgrade tactics for countering this trend, and fund new dedicated hate crime units in communities across the country. It's time for action, not more talk.

Les Whittington is a regular columnist for The Hill Times.

The Hill Times



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Yours sincerely, Brian Gallant, Sandra Pupatello & JP Gladu

Aesthetic display of skills not worth the human, financial cost



training planes are unarmed and cannot in any way contribute to the defence of our nation. Plus, by their very nature, acrobatic formation stunt fliers put themselves and their aircraft at great risk, writes Scott Taylor. DND photograph by Sergeant Robert Bottrill

For those who would argue that the Snowbirds are a good recruiting tool for the RCAF, the fact is the Snowbirds present a misleading image of what a modern air force actually does.



Scott Taylor Inside Defence

Otto TTAWA—In the past week, the RCAF's famed Snowbirds air demonstration squadron has found itself in the media spotlight on two separate occasions. The first instance was the March

29 release of the final report on the tragic crash that occurred shortly after a takeoff from the Kamloops, B.C., airport on May 17, 2020.

Amateur video footage shot at the time appeared to indicate a bird strike on one of the CT-114 Tutor aircraft's two airintakes.

As the Tutor lost power, the pilot, Capt. Richard MacDougall attempted to climb and turn back towards the runway. The aircraft then entered an aerodynamic stall. At a dangerously low level, both MacDougall and passenger Capt. Jenn Casey, the Snowbirds public affairs officer, ejected from the stricken plane.

Both parachutes failed to fully deploy, resulting in the tragic death of Casey and severe injuries to MacDougall

Following the RCAF's 10-month exhaustive review of all the evidence, we are now told that the bird strike did cause the failure of a compressor. However, it was MacDougall's decision to climb sharply which caused the Tutor to stall.

It is also believed that Mac-Dougall's shout to Casey to "Pull the handle" rather than the standard cry of "Eject! Eject! Eject!" may have led to the 0.4-second delay in Casey's seat exiting the aircraft.

The fact that Casey's seat briefly went backwards after leaving the plane may have been caused by items stowed between the seat and cockpit. That rearward motion delayed the deployment of the drogue chute, which in turn delayed her main chute from opening.

As a result of the findings, the RCAF is recommending the Snowbirds' aircrew receive additional emergency training in the wake of this deadly tragedy.

Coming fast on the heels of the accident report was the news that the Canadian government will spend \$30-million in avionic upgrades in order to keep the Snowbirds'Tutor jet fleet flying through 2030.

This Band-Aid solution to keep the iconic Snowbirds performing for another decade simply postpones any decision on purchasing a replacement fleet of aircraft.

For those keeping track, or who are old enough to remember, the CT-114 Tutor first entered service with the RCAF in 1963 as a basic training plane for would-be fighter pilots.

They became the mainstay of 431 Air Demonstration Squadron (the Snowbirds) in 1971.

The original retirement date for these jets was set for 2010. When that deadline loomed, the RCAF pushed the deadline out to 2020.

Now in the spring of 2021, the plan is to invest \$30-million in upgrades and fresh paint in order to squeeze another 10 years out of these old airframes.

On the flip side of that is the fact that a full procurement of a replacement aircraft is estimated to be in the ballpark of \$1.5-billion.

That is a big sack of cheese no matter how you slice it, for what amounts to an aerial circus act. It is a feel-good demonstration team that showcases the RCAF's incredible proficiency in acrobatic formation flying.

The problem is that while most casual observers may delight in seeing the hair-raising stunts performed in the sky, many do not associate the little red and white jets as being "Air Force."

The Tutor training planes are unarmed, and, despite being part of Canada's defence budget, they cannot in any way contribute to the defence of our nation.

By their very nature, acrobatic formation stunt fliers put themselves and their aircraft at great risk.

In their 50-year history, the Snowbirds have crashed 28 air-

craft in 24 separate incidents that resulted in the deaths of seven pilots and two passengers. Dozens of other Snowbird pilots suffered serious injuries as well.

To put this in context, in Canada's three most recent combat aerial campaigns against armed enemies (Kosovo 1999, Libya 2011, Iraq and Syria 2014-2016), RCAF fighter pilots flew a total of 3,002 tactical sorties without suffering so much as a scratch on the paint of their CF-18 Hornets.

For those who would argue that the Snowbirds are a good recruiting tool for the RCAF, the fact is the Snowbirds present a misleading image of what a modern air force actually does.

Much the same is the RCMP's Musical Ride. That is an awe-inspiring display of horsemanship, but it does not reflect the actual role of our national police force.

As for being a public morale booster, let's not forget that at the time of her death, Capt. Jenn Casey was on a nationwide Snowbirds tour aimed at boosting the spirits of pandemic-weary, locked-down Canadians.

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

The Hill Times



Drawn by sibling, Jaden Cafazzo, age 11

The Caffazo family stayed 55 nights over 38 different stays at Ronald McDonald House South Central Ontario.

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HILL TIMES

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Editorial

It's time for the Team Canada band to get back together

There is a lot of back-and-forth sniping between politicians in provincial and federal governments these days regarding who is at fault for the relatively meagre rollout of COVID-19 vaccines across Canada.

Last week, Ontario Premier Doug Ford tweeted out a graphic purporting to show a deficit of vaccines promised by the federal government that the province had received. "In March alone, Ontario received 809,000 fewer vaccines from the federal government than promised. That's 809,000 Ontarians who could have received a shot but didn't. We need more vaccines."

The tweet, which was quickly copied by members of his caucus en masse, didn't last very long, and was deleted shortly after federal Procurement Minister Anita Anand published her own Twitter thread highlighting that the feds had "delivered more than 2.8 [million] doses to the province, ahead of the 2.26 [million] originally forecasted."

The aborted messaging came hours before news began to trickle out of the Ontario cabinet meeting that the province was heading for a new four-week "emergency brake" shutdown.

In the early days of the pandemic, more than year ago, the country was gripped with a desire to work collaboratively. "We're all in this together," was a common refrain, and politicians from every order of government pledged a Team Canada approach to beating back the virus. As the epidemiological curve bent downwards and flattened, things became more business as usual, and the typical political finger pointing and backbiting resumed.

Now, in a third wave of the coronavirus that is amplified by dangerous variants, it's time to regain some of that collaborative spirit—difficult though it may be, since everyone is constantly looking over their shoulders for a federal election call.

The many COVID-19 variants of concern have proven to be more contagious and more likely to cause severe illness in younger populations. With the first doses of arriving vaccines rightly going to the most vulnerable people, such as those in congregant living settings (long-term care homes) that have seen the majority of deaths, it no longer makes sense for provinces to roll out vaccines by descending age order and on a strict per-capita basis.

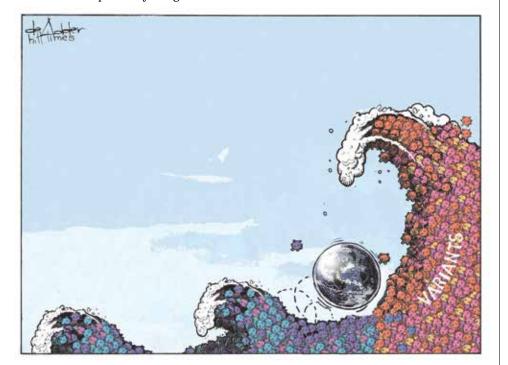
Vaccines should be doled out with top priority to geographic regions that are experiencing the highest rates of COV-ID-19 infections and to those who do not have the option to work from home, such as those in the vital industries that keep Canadians fed and the country's supply chain running. If changing tack on these plans requires some assistance, provinces should ask for it, instead of attempting to go it alone and risking further delays.

During an April 6 press conference, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the feds are willing to help if asked.

"The federal government has paid for the vaccines and we're happy to continue to help with more resources as needed, because this is no time to go back and forth over who should pay for what. This is the time to do everything we can together, to get as many people vaccinated as soon as possible," he said.

It's time to work together again, and

The Hill Times



Letters to the Editor

Diminishing Liberals not the key to boosting Conservative team, says letter writer

Re: "To win, O'Toole doesn't need a bigger tent," (*The Hill Times*, March 25). I agree with Gerry Nicholls that the Conservative Party doesn't need a bigger tent in order to win votes. However, I disagree with his suggestion of a strategy to reduce Liberal appeal in favour of Conservatives.

Aren't Canadians fed up with partisan sniping? In order to have broader appeal to voters, the Conservative Party could have a smaller tent; that is, exclude the views of the extreme wing of the party. Paradoxically, this may attract a much bigger crowd into the tent.

This has been illustrated by the conflict at the recent Conservative convention where members rejected very mild climate policy statements. Contrast this with the fact that recent polling shows 83 per cent



Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole is pictured in Ottawa on March 9. To have broader appeal to voters, the Conservative Party could have a smaller tent, says reader Cathy Lacroix. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

of Canadians want Canada to have a strong climate policy. Those extreme members have steered the party away from a huge climate-friendly voter pool, including their own moderate members.

Cathy Lacroix Toronto, Ont.

The minimum wage solution is to shift corporate subsidies to small business: reader

Opponents of raising the minimum wage consistently claim that such increases would harm or even destroy small business. This argument may easily be refuted by revealing an obvious, but apparently unmentionable solution.

If government offered small business a fair share of the generous subsidies routinely showered on corporate Canada, the minimum wage could rise easily and painlessly. However, since increasing profits is a corporation's only legal duty, even the suggestion of subsidy sharing will be vigorously discredited by dominant voices in the media and academia.

Unfortunately for small business operators, mainstream commentators are

well paid to distract people from the institutional nature of private profit at public risk. For decades, all Canadian governments have so deeply committed themselves to corporate subsidy that it has become a permanent part of the economy.

In 2015, for example, the Canadian government and the governments of Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, and British Columbia made a collective investment of about \$29-billion in tax benefits and direct grants with public money to various business enterprises. By comparison, Canada spent approximately \$18.6-billion on defence in the same fiscal year.

Morgan Duchesney Ottawa, Ont.

Don't let past progress on fighting TB unravel in the face of COVID-19

Tuberculosis (TB), despite being preventable and curable, was the world's leading infectious disease killer before the pandemic, which has only gotten worse this past year and will further worsen without counter measures. In 2019 alone, 1.4 million people—that included 230,000 children—had died of TB. TB is becoming more fatal and difficult to treat with available drugs because of its growing resistance to it. In Canada, there are 290 times more TB patients in Inuit communities than in non-Indigenous communities due to poor policy implementations. Resources that were normally used to fight TB have been diverted to respond COVID-19 making it more difficult to diagnose TB and harder

for TB patients to have access to essential health care.

TB-affected people are in desperate need of hope, support, and solutions now more than ever. TB REACH, founded in 2010, supports community-led initiatives globally and is well suited for this cause. Canada has been a global supporter and leader in the fight to end TB and a leading investor in TB REACH. To mitigate the devastating impacts that COVID-19 is having on TB affected people, Canada must maintain its investment in TB REACH by committing \$85-million over five years. We must support the fight to end TB and not let past progresses unravel.

Zohra Khatoon Ottawa, Ont.

EDITORIAL

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Opinion

Budget 2021 is Canada's chance to align spending with bold ambition on climate

Although some argue that more deficit spending is problematic, the reality is that holding back on investments in a green recovery will create even more problems.



Richard Florizone & Vanessa Corkal Opinion

On April 19, the federal government will unveil Budget 2021. Given the state of the economy in the wake of COVID-19, this will be a historic moment, revealing how Canada plans to finance the myriad components of its recovery while also confronting the defining crisis of our time: climate change.

With up to \$100-billion promised in stimulus, this budget is about far more than just balancing the books. It's about whether



Chrystia Freeland, pictured in Ottawa on Nov. 23, 2020, will present her first budget on April 19. By declaring a climate emergency and committing to net zero by 2050, Canada has taken important first steps; now, it needs a budget that proves this nation is ready to go the distance, write Richard Florizone and Vanessa Corkal. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

Finance Minister

we can step up to the immense challenges in front of us and create a sustainable future for everyone in Canada while meeting our international commitments on climate

This is a monumental task, but anything short of bold leadership simply won't be enough.

The good news is that there is a plethora of evidence to show that ambitious, strategic investments can put us on strong footing to boost the economy, create good jobs and get to net-zero by 2050. What remains concerning, however, is that even with gamechanging announcements in the recently updated federal climate

plan, Canada is still not on track to meet our targets.

Policy experts have identified key funding gaps that, together, offer a massive opportunity for Canada to step up: clean transportation, building retrofits, clean energy, nature and adaptation, sustainable agriculture, green industry and innovation, and workforce training and support.

For guidance in all of these areas, government can turn to the extensive work and recommendations already done by leading experts such as the Green Budget Coalition, the Task Force for Resilient Recovery, and Corporate Knights. Among these sources

and beyond, consensus is that we need substantially higher fiscal commitments over a shorter time frame than what has been announced, otherwise recovery and climate action will be stunted.

Although some argue that more deficit spending is problematic, the reality is that holding back on investments in a green recovery will create even more problems. Combined losses due to extreme weather disasters in Canada have increased tenfold from the 1970s to the 2010s. Climate change is already here, and we can't wait any longer to prepare and protect our communities. We must leverage Budget

2021 as a down-payment on our future.

And let's not forget the future of those outside our borders: Canada's climate spending cannot be limited to domestic efforts; it should also take into account how poorer countries will be affected—ensuring that they, too, can recover while dealing with disproportionate impacts from climate change. For this, international climate finance will be key. The Leaders' Climate Summit on April 22 will be a pivotal moment to see whether Canada is on track to keep up with its global peers.

Over the past couple of months, a flurry of reports have come out tracking whether global recovery spending is where it needs to be in order for us to move toward a sustainable, fair, and prosperous future. Data from the Energy Policy Tracker tells us that all countries, including Canada, are falling short of what is needed to achieve this. Governments must start attaching "green strings" to recovery investments so we can clearly link stimulus to climate action.

With the Biden-Harris administration bringing the United States back into the Paris Agreement and pledging \$2.5-trillion for climate investments—per capita, that is more than eight times what Canada has announced in new climate measures—it's become clear that we're at a critical juncture.

By declaring a climate emergency and committing to net zero by 2050, Canada has taken important first steps; now, it needs a budget that proves this nation is ready to go the distance.

Richard Florizone is president and CEO of the University of Ottawa's International Institute for Sustainable Development. Vanessa Corkal is an IISD energy policy analyst.

Ťhe Hill Times

Follow the Fab Four against Beijing's bullying

By chipping away at China's sense of its own invincibility, we can gradually change the climate that also encourages Beijing to believe it can take hostages, like the two Michaels, with impunity.



Robin Shepherd

Opinion

As China ramps up the pressure on democracies across the world—throwing in the recent Stalinist-era denunciation of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as a "running dog of the U.S." for good measure—the delicate question of how to push back against Beijing's bullying without escalating the situation still further returns to centre stage.

With the two Michaels, Kovrig and Spavor facing trumped-up charges of espionage after more than two years in Chinese jails, and now the imposition of sanctions against Conservative MP Michael Chong and others for raising the plight of the oppressed Uyghurs, Canada is becoming a case study on a mid-sized democracy confronting the 21st century's mightiest authoritarian regime.

What is to be done? There is a lot of talk about democracies uniting their combined diplomatic and economic leverage to tame Beijing's aggression. As a longterm, geo-political strategy, that is eminently sensible.

But we have to understand that this is not only a challenge for governments and their diplomats. Ordinary citizens have a role to play, too. China's bully-boy tactics are being deployed against democracies across the board, including the popular culture that we all participate in.

Consider Top Gun: Maverick, Paramount Pictures' sequel to the 1980s blockbuster scheduled for release this July. If you go to see it—and think hard about this before you decide to do so-look closely at Tom Cruise's signature leather jacket. Originally, it featured a patch displaying the U.S., UN, Japanese, and Taiwanese flags. The last two have now been swapped out, possibly in deference to Chinese sensitivities. In the world's secondbiggest movie market, there are billions of dollars at stake. There's a litany of such cowardly examples from the world of entertainment, ranging from self-censorship over Tibet in the Marvel comic-book inspired 2016 movie Doctor Strange to the grovelling apology to Beijing issued by the NBA in 2019 after Daryl Morey of the Houston Rockets had posted a Tweet in support of the people of Hong Kong.
As things stand, Beijing can

As things stand, Beijing can only draw the conclusion that bul-

lying works. And that is because movie companies and sports stars only face pressure from one side. If Beijing denies them access to its markets, there will be a price to pay. But as responsible citizens, we have the power to alter that calculus of risk. If we refuse to go to see movies whose makers have acquiesced in the demands of an authoritarian regime, we attach a price tag to that acquiescence. If enough of us tell the icons of popular culture that they will lose our support and our custom if they participate in injustice, they will have to listen. By chipping away at China's sense of its own invincibility, we can gradually change the climate encourages Beijing to believe it can take hostages, like the two Michaels, with impunity.

And anyone who thinks that it is only politicians that have a role to play in confronting injustice should recall an episode from the American south in 1964. In that year, on their first American tour, the Beatles were booked to play the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla. Shocked to discover their audience was to be divided

along racial lines, they refused to perform unless the stadium was desegregated. It was a bold move. This was a critical juncture in the careers of working-class lads from Liverpool, fighting for a piece of the lucrative American music market. Despite indignant murmurings in the local press, they got their way. "I'd sooner lose our appearance money," John Lennon said of the affair.

More than half a century later, we could do with leadership like that from our wealthy and privileged celebrities. They are not being asked to take a vow of poverty, or to stand in front of a Chinese tank. They just have to recognize their place on the scales of human justice, and act on it. If they won't, remember that the contents of our pockets have weight, too. Our choices matter in this difficult and dangerous standoff with China. It's time to make them count.

Robin Shepherd is vice-president of Halifax International Security Forum, and author of China vs. Democracy: The Greatest Game.

The Hill Times

Like a fourth wave of COVID, an election call is always lurking

There is arguably never a perfect moment to call an election. But those who do call them like to control as many variables as they can.



Tim Powers

Plain Speak

Ortawa—Is the possibility of a federal spring election

dead? Based on the intensity of the COVID-19 variant outbreaks in provinces like Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia, you'd have to conclude yes. But the prime minister is a wily and cunning politician who is still likely to keep as many options open as he can. So sensible punters bet against a race anytime soon, but don't assume it has been fully pulled off the table yet.

Some signs that the election call is not fully thrown out is the aggressive spin coming from Liberal advocates and acolytes about who bears responsibility for the less-than-ideal vaccine rollouts. Ontario Premier Doug Ford is villain No. 1 for them. Now Ford supporters are fighting back, with jabs also being thrown by the federal Conservatives joined by federal and provincial New Democrats. Frankly, it is a sickening to see this nonsense from all of them. It only adds to the discord among regular citizens who are just trying to get through this pandemic. But political messengers engage in these tactics, so they can create space to move public opinion to their side when they most need it.

Contemporary history also matters to politicians as they plot strategy. The prime minister knows that four provinces have had general elections during the pandemic. In every case, the incumbent government won. Three governments went from minorities to majorities, John Horgan in British Columbia, Blaine Higgs in New Brunswick, and Dr. Andrew Furey in Newfoundland and Labrador.

But Furey's majority was nearly side swept when COV-ID-19 aggressively reared its head in the province. A four-week election campaign dragged on for 10 weeks. What started, according to some pollsters, with the N.L. Liberals possessing a massive 30-to-40-point lead in public opinion, ended up being a very small two-seat majority. The ballot question

went from what is best for N.L. to why are we having this damn election anyway? Furey was also fortunate that his primary political opponent, PC Leader Ches Crosbie, was constantly viewed more negatively than positively by the local public. Local Liberals privately suggest they lost at least four seats because of the pandemic punch. Others would argue more, as some Liberals were forecasting winning at least 30 of the 40 seats in the N.L. House of Assembly.

What the N.L. election also illustrated, which we can all relate to, is people are nearing their wits' end with this war on COVID-19 and its variants. From British Columbia to Newfoundland and Labrador, anxiety and irritability are high. Any overtly self-interested politician or political party could get one hell of a whipping if they disregarded those sentiments for their own gain. In the prime minister's case, he also doesn't have the large

cushion of support Premier Furey did when he sought a mandate from the public.

There is arguably never a perfect moment to call an election. But those who do call them like to control as many variables as they can. They also like to look further afield to determine what is the best window of time to advantage your cause. Sometimes, there is also a fearlessness and risk-tolerance quotient that plays itself out. On the latter points, Justin Trudeau is certainly not afraid to gamble—meaning the prospect of an election is never fully withdrawn.

Sitting in Ottawa in early April, as this city and others set records for case numbers, it is hard to imagine the prime minister thinks the risk of going to the polls is worth the reward. Does that change in six weeks as more people get vaccinated, and hope is more prominent? Or, as is being highlighted in other places, a fourth wave will hit? God, let us hope not. An election can wait, but political opportunism never rests.

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

Canadians want nuclear disarmament and our government should act

It is not surprising that 80 per cent of Canadians think that Canada is not prepared to handle a nuclear weapons emergency and that these weapons, now numbering more than 13,000 in the world, should be eliminated.



Douglas Roche

Opinion

Astrong majority across Canada want the government to join the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, despite pressure it may face from the United States.

That's the highlight of a new national survey conducted by Nanos, the polling organization. The result of this first poll in many years on what Canadians think of nuclear weapons challenges the government to come clean on the reason it won't join the new Prohibition Treaty.

The Treaty was signed by 122 nations in 2017 and entered into force last January. It prohibits, for those who join it, the possession of nuclear weapons. But the U.S. took a hostile stance against it and NATO followed suit. Canada has been dodging the Treaty with one unjustifiable excuse after another as to why it won't join

Now Nanos has put a strong spotlight on the issue. Requested by The Simons Foundation, the Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition, and le Collectif Échec à la guerre, Nanos conducted a random telephone and online survey of 1,007 Canadians, 18 or older, between March 27 and 30.

The first finding was that a strong majority of Canadians support (55 per cent) or somewhat support (19 per cent) Canada signing and ratifying the Prohibition Treaty. About three-in-four Canadians agree (51 per cent) or somewhat agree (23 per cent) that Canada should join the Treaty, despite pressure it may face from the U.S. not to do so.

It is not surprising that 80 per cent of Canadians think that Canada is not prepared to handle a nuclear weapons emergency and that these weapons, now numbering more than 13,000 in the world, should be eliminated. What is notable is that three-quarters of Canadians want Parliament to debate the issue and have committee hearings. Politicians will undoubtedly note a finding that impacts them directly: Canadians are five times more likely to say a political party supporting Canada would make them more likely to vote for that political party rather than less likely to do so.

Canadians are certainly getting more serious about nuclear weapons. Seven-in-10 agree that they would withdraw money from any investment or financial institution if they learned it was investing funds in anything related to the development, manufacturing or deployment of nuclear weapons.

The data is clear. There is far more understanding in the public than the government has credited. Of course, it takes more than a public opinion poll to get the government to act. The government has been paralyzed between its professed desire for a nuclear weapons-free world and its political loyalty to NATO, which still asserts that nuclear weapons are the "supreme guarantee" of security.

Until now, Canada has been flummoxed about what to do: break out of NATO unity by joining the Treaty or succumb to a continuation of a step-by-step approach to nuclear disarmament that has utterly failed for 50 years. The new poll may give the government the conviction to follow through on what it is now considering: attending as an observer the first meeting of the states party to the Treaty, which will be convened by the UN secretary-general in early 2022.

The president-designate of that meeting, Ambassador Alexander Kmentt of Austria, says that Canada, by so doing, could signal that nuclear weapons are not "a sustainable security policy in the long run."

As director of arms control and disarmament for the government of Austria, Kmentt is a major figure in international diplomacy and headed the humanitarian movement that brought together progressive governments and civil society leaders that produced the Prohibition Treaty. He has accepted an invitation from Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention and the The Simons Foundation to come to Ottawa next November to be the keynote speaker at a high-level conference on "Canada and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons." While in

Ottawa, he will extend personally an invitation to the Government of Canada to attend as an observer the international meeting.

I am told by high-placed sources that the government will seriously consider the invitation. Kmentt, who will head the international meeting, says that non-signatories should attend because solving the issue of nuclear weapons requires broad participation of the international community. While nucleardependent states, such as Canada, may think they cannot sign the treaty right now for political reasons, Kmentt told me in an email exchange, "reducing their reliance on and moving away from nuclear deterrence and replacing it with other forms of deterrence could be formulated as a clear policy goal and an urgent priority."

He added: "Nuclear dependent states could, individually or collectively, set such a political objective, opening the door for a more constructive dialogue on the sustainability of nuclear deterrence, one in which the humanitarian consequences and risks of nuclear weapons for all humanity would be weighed against their perceived security benefits."

Kmentt's steady, clear-eyed explanation of why the treaty is a responsible step in reducing nuclear dangers offers Canada a way out of the nuclear dilemma. And now the Nanos poll, showing clearly that Canadians want action on the issue, may give the government the courage to move forward.

Douglas Roche is a former senator and former Canadian ambassador for Disarmament. His latest book is Recovery: Peace Prospects in the Biden Era. The Hill Times

Chaotic management of the pandemic is bringing government into disrepute



rally against restrictions in Vancouver in April 2020. These types of demonstrations have continued throughout the pandemic, and while many participants come from the fringes of society, they may be a harbinger of a less deferential populace, writes Andrew Caddell. Photograph courtesy of Flickr/ GoToVan

If authorities fail to be consistent in managing the pandemic, the numbers of the disaffected are bound to increase.



Andrew Caddell
With All Due Respect

OTTAWA—The COVID-19 pandemic is enough to give a semanticist fits.

As provincial government consultants have gone into overdrive to coin phrases for measures to reduce caseloads, the public is increasingly confused and restive. "Lockdown, shutdown, moveable curfews, circuit breakers, emergency brake"—the lexicon is becoming meaningless. As are the measures themselves.

In Ontario's "emergency brake," some stores are open, restaurants are not, and there doesn't seem to be any rhyme nor reason in who operates and who does not. In Quebec, gyms and restaurants were opened, then closed when cases soared. Curfews were extended, then shortened from region to region. Quebec Premier François Legault mused about allowing family gatherings at Easter, then retreated.

In Alberta, the new variants are raising fear of cases crowding intensive care units, but not enough for Alberta Premier Jason Kenney to impose new restrictions. In B.C., home of the "circuit breaker," the increase of 4,000 cases over the weekend included members of the Vancouver Canucks hockey team.

Meanwhile, in the Atlantic provinces, money is being saved on communications by closing provincial borders and imposing stringent quarantines to actually reduce the numbers of people with COVID.

The motivation for this Balkanized approach to health care has more to do with politics than epidemiology. For elected officials, there is a desperate need to tie the arrival of vaccines with the return to normalcy. There is a saying "the business of government is business": apparently, it was the concern of mass bankruptcies that kept the Ontario cabinet talking about lockdowns beyond midnight last week.

We are taught government works in democratic societies because it is undertaken with the consent of the governed. The classic Liberal philosophers like John Locke and John Stuart Mill emphasized that individual freedom drove the desire to act for mutual benefit.

the desire to act for mutual benefit. Authoritarian governments like China and Russia are using the pandemic as Exhibit
A in their proof democracy
doesn't work, because it allows
too much individual freedom.
While democracies like South
Korea, Taiwan, and New Zealand
succeeded in stemming COVID, those in the Americas and
Europe have produced pitiful

The federal Liberal government has to be included in this assessment: it has paid out hundreds of billions of dollars more than was necessary to respond to the pandemic, another perfect example of how minority governments spend recklessly to get elected. A few faint voices are beginning to question how Canadians will pay back this enormous debt without severe economic consequences.

According to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, evidence is inadmissible when it brings the administration of justice into disrepute. I fear we are witnessing democracy itself brought into disrepute by poor management at all levels of government.

In Quebec, one of the sore points is the nightly curfew. Columnists in Montreal have taken potshots at the only curfew on the continent, which nightly brings the city to a halt.

My cousin Don Ramsey lives in downtown Montreal. Having lived through SARS in Taiwan in 2003, he is assiduous in respecting pandemic protocols, but is frustrated at being unable to go for an evening walk. In his words, "the government should have exhausted all other direct measures before punishing harm-



motivation for this Balkanized approach to health care has more to do with politics than epidemiology. less people."He put his words into action, and drafted a petition to be submitted to the National Assembly.

He was astonished his Member, opposition Liberal Jennifer Maccarone, refused to present it. Her office said it was "politically charged." But petitions are a democratic vehicle for citizens to blow off steam. In a time of crisis, silencing the people is not the best strategy.

In the past weeks, there have been demonstrations of thousands of people walking maskless in the streets of our major cities. While many come from the fringes of society, they may be a harbinger of a less deferential populace. One example: health inspectors in Vancouver were given the bum's rush by the owner and patrons of a restaurant that was openly in violation of pandemic regulations.

If authorities fail to be consistent in managing the pandemic, the numbers of the disaffected are bound to increase. Success has to be based on evidence, not clever catchphrases. It may be a political theoretician's dream to observe citizens as their faith in government declines, but it should be every elected official's worst nightmare.

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

Students set sights on 24 Sussex rehab, offering ideas for NCC to mull

'Even though it was a studio project for class, it really felt like it was more than that, because of its significance,' says Reem Siage.

Continued from page 1

from focuses on Indigenous culture to centre points built around the idea of a paddle.

When Justin Trudeau (Papineau, Que.) became prime minister in 2015, he declined to live in the space long-slated for renovation or replacement. (A 2008 report warned of an urgent \$10-million investment in the property to make it habitable.) He and his family have lived in Rideau Cottage, across the street on the grounds of the governor general's residence at Rideau Hall, ever

A 2018 report from the National Capital Commission (NCC), which is responsible for the administration of the building, that found that the 150-year-old home to be in critical condition, requiring an estimated investment of \$34.5-million to cover deferred maintenance.

Over the years, the NCC has "completed significant work" at the residence, according to **Public Services and Procurement** Canada, including the rehabilitation of chimneys and fireplaces, stabilization of the escarpment at the back and west sides of the property and the removal of hazardous materials from the main

The department continued: "As 24 Sussex Drive has not seen significant investment in over 60 years, the additional work required would include the rehabilitation of the building envelope, mechanical and electrical systems, all buildings on the site would require extensive recapitalization and NCC would need prolonged access to the residence.' According to a 2019 CTV

News report, the government has spent more than \$2.3-million in building upkeep for the vacant property since 2015.

Most of the projects presented by third-year students in the university's Conservation and Sustainability stream of the undergraduate architecture program focused on rehabilitating the space, with an emphasis on cultural history.

The designs were all meant to be preliminary ideas, which were ultimately presented to NCC officials after their completion. This final presentation came on the heels of three others given during the school semester, student Angela Jang told The Hill Times.

They showcase the creativity of students in capturing the importance of heritage conservation





Intertwined seeks to put together Indigenous and Canadian values. It features a curvilinear form and a new addition to host official events, the interior of which is pictured, right. Images courtesy of Carleton University

and environmental sustainability," Greg Kenny, vice-president, official residences at the NCC, said in an email statement. "Their ideas will help inspire potential approaches to the future of 24

To inform these designs, the NCC provided background information, with the RCMP called in to further vet proposals. Adjunct professor Lyette Fortin led the 14week design studio, offering her background as one of the people formerly responsible for official residences at the NCC.

The projects "demonstrated that there are ways to rehabilitate the house adding a new architectural layer to preserve

the heritage values, but as well, introducing new [innovative] sustainable features," Ms. Fortin said on the Carleton website showcasing the designs. "Some pushed the traditional conservative conservation approach to propose daring contemporary new additions to a designated heritage property."

It was also an enlightening experience for students, with Ms. Jang praising the experience for allowing a discussion of Canadian identity in architectural contexts and for enabling work on such a "recognized location in Ottawa," she said in the Carleton

She worked with classmate Lauren Johnson on a proposal

called "Tying 24 Sussex Together" that grew out of the seeds of inspiration planted after visiting the Canadian Museum of History, ultimately crystallizing into the central idea of a knot.

practical terms this meant that their additions were freeflowing and filled with layers to the building envelope, "as if the buildings are being wrapped around by rope and having a physical connection," Ms. Jang

Ms. Johnson noted that it might not be apparent when looking at the project in its 3D form. but that the idea of it stretches from one end of the site to the

Sustainability and accessibility was also key. The pair looked at incorporating passive lighting and ventilation, alongside the use of local materials. The design was further intended to be accessible from the various points of entry.

The process itself wasn't entirely new for Ms. Johnson and the other students.

"We've worked with the research aspect and how to design a historic building following certain guidelines before," she said.

Taking a completely different tack, project partners Reem Siage and Mélina Grandmont said their design, "intertwined," focused on minimal intervention and addressing the lack of privacy in the main residence. Practically, this meant proposing an addition for

bigger gatherings to be held in.

Ms. Grandmont also emphasized a focus on Indigenous values, through landscaping, elongated infinity pools, and carved symbols into stone pathways.

"But of course, if this were to be done for real, we would like Indigenous people to be consulted in the process," she said.

But even though it was done for school, it felt like more than that, Ms. Siage said.

"Even though it was a studio project for class, it really felt like it was more than that because of its significance," she said. "With all our background research and the different phases of design, I think it really put everything into perspective, and I really enjoyed working on it."

"I don't think we realized the gravity of how much attention we would get when we started our presentations with the NCC,"Ms. Jang said."I think as the class went on, we realized this is pretty monumental, like we won't ever have the same experience ... it was really exciting."

And Ms. Johnson said that she was proud of the final product with a few small caveats, notably in terms of getting the idea of tension and compression across a bit differently. For Ms. Jang, the points of connection between old and new could've had more focus. Ms. Siage and Ms. Grandmont

said they felt similarly.

"It was very nice to see the end project and how our hard work really paid off at the end," Ms. Siage said.

But Ms. Grandmont noted that she would've liked to have talked to more people as "[they] still did consult with a good amount of people, but there's always more."

Both groups said they learned a lot from the project, too. The amount of stakeholders involved in this redesign made Ms. Siage realize how intensive this kind of work can be, and the research into understanding the history of the site made Ms. Grandmont value the importance of background knowledge.

Ms. Johnson echoed this senti ment, noting that good research ensures the project is meaningful while also providing inspiration.

As for Ms. Jang?

"I think I always take a little piece of each project with me as I go, so I'm sure it's going to influence my projects in some wav .. what we did for that project I think it's always going to be a part of us."

achen@hilltimes.com The Hill Times



Delegates at the Conservative Party's August 2018 policy convention, held in Halifax, are pictured voting on resolutions. This year's convention was held virtually, with more than 3,100 voting members taking part. The Hill Times file photograph

CPC policy process tweak lauded as way to hear more ideas, more often, from members

'Because things change so often and so quickly, these policies [passed at conventions are sometimes not relevant after a year or two years,' says Conservative EDA president Zach Segal.

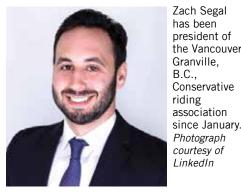
Continued from page 1

The change is a result of a constitutional amendment which passed with 77 per cent support at the party's recent virtual policy convention.

'We wanted to make the policy process more responsive to membership. We feel like we're a grassroots party, we want the membership to be involved and have input," said Zach Segal, a former staffer, 2019 candidate, and current president of the Vancouver Granville, B.C., Conservative riding association, which brought forward the resolution.

"As we will determine, through however this is implemented, newly developed policy options can now be offered to caucus in between conventions, which was part of the problem. Members only had conventions as an opportunity to put forward policies, so there was this huge gap in the middle.'

The resolution amer constitution, adding the wording "provides policy options to the Party parliamentary caucus," to a section of its governance objectives, which will overall now read that the party shall adhere to "maintenance of a policy development process which respects and encourages the participation of all members, provides policy options to the Party parliamentary caucus, and which culminates in the adoption of policy resolutions are national conventions that will become the Party's Policy Declaration from which the Party's election campaign platform will be developed."



"Our constitution already said that the policy process must be responsive and ongoing to its members, and we just felt it wasn't, and so we felt this was a very friendly amendment," said Mr. Segal, who currently works for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Photograph

"Because things change so often and so quickly, these policies [passed at conventions] are sometimes not relevant after a year or two years, and this way they can stay relevant and you can get it up the chain sooner.'

How exactly this change to the policy development process will work in practice remains to be determined. The Conservative Party did not respond to questions by filing deadline.

Matthew Conway, a former staffer and newly elected Quebec representative on the party's national council, said while the "devil's in the details"—which he expects will be sorted out by the national councilhe said he thinks it will echo the regular process, whereby ideas are generated by party members and submitted to the central party through electoral district associations, and then referred to the parliamentary caucus to consider.

With the change, "our parliamentary caucus can have some options and resolutions in front of them to consider, as opposed to just when we have policy conventions every two years," said Mr. Conway, who's currently a senior consultant with the Capital Hill Group in Montreal. "Members can feel part of the process, as



opposed to just having to wait" until the next convention to put ideas forward.

"It could be an interesting tool to be able to attract other members to the party," suggested Mr. Conway, who voted in favour of the resolution. "People are able to sell a membership and say, 'you know, we're not just here to ask you for money, we're here to ask for your input,' and that's a positive at the end of the day.'

Along with increased frequency, the new wording will presumably mean a greater volume of grassroots policy ideas

make it to the table for consideration. Policy conventions are tightly scheduled events, with only a few hours of bandwidth for ideas to be debated and voted on.

At the party's recent convention, held March 18 to 20, just 34 out of 196 policy resolutions submitted by members—roughly 17 per cent—ultimately got a chance to be debated and voted on, along with 35 constitutional amendments (of which this change was one).

"I certainly think it will allow more variety to make its way through, certainly, however that format ends up looking," said Mr. Segal.

Unlike the days of snail mail, today's technology makes it easier to get ongoing input from individuals across the country, whenever ideas arise, said Mr. Conway, and will make the party better prepared for a sudden election call.

"Even in majority governments, but especially in minority governments, those elections aren't dependent on when particular parties have their policy conventions, right?" he said. "Especially in a minority government, you need to be ready to go at any time, and so in other words, you need to have a platform."

lryckewaert@hilltimes.com The Hill Times

OBITUARY -

IAN WADDELL LOVED HIS LIFE!

Matthew

Conway,

who voted in

support of

the motion,

change will

make party

members

feel more involved.

Photograph

courtesy of

LinkedIn

says the

e loved his long and productive political career, his eclectic group of both new and lifelong friends, his travels, creative projects and his home in Kitsilano. He lived fully with enthusiasm and energy.

lan was a story-teller, a raconteur extraordinaire! He would share the details of his accomplishments and adventures with the skills of a great entertainer.

Proud of his Scottish heritage, he would explain he was born in Glasgow, Scotland and at age five, his family emigrated to Canada. He

grew up in Etobicoke, Ontario with solid values, a respect for humanity and a love of learning. Ian earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto, then his teaching diploma from the Ontario College of Education. He spent some time teaching at Western Tech in Toronto before returning to U of T to study law. He graduated with an LLB in 1967 and then, at the London School of Economics he earned a Master's degree in international law.

Laughing, Ian would tell how his political career began as a Liberal, driving Lester Pearson to campaign events. Soon after, Ian moved to BC where he headed up a community law office established by Mike Harcourt in Vancouver's Downtown East Side. He would certainly mention serving as Special Counsel to Judge Tom Berger, head of the historic Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry, adding they remained friends for life.

Ian was elected to Parliament in 1979, in the caucus led by Ed Broadbent which included such lifelong friends as Jim Fulton, Svend Robinson, Bob Rae and Bill Blaikie. Stephen Lewis, the Ontario NDP Leader throughout the 70's and future Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations always inspired Ian. They stayed in touch throughout the years and whenever lan was in Toronto the two of them would meet for lunch. Their lively exchange of ideas and information would always energize them both. For 14 years, Ian served as the New Democratic Party's MP, first for Vancouver- Kingsway and then for Port Moody-Coquitlam. He often said the political achievement for which he was most proud, was the key role he played in the adoption of the landmark section 35 of the 1981 Constitution recognizing aboriginal and treaty rights. Ian would pepper his political stories with wonderful details about his international travels which included sitting with Yasser Arafat in Baghdad, meeting with the son of Deng Xiaoping from China and visiting Japan to honour the Japanese survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In 1989 Ian ran for the federal NDP leadership and in 1996, he was elected as the MLA for Vancouver-Fraserview. After chairing the Committee reviewing the landmark Nisga'a Treaty, Ian was appointed Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture by Premier Glen Clark - a perfect appointment for such a great lover of the arts! He shared that he took the call confirming his appointment



while on the slopes of Whistler. He finished his run, grabbed a beer and immediately began polling international travellers for their input on how to improve BC's destination profile - typical Ian! He could offer up countless animated anecdotes about his tireless promotion for the growth of BC's film industry and how he succeeded in securing BC's future as "Hollywood North". An enthusiastic adventure traveller, Ian would describe some of his personal trips. Meditating at an ashram in India, scuba diving in East Timor, catching the Rolling

Stones concert in Cuba, even warding off hippos on a river in Zimbabwe – Ian was eager to experience it all! And yet, as much as he loved these unique trips, lan was equally happy simply walking a Vancouver beach with his much-loved golden retriever, Frankie or indulging in an afternoon round of golf with his brother, Al. Ian celebrated his success in helping Vancouver secure the 2010 Winter Olympics by driving through the city in his vintage 1964 Valiant (known as the "Red Shark"), waving his Olympic red mittens wildly! While recently recalling being appointed by Premier Ujjal Dosanjh as Environment Minister, Ian would point to his new Tesla with grinning pride. Following his respected service in elected office, lan returned to his first love, the law. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2013, the highest honour for a member of the BC legal profession. Famous for juggling multiple projects, lan went on to produced an awardwinning documentary, "The Drop: Why Young People Don't Vote", and to write both a mystery novel ("A Thirst to Die For") and a political memoir ("Take the Torch"). He never seemed to slow down. Every Robbie Burns Day, Ian would honor his Scottish roots by kicking up his kilt at the Scottish Heritage Centre and he celebrated many a New Year's Eve partying and dancing until dawn in Havana with his Canadian and Cuban friends, Ian would often unwind from a hectic day at the memorial bench he and his brother dedicated to their Father, Jack and beloved Mother, Isabel. He loved to sit there. Sometimes he would smoke a cigar as he relaxed with their memory.

lan's final story was short and delivered from his second storey deck. He described the beautiful city view he was enjoying, the optimistic tree buds and early blooms. He simply left us with his final word: "Paradise!"

Ian Gardiner Waddell died gently of a pre-existing heart condition, on the evening of March 14th. He is survived by brother Alistair (Al), cousin Beverly Whyfon, special friend Sharon Olsen and her family and so very many friends around the world.

A Celebration of Ian's wonderful life will be held at a later date when Covid restrictions allow. Please visit Ian's website: www.ianwaddell.ca and leave your name and email address so we can send you an invitation to this event.



HILL CLIMBERS

by Laura Ryckewaert

Staffing moves for ministers Vandal, Freeland, and Wilkinson

Plus, Hill Climbers takes a look at two waivers granted to ex-staffers by Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner Mario Dion.

Northern Affairs Minister Dan Vandal and his chief of staff, Brian Kaufmann, have a new executive assistant, Anna Bodnar.

Ms. Bodnar joined Mr. Vandal's team in early February and is a former parliamentary research and administrative assistant to Liberal MP **Peter Fonseca**, who represents Mississauga East-Cooksville, Ont., in the House of Commons. Before being hired on to his office full time, she'd been an intern in Mr. Fonseca's office for four months in 2020, placed there through the Ukrainian Canadian Congress' parliamentary internship program.

In a report on her experience posted to the UCC's website in July 2020, she notes that she initially was brought on to help with research related to Mr. Fonseca's role as a member of the House Foreign Affairs and International Development Committee. But the outbreak of COVID-19 meant most committee work was (at that point) put on pause, and in turn, she said her "duties were directed to constituency work for Mr. Fonseca's riding."

Ms. Bodnar has a bachelor of science degree from the University of Alberta, from which she also earned a certificate in international relations.

She replaces **Alicia Cooke**, who has been promoted to issues adviser in Mr. Vandal's office.



Alicia Cooke is now an issues adviser to Mr. Wilkinson. *Photograph courtesy of LinkedIn*

Ms. Cooke was first hired on to Mr. Vandal's team in December 2019, shortly after he was named to cabinet following that year's election.

She previously interned in the office of then-Liberal MP **Stephen Fuhr**, who represented Kelowna-Lake Country, B.C. in the House from 2015 to 2019, over the summer of 2016. That year, she started her undergraduate studies—a bachelor's degree in political science—at the University of Ottawa, which her LinkedIn profile indicates she'll complete this year. After her internship, Ms. Cooke was hired as a parliamentary assistant to Mr. Fuhr, and worked in his office up until his 2019 election defeat.

Ms. Cooke has also been busy as a research assistant to **Elizabeth Dubois**, an associate professor of communications at the University of Ottawa, as part of her project, "Mean Tweets: The impact of online harassment on political journalists in Canada." On her LinkedIn profile, Ms. Cooke notes her work focused on online messages directed at three of the 2019 English-language debate moderators.

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister **Chrystia Freeland** has hired **Marco Paoli** as her special assistant for operations for Toronto.

Mr. Paoli previously worked as a constituency assistant and executive assistant to Ms. Freeland as the Liberal MP for University-Rosedale, Ont., and has been active with both the federal and provincial parties' riding associations for the area, including as Toronto regional chair for the federal Liberal Party's Ontario board of directors since 2019.

More belatedly, **Jagmeet Sra**, who's spent the last year as a policy adviser to Ms. Freeland, exited back in January. A former assistant to Ms. Freeland as an MP and later executive assistant to then-Liberal MP **Bill Morneau**, Ms. Sra has also been a parliamentary affairs and policy assistant to then-science minister **Kirsty Duncan**.

Jeremy Broadhurst is chief of staff to Ms. Freeland.

Turning to Environment and Climate Change Minister **Jonathan Wilkinson**'s office, **Kevin Evans**, who was coaxed out of retirement to temporarily serve as a communications adviser and senior writer to the minister, has left the Hill to return to his retirement.

Mr. Evans had been working in Mr. Wilkinson's office since November 2020. He first retired in 2017 after almost two years working as chief executive officer for the Physiotherapy Association of British Columbia. Mr. Evans also previously spent almost 10 years as a broadcast journalist for the CBC, and, among other past jobs, spent more than eight years as vice-president for Western Canada for the Retail Council of Canada.

Sabrina Kim, who was brought over from the Prime Minister's Office to fill in as acting director of communications to Mr. Wilkinson after Ricky Landry exited







Northern Affairs Minister Dan Vandal, left, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, and Environment and Climate Change Minister Jonathan Wilkinson have all seen staffing changes of late. *The Hill Times photographs by Andrew Meade*

to do the same job for the foreign affairs minister in November 2020, has now permanently taken over the post.



Sabrina Kim, pictured with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. *Photograph by Alex Tétreault courtesy of LinkedIn*

Before joining the PMO as an issues adviser at the beginning of 2020, Ms. Kim had been press secretary to Mr. Wilkinson. She first joined the environment minister's office under **Catherine McKenna**, who's now infrastructure minister, in May 2018 as a special assistant for issues management and Ontario regional affairs, and was promoted to press secretary in December of that year.

Moira Kelly continues as press secretary to Mr. Wilkinson, whose office is led by chief of staff **Marlo Raynolds**.

Conflict commissioner grants staff waivers

Federal Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner **Mario Dion** has granted two waivers exempting now-former ministerial staffers from post-employment restrictions under the Conflict of Interest Act in recent months.

The first relates to **Zara Rabinovitch**, who was a senior policy adviser to Small Business, Export Promotion, and International Trade Minister **Mary Ng** up until December 2020. The waiver was granted in order for Ms. Rabinovitch to take on her current job as a senior trade policy officer with Global Affairs Canada's trade policy and negotiations branch.

Specifically, the commissioner agreed to waive the one-year cooling-off period for former reporting public office holders (a category which includes ministerial staff), who are, during that time, prohibited from working for an entity, or making "representations" to any department, organization, board, commission, or tribunal, "with which he or she had direct and significant official dealings" within the last year of their work. In the fall of 2018, Mr. Dion issued a new interpretation of this rule, indicating that it applies to any entity, including the public service. Waivers can be granted by the commissioner under section 39 of the Act.

In granting the waiver, it "also allows Ms. Rabinovitch to make representations" to Ms. Ng, as noted by the commissioner. It

was granted in light of the "nature and significance" to the government of the "information possessed by" Ms. Rabinovitch "by virtue of that office holder's public office," and the fact that her new employer "would not gain unfair commercial advantage," writes Mr. Dion in the notice.

"Ms. Rabinovitch indicated that any significant of confidential information she possesses was shared with her by Global Affairs Canada, which will be the new employer and where she will continue to be bound by the rules of secret security clearance."

Ms. Rabinovitch had been working in the trade minister's office since 2018, starting under then-minister **Jim Carr**, who she previously advised during his time as natural resources minister.

More recently, **Geoffroi Montpetit** was granted a waiver, dated March 29 on the commissioner's website.



Geoffroi Montpetit was granted a waiver by the conflict of interest commissioner to take up his new post as administrator of the International Organization of la Francophonie. Photograph courtesy of LinkedIn

As reported by Hill Climbers, Mr. Montpetit left his role as chief of staff to International Development Minister Karina Gould at the end of March and is set to become administrator of the International Organization of la Francopohonie, which falls under Global Affairs Canada.

Mr. Dion, in his reasoning for the waiver, notes that an agreement had been made between IOF member countries, including the governments of Canada and Ouebec. that the position should next be filled by a Canadian and that the secretary general of the organization, Louise Mushikiwabo, "selected Mr. Montpetit for the position of Administrator among a list of candidates officially submitted by the Government of Canada and the Quebec Government."The federal government put forward Mr. Montpetit's candidacy, he continues, and "since [to] the funding of the IOF, the Administrator will, among other duties, ensure the sound management and accountability of Canada's investments."

Given there's "no unfair commercial advantage," that the IOF is not a private sector entity, and that the IOF administrator is considered an international public servant, Mr. Dion writes he finds the public interest would be better served by granting the waiver.

lryckewaert@hilltimes.com The Hill Times

Parliamentary Calendar



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

House Not Sitting—The House is sitting in a hybrid format during the pandemic, with most MPs connecting remotely. It's scheduled to be on break March 29-April 9. It's then scheduled to sit every weekday for the next five weeks, April 12-May 14. It will take one-week break after that, from May 17-May 24. It will sit May 25 every weekday until Wednesday, June 23, and will then break for three months, until Monday Sept. 20. In the fall and winter, the House is scheduled to sit for 11 weeks over September, October, November, and December. It will sit Sept. 20-Oct. 8; Oct. 18-Nov. 5: and Nov. 15-Dec. 17.

The Future of Renewable Fuels and Low-Carbon Leadership in the Canadian Fuels Sector—Natural Resources Minister Seamus O'Regan will discuss "The Future of Renewable Fuels and Low-Carbon Leadership in the Canadian Fuels Sector" with Bob Espey, president and CEO of Parkland, in a webinar hosted by the Empire Club of Canada. Wednesday, April 7, 3 p.m. Register at empireclubofcanada.com/futureofrenewablefuels.

Life on Wellington Street—Concordia
University hosts a conversation with Justice
Nicholas Kasirer of the Supreme Court of
Canada who will take part in a conversation
entitled "Life on Wellington Street: Some
modest reflections on the mandate of the
Supreme Court of Canada." Wednesday, April
7, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Register via concordia.ca.

Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples Within the Anglican Church of Canada—The Canadian International Council hosts a webinar on "Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples Within the Anglican Church of Canada" featuring The Most Rev. Mark L. MacDonald, National Anglican Indigenous Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Canada; and Judith Moses, chair of the Jubilee Commission and deputy prolocutor (Lay) of the Anglican Church of Canada. Wednesday, April 7, 6-7:15 p.m. Register for this free event at thecic.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

Mary Ng Leads Virtual Trade Mission—Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng is leading a group of Canadian business people on a virtual trade mission to France from March 29-April 1 and April 8, with a focus on creating opportunities for businesses to grow and contribute to a sustain-

able and inclusive economic recovery.

Liberal Party National Convention—The
Liberal Party's National Convention will
take place virtually from April 8-10. Liberal
MPs Rachel Bendayan, Marci Ien, Terry
Beech, and Mona Fortier will serve as the
party's 2021 Convention co-chairs. The
three days of events will feature a variety of
keynote panels and speakers, policy conversations, and innovative training opportunities for Liberal volunteers and supporters.
Information available at 2021.liberal.ca.

A Canadian's Front Row Seat on the U.S. Supreme Court and the Trump Presidency— For close to 20 years, Dahlia Lithwick has had an unparalleled view of the United States Supreme Court and its jurisprudence as Slate's senior editor and legal correspondent. Join us for a conversation on her path from Ottawa to Washington and her career as a journalist covering U.S. institutions. Presented by the uOttawa Public Law Centre. Thursday, April 8, at 11:30 a.m. Register via Eventbrite.

The Change Conference: Planning for the Unpredictable Future—Natural Resources Minister Seamus O'Regan will deliver opening remarks at "The Change Conference: Planning for the Unpredictable Future," hosted by The Pearson Centre over six days in April (April 7, April 8, April 13, April 15, April 20, and April 21). Other speakers include Transport Minister Omar Alghabra; the Prime Minister's Special Adviser for the Prairies Jim Carr; ISG Senators Frances Lankin and Julie Miville-Deschene; Green Party Leader Annamie Paul; and former Bank of Canada governor Stephen Poloz. For further information, please contact: Andrew Cardozo, president, at acardozo@thePearsonCentre.ca or 613-295-1260. For more information, go to: thepearsoncentre.ca.

Canada Strong and Free takes networking conference virtual April 10









Speakers at the April 10 Canada Strong and Free Networking Conference include Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole, left, former Conservative prime minister Stephen Harper, former leader of Alberta's Wildrose Party Danielle Smith, and former British prime minister David Cameron. The Hill Times photographs by Andrew Meade and Hill Times file photographs

Reflections on Future Trans-Atlantic Priorities: A Portuguese Perspective—The NATO Association of Canada hosts a discussion with Portugal's ambassador to Canada, João da Camara, who will discuss Canada and Portugal's bilateral relationship, common security interests, and challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, touching on the NATO Alliance and the Portuguese delegation. Thursday, April 8, 10-11 a.m. Register via Eventbrite.

The Deficit Myth: Modern Monetary Theory and the Birth of the People's Economy—The University of Saskatchewan hosts a lecture on "The Deficit Myth: Modern Monetary Theory and the Birth of the People's Economy," featuring Stephanie Kelton, professor of economics and public policy at Stony Brook University and author of *The Deficit Myth*. Thursday, April 8, 7-8:30 p.m. CST. Register at schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

New Democratic Party National Convention—The NDP will hold its 2021 policy convention virtually from April 9-11.

Canada-China Trade Relations in Light of

China's Recent International Trade Diplomacy—ISG Senator Yuen Pau Woo will take part in "Canada-China Trade Relations in Light of China's Recent International Trade Diplomacy," the fourth part of the Canada-China Economic Forum, hosted by Simon Fraser University. Other participants include former Conservative cabinet minister John Baird; Carlo Dade, director of Trade and Investment Centre, Canada West Foundation; Fan Cui, professor, University of International Business and Economics; and Bo Chen, Chutian professor of Economics, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Friday, April 9, 10 a.m.-noon ET. Register via Eventbrite.

FOI Friday: ATIP Basics with Murad

Hemmadi—Ottawa correspondent for The Logic Murad Hemmadi will offer a crashcourse in how to use the federal Access to Information system, including how to word requests, track files, negotiate with FOI officers. Please note this event will focus on the federal government, and is best suited for journalists who have never completed an FOI or ATIP request, or have only done a handful of them. The presentation will reflect the current platforms used to file requests, which have changed over the past year. Murad will also share some templates and resources. Friday, April 9, 12 to 1 p.m. ET. CAJ members, please sign up via Zoom to be able to ask questions: https:// us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEIceippzksEtHZhXtLzRAZq2ei-C8kE6Tb.Everyone else can tune in here: https://www. facebook.com/events/571332917168648

Transitional Justice Plan to End Genocide in Canada—Ryerson University hosts a webinar on "Transitional Justice Plan to End Genocide in Canada," featuring Dr. Pamela Palmater, chair in Indigenous Governance at Ryerson University. Friday, April 9, 3-4 p.m. Register via Eventbrite.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

Canada Strong and Free Networking Conference 2021—The Canada Strong and Free Network hosts its annual conference (formerly known as the Manning Networking Conference). Speakers include Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole, former Conservative prime minister Stephen Harper, former Conservative cabinet minister Tony Clement, former leader of Alberta's Wildrose Party Danielle Smith, and former British prime minister David Cameron. Saturday, April 10, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET. Registration available at canadastrongandfree.network.

MONDAY, APRIL 12

The COVID-19 Pandemic and the Threat Landscape in Canada—The University of Ottawa and the Canadian Association for Security and Intelligence Studies host a webinar on "The COVID-19 Pandemic and the Threat Landscape in Canada," discussing how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the national security landscape in Canada. Participants include Daniel Jean, former national security and intelligence adviser to the prime minister; Dr. Leah West, assistant professor, Carleton University; Dr. Amarnath Amarasingam, assistant professor. Queen's University: Marc-André Argentino, research fellow at the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation; Dr. Bessma Momani, senior fellow. Centre for International Governance Innovation; and Dr. Jean-François Bélanger, postdoctoral fellow working with Dr. Momani. Monday, April 12, 12-1:30 p.m. Register via Eventbrite.

The New Climate War with Michael E. Mann—The Ottawa International Writers' Festival hosts a webinar with climate scientist Michael E. Mann who will discuss his book *The New Climate War* with Tzeporah Berman, author and international program director at Stand. Earth. Monday, April 12, 7:30-8:30 p.m. RSVP at writersfestival.org.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

China-Canada Relations: Which Path Forward?—China's Ambassador to Canada, Peiwu Cong, will discuss "China-Canada relations: which path forward?" with former Quebec premier Pierre-Marc Johnson in a webinar hosted by the Montreal Council on Foreign Relations. Tuesday, April 13, at noon. Register at corim.qc.ca.

MONDAY, APRIL 19

Federal Budget Day—Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland will release the federal government's budget 2021 on April 19 at 4 p.m. ET.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

Library and Archives Canada Scholar sented by the Library and Archives Canada Foundation, and Library and Archives Canada, will be broadcast on Wednesday, April 21, at 7 p.m. (Eastern Time). The Library and Archives Canada Scholar Awards were created to recognize remarkable Canadians who have made an outstanding contribution to the creation and promotion of our country's culture, literary heritage and historical knowledge. The following recipients of the 2020 LAC Scholar Awards are being honoured: Margaret Atwood, poet, novelist, literary critic, and essayist; Roch Carrier, novelist and author; Charlotte Gray, historian, author, and biographer; Serge Joyal, former senator, art collector, and philanthropist; Terry O'Reilly, broadcast producer and radio personality. Tune in on the Library and Archives Canada's English YouTube and French YouTube channels. No registration is required. The 30-minute event will feature the recipients and special

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.

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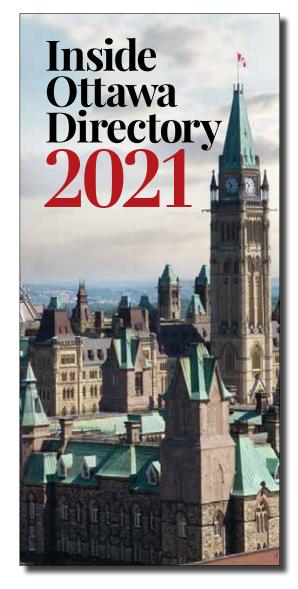
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