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NEWS

House Leader MacKinnon looks to hit the legislative ground running

BY LAURA RYCKEWAERT

Quebec MP Steven MacKinnon is back in the government House leader's chair for a third time—his first in a permanent capacity during a sitting Parliament—and after months away, new parliamentary dynamics to navigate, and some lessons learned under his belt, he says he's ready to "get things done" with the Liberals' "big, expanded new team."

"It never gets old to serve this place, to serve my government in this way, and we have an exciting agenda that I'm really happy to be able to help pilot," said MacKinnon (Gatineau, Que.), who sat down for an interview with *The Hill Times* in his office off a well-trod hallway in the West Block on May 28.

MacKinnon said he's learned the need for flexibility and "collaborative relationships" as House leader in a minority Parliament, and seeks to "operate transparently." While he and his House leader counterparts don't "always agree ... they'll always get the straight goods," he said.

"At the same time, you have to have an absolute determination to fulfil our commitments to Canadians, our platform commitments, the prime minister's personal priorities, those of the cabinet and the government, and make sure that those are being expedited," said MacKinnon.

The seven priorities highlighted in Prime Minister Mark Carney's (Nepean, Ont.)

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Peacekeeping not apace



Feds' spending plan for UN operations down 42 per cent from 2015-16

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The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

NEWS

Nation-building or 'bulldozing' consent: pledge for Major Federal Project Office prompts questions

BY MARLO GLASS

A former high-ranking public servant says the Throne Speech's pledge to significantly cut down approval times for major projects is possible, but

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NEWS

Prime Minister Carney can't govern Canada as CEO, say strategists

BY STUART BENSON

The perception some have of Prime Minister Mark Carney as the new "CEO of Canada" is no replacement for substance, say strategists, who note that steering the "massive, complex beast of government" will require his attention to even the smallest of nuisances, and a willingness to recognize when he isn't the smartest person in the room.

Once the marching bands and military honour guards had left Parliament Hill following the

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Heard on the Hill



By Christina Leadlay

Assistant Speakers' roster features two rookies, one veteran



Conservative MP Tom Kmiec, top left, is the new House deputy speaker. His assistant deputy speakers are Liberal MP Alexandra Mendès, bottom left, and Conservative MP John Nater. *The Hill Times* photographs by Andrew Meade, Sam Garcia, and photograph courtesy of X

Following the May 26 selection of **Francis Scarpaleggia** as House Speaker, the roster of assistant Speakers was also announced last week, featuring two Conservatives new to their roles, and one longtime Liberal who's no stranger to subbing in the Speaker's chair.

Four-term Alberta Conservative MP **Tom Kmiec** was selected as the new deputy Speaker and chair of Committees of the Whole on May 28. This is his first time in this role, having been his party's caucus chair from 2019 to 2021, and the opposition deputy House leader from February to September 2022.

In a May 28 post on X, Kmiec said he was "honoured" to be named deputy Speaker "by unanimous consent of all MPs," and "proud to be the fourth Albertan to serve in the Speaker's chair."

The Hill Times reported on May 22 that Kmiec had been actively

reaching out to colleagues to secure support to run for House Speaker, but ultimately didn't submit his name for the May 26 election. "I will enforce the rules known as our Standing Orders as they exist and are written. Words should be weighed, not counted. Your constituents should judge your behaviour, not the Speaker," wrote Kmiec in his letter to MPs.

Kmiec takes over from his Conservative colleague **Chris d'Entremont**, who'd been deputy Speaker since late 2021. He also withdrew his name from the running to be chief House Speaker.

Having likewise pulled out of the Speaker's race last week is another Class-of-2015 Conservative MP **John Nater**, who managed to find himself in Speaker's robes anyway as he was appointed assistant deputy Speaker and assistant deputy chair of Committees of the Whole on May 29.

"I am humbled that my nomination was confirmed by the unanimous consent of the House. As I take on these new responsibilities, my commitment to serving the people of Perth-Wellington remains firm!" the Ontario MP posted on X on May 30. Nater previously served as opposition deputy House leader from 2019 to 2020.

Nater succeeds Liberal MP **Alexandra Mendès** as assistant deputy Speaker and committee assistant deputy chair, though she's not gone far. The five-term Liberal MP got a small promotion: while still an assistant deputy Speaker—a role she's held since December 2019—the Quebec MP is now the deputy chair of Committees of the Whole. She takes over from former NDP MP **Carol Hughes** who did not run again in the recent federal election.

Bloc MP wants details on 'denial of democracy' in Quebec riding

On the heels of its Superior Court challenge against Elections Canada for the recount results in Terrebonne, Que., the Bloc Québécois is again calling the agency in charge of voting to account, this time for perceived failures on election day in the vast northern Quebec riding of Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou.

The party's Indigenous relations critic **Sébastien Lemire**, who represents the neighbouring riding of Abitibi-Témiscamingue, issued a statement in French on June 2 saying some voters were not able to cast their ballots due to polling stations being "either opened partially or not at all."

"This is a serious obstacle, which represents nothing more

or less than a denial of democracy to the voters who were confronted with the closed doors of the polling stations," said Lemire.

The three-term MP wants the agency to "tell us how many polling stations were unable to open, in which communities, for how long, how many citizens were blocked from voting," as well as "what solutions they intend to implement to prevent this from happening again."

Going into the April 28 federal election, Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou was held by the Bloc Québécois' **Sylvie Bérubé**, who was defeated by just shy of 2,200 votes by Liberal candidate—now-Indigenous Services Minister—**Mandy Gull-Masty**.



Bloc Québécois MP Sébastien Lemire. *The Hill Times* photograph by Riddhi Kachhela

Poilievre adds Substack to social media toolbox

As he waits for a second chance to win a seat in the House of Commons, Conservative Leader **Pierre Poilievre** added another platform to his social media toolbox by reviving an account on Substack.

While his first post on the long-form, subscriber-based email newsletter platform was technically on Jan. 26 with a "coming soon" placeholder, the Conservative leader published his first proper post on May 29. Titled *A Half-Trillion Dollars in a Banker's Suit*, the newsletter is a nearly word-for-word transcript of Poilievre's nearly five-minute-long video published the same day on X, picking apart Prime Minister **Mark Carney's** first main estimates bill, the May 27 Throne

Speech, and Liberal spending promises.

Poilievre is the latest politician to join the Substack party. Long-time Conservative MP **Michelle Rempel Garner** has been active on the platform since before January 2023, and as of June 2 had more than 97,000 subscribers. Other Conservatives on the platform include deputy leader **Melissa Lanstman**, **Michael Chong**, **Garnett Genuis**, and **Tom Kmiec**, as well as former party leader **Erin O'Toole** and Reform Party founder **Preston Manning**. Liberal cabinet minister **Steven Guilbeault** is also a Substacker, as is NDP MP **Heather McPherson** and now-former NDP MP **Matthew Green**.

Giving literal meaning to the term 'lucky bum'

Liberal MP **Sean Casey** is convinced the seat next to him in the House is a good-luck charm for whomever sits there.

"The seat beside me has quietly become known as 'the lucky seat'—no matter where it ends up in any given Parliament," Casey wrote in a seven-part post on X on May 26.

He listed all his former House seatmates who have either gone on to serve in cabinet or other leadership roles, including current Finance Minister **François-Philippe Champagne**, former defence minister **Bill Blair**, former fisheries minister and now ex-MP **Joyce**

Murray, former health minister and also ex-MP **Mark Holland**, and current Senator **Rodger Cuzner**.

"Three years ago, when **Francis [Scarpaleggia]** landed in the lucky seat, I jokingly congratulated him on his impending promotion. He laughed. I wasn't joking," the five-term Prince Edward Island MP wrote. Scarpaleggia beat out six other Liberal MPs who put their names forward for the House Speaker job, including Casey, who was gracious in defeat and wished his former seatmate well.

"Keep an eye on **Sukh Dhaliwal**. He's got the seat now."

CTV news, politics shows win big at Canadian Screen Awards

The 2025 Canadian Screen Awards were handed out last weekend at CBC Broadcast Centre in Toronto, and there are a few political programs that received kudos for their excellent work.

CTV's *Question Period* hosted by **Vassy Kapelos** won Best Political News Program or Series. CTV also took home the gong for Best National Newscast for *CTV National News* with **Omar Sachedina**.

Best Live News Special went to the coverage of the March 2024 funeral for former prime minister **Brian Mulroney** broadcast by (checks notes) CTV, which also cleaned up in the category of Best News or Information Program for its *W5* series. That program's host, **Avery Haines**, also won in Best Host or Interviewer, News, or Information.

The CBC received a few awards, too, including Best News or Information Series for *The Fifth Estate*. The network's chief correspondent, **Adrienne Arseneault**, also won in the category of Best



CTV's Vassy Kapelos, left, and CBC's Adrienne Arseneault each won an award at last weekend's Canadian Screen Awards in Toronto. *The Hill Times* photograph by Stuart Benson, and courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

News Anchor, National, for her work hosting *The National*. And always making fun of the week that was, *This Hour has 22 Minutes* won in the category of Best Sketch Comedy Program or Series.

And Global National's **Jeff Semple** won for Best National Reporter.

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MADE IN CANADA

NEWS

‘A different tone, even in the Senate’: Red Chamber prepared ‘to get business done’ to handle Carney’s quick legislation pledges, says Sen. Tannas

With the PM’s self-imposed Canada Day deadline to achieve interprovincial free trade, Senators are planning to work in an ‘effective way’ to get legislation through the Chamber before Parliament breaks for the summer.

BY ELEANOR WAND

With Parliament’s summer recess only a few weeks away, Prime Minister Mark Carney is working to pass legislation to deliver a middle-class tax cut “immediately,” and remove interprovincial trade barriers by Canada Day—something that could see the Senate grappling with multiple pieces of legislation to scrutinize and turn around on a tight deadline.

Canadian Senators Group (CSG) Leader Scott Tannas (Alberta) said despite the busy schedule, he anticipates that the current session in the Red Chamber will be different than the previous one, saying there is a “different tone” from both the government and the 104-member Senate—an urgency and willingness to “get business done.”

“I don’t anticipate in this session that it will be as stormy as others,” Tannas told *The Hill Times*.

Tannas, who leads the 21-member CSG, said there’s a “real sense of wanting to get business done in the proper way, in an efficient way, but in an effective way. I’m very optimistic that that’s what we’ll see.”

Tannas pointed to Carney’s (Nepean, Ont.) mandate—a strongly positioned minority government only three seats shy of a majority—saying that Canadians have given the government and Upper Chamber “focus” to guide their work.

“I think the country, in their wisdom, has given everybody some focus,” Tannas said. “This is a government that has a very large segment of the population

that supports its agenda—and there’s also a very significant portion of the population that have concerns. ... [But] there’s a focus to it. ... Maybe I’m being overly optimistic, but ... there’s certainly a different tone, even in the Senate.”

Carney led the Liberals to a historic fourth consecutive government largely because he pitched himself as the front-runner to face United States President Donald Trump, and strengthen Canada’s economy amid a period of economic uncertainty rocked by a trade war and ongoing threats to Canada’s sovereignty.

One of Carney’s promises—pitched repeatedly on the campaign trail, and in his first post-election press conference—was eliminating barriers to free trade across the provinces by Canada Day, a measure that could increase Canada’s GDP per capita by up to four per cent, according to the 2024 fall economic statement. But the prime minister has also been vague about the details of that deadline, with the Throne Speech addressing the removal of “all remaining federal barriers to internal trade and labour mobility,” but only promising that the government would “introduce legislation” by that date—perhaps in reference to plans for the House of Commons, while making no mention of timelines in the Senate.

Carney has also promised to deliver a middle-class tax cut “immediately” to address affordability and cut the lowest marginal personal income tax rate from 15 per cent to 14 per cent—also promised to come into

effect on Canada Day. A ways and means motion to do that was tabled on May 27.

Tannas called Carney’s July 1 deadline “a little bit concerning,” noting that the Senate will also need to pass the main estimates—documents outlining the government’s planned spending for the current fiscal year that require Parliamentary approval—to grant the government funding, before moving onto Liberal-sponsored legislation.

The main estimates are already facing resistance from the opposition in the House. Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre said on May 30 that his party would be voting against the mains, citing the increased spending—up from \$449.2-billion to \$486.9-billion compared to the previous year’s main estimates—and the government’s decision to forgo tabling a spring budget, instead opting to present one in the fall. This move will test the strength of Carney’s minority in the House, as the Liberals will need at least three votes from members of third parties to pass the estimates.

Carney’s approach distances himself from Trudeau, say strategists

The swift speed at which Carney is planning to pass legislation is ambitious. But Olivier Cullen, a former Liberal staffer, said he doesn’t think the prime minister’s lack of parliamentary experience will put him at a disadvantage for navigating his legislation through the House or the Senate.

“This man is savvy,” Cullen, director of strategy at Blackbird Strategies, told *The Hill Times*. “He’s headed up two central banks. He’s been a bureaucrat. He’s worked at the senior levels of the Department of Finance. ... He might be new to the House of Commons, and might be new to politics ... but Mark Carney understands government, and he understands how it works.”

When asked about Carney’s plans to pass legislation through the House and the Senate in only a few weeks before Parliament’s break, Cullen said that Carney is moving to position himself as a “doer” and distance himself from his predecessor, former prime minister Justin Trudeau, who during his last months in power struggled to pass legislation in the House due to filibustering.

“The government needs to sell something over the summer,” Cullen said. “This was [Carney’s] reputation before, but he’s trying to continue to build this reputation of [being] a doer. Come in, Day 1—carbon tax out. And promise to do it. Delivered.”

“We’re not seeing a prime minister,” he continued. “We’re seeing the CEO of Canada. Mark Carney is a new style of leadership. ... This is in continuation of the distancing between the old Liberals and the new Liberals, and the Trudeau Liberals and the Carney Liberals.”

Brett Hartley, a former Liberal staffer and a manager of public affairs at Impact Public Affairs, similarly highlighted Carney’s expertise, noting he is surrounded by experienced staff, many of whom are veteran MPs and familiar with navigating the House to get legislation through.

Hartley also pointed to the experience of the government’s representative in the Senate Marc Gold (Stadacona, Que.), who has held the role since January 2020. Appointed under Trudeau in 2016, Gold managed to stickhandle legislation through the Senate “in the very partisan, almost impossible times in the Trudeau era,” Hartley said.

The largest group in the Senate remains the Independent Senators Group, which currently has a membership of 45 Senators. The CSG is the second-largest group, and is followed by the Progressive Senate Group’s (PSG) 18-member team. The opposition Conservatives have 11 members, and the nine remaining seats are unaffiliated, with three of them

acting as part of the government representative team in the Senate.

The only government-sponsored legislation currently tabled for debate in the Red Chamber is Bill S-2, which is sponsored by PSG Senator Michèle Audette (De Salaberry, Que.), who will give her second reading speech for the bill on June 5. The bill replaces the earlier C-38, which died due to Trudeau’s prorogation of Parliament in January, in seeking to amend the Indian Act to change some criteria for Indian status and band membership.

Carney’s promised legislation to remove interprovincial trade barriers in the aim of having “one Canadian economy” has not yet been tabled, though Carney met with premiers on June 2 to discuss the incoming legislation.

In Hartley’s view, the interprovincial trade bill may prove “trickier to get through” than some of Carney’s other promises as there are a few “land mines” that Carney’s team will have to navigate. Hartley pointed to Indigenous treaty rights and “protectionist” Quebec policies, among other provincial considerations, that the government will have to address.

“It was an ambitious goal before Canada Day,” he acknowledged. “Because although the federal government can play that facilitator or convenor role through the legislation ... They’re looking at, you know, needing co-operation with the provinces. And there’s some sticky issues.”

Focused bills the ticket to quick legislation: Tannas

Tannas told *The Hill Times* that the key to moving legislation quickly through the Red Chamber is to table something with a clear focus, rather than a bill that attempts to address a number of different areas at once, which Tannas said previous governments have tried to swing in order to pass more of their objectives in one go.

“If you’ve got bills that are time sensitive ... you don’t throw a bunch of other stuff in that you’d like to have and pretend that they’re all urgent as well,” Tannas said. “I’m hopeful that ... on the first go around with a new government, [we] won’t be asked to swallow that kind of thing, right? They’ve got some specific things. We’ll deal with those specific things.”

But Tannas also emphasized that there is “a balance that needs to be struck” between passing legislation quickly and giving the Senate enough time to scrutinize it, allowing them to effectively fulfill their task as the place for sober second thought.

“Prime Minister Carney has been around Ottawa a long time,” he said. “He knows that there’s two houses and that it takes a while to get things done. ... He understands, so do his people. They know that the Senate needs time to do its job, and we’re serious about doing our job, and we understand urgency and desire and all that ... [but] there’s a process that needs to be followed, and we’ll follow it.”

ewand@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times



CSG Leader Scott Tannas called the July 1 deadline ‘a little bit concerning,’ but says Senators eager to work with the government to get legislation passed. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

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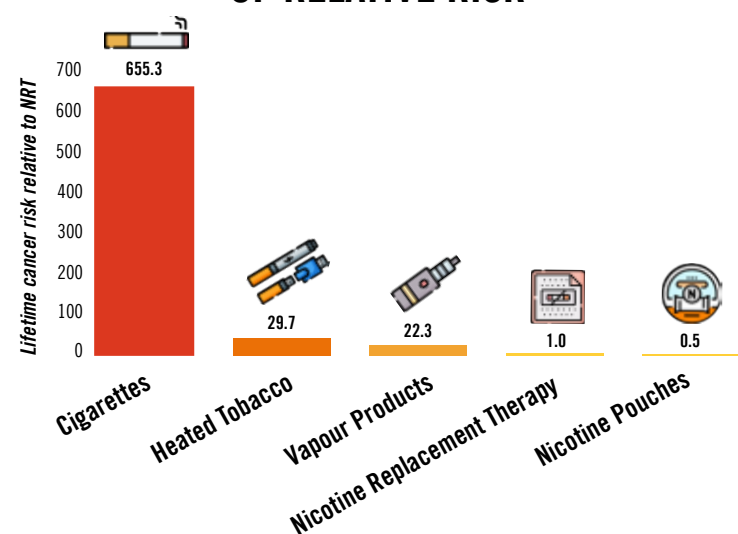
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NEWS

No home on the Hill for half of MPs who may be waiting weeks for office move-in day

‘Office moves are typically completed within two months following the federal election,’ and only 50 per cent of MPs have a ‘functional office’ a week into the new Parliament, according to the Speakers office.

BY STUART BENSON

More than a month after the election, nearly half of MPs are still waiting for a place to call home on the Hill, and may still need to wait a few weeks before their official office space is ready. And as new MPs scramble for workspaces not already claimed by their more seasoned colleagues, they’ve also been dealing with extended delays in their orientation, and waiting late into the night to be sworn in.

Speaking with *The Hill Times* on background, Liberal and Conservative MPs shared their frustrations with what they view as “weirdly” long delays between the validation of their riding results by their respective returning officer, and when those results were published in the *Canada Gazette*, marking when their orientation could officially begin.

Additionally, they noted the large number of colleagues from all three recognized parties currently working without a Hill office. Instead, those parliamentarians must make do with the pods outside of the House Chamber in the West Block, temporary cubicles set up in unused committee rooms in the Wellington Building, and “the kindness and hospitality of new colleagues.”

The House Speaker’s office clarified that as of June 2, two MPs had yet to be assigned office space, and roughly 50 per cent of those with assigned offices were still waiting to move in.

“Office moves are typically completed within two months following the federal election, although the total time required can vary depending on the number of office moves,” wrote Olivier Duhaime, the Speaker’s director of outreach, adding that the remaining move-in days would be “actioned over the next few weeks.”

Duhaime also noted that the extended hours for swearing-in ceremonies had been partially due to the accelerated schedule



As of June 2, 341 of 343 MPs had been assigned permanent office space, but nearly half of those may still be waiting weeks to get the keys to their new home on the Hill. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

between election night on April 28 and the first day of Parliament on May 26, noting that all 343 MPs were sworn in over the span of two weeks beginning on May 12.

According to Elections Canada rules, once the ballots are counted in each riding, the respective riding’s returning officer must validate them within seven days, or “without delay” in the case of a recount. Returning officers must complete and sign a “return of the writ” document, which is then sent to Chief Electoral Officer Stéphane Perrault. Once Perrault signs the returns, he submits them for publication in the *Gazette* while also notifying House Clerk Eric Janse.

Swearing-in ceremonies could not occur before the House of Commons received the certified results for each MP, which it began receiving in batches on May 9.

As of May 26, all 343 riding results had been published in the *Gazette*, with the final four published that day, though the House of Commons had received them on May 23. Those last four were NDP MP Lori Idlout (Nunavut), Liberal Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Minister Rebecca Alty (Northwest Territories), and Conservative MPs Kathy Borrelli (Windsor–Tecumseh–Lakeshore, Ont.) and Jonathan Rowe (Terra Nova–The Peninsulas, N.L.), both of whom won their judicial recounts the day before their results were submitted. The remainder of the results were published in several batches beginning with 44 on May 9, 62 on May 13, 165 on May 14, 30 on May 15, 26 on May 16, and 12 on May 21.

Outside of West Block following the first Question Period of the new session on May 28, Con-



An empty office in Centre Block on Jan. 10, 2019. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

servative MP James Bezan (Selkirk–Interlake–Eastman, Man.) noted that the seemingly disorganized and delayed transition was fitting for the new Liberal government.

“Late swearing in, offices aren’t allocated before the session starts ... no budget, no plan; everything is just more disorganized,” Bezan said. Although the government sets the timeline for returning to Parliament after the election, it doesn’t control when MPs can be sworn in.

Several people also reported instances of swearing-in ceremonies running until nearly midnight. Liberal MP Chris Bittle (St. Catharines, Ont.) told *The Hill Times* about one colleague who was still being sworn in by 8 p.m. on May 25, the evening before the first sitting of the new session.

While Bittle will remain in his previous office as a returning parliamentarian, he also said he found it strange that his election results had only been

published in the *Gazette* on May 16, despite them having been validated and sent to Elections Canada within the first week after the election.

“I don’t know what the disconnect is between the two, but [the House of Commons staff] did what they could,” Bittle said, pointing to the accommodations made for parliamentarians still without office space.

Last month, *The Hill Times* reported that no office move-ins had begun as of May 16 as the recognized parties were still finalizing their chosen assignments.

Caucus whips oversee the assignment of Hill offices and proceed caucus by caucus in order of House standings, meaning the Liberals get first dibs. However, traditionally, efforts are made not to displace incumbent MPs who wish to retain their previous office space.

While the Liberals may have first crack, their final decision on who goes where may also have

been delayed because Chief Government Whip Mark Gerretsen (Kingston and the Islands, Ont.), was only appointed on May 14, the same day his election results were published and he could officially be sworn into office.

The Conservatives named Chris Warkentin (Grande Prairie, Alta.) as chief opposition whip on May 21, alongside the 73 other members of the party’s roster of critics. Bloc Québécois MP Yves Perron (Berthier–Maskinongé, Que.) was named his party’s whip on May 7.

None of the three recognized party whips’ offices responded to *The Hill Times*’ request for comment by publication deadline.

One Liberal staffer told *The Hill Times* that those who have moved into their workspaces are settling in well but are now faced with the difficulty of staffing those offices, with many simply transferring their campaign staff to Ottawa.

Those staffing issues are being felt most acutely within the ministers’ offices and those of the new secretaries of state, some of whose chiefs of staff have yet to be finalized. Only once those positions have been filled can staffers begin signing letters of offer to work in those offices.

Of the 28 ministers and 10 secretaries Prime Minister Mark Carney (Nepean, Ont.) named to his cabinet on May 13, roughly 23 have officially named chiefs of staff, including Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne (Saint-Maurice–Champlain, Que.), Canadian Identity and Culture Minister Steven Guilbeault (Laurier–Sainte-Marie, Que.), Housing and Infrastructure Minister Gregor Robertson (Vancouver Fraserview—South Burnaby, B.C.), and Energy and Natural Resources Minister Tim Hodgson (Markham–Thornhill, Ont.). Carney also named his permanent chief of staff, former United Nations ambassador Marc-André Blanchard, on June 1. Blanchard will replace former cabinet minister Marco Mendicino, who has served as Carney’s interim chief of staff since early March.

The Prime Minister’s Office did not respond to *The Hill Times*’ request for comment by publication deadline.

While frustration remains for those who have yet to receive a firm deadline for when they can finally move into their appointed office space, it is dissipating one MP at a time as the work of being a parliamentarian outweighs the delays.

Newly elected Liberal MP Corey Hogan (Calgary Confederation, Alta.), who was sworn in on May 21 and received the keys to his office in the Valour Building on June 3, said that in the grand scheme of things, “timeline problems are not real problems.”

“Sometimes, when you’re in startup mode, you can get ahead of your feet, but the House administration has taken great strides to ensure we can get our work done,” Hogan said. “It’s very impressive how they’ve gone above and beyond despite the time constraints they face. They’re total pros.”

sbenson@hilltimes.com
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SALES CONSULTANT
Puran Guram

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Editorial

Editorial

‘Unity’ can’t come at the cost of Indigenous rights

One could be forgiven for mistaking the press conference following the June 2 First Ministers’ Meeting in Saskatoon for a cut scene from *Woodstock*, the 1970 documentary chronicling the eponymous music festival the year prior.

The peace and love, and expressions of unity from the gathered group of provincial and territorial premiers and the federal prime minister were as unusual as the prospect that the besuited group spent their time weaving flower crowns.

“I’m going to be very blunt here: this has been the best meeting we’ve had in 10 years—simple,” Ontario Premier Doug Ford said. “I thought it was an incredible meeting—great communication and great collaboration, and we all walked out of that room united. And that’s the most important thing.”

We’ll see if it lasts. Former prime minister Justin Trudeau began his tenure in 2015 pledging to craft stronger relationships with the premiers, who had been spurned by ex-PM Stephen Harper. But that love-in with Trudeau was incredibly short-lived.

Although Carney had publicly set expectations that the meeting would result in a list of specific “nation-building” projects that were going to get the go-ahead, what actually came forward was an agreement to work on a list that fits certain criteria, and an understanding amongst the first ministers about the framework by which everything could move forward.

“A significantly improved, streamlined project assessment process is necessary for Canada to grow its economy to become the strongest in the G7

and a global energy superpower,” said the first ministers’ joint communiqué.

The first ministers took pains to acknowledge that any and all movement would take place in consultation with Indigenous Peoples—but that consultation is already falling short.

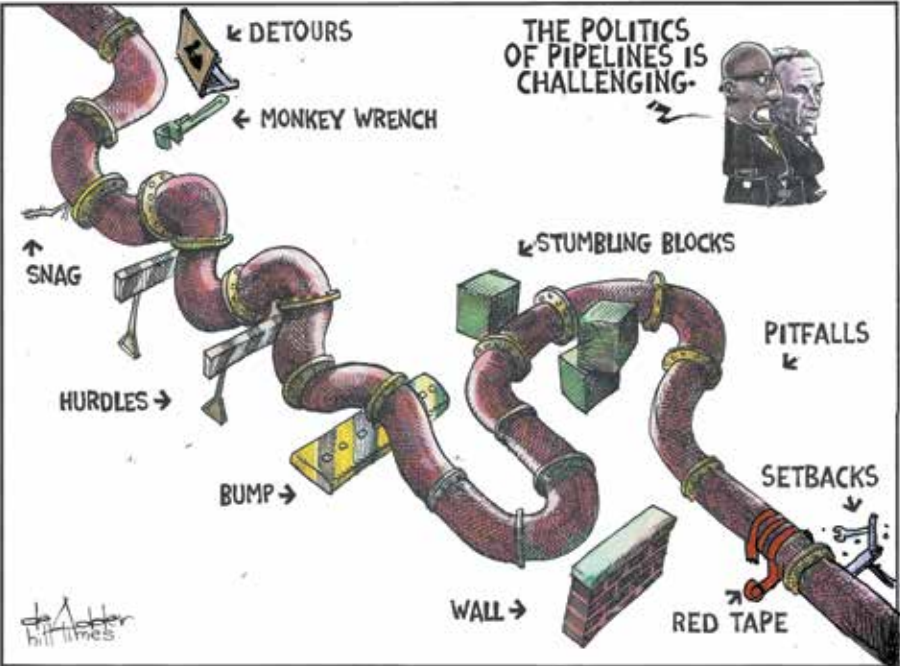
Federal legislation is coming to fast-track certain “national interest” projects. Assembly of First Nations National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak said First Nations leaders were given a week to provide feedback on a three-page backgrounder, as APTN reported. The AFN also reminded the feds that simply getting in touch with the group is not a proxy for proper consultation with rights holders.

You can’t just put references to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in legislation or a Throne Speech and decide that’s good enough. It has to be done in practice, and if it isn’t, then people can turn to the courts.

And the fact that there’s unanimity around the first ministers’ table could spell trouble, given what’s happening in places like Ontario and British Columbia where both governments have put forward—and in B.C.’s case, passed—bills that have seized on the trade war with the United States as the reason for needing to move quickly on “significant” projects. People are justifiably upset with the limited consultation involved in both the drafting of the legislation and what’s required in assessments.

It’s National Indigenous History Month. Governments should ensure that the sins of the past inflicted on the country’s First Peoples aren’t repeated.

The Hill Times



Letters to the Editor

Trump requires entry permit for Canada’s G7 summit: letter writer

Like all visitors to Canada with a criminal conviction, United States President Donald Trump should be required to apply for a special entry permit if he wishes to attend the G7 leaders’ summit on June 15. Even former U.S. president George W. Bush was required to seek a permit due to his past impaired driving conviction.

To his credit, Bush accepted this Canadian entry requirement without protest, although U.S. power rendered the policy a mere formality.

Undoubtedly, Trump will react very badly to a demand

that he respect Canadian immigration law, and will probably hurl insults and abuse in a northerly direction.

However, Canada’s surrender to such bombast will only serve to empower Trump, and weaken our bargaining position with a president who consistently bullies those who oppose his capricious will.

It is worth remembering that Trump has an established pattern of issuing threats as a negotiating tactic to test opponents’ resolve. Canadian strength will be noted.

Morgan Duchesney
Ottawa, Ont./Baddeck, N.S.

Canada should leverage the G7 presidency to reassert its leadership: Ottawa reader

The yearlong G7 presidency is the perfect opportunity for Canada to reaffirm its sovereignty and long-standing legacy as a compassionate global leader. Canada’s leadership at previous G7 summits has led to impactful measurable results. In 2018, Canada’s investment at Charlevoix, Que., reached four million girls in crisis-affected countries with quality education in just three years; and in 2010, the Muskoka Initiative saved 400,000 childrens’ lives, and reduced maternal mortality by 45 per cent in its first two years alone.

This time, Canada has the opportunity to plan and implement an education initiative that will have massive benefits for generations to come. Through this initiative, public education systems will be strengthened, qualified teachers will be recruited, and access to education will be expanded, leading to meaningful learning outcomes. Education is not only key to reaching global peace and security, but it has also proven to foster global innovation and sustainable economic development. The more educated people this world has, the more qualified people will be available to tackle its most-pressing issues including climate change and global health challenges. For

example, in the Philippines, a solar lighting project was developed by a Filipino non-profit MyShelter Foundation, providing water-filled bottles that can light up a room much like a typical 40 watt light bulb running on their solar batteries. Another example is Time magazine’s 2024 Kid of the Year, Heman Bekele. He is a 15-year old Ethiopian high school student who invented a skin-cancer-treating soap. When interviewed, Bekele said he hoped the soap would turn into a not-for-profit organization where it could be freely distributed to people who need it the most.

These examples are a true testament to the possibilities that result from quality education. Therefore, Canada should step up to support 12 million children to receive 12 years of quality education. This initiative will reassert Canada’s leadership, and help the G7 achieve its core objectives of improved economic prosperity and human security. Investing in quality education will have far-reaching, positive impacts on the most vulnerable children, who will in turn use their knowledge and skills to build a more peaceful, equitable, prosperous, and sustainable world for all.

Santa Amanda Mugabekazi
Ottawa, Ont.

COMMENT

The misadventures of Navy procurement

Successive governments routinely state ‘nothing is too good for our military,’ and therefore ‘nothing’ is what they get.

Scott Taylor

Inside Defence



OTTAWA—From May 19-23, the residents of Quebec City were treated to a rare sight.

Docked below the majestic Château Frontenac hotel were two warships of the French navy with the Tricolour fluttering from their mast tops. The light stealth frigate Surcouf was dwarfed by the massive helicopter carrier Mistral, which was docked alongside. This impressive sight of naval might by the French military could have been flying the Canadian Maple Leaf were it not for a lack of will at the political level.

Back in 2012, the Royal Canadian Navy had shown great interest in acquiring two of the Mistral-class ships with an option to purchase a third. These ships were to be constructed in Canada with a total project cost of \$2.6-billion. In hindsight, the Harper Conservatives thought



Canadian and French helicopters sit on the flight deck of the Mistral off the coast of Gaspé, Que., on June 20, 2014. DND photograph by MCpl Patrick Blanchard

that this was too steep a price tag to invest in a capability that the Navy wished to acquire.

Two years later, the deal was made even sweeter. Russia had ordered two Mistral-class ships that were being built by France. Following Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea, NATO imposed an arms embargo against Russia thereby putting these two Mistral-class ships into limbo. Given Canada's earlier interest in these ships, it was only natural that France would look to us to unload these two nearly completed warships.

In June 2015, then-defence minister Jason Kenney held face-to-face discussions with French officials at a NATO summit. Once again, the Harper Conservatives declined the offer due to budgetary concerns, and the fact that such a bargain deal would not create any Canadian jobs in shipyards.

The Russians demanded a return of their deposit on the two Mistral-class ships once France ruled out any possibility of their delivery. In the end it was Egypt that acquired the two warships at a cost of just \$1.5-billion, which included a training package for their helicopter

crews. Canada could have made that same deal and had these ships in service as early as 2016.

Here is a detailed rundown on what we passed up: the Mistral class is a category of five helicopter carriers, which, since 2019, have been referred to as “projection and command ships.” A Mistral-class ship is capable of transporting and deploying 16 heavy-lift helicopters or 32 lighter helicopters. In addition, the Mistral carries four landing craft in an internal well-deck; up to 70 assorted vehicles, including 13 main battle tanks, or a 40-strong

main battle tank battalion; and 450 combat soldiers.

The Mistral displaces 21,500 tons, and is exactly 199 metres long. The reason being that at 200 metres in length, ships are bumped into a higher toll bracket when transiting key canals like the Suez and Panama. The ships are equipped with a 69-bed hospital, and are capable of serving as part of a NATO response force, or with United Nations or European Union peacekeeping forces. In other words, these warships are truly multi-purpose, combined arms assets: a navy vessel transporting army personnel and vehicles with an inherent air support unit.

Such an acquisition back in 2015 would have changed Canadian military doctrine, and opened up a wide range of combined arms integration. All at a cost of just over \$750-million a ship. For the record, Canada just announced a contract worth \$23-billion to construct the first three River-class destroyers. That is more than \$7-billion per 7,000-ton anti-submarine destroyer.

On the occasion of the Quebec City port call, the French soldiers and vehicles aboard the Mistral conducted an exercise with the third battalion of Canada's famed Royal 22nd Regiment. That exercise involved an amphibious assault on the sleepy Quebec town of Sept-Isles. With ample spare berths aboard, the Mistral was carrying some 125 midshipmen or officers-in-training. Given the current crippling shortfall of trained personnel in the Navy, having such an asset to get on-the-job training while actually at sea would be a godsend.

Unfortunately, it was not meant to be. As our successive governments routinely state, “nothing is too good for our military,” and therefore “nothing” is what they get.

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

The Hill Times

Election? What election?

The Conservatives seem to be trying to juggle the need to be constructive during a national crisis, and the belief that they got cheated by threats from the U.S. president.

Les Whittington

Need to Know



OTTAWA—The Conservatives, who saw a sure-thing election win disappear almost overnight in the biggest upset in modern Canadian history, are trying to figure out what happens next in the wake of April 28.

While Pierre Poilievre seems in no imminent danger of being ousted from his leadership role, the conviction that the election was his to lose—and he did personally lose it—has created a bit of a witch hunt against him and organizer Jenni Byrne.

This reflects the wider sense of anger and frustration dominating discourse among Conservatives who can't seem to really accept the outcome of the election.

Asked last week about a Conservative adviser's quoted opinion that it was Poilievre's unpopu-

larity that caused the miraculous Mark Carney-led Liberal comeback, the Conservative leader was defiant, saying the result of the election clearly put his party on the path to winning government.

“We've been leading the charge on the debate on carbon taxes, inflation, housing, resources, drugs, and crime,” Poilievre told reporters. “We got 2.4 million more votes, 25 more seats ... the biggest vote share since 1988, and we're going to continue to work to get over the finish line.”

For now, the Conservatives seem to be trying to juggle the need to be constructive during a national crisis, and the belief that they got cheated by threats from United States President Donald Trump and the politi-

cal opening he created for the once-D.O.A. Liberals.

On what is perhaps the most controversial issue, the Conservatives say Carney must embrace oil and gas development, and correspondingly ditch what the Liberals have for a decade seen as a counterbalancing plan to reduce carbon emissions.

It's not good enough to drop the consumer carbon tax—Carney must also scrap the industrial carbon tax, Poilievre said. Current federal environmental regulations are stifling oil and gas development, and must go, *holus bolus*. Overall, the Conservative position on fighting climate change appears in keeping with Trump's approach, which is “forget about it.”

Poilievre has said he could back some Liberal legislation such as an income tax cut, although he called Carney's promised middle-class tax reduction too small. But expect to hear the same outrage on fiscal matters.

The Conservative leader said last week it's wholly unacceptable for the Liberals to present the 2025-26 main estimates without an accompanying budget package. The estimates set out spending this year of \$486-billion. That's up 8.4 per cent from last year's main estimates totalling \$449-billion, but it's about the same as the final federal spending at the end of 2024-25.

“People cannot afford an even more expensive Liberal government,” Poilievre said of the estimates. “Mark Carney is even more expensive than Justin [Trudeau].”

Carney's role, if any, in finalizing the main estimates is unknown. As for rushing out

Continued on page 15

COMMENT

Rural Canada is finally getting its moment

It was refreshing to see the concerns of rural Canada taken to heart, and given such a broad hearing at a recent FCM conference.

Andrew Caddell

With All Due Respect



KAMOURASKA, QUE.—Rural Canada is at last on the national agenda. That is, it was front and centre at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities meeting in Ottawa this past weekend. I was there, representing Kamouraska town council, along with 1,500 other municipal leaders, many of us from small towns, northern communities, and regional governments.

In what the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) called the “Rural Stream,” delegates examined issues affecting the 20 per cent of Canadians who live in rural municipalities. Workshops and a plenary emphasized agriculture, natural resources, rural infrastructure, economic development, and broadband connectivity. There was also discussion on public safety, tourism, immigration, and the simple challenges of managing small populations in wide open spaces.

For towns like Kamouraska, every one of those challenges is pertinent. With an aging population—two in three of us is over 60 years old—we have to worry about becoming a ghost town. As a farming town measuring about 40 square kilometres, we have lots of rural roads to maintain. And with only two industries to speak of—agriculture and tourism—councillors like me want to assure the town can always pay its bills.

Our budget of \$2-million for a town of 600 people places us among the wealthier municipalities in our region, and we are fortunate our summer residents can afford the recent increase in property values. But many residents on fixed incomes have lived here for years, and they have to count their pennies. Although more than 500 people flock here each day in the summer, it is these permanent residents who ride out the rest of the year, and pay the cost of being an attractive destination.

By the same token, our farming community is mostly in the dairy industry, which is reliant on supply management and its quotas for ongoing prosperity. But critics constantly complain the system is inefficient and adds costs to Canada’s milk. That is not necessarily true, but supply manage-

ment is being targeted by the United States and President Donald Trump, who wants massive American factory farms to get full access to the Canadian market. Several of our local producers are spending millions of dollars installing robotic barns to be more efficient, but the question is: will they survive if supply management is ended?

It was refreshing to see the concerns of rural Canada taken to heart, and given such a broad hearing. In the rural plenary, it was pointed out that one-quarter of the country’s GDP comes from rural Canada, and agriculture alone generates more employment than oil and gas, steel and aluminum, and vehicle manufacturing combined. The suggestion was that the constant focus on urban Canada by past Liberal governments has been seriously misplaced.

As a result, in the separate rural workshops there was plenty of discussion on the challenge of getting the attention of the Carney government. One of the great challenges is the Liberals elected most of their MPs in urban ridings, while the Conservatives dominated the West and rural Canada.

This made me think of the Pierre Trudeau government for whom I worked

in the 1980s. In the 1980 election, it failed to elect an MP between Winnipeg and the Alberta border. At the time, rural MPs from Ontario and Quebec were “twinning” with ridings held by Conservatives, to assist them getting access to the bureaucracy, and nabbing the ears of ministers. I would think a similar effort would benefit rural Canada. In Kamouraska, we have not elected a government MP in many years.

At the end of the conference, the FCM unveiled its strategy—“The Future of Rural Canada”—which it calls “a bold roadmap to unlock the full potential of rural communities as essential partners in national prosperity.” It sees rural Canada as being the key to building “a more resilient, inclusive economy for all Canadians.”

The report focuses on ensuring infrastructure like railways open rural areas to international markets, as well as addressing crime issues, growing rural housing, and advancing climate resilience.

In my discussions with my colleagues in other rural municipalities, there was a genuine desire to see change, and from my discussions with the FCM executives, including the new president, Vancouver Councillor Rebecca Bligh, it was clear despite her urban pedigree that this is an important issue. All I can say is, it can’t come soon enough.

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 town councillor in Kamouraska, Que. He can be reached at pipson52@hotmail.com.

The Hill Times



For towns like Kamouraska, Que., discussed issues like public safety, tourism, and immigration are pertinent, writes Andrew Caddell. Photograph courtesy of Andrew Caddell

Climate calling: geoengineering or bust

The only way to hold the heat down in the short term is direct intervention in the atmosphere to reflect more sunlight back into space.

Gwynne Dyer

Global Affairs



LONDON, U.K.—This is the second anniversary of the arrival of the Emergency, but practically nobody is mentioning it. Instead, people are choosing to worry about more familiar problems like global trade wars, the rise of fascism, and genocidal wars. It’s kind of a global displacement activity: if we don’t mention it, maybe it will go away.

Two years ago this month, the average global temperature jumped by a third of a degree Celsius in a single month. That shook the climate science world to its foundations because the orthodox predictions assumed about one-tenth of a degree of warming every five years.

The June 2023 event was “non-linear.” Like most major shifts in natural systems, the pressure built up and up, and then suddenly the system flipped into a different stable state. It took more than another year—until last December—to figure out what actually happened.

Ninety per cent of the extra heat in the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels goes straight into the ocean. That heat was bound to affect the ocean currents, and sooner or later one of those currents would start returning very warm water to the surface.

The water gave up its heat to the air—and suddenly, two years ago, the low-level clouds over the eastern North Atlantic started to thin out, letting in much more sunshine to warm the ocean’s surface. This chain of events, where the warming we cause triggers further changes in the climate, is called a “feedback”—and since we didn’t cause it directly, we can’t turn it off.

So, two years ago, we got three-tenths of a degree of warming in one huge lurch—from 1.2 C to 1.5 C in June 2023—and since then about one-tenth of a degree more in slow but steady warming. The average global temperature has been around 1.6 C for the past year.

Many scientists had hoped that we could hold the warming down to 1.5 C at least until the mid-2030s, but that’s already past. This means more and bigger forest fires, floods, droughts, cyclones, and killer heatwaves, which is bad enough—but it also turns the future into a minefield.

The “never-exceed” limit on warming, set by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 10 years ago was 2 C. They chose that limit because they knew we would activate many feedbacks if the warming went past there. Some they knew about (e.g. melting permafrost), but

The inability to hold the warming down means more and bigger forest fires, floods, droughts, cyclones, and killer heatwaves, writes Gwynne Dyer. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade



they also feared that there might be some hidden feedbacks north of 2 C.

It’s turning out that big hidden feedbacks start kicking in at a much lower temperature. We already hit one at 1.2 C two years ago, and for all we know, there could be another feedback just ahead. In fact, feedbacks might even come in clusters that cascade and carry us quickly up into much higher temperatures. Unlikely, but not unimaginable.

So, suddenly, the absolute priority is to hold the heat down. Greenhouse gas emissions must be stopped far sooner than the net-zero-by-2050 target the IPCC originally set, but there is no way that can be done in fewer than 10 or 15 years—and the World Meteorological Organization says that we could reach 1.9 C average global temperature as soon as 2029.

The only way to hold the heat down in the short term is “geoengineering”: direct intervention in the atmosphere to reflect more sunlight back into space, and thereby cool the planet. Many people are nervous about it, but we find ourselves in a position where geoengineering is the least bad option.

I am not a climate scientist, but I have been paying close attention to the subject for a long time (two books), and I spent three days in Cape Town, South Africa, last month interviewing many of the leading scientists in the field at the largest-ever conference on geoengineering.

None of the men and women I spoke to were ready to deploy geoengineering techniques, but they could probably begin to deploy within five years if a crash program were launched right away.

It’s a long shot, but that would be the best available outcome.

Gwynne Dyer’s new book is *Intervention Earth: Life-Saving Ideas from the World’s Climate Engineers*. The previous book, *The Shortest History of War*, is also still available.

The Hill Times

COMMENT OPINION

If we are truly committed to celebrating Pride, we must stand for LGBTQ rights, and queer liberation, writes Erica Ifill. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade



Canada could lead on AI—if we're willing to train for it

Opportunities will be lost by treating artificial intelligence as a threat to be managed, rather than embracing it with urgency and a people-first approach.

Matthias Oschinski & Ruhani Walia



Opinion

Don't let the pink-washing win

Corporations hijacked social justice movements to build their social capital, and now they are retreating due to right-wing populism.

Erica Ifill

Bad+Bitchy



OTTAWA—Happy Pride, I guess.

The anti-diversity, equity, and inclusion backlash is aimed at vulnerable communities for the crime of spotlighting the structural and social barriers that keep them at a disadvantage compared to their white peers. Over the past few years, we learned about the analytical framework of intersectionality, one that recognizes how various marginalized identities are tied together to create different forms of discrimination. We learned about policing according to race through the 2020 murder of George Floyd. We began to talk about how technologies affect various communities' ability to move around freely and the systematized discrimination that occurs to deepen the racial, gender, and class divisions in our society on a grand scale. We learned about queerness.

Or we should have. Transgender communities have been on the receiving end of

constant political attacks and violence. The policing of their bodies, their identities, and access to care have been weaponized to cement their marginalization. There seems to be a national obsession with pronouns, deadnaming—the act of referring to a transgender or non-binary person by their birth name after they have chosen a new name to reflect their new identities—and bathroom stalls. It's twisted.

"Radical gender ideology" is what the Conservatives call trans' people's right to exist in society, and access services that support their physicality. What is cute is their weaponization of women and gender-based violence to push trans people out of female spaces.

Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre told CTV News, "I'm not aware of any other genders than men and women." I'm only aware of one anti-LGBTQ party, and it's the Conservatives. The party uses trans rights as red meat to the ignorance of social conservatives, and to pacify right-wing media for whom Jordan Peterson is their golden calf. Their political stances intersect with those of the Ottawa Convoy. As reported in *The Walrus*, "Action4Canada, a right-wing group that was instrumental in the Freedom Convoy, took credit for getting the [school pronouns] policy introduced in Saskatchewan."

Everyone's favourite patriotic premier, Alberta's Danielle Smith, threatened to use the notwithstanding clause "to protect a new law that bans youth under 16 from accessing gender-affirming hormone treatments as well as top surgery," according to Amnesty International Canada. The human rights organiza-

tion called the threat "cruel and unnecessary." The cruelty is the point.

Corporations hijacked social justice movements to build their social capital, and now they are retreating due to right-wing populism. These are acts of betrayal. But they were never allies, they pink-washed their way to positive publicity. The re-election of President Donald Trump in the United States is affecting diversity initiatives in Canada. Pride Toronto is going to have a tough time this year since Home Depot—whose CEO is a known Trump supporter—rescinded their financial support; Google, which gave US\$1-million to Trump's inauguration, also dropped out. "The non-profit in charge of the 2SLGBTQ+ festival is facing a shortfall of around \$700,000 as a result of all the most recent withdrawals," as reported by CTV News. While corporations turn tail and run, the city stepped up to make up part of that shortfall with a \$350,000 grant. But it's not enough.

If we are truly committed to celebrating Pride, we must stand for LGBTQ rights, and queer liberation. But how?

Take Target as a case study. The *L.A. Times* reported that Target told their staff to "reduce or even eliminate their Pride-themed displays or move the merchandise to less conspicuous sections of the stores." The company rolled back their DEI initiatives, "including a commitment to expanding Black employee representation by 20 per cent," CNN reports. You know how Black Americans responded? Black churches organized boycotts of Target, spurred by Black social media spaces. *The Seattle Medium* notes: "The

movement began as the Target Fast and gained national momentum as the company pulled back on its DEI pledges." In an op-ed in *Black Press USA*, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. and Bobby R. Henry Sr. of the National Newspaper Publishers Association state: "Let us be clear: we will not shop where we are disrespected. Our dollars will not finance our own marginalization."

And that's the whole point. We can't let corporations come into our movements, take over our spaces, and then stab us in the back when their "support" is no longer convenient; we can't support those companies that bow to white supremacy. (White supremacy includes gender normativity.) Is the boycott working?

Even Target had to concede in their U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filing that "we recently announced that we modified and concluded certain of our initiatives related to diversity, equity, and inclusion, which resulted in adverse reactions from some of our shareholders, guests, team members, and others." No kidding. This past February, traffic decreased 9.5 per cent compared to the previous year, using foot traffic as a proxy for sales. The stock price hit a five-year low of \$94 in April after a January price of \$142 per share. Anti-woke stances are expensive.

This year, instead of pink-washing our Instagram feeds, maybe we should jump into the fight for queer rights and let these corporations know that their anti-LGBTQ stances will cost them.

Erica Ifill is a co-host of the *Bad+Bitchy* podcast.

The Hill Times

Artificial intelligence will not wipe out jobs *en masse*, but it will change them—often in fundamental ways. In other words, the greatest effect of this technology will be task transformation and not job destruction. This means that workers across a wide range of sectors may need to adapt quickly to new workflows, tools, and skill requirements.

Studies suggest the adoption of AI remains sluggish in Canada with only around six per cent of businesses taking advantage of its uses by 2024. International comparisons consistently show Canada behind peer countries. Why is that? The infrastructure is sparse, investment uneven, and training systems seem ill-equipped to prepare workers for a digital future.

Without decisive action, a critical opportunity is being squandered—forgoing not just productivity gains, but also the chance to reshape work in ways that are increasingly meaningful, resilient and inclusive.

This is a challenge, but it's also an opportunity for organizations like governments, labour unions, and educational institutions.

A recent study we published with the Institute for Research on Public Policy determined that Canada's workforce—if equipped with the right capabilities—could harness generative AI, like ChatGPT, to leap ahead and meet those opportunities. Our research found that the tools needed already exist to automate routine tasks, improve efficiency, and support decision-making. Whether in health care, logistics, finance, or education, AI can free up time, streamline workflows,

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OPINION

Is Carney's mandate for technocracy or transformation?

Here lies the Carney paradox: his critique of market fundamentalism has always been more radical than his remedies.

Leah Temper

Opinion



Prime Minister Mark Carney knows what's broken in capitalism. He wrote the book on it.

In *Value(s): Building a Better World for All*, he exposed how markets discount the future, reward environmental destruction, and prioritize short-term profits over long-term well-being. He called for a moral reset of capitalism, one grounded in resilience, responsibility, and intergenerational justice.

Yet his mandate letter to cabinet and Throne Speech deliver the same conventional growth strategies: removing trade barriers, speeding project approvals, boosting "competitiveness." Climate is

an afterthought. Health is absent. Reconciliation gets a passing mention. The speech promised to deliver "an economy that serves everyone" while proposing the same trickle-down economics that work best for those at the top. Where are the bold, systems-thinking ideas Carney the philosopher championed?

This is no ordinary moment: climate breakdown, inequality, and authoritarianism are on the rise. The global economic order is being rewritten. These overlapping crises demand more than nudges and voluntary commitments. They require structural change.

Here lies the Carney paradox: his critique of market fundamentalism has always been more radical than his remedies. He exposed a system where profits are privatized while health and environmental costs are pushed onto workers, the public, and future generations. And yet where in his political agenda is the structural reform his diagnosis calls for?

Carney wrote, "we value what we measure," critiquing how our economy rewards destruction and calls it growth. When wildfire smoke blanketed Ontario in 2023, costing \$1.2-billion in health impacts in a week, this registered as prosperity. Sick people and timber clear-cuts are GDP gains, health and ecosystem degradation are invisibilized. To lead on



The overlapping crises demand more than nudges and voluntary commitments from Prime Minister Mark Carney—they require structural change, writes Leah Temper. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

well-being, Carney's government must move beyond GDP. While Trump dismantles the "social cost of carbon," Carney must go the other way and institutionalize measuring what matters.

Carney warned of the "tragedy of the horizon"—the way economic and political systems systematically discount the future in decision-making. At standard discount rates, the welfare of someone living 200 years from now is worth nearly nothing in today's decisions. Carney rightly

called this "a violation of any plausible ethical standard." If he takes this seriously, intergenerational justice must become a governing principle. A Well-being for Future Generations Act, like the one in Wales, would give unborn generations a legal voice so their futures aren't mortgaged for short-term gain.

Carney was a thought leader on how "stranded assets" in fossil fuels would cause a "carbon bubble" and catastrophic warming, and he argued that most reserves must stay in the ground. Yet the market solutions he has championed—voluntary disclosure, industry pledges—have fallen flat. His Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero is unraveling, and RBC is ditching its climate targets altogether. Instead of coming clean, companies are exploiting the very amendments to the Competition Act that we at the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment helped secure to address rampant greenwashing. This shows that binding rules—like the proposed Climate-Aligned Finance Act and a robust green taxonomy—are urgently needed to enforce standards and accountability.

Carney understands that climate change isn't about consumer choice: it's systemic. He's called it the greatest market failure of our time. But pollution isn't

a failure: it's a cost-shifting success for those who offload harm onto others. An economy that serves everyone must confront these moral hazards and ensure polluters pay their share.

The polycrisis we face demands more than tweaks. It requires rewriting the rules: placing health and sustainability at the centre, investing in a just transition, and ending perverse incentives to pollute. The new federal Cabinet Committee on Quality of Life and Well-Being is a promising first step. Now it must be given the mandate to advance transformative policies, from implementing alternative indicators beyond GDP to ensuring health and environmental costs are reflected in prices.

Some will say these ideas are too ambitious. But continuing with business as usual as climate, health, and inequality crises mount is the real fantasy. We are seeing Carney the banker, but where is Carney the philosopher? Where are the values he championed? Or are we just getting the same technocratic pragmatism that has failed to solve the crises he diagnosed so clearly?

History won't remember how well he managed the status quo. It will remember whether he dared to change it.

Dr. Leah Temper is the director of health and economic policy program at the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, and a lecturer at McGill's School of Environment. She is the author of Just Transformations: Grassroots Struggles for Alternative Futures, and Ecological Economics from the Ground Up.

The Hill Times

Time for a modern Team Canada approach to Canada-U.S. relations

The prime minister should look beyond the Liberal fold to find voices who may well serve Canada at this pivotal time.

Andrew Tzembelicos

Opinion



With Prime Minister Mark Carney's recent first meeting with United States President Donald Trump behind him, and his new cabinet in place, determining next steps in the omnipresent Canada-U.S. relationship and who will be involved is key.

Looking beyond the immediate faces—both new and familiar—at the Liberal cabinet table,

there are some other voices who may well serve Canada and the Carney government at this pivotal time.

At the top of the list would be former prime minister Jean Chrétien. The original architect of the Team Canada approach, his wisdom, political street smarts, and 40 years of political experience would serve Canada very well at this critical time. With a clever quip at every turn, just as he put former justice John Gomery in place during his infamous commission appearance of yesteryear, Chrétien would instinctively know how to manage Trump (not that the president can be managed). Moreover, being a political street fighter, and the ultimate champion of Canadian politics from his earliest days, Chrétien might well earn the trust and respect of the prickly and unpredictable president who regularly talks about how he appreciates "winners." In this scenario, Chrétien's role—as *éminence grise*—would be akin to the role former U.S. president Bill

Clinton played when he visited North Korea in 2009 on behalf of the Obama administration to secure the release of two American journalists.

In the team of potential advisers and interlocutors on this file, Team Carney might look beyond the Liberal fold as former prime minister Justin Trudeau adroitly did by turning to former Progressive Conservative prime minister Brian Mulroney during the first Trump administration. In this regard, one name that comes to mind is former Conservative Party leader Erin O'Toole. In his recent interview with Vassy Kapelos following the April 28 election, O'Toole spoke eloquently about the need for Canadians of all political stripes to come together on this file at this pivotal moment in Canada-U.S. relations and Canadian history.

O'Toole's measured sensibilities would not only be an added value at the negotiating table, but would also bring bipartisan to the fore and help set a less partisan tone for the current

Parliament. Taking this a step further, O'Toole might make an ideal ambassador to the U.S.—a Liberal appointee with big- and small-c conservative bona fides, and a military background that might assist the Carney government in further positioning Canada on the same page with Trump and his administration.

On such a crucial file, also with bipartisanship in mind, another potential name to add to the roster would be Pierre Poilievre, the Conservative Party leader. This would challenge Poilievre to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Government of Canada. Whether he would agree to engage in Canada's interests under this scenario remains questionable given his intransigence on obtaining a security clearance in the last Parliament.

Inviting Poilievre to the table comes with potential risks and rewards for Carney and his government. The reward for Carney would be, yet again, demonstrating that he is playing politics differently—a major reason why he was elected

by Canadian voters. On the flip side, the risk is giving Poilievre a platform where he can look prime ministerial on a file where he otherwise would have little real traction. With a partisan hat on, extending an invitation to Poilievre could conveniently force him to make a political choice he has so far seemed unwilling to make: one that could potentially alienate those members of his Conservative base who support Trump.

In everything, current Conservative understudy Andrew Sheer should not be part of any discussions or deliberations due to his dual Canada-U.S. citizenship. Though he pledged to relinquish his U.S. citizenship in the 2019 campaign, he reneged on that promise in 2020 following his election loss. To avoid any charges of bias, even on a stand-in basis, his name should not be considered.

Beyond the cabinet, the premiers, Indigenous leaders, members of the business community, and other voices contributing to the Canada-U.S. discussions and deliberations, ensuring a unified Team Canada approach involving our "best of the best" is paramount.

Andrew Tzembelicos is a Greek-Canadian writer and editor who worked with the federal Liberals in Ottawa for nearly a decade.

The Hill Times

OPINION



Canadians have good reason to dislike and distrust U.S. President Donald Trump, but not everything he has said about defence is wrong, writes Robert R. Fowler. *White House photograph by Joyce N. Boghosian*

Defending North America with a difficult partner

The hard truth is that Canadians alone cannot defend the second-largest country in the world, which means doing it in concert with the Americans.

Robert Fowler

Opinion



Soon after taking office in March, Prime Minister Mark Carney observed that Canada's old relationship with the United States was over. While that is undeniable, the inexorable fact remains that Canada and the U.S. must continue to share responsibility for North American defence.

Canadians have good reason to dislike and distrust U.S. President Donald Trump. Among so many other distasteful things, he has threatened to ruin our country economically, and/or simply to annex it. This objectionable

rhetoric does not mean, however, that everything the American president has said is wrong. For generations, Canadians have been getting a free ride from our rich and powerful neighbour with regard to our continental defence obligations; a free ride in terms of the defence investments we have avoided and the obligations we have ignored.

To remain a sovereign and independent nation, we will have to play a much more significant part in the defence of our country. The hard truth is that Canadians alone cannot defend the second-largest country in the world. Thus, defending Canada necessarily means doing it in concert with the Americans.

Trump's comments about Canadian sovereignty cannot be ignored as inconsequential. There is, though, nothing submissive or craven in accepting his defence criticisms as valid, and committing to doing better to assure effective, bi-national continental defence.

This means, *inter alia*, that Canada should be carefully considering full participation in NORAD's ballistic defence program.

Forty years ago, we had qualms about participating in American proposals regarding cruise missile testing in Canada, in the Strategic Defense Initiative (a.k.a. "Star Wars") and, sub-

sequently, in joining the U.S.'s continental ballistic missile defence system. To date, successive Canadian governments have steadfastly avoided participation in modernized efforts to detect and deter the threat of ballistic missile attacks on our country and our southern neighbour. Now, however, the Americans are very clear about the fact that we can either defend North America together, or they will do it their way.

In Canada, arguments have been put forward claiming that protecting North America from any kind of missile attack is "destabilizing." In today's world of aggressive nuclear players (North Korea, Israel, Pakistan, India, and possibly Iran—in addition to a very different China and Russia), all of whom have been recently rattling their nukes in one form or another, there is no excuse for this kind of self-delusion.

Today, the relevant missile defence technology is more mature than it was in the time of then-U.S. president Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars"—one only has to look at the efficacy of Israel's "Iron Dome." The days when Canada could claim our best defence was a matter of virtue signalling, when we believed that defending ourselves with "principled values" and impassioned speeches in favour of peace and disarmament

might deter those who would do us ill, are long gone.

Former foreign minister Lloyd Axworthy wrote in *The Globe and Mail* on May 22 that "Canada must resist being pulled into this [ballistic defence] orbit." Instead of playing a full part in continental defence, Axworthy insists that we should invest in Arctic surveillance, to which the Carney government is already committed. Further, he noted, we must "modernize NORAD in ways that reflect today's reality"—without saying what those ways are—rather than indulge in "Cold War fantasies." I wonder if Ukrainians consider the hundreds of Russian ballistic missiles launched against their country to have been "fantasies"?

Axworthy suggests we lead international efforts to establish "norms and treaties against the weaponization of space." That horse has already strayed far from the barn, and that approach will do nothing to protect Canada.

Attempts to turn back the clock to a time before the collapse of the Soviet Union, before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, before the Chinese expansionist militarization of the South China Sea, and before Israeli Defense Forces committed relentless crimes of war against the populations of Gaza and the West Bank,

do nothing to secure Canada's future. It is futile to think that powerful countries can be bent to Canada's will with fine words. That Kansas, too, I'm afraid, is long gone.

We can and should disagree with the Trump administration on any number of issues. Some of those differences may be received with relative passivity while others would encounter a forceful riposte. But none is likely to elicit a fiercer response than anything we might do, or not do, that could be interpreted in Washington, D.C., as imperiling American security.

Thus, we should tread these paths with great care, while recalling that the imperative is improving Canada's security—it's not about Trump. Carney said in a recent press conference: "the U.S. is absolutely our ally. It's our ally in security and defence partnerships. It's our most important security ally."

That is the context in which Canada's full participation in the defence of our shared North American geography must take place.

Robert Fowler is a former foreign and defence policy adviser to three prime ministers, a former deputy minister of national defence, and former ambassador to the United Nations.

The Hill Times

OPINION

Canada can't move forward without Indigenous-led solutions

No serious national strategy—be it economic, environmental, or geopolitical—can succeed without Indigenous leadership, co-ownership, and shared decision-making power.

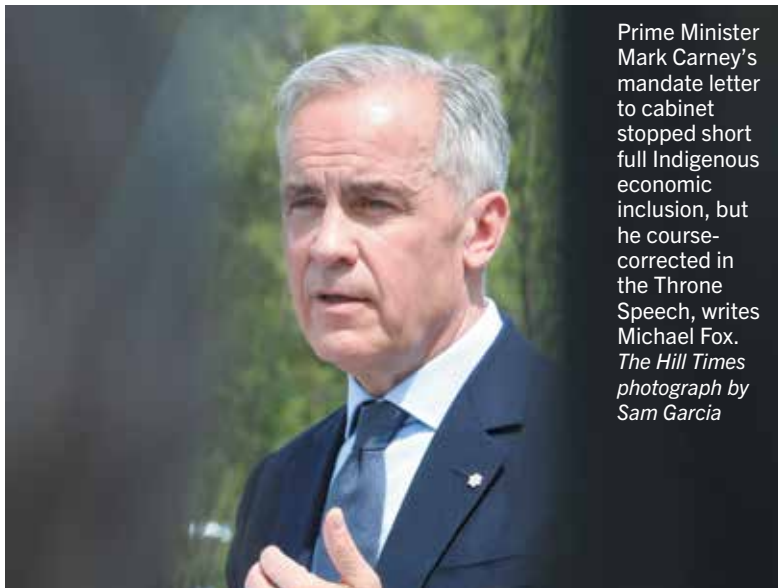
Michael Fox

Opinion



Prime Minister Mark Carney's May 21 mandate letter to cabinet sketches an ambitious plan to confront generational challenges. But one crucial priority was missing: a clear commitment to embedding Indigenous Peoples at the centre of nation-building. This omission was swiftly addressed in the Speech from the Throne delivered by King Charles III on May 27, with a strong focus on economic reconciliation.

It is no wonder the Carney government course corrected so quickly. No serious national strategy—be it economic, environmental, or geopolitical—can succeed



Prime Minister Mark Carney's mandate letter to cabinet stopped short of full Indigenous economic inclusion, but he course-corrected in the Throne Speech, writes Michael Fox. *The Hill Times* photograph by Sam Garcia

without Indigenous leadership, co-ownership, and shared decision-making power. If the Carney government truly aims to build a sovereign, secure, and sustainable Canada, it must prioritize Indigenous inclusion as the keystone of national policy.

The good news is we have reason to believe this government understands that. The promise to double the Indigenous Loan Guarantee Program to \$10-billion is a strategic investment in Indigenous-led economic growth. But bold goals need to be matched by clear actions. Here are four ways Carney and his cabinet can show they get it—before the end of the year.

First, make Indigenous equity a requirement in all federally backed major infrastructure

projects. From energy corridors to transportation networks, Indigenous Nations must be involved from the beginning stage as co-owners. This means embedding equity participation, procurement access, and governance roles into every federal project development plan.

Second, issue a cross-government directive that every minister integrate Indigenous partnership into their development priorities with measurable outcomes and reporting mechanisms. Reconciliation is not a siloed file; it is a whole-of-government effort that touches everything from housing and critical minerals to trade and digital connectivity.

Third, accelerate the adoption and scope of Indigenous-led impact assessments. Grounded

in Indigenous knowledge and legal traditions, these processes are not barriers or red tape. When respected, they yield faster timelines, fewer court battles, deeper environmental integrity, and better projects. Recognizing and resourcing these assessments properly would show this government is serious about both sustainable development and Indigenous jurisdiction.

Fourth, the government must respect and accelerate Indigenous self-government agreements. The mandate letter frames sovereignty in traditional military and border terms, citing the need to bolster the Armed Forces, and fortify trade routes. But it failed to acknowledge the original and ongoing sovereignties of Indigenous Nations, many of whom have never ceded or surrendered their rights to self-government. A few days later, the Speech from the Throne committed to being a reliable partner with Indigenous Peoples, and to uphold free, prior, and informed consent. But any national conversation about sovereignty that ignores Treaty relationships, inherent rights, and the reality of unceded lands is both politically and legally hollow. Respecting current Indigenous self-government agreements and the many ongoing negotiations for them must be central to any credible sovereignty agenda.

The mandate letter envisions Canada as an energy superpower, and a magnet for global talent. But it stops short of the one strategy that would most fundamentally shift Canada's economy: full Indigenous economic inclu-

sion. The Speech from the Throne appears to have course-corrected, giving Indigenous Peoples reason to believe this government is committed to economic reconciliation. But Carney will have to show progress quickly.

When First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities are true partners in major projects—from transmission lines to mining operations to broadband networks—the benefits extend for generations. Indigenous equity drives capital into local economies, closes infrastructure gaps, and delivers better health, education, and employment outcomes. It also rewrites the story Canada tells itself, which too often rests on 19th-century assumptions about who builds wealth and who leads.

Carney's approach must go beyond procurement targets or hiring quotas to equity ownership in major projects. First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities must become infrastructure partners, and Indigenous financial providers must participate in shaping national capital markets.

The prime minister has a chance to reframe Indigenous inclusion as a core strategy. The \$10-billion loan guarantee promise is a strong opening move. Next, he needs to turn momentum into an integrated policy architecture.

If we are to meet the challenges of our time, Indigenous-led solutions must shape every pillar of this government's priorities. In doing so, the government can prove to Indigenous Peoples that they are committed to reconciliation and achieving Indigenous parity in wealth, governance, and opportunity.

Reconciliation isn't optional—it's the foundation of a Canada that works for all.

Michael Fox is the president of Indigenous and Community Engagement Inc., and a member of Weenusk First Nation.
The Hill Times

Canada could lead on AI—if we're willing to train for it

Continued from page 11

and enhance human creativity. In a slowing economy grappling with an aging populating and shrinking workforce, these gains are not just desirable, they are also essential.

But they won't come automatically. Productivity improvements from AI depend on how it is deployed—and who gets to use it.

That means rethinking how Canadians are prepared for work. Rather than trying to teach everyone how to code, other complementary skills should be enhanced—so called "soft skills" like interpersonal, managerial, and judgment-based capabilities. These are capabilities that AI cannot easily replicate. These are also the capabilities less likely to be automated, and yet are most essential in those AI-augmented

workplaces like education and finance.

It also means recognizing regional differences. The impact of AI won't be felt uniformly across the country. In some provinces, the jobs most in demand today—think health care—are also those most exposed to AI-driven automation. In others, economic specialization offers more natural resilience. This calls for tailored workforce strategies, not one-size-fits-all programs.

Now more than ever, governments and training institutions must work with local employers and labour market data to design responses that match real conditions on the ground. That includes prioritizing upskilling in industries most vulnerable to disruption: transportation, manufacturing, construction, mining, and agriculture, particularly

in regions where these sectors dominate.

And critically, it means co-ordinated action. Canada has launched numerous pilot projects and task forces, and invested in several national AI initiatives—such as the Pan-Canadian Artificial Intelligence Strategy—but implementation remains an issue. What's needed now is national leadership with regional flexibility: a shared framework for AI workforce development that allows for local customization, informed by real-time data and measurable outcomes.

Tools like the Occupational and Skills Information System and real-time job posting data can help identify where interventions are most urgently needed by defining measures of occupational need. Finally, this must be a whole-of-ecosystem effort: governments, employers, edu-



Liberal MP Evan Solomon was sworn in as the artificial intelligence and digital innovation minister on May 13. *The Hill Times* photograph by Sam Garcia

cators, and labour groups must work together to design policies that are proactive, not reactive.

This is Canada's AI moment. By treating artificial intelligence as a threat to be managed, rather than embracing it with urgency and a people-first approach, opportunities will be lost. The chance to solve bigger problems will be missed. Productivity stagnation, uneven growth, and labour mismatches among them will remain one of Canada's most persistent problems. AI has the potential to offer inclusive prosperity.

AI is not a distant disruption—it's an immediate catalyst. With smart investment and co-ordinated action, we can ensure it enhances productivity while expanding opportunity across the country. The technology is moving fast. So must Canada.

Matthias Oschinski is a senior fellow at Georgetown University's Center for Security and Emerging Technology, and the founder of Belongnomics. Ruhani Walia is an incoming researcher in the Model Development and Research Division at the Bank of Canada.
The Hill Times

COMMENT

Election? What election?



One might indeed be forgiven for thinking Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre is a bit focused on the rear-view mirror, writes Les Whittington. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

And, although Poilievre hasn't said so, Carney's minority in the Commons could soon be up against a 144-seat Conservative caucus that—in a replay of the party's position for much of the previous Parliament—would have only one interest: immediately defeating the government to force an election.

Fear of Trump, which propelled Carney into Canada's top job, is another wild card. If that fades, the country's remarkably polarized voters—many of whom still appear enthralled with Poilievre's grievance-fed, populist promises to get even with the elites, and fix everything with a few simple solutions—might shift enough to give the Conservatives a victory.

Even though Poilievre may back Carney's legislation if it is in tune with his priorities, the party will be against "things that are bad for the country and run against the platform that eight million Canadians voted for," he said.

One might indeed be forgiven for thinking the Conservative leader is a bit focused on the rear-view mirror. Describing his party's objectives last week, Poilievre went on to say: "We will continue to work hard for the Canadian people to restore the promise that anyone who works hard gets a great life in an affordable ..." Well, you know the rest.

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

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a budget, doing so would have left the prime minister open to accusations he was just repack-

aging Trudeau policies—a line the Conservatives rehearsed against Carney during the election.

The new Liberal government will, of course, have to manage

huge challenges. These range from enlisting the support of the fractious premiers in hoped-for nation-building projects; quickly addressing affordability and

housing problems; figuring out how to fund election promises and, not least, trying to keep Trump from turning Canada into a developing country.

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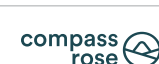
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NEWS

Prime Minister Carney can't govern Canada as CEO, say strategists

The prime minister can't forget 'fundamentals' while focused on executive-level priorities, even when it feels like a nuisance, says Bluesky Strategy Group's Jordan Paquet.

Continued from page 1

historic Throne Speech delivered by King Charles III on May 27, Bloc Québécois Leader Yves-François Blanchet (Beloeil-Chambly, Que.) told reporters that the substance of the address had given him the impression Carney "sees himself, culturally, as the CEO of Canada," and views the provinces as "merely regional offices."

"He will make decisions, and he will have his decisions implemented by everybody," Blanchet continued, adding that while he is "not mad at" Carney since that "is the way it works where he comes from, this is not the way it works in this place, and it is not the way it works within this federation, as terrible as it might be for us."

Nearly a week earlier, former NDP MP Matthew Green, who lost his Hamilton Centre, Ont., seat in the April 28 election to Liberal Aslam Rana, applied the same moniker to Carney in a more critical fashion.

"This is going to be a very top-down government led by Carney, who has positioned himself as the economy's saviour," Green told *The Hill Times* on May 22. "He's going to turn cabinet meetings into board meetings, and people will be reporting to the CEO, who will be directing accordingly."

Green also said that the tone of Carney's single mandate letter already made his intentions clear regarding the general direction he will take the country.

"This is going to be an austerity government," Green explained. "There are going to be deep cuts, and the working class will ultimately bear the brunt of whatever recovery Carney thinks will be best for Canada."

Former Liberal ministerial staffer Dan Pujdak, now chief strategy officer with Blackbird Strategies, said that while



Prime Minister Mark Carney addresses the Liberal caucus in West Block on May 25. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

Carney's governing style is a drastic departure from that of his predecessor Justin Trudeau, his first few weeks since the election have gone "exactly as Canadians wanted it to."

"Carney is sending a signal that he's going to be a serious prime minister, he's going to move quickly, and he's going to focus on the economy," explained Pujdak, a former director of policy to then-Crown-Indigenous relations minister Carolyn Bennett.

"Carney likes to do more than he likes to talk, and that's what we're seeing," Pujdak said. "I think that's exactly what Canadians expected of him."

While Trudeau used a "deliverology approach" to governing, Carney's mandate letter to cabinet set out a smaller number of "guiding principles" and priorities that will be easier to measure, Pujdak said.

"From a political standpoint, it's great for transparency and accountability, and it also means that communications teams will have way less to hide behind if results aren't happening," Pujdak said, adding that he believes Canadians will view Carney's government as more transparent and accountable, and at the very least, "know if it's working or not."

Former Liberal staffer Liam Daly, now a senior associate with Sussex Strategy Group, said that while Carney will be a steady hand to "drive the ship," unlike in the private sector, he can't always have his hand on the wheel.

"Carney's obviously leaning into the CEO thing and he's put together a very ambitious mandate to campaign on, but the government's performance will largely depend on the perfor-



Bluesky Strategy Group's Jordan Paquet says Carney can't ignore the fundamentals of being prime minister, even those that may seem like a 'nuisance' like managing caucus and answering opposition questions. Photograph courtesy of Bluesky Strategy Group

mance of his ministers," Daly said, noting that Carney had already been forced to right the ship several times in the first 24 hours of his new cabinet after ministers gave answers to reporters he would later need to contradict, including whether or not his government would table a budget this year.

"Carney wants to run a tight ship, and I don't think that's wrong, but he needs his people to meet those high standards," Daly said, noting that to do so will require keeping morale high beyond just the cabinet.

The Hill Times reported that Carney has so far struggled with caucus management, particularly when it comes to his more veteran members who have yet to find their way into cabinet after more than a decade as a parliamentarian in some cases. Several other former cabinet ministers were also

left disappointed after Carney's latest front-bench shuffle following the election, particularly those who were still new to their roles.

Other Liberal MPs who previously spoke with *The Hill Times* also predicted that former Trudeau-era ministers—or long-serving MPs with little chance of promotion—may resign in the coming months, potentially triggering byelections.

While caucus and stakeholder management may not come naturally to someone with executive-level business experience, Carney will soon learn that governing Canada also requires managing "the fundamentals," said former Conservative PMO staffer Jordan Paquet.

"I think Carney's going to discover—and I think he is already discovering quite quickly—that running Canada is nothing like running a company," explained Paquet, now a vice-president at Bluesky Strategies, noting that being prime minister will require Carney's attention to issues both large and small, even the ones he may consider a "nuisance."

"Carney will soon discover that Canada is a difficult country to govern if you're unwilling to make tough decisions and hold your ministers accountable. That also means dealing with caucus and stakeholders and answering questions from the opposition."

During his first Question Period on May 28, Carney deviated from Trudeau's nearly decade-long practice of answering every question during the Wednesday session, answering only the first nine questions from the other two recognized party or parliamentary leaders.

A senior PMO source told *The Hill Times* that while Carney may

be answering fewer questions than his predecessor on one specific day, he will also be endeavouring to appear during Question Period more frequently on other days, with the possibility that the prime minister will be in his place each day to take questions. However, the source clarified that Carney will only be taking questions posed by opposition leaders during those appearances.

Conservative strategist Dan Mader, a founding partner with Loyalist Public Affairs and former campaign staffer, said that while he disagrees with those who may want a CEO of Canada to run the government like a business, it is prudent for Carney to rely on his previous professional skills given his relative dearth of experience in the political realm.

"This is somebody who was very successful in the private sector, was a successful bureaucrat, and then a successful politician, so it's about what we'd expect from somebody who is still relatively new," Mader said of Carney's first week in Parliament. "His style is definitely different; he looks and acts differently from Trudeau, but he's still learning how to be a politician."

However, while Carney may have one of the most impressive resumés at the cabinet table, he should resist the urge to think he is the most intelligent person in the room, Mader said.

"The government isn't a business and can't run like a business. It's a massive, complex beast, and you can't get things done unless you're willing to delegate authority," Mader added, noting that while treating the cabinet table like a board of directors is a style of leadership that can and has worked, the size and composition of Carney's front bench will make that difficult.

With the current 28 ministers and 10 secretaries of state, it will be challenging to focus on the few executive-level issues Carney may hope to address while delegating other lower-priority responsibilities, Mader said.

"It still sort of confuses me that Carney ended up with this large, two-level cabinet with a lot of overlapping responsibilities because that will make it harder for him to delegate with clear responsibility and clear accountability," Mader explained, noting that even questions of who reports to which minister were not clear.

"Who's Dominic LeBlanc's deputy minister, and what department is he in? Is it the deputy minister of international trade, or does it depend on the issue? All of those questions make the government more complicated," Mader said, referring to LeBlanc's (Beauséjour, N.B.) portfolio that includes being Privy Council president, and the minister for intergovernmental affairs, Canada-U.S. trade, and one Canadian economy. "There is value in a prime minister who doesn't micromanage, but to do that, you need a clear plan with clear responsibilities for ministers with the authority to get things done."

sbenson@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

OPINION

Urgent: ambitious methane emissions reduction needed

Meeting our methane targets is an important prerequisite for Canada's international competitiveness.

ISG Senator
Rosa Galvez
& Ari Pottens

Opinion



As a potent greenhouse gas, methane has a global warming potential that can be 80 times greater than carbon dioxide. Recent research found that about two-thirds of global methane emissions can be attributed to human-driven sources, with the concentration of methane rising faster in the past five years than in any previously recorded period.

The good news: methane is short-lived compared to CO₂. Reducing methane emissions holds promise for near-term positive impact, while in the long term, a reduction of just 45 per cent of methane emissions could help limit planetary warming by forestalling almost 0.3 C of potential global temperature increase by 2045. Methane emissions reduction is one of the fastest, most cost-effective ways to rapidly reduce the rate of global warming. And there is an urgent need for Canada to pass long-promised regulations to reduce methane emissions.

Globally, three sectors—agriculture (40 per cent), fossil fuels (35 per cent), and waste (20 per cent)—are responsible for most human-influenced methane emissions. In Canada, these three sectors were responsible for 94 per cent of the country's total methane emissions in 2022.

The oil and gas sector offers some of the cheapest ways to reduce methane. Methane is the primary ingredient in natural gas. It is emitted across much of the supply chain in oil and gas operations. When operators conserve natural gas and fix leaking equipment, more gas is available to be sold, making methane abatement among the most affordable ways to reduce air pollution. In fact, a study conducted by Dunskey Energy for Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) showed that a 75-per-cent reduction target would cost about \$11 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent—considerably less than the recently cancelled consumer carbon tax, set at \$95 per tonne for 2025.

In parallel, methane abatement would also bring about economic benefits: a 2024 analysis by EDF shows that in 2022, more than \$670-million was lost to the economy due to methane leakage, and the Government of Alberta alone failed to recover \$120-million in lost royalties and uncollected corporate taxes.

In January 2020, regulations to secure a 40- to 45-per-cent methane reduction by 2025 target came into force. But a promise the following year to strengthen oil and gas methane regulations to reduce emissions by at least 75 per cent



Mitigating methane emissions is a low-hanging fruit on which new Environment and Climate Change Minister Julie Dabrusin should take immediate action, write ISG Senator Rosa Galvez and Ari Pottens. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

by 2030 was not finalized before the recent election was called.

The delays in passing this regulation may have consequences that go beyond climate. Meeting our methane targets is an important prerequisite for Canada's international competitiveness. Many American states—including major oil and gas producers—have stronger regulations than Canada's proposed rules in key areas. And the European Union has introduced an import standard that will require Canada and other oil and gas exporting countries to adhere to stringent leakage standards. Simply put, methane abatement is an imperative to keep Canada competitive in the global race to clean energy. There are more than 100 Canadian clean-technology companies focused on oil and gas methane abatement. These companies provide cutting-edge solutions to help global markets reduce their emissions while creating well-paying, high-skilled jobs that are helping diversify our economy. But the bottom will fall out of this market if governments don't meet their clean-energy promises.

In the agriculture sector, ruminant digestion (enteric fermentation) alone accounts for about 90 per cent of all live-stock-derived methane emissions. The amount of methane emitted by farm animals can be influenced by several factors including the type, quality, and quantity of feed consumed by ruminants. Helpful practices including genetic selection of low methane producing animals, diet reformulation, and the use of feed additives could be implemented to reduce these emissions.

Practices that can reduce methane emissions in the waste sector include capturing methane at landfill sites, redirecting organic waste from landfills to composting and recycling, limiting the production of solid organic waste, and mitigating the emission of methane from wastewater treatment plants.

Despite opportunities for significant methane emission reductions across the oil and gas, agriculture, and waste sectors, policymakers looking to tackle

GHG emissions often neglect strong reduction policies for these sectors. It is essential to educate policymakers on

methane reduction strategies to ensure effective legislative action, such as the goal of a recent ParlAmericas session on the role of parliaments in reducing methane emissions.

In 2024, the global average temperature exceeded 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels for the first time—an impetus to accelerate GHG emission reductions we cannot afford to ignore. Mitigating methane emissions is a low-hanging fruit on which newly appointed Environment and Climate Change Minister Julie Dabrusin should take immediate action. There's no time for delay; Minister Dabrusin, we urge you to demonstrate your commitment to GHG emission reductions by strengthening Canada's methane emissions regulations as one of your first acts in office. Our children, and our children's children are counting on it.

The Honourable Rosa Galvez is a civil-environmental engineer, and an Independent Senator for the province of Quebec.

Ari Pottens is the senior campaign manager for Canada at Environmental Defense Fund where he manages the organization's methane work in Canada.
The Hill Times

"National political and administrative institutions are not faring as well as they did in years past. So, what happened? A team of top scholars from eleven countries have come together to answer the question from a comparative perspective. This collection of essays identifies similar challenges confronting national governments and their public services in North America, Europe and Asia, no matter the political system in which they operate."

The collection

WHAT HAPPENED?

The Decline of the Public Service in Democratic Governments

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NEWS

Nation-building or ‘bulldozing’ consent: pledge for Major Federal Project Office prompts questions

Creating the office is one of the few concrete plans in the Throne Speech, alongside a pledge to reduce approvals on ‘nation-building’ projects from five years to two, while still consulting with Indigenous communities and upholding environmental standards.

Continued from page 1

only with radical change and a “leaner, meaner, faster” governance that eliminates bureaucratic requirements to drive nation-building projects forward.

Ram Mathilakat is an executive consultant and former high-ranking public servant, and was part of the creation of Shared Services Canada in 2011, a centralized IT infrastructure department in the federal public service. He said the government has previously endeavoured to speed up government processes via special task forces, citing the defence procurement strategy established in 2014.

“These special task forces are situated inside the typical bureaucratic, large government,” he told *The Hill Times*. “So what changes? Nothing really changes, in terms of processes, procedures, governance, and approval.”

He said he wants to give Prime Minister Mark Carney (Nepean, Ont.), who has a background in the private sector, the benefit of the doubt. Cutting approval timelines drastically is “definitely possible,” Mathilakat said, but only with radical change.

“You cannot situate this within the bubble of the bureaucracy, and subject it to the same bureaucratic red tape and say, ‘I’m gonna move things faster.’ It’s not going to happen.”

Creating a Major Federal Project Office is one of the few concrete plans in the May 27 Throne Speech, alongside the pledge the office would reduce the time needed to approve projects from five years to two, “all while upholding Canada’s world-leading environmental standards and its constitutional obligation to Indigenous Peoples.”



Prime Minister Mark Carney waits for the King’s arrival at the Senate of Canada Building before the Throne Speech on May 27. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

Former NDP MP Peter Julian said he was pleased to see the Throne Speech include reference to “free, prior, and informed consent” from Indigenous communities on these projects of national significance. But the former long-time MP said Carney’s intention of significantly lowering approval timelines amounts to “bulldozing.”

“I’m confused by references in the Throne Speech to fast-tracking—which is really bulldozing approval for the projects of national significance—moving that to a two-year maximum,” said Julian, speaking as part of a post-speech panel on May 29.

The speech, delivered by King Charles III, also references the government “working closely with provinces, territories, and Indigenous Peoples to identify and catalyze projects of national significance. Projects that will connect Canada, that will deepen Canada’s ties with the world, and that will create high-paying jobs for generations.”

“Given the pace of change and the scale of opportunities, speed is of the essence,” said the King.

The Hill Times asked the Privy Council Office (PCO) for more information on the structure of the major project office, and the timeline for its set up, but did not receive a response as of press time.

As reported by CBC News, the PCO has prepared a background document on major projects and proposed national interest legislation, outlining plans for a law that “would be designed to enable upfront decision-making on a small number of projects.”

“Once a project is determined to be in the national interest, federal reviews will shift from ‘whether’ to build these projects

to ‘how’ to best advance them,” the briefing document says. “It will streamline multiple decision points for federal approval and minimize the risk of not securing project approval following extensive project work.”

After a project is deemed to be of national interest, it will have “a single, seamless point of contact—the Major Federal Projects Office.”

Carney is meeting with the premiers in Saskatchewan on June 2, and told CBC’s *Power and Politics* on May 27 that “we are going to name specific projects to which these fast-track approvals apply so that the country can get moving.”

An office that acts as a ‘concierge’ to move projects through ‘makes a lot of sense,’ says MAC

Geoff Smith, vice-president of government relations for the Mining Association of Canada, said the “one project, one review” pledge has been made before by prior governments, but “aspirational language” needs to be coupled with regulation and policy to get it done.

“The idea of having a bit of a clearing house, or concierge, or beat cop to move things through the system makes a lot of sense,” Smith said.

But, he added, as with anything relating to project approvals and permitting, “the real test is in its implementation, and how ultimately it’s able to advance mining projects, do them better.”

He added, “quicker is not necessarily better,” but if the major project office is able to approve more mines quicker, and in a

responsible way, “we’re excited and hopeful.”

Mining projects often take several years to complete the approval process, requiring lengthy consultation with local communities, Indigenous groups, and environmental assessments. Both the Liberal and Conservative election platforms reference numerous “nation-building” projects, some involving mining.

Both party platforms mentioned the Ring of Fire, one of the country’s most significant mineral deposits, in northern Ontario. The project has long been hamstrung by environmental concerns, and the rights of Indigenous communities. The Tories pledged to greenlight all federal permits within six months of being elected, and also pledged \$1-billion over three years to link the mineral deposits and nearby First Nations to the Ontario highway network.

The Conservative platform also noted several mining projects in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and Quebec which have been languishing in the approval process, some of them since 2018.

The government’s emphasis on projects of “national significance” has perked up the ears of the industry leaders, who wonder how these projects might be defined, and are “interested and keen on engaging on how it may work,” Smith said.

Rodrigue Gilbert of the Canadian Construction Association said the “devil will be in the details” for the office.

“We’re curious where it will sit, who will be in charge, and the authority of it,” he said.

On May 29, Senator Marc Gold, the government’s representative in the Upper Chamber, signalled

Carney’s intention to green-light major projects, including pipelines and other energy corridors.

“This government remains committed, where appropriate and when there is the appropriate support from the provinces and Indigenous leaders, to moving ahead rapidly for those projects that we in Canada need to provide us with greater economic security and prosperity for the future,” Gold said in response to a Question Period query.

First Nations say they must be involved ‘from the start’

Following the Throne Speech, a joint statement from First Nations leaders said the major project office—as well as the proposal to eliminate interprovincial trade barriers—“raises immediate concerns if they don’t involve First Nations right from the start.”

The statement called for the inclusion of First Nations staff and governance roles within the office, as well as “recognition that no project proceeds without free, prior, and informed consent.”

Julian said that without true consent from Indigenous communities, promises to fast-track projects are “really an empty commitment.”

Julian, who was defeated in the recent federal election, added he filibustered the 2012 federal budget when the Harper Conservative government made a similar proposal of a central office that would lower approval times for projects.

“I spoke for 14 hours because the intent of the Conservative government, at the time, was to fast-track, to bulldoze these things through.”

Ultimately, he said, the office didn’t result in any projects being built, because “Indigenous Peoples have access to the court system.”

How Carney’s major project office will work, Julian said, remains an open question.

“We’ll have to see what the government brings forward in terms of legislation and in terms of actual concrete steps, to ensure that free, prior, and informed consent is part and parcel of government policy moving forward.”

Julian’s May 29 co-panellist, former Conservative MP Karen Vecchio, said there’s a lack of trust between Indigenous communities and the federal government, citing ongoing issues of clean water on reserves.

She said Indigenous groups “can’t be an afterthought” in the consultation process.

“I think it really has to be led by Indigenous people, with us as their allies,” she said.

Fellow panellist and former Liberal MP Ya’ara Saks said politicians “have a tendency to pat ourselves on the back sometimes, saying, ‘look, we’ve adopted UNDRIP into our legislation,’” referring to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which affirms the rights of Indigenous people worldwide.

“Unless we see it in action, or Indigenous communities see it in action, to them, it rings hollow.”

mglass@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

House Leader MacKinnon looks to hit the legislative ground running

‘We’re not trying to overload the agenda, but we do have a lot to get done in a short period of time,’ says MacKinnon of the coming sitting weeks.

Continued from **page 1**

cabinet-wide mandate letter put a focus on the economy, including establishing “a new economic and security relationship with the United States,” “strengthening collaboration with reliable trading partners and allies around the world,” and removing domestic interprovincial trade barriers. On the latter, the Liberals’ platform pledged to “[u]nleash free trade in Canada by Canada Day by tabling legislation to eliminate all federal barriers to interprovincial trade.” Also by Canada Day, the Liberals have promised to cut the lowest income-tax bracket by one percentage point.

At a Liberal caucus meeting on May 25—the day before the House’s return—Carney told his caucus to expect a “very, very” busy few weeks and months ahead.

“You will have heard the prime minister speak about what we believe is the urgency of some of our agenda items. We have a number of economic imperatives to address, most notably the trading relationships with the United States, but not only those. Housing, obviously, is a big one. Major national projects are a big one. Interprovincial trade barriers are a big one,” said MacKinnon.

With only four sitting weeks carved out in the House calendar for the spring, MacKinnon said the government has several “pretty focused objectives.”

“We’re not trying to overload the agenda, but we do have a lot to get done in a short period of time, and one of those things, absolutely, is the One Canadian Economy legislation [tackling interprovincial trade] that we’ll be bringing into the House here in due course,” he said.

Political watchers can expect other bills, tackling other matters, to also be introduced this spring “that we will debate but probably not pass,” he said. “We’re obviously open to passing them; we’ll see how the opposition reacts.”

After losing “an entire season” as a result of the House gridlock last fall, and then months to prorogation, MacKinnon said he thinks Canadians expect Parliament to be “constructive,” and he’s “going to keep reminding them [the opposition] of that.”

MacKinnon first took on the role of House leader in January 2024 when he stepped away from the government whip’s office to



‘It’s early, but we’ll try and set a good tone here,’ says Government House Leader Steven MacKinnon of the start of the 45th Parliament. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade



MacKinnon, left, is sworn in at Rideau Hall on May 13, assisted by Privy Council Clerk John Hannaford. *The Hill Times* photograph by Sam Garcia

fill in during then-House leader Karina Gould’s (Burlington, Ont.) maternity leave. Gould returned that summer, with MacKinnon subsequently named minister for labour and seniors, and later minister for employment, workforce development, and labour. MacKinnon resumed the House leader post this past January—during Parliament’s prorogation—up until the naming of Carney’s first cabinet in March, at which point he briefly became jobs and families minister. He was returned, again, to the central House role on May 13.

“We want to be a government that meets this very particular moment in time in Canada’s history, and address the challenges that we have. So my marching orders are pretty clear, which is to try and—on the legislative side—make sure our government’s keeping our commitments to Canadians,” he said.

The Liberals have nine more MPs this Parliament—at 169 total—and among them, close to 70 rookies. MacKinnon said his team is working “very hard at integrating” those new MPs “into the team, into a routine, [and] making sure their personal ambitions are fulfilled whether that be digging into issues on committees or filling other parliamentary roles.”

As House leader, Question Period is “certainly the most action-packed time” in MacKinnon’s day

when Parliament is sitting. “You have to pay attention; you have to be on your toes,” he said.

Carney has opted to do away with former prime minister Justin Trudeau’s approach of answering all questions posed during QP on Wednesdays, as seen during the first question-and-answer session of the 45th Parliament on May 28.

“What you saw today is us trying to move around the cabinet ranks in terms of giving folks an opportunity to address some of these questions, so that’s what I do primarily, which is to try and have my colleagues ... shine,” said MacKinnon.

One opposition complaint heard by *The Hill Times* regarding the Liberals’ past approach to the House is a lack of attendance by ministers during debate on government legislation—debate which has often been seen to be left to parliamentary secretaries (and one in particular) or other MPs to take on.

Asked whether ministers could be expected to appear more often during legislative debates in the Chamber, MacKinnon said he’s “open to that commentary.”

“Ministers are in the executive, but they’re also legislators, and helping them fulfil their legislative responsibilities as well as their executive responsibilities I think is one role that I can play.”

“But at the same time,” MacKinnon said from the government’s

perspective, “we’re not always satisfied that they’re [the opposition] acting with the haste and urgency that sometimes the situation calls for, and Canadians, I don’t think, judge political parties very favourably when all they see is obstruction and delay.”

‘Tiers of involvement’: NDP will stay in House leaders’ loop

With only seven MPs elected on April 28, the NDP no longer meets the threshold for recognized party status in the House—which requires at least 12 sitting members—and as a result hasn’t received funding for leadership offices this Parliament, including to support a House leader, whip, or caucus research bureau.

While early hopes of possibly amending federal laws and bylaws to grant the NDP recognized party status have since been sunk, interim Leader Don Davies (Vancouver Kingsway, B.C.) has been campaigning for his caucus to get some additional resources to support its work, and has said he’s now looking to the Board of Internal Economy (BOIE), which is responsible for the finances and administration of the House of Commons and has the power to allocate resources to the NDP, should its members so decide.

The BOIE has yet to meet, and most of its new members for this

Parliament have yet to be named, but this time will include three Liberals, two Conservatives, and one Bloc MP. On the Liberal side, the known roster so far includes MacKinnon and MP Rachel Bendayan (Outremont, Que.).

The Bloc Québécois previously felt the pain of the loss of parliamentary resources when it failed to achieve recognized status in the 41st and 42nd Parliaments. During the former, the Bloc’s push to receive supplemental resources was shot down, but during the latter, the BOIE agreed to allow Bloc MPs to pool their individual office budgets to create a “caucus co-ordination budget” to support “research and caucus co-ordination activities” for the duration of that Parliament.

Bloc Leader Yves-François Blanchet (Beloeil–Chambly, Que.) and MacKinnon have both indicated they’re open to discussing the possibility of allocating the NDP resources.

“Those conversations are ongoing,” MacKinnon told *The Hill Times*.

As to what “resources” are being considered, he said there are “several possibilities, whether it’s airtime during debates, during the proceedings of Parliament ... or indeed resources [money].”

“We’re approaching those conversations very constructively,” he said.

Despite currently receiving no funds to support a formal House leader’s office, the NDP caucus has nonetheless named MP Alexandre Boulerice (Rosemont–La Petite-Patrie, Que.) to the role.

MacKinnon, who speaks with his House leader counterparts daily, said “we’re getting to know how they’re proposing to function,” but has established a “working-level contact now with the New Democrats.”

“We will do our best to include them in things like giving them the same notice of upcoming issues or scheduling items, that kind of thing,” as the other recognized parties, he said.

Asked whether it would be a different level of contact than the smaller Green Party caucus has had, MacKinnon said, “I think there are tiers of involvement.”

“We deal with a high volume of things here,” and with now only one Green MP, “there are obviously capacity constraints,” he said. “We calibrate how we consult with independents, but we do.”

Still leading a minority Parliament—albeit a stronger one—the Liberals no longer have the benefit of a supply-and-confidence agreement with the NDP, and now have one fewer recognized party at the House leaders’ negotiating table. But MacKinnon said he doesn’t expect much of anything will change “with respect to how we operate generally with opposition parties and bring them into decisions,” schedule business, and dialogue daily.

“[There are] good, strong personal relationships with everyone, including the New Democrats, and we’ll see how it goes,” he said. “It’s early, but we’ll try and set a good tone here.”

lryckewaert@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

NEWS

Peacekeeping not apace: feds’ spending plan for UN operations down 42 per cent from 2015–16

Global Affairs Canada is proposing a 15.7-per-cent decline from planned spending of \$219.9-million in 2024–25, and a 42.7 per cent decline from the actual spending of \$323.9-million in 2015–16.

BY NEIL MOSS

During the election campaign, Prime Minister Mark Carney and the Liberal Party vowed to support institutions like the United Nations that ensure global stability, but the Canadian foreign ministry’s spending plan shows Ottawa’s commitment to peacekeeping continues to flounder.

It’s not just personnel that Canada is lacking in its commitment to UN peace operations, but also funding.

The 2025-26 main estimates, which were tabled by Treasury Board President Shafqat Ali (Brampton–Chinguacousy Park, Ont.) on May 27, show that Global Affairs Canada plans to spend \$185.3-million on assessed payments for UN peacekeeping operations. That is a 15.7-per-cent decline from planned spending of \$219.9-million in 2024-25 and a 42.7-per-cent decline in actual spending of \$323.9-million in 2015-16.

At the same time, Canada deployed just 26 UN peacekeepers, according to the latest figures from Feb. 28.

The Liberal election platform highlighted that a Canadian first conjured up the idea of a UN peacekeeping force.

“Liberals will continue to stand behind the institutions that support Canadian values and our global stability, including the UN and its agencies,” the platform states.

NDP MP Heather McPherson (Edmonton Strathcona, Alta.), her party’s foreign affairs critic, said the spending plan harkens back to past prime minister Justin Trudeau’s commitments on peacekeeping.

“If this is the kind of action that we’re to expect from this Liberal government, it’s depressing, but it’s also the same old thing,” she said.

When he came to power in 2015, Trudeau promised a return for Canada to UN peacekeeping. But his vows were left incomplete as a promise to deploy up to 600 personnel on peace operations



Canada only deployed 26 personnel on peacekeeping missions, according to the latest United Nations numbers as of Feb. 28. DND photograph by MCpl Jennifer Kusche

never materialized, and a pledge to send a 200-strong quick reaction force was never delivered.

Peacekeeping funding is delivered through both assessed and voluntary contributions. Assessed payments are costed at a rate that is set by the UN based on a self-described “complex formula” that is roughly based on a country’s GDP and some other factors.

Canada’s current assessed rate is 2.63 per cent of the UN’s peacekeeping budget—the lowest of all G7 countries. The 2024-25 budget was US\$5.6-billion.

The Canadian government says it is “one of the largest” voluntary funders of UN peacekeeping. The contributions detailed in the main estimates are listed as “payments of assessed contributions to international organizations.”

During the most recent peacekeeping ministerial meeting in May in Germany, Canada pledged “more than \$40-million” for UN operations.

Royal Military College of Canada professor Walter Dorn, an expert on peacekeeping, said that the decline in funding levels compared to those of 2015-16 is “astonishing.”

“I think it’s very short-sighted to decrease the amount of money going to peacekeeping,” he said.

Dorn said part of the decline could be explained by the likelihood of the UN’s peacekeeping budget declining. The budget dropped from nearly \$8-billion in 2016 to \$5.6-billion in the last fiscal year.

He said international institutions like the UN need to be fortified to withstand the pressures of the Trump era.

“The UN is a beacon of light for nations that want to see collective security and common security and international stability through an international organization highlighting dialogue and peacekeeping,” Dorn said.

As Canada increases its military expenditures, it should follow that peacekeeping is also better funded, Dorn said.

The government’s spending plan shows that the budget for the Department of National Defence will jump from \$33.8-billion in 2024-25 to \$35.6-billion in 2025-26.

UN Secretary General António Guterres issued a warning last month over funding shortfalls.

“The world cannot shortchange peacekeepers and the communities and people who depend on their lifesaving work,” he wrote in a May 14 *USA Today* op-ed.

He also called on countries to pay their peacekeeping bill and do so on time, which Canada has done. A number of countries, including the United States, are late in paying the UN hundreds of millions of dollars for peace operations.

Royal Military College professor Jane Boulden, an expert in UN peace operations, said there has been a trend to deprioritize peacekeeping despite high-minded rhetoric.

She said that the Canadian government is loath to give up the image of itself as a peacekeeper.

“But in practice, on the peacekeeping side, it is really notional,” she remarked. “I don’t think there’s any other way to characterize it other than we’re really not that involved.”

She said that across the globe, there is an ongoing debate over peacekeeping, especially with some conflict and post-conflict states rejecting UN forces within their borders.

“Peacekeeping depends on the consent of the state involved, and that’s just not a given in the way it used to be,” she said.

Boulden said that, increasingly, more western states are wary about investing in peacekeeping as their own security situations are less steady than they have previously been.

“[Some] are feeling more threatened than they have in some time, and are more hesitant as a result to be contributing militarily to the UN because they are

concerned about their own need for their military troops,” she said.

GAC’s planned spending to decline 7.1 per cent for 2025–26

GAC’s spending plan forecasts an \$8.4-billion budget for the department in 2025-26, which amounts to a 7.1 per cent decrease compared to the 2024-25 estimates. That includes an 11.3-per-cent decrease in “development, peace and security programming,” going from \$5.6-billion in planned spending in 2024-25 to \$4.9-billion in 2025-26.

Carney (Nepean, Ont.) and the Liberal Party called for Canada to take on a leadership role during the election.

“At a time of rising global conflict and authoritarianism, there are those who are stepping back from global leadership,” the party’s platform reads. “If the United States no longer wants to lead, Canada will.”

But McPherson said those words are ringing hollow with the release of GAC’s spending plan.

“What’s the difference right now between the Liberals and Conservatives? When the Conservatives said they were going to cut foreign aid and Mark Carney’s cutting foreign aid—what’s the difference there?” McPherson questioned. “That’s not what this prime minister promised Canadians.”

“This is such a stupid moral failure,” she said.

McPherson said the government needs to recognize the importance of diplomacy, international development, and peacekeeping.

In the May 13 cabinet shuffle, Carney named Liberal MP Randeep Sarai (Surrey Centre, Ont.) as secretary of state for international development. The Privy Council Office confirmed to *The Hill Times*

that Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand (Oakville East, Ont.) will hold ministerial jurisdiction over international development.

“While Minister Anand’s working ministerial title focuses on her responsibilities as minister of foreign affairs, she was concurrently appointed as minister for international development,” PCO spokesperson Daniel Savoie said in an email. “It is common to appoint a single minister to more than one ministerial position to allow them to exercise the necessary powers, duties, and functions to carry out their mandate.”

In the Liberal platform, there was a pledge to deploy more Canadian diplomats abroad, as well as to craft a new foreign policy.

Estimated funds for Canada’s presence abroad up five per cent

Funding for Canada’s presence abroad was given a five-per-cent boost in the government’s spending plan, jumping from \$1.3-billion in 2024-25 to \$1.4-billion in 2024-25.

Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers president Pamela Isfeld said that increase will help send more diplomats into the field.

She said she is hoping that junior positions will be increased to allow diplomats to gain experience abroad.

Isfeld said that it is always disappointing to see cuts, but remarked that more information will be needed to understand their impact, and what specific programs will be affected.

She said she hopes to see broad consultations leading to a new foreign policy to steer where departmental funding should go. She added that Canada needs to identify what its interests are, as well as what citizens want from their foreign policy.

“And then, I would like to see the budget looked at after that in the context of ‘this is our ideal thing and what do we need to fund that,’” she said.

“[Let’s] get a sense of what we would like to do, and get a sense of what we can do with our resources other than the other way around,” Isfeld said.

nmoss@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

Canada’s assessed contribution to UN Peacekeeping Operations		
	PLANNED SPENDING	EXPENDITURES
2025-26	\$185,322,337	N/A
2024-25	\$219,902,445	N/A
2023-24	\$216,964,079	\$201,067,043
2022-23	\$217,253,398	\$198,675,780
2021-22	\$250,743,541	\$204,037,933
2020-21	\$244,043,267	\$235,550,461
2019-20	\$252,979,709	\$252,127,878
2018-19	\$269,928,306	\$244,720,832
2017-18	\$289,915,299	\$248,147,108
2016-17	\$313,561,622	\$259,066,333
2015-16	\$267,121,802	\$323,932,304

Source: Main Estimates

FEATURE

Greece hosts national day reception

The Hill Times photographs by Sam Garcia

1. Greek Ambassador Ekaterini Dimakis, left, welcomes Serbian Ambassador Dejan Ralevic to the Greece national day reception at the Hellenic Event Centre on March 25. **2.** Armenian Ambassador Anahit Harutyunyan, left, Argentine Ambassador Josefina Martinez Gramuglia, and Swedish Ambassador Signe Burgstaller. **3.** Thore Groev, left, his wife Ambassador Dimakis, and Cameroon High Commissioner Ngole Philip Ngwese. **4.** Moroccan Ambassador Souriya Otmani, left, Dimakis, and Jordanian Ambassador Sabah Nizar Rashid Al Rafie.

Pakistan parties at the Westin



1. Argentine Ambassador Josefina Martinez Gramuglia, left, is greeted by Pakistan High Commissioner Muhammad Saleem, and his wife Rehana Saleem at the Pakistan national day reception at the Westin Hotel on April 3. **2.** Ambassador Saleem delivers remarks. **3.** Farryn Tamica Prosper-Berridge, left, and her husband Saint Kitts and Nevis High Commissioner Samuel Berridge.



4. Alexandre Jorge de Lima, deputy head of mission at the Brazilian Embassy, left, is welcomed by the Saleems.

India marks Republic Day



1. The Team Nritya dance troupe entertains guests at India's Republic Day party at the Infinity Convention Centre on Jan. 27. **2.** Markos Tripolitakis, deputy head of mission at the Greek Embassy, left; his wife Efi Mouchou; Betty Leon Ossa, wife of the Colombian ambassador; and Carine Kjelsen, wife of the Swiss ambassador. **3.** Kohei Maruyama, deputy head of mission at the Japanese Embassy, left; Mongolian Ambassador Sarantogos Erdenetsogt; Hau Khan Sum, deputy chief of mission at the Myanmar Embassy; and Sri Lankan High Commissioner Uthman Lebbe Mohammed Jauhar. **4.** Chinmoy Naik, Indian acting high commissioner, left; his wife Richa Naik; Colombian Ambassador Carlos Arturo Morales López, and Leon Ossa.

Hill Climbers



By Laura Ryckewaert

Four rookies among seven new confirmed cabinet chiefs of staff

Public Safety Minister Gary Anandasangaree and Veterans Affairs Minister Jill McKnight are among those who have elevated first-time chiefs of staff.

Progress in firming up cabinet teams is chugging along, and while a wave of staffing decisions are expected mid-month, in the meantime, five more ministers and two secretaries of state have settled their chiefs of staff.

Of the now 19 cabinet chiefs of staff confirmed as of midday May 30, eight are women.

The latest seven announcements, first reported by *Politico's Canada Playbook* on May 29, include four rookie chiefs.

One first-time cabinet chief of staff is **François Giroux**, who's been elevated to run Public Safety Minister **Gary Anandasangaree's** office.

A former public servant with the Department of Justice, Giroux had been working in the justice minister's office as a judicial affairs adviser since May 2018, beginning under then-minister **Jody Wilson-Raybould**, and continuing through **David Lametti** and **Arif Virani's** turns in the post. Anandasangaree replaced Virani as justice minister in Prime Minister **Mark Carney's** first cabinet in March, but has since been succeeded by Nova Scotia Liberal MP **Sean Fraser**, who was sworn in as justice minister and attorney general on May 13 while Anandasangaree was sworn in as minister of public safety.

Noémie Fiset-Tremblay has likewise stepped into the chiefs chair for the first time in Secretary of State for Labour **John Zerucelli's** office.

She was previously deputy chief of staff and director of policy to now-House Leader **Steven MacKinnon** as then-employment, workforce development, and labour minister. A former labour and employment lawyer in Quebec and a past adviser to then-Quebec Liberal MNA **Maryse Gaudreault**, Fiset-Tremblay was originally hired as a senior policy adviser to MacKinnon as then-labour and seniors minister late last summer.



Noémie Fiset-Tremblay is chief of staff to the secretary of state for labour. Photograph courtesy of LinkedIn



Public Safety Minister Gary Anandasangaree, left, Industry Minister **Mélanie Joly**, Secretary of State for Rural Development **Buckley Belanger**, and Women and Gender Equality Minister **Rechie Valdez** have joined the ranks of ministers with confirmed chiefs of staff. The Hill Times photographs by Andrew Meade and Sam Garcia

Rookie Veterans Affairs Minister **Jill McKnight** has also elevated a fresh chief of staff in **Dilys Fernandes**, who was previously deputy chief of staff and director of policy to then-sport minister **Carla Qualtrough**.

Fernandes started on the Hill after the 2015 election as an assistant to then-Liberal MP **Marco Mendicino**, who currently continues to helm Carney's office as prime minister. She landed her first cabinet role in 2016 as a special assistant for operations to then-public services minister **Judy Foote**. Qualtrough took over the portfolio in 2017, and Fernandes subsequently became an operations and Atlantic regional adviser, sticking with the office through to 2018, when she exited to become executive assistant to the chief of staff to then-innovation minister **Navdeep Bains**. She's since also been a policy adviser for youth, and later director of operations to then-diversity, youth, and inclusion minister **Bardish Chagger**.

In 2021, Fernandes returned to Qualtrough's employ, this time as director of operations to the then-employment minister, and followed Qualtrough to the sport portfolio after the minister was shuffled in July 2023.

After twice serving in the role on an acting basis, **Kendra Wilcox** is officially chief of staff to now-Women and Gen-



der Equality Minister and Secretary of State for Small Business and Tourism **Rechie Valdez**.

Wilcox was most recently acting chief of staff to Valdez as then-minister for small business, having been hired to that office as director of policy and stakeholder relations in the fall of 2023.

A cabinet staffer since the beginning of 2019, Wilcox got her start as a special assistant for the Atlantic to then-rural economic development minister **Bernadette Jordan** (whose MP office Wilcox had earlier staffed). After **Maryam Monsef** took over the file, becoming minister

of rural economic development alongside continuing as minister for women and gender equality following the 2019 election, Wilcox was kept on as a policy adviser. Wilcox was subsequently promoted to senior policy adviser, then director of operations by Monsef. **Guidie Hutchings** took over the rural economic development portfolio following the 2021 election, and subsequently named Wilcox as her director of policy and operations. In 2023, Wilcox stepped in as acting chief of staff to Hutchings.

Speaking of rural development, **Maria Morley** has been named chief of staff to Secretary of State for Rural Development **Buckley Belanger**.

Morley is relatively new to the role of chief of staff, having first been promoted to run then-agriculture minister **Lawrence MacAulay's** office only this past January. Before then, she'd been director of operations to the minister since October 2023.



Morley first joined the Liberal research bureau as special assistant for Atlantic regional affairs in 2020, and has since also been an Atlantic adviser to Qualtrough as then-employment minister and an Atlantic adviser in then-prime minister **Justin Trudeau's** office.

Adam Carroll is once again a cabinet chief of staff, and has been hired to run Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Minister **Lena Metlege Diab's** office.

A veteran Liberal staffer, Carroll's last cabinet post was as a senior adviser to then-seniors minister **Kamal Khara**. During the 43rd Parliament, Carroll was chief of staff to then-infrastructure and communities minister **Catherine McKenna**. He's been working on the Hill since the 2000s—with his CV including runs working for then-human resources and skills development minister **Joe Volpe** and then-Liberal MP **Bonnie Crombie**, and as a researcher in the Liberal caucus' research bureau—and from 2017 to 2019, he was chief of staff to the Treasury Board president, beginning under then-president **Scott Brison**. Between 2015 and 2017, Carroll was national field director for the federal Liberal Party.

Paul Moen has been scooped up to lead Industry Minister **Mélanie Joly's** office.

Moen has been running ministerial offices since 2019,

beginning as chief of staff to then-natural resources minister **Seamus O'Regan**. He later helmed O'Regan's office as then-labour and seniors minister, and most recently ran MacKinnon's offices as labour and seniors minister; employment, workforce development, and labour minister; and as jobs and families minister.

Prior to 2019, Moen had most recently been a principal with Earncliffe Strategies. He's also a former director of global government affairs with biotech company Amgen, and corporate lawyer with Merck Serono, among other past roles. Between 2002 and 2003, he was a lead counsel with Industry Canada, after which he spent a little more than a year and a half as a senior policy adviser to then-federal trade minister **Jim Peterson**.

The other confirmed chiefs of staff include: **Ian Foucher**, who's leading Finance Minister **François-Philippe Champagne's** office; **Kathy Kettler**, chief of staff to Northern and Arctic Affairs Minister **Rebecca Chartrand**; **Hilary Leftick**, who's running Canadian Identity

and Culture Minister **Steven Guilbeault's** office; **Chris Evelyn**, who's helming Jobs and Families Minister **Patty Hajdu's** shop; **Eamonn McGuinty**, chief of staff to Energy and Natural Resources Minister **Tim Hodgson**; **Brandan Rowe**, chief of staff to Privy Council, Intergovernmental Affairs, Canada-U.S. Trade, and One Canadian Econ-

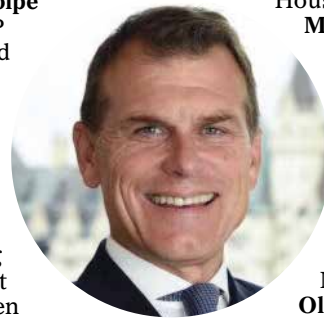
omy Minister **Dominic LeBlanc**; **Guy Gallant**, who's in charge of Agriculture Minister **Heath MacDonald's** team; **Rheal Lewis**, chief of staff to Government

House Leader **Steven MacKinnon**; **Jade Mallette**, who's leading Health Minister **Marjorie Michel's** office; **Morgan Breittkreuz**, chief of staff to Emergency Management and Community Resilience Minister **Eleanor Olszewski**; **Marie-Pascale Des Rosiers**, who's running Housing and Infrastructure Minister **Gregor Robertson's** office; and **Neil MacIsaac**, chief of staff to Fisheries Minister **Joanne Thompson**.

lryckewaert@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times



Adam Carroll is chief of staff to the immigration minister. Photograph courtesy of Adam Carroll



Paul Moen is chief of staff to the industry minister. Photograph courtesy of LinkedIn



Dilys Fernandes is chief of staff to the veterans affairs minister. Photograph courtesy of LinkedIn



Parliamentary Calendar

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.

Cutest pets on the Hill earn their stripes at June 4 gala



Liberal MP Ginette Petitpas Taylor, left, meets Justin the cat and his owner David Burkholder at Canadian Animal Health Institute's 2024 Cutest Pets on the Hill Awards. This year's winners will be announced on June 4 at Métropolitain Brasserie. *The Hill Times* photograph by Cynthia Münster

TUESDAY, JUNE 3— WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

AFN's Annual Indigenous Laws Gathering—The Assembly of First Nations hosts its third annual Indigenous Laws Gathering. This year's theme is "Legal Pluralism: Braiding Distinct Legal Traditions and Sources of Power." Tuesday, June 3, to Wednesday, June 4, at the Casino Rama Resort, Rama First Nation, Ont. Details: afn.ca/events.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

NATO 2025 Discussion—The Canadian Global Affairs Institute and the British High Commission host an invitation-only panel discussion on the 2025 NATO Summit, "Finding Consensus at a High-Stake Summit." Wednesday, June 4, at 9 a.m. ET in Ottawa. Details: cgai.ca.

Bank of Canada Interest Rate Announcement—The Bank of Canada will announce its decision for the overnight rate. Wednesday, June 4, at 9:45 a.m. ET. Details: bankofcanada.ca.

Panel: 'European Responses to Trump Challenges'—The Canadian International Council's National Capital branch hosts "European Responses to Trump Challenges: Ukraine, NATO, G7, Trade Wars," a panel discussion featuring German Ambassador to Canada Matthias Lüttenberg; Canadian diplomat Kerry Buck; and Wolfgang Alschner, international trade law professor, University of Ottawa. Wednesday, June 4, at 5:30 p.m. ET at KPMG, 150 Elgin St., Suite 1800, Ottawa. Details via Eventbrite.

Cutest Pets on Parliament Hill Gala—The Canadian Animal Health Institute will announce the winners of this year's Cutest Pets on Parliament Hill photo contest at this pet-friendly reception featuring signature cocktails, snacks, and a few surprises. Wednesday, June 4, at 5:30 p.m. ET at Métropolitain Brasserie, 700 Sussex Dr. RSVP: cahi@cahi-icsa.ca.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

New Professionals Forum 2025—The Institute of Public Administration of Canada's National Capital Region hosts the 2025 New Professionals Forum exploring key themes in public administration such as supporting the career management of new professionals; the use of AI, values, and ethics; and implementing government policies in a rapidly changing environment. Speakers include Privy Council Clerk John Hannaford,

deputy secretary to the cabinet Mark Schaen, and assistant secretary of the cabinet Gaveen Cadotte, among others Thursday, June 5, at 8 a.m. ET at the Ottawa Art Gallery, 50 Mackenzie King Bridge. Contact ncr-rcn@ipac.ca.

Lecture by Bank of Canada Deputy Governor—Bank of Canada Deputy Governor Sharon Kozicki will deliver the Laidler Lecture, "Talking to Canadians: How Real-World Insights Shape Monetary Policy," hosted by the C.D. Howe Institute. Thursday, June 5, at 12 p.m. ET at the C.D. Howe Institute, 67 Yonge St., Suite 300, Toronto. Details: cdhowe.org.

An Evening with Charlie Angus and Gwynne Dyer—The City of Timmins hosts a conversation between *The Hill Times'* columnist Gwynne Dyer and former NDP MP Charlie Angus focused on today's ever-changing political world. Thursday, June 5, at 7 p.m. ET at the Porcupine Dante Club, 162 Cedar St. S., Timmins, Ont. Details via Eventbrite.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7— SUNDAY, JUNE 8

Doors Open Ottawa—Doors Open Ottawa is a free annual architectural event that celebrates the community's built heritage. Participating buildings this year include the Parliamentary Precinct rehabilitation project, the Library of Parliament, the Supreme Court, the Bank of Canada, Rideau Hall, the British High Commission, and the Embassies of China, Armenia, and Croatia. Saturday, June 7, to Sunday, June 8, at various locations in Ottawa. Details: ottawa.ca.

TUESDAY, JUNE 10

Panel: 'From Ambition to Action'—Canada 2020 hosts a one-day summit, "From Ambition to Action: Getting Big Things Done", dedicated to the practical realities of delivering transformational projects in Canada featuring top-level doers—developers, policymakers, Indigenous leaders, and industry builders—from housing and infrastructure to energy, Indigenous economic partnerships, and trade. Tuesday, June 10, at the Fairmont Château Laurier, Ottawa. Details: canada2020.ca.

Future Leaders in Politics Workshop—Environmental Leadership Canada, the PATH: Equitable Adaptation Pathways for Climate Mobilities, and Re.Climate projects at Carleton University invite young people aged 18-30 to participate in the Future Leaders in Politics Workshop designed to empower and engage the next generation of political leaders in

climate action and policymaking. Tuesday, June 10, at 9 a.m. ET at Carleton University, Nichol Building 3020, 1125 Colonel By Dr., Ottawa. Details: events.carleton.ca.

Canada's Fentanyl Czar and CBSA President to Deliver Remarks—Canada's fentanyl czar Kevin Brosseau, and Erin O'Gorman, president of the Canada Border Services Agency, will deliver remarks on "Fortifying Canada's Borders: Strategy, Security, and Sovereignty," hosted by the C.D. Howe Institute. Tuesday, June 10, at 12 p.m. ET at the C.D. Howe Institute, 67 Yonge St., Suite 300, Toronto. Details: cdhowe.org.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

Minister Joly to Deliver Remarks—Industry Minister Mélanie Joly will deliver remarks in French at a breakfast event hosted by the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal. Wednesday, June 11, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. ET at Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth, 900 René-Lévesque Blvd. W., Montreal. Details: ccmm.ca.

U.S. Ambassador Hoekstra to Deliver Remarks—United States Ambassador to Canada Peter Hoekstra will take part in an exclusive lunch event hosted by the Canadian Club of Ottawa. Wednesday, June 11, at 12 p.m. ET at the Fairmont Château Laurier, 1 Rideau St. Details: canadian-clubottawa.ca.

Webinar: 'Government's Internal Trade Data Strategy'—The Canadian Association of Business Economics hosts a webinar: "Government of Canada's Internal Trade Data Strategy." Officials with the Privy Council Office and Statistics Canada will present their Internal Trade Data Strategy and key outcomes, such as the Canadian Internal Trade Data and Information Hub and recent Canadian Survey on Interprovincial Trade, which are already helping policymakers, academics, and Canadian businesses better understand our internal market. Wednesday, June 11, at 12 p.m. ET happening online: cabe.ca.

'AI and the Federal Government'—The University of Ottawa's Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic hosts its summer speaker series 2025. Mark Schaen, deputy secretary to cabinet for Artificial Intelligence at the Privy Council Office, will speak on "AI and the Federal Government." Wednesday, June 11, at 12 p.m. ET at Fauteux Hall, 57 Louis-Pasteur Priv., University of Ottawa. Details via Eventbrite.

Pearson Centre Laureate Dinner—The Pearson Centre Presents its 2025 Laureates Dinner honouring former Liberal cabinet minister Irwin Cotler, now international chair of the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights. Wednesday, June 11, at 5:45 p.m. ET at the National Arts Centre, 1 Elgin St., Ottawa. Details: rsvp@thepearsoncentre.ca.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11— FRIDAY, JUNE 13

Seminar: 'Faith, Politics, and Uncertainty'—The Laurentian Leadership Centre hosts a three-day seminar titled "Dis/Course: Faith, Politics, and Uncertainty," applying an inquiry-based learning model to the question of faithful Christian living in a time of political uncertainty. Wednesday, June 11, to Friday, June 13, at the Laurentian Leadership Centre, 252 Metcalfe St., Ottawa. Register via Eventbrite.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

Governor General's Performing Arts Awards—The 2025 Governor General's Performing Arts Awards will take place with a gala evening featuring red-carpet arrivals of the laureates and special guests, performances, and tributes. Saturday, June 14, at 6:30 p.m. ET at the National Arts Centre, 1 Elgin St., Ottawa. Details: nac-cna.ca.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15— TUESDAY, JUNE 17

G7 Summit—This year, Canada is president of the G7, and the annual leaders' meeting will take place in Kananaskis, Alta., from Sunday, June 15, to Tuesday, June 17. Details: g7.canada.ca.

MONDAY, JUNE 16— TUESDAY, JUNE 17

2025 Americas Agriculture & Food Security Forum—Inter-American Institute for Cooperation's office in Canada, with the support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and the collaboration of many Canadian and international partners in the agri-food sector, is convening the 2025 Americas Agriculture & Food Security Forum. This event will serve as a positive and inclusive space for dialogue, bringing together government officials, industry representatives, academics, development experts and students, to explore solutions that enhance agriculture, food security, sustainability, innovation, and trade. Monday, June 16, to Tuesday, June 17, held online

and in person at Olds College, in Olds, Alta. Details: americasagforum.org

TUESDAY, JUNE 17

Panel: 'Asserting Canada's Arctic Sovereignty'—Nunavut Premier P.J. Akeeagok, head of Greenland's representation to the United States and Canada Jacob Isbosethsen, Trent University professor Whitney Lackenbauer, and Arctic360 president and CEO Dr. Jessica M. Shadian will deliver the Tom Kierans Lecture 2025 hosted by the C.D. Howe Institute. Tuesday, June 17, at the C.D. Howe Institute, 67 Yonge St., Suite 300, Toronto. Details: cdhowe.org.

TUESDAY, JUNE 17— THURSDAY, JUNE 19

Workshop: 'The Road to Sovereignty'—Okimaw and Niipaawi Strategies host "The Road to Sovereignty," a three-day, high-level gathering focused on building Indigenous law policy frameworks that reflect the unique traditions, cultures, and governance aspirations of First Nations across Canada. Tuesday, June 17, to Thursday, June 19, at the Rideau Club, 15th floor, 99 Bank St., Ottawa. Details via Eventbrite.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

NMMA Canada Parliamentary Reception—It's boating season in Canada! Join the National Marine Manufacturers Association in Canada on the Rideau Canal to experience our boats and meet our Canadian manufacturers on Wednesday, June 18, from 5-8 p.m. ET beside the NAC patio and the canal. RSVP by June 13 to rsvp@blueskystrategysgroup.com.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

Sickle Cell Breakfast—To mark National Sickle Cell Awareness Day, Senator Marie-Françoise Mégie will host a parliamentary breakfast in collaboration with Canada's Sickle Cell Association, and the Interdisciplinary Centre for Black Health of uOttawa. Thursday, June 19, 7:30-9 a.m. ET, Senators' Lounge, Senate of Canada Building, 2 Rideau St., Ottawa. RSVP by June 6 to: dichemael.jean-baptiste@sen.parl.gc.ca.

FRIDAY, JUNE 20— SUNDAY, JUNE 29

Ottawa International Jazz Festival—The Ottawa International Jazz Festival once again shines a national spotlight on Canadian jazz with a stellar lineup that stretches from coast to coast to coast. Friday, June 20, to Sunday, June 29 in Confederation Park and other downtown locations. Details: ottawajazzfestival.com.

TUESDAY, JUNE 24— THURSDAY, JUNE 26

NATO Summit—The 2025 NATO Summit will be held at the World Forum in The Hague, the Netherlands, from Tuesday, June 24, to Thursday, June 26. Details: nato.int.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

Conference: 'Pluralism, Security and the Future of the Transatlantic Alliance'—The Canadian International Council co-hosts this conference, "Pluralism, Security and the Future of the Transatlantic Alliance," exploring the intersection of pluralism, security, and transatlantic partnerships in an evolving global order with an emphasis on how Canada and Germany, as well as other G7 nations, can collaborate to strengthen inclusive societies and enhance stability. Wednesday, June 25, at 8:30a.m. at the Global Centre for Pluralism, 330 Sussex Dr., Ottawa. Details: thecic.org.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

Fireside Chat: 'Global War and Chaos'—The Royal Canadian Legion hosts a fireside chat on "Global War and Chaos: How Did We Get Here and What's The Solution?" featuring retired general Walter Natynczyk and retired general David Lord Richards of Herstonmonceux. Friday, June 27, at 7 p.m. ET at the Fairmont Château Laurier, 1 Rideau St. Details via Eventbrite.

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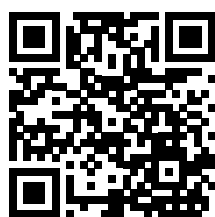
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