

TORY CAUCUS RETREAT

Canada's position on the Mideast crisis was all a buzz in Cornwall, Ont. p. 1



CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY BRIEFING

Hear from a range of MPs and insiders on what Canada can do and is doing on the issue, from policy to politics. p. 13-29



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Governing party caucus retreat

Get the scoop on the Conservative caucus retreat in Cornwall, Ont., where there was lots of talk about the government's position on the Middle East crisis. p. 1

Web incompetence

The 11 Liberal leadership candidates are failing to use the web as a powerful communications tool to reach a young electorate. Plus, they just seem unorganized. Allan Bonner p. 8

Hill Climbers

Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, has hired former Sun Media bureau chief as his new director of communications for his ministerial office. Hill Climbers. p. 38

Backrooms

With successive balloting set for the Liberal's national convention in December, Liberal leadership candidates are forming camps of support. Michael Ignatieff, Stéphane Dion, and Gerard Kennedy seem to have the most support among the 11 candidates, and Volpe could be the king maker, throwing his support to the winner. Angelo Persichilli p.5

POLICY BRIEFING

Climate Change p. 13-29

Survey of MPs on the environment

Most MPs say water pollution and ecological changes due to climate change are the most important environmental problems in their ridings, according to a riding-by-riding survey of 51 MPs conducted by *The Hill Times* for the climate change policy briefing. p.29

Tory climate change plan

The Conservative government has come under intense pressure to come up with a publicly credible climate change program for the fall, and expectations are now emerging within the environmental lobby. p. 14



Photograph by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*

That's politics: Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay was confronted by a Lebanese-Canadian man as he left a packed meeting of the House Foreign Affairs Committee last week. Hassan El-Akhras criticized the Minister for what he said was the Canadian government's failure to evacuate his family members from Lebanon.

'I was in love and still am' with Centre Block, says Douglas Fisher

■ Former librarian, MP and political columnist reflects on his time on the Hill, and how things have changed.

By JENNY SONG

There should be little surprise that Douglas Fisher's favourite place on the Hill is the Library of Parliament, where every once in a while he'll steal peak up at the

dome.

Mr. Fisher began his career as a librarian. He switched to politics after the Second World War as an MP for the CCF, then settled into column-writing in the '60s, a job from which he retired last week after more than 40 years on the Hill. Muscular dystrophy has slowed him down, he says, and retirement at age 86—he will be 87 next month—seemed the sensible thing to do.

Please see story on Page 33

LCPO signs up 48,000 new members in just two months

■ The Liberal Party leadership race raked in new members, and LPCO is scheduled to finalize its membership lists by Aug. 30.

By ABBAS RANA

Ontario federal Liberals signed up 48,289 new members province-wide in the two months preceding the July 4 cut-off date

for new members, more than doubling the party's provincial membership since May, according to preliminary membership numbers obtained by *The Hill Times*.

The federal Ontario riding of York West has kept its status as the largest riding in the vote-rich province of Ontario, but Liberal memberships in almost all the ridings across the country took significant increases as Grit leadership candidates and their supporters signed up as many potential supporters as

Please see story on Page 12

MIDDLE EAST CRISIS 'AT THE TOP' OF TORY CAUCUS AGENDA

Caucus meeting gave the PM a chance to 'clarify' the government's position on the Mideast crisis

By CHRISTOPHER GULY

CORNWALL, Ont.—While some Cabinet ministers avoided any public discussion of Canada's position on the escalating Middle East conflict in Lebanon, their colleagues in the federal Conservative caucus said the controversial topic was top-of-mind during their summer retreat in Cornwall last week.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty (Whitby-Oshawa, Ont.), Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Michael Chong (Wellington-Halton Hills, Ont.) and Canadian Heritage Minister Bev Oda (Durham, Ont.) either deflected or referred Mideast-related questions to

Please see story Page 7

McDonough urges Harper to recall Parliament

But Tory MP Deepak Obhrai says McDonough is 'playing politics,' and the real issue is a sustainable ceasefire.

By ABBAS RANA

Prime Minister Stephen Harper should recall Parliament to discuss at length Canada's role in the escalating Middle East crisis, NDP Foreign Affairs critic Alexa McDonough says.

"If this government very, very quickly can't be pressed to take on a more responsible position about supporting a call for an immediate ceasefire, then it's our view that Parliament should speak on

this issue, which means recalling Parliament," said NDP MP Alexa McDonough (Halifax, N.S.) in an interview with *The Hill Times*.

"It's pretty urgent for Canada to pull itself out of this very very provocative, dug-in position in a very short period of time. The longer this conflict goes on, the harder it is to undo the damage done on both sides."

See 'Backrooms' on Page 6



HEARD ON THE HILL

BY KADY O'MALLEY

FEATURE

The best in Ottawa dining? Try asking the federal government's deputy ministers

Last week, HOH delved into the dining habits of the current crop of ministers and political staffers—not, she stresses, as one of those lazy “gotcha” expense account stories, but to see what’s changed since the Tory takeover earlier this year.

Call it a hard-hitting socio-cultural politico-gastronomical analysis of the shifting trends in the rituals of business hospitality. Or, to put it more simply, Ottawa’s restaurants: what’s hot, what’s not.

What about the country’s most senior civil servants, who are also obliged to file regular reports under the Martin-initiated proactive disclo-

sure rules? This week, HOH crunches the data provided in the latest round of expense filings to find out where our readers are most likely to spot Canada’s top bureaucrats out on the town while still on the clock.

The usual yadda-yadda disclaimers apply. These are, of course, only the meals for which the diners submitted expense claims, so the data may not reflect the full scope of restaurants frequented by any individual civil servant, but only those for whom the taxpayer picked up the tab. Some departments have yet to file up-to-date disclosure reports, and others are so confusing as to be virtually impossible to catalogue.

Also, since HOH is not a math person, she has, for the most part, eschewed direct dollar-for-dollar comparisons of the claims, since this is a spotters’ guide, not an audit.

Now that we have all that out of the way...

It's 12:00 p.m.—do you know where your deputy minister is?

If he happens to be Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister **Peter Harder**, chances are good that he’s out for lunch—but where? Of all the deputies profiled by HOH, Mr. Harder seems to have the most mercurial taste in restaurants, with a list that spans both sides of the interprovincial bridge. He could be in the Byward Market, at Domus, or at the National Arts Centre’s Le Café. He may be at Wilfrid’s—which is still, incidentally, the leading breakfast nook for Ottawa politicians and public servants alike—or at the Clocktower Brew Pub at Bank and Pretoria. But his favourite lunch spot seems to be the Mediterranean-inspired Bocado on Somerset Street.

His counterpart at International Trade, Deputy Minister **Marie-Lucie Morin** seems to have less of an appetite for out-of-office lunches, with only two claims over the same period of time—one for lunch at Restaurant E18ghteen, and a reception for staff at the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower in India.

Former deputy minister for Environment, **Samy Watson**, now a special advisor to PCO, had similarly eclectic tastes during his tenure, and submitted claims for meals at Ciccio Café, Earl’s Restaurant, Ichibe Japanese, Siam Kitchen, the Light of India and the Palais Imperial, as well as dinner for three staff in Toronto at Little Anthony’s American.

Both Citizenship and Immigration Deputy Minister **Janice Charette** and Finance Deputy Minister **Ian Bennett** seem to enjoy more traditional pub cuisine, with stops at the Parliament Pub and the Royal Oak on Bank Street, respectively. Mr. Bennett also makes the odd pilgrimage to the Ritz on Clarence Street, while Ms. Charette has also lunched at Suisha Gardens.

Natural Resources Deputy Minister **Richard Fadden** also has a yen for the hot and spicy. He hosted lunch for two associate deputy ministers at Mexicali Rosa’s, and over at Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada, Deputy Minister **Suzanne Hurtubise** has frequented Sparks Street’s hidden Italian gem, Carmello’s, as well as the Vietnam Palace.

Ms. Hurtubise is also a fan of the Brokerage, although it’s not clear whether she prefers take-out or eat-in lunches. Her counterpart at Transport, **Louise Ranger**, often has in-house meetings catered by the Brokerage, although she did take a provincial Transport deputy minister out for dinner at Hy’s.

Public Works and Government Services Deputy Minister **David Marshall** also has his meetings catered, preferring to use the departmental boardroom rather than hold lunches off-site, although when he does venture out, his tastes are strictly old-school—breakfast at Wilfrid’s and lunch at the Rideau Club.

Meanwhile, Veterans Affairs Deputy Minister **Jack Straff** shares his political bosses’ fondness for the Lord Elgin Hotel, located a stone’s throw away from the departmental headquarters at Elgin and Slater streets, as well as the Empire Grill and the Chateau Laurier.

The most mysterious meal preferences, on the other hand, are those of National Defence Deputy Minister **Ward Elcock**, whose expense reports do not include any information on the restaurants where he ate. Instead, he submits the number of guests and the total price, leaving one to wonder just where he and an unnamed government representative lunched on May 17 for \$117.10. Since March 2, Mr. Elcock has filed claims for five business lunches, for a tab of just over \$400.

Treasury Board Secretary **Wayne Wouters** has taken his staff out for dinner at Café Spiga on Dalhousie, as well as Fratelli in the Glebe, but he too has the occasional lunch at Wilfrid’s.

And finally, the country’s most senior civil servant, Privy Council Clerk **Kevin Lynch**, made only two expense claims during the three-month period covered by the most recent disclosure files: a one-on-one dinner with Finance Minister **Jim Flaherty** at the Luxe Bistro, and dinner for three at La Roma. It’s also PCO that organizes the weekly DM’s breakfast, which is catered by Roast and Brew/Café Charbonneau, and costs each participant between \$10 and \$15, for those who submit claims, which not all deputy ministers do.

The Hill Times



COMMENT L'INDUSTRIE PEUT-ELLE

VOIR AUX CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES?

- En achetant des climatiseurs
- En faisant comme si le problème n'existait pas
- En espérant que quelqu'un d'autre s'en occupe
- En investissant plus de 8 milliards de dollars en améliorations environnementales

Depuis 10 ans, l'industrie canadienne des produits forestiers a investi plus de 8 milliards de dollars pour mettre ses installations à niveau et adopter des procédés innovateurs dans un effort constant pour améliorer sa performance environnementale et limiter ses impacts sur les changements climatiques. C'est ainsi que l'industrie a réduit sa dépendance envers les combustibles fossiles; le secteur des pâtes et papiers comble en effet lui-même près de 60 % de ses besoins en énergie à partir de sources renouvelables. Du point de vue de l'environnement, ces efforts ont eu des résultats concrets : une amélioration de 46 % de l'intensité des émissions de gaz à effet de serre, une réduction de 30 % des déchets à enfouir et une baisse de 30 % des émissions de GES. Ces améliorations occasionnent également des avantages économiques certains, la production ayant augmenté de 28 %.

L'industrie peut cependant aller beaucoup plus loin. En fait, avec des mesures incitatives adéquates, comme l'amortissement accéléré, plusieurs nouvelles technologies pourraient lui permettre de devenir une source nette d'énergie verte dans l'avenir tout en améliorant encore plus sa productivité et sa compétitivité au chapitre des coûts.

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Politics

Tories had no firm policy on the Mid-East conflict: critics

Under criticism for apparently forming its Middle-East policy on the fly, Tory MP **Peter Goldring** (Edmonton East, Alta.) told *The Hill Times* that the Conservatives' pro-Israeli stance in the current Middle East conflict is consistent with a party stance against terrorism that they've held since coming into power.

Mr. Goldring's comments echoed Foreign Affairs Minister **Peter MacKay's** (Central Nova, N.S.) remarks before the Foreign Affairs and International Development Committee last week, where he said the choice between siding with a democratically-elected government and siding with a terrorist organization of "cold-blooded murderers" was an easy one.

The opposition continued to criticize the government's shift from what some call Liberal neutrality in the conflict, accusing Prime Minister **Stephen Harper** (Calgary Southwest, Alta.) of currying favour with the United States. NDP MP **Alexa McDonough** (Halifax, N.S.) said the Conservatives did not have any foreign policy position on the conflict before the recent crisis began on July 12.

"Not only do they not have clear positions but they actually had no clue what Canada was going to be called upon to do in the way of providing leadership," Ms. McDonough said. "And in the absence of having any understanding or clear policy they just decided to sign on to the policies of the Bush administration. One imagines ... that if George Bush and his henchmen were advocating the opposite course, then they would again say, count us in, we're on your side."

But Conservatives maintain they are doing what is logical and fair, given that the Lebanese government did not disarm Hezbollah despite international calls to do so. "If the Lebanese community is not prepared to reject, as the Minister says, the 'cancer from within,' it will draw fire from [Hezbollah's victims]—it could be the Israelis, it could be from anybody attacked under those circumstances," Mr. Goldring said. "They will retaliate."

Given recent polls showing significant Canadian disapproval of Mr. Harper's stance, especially in Quebec, voters apparently don't agree that the government's stance is fair or logical, opposition parties said last week.

Mr. Goldring said the poll results are due to skewed news reporting, which has also shown mostly Lebanese casualties. "The reporting has been ... concentrating, yes, on the tragic losses in Lebanon," he said. "But it hasn't been fixating on or emphasizing the losses on the other side."—by *Jenny Song*

Former B.C. Liberal Cabinet minister changes his mind about joining the Conservative Party

A former B.C. Liberal Cabinet minister who recently mused about joining the Conservative Party and running as a Tory candidate in the next federal election is now saying that he has changed



The Tory team meets in Cornwall, Ont.: The full Conservative caucus met for two days last week. Tory MPs, clockwise from top left: Minister of Labour Jean-Pierre Blackburn; Russ Hiebert with his wife Andrea and daughter Kate, Ted Menzies, and Myron Thompson.

his mind, and if he leaves his party, he'd be seen as an "opportunist."

In an interview last week, **Gulzar Cheema**, a former Cabinet minister in B.C. Liberal Premier **Gordon Campbell's** government said that he abandoned the idea of joining the Tories after talking to numerous senior Liberals such as Manitoba Liberal Sen. **Sharon Carstairs**, B.C. Liberal Senator **Mobina Jaffer**, Liberal leadership candidate **Gerard Kennedy**, Liberal MP **Gurbax Malhi** (Bramlea-Gore-Malton, Ont.) and former Chrétien Cabinet minister **Herb Dhaliwal**.

"They have convinced me to stay within the party and I said 'ok, as long as you don't take us for granted but you have to work hard because you're facing a very very moderate and a very practical government," Mr. Cheema said last week.

Two weeks ago, Mr. Cheema in an interview with *The Hill Times* said that he was not planning on renewing his party membership because he said that the federal Liberals took ethnic minorities "for granted" during their 13 years in power. Now, he said, with the Conservative Party in power, ethnic minorities have a viable alternative to go to.

"... This government is looking more like a moderate, practical, approachable, reasonable and a decisive government and people want to look at it from a different perspective. We grow and we mature and we evolve and we change and, in that way, I'm going to look at this. For the last five months, their record has been very impressive. It's a demand of the time that I look at this option whether this will materialize, I don't know," he said.

Mr. Cheema, a practicing medical doctor, also talked about the possibility of seeking the Conservative Party nomination in the B.C. riding of Newton-North Delta. Now, he said, he would sit out the next federal election but would renew his Liberal Party membership. In the current Liberal leadership campaign, he's supporting Mr. Kennedy.

Mr. Cheema was considered by the former Liberal prime minister **Paul Martin's** (LaSalle-Émard, Que.) government for the much coveted appointment of Canadian consul general to Chandigarh, India, a position that became vacant after **Bhupinder Liddar**, a former Hill insider and journalist was initially appointed to that position, but failed to get top secret security clearance from CSIS.

After a protracted legal fight with CSIS, Mr. Liddar successfully received the security clearance and is currently serving as deputy permanent representative of Canada to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and to the United Nations Environment Program in Nairobi, Kenya and is special representative of Canada to the World Urban Forum. Mr. Cheema's appointment, however, never materialized and he's disappointed about that, he said.

In the 2004 federal election, Mr. Cheema, ran unsuccessfully as a Liberal candidate against Conservative MP **Nina Grewal** in the B.C. riding of Fleetwood-Port Kells. In that election, Mr. Cheema lost by a margin of 2,484 votes. For the next election, Ms. Grewal is likely to face a nomination challenge from at least one Conservative—**Paul Lalli**, a former Squamish city councillor. —by *Abbas Rana*

GOPAC to hold its second conference in September in Tanzania

Conservative MP **John Williams** announced last week that the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC), "an international network of parliamentarians dedicated to good governance and combating corruption throughout the world," will hold its second GOPAC Global Conference in September.

Mr. Williams, a well-known and well-liked MP who in the past chaired the high-profile Commons Public Accounts Committee, is the head of GOPAC. The conference which will be held in Arusha, Tanzania from Sept. 20 to 23 is being organized in collaboration with GOPAC's African Chapter.

In a press release last week, Mr. Williams said that the conference, which will be attended by hundreds of Parliamentarians around the world, will vote on a number of resolutions including "a call to amend international accounting standards to require sovereign nations to publish royalties they received on oil, gas and minerals; a call for donor agencies and international financial institutions to require Parliaments be involved or at least informed about the loans and grants being given and a call for a review of Parliamentary immunity and its effect on Parliamentary democracy. All approved resolutions, the press release said, will be direction for GOPAC and its chapters to engage in the fight against corruption in the coming years."

The Hill Times

Photographs by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*

BACKROOMS

Camps forming around leadership candidates for successive balloting

■ *Michael Ignatieff, Stéphane Dion, and Gerard Kennedy seem to have the most support from the 11 candidates, and Volpe could be the king maker, throwing his support to the winner*

By ANGELO PERSICILLI



Although there are 11 candidates in the race for the leadership of the Liberal Party, it looks like it all comes down to three camps, and only two of them seem to have potential for growth.

That's because they hope to get the support of more than 50 per cent of the delegates at the leadership convention in Montreal in December. Of course, this scenario does not consider the possibility of Frank McKenna entering the race.

It is widely accepted that none of the 11 candidates for the leadership of the Liberal Party has enough support to win the race on the first ballot at the Dec. 3 Montreal convention. There are some in the Michael Ignatieff camp flirting with the idea, but even one of his strategists admits that "the best we can really expect is support between 40 to 44 per cent after the first ballot."

So, although there are four months to go before the leadership convention, candidates and organizers have already started unofficial talks, trying to secure each other's support in case one is bumped out.

The environment is, of course, very volatile and might change in the future; however, after extensive conversation with members of most of the candidates, we can say that three leading groups are shaping up at this time.

Let's start with the one revolving around Bob Rae.

His strategists are aware that Rae, in order to get to the top, "needs much more than he has now." For this reason they are talking (or trying to talk) to the camps of Maurizio Bevilacqua, Stéphan Dion, Carolyn Bennett and Ken Dryden. There are no talks at all with the camps of Michael Ignatieff, Scott Brison or Joe Volpe. There are limited approaches to some of Gerard Kennedy's key supporters.

Rae's attempts to get support from other camps don't look very successful. Bennet is seen a Kennedy's supporter, while Bevilacqua seems to be heading towards Ignatieff.

If there are no dramatic changes in the next few months, it looks like there is no room for growth for Rae beyond what he has already gathered. His major problem, of course, is in Ontario, while in Québec, even if he got the support of key strategists in Jean Chrétien's machine, that machine has lost its engine: there are no organizers. They consider Stéphan Dion a rising star "and definitely"—says a Rae strategist—"he can be considered the most successful candidate in the month of July."

Despite rumors of financial hardship, and some controversial positions on key issues, the most optimistic about the future of their candidate are those supporting Michael Ignatieff.

His strategists are talking intensively with other camps. The action is twofold: through high-level campaign representatives and directly with the grassroots.

They're talking to all camps but two: Rae and Joe Volpe. They are very confident about future support for Ignatieff from Brison and Maurizio Bevilacqua.

They fear more and more Stéphan Dion, and are trying to get some help from Gerard Kennedy's people. They believe they can get some key organizers after the first two ballots. It looks like there are serious talks with the camps of Ken Dryden and Martha Hall Findlay. They don't expect



The fun of successive balloting: Liberal leadership candidates Michael Ignatieff, left, Gerard Kennedy, middle, and Joe Volpe, right. Support between candidates is emerging, because who supports who at the December convention is likely to determine the winner.

much from Dion, and in fact are intimidated by his increasing popularity.

The third group is more of an idea than a reality and could be created with support from Kennedy, Volpe and Dion. Let me be more specific. There are no direct talks between the three candidates even though I see a kind of dialogue through the media developing between Volpe and Dion. The former minister of Immigration, who was not considered a factor at the beginning of the campaign, is not given a large of chance of winning but he is more and more considered the king maker at the Montréal convention.

"The pundits were wrong about us at the beginning of the campaign, they are wrong now," his strategists say.

Some supporters of Kennedy and Joe Volpe seem to have direct lines of support set up in case there is a change in the political geography of the race (I don't believe the two candidates are directly involved with one another at all but some community organizers are.)

In the case that Volpe will play the role of the king maker, and throw his support to the winner at the convention, it will be to Stéphan Dion. It looks like there are talks between the two camps and, according to some sources, Hall Findlay might be part of this potentially, and now developing, third group.

All of this might change after September, when the delegates are chosen; however, at the present time it looks like only two groups have potential to grow: the one that is developing could push either Dion, Kennedy or even Volpe into the leadership, and other the one is revolving around Michael Ignatieff.

The latter might attract some minor candidates after first and second ballot but their support will not be huge. That means that if Ignatieff does not get more than 40 per cent on the first ballot, it will be very hard for him to get to the top.

As for Rae, unless there a major shift in the next four months, it looks like he has no room for growth.

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NEWS

Tories make policies based on principle not polling numbers: Van Loan

Continued from Page 1

But Conservative MP Deepak Obhrai (Calgary East, Ont.), Parliamentary Secretary to the Foreign Affairs Minister, said in an interview that there's no need to recall Parliament and criticized Ms. McDonough for "playing politics" on this issue. He said that rather than recalling Parliament, the objective should be to come up with solutions that could ensure sustainable peace in the region.

"No, absolutely not. Recall Parliament for what? Why not go to the root cause of the problem, which is [to establish] a sustainable ceasefire," Mr. Obhrai said in an interview.

Since the start of this crisis last month, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's (Calgary Southwest, Alta.) government has consistently and unequivocally supported Israel's incursions into Lebanon. Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay (Central Nova, N.S.) appeared before the Commons Foreign Affairs and International Development Committee and reiterated his government's unstinted support for Israel's military actions but at the same time called for an end to the bloodshed in the fierce fight between Israel and Hezbollah. He condemned Hezbollah in strong terms and described its members as "cold-blooded killers."

"It is not our intention to shift the blame from the extremists who caused this violence and want it to continue ... there is a marked difference between a democratic country defending the lives of its citizens and a terrorist army intent on death and destruction," he said.

Ontario Liberal Sen. Jerry Grafstein, in an interview with *The Hill Times*, said he's not in favor of recalling Parliament early. But, he said after Parliament resumes sitting in mid-September, Parliamentarians should discuss in detail whether Canada should make any commitment to an international peacekeeping force and review the Harper government's performance in evacuating Canadians of Lebanese origin after the start of the current crisis.

"I think the Canadian government did a very good job when it came to evacuation. Everybody was surprised, everybody was surprised by the quantum of dual citizens in that country. It was an amazing number and in the circumstances the government did pretty well. Could they have done better, maybe... We had our same problems when it came to responding to disasters [like the] Tsunami. When it came to Katrina, we didn't move fast enough, so I think that's a fair debating issue," Sen. Grafstein said.

On Thursday last week, after the news about the death of four Canadian soldiers and wounding of 10 others came, former

Liberal foreign affairs minister Lloyd Axworthy also called for the early recall of Parliament to discuss the Afghanistan mission and the current Middle East crisis.

"I don't think Parliament should be on summer holiday," Mr. Axworthy said in an interview with the *Toronto Star*.

The NDP has been harshly critical of the Harper government's position and has said that Mr. Harper's position has damaged Canada's ability to act as an honest broker on this issue.

"This country has long-standing commitments to an even-handed approach to international law, to humanitarian law and to negotiated solutions. This government's actions have cut us loose from our Canadian moorings to say 'ready aye, ready' to the Bush administration regardless of how the majority of Canadians wish to see their government act," said NDP leader Jack Layton (Toronto-Danforth, Ont.) in a press release last week.

Interim Liberal Party leader Bill Graham (Toronto Centre, Ont.) has also criticized Mr. Harper for not having an even handed approach to the Mideast crisis, while the 11 Liberal leadership candidates are divided on the issue. In an op-ed sent to news organizations last week, Mr. Graham said that Mr. Harper "seems increasingly at odds with the global community and with our national character" on the current crisis in the Middle East.

"It is vital for middle-power nations such as Canada to pursue a fair-minded and balanced foreign policy because it preserves our ability to act as an appropriate intermediary, helping to make peace between enemies, rather than simply validating the positions held by any one party. It is only by acting in this way that we can truly help our friends.

"In the current situation, the Harper government, instead of encouraging international efforts toward a cease-fire, has taken the position that the violence should run its course, thereby ensuring further civilian casualties on both sides."

Meanwhile, in a Decima poll released late last week, Conservative support across the country has slipped sharply. Conservatives, the poll revealed, have the support of 32 per cent of Canadians nationally while Liberals are at 31 per cent and the NDP at 16. In the vote-rich province of Ontario, Liberals are leading the Tories 42 to 33 per cent, or by a margin of nine percentage points. And in Quebec, Liberals, for the first time since the last election, are ahead of the Conservatives.

Decima CEO Bruce Anderson told Canadian Press that the Tory slide in the polls is mainly because Canadians are concerned that the Harper government has become too close to the U.S. on the Middle East policy.

"When we look at the combination of the alignment of the government with the



Photographs by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*

Recalling Parliament early: Alexa McDonough, left, says recall Parliament to discuss Canada's role in the Mideast crisis, but Tory MP Deepak Obhrai, right, says it's not necessary, and Liberal Sen. Jerry Grafstein, top, agrees.

current U.S. administration policy on the Middle East—and in particular with respect to the Lebanon-Israel conflict—it's reasonable to assume it's one of the factors that's driving Conservative support down in the near term," Mr. Anderson told the Canadian Press.

"They clearly are encountering some pushback from voters in Ontario and Quebec in particular.

But Conservative MP Peter Van Loan (York-Simcoe, Ont.), Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, said his party is not concerned about the

polling numbers. His party makes policies based on principle, not polling numbers, he said.

"Reality is that we take our positions on international affairs based on principle and for us it's clear we cannot be neutral on the question of terrorism, on a terrorist group listed under Canadian law, that would not be in the Canadian tradition. The Canadian tradition in fact has been to support the sovereignties and democracies threatened by terrorism."

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The Hill Times

Aerospace

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NEWS

'Everybody obviously is watching what's going on over there—they're worried sick about it': Agriculture Minister Chuck Strahl

Continued from Page 1

Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay (Central Nova, N.S.), who focused on possible humanitarian assistance to Lebanon in a scrum with reporters on Thursday last week.

Early in the day, under a hot, blazing sun in the courtyard of the Ramada Inn, Prime Minister Stephen Harper (Calgary Southwest, Alta.) addressed caucus members and party faithful in a campaign-style speech that made scant references to the Middle East and the war in Afghanistan, where on the same day, a series of attacks claimed the lives of four soldiers.

But behind closed doors, when national caucus convened the Middle East was "right up at the top" of the agenda, according to Alberta MP Myron Thompson (Wild Rose, Alta.).

The Tories met for their summer retreat at the Nav Canada Training Facility and Conference Centre in Cornwall, Ont., couched within strong Ontario Conservative territory and the home riding of Tory MP Guy Lauzon (Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry).

Following a 30-minute question-and-answer session with Prime Minister Stephen Harper (Calgary Southwest, Alta.), Conservative MPs and senators heard from Mr. MacKay on the Middle East and Canada's evacuation efforts in Lebanon.

"Everybody obviously is watching what's going on over there—they're worried sick about it," said Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Chuck Strahl (Chilliwack-Fraser Canyon, B.C.).

"I talked to farmers here [in Cornwall]. It's not top-of-mind with them. They want to talk to me about all issues, as they should. They also want us to make sure we continue with good government here and don't become obsessed with any one topic at a caucus meeting."

Still, Alberta MP Art Hangar (Calgary Northeast, Alta.) said the Mideast conflict was occupying "a lot of our time—it's a very important issue—and certainly has its impact locally for every one of us, probably."

Mr. Hangar and other Conservative MPs told *The Hill Times* that the federal government's pro-Israeli position in the current Mid-East conflict and the absence of any call for an immediate ceasefire has generated "mixed" reaction from constituents.

"It's one of those things that's a very divisive issue, no doubt about it," said Rahim Jaffer (Edmonton-Strathcona, Alta.), the only Muslim in the federal Conservative caucus, of which he serves as chair.

"Clearly, there are people who are very happy with the position of the government and others who are somewhat concerned as to where it's going to go."

Mr. Jaffer said that the caucus meeting was meant to give Prime Minister Stephen Harper the chance to "clarify" the government's position and obtain feedback from MPs who previously had little opportunity "to have a say" on the issue.

Mr. Thompson told *The Hill Times* that he trusts the Prime Minister's judgment on Canada's response to the Mid-East crisis "to the fullest extent," but admitted that he didn't "know what circumstances" led Mr. Harper to characterize Israel's bombing campaign in Lebanon as a "measured" response to Hezbollah guerrilla attacks.

"But I do know, as a Canadian, if terrorists attacked my country, like Hezbollah attacked Israel, I would expect a response of some sort and that it would be a message that we're not prepared to give up our democracy and our way of life to terrorism," said Mr. Thompson, who added that he wasn't concerned about the Tories' slipping fortunes over the government's response to the Mid-East crisis.



Photograph by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*

The governing party summer caucus retreat: Clockwise from left: Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay, Industry Minister Maxime Bernier, Conservative Caucus Chair Rahim Jaffer with International Trade Parliamentary Secretary Helena Guergis, and Treasury Board Parliamentary Secretary Pierre Poilievre. After the caucus retreat last Friday, Prime Minister Stephen Harper told reporters he doesn't pay any attention to the polls. "I watched the previous government make important decisions on the basis of weekly polls and we know what happened to them," he said.

Recent polls for Sun Media and *The Globe and Mail* have shown significant opposition to the PM's support for Israel and decline support overall for the Conservatives nationally.

Ontario MP Garth Turner (Halton, Ont.) said the Prime Minister's remarks backing Israel early in the conflict could either "make him look visionary or make him look myopic" over time.

"It's very difficult in the fog of war to know this, but he did take a strong position and history will judge him," Mr. Turner said.

"He said it in an unequivocal way, at a risky point in time, when [the conflict] was just launching into the unknown," Mr. Turner said in an interview.

"But he took a strong and decisive position and that's the kind of guy he is. I haven't seen him back down on anything. When he gets something firmly decided in his mind, he sticks with it."

Mr. Turner is also not backing down from his controversial comments criticizing the recent mass evacuation from Lebanon, in which he questioned whether those rescued and holding dual citizenships were "legitimate Canadians."

Mr. Turner, former Progressive Conservative revenue minister under prime minister Brian Mulroney, told *The Hill Times* that some of his Canadian citizen constituents who were trying to evacuate were bumped in the order of precedence by Lebanese residents.

"I had constituents caught as tourists who were bumped by full-time Lebanese residents. That pissed me off and that pissed [my constituents] off," Mr. Turner said.

"It was an absolutely wrong thing to happen, though it's going to happen dur-

ing a mass evacuation which took us all by surprise."

Mr. Turner explained that his criticism wasn't directed at "Canadian officials, who did as good a job as could be expected" in removing more than 13,000 Canadians from Lebanon.

In a recent entry on his garth.ca blog, Mr. Turner wrote about visiting Home Hardware and Home Depot where the "Canadians-of-convenience issue was on the lips of...a whole mess of voters...unprompted. And the opinion was unanimous. We was had."

But the executive director of the Toronto-based Canadian Arab Federation criticized both Mr. Turner and Mr. Harper for the way they responded to the Middle East crisis.

In particular, Mohamed Boudjenane said the Prime Minister "didn't have the dignity and decency to condemn the killing" of the members of a Montreal family who died in an Israeli air strike in Lebanon last month, or to contact their relatives in Canada and send his condolences.

Mr. Boudjenane said that while the Canadian Arab Federation is a non-partisan organization and won't organize a campaign to defeat the Harper government in the next federal election, other groups—especially Lebanese organizations in Quebec and Ontario—plan to do so and will be "very aggressive" about it.

"And that won't be unique to the Arab or Muslim communities," he said. "You will see a lot of Canadians campaigning against the Tories because their position towards this war is un-Canadian and is against the basic fundamental principles of our foreign policy."

The CAF has prepared a tool that could assist those with the goal of unseating the

Tories from power.

A post-2006 election analysis posted on the caf.ca web site identifies 66 ridings in which the Arab and Muslim population had some impact in close-contest ridings.

Among the ridings is Mr. Turner's, where there was a vote difference of 1,897 between him and the runner-up incumbent, Liberal Gary Carr. According to the CAF, the 2001 census identified the Arab-Muslim population in Halton as 1,950.

But Mr. Turner said that if the "Arab community" is trying to get him to reconsider his remarks over the evacuation in Lebanon, "it ain't gonna work...."

"If they want to kick my ass out, go ahead. The point is people vote the way they're going to vote," Mr. Turner said.

"Am I going to change the way I feel? Of course not—that's not why I'm in politics. I didn't say what I said to get votes. I said it because in my view it was the proper response to a situation that had not been properly thought out."

Mr. Turner said he heard from and met with Arab Canadians and Lebanese Canadians in his riding, and is "well aware there's a very strong sentiment on the part of that group who'd rather the Prime Minister not said what he said about Israel."

Mr. Turner added: "And I'm sure there's a number of people who misinterpreted my comments about dual citizenship."

Treasury Board President John Baird (Ottawa West-Nepean, Ont.) told *The Hill Times* that feedback received from his constituents on the Mideast crisis—and specifically on the evacuation from Leba-

Continued on Page 9

OPINION

By ALAN BONNER



The Liberals have just lost a fleeting opportunity to renew, grow and attract significant voter attention. The sale of memberships has closed and the eleven leadership candidates' stone-age web sites have done little to bring new, young liberals into the tent.

Most sites have serious navigation challenges which often mask where things are and what a user can find. Ken Dryden and Gerard Kennedy's are particularly busy, and Kennedy's has such conflicting colours that it's hard to access new pages and information.

Amazingly, Scott Brison, Joe Volpe, Stéphane Dion and Maurizio Bevilacqua don't have blogs. Bob Rae has some kind of virtual community that you have to go through hoops to access, and Michael Ignatieff has others blogging for him. Only Ignatieff and Martha Hall Findlay have video on their sites and only Ignatieff offers podcasts or audio.

What a waste. In the last election, just five months ago, the NDP got good mileage out of their viral ads on their site, probably gaining as much free publicity from news reports about them as they paid to shoot them. The Liberals had an entertaining blog and the Tories had good video streaming and podcasting.

How these eleven candidates thought they could run a modern campaign without at least demonstrating they could manage new media is a mystery. Whoever leads the party will need to employ all these techniques if he or she hopes to beat Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Conservatives, but none is demonstrating an adequate proficiency in these areas.

This marks one of the first leadership campaigns to a delegated convention where web technology exists to engage young people, voters in remote communities and those who have not participated in politics before. All these groups and seasoned Liberals could be more motivated by web access to candidates than by media reports. At least the web is at the touch of a keyboard—when the candidate is usually thousands of miles away.

Political research shows that there have traditionally been three distinct uses of mainstream news media: campaigning for nomination, campaigning for general election, and governing. News media is almost irrelevant in a delegated convention. News reports remind potential delegates of your fame and voter appeal, but signing up delegates is mainly done door to door, in basements and kitchens. This research pre-dates the web, which is an ideal tool to reinforce this kind of person-to-person wooing.

Why do Carolyn Bennett, Dion, Bevilacqua, Hedy Fry and Volpe have dark, odd or out of focus pictures on their web sites? Why does Ignatieff's picture look as if someone is standing on his toe or there's a funny smell in the room? Why on earth would Kennedy borrow former Conservative prime minister Kim Campbell's old phrase "doing politics differently"?

For whatever reason, most candidates either don't have speeches posted on their sites or make them hard to find. You can find speeches by Rae, Brison, Kennedy, Volpe and Findlay. Rae's appear to have been written in sentence fragments, imitating ad copy. Volpe's speeches feature a bold word every line or so, as if he suspects we can't be bothered to read the whole thing.

Kennedy's features two sentences that look as if they are rejects from

Liberal leadership candidates are failing to harness the power of the web

Candidates need good web platforms to reach younger Canadians



Blogs or no blogs, they're campaigning: 1. Michael Ignatieff talks with Maurizio Bevilacqua 2. Joe Volpe 3. Martha Hall Findlay 4. Bob Rae 5. Gerard Kennedy 6. Carolyn Bennett 7. Hedy Fry 8. Ken Dryden 9. Stéphane Dion 10. Scott Brison

an early Bob Dylan lyric for his song, *Desolation Row*: "Mr. Harper is a street vendor selling imitation Rolex's while he's selling a vision of a Canada with successful immigrants, educational advantage and a turnaround of poverty.

Mr. Harper shops at the Republican store but the day of the leader-king is gone. I'm here to be a catalyst." Really?

Part of the purpose of web presence is easy interaction with voters. In a riding, a candidate moves heaven and

earth to meet a few voters going door to door. I've worked with candidates who've knocked on 30,000 doors to get elected. They also work the phone banks, making thousands of calls just to get a few dozen people out to a coffee party.

On the web, you can get a thousand hits in a day, but only if you give people a reason to visit. Policy, speeches, fascinating facts, sound, pictures and even games can do the trick. But once you have voters interacting with you, you must hold on to them for dear life. The Liberals do not.

I sent an email request for information to all campaigns and was completely ignored by Dryden, Ignatieff, Rae, Volpe, Brison and Bennett. I had a researcher send a letter requesting campaign information and that was ignored by every candidate who wants to lead the great Liberal Party except Ignatieff. What we received from Ignatieff was an unsigned letter from "Ignatieff Volunteers."

Calls to each campaign were almost as unproductive. All my researcher asked for was a list of supporters and a hard copy of a speech. Findlay and Bennett's campaigns were preoccupied with whether the caller was a reporter. Who cares? Send out a speech.

Dion's staffer didn't take a name or number and referred the caller to the Elections' Canada site. The person who answers Volpe's phone seemed annoyed and also didn't take a name or number. She told us to call the Toronto office but wouldn't give out the number.

Kennedy and Volpe promised to return calls, but that didn't happen. We were on hold with Ignatieff's campaign for 15 minutes before we gave up and disconnected the call. Amazingly, Dryden's site doesn't seem to list a phone number. Dion at least has someone who read us a list of supporters from *The Hill Times*, the political weekly in Ottawa. Bevilacqua had someone call back, but just referred us to *The Hill Times* and wouldn't read the list over the phone.

To be fair, Dion's use of the word "Buzz" draws attention. Rae and Bennett have someone who calls back in less than two minutes.

So is all this dirty pool? Is whether a candidate can put up a good web site or answer emails, letters and phone calls really a decent litmus test of whether she or he can run the country? Two important researchers would say yes.

In Timothy Crouse's classic study of the campaign trail, *The Boys on the Bus*, the author makes the relevant comment that a well-run bus is a well-run country. This means that reporters (and by extension voters) judge that the candidate who makes the bus run on time is also competent to run the country, if elected.

Superficial? Well, eminent sociologist Herbert Gans wrote another classic study called *Deciding What's News*. I asked Gans whether Crouse's criteria means that democracy is going to Hell in a hand basket. He replied with a question of his own. First, he pointed out that the bus and candidates' public events are all that reporters and most of the electorate see of a candidate. They are entitled to judge a politician accordingly. Second, if you can't attract a bunch of young, keen kids to run a bus, how are you going to run the country?

All eleven Liberal candidates have the dead zone of the summer to get their metaphorical buses in order. This includes using web sites and all the new technology available. In the fall, we'll see if any of them have earned a second look.

Allan Bonner is a former journalist and a communications specialist at Allan Bonner Communications Management in Toronto.

The Hill Times

INSIDE POLITICS

G-8 leaders substituted illusory consensus for much-needed progress

By JAMES TRAVERS



Remember the G-8 summit and its pious commitments to peace and world trade? It's been only three weeks since a self-congratulatory conclusion and the wreckage is everywhere.

A conditional signal that Hezbollah and Israel should cease fire turned out to be a green light from the U.S., endorsed by me-too Canada, for the worst Middle East violence in decades. And a communiqué urging negotiators to resuscitate failing trade talks was followed by an almost immediate collapse that looks fatal.

It would be easy—perhaps even smugly satisfying—to dismiss both as more proof of failed international leadership. It would also hit the mark.

Along with a primary agenda, once again made secondary by momentous events, world leaders meeting in Russia for the first time faced two significant, connected challenges. They needed to prevent an incident from becoming a crisis and they had to demonstrate just a little confidence that, when it comes to harmonious global cohabitation, buter is better than guns.

Instead of advancing either or both, they retreated to a contradiction. Terrorism, as defined by U.S. President George W. Bush, is being confronted militarily in the Middle East while the already lacklustre effort to tackle its causes is being abandoned in Geneva.

Some explanation is required. For those not paying attention, the U.S. president is now morphing the decades old Arab-Israeli conflict into his worldwide war on terrorism. Besides dehumanizing the enemy, making it more comfortable to take sides and tolerate civilian casualties, that ignores a lot of history as well as the awkward reality that terrorism is a tactic habitually—as well as almost universally—used in Middle East transitions from underdog to overlord.

Terrorism, as defined by U.S. President George W. Bush, is being confronted militarily in the Middle East while the already lacklustre effort to tackle its causes is being abandoned in Geneva.

But politics is the art of never letting facts get in the way of a good yarn. So a disproportionate, regionally destabilizing response to a foolishly provocative, if hardly unusual, kidnapping and thankfully inept rocket attacks, is being simplified and justified as part of the bracing struggle of good against evil.

Meanwhile, the loss of a much more lasting antidote to extremism is being minimized as a minor setback. Muted by the rolling Middle East thunder is the troubling news that the impossibly protracted Doha round of World Trade Organization negotiations is being

abandoned for dead.

So who cares about an arcane WTO deal? Everyone who accepts that peace is best promoted by prosperity that is both shared and interdependent. High among the Doha objectives is concrete proof that the international community, in the awful aftermath of 9/11, can counter terrorism with commercial subtlety as well as armed ferocity.

In finding a seat for developing countries on the global gravy train, the industrial giants hoped to strengthen

complex problem of easing the international flow of goods and services.

This is worrying for Canada beyond the negative implications for world co-operation. It means this country will have to play catch-up in a game of bilateral agreements that, in the absence of international rules, will be won that much more often by the most powerful players.

Short term, there is some domestic political advantage for a federal government that won't have to explain the erosion of marketing boards, particularly to trade-savvy Quebecers holding the power to deny Conservatives a majority. But that pales beside the long-term damage to a country that relies so heavily on multilateral trade and diplomatic remedies.

So what, exactly, did Stephen Harper and peers accomplish in St. Petersburg? Well, they got Russia's wink-and-nudge compliance on more transparent, less political, market-based resource trading and they talked about both controlling infectious disease and driving economies with education.

Competitive resource trading is important to Canada and the other issues are worthy, too. But in failing to seize the moment, seven powerful men and one woman mostly succeeded in substituting an illusory, fleeting and cynical consensus for urgently needed progress. If they can't do better, they might as well stay home.

James Travers is a national affairs columnist with the *Toronto Star*. This column was released Aug. 3
The Hill Times

Lots of discussion in caucus

Continued from Page 7

non—has been “for” or “against,” and has ranged, in terms of comments, from “too long” to “too quick.”

“The bottom line is that when the bullets are flying and the bombs are going off, we have a responsibility to assist Canadians,” said Mr. Baird, whose riding is home to an estimated 11,365 Muslim and Arab Canadians according to the CAF's “riding watch” list.

Mr. Baird told *The Hill Times* that he's heard from more constituents in the past, over such issues as the federal budget, justice reform and the proposed Federal Accountability Act, than he has about the current Middle East situation.

As for his caucus colleagues, they're “proud the Prime Minister is exercising leadership,” Mr. Baird said. “I think we're all solidly behind the Prime Minister.”

Alberta MP Jason Kenney (Calgary Southeast, Alta.) echoed that sentiment. “Our caucus is overwhelmingly supportive of the government's position and direction,” he said.

And, Ontario MP Royal Galipeau (Ottawa-Orléans, Ont.) praised Mr. Harper for his “clarity of thought” on Canada's position regarding Israel's military campaign against Hezbollah.

“The last prime minister, who spoke so clearly and was despised by a lot of people—but appreciated [for] the clarity of his thought—was [Pierre] Trudeau, during the October Crisis in 1970.”

Representing a riding with a sizable Arab-Muslim population of more than 5,000 (more than four times the vote margin between himself and his Liberal challenger, Marc Godbout), Mr. Galipeau doesn't fear any fallout from Mr. Harper's position.

“I don't think a country runs its foreign affairs for electoral reasons. There was a prime minister who tried that and hit his

nose on the wall.”

Mr. Galipeau said that Mr. Trudeau's onetime prime ministerial successor, former federal PC leader Joe Clark, tried to curry favour with what was believed to be a sizable Jewish community in the Toronto riding of St. Paul's during the spring 1979 federal election campaign by promising to move the Canadian embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The Tory candidate in the riding of St. Paul's, Ronald Atkey, was re-elected and appointed to Mr. Clark's Cabinet as minister of employment and immigration. Mr. Clark, meanwhile, ended up causing a diplomatic controversy by saying he would move the Canadian embassy from Tel Aviv the Holy City, upon which the Palestinians also had a claim.

But Mr. Galipeau said that foreign affairs should be left for the minister responsible for that portfolio to discuss, and not him.

“A backbench member like myself doesn't go freelancing on things like that,” Mr. Galipeau said. “My provincial counterpart did that and missed a beautiful opportunity to be quiet.”

Mr. Galipeau referred to comments by Phil McNeely, the Liberal MPP for Ottawa-Orléans, who last month called Israel a “rogue state” and called on the Harper government to apologize to Canadians for its support of Israel's “collective punishment” of the people in Gaza and Lebanon.

Following a rebuke from his leader, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, Mr. McNeely ended up apologizing for his remarks, which generated a letter to the *Ottawa Citizen*. It is an anecdote to which all MPs should pay heed, Mr. Galipeau said.

“Mr. McNeely should stick to his regional responsibilities,” wrote David Scott of Ottawa in a letter to the *Citizen*, “or he may find himself the recipient of unwelcome news at the polls the next time around.”

The Hill Times

Where the leaders are.

Janice MacKinnon

History professor &
former Saskatchewan Finance Minister

Chair of the Institute of Research on Public Policy

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EDITORIAL

Foreign Affairs committee meeting is a matter of accountability

In the week preceding last week's meeting of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, four members of Parliament, New Democrat Alexa McDonough, Liberal Bernard Patry and Bloc Québécois members Francine Lalonde and Diane Bourgeois, sent letters to the Conservative chair of the committee, Kevin Sorenson.

The letter writers requested that the committee be recalled for an emergency meeting, a power the opposition parties have under the Standing Orders of the House of Commons.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Peter MacKay, does not have to attend such a meeting, but the four members requested that he and his officials do so, and for the Minister to refuse such a request would be to take a significant political risk.

High-profile Parliamentary committee meetings, like the one last week, often look more like publicity stunts than democracy at work—and in some ways they are—but they are also about accountability.

The committee meeting marked the opposition parties' first opportunity to question Minister MacKay since the Middle East crisis erupted July 12. Since that time, hundreds of innocent civilians and children have been killed and much has been made about Prime Minister Stephen Harper's support for Israel in a sensitive and delicate area of foreign policy.

Mr. MacKay is the minister responsible for the Foreign Affairs portfolio, and in Canada's Parliamentary system of

responsible government, he has a responsibility to answer tough questions. How the opposition members behave at such a committee meeting, and whether they use their time with the minister responsibly, is another issue.

But despite the partisan jousting, the committee meeting was productive. Opposition members affirmed a government position: The Conservative government supports Israeli incursions into Lebanon because it does not tolerate terrorist organizations, as it views Hezbollah; and the government does not view an immediate ceasefire as beneficial to peace in the region.

"Simply calling for a ceasefire doesn't make it happen," Mr. MacKay told the committee. "There has to be more than words."

These are important government policy lines, and as democratic theory goes, these policy positions, affirmed at the committee, trickle into the public consciousness. The public forms opinions of its government, and judges it accordingly in the next general election. That is our responsible government system.

There has been a lot of discussion in recent years about the so-called irrelevance of Parliament, and of the government's tendency to bypass it. In the interest of accountability, the Foreign Affairs committee did the right thing by calling an emergency meeting, and Mr. MacKay did the right thing by attending. In the future, let's give Parliament a healthy role in these important policy discussions.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Give Tories benefit of the doubt: Conservative

Re: "Federal Accountability Act doesn't contain 21 promised measures" (*The Hill Times*, July 31).

I think there is too much pessimism in Mr. Conacher's view of the Conservative government. I am more of an optimist type of guy. I like to think that the Conservatives have accomplished more in a few months in power than the Liberal in a few years!

Their actions might not please everybody, but they were quite clear about them in the election campaign, and I respect that.

Michel Trahan
Verdun, Que.

(The letter writer is a former Liberal Party supporter and a new member of the Conservative Party of Canada.)

High salaries attract the wrong people to politics: HT reader

Re: "Federal Accountability Act delivers the Goods: Baird" (*The Hill Times*, July 31).

Ah yes, the Accountability Act. Mr. Baird is quoted as saying that "... the Federal Accountability Act and its companion Action Plan deliver fully on our commitment to make government more accountable and to promote ethical practice at all levels."

I must ask, is that why the federal government has quietly handed senior government officials and the heads of Crown corporations pay raises and increased bonuses? Imagine that! Government executives and deputy ministers, no doubt the highest ranking public servants, are getting a 2.5 per cent pay raise, while the chief executives of Crown corporations, such as the CBC and Canada Post, are slated to get three per cent raises. Executives and deputy ministers will also receive a 1.1 per cent increase for what is known as "at-risk pay," or an end-of-year bonus.

Oh, and to add insult to injury, the salary increases will be applied retroactively dating back to April. Very nice.

I need to ask the following: Why oh why, when it comes to increases, it is always those who "earn" lavish salaries who obtain those increases, whereas those of us at the lower end of the pay echelon are lucky to obtain mere crumbs, and that is only after fighting for them? Perhaps it is because I was brought up without a sense of entitlement, but it seems incredibly elitist to me that a small, select group of politicians can so quietly give raises and lucrative bonuses to either themselves or top-earning bureaucrats. It sure begs the following question: Do we really need democratic reform in Canada or do we



Photograph by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*

Defending the Accountability Act: One letter writer, who says he is 'an optimist,' supports Treasury Board President Baird.

just need democracy to be returned to the people of Canada from the politicians who kidnapped it?

In my humble opinion, we should be getting more quality people in politics, but the pay is so outrageous it tends to attract people who could not make it in the private sector. The end result is that we get overpaid under-achievers. Those who enter politics, regardless the level, should know what the salary is when they decide to run for office.

I say, to those earning lavish salaries and hefty bonuses, quit their complaining and do something worthwhile to make your country a better place. There are homeless people without proper nourishment and health care. We must all come to grips with this obscene situation and ensure that is rectified.

Conrad Y. Levesque
Kanata, Ont.

CIDA slashed program to help fight Malaria by 55 per cent

In Canada we are very fortunate to not have to worry about malaria, however, globally it is killing up to three million people (mostly children) per year, according to the The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. That puts malaria right on par with AIDS.

Over the past two years, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has been providing the International Red Cross with funding for bednet programs in five African countries, which has seen overwhelming success.

This year however, Canada's direct funding for the program has been cut by 55 per cent from 2005, under Josée Verner,

the new Minister of International Cooperation. Malaria is both preventable and curable, but sustaining only 45 per cent of last year's direct funding for bednet distribution is just not acceptable.

These malaria-preventing nets cost less than five dollars, and at a time when we should be increasing our funding for these cost-effective and proven prevention methods, it's horrifying to hear of this decline.

Jennifer Daley
Windsor, Ont.

(The letter-writer is a member of Results Canada, a group advocating on behalf of the poorest people of the world.)

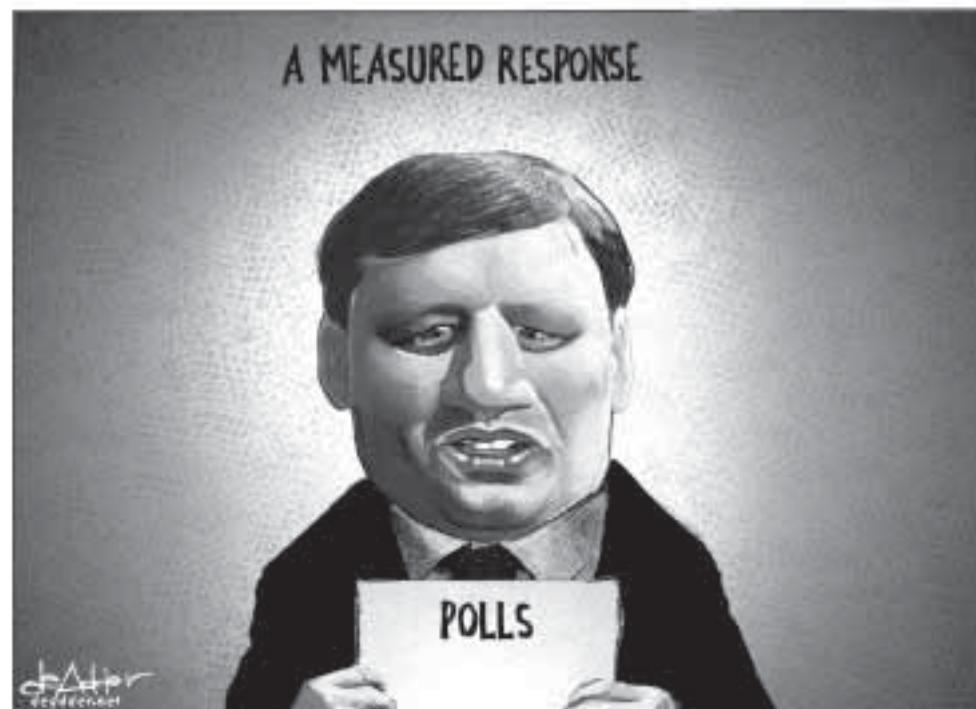
Nova Scotia needs electoral reform

Nova Scotians should be proud of the many Canadian firsts they have achieved, most notably the first representative government, first Supreme Court, and the first free press.

But we now lag behind. Far behind. Behind British Columbia, behind Prince Edward Island and behind New Brunswick because these Canadian provinces have realized that our electoral system is intolerably unjust and requires major reform, and they're trying to do something about it.

So with all this activity by others what is Nova Scotia doing to enhance democracy? The answer is nothing at all. Nova Scotia continues with the same autocracy of one political party leader calling the tune with us all dancing his way.

Jonathan Geoffrey Dean
President
The Atlantica Party
Halifax, N.S.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Biased reporting in *HT*: Israeli ambassador

After reading *The Hill Times*' July 31 issue, and especially the loaded, nuanced anti-Israel articles by editor Kate Malloy and deputy editor Simon Doyle, the curiously uninformed and offensive piece by Omar Soliman, the one-sided choice of letters to the editor, and the overly enlarged and overblown photographic coverage of a tiny pro-Palestinian demonstration outside the Foreign Affairs Department, one would be given to assume that *The Hill Times*—a paper that describes itself as "Canada's politics and government newsweekly"—has become nothing more than the Ottawa edition of Aljazeera.

That is regrettable, and by aligning your newsweekly in such a blatant and one-sided manner, you are losing any semblance of credibility, except for your Parliamentary calendar, classified pages and excellent sudoku puzzles, which are the only reason that any serious reader would wish to open *The Hill Times*.

Alan Baker
Ambassador of Israel

Harper has taken a 'strong, courageous position' on Mid-East policy: *HT* reader

Re: "There will be no mass exodus of Jewish votes from the Liberals to the Conservatives in the next election" (*The Hill Times*, July 31).

I think it is absolutely repugnant that—while Israel is under constant threat from Hezbollah and the Lebanese people have to face the consequences of a war that they did not ask for—Omar Soliman is worried about the electoral consequences of this action for the Conservative government.

Despite possessing a University of Toronto education, it seems that not even the best scholars in the country have been able to rid Mr. Soliman of his naïveté. Prime Minister Harper has taken a strong, courageous position on the present situation, which is in stark contrast to the empty rhetoric and platitudes of Mr. Soliman's article. If Mr. Soliman thinks that to be "conservative" one must adhere dogmatically to the status quo—and continue along the path of Liberal dithering and waffling on the international stage—then I think he had better hit the books before September rolls around.

Kiley Thompson
Calgary, Alberta

Muslims are killing Muslims in Iraq and Afghanistan then blaming West to incite terrorism

On the first anniversary of the bombing of London's mass transit system by some British Muslims of Pakistani origin, many Britons were asking: Why did these young British Muslims, who grew up in Britain, want to kill fellow citizens? The answer may be: For the same reason Muslims are slaughtering fellow Muslims in Iraq and elsewhere.

The July 7, 2005, London bombers left behind a video in which they claimed that they were simply retaliating against the killing of fellow Muslims in Iraq by the coalition forces.

"Until you stop bombing, gassing and torturing my people, we will not stop the fight," vowed one of the bombers in a pre-recorded video statement.

Ishtiaq Ahmed, professor of political science at Stockholm University, exposed Muslims killing Muslims in a recent op-ed: "Pseudo-radicalism of the left and half-baked liberalism cannot explain logically or morally why the greatest slaughters of Muslims in recent times have always been the work of Muslims. The Iran-Iraq war resulted from the uncontrollable ambition of Ayatollah Khomeini to spread his Islamic (read Shia) revolution throughout the world clashing with Saddam Hussein's equally unflinching resolve to crush Shiite and Kurdish threats to his power. In the process, 1.5 to two million Muslims were killed."

Mahmood Elahi
Ottawa, Ont.

Canada loses peacekeeping role with "ditto foreign policy": Liberal party member

Israel bombed a clearly marked and well known U.N. post, killing U.N. personnel, including a Canadian. It is reminiscent of another time and place when U.S. planes bombed and killed some of their Canadian allies.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice realized her impotence as a mediator because of her country's unconditional support for Israel and her country's refusal to communicate with Hezbollah.

Canada, in recent history, would have participated in any peacekeeping mission, but has eliminated any chance of participating in any such peacekeeping with its ditto foreign policies. Whatever the U.S. government says, it's ditto for Canada.

The U.S. government is single-mindedly obsessed with the War on Terrorism at the expense of such pressing issues like the Environment and Nuclear Proliferation and has weakened their political power around the world. Canada appears to be desperately trying to follow the U.S. down the path to ruin and disrespect.

Abandoning our policy and philosophy of peacekeeping and creating a country of warriors without debate is the actions of a government that would rather ask for forgiveness after the fact than ask for permission first. Here, in Alberta, we have a Conservative Premier named Ralph Klein, who has made a career of asking forgiveness for the errors of his ways rather than following the protocol of a democratic government and seeking permission before acting. Steven Harper learned from the master.

As long as this crisis continues, Canadians, civilians, children, along with conspirators, will die. Millions will lose their homes, farms, livelihoods, and these crises will continue if everyone picks sides and offers unconditional support. Cooler heads need to prevail.

Granted, Hezbollah cannot be allowed to fire missiles across internationally recognized borders and Israel cannot arbitrarily redraw its boundaries, but trading bombs with one other is not the answer.

Garfield John Marks
Red Deer, Alta.

(The letter-writer is a card-carrying member of the Liberal Party of Canada.)

Attack on UN post not deliberate, but "apparently deliberate"

Day by day we hear exactly how many Hezbollah rockets landed on Israel, along with a running total. It



Always time to stop and chat: The opposition parties have criticized Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay, left, for playing a minor role in the government's handling of the Mideast crisis, but Mr. MacKay appeared before the House Foreign Affairs Committee last week to answer their questions.

begs the question: how many missiles and tank shells has Israel fired on Lebanon? If we are to be treated to daily running counts of Hezbollah rockets, then the corresponding information on Israeli missiles and shells should be listed.

Regarding the Israeli bombing of a UN post that killed four peacekeepers, let's not get carried away. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan did not say Israel deliberately ordered the UN post targeted, as the outraged Israeli government, the USA, and Stephen Harper are pretending. Kofi Annan said the attack was "apparently deliberate," and after nine phone calls to the IDF and nine assurances that attacks on that post would cease, it certainly appears deliberate.

An important distinction ignored by those outraged at Mr. Annan is that the attack on the UN post could have been the deliberate work of one or two bad apples rather than an order handed down through the Israeli chain of command. Presumably, the Israeli investigation will consider that possibility.

Sean Ledwich
Winnipeg, Man.

Ignatieff is 'intellectually honest' and a 'breath of fresh air': Liberal

Re: "An update on the 11 federal Liberal leadership candidates and some of their supporters and staffers" (*The Hill Times*, July 31).

I am writing to correct last week's mistaken attribution of my name as a supporter for Scott Brison within the Liberal leadership race.

While I have identified Mr. Brison as a rising star after having a chance to talk with him last month, and most definitely count him amongst my top three choices, I stand firmly behind Michael Ignatieff. Here are a couple of reasons why.

Ignatieff has more depth behind his opinions than just about any politician I have encountered over the

past decade. In fact, it is that kind of knowledge base and experience which make him the atypical politician—a feather in his cap as far as I'm concerned.

It is refreshing to have a candidate who can back his words with academic credentials, global experience, and a wide range of opinions. He doesn't sit up on stage and deliver the over-the-top Liberal stump speeches that are high on rhetoric and hyperbole but short on substance and sense.

I like that he is willing to take positions that aren't necessarily popular or easy. If there is one thing that has become very clear to political observers in this country it is the intense backlash against wishy-washy, "trying-to-please-everyone" types of policies after the Paul Martin era. Ignatieff's intellectual honesty is a combination of not treating your audience like idiots and having the resolve to call a spade a spade.

Finally, I like the fact that Ignatieff is bringing fresh, new ideas to the table—things that I haven't heard before. These are ideas that Ignatieff ponders out loud; he isn't afraid to have a debate or discussion. He asks questions of his audience to get a sense of where people are coming from. He thinks like a man that hasn't been hardened or jaded by a government bureaucracy that has the ability to squash the most fertile and idealistic of intentions.

He is a breath of fresh air.

Jonathan Ross
Vancouver, B.C.

(The letter-writer is a member of the Liberal Party of Canada, a former Liberal staffer and a volunteer for the Ignatieff campaign.)

Quebec deserves to be recognized as a nation: *HT* reader

Recently, Prime Minister Stephen Harper was engulfed in a squabble regarding the recognition of Quebec as a nation or not.

In my humble opinion, Quebec is a nation because it has a shared history, language, customs and identity common to 90 per cent of its inhabitants. Québécois society has evolved since the British takeover of Canada in 1759.

It would be a mistake not to recognize Quebec as such, given that Canada is a multicultural country; ethnic Italians born in this country celebrated en masse their ancestral homeland in Ontario cities and nobody protested against this act as being "anti-Canadian".

Muslims and Sikhs born in Canada sometimes see their religious or ethnic identity as thumping their "Canadian" one.

It would be hypocritical not to recognize Quebec as a nation. Newfoundland qualifies as well, accordingly. Unlike Ontario, these provinces are more ethnically homogeneous and have their own historical, cultural or regional identities, forged by hundreds of years of history. Besides, regional identity is not less important than an ethnic one, and in the case of Quebec and Newfoundland they more or less overlap.

All said, this it not to condone Quebec or any other province's right to secession. But I believe that by acknowledging the rights of a Newfie and a Québécois to celebrate his/her identity not less than ethnic Italian in Toronto. By bestowing the title of "nation" onto Quebec and Newfoundland, the federal government would enhance their sentiment of belonging to the Canadian nation.

If Métis or First Nations are eligible for the title "nations," without any hint of granting them "independence" or "the right to secede," then why not Québécois and Newfoundlanders?

Dan Slovak,
Winnipeg, Man.

NEWS

LPCO sold 48,289 new memberships in two months

Continued from Page 1

they could before the early July deadline.

These new members will elect delegates on the Sept. 29 super weekend, and the delegates will go to the Dec. 2 Montreal convention to elect a new party leader. The Liberal Party of Canada Ontario (LPCO) recently sent out preliminary lists of members to all the riding association presidents, who will report back to the party office with any necessary corrections. Based on that information, LPCO will come up with final lists of all members in the province.

According to the preliminary Ontario numbers, the federal riding of York West is leading Ontario, with 2,883 members, followed by the riding of Etobicoke-Lakeshore, with 2,429 members, and the riding of Etobicoke North, securing the third place with 2,233 members.

The seven other ridings to follow are Brampton-Springdale, Bramalea-Gore-Malton, Hamilton East-Stoney Creek, Markham-Unionville, Mississauga-Brampton South, Mississauga East-Cooksville and Mississauga Erindale, respectively. Based on the preliminary numbers, LPCO currently has a total membership of 82,038 and since May has signed up 48,289 new members.

Dave Pretlove, executive director of the LPCO, declined to be interviewed for this article, arguing that the lists sent to riding association presidents are only preliminary.

"I am not prepared to talk any official numbers but in generalities, the Scarboroughs, the Etobicokes, the Mississaugas, the Bramptons are the ridings that have the largest membership totals in particular after cut off. York West has a large one too. It has a large number of members, it always does. Judy Sgro [York West, Ont.], who is a member there, maintains a high membership base at any given time. That's usually a riding that has a high membership level," said Mr. Pretlove.

In an interview, Ernest Lustig, riding association president for the riding of York West, denied that the current Liberal leadership race has played any key role in the high numbers of members in his riding. He said that before the start of the leadership, membership in his riding was close to 2,500. That would mean that since May, the riding association has signed up close to 300 new members. Mr. Lustig added that on average, the riding membership ranges between 2,000 and 3,000 members annually.

"We work very hard in our riding association. We have a good community. The people are very receptive to joining our organization. It doesn't come easy. It's a lot of hard work, we do a lot of functions," said Mr. Lustig.

"We've only increased slightly over 300

[since May]. The reason being, the candidates who are running, they know our riding and they know that nobody can take over our riding the way they do in some of the other ridings where there are only 200 to 300 members. The numbers don't escalate that rapidly because of the obvious reason."

Mr. Lustig said that neither he nor Liberal MP Judy Sgro has declared their support for any of the leadership candidates. He said that they are currently in the process of talking to all the leadership candidates and scrutinizing their policies and positions on a variety of issues.

"As of right now, we're not supporting anybody. What we have been doing for the last number of weeks, we're interviewing most of the candidates, we haven't got to all of them. I want to know what their policies are."

Outside the riding of York West, some of the other ridings, like Etobicoke North—the third placed Liberal riding in the province—signed up more than 2,000 members since May, mainly because of the Liberal leadership race.

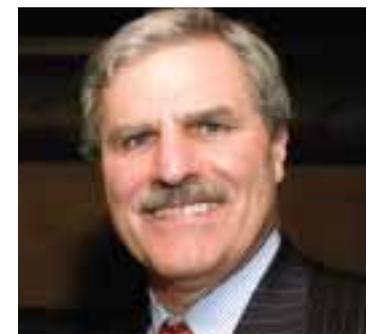
James Maloney, riding association president for the riding of Etobicoke-Lakeshore, in an interview said that the rise of membership in his riding is because of two factors—the Liberal leadership race and the popularity of Liberal MP Michael Ignatieff (Etobicoke-Lakeshore, Ont.) in the riding.

"All the leadership candidates are trying to sign up new members or at least they were up until July 4, no question, that's a factor. It's a factor in every riding, but in our riding, the vast majority of memberships were sold after Michael got elected. He [Mr. Ignatieff] generated a lot of interest and enthusiasm in the riding when in the election alone we had 400 volunteers," said Mr. Maloney.

In May, the riding association of Etobicoke-Lakeshore had 1,791 members, so until the membership cut off in early July, 638 new memberships were sold in the riding.

Top 10 Ontario Liberal riding associations based on membership

Riding Name	MP Name	Membership
1. York West	Judy Sgro	2,883
2. Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Michael Ignatieff	2,429
3. Etobicoke North	Roy Cullen	2,233
4. Brampton-Springdale	Ruby Dhalla	2,154
5. Bramalea-Gore-Malton	Gurbax Malhi	2,015
6. Hamilton East-Stoney Creek	Wayne Marston (NDP)	1,817
7. Markham-Unionville	John McCallum	1,790
8. Mississauga-Brampton South	Navdeep Bains	1,695
9. Mississauga East-Cooksville	Albina Guarnieri	1,687
10. Mississauga Erindale	Omar Alghabra	1,678



Photograph by Jake Wright, The Hill Times

The federal Ontario riding of York West, represented by Liberal MP Judy Sgro, is the largest riding in Ontario. Liberal MP Michael Ignatieff's riding is the second largest riding and Liberal MP Roy Cullen's riding is the third largest.

Liberal MP Roy Cullen (Etobicoke North, Ont.), who is supporting Liberal MP Maurizio Bevilacqua (Vaughan, Ont.) in the Liberal leadership race, in an interview said that the recent rise in memberships is mainly because of the Liberal leadership race. Prior to the start of the leadership race, the riding association, he said, had close to 200 members.

"It's a lot higher than it was a while ago. Part of it relates to a big drive that we had for electing delegates for Maurizio Bevilacqua" expressed Liberal MP Judy Sgro.

Currently, all the Liberal leadership candidates are travelling across the country to

lobby the Liberal Party members and to convince them to vote for their respective slate of candidates. In addition to that, they are also trying to raise as much money as possible. The ceiling to spend money in the leadership race is \$3.4-million, but it seems unlikely that any candidate will be able to raise money close to that figure.

Arana@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

The 11 Liberal leadership candidates and their funds raised by the end-of-June deadline

Bob Rae	\$384,795
Mr. Ignatieff	\$293,896
Joe Volpe	\$210,170
Gerard Kennedy	\$103,778
Scott Brison	\$100,674
Carolyn Bennett	\$65,100
Ken Dryden	\$43,617
Maurizio Bevilacqua	\$26,650
Stéphane Dion	\$32,250
Hedy Fry	\$15,150
Martha Hall Findlay	\$34,645

Source: Elections Canada



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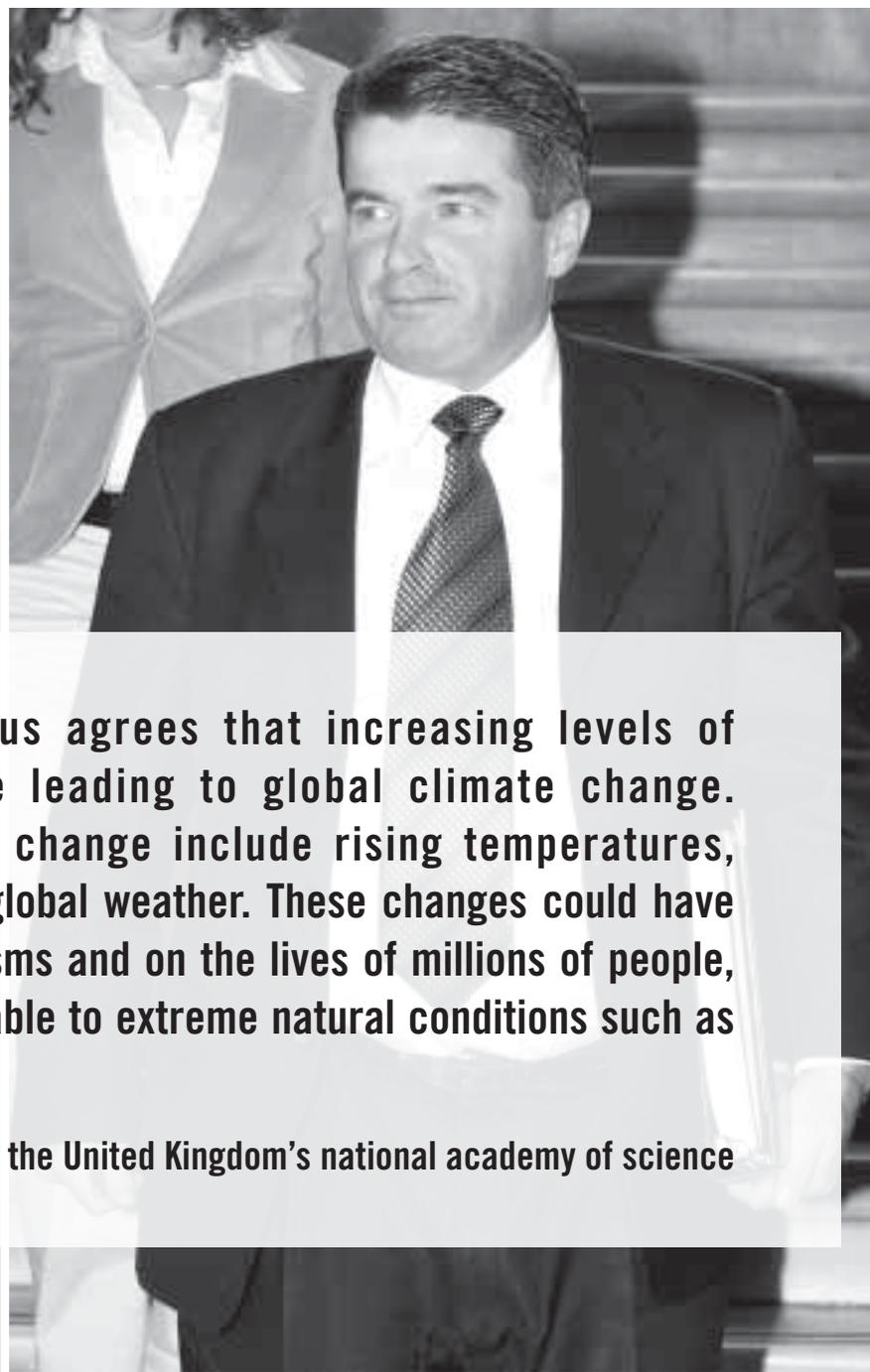
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Climate Change



“International scientific consensus agrees that increasing levels of man-made greenhouse gases are leading to global climate change. Possible consequences of climate change include rising temperatures, changing sea levels, and impacts on global weather. These changes could have serious impacts on the world’s organisms and on the lives of millions of people, especially those living in areas vulnerable to extreme natural conditions such as flooding and drought.”

—the Royal Society, the United Kingdom’s national academy of science

In *The Hill Times*’ annual policy briefing on climate change, find out what a range of MPs and experts think of the issue, and what the Conservative government, including Environment Minister Rona Ambrose and Natural Resources Minister Gary Lunn, may bring forward in its fall climate change plan.

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This week on pages 13 to 29

POLICY BRIEFING - CLIMATE CHANGE

■ Many in the environmental lobby expect the Conservative government to subsidize clean coal technologies and carbon storage underground, lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

By SIMON DOYLE

The Conservative government has come under intense pressure to come up with a publicly credible climate change program, and within the environmental lobby a widespread expectation has emerged that the government intends to subsidize clean coal technology and carbon storage to reduce toxic and greenhouse gas emissions.

Bob Page, chair of Biocap Canada, an energy conservation research foundation, and who has met regularly with government officials to discuss its climate change file, said the government is coming under significant pressure to develop program that will make up for the perception that it intends to pull out of the Kyoto Protocol.

"I think that's happening from what I can see with a number of the folks at Natural Resources Canada, Agriculture and Environment Canada. That's where they seem to be heading right now," Mr. Page said. "They're going to have to face it in the election next year. I think they want a credible program that will help them get votes and not become a political controversy."

The Conservatives have signaled their intent to pull out of the second phase of Kyoto, beyond 2012, and sources say that the government is now looking to adopt an American approach to climate change, including a pull-out of the Kyoto Protocol and subsidies to energy companies to buy the technology necessary to clean up their emissions.

The technologies would include coal gasification to create hydrogen, emissions "scrubbing" to remove harmful toxics, and the sequestration of carbon emissions underground. The technology is experimental, however, so the government is most likely to start by funding a number of pilot projects.

Sources close to the government's policy development told *The Hill Times* that the government intends to set up greenhouse gas (GHG) registries for major emitters to report the output of GHGs, but it's not clear whether that would come with regulatory or voluntary limits on emissions.

Large oil and gas companies, in addition to coal-fired electrical plants, are already looking at carbon capture and storage—a process in which the gasses are pumped underground to prevent them from entering the atmosphere—to reduce or eliminate GHG emissions. The Alberta oil sands account for about one-fifth of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions.

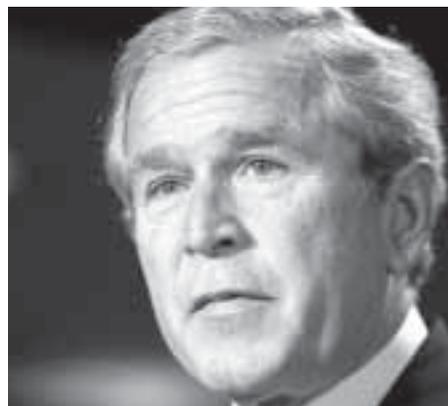
Coal gasification is another process that breaks down coal into its basic chemical components, allowing for the harvest of hydrogen. The Canadian Clean Power Coalition in Alberta, which represents major coal-power generation companies, including ATCO Power, EPCOR, and SaskPower, is planning to develop two test projects to demonstrate that coal-fired power can be produced with "essentially no emissions," but says one test site will cost about \$1 billion.

Coal is one of Canada's largest natural resources, and while most of Canada's electrical power comes from hydro, about 20 per cent is generated from coal plants.

In 2000, U.S. President George W. Bush promised to invest \$2 billion over 20 years in clean-coal technologies. Mr. Bush's "FutureGen Initiative" promises to build the world's first virtually emission-free coal power plant by 2012. The FutureGen plant will use technologies to gasify coal, generate hydrogen, and capture and store carbon dioxide underground.

Mr. Page, who is also vice-president of sustainable development at TransAlta, a multinational power plant corporation, said he believes the Natural Resources and Environment departments are now

Tories under pressure to release a credible climate change program



Photographs by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times* and courtesy of John Bennet

An American approach to climate change? Prime Minister Stephen Harper, left, and U.S. President George W. Bush, top right, may have some things in common on the climate change front. Mr. Bush has invested billions in clean coal technologies, but John Bennet of the Sierra Club, bottom right, says such an approach is inefficient.

considering whether to introduce limits on emissions through an act of Parliament or through the regulatory powers under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act.

Mr. Page suggested that the government may choose a regulatory approach to limiting emissions to avoid discussion of the controversial issue in the House. The other alternative is to introduce GHG limits through a bill, such as in the Tories' promised Clean Air Act. The act is to be introduced in the fall as part of the government's "made-in-Canada" climate change plan, which is expected to place restrictions on toxic emissions and smog pollutants.

"I think it is going to be a real shift when it's finished here. I think the Conservatives, when they started off, weren't even sure whether it was going to be a voluntary system or a regulated system, and now they're in the dilemma of trying to decide whether it's under the new Clean Air Act or whether it will be a stand alone [set of regulations], possibly under CEPA," Mr. Page said. "If they choose to put the new greenhouse gas, Kyoto regs under CEPA, then they can just do it by regulations, so they wouldn't have to go to the House."

Although the climate change portfolio is shared between Environment Minister Rona Ambrose (Edmonton-Spruce Grove, Alta.) and Natural Resources Minister Gary Lunn (Saanich-Gulf Islands, B.C.), Minister Ambrose has been the public face of the file and has felt the bulk of the criticism and media attention.

The opposition parties have roundly

criticized Ms. Ambrose for what they say is an apparent failure to understand the science of climate change and for not taking a leadership role on global warming. The opposition has also found fault with Ms. Ambrose for sticking to media lines and avoiding situations that could pull her off-script, such as media interviews or appearances before Parliamentary committees.

Both ministers Lunn and Ambrose declined to be interviewed or write columns for *The Hill Times* policy briefing on climate change. *The Hill Times* attempted to ask some questions about the government's "made-in-Canada" climate change plan, which promises to be released in the fall, by contacting the communications office at the Department of Natural Resources.

However, questions were referred to the office of Mr. Lunn, and Emma Welford, director of communications to Mr. Lunn, left a phone message with *The Hill Times*, saying that the government will comment on the plan after it is released.

The plan is so secret that it has left environmentalists wondering how committed the government is to reducing GHGs—an issue that is separate, but related to improving air quality. Prime Minister Stephen Harper (Calgary Southwest, Alta.) and his responsible ministers have talked far more about reducing levels of smog pollutants and toxics in the air than they have about reducing GHG emissions.

One source close to the government's environmental policy told *The Hill Times* in an email that the government's environ-

mental plan will pay a significant amount of attention to "bio-fuels, cellulose ethanol, etc. and not necessarily a strict focus on greenhouse gas reduction. (sounds to me like this is a lot like the U.S. approach—no Kyoto, but tangible changes in the way we consume and manage our resources)."

The source added that the replacement of former Environment deputy minister Sammy Watson by Michael Horgan in May was a strategic move to help speed up the government's policy development. Mr. Watson was more "green" and "very much pro-Kyoto," the source wrote.

Mr. Horgan, on the other hand, is "known for cutting the fat and getting things done in a timely manner.... Bottom line, the mechanics and support is now in place so Ambrose doesn't fall on her face anymore than she already has."

However, environmentalists point out that the Conservative's 2006 campaign platform and the government's Speech from the Throne in April promised "tangible" reductions in both "pollution and greenhouse gas emissions."

And in an interview for the August issue of *Reader's Digest*, Mr. Harper said the government is "in favour of reducing greenhouse gases. In terms of Kyoto, what all Canadians want is environmental programs—whether it's on pollution, greenhouse gases, whatever the issue—and people say they're in favour of Kyoto, but they don't really know what Kyoto is exactly."

The Globe and Mail has reported that the Conservative government has readied a \$3-billion environmental plan, Green Plan II, to take to Cabinet next month, likely to the Economic Affairs Cabinet Committee. The Conservatives have about \$2 billion to put toward climate change, which the Liberals had budgeted for Kyoto. Observers say the government's tax credit for transit users, announced in the 2006 Budget and which is expected to cost \$400 million per year, will come out of that \$2 billion.

John Bennet, director of the Climate Action Network and a senior policy advisor for the Sierra Club, said subsidies for the oil and gas industry and clean coal technology to clean up their emissions would not be at all surprising from the Conservative government.

"They'll be encouraging carbon storage. They'll be encouraging research into gasification, or what they call 'clean-coal technology.' Maybe there will be a few demonstration plants," Mr. Bennet said in an interview.

"This would be the idiot's guide to the wrong way to reducing emissions. The most economically viable thing to do would be to reduce the amount of energy used and there has to be a significant investment in reducing the demand for energy, both fossil fuels and electricity. The returns on the dollar are far greater and far swifter than technologies."

Mr. Bennet said subsidizing carbon sequestration or coal gasification is very expensive and hides the true costs of power because the subsidies are passed onto the taxpayer. Carbon storage can also be inefficient, he said, because a lot of energy can be expended to compress and store the carbon underground, a process that itself emits GHGs.

"It's a very expensive approach. They're looking at the taxpayer to pay the cost of that, and the benefits accrue to the shareholders of the oil industry in Alberta and to the power plants," Mr. Bennet said.

Subsidizing emissions scrubbers, which remove toxic pollutants from emissions, would alone cost roughly \$250 million per plant, he said. "That quarter of a million dollars could be spent reducing the demand for electricity. That would eliminate the emissions completely and that would eliminate greenhouse gas emissions as well," Mr. Bennet said.

The government should instead look at making houses and businesses more energy efficient through lighting and other forms of energy consumption, he said. "It's better to replace the need for the plants."

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The Hill Times

POLICY BRIEFING - CLIMATE CHANGE



Climate change the foremost environmental concern on the minds of many Canadians: Tory Sen. Ethel Cochrane

■ *Conservative government has taken a number of important steps to address climate change, but an 'overarching vision' is needed as well as political will.*

By CONSERVATIVE SENATOR
ETHEL COCHRANE

Since the Rio Summit in 1992, climate change has been the most talked about environmental concern in the country and foremost in the minds of many Canadians. At that time, Canada and 186 other countries signed the United Nations-Framework Convention on Climate Change and, in doing so, committed to the long-term goal of stabilizing greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere.

Yet, despite the flood of tax payers' dollars that have been committed to climate change programs, results have been underwhelming. In fact, last May, the release of the findings of Canada's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (1990-2004) show that overall emissions have increased steadily since 1990, except for declines in both 1991 and 2001.

Consider, for instance, that in 2004, the last year for which data is available, our country's greenhouse gas emissions were 758 megatonnes—almost 27 per cent more than emissions in 1990. This figure places Canada's greenhouse gas emissions 34.6 per cent above our Kyoto target of 563 megatonnes. It's also interesting to note that while Canada's percentage change since 1990 (32.2 per cent) outpaces the increase of many other Kyoto signatories, it also exceeds that of two prominent countries that did not ratify the Kyoto Protocol: Australia (22.7 per cent) and the USA (13.3 per cent).

Unfortunately, while various ministers have had good intentions in recent years, consecutive federal governments' climate change initiatives tended to favour voluntary measures and the results yielded were simply inadequate. However, I am hopeful that we have now entered a new era in federal environmental policy.

In its short time in power, the new government has already taken decisive action

and introduced strong new measures to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The May 2006 budget speech, for example, announced that the federal government will provide up to \$1.3 billion to support public transit capital investments. In presenting his first federal budget, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said, "Canadians in cities are concerned about traffic congestion and the harmful emissions that come with it. This government appreciates the fact that investing in public transit infrastructure can help preserve our environment."

The budget also announced that, as of July 1, people buying transit passes would receive a 15.5 per cent tax credit for the cost of transit passes. For a person who buys an \$80 pass each month, this translates into savings of up to \$150 in taxes over the year.

The potential greenhouse gas reductions of these measures are significant. According to figures from the Canadian Urban Transport Association, there were almost 1.6 billion urban transit rides in 2004. Given that there is an average emission of 2.8 kilograms per 10 km trip, urban transit users cut about 4.5 megatonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

However, the federal government's efforts to foster a cleaner Canada reach beyond the world of urban transit users. Indeed, the government is committed to increasing the average renewable fuel content in gasoline and diesel fuels to 5 per cent by 2010. By increasing the biofuel ratio in this way, Canada would achieve emission reductions of 3 megatonnes. That would be the equivalent of taking 1.4 million cars off our roads by 2010.

These are just some of the initial steps that the new government has taken in an effort to achieve real results on climate change. As indicated in the budget, \$2 billion has been committed over the next five years to a Made-in-Canada climate change program, which the Minister of the Environment, Rona Ambrose, is presently developing. This solutions-oriented approach, to be released in the fall, will further spell out government's strategy and commitment to clean up Canada's air, water and land.

In the last Parliament, the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources tabled its interim



Keeners: Prime Minister Stephen Harper, left, and Finance Minister Jim Flaherty give the thumbs up on budget day in May. Budget 2006 announced a 15.5 per cent tax credit for the cost of transit passes.

Photograph by Jake Wright, The Hill Times

report on climate change, entitled *The One-Tonne Challenge: Let's Get On With It!* The report reflected the committee's belief that "Canada urgently needs 'an overarching vision' to align the fiscal and regulatory policies of all levels of government to address the climate change challenge."

Numerous recommendations from the report reflected a belief for a broad vision and are worth repeating. On the issue of transportation, the committee recommended that the Government of Canada provide buyers of new, energy-efficient vehicles (including hybrid vehicles) with graduated rebates of up to \$2,000. The committee suggested that this measure be made revenue-neutral for the government by requiring buyers of fuel-inefficient vehicles to pay a point-of-purchase surcharge. Another of the committee's key recommendations was that the Government of Canada introduce, by 2010, motor vehicle fuel consumption standards that are 25 per cent more rigorous than now.

While I highly commend the federal government's transit pass tax-break, the committee had another suggestion which would also promote energy-efficiency through the use of public transit; that is, that employers who provide workers with transit passes receive the same favourable tax treatment now granted to employers who provide staff with company cars or light trucks.

As a brief look at the transportation component of climate change reveals, there are many ways in which the Government of Canada, together with Canadians, can make great progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. But success will only be realized if public interest and political will are met with decisive action and a long-term plan to address the issues.

Conservative Sen. Ethel Cochrane represents Newfoundland and Labrador and is a member of the Senate Standing Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources.

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Political Streeter on Climate Change

"What is the biggest environmental problem or concern in your riding?"



Conservative MP Harold Albrecht
Kitchener-Conestoga, Ont.

"Air pollution and smog. Especially the number of smog days we've had. We have more industry and more people driving cars than before. If we're going to encourage people to take public transit we have to increase infrastructure."



Conservative MP Michael Allen
Tobique-Mactaquac, N.B.

"I would say sustainable forestry practices and water quality. It is hard to separate the two. Water quality and erosion attributable to land use for agriculture. There's a lot of efforts going on in terms of sustainable forestry practices like replanting and trying to make sure companies aren't cutting down to the buffer zones of streams."



Conservative MP Ronald Cannan
Kelowna-Lake Country, B.C.

"Sustainability. We have one of the fastest growing regions in Canada and it's been a real challenge to manage our growth in a way that we are preserving our environment. We need to maintain that beauty."



Conservative MP Dean Del Mastro
Peterborough, Ont.

"We had worse air quality on a lot of days last year than the city of Toronto. That's because we're directly downwind from their exhaust. That is probably the principal concern. We've got to cut back on those types of pollutants."



Conservative MP Richard Dykstra
St. Catharines, Ont.

"The province recently began a mid-peninsula highway. They want to build a second highway for municipalities in the region. It would open up the region for more business development. But we have to assess the impacts that it might have on agriculture."



Conservative MP Ed Fast
Abbotsford, B.C.

"One is making sure that the Fraser River isn't polluted with sewage. Secondly, there is Judson Lake, a favourite nesting and feeding ground for hundreds and hundreds of Trumpeter Swans. They have been dying off at a frightening rate due to lead poisoning. The lead poisoning comes from lead shot that has been used by hunters in the past. A solution is an eventual banning of lead shot, period."



Conservative MP Steven Fletcher
Charleswood-St-James,
Assiniboia, Man.

"People are concerned about the environment, in general, on climate change. The winters haven't been as cold as I remember when I was a kid. People are looking for ways that Canada can contribute to environment issues on an international scale but they also realize the Kyoto Protocol is not working. There's a lot of opportunity, and hopefully Canadian-made technology can be utilized."



Conservative MP Peter Goldring
Edmonton East, Alta.

"Pesky mosquitoes, lawn-mower noise pollution and barbecue smoke. The reality of it is that Edmonton is a refinery city. We don't have a big industry here. Sewage is properly treated. There are, overall, fewer problems. We can always have cleaner air though."



Conservative MP Gerald Keddy
St. Margaret's, N.S.

"There's too much garbage. In order to work toward a solution to this problem we all need to recycle, reuse, and have less packaging."



Conservative MP Dave MacKenzie
Oxford, Ont.

"Household waste and industrial waste. We must enhance recycling. But plastic waste doesn't break down. We're trying to find other uses for it."

—Compiled by Jenny Song

POLICY BRIEFING - CLIMATE CHANGE

'Our climate is changing very rapidly and we better start treating it like a crisis': Layton

By BEA VONGDOUANGCHANH

NDP Leader Jack Layton doesn't own a car, rides his bicycle to work on the Hill and recently installed photovoltaic solar panels in his 115-year-old home to go along with his solar-powered hot water heater, which cuts his \$5,000 per year electric bill by 60 per cent.

He also believes that climate change is "the most serious global human security issue that we face at the moment," which is why he headed to the Northwest Territories recently with his wife, NDP MP Olivia Chow (Trinity-Spadina, Ont.) and NDP Dennis Bevington (Western-Arctic, N.W.T.).

"We have a narrow goal, which is to dramatically expand the size of the world heritage site around the Nahanni River and the Nahanni Wilderness Park to protect it from development," he said, adding that he white-water canoed the area and made daily podcasts about his experiences.

"The broader goal is to show that our climate is changing very rapidly and we better start treating it like a crisis. Otherwise, every year that passes without action makes it dramatically more difficult to fix or to slow down."

Mr. Layton told The Hill Times in a phone interview, from his Toronto home, that there's no way to stop climate change, and the only thing people can do is slow it down. "We won't be able to prevent climate change from having devastating impacts," he said. "The question is can we reduce some of the worst and can we treat this as if we had a tsunami coming at us but we had a bit of time, a bit of early warning."

Mr. Layton said Canada needs to start leading the way on alternative and renewable energies and take advantage of new technologies rather than submit to the will of big oil and energy companies. "We have many good thinkers and interesting projects here in Canada, especially through the municipalities and advanced technical companies but what we don't do in this country is to take advantage of these innovations and make them common practice across the country, and that's not smart," he said.

Mr. Layton criticized the current Conservative government for backing away from Canada's Kyoto Protocol commitments and called again for Environment Minister Rona Ambrose's (Edmonton-Spruce Grove, Alta.) resignation because, as Mr. Layton said, she's been "missing in action" on the environment file.

Despite what the Conservatives say about not being able to meet Kyoto targets on climate change, Mr. Layton said, the NDP has outlined its own plan, the five-Point Green Agenda for Canada, and is urging the government to adopt it. "It's the only plan we're aware of that has enough steps in it so that we can actually achieve our Kyoto targets despite how far behind we are," he said, adding that it would be a "grave error" to abandon Kyoto altogether.

The following is an edited transcript of Mr. Layton's interview with The Hill Times.

What do you think is the most important climate change issue right now?

"I would say, in the Canadian context, it would be the lack of a strategy around energy in this country. We've advocated, and I've long advocated, a comprehensive energy strategy for Canada that starts with reducing the amount of energy we use—that's always the first step—then shifting energy we use to renewable energy, and then finally taking whatever combustion we have to do and make it as efficient as possible so that we waste as little as possible. If we were to do all of these things with a combination of regulation and policies, we could achieve our Kyoto targets and go much further."

Former U.S. vice-president Al Gore says there's a planetary emergency and a climate change crisis that we need to deal with now. Do you agree? How serious is climate change?

"It's the most serious global human security issue that we face at the moment. It's not just a security issue for humans, and civilizations, it's also a crisis for all living things and eco-systems. ... I just spent some time in British Columbia in the pine forest which the pine beetle is in the process of killing entirely. ... That beetle is no longer constrained because it's not cold enough to kill it off. ... Our climate is changing very rapidly and we better start treating it like a crisis, otherwise, every year that passes without action makes it dramatically more difficult ... to slow things down sufficiently so that the ecosystems of the world and human ingenuity will have time to reduce some of the worst impacts. ...

"I've been teaching this subject area for many, many years in the university system [and] I've carried around some of the similar PowerPoint slides that Al Gore used for ages and I used to bore or exhort and ultimately bore my colleagues in municipal government when I was president of FCM by showing them these slide shows. I'm so thankful that Al Gore has produced a dramatically better, more effective and up to date, technologically much more interesting, slide show that many millions of people are seeing. I think this is a very good thing. ... I was disappointed that the electoral system in the U.S. denied the person with the most votes, Al Gore, the presidency of the United States. I think we'd be six years ahead on the climate change issue and it would've been more difficult for Stephen Harper to hang his hat on the idea that some of the countries are not taking aggressive action."

French President Jacques Chirac told the G8 recently that "Humanity is dancing on a volcano" when it comes to climate change and that all Kyoto Protocol signatories must work to achieve their commitments. Some people are saying that he's taking aim at Canada for withdrawing from our commitments. How important is that?

"The metaphor is quite powerful, except the difference between a volcano and climate change is that with a volcano, we can escape it and remain somewhere on the planet whereas with climate change, you cannot escape it. It will have impacts everywhere."

But how important is the Kyoto Protocol? The Conservative government says we can't reach the targets and they're going to find their own way of doing it.

"Well, they should've come to government with their own way available. They said they had a plan, they got elected and it turned out they weren't telling the truth. ... I think Kyoto is vitally important because it puts a price tag on pollution. It makes polluters pay and the money goes to the people with solutions. It encourages solutions, energy efficiency, renewable energy, carbon sequestration and it punishes the inefficient, most polluting activities. ... By indicating that we're not going to achieve or respect our Kyoto targets, we are denying our most efficient businesses and activities at the community level from the funds that would flow from the big polluters if we were respecting Kyoto. This is a grave error."

How will the NDP's 5-Point Green Agenda for Canada help reduce climate change?

"It's the only plan we're aware of that has enough steps in it so that we can actually achieve our Kyoto targets despite how far behind we are ...

"There should be a green car strategy for Canada. ... If you want to go out and get a nice Canadian-made hybrid by unionized workers, you still can't buy one, and that's nuts because people want to buy cars that pollute less. We should make sure they're available to them without costing Canadian jobs. ...

"We propose a large renovation program for Canadian homes where the government would assist Canadians to save on their energy bills by renovating their homes, with a special focus on low-income homes to begin with. ...

"We wanted to create a large revolving fund initiative similar to the FCM green fund. They're a model of a best practice. The AG saluted them for how well they're run, they produce innovation all over the country, but they need more investment and we need more funds to go beyond municipalities into homes and communities and businesses to help people use less energy."

"Then there was green communities [and] investments in district energy systems where you have an essential heating or cooling source and you connect the buildings in a relatively dense area with insulated pipes ... and you get much more efficiency."

"Green industry—we've got to tell big polluters that they still can't pollute at that level. We've got to put caps on them and start to make the polluters pay because otherwise people all around the world are going to pay and most often the poorest people will pay the most, will suffer the most, I should say."

"And then there's the international component where Canada would play a role globally to help countries that are struggling to develop or to make available energy to their citizens to do it in a way that pollutes a lot less than we did."

The NDP recently called for Environment Minister Rona Ambrose to resign. Why? Do you still feel that way?

"She's been missing in action and has supervised the withdrawal of Canada from the most important global initiative to address the biggest environmental crisis on the planet. ... She and the Natural Resources Minister [Gary Lunn (Saanic-Gulf Islands, B.C.)] have supervised the dramatic reduction in investment in programs that were attempting to deal with this issue. ... She's refused to go to the standing committee on the environment in the House of Commons. These are the elected representatives of the people of Canada who want to talk about the environment and she won't go talk about it with them. That's wrong."

Continued on Page 25

POLICY BRIEFING - CLIMATE CHANGE

Tories considering a tax rebate for popular hybrid cars: environmental lobbyist Sadik

By JENNY SONG

The Conservative government seems to be preparing the way to offer a tax rebate for purchasers of hybrid cars, Pierre Sadik, a senior policy advisor at the David Suzuki Foundation, told *The Hill Times*.

An official from the Department of Finance said the department "won't speculate" about future budget decisions, but Mr. Sadik said that informal meetings with government officials suggest there may soon be a subsidy for buyers of fuel-efficient and hybrid cars.

"Some provinces are doing that already. It looks like the feds may decide to get in on that game as well, adding to the provincial subsidies for hybrid cars," Mr. Sadik said.

Hybrid car buyers can receive up to a \$2,000 tax rebate on their fuel-efficient auto purchases in British Columbia, up

to \$1,000 in Ontario and up to \$3,000 in Prince Edward Island.

Mr. Sadik speculated that the federal government would lean toward a similar rebate, between \$2,000 and \$3,000 dollars per car.

Hybrid cars combine power from fuel and a rechargeable battery, making them about twice as fuel-efficient as many sedans.

Honda introduced Insight, the first hybrid car in Canada, in 1999. Toyota soon followed with the Prius. Chevrolet and Ford both came out with hybrids, the Silverado and the Escape, respectively, in 2005. Since then most other companies have either introduced hybrid cars or are planning to do so.

Dennis DesRosiers, auto industry analyst and president of DesRosiers Automotive Consultants, Inc., says demand for hybrids is increasing but hasn't reached its full potential.

"The demand is exploding," he said. "There

is a lot of confusion in terms of what hybrid vehicles do for the consumer. People generally view hybrids as purely a fuel-saving issue. But they have fairly significant performance advantages as well. Two engines are better than one."

In the Toyota Highlander Hybrid, he said, consumers mostly get better performance value, not significantly higher fuel efficiency, a fact buyers don't often take into consideration. But once they do, the market will grow even more, Mr. DesRosiers said.

The Toyota Prius is currently Canada's best-selling hybrid car, with 6,146 sold in the country in total since it was introduced. Toyota sold 1,136 Prius cars in the first six months of 2006, about 30 per cent more than in the first six months of last year. Honda has similarly sold 1,150 hybrids in the first seven months of 2006, compared to 927 in all of 2005.

But Mr. Sadik said a tax rebate for hybrid cars is not going to work unless the government introduces a disincentive on the purchase of traditional cars, to encourage people to make the switch to hybrids.

"If you just give money to people who are buying hybrids, 80 per cent of that money goes to people who are going to buy a hybrid anyway," he said. "It's a huge waste of taxpayer dollars."

Mr. Sadik added, "What you can do is put a little extra charge on gas guzzlers, and then it costs the government nothing to hand over that money to people who are buying efficient cars... It's called a fee-bate. The people who are buying the gas guzzlers pay the fee, and the rebate goes to the people who buy efficient cars."

—with files from Simon Doyle
News@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times



Photograph courtesy of Pierre Sadik

Tax rebate: Pierre Sadik, above, says the Conservatives are considering to offer a rebate to Hybrid car buyers.



HOW CAN INDUSTRY BEST

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Over the past decade, Canada's forest products industry has invested over \$8 billion in facility upgrades and innovative processes in a continued effort to improve its environmental performance and limit its impact on climate change. In so doing, the industry has reduced its fossil-fuel dependence to the point where nearly 60% of the pulp and paper sector's energy needs are self-generated from renewable sources. From an environmental perspective, these efforts have had tangible results: a 46% improvement in greenhouse gas emissions intensity, a 30% reduction in landfill waste, and a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. These environmental improvements also bring distinct economic benefits, as the industry has increased its production by 28%.

There remains enormous potential for the industry to go even further. In fact, with the right kind of policy incentives, such as accelerated capital write-offs, a number of emerging technologies could allow us to become a net source of green power in the future while further improving our productivity and cost-competitiveness.

To learn more, visit fpac.ca.

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Selected climate change readings from the collections of the Library of Parliament

The weather makers: How we are changing the climate and what it means for life on earth, by Tim Flannery, HarperCollins Canada, 2006.

The winds of change: Climate, weather, and the destruction of civilizations, by Eugene Linden, Simon & Schuster, 2006.

From hot air to action? Climate change, compliance and the future of international environmental law, by Meinhard Dolle, Thomson Carswell, 2005.

Primer on climate change and sustainable development: Facts, policy analysis and applications, by Mohan Munasinghe and Rob Swart, Cambridge University Press, 2005.

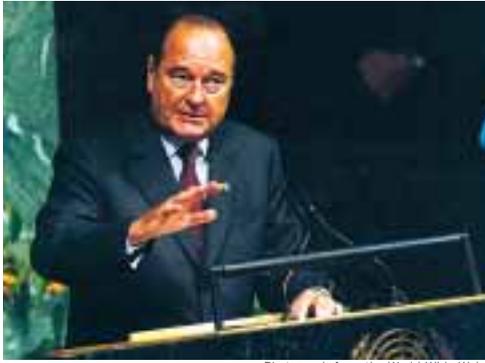
Plows, plagues, and petroleum: How humans took control of climate, by William H. Ruddiman, Princeton University Press, 2005.

Climate change: A natural hazard, by William Kininmonth, Multi-Science Pub. Co., 2004.

Une introduction au changement climatique: Une perspective canadienne, by Henry Hengeveld, Bob Whitewood, and Angus Fergusson, Environnement Canada, 2005.

Économie et politique des changements climatiques, by Sylvie Fauchoux and Haitham Jouni, Découverte, 2005.

CLIMATE CHANGE



Photograph from the World Wide Web
French President Chirac sounds 'alarm bells'

'Humanity is sitting on a powder keg': Chirac

By FRENCH PRESIDENT JACQUES CHIRAC

The following is French President Jacques Chirac's statement on climate change he delivered at the G8 Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia on July 16.

We cannot discuss energy security without talking about climate change. Humanity is sitting on a powder keg.

The forecasts speak volumes: at the current rate, global energy consumption will rise 50 per cent between now and 2030; coal, oil and gas will account for 80 per cent of this increase.

The scientists are unanimous: global warming is accelerating and is on the brink of a point of no return.

Alarm bells are sounding all over our planet: the 2003 heat wave in Europe with its tens of thousands of deaths; the increase in the frequency and ferocity of the hurricanes in the North Atlantic; the fast-melting ice caps, which are already seriously disrupting the ecosystems and lives of the populations in the Arctic; the increase in the number of sudden floods and droughts in Africa, India and China; and rising sea levels, which are starting to endanger the Pacific islands and will affect our coasts tomorrow, as in Florida and Louisiana.

These phenomena are harbingers of greater disasters to come, which will create millions of climate refugees.

It is our duty to take action, for the sake of our fellow citizens, humanity and the future generations who risk paying dearly for the wait-and-see attitude of a few.

Action in the form of seriously reducing waste. All of our countries need to set energy efficiency goals by the end of the year.

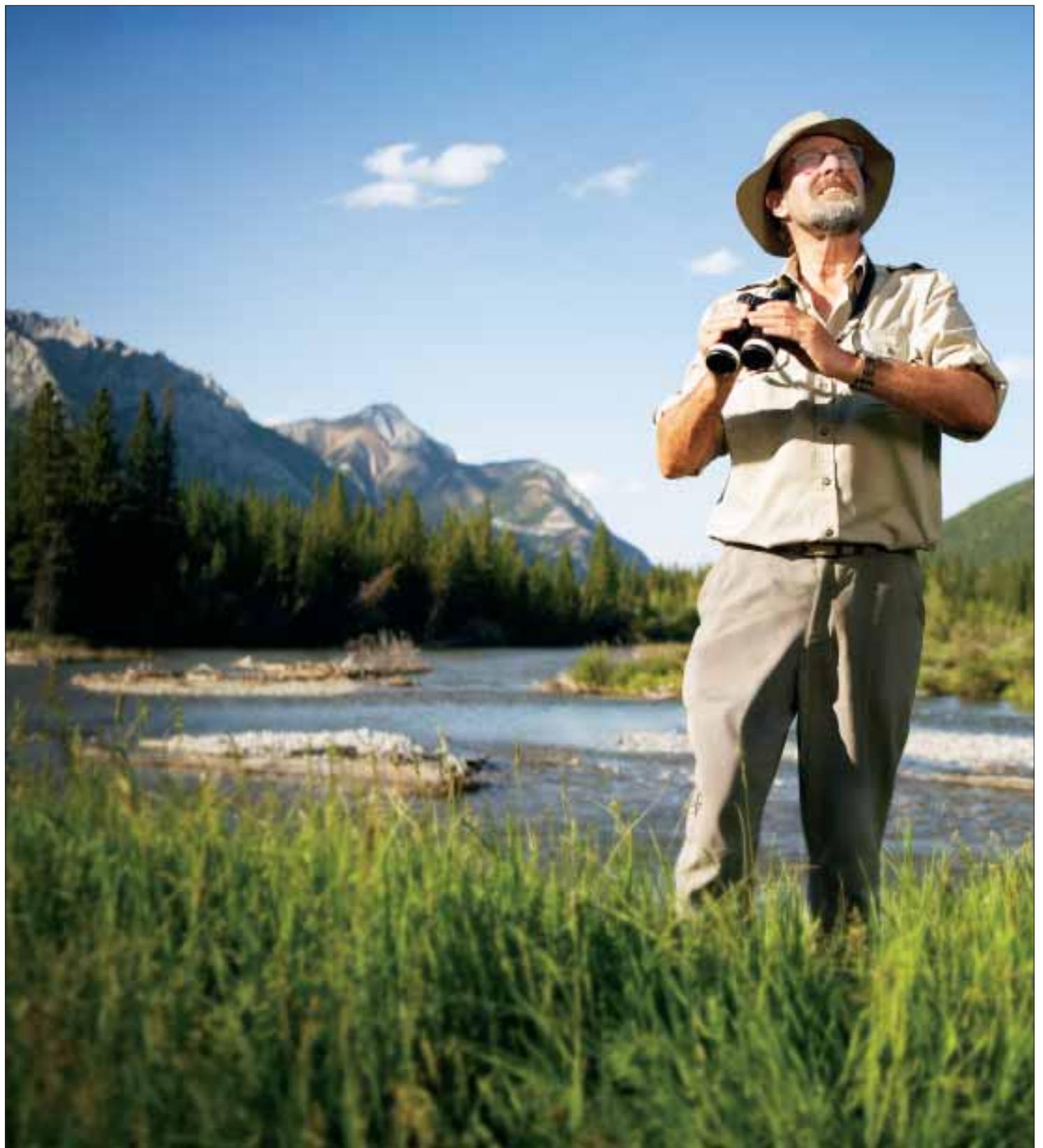
Action to prepare for the post-oil era, with massive investment in renewable and alternative energies, including clean and safe nuclear energy, and in research on clean technologies such as CO2 capture.

Action in terms of helping the developing countries to create an ecologically responsible growth model underpinned by an ambitious technology transfer policy.

We will not solve this problem simply by means of voluntary or sector-based initiatives. This global challenge calls for a global response.

Kyoto is just the first step. I regret that the United States is not part of this initiative. However, all the other countries must respect their commitments. If we do not have the courage to meet these first, modest goals, how can we hope to rise to the much greater challenge ahead of us?

This challenge calls for constructive discussions on a post-2012 international climate change policy. Our aim should be an ambitious agreement that commits all of us, along with the emerging countries, to targets capable of heading off the threat that hangs over humanity's head.



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PETER SHERRINGTON, ROCKY MOUNTAIN EAGLE RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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POLICY BRIEFING - CLIMATE CHANGE



Climate change can be solved, but we need a 'plan to move the car in reverse'

By LIBERAL MP ROY CULLEN

Canada's climate change problem can be solved. To do so, we must first realize that climate change and the ways we develop, produce and use energy are inextricably linked, because they all relate to carbon dioxide—the waste product of fossil fuels—and have an impact on our atmosphere.

Climate change is real, so it is absolutely essential for Canada to aggressively deal with the issue of greenhouse gases on all levels. The federal government must take responsibility for Canada's growing environmental dilemma by expediting the development and implementation of an environmentally sound energy strategy.

Canada must balance the demands of a booming energy sector with the need to protect and ensure the sustainability of our natural resources and the environment.

Our Liberal government allocated \$10 billion to global warming programs through Project Green. Initial investments were made in a wide variety of measures. While critics have pointed out, accurately, that Canada's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions rose 26.5 per cent between 1990 and 2004, the other important fact to note is that only 4.4 per cent of that rise occurred between 2000 and 2004—a period during which economic growth exceeded 9.6 per cent. The Liberal plan effectively slammed the brakes on runaway GHG emissions.

Now we need a plan to move the car in reverse. A strong collaborative effort from large emitters, major industries, private residences, and public and personal transportation will be necessary to collectively reduce Canada's GHG emissions. Incentives to various sectors, such as our Liberal government's EnerGuide for Houses Retrofit Incentive program, which was cut by the Conservative government despite its popularity and suc-

cess, are one important way forward.

Any commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions must also be accompanied by a realistic evaluation of the options available to make change possible. One area of major concern is the increase in oil sands development in Alberta, which is predicted to triple by 2020. Currently, oil sands production is responsible for about three per cent of Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions, but it could account for up to 30 per cent of our GHGs as development increases.

Oil sands production is also having a dramatic negative impact on the surrounding environment and communities. Fort McMurray, for example, is facing a major crisis as it struggles to keep up with the demands of increased development. The residents of that community are facing rampant inflation, over-crowding and many related social problems.

As well, the current common method of bitumen extraction from the oil sands, known as steam-assisted gravity drainage, involves an inefficient use of fresh water from the Athabasca River. Up to five barrels of fresh water are needed to produce one barrel of bitumen.

Only about 10 per cent of the water taken from the Athabasca is recycled back into the river. The remaining contaminated water is put into tailings, a mixture of bitumen, sand, water, silt, and clay particles, which pose additional threats to wildlife and other nearby water sources, including the Athabasca River.

Fresh water use isn't the only concern—there is also the problem of inefficient use of natural gas in the extraction process, which requires roughly 1,000 cubic feet of natural gas to extract one barrel of bitumen, enough natural gas to heat an average Canadian home for about five-and-a-half days.

Greenhouse gas emissions, the inefficient use of natural gas and the exorbitant use of

fresh water in the oil sands development, do not represent a reasonable balance between the need to develop Canada's natural resources and the need to protect our environment. More research and the use of new technologies must be part of the solution.

Of particular interest are new developments in the areas of water recycling and carbon capture and sequestration. Suncor Energy, for example, reduced its water withdrawal intensity per unit of production by more than 30 per cent between 2000 and 2004. This is a good start; however, a commitment from other energy producing companies, the Canadian government and private research and technology institutes must be made in order to adequately address the issue of fresh water resources.

New technologies do exist to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Carbon capture and sequestration are very promising in the fight against climate change, although no economically feasible process that can be deployed on a large scale has yet been developed.

The federal government can help and should. Currently about \$1.2 billion dollars in federal tax expenditures are provided to Canadian energy producers each year. A shift in the focus of these expenditures to accelerate the development and deployment of water recycling and CO2 capture and sequestration technologies in the oil sands would be an important step in the right direction.

All of the progress that has been made, as well as the efforts to sustain this progress in to the future, demands government action. So far, sadly, the Conservative government has shown little sign of understanding this important fact. And that is to the detriment of all of us.

Roy Cullen is the Liberal MP for Etobicoke North, Ont. and the Liberal Natural Resources critic.

The Hill Times

Political Streeter on Climate Change

"What is the biggest environmental problem or concern in your riding?"



Conservative MP Inky Mark Dauphin-Swan
River-Marquette, Man.

"We need to find a way to deal with sewage and waste. All of the old sewage lagoons from back in the 1950s are crumbling. We have ground water pollution. The solution needs to be recycling, but it's very expensive."



Conservative MP Larry Miller
Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound, Ont.

"The biggest issue is water levels in the Great Lakes, and the potential diversion of water out of the Great Lakes into the U.S. Another really big issue is smog and pollution. They come right out of the U.S."



Conservative MP Bob Mills
Red Deer, Alta.

"A long-term supply of drinkable water. We were using fresh water to extract oil and gas. That has been restricted considerably. People are concerned about health. People are concerned that we don't put too many pressures on the Red Deer River and that we don't over-commit to the use for irrigation."



Conservative MP Myron Thompson
Wild Rose, Alta.

"We've got a heat wave going on right here and we have fire hazards like crazy. The Banff National Park is in our riding and we're quite concerned about what's going on. Last year we had lots of rain so we didn't have lots of fires."



Conservative MP Peter Van Loan
York-Simcoe, Ont.

"Overwhelmingly, it's the health of Lake Simcoe. My riding surrounds it like a horseshoe. There are issues of phosphorous loadings in the lake, which leads to the slow death of the lake. There are also invasive species: zebra mussels, round goby. The minister of transportation has put in mandatory regulations to prevent transatlantic ships from taking on invasive species and dumping them into the Great Lakes."



Conservative MP Mike Wallace
Burlington, Ont.

"The biggest immediate concern is there's an area on Burlington Bay that's a hot spot where, over many decades, there has been industrial pollution. It's called Randle Reef. Everything is trapped there. We are trying to contain and also cap it where the contaminants are, so they can't disperse throughout the bay and there's no new contamination."



Liberal MP Omar Alghabra
Mississauga-Erindale, Ont.

"Smog is the most evident problem, and high temperatures ... and we're facing a high level of urgency on global warming."



Liberal MP Carolyn Bennett
St. Paul's, Ont.

"We had one smog day in 1993 and 48 last year. We have to find a way to get people out of their cars. Smog costs us in indirect healthcare costs and also absenteeism. My assistant in my Toronto office is going home today because she can't breathe. It's not only a theoretical problem for me, but it's also a real one."



Liberal MP Maurizio Bevilacqua
Vaughan, Ont.

"The number one issue right now is to support Viva Transit, our new transit system in our area to reduce air pollution. It's still a car-dominated society. We live in the suburbs. I'm trying to promote the use of public transit."

—Compiled by Jenny Song

CANADIAN CLEAN POWER COALITION



Who we are

The Canadian Clean Power Coalition (CCPC) is an association of leading Canadian coal and coal-fired electricity producers. We believe that coal, along with a diverse mix of energy sources such as hydro, natural gas, nuclear, wind and solar, will play an important role in meeting Canada's future energy needs. Our aim is to capture the potential of coal by working with governments and stakeholders to address environmental issues.

What we do

The CCPC's mandate is to research, develop and demonstrate commercially viable clean coal technology. We plan to facilitate full-scale clean coal technology demonstration plants by the 2011 to 2015 timeframe that will significantly reduce emissions of concern.

What is "clean coal" technology?

Clean coal technology involves the combustion of coal with virtually none of the pollution and greenhouse gas

emissions typically associated with traditional coal-fired power plants. This represents a transformational step beyond the best technology currently available. For more information, visit www.canadiancleanpowercoalition.com

About Canada's Auto Industry ...You Need to Know!

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Canadian Automotive Industry and the Government of Canada have signed a voluntary Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Auto Industry has committed to:

- **Achieve a 5.3 million tonne reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from cars and light trucks in 2010**
- **Introduce advanced emission technologies, alternative fuel vehicles, hybrids, fuel-saving and GHG reducing technologies.**
- **Promote the broader availability of alternative fuel vehicles such as ethanol and biodiesel**
- **Support positive consumer and driver behaviour improvements**
- **Support automotive Research & Development in Canada**

Over 70 plus fuel saving and GHG reducing technologies have been introduced to consumers since the Government- Industry Agreement was signed in 2005

Improving the Quality of the Air We Breathe

The Canadian Automotive Industry is contributing to cleaner air by significantly reducing smog-related emissions from its products:

- **Consumers can now purchase new cars and light trucks that meet the most stringent national emissions standards in the world**
- **Smog-related emissions from current model vehicles are reduced by over 99% . One 1993 model passenger car emits as much smog-related emissions as 12 current model vehicles**
- **Cars and light trucks currently represent less than 10% of all smog forming emissions in Canada, and are the only key sector forecast to decline to 4% by 2020**

(Data Source: Emissions Projection Working Group 2000 Inventory and Forecast, February 2005)

Replacing older higher emitting, less fuel efficient vehicles with new vehicles that have the most advanced emission and fuel saving technologies is key to achieving Canada's environmental objectives



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POLICY BRIEFING - CLIMATE CHANGE

'Quebec is applying the polluter pays principle': Environment Minister Bechard

By CLAUDE BECHARD



The following is the edited text of a speech by the Quebec provincial Minister of Environment, Claude Béchard, delivered in Toronto on June 26.

Another measure of which I am especially proud to speak today is the 2006 to 2012 Québec action plan on climate change, which our government launched on June 15 and which will have also positive effects on improving air quality.

Even though Québec already has the best record in Canada for greenhouse gas emissions per inhabitant, at 12.1 tonnes—just over half the Canadian average of 23.4 tonnes in 2003—we want to go even further. Thanks to this plan, 24 measures will be applied to reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to climate change. The plan specifically targets the transportation sector and that of energy consumption in buildings. These two sectors have shown a constant rise in GHG emissions since 1990.

One of the most innovative actions in this plan is a measure by which, beginning in 2009, all vehicles sold in Québec must comply with the equivalent of the California standard. This measure will bring about a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions on the order of 25 per cent for new vehicles. Québec's action is in step with the ten American states that have followed California's example, including New York and several New England states.

I would also like to draw attention to the measure aimed at making obligatory the activation of speed limiters on all trucks and setting the maximum speed of these vehicles at 105 km per hour. This new regulation will not only bring about a reduction of 300,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions and other atmospheric pollutants from the road transportation of merchandise, it will also create fuel economies on the order of 10,500 litres per truck.

This measure is a striking demonstration of how measures to reduce greenhouse gases can lead to economic benefits for business. I can only hope that the other provincial governments will adopt similar regulations in order to extend throughout Canada the environmental benefits associated with this measure.



Partners in federalism: Prime Minister Stephen Harper, left, and Quebec Premier Jean Charest, right. Mr. Charest has a climate change action plan.

In its action plan on climate change, the Government of Québec also intends to set up, for buildings, an ambitious energy efficiency program in the residential, commercial, institutional and industrial sectors.

Energy efficiency makes it possible to reduce or avoid the emission of substantial quantities of greenhouse gases, while at the same time achieving significant savings on energy bills. Despite these benefits, both homeowners and business managers hesitate to undertake energy efficiency measures due to the criteria they have set for cost-effectiveness. Often, energy efficiency projects are too costly or come with a longer payback period than is generally accepted by businesses and institutions.

The Government of Québec will create a program to help finance energy efficiency projects to make them more attractive to homeowners, institutions, industries large and small, and merchants and municipalities.

The various actions set out in the Québec plan will be funded by royalties on hydrocarbons, a first in Canada. These royalties will

be calculated on the basis of CO₂ equivalents for each form of energy. The sums collected, about 200 million dollars per year, will be paid into the Green Fund, a fund created by our Sustainable Development Act. In total, thanks to these royalties, 1.2 billion dollars will be invested in the fight against climate change in Québec between now and the year 2012. It is fundamental that businesses that are major emitters of greenhouse gases and that profit from high prices for oil and natural gas should contribute to efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Québec is applying the "polluter pays" principle, one of the founding principles of our Sustainable Development Act.

With this plan, Québec alone will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 10 million tonnes, a reduction of 1.5 per cent below the 1990 level. We invite the federal government to participate in funding this plan, and to finance an additional reduction of 3.8 million tonnes to help Québec achieve, by 2012, a reduction of six per cent below the 1990 level.

The Hill Times

Political Streeter on Climate Change

"What is the biggest environmental problem or concern in your riding?"



Liberal MP Ken Boshkoff
Thunder Bay-Rainy River, Ont.
"The finalization of Great Lakes clean-up. We have had significant progress over the past 10 years. What remains to be done is to get Lake Superior into pristine condition. From where we were a decade ago—we could have walked on it, essentially. Well, now it's the cleanest of the Great Lakes."



Liberal MP Scott Brison
Kings-Hants, N.S.
"First of all, climate change has a dramatic impact on tides. The Bay of Fundy has the highest tides in the world. As a result, increase in tide fluctuations could have a massive and damaging impact on our communities, and a dramatic increase in loss of land from erosion. Also, smog. My riding is in traditionally one of the most pristine environments anywhere. Increasingly we are seeing smog, which is resulting from North American industrial pollution."



Liberal MP Raymond Chan
Richmond, B.C.
"It's smog pollution in the low mainland. Also climate change is a big problem. My riding is below sea level, and very soon we'll be underwater. The other issue is salmon habitat, which is important for Western Canada. A change in a couple degrees of water temperature will affect the survival rates when the salmon come back to spawn."



Liberal MP Ruby Dhalla
Brampton-Springdale, Ont.
"There is a company that wants to put in a nuclear incinerator. There are 20,000 children living within that area. Air quality is also always a huge important issue. The Conservatives not moving forward with Kyoto has raised its importance. This has also caused us an embarrassment."



Liberal MP Wayne Easter
Malpeque, P.E.I.
"The long-term impact of greenhouse gases. Are we seeing climate change, or are we not? We are seeing greater tide surges and greater storm damage in the last couple years. That affects us in terms of fishing harbours. It affects land runoff into streams because of the intensity of those storms."

—Compiled by Jenny Song

ACADIA'S \$30M CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITMENT



Acadia's new Biology Building and Patterson Hall redevelopment will be completed by September 2008.

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POLICY BRIEFING - CLIMATE CHANGE

Environmental groups left in the dark, Tories not consulting with them on 'made-in-Canada' plan, they say

By JENNY SONG

The Liberals may not have accomplished much with their plans to slow climate change in their 13 years in office, environmentalists say, but they wonder whether the Conservative government has any plan at all.

Environmentalists said the government hasn't engaged in any formal policy discussions with them and that they are left in the dark, not knowing what to expect from the Conservatives' "made-in-Canada" plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promised for the fall.

"I have not met the minister of the environment," said John Bennett, the Sierra Club's senior policy adviser for energy and executive director of Climate Action Network Canada, a group of organizations working to reduce the human impact of climate change. "If they want to develop a different kind of plan, you cannot just spring it on the public. You need to develop it with the

people who know and understand the issues."

But the groups said they aren't holding their breath, given that the government abruptly cut many old Liberal programs that environmentalists say could have made real progress.

"I find it hard to believe that they would be able to put in a really strong plan after gutting everything without any meaningful dialogue and negotiations with industry and provinces," said Dale Marshall, a climate change policy analyst at the David Suzuki Foundation. "The Liberal plan was not great. Some of [the cuts] are frankly no great loss, but some were actually doing things. A really good program was EnerGuide for Houses. We really expected that to deliver some results."

EnerGuide was an incentive program to help Canadians make their homes more energy-efficient, reduce energy consumption, and at the same time, greenhouse gas emissions.

"The propaganda line of the government has been that they want a made-in-Canada

solution," said Dave Martin, energy coordinator for Greenpeace. "But you see them killing programs like EnerGuide.... They're killing programs that are made in Canada."

The Conservative government has also cut the Liberal-backed Climate Fund, which was used to buy offshore emissions credits to help meet reduction standards set by the Kyoto Protocol. Mr. Martin said buying credits could be meaningful since climate change is a global problem.

But Environment Minister Rona Ambrose (Edmonton-Spruce Grove, Alta.) tends to disagree, saying the Climate Fund does nothing to help Canadians.

"Canadian tax dollars should be spent at home to help clean the air that Canadians breathe," said Ryan Sparrow, a spokesperson for Ms. Ambrose.

Mr. Sparrow also pointed to the Conservatives' transit tax initiative, which gives Canadians who buy monthly transit passes a 16 percent tax credit to encourage them to leave their cars at home, and the Biofuels Opportunities for Producers Initiative, a \$10-million tax incentive program that helps farmers take advantage of biofuel production.

In May, Environment Minister Ambrose announced that all fuel in Canada must contain five percent renewable fuel by 2010, and on June 22, the final day of the last Parliamentary session, Ms. Ambrose said the government's made-in-Canada plan will be a meaningful one.

"The government has never rejected Kyoto. The Conservatives have never pulled out of Kyoto. We are working within the Kyoto protocol," Ms. Ambrose said. "We are putting a reasonable, achievable, affordable domestic plan in place that will ensure that the mess the Liberals made out of Kyoto over the last 13 years will be addressed. We will make a success of our made-in-Canada plan."

Emma Welford, the director of communications to Minister Lunn, also recently told *The Hill Times* that the government officials will comment on the plan after it is released. Mr. Lunn will be meeting regularly to talk to his provincial counterparts about the plan, she said.

Mr. Marshall said although Canadians have become more attuned to the environment in recent years, it still isn't a voting priority. "Otherwise we wouldn't have a government in power who clearly had the weakest environmental platform," he said.

The Hill Times

Political Streeter on Climate Change

"What is the biggest environmental problem or concern in your riding?"



Liberal MP Mark Eyking
Sydney-Victoria, N.S.

"We have the most toxic site in Canada, the Sydney Tar Ponds. That came about after 100 years of steel-making. That has to be cleaned up. We were left with a mess after the steel mill closed. We've been cleaning it up for the last few years around the toxic site, the buildings. The tar pond is still left."



Liberal MP John Godfrey
Don Valley West, Ont.

"The smog days. Which are, of course, made worse by climate change. Some of it is generated locally and some from the United States. The number of smog days last year was 53. The year before was 18. And we've had the warmest year on record in 400 years globally. We had the warmest January on record for Ontario. Clearly we're part of a larger phenomenon."



Liberal MP Ralph Goodale
Wascana, Sask.

"There is a long-standing problem of pollution and mine tailings from uranium mines across northern Saskatchewan. In the early days of uranium development there were as many as 35 or 40 smaller mining organizations never properly cleaned up. Now six sites are seriously contaminated. Another 24 have some degree of contamination. There needs to be a scientifically conducted clean-up operation."



Liberal MP Gary Merasty
Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River, Sask.

"All the uranium mines is definitely a huge issue. When they were shut down, decommissioning and proper environmental protection measures might not have been taken and new mines have sprung up, so ongoing environmental protection is a key issue."



Liberal MP Joe McGuire
Egmont, P.E.I.

"There's something happening to the Northumberland Strait. Normally there has been pretty healthy lobster fishing. It's no longer the case. The conclusions are that the environment has changed dramatically in the Strait. The lobsters are no longer there. The fall fishery, which starts in early August, has been very, very poor these past five, six years."



Liberal MP Nancy Karetak-Lindell
Nunavut

"Climate change and the effects of that, along with pollutants in our food, POPs [persistent organic pollutants]. It's getting warmer and warmer all the time. We're seeing insects, we're seeing birds, we're seeing creatures we wouldn't normally see in that part of the country. That means the temperature is changing. When the ice is melting sooner, we are losing more people every year falling through the ice."



Liberal MP Massimo Pacetti
Saint-Leonard-Saint-Michel, Que.

"I have two huge quarries that need to be developed. One of the quarries is also a dump site, partially filled with garbage. Now you've got fumes coming out of it. It's an eyesore. Also, there's some plastic manufacturers, pollution in terms of odour. People are not engaged enough. I still see people throwing garbage outside their windows. I still see ash-trays being emptied out."



Liberal MP Pablo Rodriguez
Honoré-Mercier, Que.

"Soil contamination. We had a lot of petrochemical companies, the refineries, the old ones that closed and left a huge mess in terms of soil contamination. And also climate change. As elected officials we have a moral issue to act on the environment. Those issues take time to resolve. You have to start now to make a difference in 50 years."

—Compiled by Jenny Song

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POLICY BRIEFING - CLIMATE CHANGE

Political Streeter on Climate Change

“What is the biggest environmental problem or concern in your riding?”



Liberal MP Francis Scarpaleggia
Lac-Saint-Louis, Que.

“Water quality on the St. Lawrence River will be an issue. What happens if water levels drop further? What is that going to mean for the port of Montreal? In Walkerton why did they have a problem with E. coli contamination? It was because of extremely heavy rain that caused farmers’ fertilization to flow into wells. We get extremely heavy down-pours now for short periods of time.”



NDP MP Charlie Angus
Timmins-James Bay, Ont.

“We have 50,000 barrels of PCBs [polychlorinated biphenyl] and oil waste sitting on the banks of the Winisk River. Maybe up towards 50,000 barrels more have disappeared over the years floating away. The Department of Defense came and polluted the land for the mid-Canada radar sites, and just walked away. You’ve heard of deadbeat dads, well this is a deadbeat ministry.”



NDP MP Dennis Bevington
Western Arctic, N.W.T.

“It’s climate change. We’ve had erosion of the coastline affecting communities like Tuktoyaktuk. We have permafrost degradation up and down the Mackenzie Valley resulting in land slumping. Ice conditions all over the north are changing rapidly whether it’s on lakes or rivers. It impacts traditional hunting practices where people don’t feel confident going on ice surfaces anymore. They cycles of animals are upset. We have forest fires. And we’re getting different forest diseases moving into the north like spruce budworm.”



NDP MP Dawn Black
New Westminster-Coquitlam, B.C.

“The whole issue of climate change is the overriding environmental issue of our age. The warming of the Fraser River has had huge impact on salmon stock.”



NDP MP Chris Charlton
Hamilton Mountain, Ont.

“Smog and air quality. We had the EnerGuide [for Houses] program with respect to greener homes, but the government unfortunately cut that program. A number of people were cut off without any kind of notice.”



NDP MP Oliva Chow
Trinity-Spadina, Ont.

“Number one problem is smog. You can’t breathe. Asthma attacks. We had like 60 smog days last year. Also, the fact that Stephen Harper’s Conservatives won’t admit there is a climate change problem. Energy retrofit programs that reduce our energy bills, they’ve been cut, while the Conservatives continue the Liberal practice of subsidizing the oil and gas industry. Last time I looked, they are making a huge profit. Why do we need to subsidize them?”



NDP MP Jean Crowder
Nanaimo-Cowichan, B.C.

“We’re seeing some of the lowest river flows that we’ve seen in decades. It’s drier and hotter. That directly impacts the salmon. The second concerns air quality. We live in a valley so if there are too many fires or vehicle traffic, you end up with pretty poor air quality.”



NDP MP Libby Davies
Vancouver East, B.C.

“Smog. We have a lot of major traffic arterials through our riding into downtown. Right now we’re dealing with a huge provincial project to widen the highway. We’re trying to stop the proposal. We don’t believe increasing the capacity of single-occupancy vehicles is going to solve anything. It’s very counter Kyoto.”

—Compiled by Jenny Song

Ambrose is ‘missing in action’: Layton

Continued from Page 17

“She was missing in action in Bonn, Germany where Canada was asked by the world a year ago to shepherd for a period, the international efforts on climate change. ... It went on for two weeks and she was there for one day. Well, that kind of playing hooky normally results in expulsion in a school classroom that’s for sure.”

“She also refused, for the first time in almost a decade to attend the Canadian Federation of Municipalities meeting.... She stood them up at the last minute because apparently there was supposed to be some controversy.”

“She did not attend, again, for the first time since it was set up, the Toronto Smog Summit.... We felt she should resign. We feel she has done nothing since the closing of the House to warrant a change in that position.”

President Chirac also said to the G8 leaders that, “We cannot discuss energy security while standing still on climate change.” Do you think Canada can be an “energy super power,” as the Conservative government has indicated, but address climate change at the same time?

“What we need to be is a country that provides solutions on the energy front. That doesn’t have to do with burning as much fuel as fast as we can, it has to do with being smart and responsible and developing a sustainable strategy. For instance, using natural gas, a precious fossil fuel because it’s relatively cleaner than others and scarce, using that to unlock a type of fuel which is much more polluting, namely oilsands fuel, to feed SUVs, this is not at all wise or responsible....

“What we should become known as, is the country that has it right when it comes to energy. The first step to getting it right on energy is helping the world to use a lot less to do the same things and then helping the world to have available renewable sources of energy that don’t exacerbate the climate change crisis.”

That would be true, if you want to call it an energy super power approach. I would call it a collaborative energy leader. This language of super power is too hormonal!”

What can we expect in the House in the fall regarding climate change?

“We’re certainly going to try to find ways to bring it through the House. We’ll find ways to convert it to legislative proposals. We will look for opportunities to bring it through the standing committee in the House and build support for it. We have our big convention in Quebec City in the second weekend of September where we hope to rally for support for our ideas here and we will bring forward motions including this motion for the resignation of the minister again. And we certainly urge Canadians to talk to their MPs about how it’s just unacceptable to go walking away. Don’t tell us that it’s not something that can work. Stop blaming past governments, you’re the government now.”

The Hill Times

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POLICY BRIEFING - CLIMATE CHANGE

Canadians need to understand that climate change poses 'risks at all levels': NRTEE

By ALEXANDER WOOD

As the global climate continues to warm, real estate with an "oceanfront view" is likely to lose some of its appeal.

Global warming has been linked to rising sea levels and more intense hurricanes and other severe weather events that are lashing coastlines around North America and elsewhere.

The significance of these trends was made painfully clear to the people of New Orleans when they suffered the rage of Hurricane Katrina. The pain continues to be felt by the displaced families, the local and regional economies, the governments responsible for the clean-up, and insurance companies hit with claims.

Governments in Canada, along with key economic and resource industries, would be well advised to take a clear-eyed view of the risks that lie ahead as a result of climate change. Steps should be taken to ensure that Canada is well-positioned to weather, adapt to and continue to thrive despite the ill effects of a rapidly changing climate.

The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, which provides balanced and thoroughly researched advice to the federal government, has for several years explored ways for Canadians to cut their contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

But we also recognize that accelerated climate change is already underway and that it will persist for decades to come, even if global greenhouse gas emissions from human sources were cut to zero overnight. Canadians, governments and institutions must therefore devise ways to adapt to the imminent impacts of our changing climate.

While the location, intensity and duration of climate change-related impacts may in many cases be new to Canadians, the general nature of these challenges will not. Over time, all human activities and systems have "adapted," to a greater or lesser extent, to the climates of their times. The natural systems we depend on are also largely products of our climates.

But human-induced global warming could well mean that the scale and

urgency of Canada's adaptation imperative is hard to overstate. Although climate change can bring with it benefits and opportunities—longer growing seasons, for instance—the sweeping changes, new impacts and pressures it will bring make it a potentially very large problem.

So what do we do?

First, Canadians need to understand that the changing climate will pose risks at all levels—to households, communities, companies and governments.

Fortunately, we are not starting from scratch. The Canadian government has been one of the most proactive in the world in characterizing, measuring and predicting the impacts of climate change. This is important work that must continue.

At the same time, the focus of the government's adaptation agenda needs to broaden. Governments at all levels, together with other sectors, should put significantly more emphasis on strengthening the adaptability and resilience of individuals, organizations and society in the face of climate change.

A leading objective must be to ensure that Canadians and our physical infrastructure are out of harm's way—or at least better able to withstand the impacts of climate change.

In the North, for instance, the permafrost layer is already melting away from beneath critical public and private infrastructure, posing significant risks to human health and safety, the environment and to economic interests.

This situation is urgent in its own right, but it also provides a valuable lesson for the rest of Canada, where decisions about the placement and design of new buildings and infrastructure—from roads, sewers, gas lines, power lines and communications networks—must be made with an eye to the long-term consequences of a rapidly changing climate.

In this regard, governments have the power to simply issue regulations, or, in the case of municipalities, to impose zoning restrictions. Building codes, standards and guidelines are also useful for promoting the construction of more durable, weather-resistant and disaster-resistant infrastructure.

Economic incentives could also spur the construction of more robust and

secure infrastructure. For example, disaster relief funds, now devoted mostly to clean-up efforts, could also be used to promote preventive actions, ultimately a less expensive option.

Another vital public policy objective must be to align the rules and practices of domestic and international capital markets so as to encourage adaptation planning on the part of corporations.

Large capital providers to corporations such as major pension funds could make it known through their investment policies that taking environmental, social and governance issues—including potentially adaptation planning—was for them material to investment decision-making. Integrating climate change considerations into investment decisions—a rare practice now—would improve corporate behaviour in relation to climate risk.

The insurance industry could also promote prudent risk management by rewarding or requiring—with reduced premiums or other mechanisms—the avoidance of risk by individuals, corporations and governments. The insurance industry, which could be threatened by the enormity of climate-change related impacts, may also look to government for new sorts of creative partnerships to prevent certain types of risks from slipping into the "uninsurable" category.

The Round Table believes changes in public policy related to insurance, disaster management, project finance and capital markets, and codes and standards could strengthen Canada's capacity to manage the risks flowing from climate change. We are therefore launching a research and consultation initiative focused on those four policy areas, emphasizing their significance for the resilience of physical infrastructure in Canada.

As a country likely to be deeply affected by climate change, our best hope is to start thinking about solutions today and to start working on them together—government and non-government partners alike.

Alexander Wood is Acting President and CEO of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, an independent advisory body reporting to governments and the Canadian public.

The Hill Times

Political Streeter on Climate Change

"What is the biggest environmental problem or concern in your riding?"



NDP MP Paul Dewar
Ottawa Centre, Ont.

"The most pressing one is air quality. When I look back on my teaching career, I think of the instances of asthma. Growing up it was really quite rare. If you go to a classroom here in Ottawa, you get about three or four now put up their hands."



NDP MP Yvon Godin
Acadie-Bathurst, N.B.

"We have this company ... that built an incinerator. There's a big controversy in the region. They want to burn PCBs by the Baie de Chaleur. It goes up in the air and it continues. Some people want it because we need jobs. We need jobs but we need real jobs. We're not the dump of the country."



NDP MP Tony Martin
Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

"We've had some of the worst smog days in the country according to readings on Environment Canada. Constituents are located near big industry. We have a very high incidence of cancer up here. Secondly, water quality, and the impact of anything we might do on the Great Lakes. We're investing millions of dollars in a new sewage treatment plant."



NDP MP Penny Priddy
Surrey North, B.C.

"As we see more cars on the road we see a rise in the number of children and surprisingly also adults with asthma. You wouldn't have seen as adult develop asthma before like you do now. There's an increase in upper respiratory diseases as we see more cars on the road."



Bloc MP Claude Bachand
Saint-Jean, Que.

"They're trying to build some kind of barn with five thousand pigs in it in my nearby riding but they want to spill their production into my riding near the Richelieu River. This could be very dangerous. We might have some fishes in the Richelieu River that are endangered species."



Bloc MP Raynald Blais
Gaspésie-Iles-de-la-Madeleine, Que.

"For three years, the people of my region have been fighting to clean up an incinerator that emits toxic wastes. We think the government hasn't done all that it could. Another thing is global warming. The geographical nature of our region is that we're situated beneath the levels of the Saint Lawrence River. The water levels are rising, and the region could become flooded with water."



Bloc MP Marc Lemay
Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Que.

"It's abandoned mining sites. Mining companies arrived 40 to 50 years ago. After they leave, they don't respect the environment. The other is using the forest. We cut too much wood, we have erosion."



Bloc MP Yvon Lévesque
Abitibi-Baie-James-Nanuvik-Eeyou, Que.

"Global Warming. People could not go on the bay to hunt because the ice was [melting.] It's a long time before they can catch something to eat. There's old gas and tar drums sitting on the bay since the 1940s. With warm-up, they are starting to leak into the sand."



Bloc MP Réal Ménard
Hochelaga, Que.

"It's the railroads. CN, CP. They make a lot of noise too. The CN and CP are not respectful to the people of the riding."



Bloc MP Louise Thibault
Rimouski-Neigette-Témiscouata-Les Basques, Que.

"The effects of global warming. Also, pollution in the St. Lawrence River, and bank erosion. Last year, we had really big tide in the fall and in the spring. Before we had the bank frozen, so even if we have big tides it doesn't come onto the houses. But now the sidewalk can just disappear in one evening. We used to have ice in October, November, but now January, February, there's no ice. Nature is taking its revenge."

—Compiled by Jenny Song


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Prime Minister Harper Touts Canada As “Emerging Energy Superpower” Clean and Efficient

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frugiat et. In

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ante vitae massa.
frugiat et. In

Now we're with you, Mr. Harper.

This fall, Canada needs a climate change plan that ...

- 1) Sets national GHG targets that put us on a path to deep emission reductions: we need a near-term target to catalyze action now, as well as long-term targets to send the right capital turnover signals to businesses.
- 2) Makes us a world leader in energy efficiency: by using aggressive regulations and incentives to reduce Canada's energy consumption 30% by 2020.
- 3) Develops Canada's full green power potential: with strong incentives for using wind, solar and other renewable technologies.
- 4) Requires the oil sands to eliminate GHG emissions and become “carbon neutral” by 2020: studies show the cost would be just a few dollars per barrel.
- 5) Unleashes market forces with an emissions targets-and-trading system: one that combines strong, regulated GHG targets for industry and international trading of verifiably green credits.



POLICY BRIEFING - CLIMATE CHANGE

More than 13 regions in Québec want the government to honour the Kyoto commitments: Bigras

By BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS MP
BERNARD BIGRAS

The following is an edited transcript of an April 11 speech in the House by Bloc Québécois Environment critic Bernard Bigras, who represents Rosemont-La Petite-Patrie, Qué.

In the throne speech of October 2004, on page 12, we read that the Government of Canada will respect the commitments on climate change that it made in signing the Kyoto Protocol. In October 2004, the government clearly and solemnly affirmed before this House and the people of Quebec and Canada that it intended to honour its commitment.

A few years later, in April 2006, there is but one small sentence about climate change and compliance. We hear that the government "will take measures to achieve tangible improvements in our environment, including reductions in pollution and greenhouse gas emissions." As for international compliance in the campaign against climate change and the desire to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at source, it is obvious that the federal government has decided to step back from its commitments.

We on this side of the House are not surprised at this withdrawal by the federal government. Why? Because even in the days that followed the election campaign, the Prime Minister indicated to the Canadian public that he wanted to promote a new protocol on climate change, even though we already have one, the Kyoto Protocol.

We have reason to be worried, today, as we see the federal government's backhanded dismissal of the Kyoto Protocol, and see it concurring with certain other countries on the international stage. I am thinking, for example, of that Asia-Pacific partnership headed by the United States and Australia, which is taking part in the action against climate change and yet setting no reduction targets or timetables.

Is this what Quebecers expect of the federal government—to simply let things slide in dealing

with this issue? The answer is no. Eighty-seven per cent of Quebecers want the Canadian government to respect its commitments on climate change. In recent weeks, in March, I went on a tour of all the regions of Quebec.

I visited over 13 regions. I met with representatives of regional environmental councils and citizens in each of them. They told us that they expected the Bloc Québécois and the opposition to force the Government of Canada to honour its commitments. Clearly the government has not heard what Quebecers have to say.

Not only is the government saying on the international scene—Canada is presiding over the Convention on Climate Change—that we will not honour international commitments made by our country but, in addition, the government is already preparing the public for a reduction in allocations to environmental organizations fighting climate change. Even before tabling the budget, the government has announced to Quebecers and Canadians that they should expect a 40 per cent reduction in moneys allocated to the fight against climate change.

We can see the government coming for miles. It will give the excuse that greenhouse gas emissions increased by 24 per cent in recent years in spite of over \$4 billion in investments, and that we are not going to reach our objectives. That is exactly what the Minister for the Environment said in her speech last week. It is as though the government were trying to use the failure of the Liberal's approach to avoid honouring its own and Canada's commitments. Or, as though the lack of or inappropriate action of the Liberal government in the fight against climate change provided the Conservative government with a reason to not take action.

We expect this government to respect the will of Quebecers and to clearly indicate its intentions, both within Canada and internationally. An important meeting will be held in Bonn on May 15 of this year. The Minister of the Environment will preside over the deliberations. We expect



Photograph by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*

Bloc Québécois Environment critic Bernard Bigras says Quebecers overwhelmingly support Kyoto.

her to stand up and confirm that we will meet the objectives of the Kyoto Protocol. We expect nothing less from the minister. If she refuses to demonstrate this willingness, which the government has clearly expressed, we will be left to conclude that the Canadian approach has changed significantly, giving way to a new approach in the fight against climate change. That is the danger facing us, no more and no less, in the weeks and months to come.

We must bear in mind the words used in recent weeks by the government, the Minister of the Environment and the Prime Minister. The desire to propose a new protocol, despite the existing Kyoto protocol, corresponds to the desire clearly expressed by the government to renege on its international commitments.

Lastly, we expect the government to adopt a territorial approach that would allow Quebec to carry out its plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In the fight against climate change, we are hoping for a common approach adapted to each province.

The Hill Times

More public transit will reduce GHGs: Ambrose

By ENVIRONMENT MINISTER
RONA AMBROSE

The following are edited speaking notes for Environment Minister Rona Ambrose, who represents Edmonton-Spruce Grove, Alta., for a speech delivered at the launch of the Canadian Urban Transit Association's Clean Air Day on July 7.

Our new government is very proud to support the Canadian Urban Transit Association Clean Air Day Sustainable Transportation Campaign. This initiative shows how important sustainable transportation, more specifically public transport, can be in our effort to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

This year's theme—"Give the World Some Air"—says it all. Canadians can take action locally to help improve the quality of the air we all breathe.

The Canadian Urban Transit Association should be commended for their leadership in raising awareness and encouraging actions that improve the health of Canadians and of our environment, while contributing to the strength of our economy.

Our new government firmly believes that the transportation sector plays an essential role in assuring air quality in Canada. Transportation is one of the largest sources of air pollution in Canada. In some of our urban centres, it accounts for up to two-thirds of smog-forming pollutants.

To address this, we will clean up the air that Canadians breathe by encouraging them to get out of their cars and onto public transit. We will invest up to \$1.3 billion in urban transit infrastructure public transportation, plus an estimated \$1.1 billion over 5 years in the form of a tax credit to help with the cost of monthly transit passes. Increasing the use of public transit will help reduce traffic congestion in Canadian cities and fight air pollution.

Increasing the use of public transportation will also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Based on CUTA information, that there were almost 1.6 billion urban transit rides in 2004 and an average



Photograph by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*

"Give the world some air," says Environment Minister Rona Ambrose.

emission of 2.8 kilograms per 10 kilometre trip, urban transit users avoid about 4.5 megatonnes of greenhouse gas emissions

But that's not all. Our government will help Canadians make cleaner fuel choices by acting to increase the average renewable fuel content in gasoline and diesel fuel to five percent by 2010. The use of biodiesel in public transit vehicles will yield significant clean air benefits.

By offering these cleaner choices, we are inviting Canadians to work with us and to participate in made-in-Canada solutions for a cleaner and healthier Canada.

This is what taking action for the environment is all about. Together, governments, industries, associations, municipalities and individuals can address our challenges and make a difference. And we can work together to deliver a very successful Clean Air Day on June 7th.

Taking action means walking, riding, or taking public transport. By commuting in ways that are less harmful to the environment, Canadians can "Give the World Some Air," not only on Clean Air Day, but everyday.

The Hill Times

We love a great atmosphere!

International partnerships make for a great atmosphere. At the University of Regina, the International Test Centre for CO₂ Capture (ITC) and its partners across the globe lead the world in development of CO₂ capture technology that could make industrial-scale greenhouse gas reduction viable. It's just one example of ground-breaking climate change impact and adaptation research being done at the U of R.



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U of R's ITC Research Team



POLICY BRIEFING - CLIMATE CHANGE

Water pollution and ecological impacts of climate change the top environmental concerns in MPs ridings: *HT* survey

■ *But Tory MP Peter Goldring says the main environmental concerns in his Edmonton riding are "pesky mosquitoes, lawnmower noise pollution, and barbecue smoke."*

By JENNY SONG

Most MPs say water pollution and ecological changes due to climate change are the most important environmental problems in their ridings, according to a riding-by-riding survey of 51 MPs conducted by *The Hill Times*.

The survey, conducted by *The Hill Times* between June 20 to July 21, polled a range of MPs from various parties and regions, and found that 23 respondents, or 45 per cent, said water issues were a top environmental concern in their constituencies, including water quality but also the impacts of climate change, such as water erosion, temperature, and water levels.

Climate change was not identified as the number one issue overall, but 45 per cent of respondents said it was responsible for environmental problems in their ridings.

In the Canada's North, the ice roads don't form until late into the winter now, and begin to thin much earlier than usual—a symptom, MPs say, of climate change.

"We are losing more people every year falling through the ice," said Liberal MP Nancy Karetak-Lindell (Nunavut). "We're still thinking, 'I traveled on this lake a year ago and the year before that in the middle of June so it'll be safe.' But that's not the case. My father, who can read the weather by observing the world around him, he can no longer be sure of his knowledge anymore because the conditions he learned them in have completely changed."

The rivers are lower and warmer than usual on the west coast, leaving many worried about how that could affect the salmon stock, which is sensitive to temperature changes of even a few degrees, particularly in B.C.'s Fraser River, several B.C. MPs said.

MPs from the eastern ridings said they noticed the waves are higher, and the storms are harsher. "Walk on the beach," said NDP MP Yvon Godin (Acadie-Bathurst, N.B.). "And you could just pick up lobsters right there."

Lobsters are swept in by tide surges that are also battering shorelines on the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Bay of Fundy, and the Baie des Chaleurs across the Maritimes and parts of Quebec, at least five MPs from those areas said.

But there are fewer lobsters now, not more, and the lobster fishing has been "very, very poor these past five, six years," said Grit MP Joe McGuire (Egmont, P.E.I.), because the water conditions have changed in the Northumberland Strait and sediment has built up on the floor.

Erosion has also been worse, contributing to loss of land, caused both from the tide surges and from agriculture and forestry, said Conservative MP Michael Allen (Tobique-Mactaquac, N.B.).

Across Canada's heartland, MPs brought attention to water quality. Tory MP Inky Mark (Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette, Man.) said he worries about ground water pollution because the old sewage lagoons built in his riding in the 1950s are crumbling. And there are some health concerns about possible contamination of drinking water, since fresh

water is used to extract oil and gas in Alberta, said Conservative MP Bob Mills (Red Deer, Alta.), although such use has been restricted considerably.

In Alberta's oil country, Conservative MP Peter Goldring (Edmonton East, Alta.) said air quality is an issue, but downplayed environmental concerns, saying the most important in his riding were "pesky mosquitoes, lawnmower noise pollution, and barbecue smoke."

Simon Dyre, a senior policy analyst at the Pembina Institute, an environmental policy research organization, said the oil sands in Alberta's north are Canada's largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions—with no regulations in place to limit them—and the refinery industry emits sulfurous and nitrous compounds that form smog and worse, acid rain.

Bloc MP Louise Thibault (Rimouski-Neigette-Témiscouata-Les Basques, Que.) points directly at Alberta: "We have Alberta polluting right and left," she said. "We don't want to pay for polluters."

Six Prairie MPs declined to comment for this article. Thirty-eight others did not return repeated phone calls and/or e-mails, including Environment Minister Rona Ambrose (Edmonton-Spruce Grove, Alta.).

One-third of all MPs surveyed said air quality was a concern in their ridings, with most of the complaints coming from smog-affected constituencies in Ontario.

In heavily-industrial communities like Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., smog days are more common now than before, said NDP MP Tony Martin (Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.), and the number of cases of asthmatic children and even adults has multiplied across urban centres, said both NDP MP Penny Priddy (Surrey North, B.C.) and Liberal MP Carolyn Bennett (St. Paul's, Ont.), who are their parties' health critics.

"When I look back on my teaching career, I think of the instances of asthma," said NDP MP Paul Dewar (Ottawa Centre, Ont.). "Growing up it was really quite rare. If you go to a classroom here in Ottawa now, you get about three or four who put up their hands." Mr. Dewar says he wants mandatory emission standards for cars, not voluntary ones, like in California.

NDP MP Jean Crowder (Nanaimo-Cowichan, B.C.) agrees, saying more regulations are the only way to decrease not just smog but also slow global warming.

Several Grits denounced the government's uncertain stance on the Kyoto Protocol and its dismantling of old Liberal programs like the Climate Fund and EnerGuide for Houses, what Liberal MP Ken Boshcoff (Thunder Bay-Rainy River, Ont.) called a "vicious attack on the earth by the Conservatives." EnerGuide was an incentive program to help Canadians make their homes more efficient and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Conservatives said Kyoto hasn't done anything to reduce Canada's emissions, and say they've put in place plans that will actually work. The new transit tax credit, Tory MPs said, will encourage Canadians to leave their cars at home—in urban areas, at least. All parties agreed that more public transit is needed.

Industrial toxics were also named as a serious problem in the ridings of 35 per cent of the respondent MPs, who reported concerns about toxic sites left by abandoned mines and other indus-



Photograph by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*
Survey says: New Democrat MP Yvon Godin, left, Alberta Tory MP Peter Goldring, middle, and Liberal MP Joe McGuire were among the many MPs who participated in the HT survey.

tries that no one ever bothered to clean up. And as the earth warms, these problems could become more dangerous over time, because the higher temperatures make it easier for wastes to leech into deeper layers of soil, said Bloc MP Yvon Lévesque (Abitibi-Baie-James-Nanuvik-Eeyou, Que.).

All Liberal, NDP, and Bloc MPs surveyed agreed that climate change is a "planetary emergency," as former U.S. vice president Al Gore called it in a recent global-warming documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*. But at least three Conservative MPs disagreed, saying there was some evidence that climate change is cyclical and not necessarily human-driven.

Conservative MP Myron Thompson, who says at age 70 he's seen a lot, said: "The science is all over the map on that. Even the scientists are confused on it."

Both opposition MPs and environmental groups were quick to dismiss

the idea that global warming may not be a symptom of human actions. "Years ago we believed there was no link between smoking and cancer, and that was proved wrong," said Liberal MP Maurizio Bevilacqua (Vaughan, Ont.).

Ten more Tory MPs surveyed said that, although climate change is an important issue, to call it an emergency would be a stretch. "Emergency is a pretty strong word," said Conservative MP Larry Miller (Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound, Ont.). "When you say words like emergency, that tends to put people in a panic, and when you're in a panic you don't necessarily think rationally."

Out of 213 MPs contacted by phone or in person, 16 Conservative, 18 Liberal, 11 NDP and six Bloc MPs responded. Sixteen Conservative, three Liberal, one NDP and one Bloc MP declined to comment. Others did not return phone calls or could not be reached.

The Hill Times

Scientists warming up to climate change

Last summer, the national science academies of the G8 countries, as well as those of China, India and Brazil, issued a joint statement declaring climate change a real problem caused by human activity, especially among G8 nations.

The warming of the atmosphere is caused by a rise in the level of greenhouse gases, the statement said, which has increased by almost 40 per cent in the past 250 years. They come mostly from the burning of fossil fuels, which provide for about 85 per cent of the world's energy demands. But those demands are expected to increase by almost 60 per cent in the next 25 years.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), established by the United Nations and the World Meteorological Organization, has projected that global surface temperatures will rise by 1.4 to 5.8 degrees Celsius between 1990 and 2100.

The effect will most likely be an increase in severe weather like heat waves, heavy storms and floods caused by sea levels that could rise by 0.1 to 0.9 metres between 1990 and 2100, according to the statement.

"In Bangladesh alone, a 0.5 metre sea-

level rise could place about 6 million people at risk from flooding," the release said.

The statement concluded by calling all governments to action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to find ways to adapt to global warming.

This June the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society issued a similar statement, emphasizing the Kyoto Protocol as an "important first step" toward reducing the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Because climate change is global, a coordinated global response is needed, the statement said.

The statement also acknowledged that to stabilize climate change, emissions reductions actually need to exceed those mandated by the Kyoto Protocol. This will be a challenge, but Canada has "no choice" but to work toward it, according to the release.

Still, not all politicians are convinced by these statements, noting that some scientists have had other findings. Environmentalists say the opposition isn't serious, however, and look toward a fourth report by the IPCC due in 2007, which they say will demonstrate the strongest consensus on climate change yet.—*Jenny Song*

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



DAVID PETERSON

On behalf of the Governing Council of the University of Toronto, President David Naylor is pleased to announce the appointment of the Honourable David Peterson as chancellor of the university for a three-year term effective July 1, 2006.

Elected by the alumni College of Electors, Mr. Peterson becomes U of T's 32nd chancellor. He brings a distinguished record of public service and a well-established local, national and international profile to his new role.

Mr. Peterson is chairman of Cassels Brock and Blackwell LLP. Elected to the Ontario legislature in 1975, he became leader of the Ontario Liberal party in 1982 and served as premier from 1985 to 1990. Currently, he represents Canada as Chief Federal Negotiator for the Devolution of the Northwest Territories.

Since 1999, Mr. Peterson has served on the university's Governing Council and has been an active member of the Business Board. He also serves on a number of major non-profit and corporate boards, including the board of the U of T-affiliated St. Michael's Hospital.

Mr. Peterson received his law degree from U of T in 1967. He holds four honorary doctorates, including one from the University of Toronto, conferred in 1994 in recognition of his contributions to public policy and innovation. He is also a knight of the Order of the Legion of Honour of France and a member of the Ordre de la Pléiade.

Established in 1827, the University of Toronto is Canada's largest university, recognized as a global leader in research and teaching.



WISEGUYS

Liberal leadership donations are down, but what do they mean?

By TIM POWERS and WARREN KINSELLA

Kinsella: Lots of political tongues are wagging about the Liberal leadership donations—because they seem so small—but it's much ado about diddly-squat, if you ask me.

The relatively-paltry figures are all about the tough new fundraising rules that all of the political parties must now observe. If you were to dig into the financial returns of any politician these days—Grit, Tory, Dipper or Yogic flyer—you'd find more or less the same thing: it's not that people don't want to give. They just can't give as much as they want.

What's revealing, therefore, is the number of individual donors. That's where a candidate's comparative strength is revealed. So Ignatieff, by that standard, is doing quite well. Some of the lesser lights, like Bennett? Don't get your hopes up there, doc.

Powers: On Thursday of last week *The Globe and Mail* ran a fascinating story on fundraising for the December Liberal Leadership race. The facts really do speak for themselves. There are currently 11 candidates in the race. They are each allowed to raise \$3.4 million per candidate. Collectively that works out to a total limit in donations of \$37.4 million. Right now the 11 candidates combined, based on the figures provided by *The Globe and Mail*, have raised \$1,310,725.

This is truly staggering. Almost unbelievable! Don't follow the money to the Liberal Leadership race. It doesn't appear to be a wise investment.

According to the same report in the *Globe*, only 1,276 people donated to the candidates—yet another sign that this contest isn't penetrating the pocket books of average Canadians. Ken Dryden, a Canadian icon, has seen only 67 people bleed cash for him. Maurizio Bevilacqua, a well-liked Liberal party member, could only muster donations from nine people. My god, even Hedy Fry convinced 15 people to open their wallets for her. Those people must be in the flame retardants business.

Bob Rae, considered a front-runner, at least in his own mind, was only able to get 208 people to pony up dough for his bid. Michael Ignatieff apparently has 525 friends, the most of any of the candidates, but that really is a paltry number for the man who is supposed to be the second-coming of Pierre Trudeau.

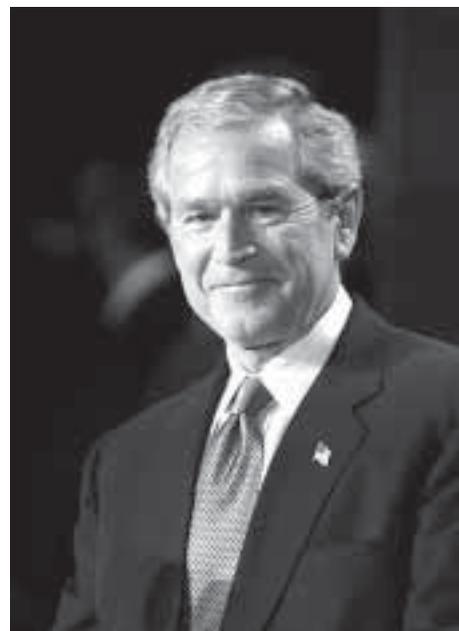
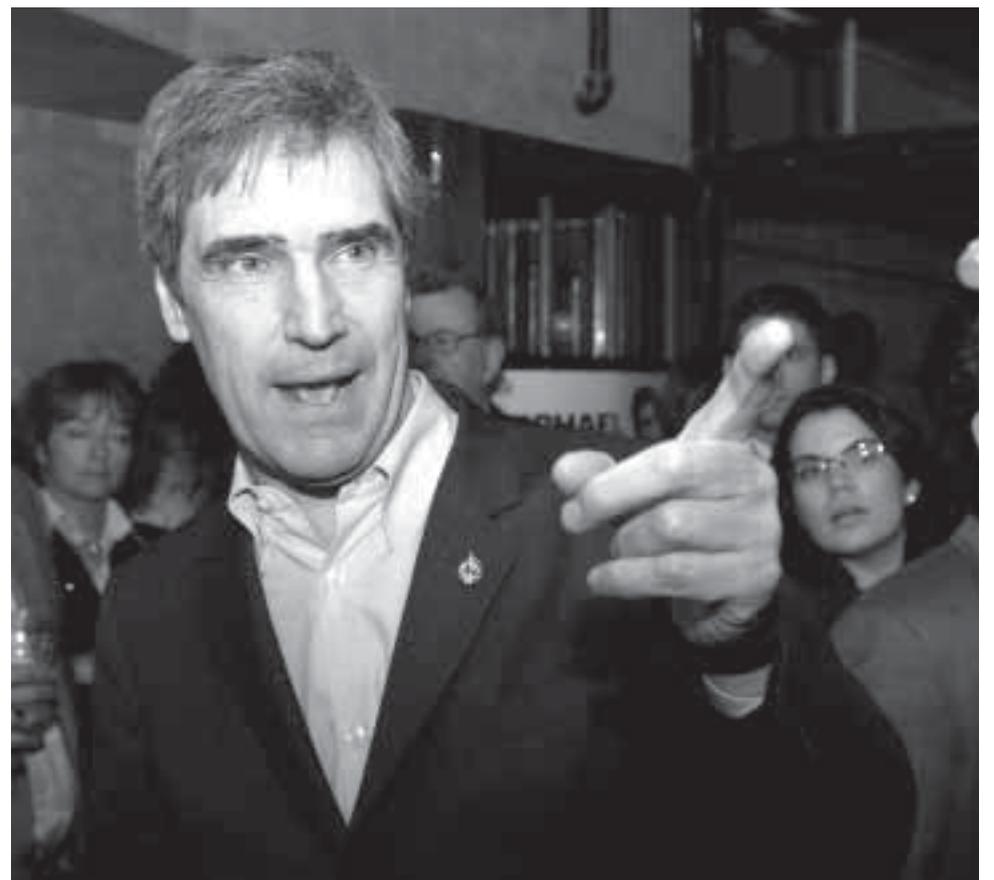
Let me give my standard disclaimer: never underestimate the Liberal Party, but it would seem that more money is being invested in swamp land in Florida than on the Liberal Leadership.

Kinsella: My buddy Tim, naturally, is doing what a good Tory partisan should do: he's suggesting that electoral strength is equivalent to fundraising strength. I have two words for Timmy to recall: Paul, and Martin. Moral of the story: A great fundraiser does not always a political winner make!

Full disclosure: I am not Jewish, but I love Israel. I am a proud member of the board of the Canada Israel Committee—and I have never received a plug nickel for any of the work I have done for pro-Israel causes (in fact, I have lost a lot of money—but that's a story for another day). I stand with Israel, always.

For that reason, I applaud, mightily, Prime Minister Harper for his principled and clear support of Israel. So, too, do I (and lots of other liberally-minded folks) applaud Liberal leadership candidates Joe Volpe and Scott Brison for their unwavering support. And Michael Ignatieff, too, deserves credit for being one of the first Canadian politicians to denounce the Hezbollah terrorists—and for noting that, week after week, Hezbollah fired on Israelis, bombed Israelis, kidnapped Israelis, murdered Israelis, and that, while Israel complained, the world community shrugged, mainly.

And what of the NDP? They are doing a lot worse than shrugging. The NDP, in my view, has become the main voice for anti-



Photograph by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*

From fundraising to foreign policy: Michael Ignatieff, top, has come out on top with the most fundraising. The NDP's Alexa McDonough, right, opposes PM Harper's stance on the Mid-East crisis, comparing the foreign policy position to U.S. President George W. Bush, left.

Israelism and anti-Zionism in Canada. The NDP's relentless, vicious, unfair attacks on Israel have not gone unnoticed—and will never be forgotten. Canadian socialists, who always had such a keen understanding of the historical plight of the Jewish people, understand no more. They—not the far right—have become the home to those who hate the Jewish state. Shame on them.

Powers: The terrible conflict in the Middle East, which has spawned attacks from the terrorist organization Hezbollah on the state of Israel, has started a domestic debate on whether foreign policy impacts the way Canadians vote at home. Not since the 1988 "Free Trade election" has foreign policy, and specifically in the case the Canadian-American relationship, been allegedly a centerpiece of how people cast their ballots.

Who knows precisely when the next federal election will be called? The timing will help determine what the issues are as well as the agenda-setting efforts of the various parties. Certainly, the "debate in '88" was less about the details of the trade treaty and more about what

Canada would look like in the future—that is, whether we would lose our Canadiana or not. The best example of that was a Liberal commercial at the time, which showed the Canadian-American border being erased.

In the current national dialogue surrounding the government's position on the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict, our opposition parties have gone for the cheap and predictable analogy of the Prime Minister being just like George W. Bush. This was something the Liberals used with great vigour during the last two election campaigns. Alexa McDonough got so consumed by this B-grade political theatre recently that she helped prevent a variety of Lebanese voices, who were trying to address the strife in the Middle East, from speaking at a meeting of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Foreign policy impacts our elections in as much as it affects the way we see ourselves as Canadians. Will it play in the election, and how it will manifest itself? It is too early to answer those questions.

The Hill Times

POLITICAL REPORTING



Following the arrest of 17 'Al Qaeda-inspired' terrorist suspects, the media have failed to ask one critical question: Why?

By TOM KORSKI

That long, awkward silence you hear is the blush of journalistic embarrassment. Two months after joining in an al-Qaeda witch burning, media have quietly dropped the story. Newsrooms will not even ask questions that now must be asked. It is our way of hoping the public forgets.

Prompted by a June 3 police news conference announcing the arrests of 17 "al-Qaeda inspired" terrorism suspects, journalists panicked. They reported that the defendants, including a 15-year old boy, were suspected of plotting to blow up government installations and decapitate the Prime Minister. None cited evidence to support the charge.

Almost without exception, journalists fanned a public panic. Of all daily newsrooms in the country, only one—the *Regina Leader-Post*—expressed wariness of the plot with an editorial headlined, "Let's Not Rush To Judgment."

"Before we become consumed with the arrests ... there are a few things to keep in mind," wrote the *Leader-Post*. "Persons are presumed to be innocent until a court says differently." The editors cautioned, "This is a time for cool heads."

It wasn't, of course. "This is a war," *Calgary Sun* columnist Rick Bell wrote in a frothy commentary that raised the spectre of small children being "blasted to an instant grave" by Muslim "merchants of hate." CTV reported as fact that police had exposed a terror cell. "The intent? Mass destruction and many casualties," said reporter Denelle Balfour.

The *National Post's* Andrew Coyne warned readers to brace for "some inevitable day" of atrocity "when the charges will not concern a conspiracy to murder scores of innocent people, but the act itself." (More reckless coverage was detailed in this column on June 19.)

Unique among media executives, CBC editor Tony Burman has since uttered a mea culpa in a website commentary that concluded, "We have been skating very fast and on very thin ice."

"How we in Canada's media are responding to this important case is posing many challenges to us all as journalists and as citizens," wrote Burman, who stopped short of criticizing his own newsroom for bloodcurdling coverage like a June 5 broadcast of *The National*:

PETER MANSBRIDGE: "The knowledge that a potential attack was thwarted came as a relief to many Canadians, but it also reopened many questions. How vulnerable are we? What sites might have been targeted? How secure are they? James Cudmore has some answers."

CUDMORE: "The Greater Toronto area is, in security terms, what's called a target-rich environment. There are tourist attractions, huge sports facilities, literally thousands of high-rises and millions of people."

To date, three suspects from target-rich Toronto have been deemed so non-threatening they were freed on bail. Reporters did not ask why.

Media claimed a terrorist strike was seemingly inevitable. The *Vancouver Sun* wrote, "If not for the action of Canada's security services, it would have happened sooner than anyone could have imagined." The *Globe and Mail*

reported the RCMP has "quietly broken up at least a dozen terrorist groups." The *Canadian Jewish News* quoted a security expert who indicated Canada is home to a "critical mass of jihadists," and B'nai Brith published a tip sheet advising citizens to be on the lookout for any "large group of men occupying a nearby residence with no apparent daily schedule."

Yet, in five years, the Mounties have not produced evidence to convict a single terrorist. Not one. Reporters have not asked why.

Media claimed the June arrests were only the start of a massive police dragnet. "More arrests are expected," announced every TV network and daily newspaper. "It's Not Over," headlined *Maclean's*. The *Ottawa Citizen* reported the comments of Liberal Sen. Colin Kenny, who, as the chair of the Senate's national security committee, was briefed on the raids. He told the *Citizen* that "It's not over" and "It's very much 'stay tuned.'"

Two months have passed and there have been no more mass arrests. Sen. Kenny is presumably on vacation. Reporters are not asking why.

Kenny has gained a high media profile in the war on terror. He is treated as an expert in terrorist spotting, though he has no background in security or the military. Kenny was a Liberal advance man in the 1968 campaign and served ten years as an assistant principal secretary to Pierre Trudeau. Journalist Larry Zolf, in his irreverent '84 Senate critique *Survival of the Fattest*, wrote that the man was so arrogant that "the PMO's nickname for Kenny was 'Colonel Klinck.'"

Yet his wildest claims of lurking terrorist threats have been chronicled by uncritical

reporters. We expect no more from an excitable Senator, but reporters should know better. Instead, Kenny's quotable quotes have become a journalistic tradition:

- "A red light is flashing." (*Vancouver Province*, July 12)
- "If a major bridge or tunnel went down ... our economy would be devastated for years." (*Hill Times*, June 20, 2005).
- "Is it sufficient for someone to tell you that the stove is hot, or do you have to put your finger on it to find out?" (*Hill Times*, July 11, 2005)
- "... Chaos will inevitably come to us. You think that the events of September 11, 2001 were a one-off?" (*Hill Times*, Oct. 18, 2004)
- "All of North America is vulnerable to sneak attack." (*Hill Times*, Sept. 8, 2003)
- "We Canadians are counting on luck, rather than intelligence, to solve a crisis." (*Hill Times*, Jan. 21, 2002)

When the 17 arrests were made in Toronto, Kenny claimed vindication. He told a *Maclean's* interviewer, "Perhaps people won't wonder what we've been sniffing when we talk about these things."

But none are convicted. None have confessed. Some are on bail. All are innocent until police come up with something like proof.

There is something else for Senator Kenny and his media admirers to ponder. In the international war on terror, the United States launched a global manhunt for al-Qaeda ring-leaders, Britain spent \$6.4 billion in Iraq, and Canada put a 15-year old boy in jail.

Everybody pause now for a long, awkward silence.

The Hill Times

A VIEW FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.

Harper the 'man in the arena', deserves more flowers than brickbats

By DAVID JONES



Recently, perhaps reflecting an "end of days" silly summer season, we have seen a certain number of stories designed to fill column inches

rather than enlighten. These include the non-meeting between Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Francophonie head and the prime minister's role in evacuating Canadians from Lebanon.

Regarding the former, the Canadian Press headline was "Harper won't meet with head of *la Francophonie* in Paris," the intimation being that Harper had given the diplomatic equivalent of the back of his hand to Francophonie leader Abdou Diouf, spurning his request.

Mistress of mock outrage, former Parti Quebecois minister Louise Beaudoin said the non-meeting was "unexplainable, incredible, and incomprehensible." Sigh. As a former Quebec minister of International Relations, Madame Beaudoin knows far better than most the complexities of getting two senior figures together—even when both are willing. According to media reports, the prime minister "wanted" to see Diouf but their schedules could not be worked out.

And that explanation is entirely plausible—indeed, almost doubtless what was the case. First, under protocol terms, a prime minister outranks the Francophonie leader; thus, it was up to Diouf to accommodate Harper's schedule. And even with good will (and with no desperately urgent issue in play), Diouf could have had previous commitments that he regarded as overriding: a long-scheduled speech; a medical malady (not a

"diplomatic illness"); a travel engagement; or even a personal or family engagement that took precedence.

Ostensibly, the need for Harper to make nice with Diouf was the embarrassment earlier this year when Canadian customs officials refused to admit the former Senegalese president without a body search. But it is hard for this *ancien* diplomat to generate any special outrage on Diouf's behalf. No non-citizens have a right to enter a country that is not their own; they are admitted as a privilege subject to the requirements of the country.

If you do not wish to accord to the requirements, you may simply depart from the border entry post. In the U.S. case, even a visa provided by a U.S. consular official at an embassy overseas does not give a foreigner the right to enter the United States—rather it accords the visa holder the opportunity to apply at a point of entry (e.g., an airport) to an Immigration and Naturalization Service officer who actually has the authority to grant admission.

To be sure, there can be infelicities and errors. Some years ago, an INS officer refused admission to former Israeli foreign minister Abba Eban—under the mistaken impression he would be working in the U.S. because Eban said he would be making a speech. And that was pre-9/11! And, on a personal note, during a recent visit to Canada, my wife and I were directed to Canadian customs officials for further document examination and discussion, rather than just waved through the border crossing.

Puzzled? Confused? To be sure. After clearance was given, the implicit response by the customs official to our "why us?" query seemed to be that examination of a certain number of blandly sixty-ish couples justified scrutiny of others and avoided charges of "profiling."

In a comparable manner, PM Harper's decision to divert his aircraft to Cyprus to assist in Canadian citizen evacuation from Lebanon attracted criticism from individuals who would have difficulty organizing a lawn party. One columnist whined about Mr. Harper taking up space on the aircraft and having to be accommodated while in Cyprus. Presumably, if Harper had requested a separate Canadian plane to pick him up while sending his plane to Cyprus, he would have been criticized for wasting taxpayer money.

In honesty, one clearly senses that Western leadership did not anticipate the extent, intensity, and duration of Israeli military action in Lebanon. Short, limited (but heavy) military hits were the predictable norm with no need for international action beyond diplomatic tut-tutting while civilians lay low for a couple of days. When such a sanguine judgment proved wildly in error, all concerned scrambled to catch up with resultant evacuation requirements.

PM Harper seized the moment. His action was symbolic but still a real help for 100 individuals. Canadians should be proud of his alacrity and concern; and if there were a PR element President Bush would have done something comparable with Air Force One.

No one is ever as quick to rescue as those needing assistance might desire; but Canada has done well by its citizens under circumstances that were initially ambiguous and will always be complex. PM Harper, as the prototypical man in the arena, deserves more bouquets and fewer brickbats.

David Jones is a retired U.S. diplomat who served in Ottawa and who closely follows Canada-U.S. relations.

Jonesdt2002@yahoo.com
The Hill Times



Mission impossible: PM Harper arrives in Ottawa with Canadian evacuees from Lebanon.

LIBERAL LEADERSHIP LIST

An update on Liberal leadership candidates and some of their supporters:

Liberal MP**Carolyn Bennett:**

Lib MP Carolyn Bennett
Ontario Attorney General Michael Bryant
Ontario MPP Mary Anne Chambers
Ian Delaney
Judy Erola
Sheila Finestone
Former Ontario Lib leader Lyn McLeod
Ont. Lib MPP Richard Patten
Former Lib Sen. Landon Pearson
Beth Webster

Liberal MP**Maurizio Bevilacqua:**

Melba Allen
Ryan Androssof
Jeff Angel
Lib MP Maurizio Bevilacqua
Darren Brown
Lib MP Gerry Byrne
Silvio De Cicco
Bernie Collins
Ian Connerty
Hannah Cooper
Wendy Cooper
Lib MP Roy Cullen
Paul Fufaro
David Gelinas
Jason Golinowski
Bronwyn Lawton
Glenn MacKinnon
Karan Manhas
Cam di Prata
Roy MacLaren
Meghan Mahoney
Pollara pollster Michael Marzolini
John Nicholson
Ali Pirbhai
Marco Racco
Sujata Raisinghani
Darryl Raymaker
Pat Raymaker
Dennis Skiaadressis
Jeff Smith
William Spotton
Tom Spraggs
Matt Tolley
Joe Trasolini
Taras Zaluskay

Liberal MP Scott Brison:

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Patrick Albert
Dan Aquila
Gail Asper
Tyler Bent
John Bethel
Josh Bragg
Lib MP Scott Brison
Jamie Bryan
N.B. MLA T.J. Burke
Mike Burton
Greg Byrne, NBLA President
David Cameron, NSLP past-president
Archie Campbell
Ben Carr
Nick Cartmell
Lib Sen. Jane Marie Cordy
Lib Sen. Jim Cowan
Former NB MLA Georgie Day
John Delacourt
Darcy Diachinsky
Richard Diamond
NB MLA Ed Doherty
Chris Emanuel,
Newmarket City Councillor
Lib MP Mark Eyking
Kevin Ferraro
Marlene Floyd
Cheryl Fougere
Josh Fraser
Vince Gasparro
Lib Sen. George Furey
Dr. John Gillis
Sheldon Gillis
David Goldstein
Amerjit Grewal
Vincenzo Guzzo
Edy Hadad
Kevin Herbert
Former MP John Herron
Fraser Holditch
Josh Justice
NB MLA Brian Kenney
Lib. Sen. Michael Kirby
Milé Komlen
Francis Laforesterie
Jarett (J-Lo) Lalonde
Patrick Lalonde
Leigh Lampert
Dave Lapommeray
Chris MacInnes
Greg McClinchey
NS MLA Manning McDonald
Lucas Mitchell
Lib Sen. Wilfred Moore
Sheryne Morcos
Emmanuel Morin
Susan Murray
Former Lib minister Rey Pagtakhan
Dale Palmeter
Michael Penner
Lib Sen. Gerard Phalen

Richard Phillips
Gray Picco
Earl Provost
Edward Rawlinson
John Risley
N.S. Lib MLA Gerald Sampson
Lib MP Mike Savage (campaign co-chair)
Jonathan Schneiderman
Carolyn Scott, NSLPVP
Leslie Swartman (national campaign director)
Jean-François Thibault
Derek Wells, NSLP president and former MP
Sarah Wong
Cindy Woodhouse
John Young, NSLP past-president

Liberal MP**Stéphane Dion:**

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Former Lib MP Eleni Bakopanos
Lib MP Sue Barnes
Doug Beaton
Tudor Beattie
Lib MP Colleen Beaumier
Bruce Benson
David Berger
Andrew Bevan
Jean-Jacques Blais
Former Lib MP Don Boudria
Former Lib MP Claudette Bradshaw
Stephen Bronfman
Lib MP Bonnie Brown
Denise Brunson
Lib Sen. John Bryden
Rod Bryden
Lib Sen. Maria Chaput
Jason Cherniak
Bill Cunningham
Titch Dharamsi
Lib MP Stéphane Dion
Rod Drennan
Natalie Duhamel
Claude Duplain
Isobel Finnerty
Jim Goetz
Karen Graham
Brian Guest
Colin Hebb
Keith Henry
Daniel Hurley
Ovid Jackson
Lib MP Marlene Jennings
Michel Joncas
Former Lib MP Joe Jordan
Andrew Kania
Brian Klunder
André Lamarre
Daniel Lee
Marc Lavigne
Sabrina Loiacono
MacLellan
Nancy MacIntosh
Russell MacLellan
Tom Manley
George Mancini
Leonard Marchand
Mark Marissen (national campaign manager)
Ralph Meechan
Herb Metcalfe
Geoffroi Monpetit
David Mulrone
Former B.C. Lib Cabinet minister
Joyce Murray
Forrest Parlee
Former Nfld. Lib MP Jean Payne
Heather Pearcey
Dave Perry
Former MP Doug Peters
Lib Sen. Vivienne Poy
H. John Relton
John Roberts
Caroline Savic
Lib MP Francis Scarpaleggia
Former Lib MP David Smith
Alberta Senator Claudette Tardif
Former Lib MP Yolande Thibeault
Former Liberal MP Paddy Torsney
Norm Whelan
Heather Watson
Mike Witherly
Lucille Whissell
Lib MP Bryon Wilfert
Simon Yu

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Dan Ashman
Sarah Bain
Paula Biggar
Alex Bonenfant
Roy Bornmann
Nick Burry
Greg Caldwell
Kevin Carlson
Robert Carlson
Lib Sen. Sharon Carstairs
Sean Casey
Lib Sen. Marilyn Trenholme
Kirk Cox

Jennifer Crane
Jesse Davidson
Andrew Dennis
Daniel Dezainde
Joanne Dobson
Murray Downing
Lib MP Ken Dryden
Lib Sen. Art Eggleton
Lib Sen. Joyce Fairbairn
Pat Ferguson
Caterina Ferlaino
Derek Ford
Brian Forrester
Brenda Hackett
Thoren Hudyma
Blake Johnston
Lise Jolicœur
Randy Jones
Lib MP Tina Keeper
Linda Kristal
Tamara Krygier-Baum
Lib MPP Monte Kwinter
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NB MLA Kelly Lamrock
Louis-Alexandre Lanthier
Scott MacKenzie
Lib Sen. Frank Mahovlich
Christianne Mallaley
Peter Marsh
Matt Maruca
Monica Masciantonio
Nathan McCorrister
Garry McLean
Robert Meinzer
Javid Mirza
Mary Ellen Moerike
Bill Morrow
Lib MP Anita Neville
Amy Nikkel
Jane Nikkel
Jose Orellana
Sheila Orr
Yarko Petryshyn
Chris Phillips
Jean-Michel Picher
Corey Pyke
Peter Regenstreif
Craig Robinson
Erin Romeo
Nicolas Ruzzkowski
Gerry Sankar Gerry Sankar
Nakina Sankar
James Shields
Jack Siegal
Ray St. Germain
Jonathan Thiessen
Ruth Thorkelson
Rob Vessey
David Walker
Mark Watton
Odile Wolffe
Daniel Yaworski
Alan Young
Abe Zakem
Lib Sen. Rod Zimmer

Toronto lawyer**Martha Hall Findlay:**

Tom Hayes
Quito Maggi
Raj Sandhu

Liberal MP**Michael Ignatieff:**

Sachin Aggarwal
Junaid Alam
Tom Allison
Comlan Amouzou
Charlie Angelakos
Sandra Anstey
Alfred Apps
Sharon Appleyard
James Arnett
N.B. MLA Donald Arseneault
Former Lib MP Jean Augustine
Lib Sen. Lise Bacon
Élise Bartlett
Marc Bélanger
Sylvain Beaudrey
Lib MP Mauril Bélanger
N.B. MLA Roy Boudreau
NB MLA Victor Boudreau
Dan Brock
Former Lib MP Sam Bulte
John Campbell
John Campion
Lib MP John Cannis
Ont. MPP David Caplan
Former Lib MP Elinor Caplan
Former Alberta MLA Debby Carlson
Former Lib MP Aileen Carroll
Former Lib MP Marlene Catterall
Bilal Cheema
Brian Clow
Nancy Coldham
Lib MP Denis Coderre
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Former Lib MP David Collette
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Lib Sen. Roméo Dallaire
Former Lib MP Bob Daudlin
Ian Davey
Charles Daviault
Lib Sen. Dennis Dawson
Lib MP Jean-Claude D'Amours

Lib MP Sukh Dhaliwal
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Tom Dimoff
Former N.B. MLA Paul Duffie
Ont. MPP Dwight Duncan
Lib MP Wayne Easter
Rick Edwards
Adam Esse
Former Lib MP Jesse Flis
Elaine Flis
Lib MP Raymonde Folco
Robert Fragasso
Darryl Fridlander
Former Lib MP Doug Frith
Renée Gagné
Michael Gaffney
Marcel Gallant
Parmjeet Gill
Lib MP Albina Guarnieri
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Bev Hendrickson
Former N.B. MLA Len Hoyt
David Hurford
Nicole Hurtubise
Lib MP Michael Ignatieff
Isaac Ali
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Andrew Block
Robyn Cassidy
Chris Collette
Brad Davis
Peter Dotsikas
Former Man. Liberal Leader Paul Edwards
Ali Ehsassi
Raymond Garneau
Paul Gill
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Lib MP Susan Kadis
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Bruce Knutson
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Ont MPP Shafiq Qadri
Former Lib MP Marc Lalonde
Paul Lalonde
N.B. MLA Denis Landry
N.B. MLA Abel Leblanc
Lib MP Derek Lee
N.B. MLA Roly MacIntyre
Robert MacBain
David MacLean
Lib MP John Maloney
Grieg Mordue
Patrice Marin-Best
Lib MP Keith Martin
Lib MP John McCallum
Lib MP Joe McGuire
Lib MP John McKay
Mary McLaughlin
Costas Menegakis
Evatt Merchant
Lib Sen. Pana Merchant
Former N.B. MLA Marcelle Mersereau
Allan Mills
Paul Minhas
Lib MP Maria Minna
Lib Sen. Grant Mitchell
N.B. MLA Ron Ouellette
Lib MP Stephen Owen
Phillip Owen
Lib MP Jim Peterson
Former Ont. premier David Peterson
Ont. MPP Tim Peterson
Fomer Lib MP Beth Phinney
Steven Pinkus
Mario Poirier
Lib MP Marcel Proulx
Christian Provenzano
Jatinder Rai
Hank Rawlinson
Lib MP Geoff Regan
Bob Richardson
N.B. MLA Carmel Robichaud
Doug Richardson
Giovanni Rizzuto
Lib MP Pablo Rodriguez
Jonathan Ross
Lib MP Todd Russell
Lib MP Raymond Simard
Vijay Sappani
Lib Sen. David Smith
Charles Sousa
Lib MP Lloyd St. Amand
Silvia Stroie
Lib MP Paul Szabo
Lib MP Robert Thibault
Peter Thurton
Former N.B. MLA Doug Tyler
Khalid Usman
Lib MP Roger Valley
Lib MP Paul Zed
Ont. MPP David Zimmer

Former Liberal MPP**Gerard Kennedy:**

Former Lib MP Peter Adams
Lib MP Omar Alghabra
Ont. MPP Wayne Arthurs
Lib MP Navdeep Bains

Ont. MPP Bas Balkissoon
Ont. MPP Lorenzo Berardinetti
Dave Brodie
Ont. MPP Jim Brownell
Former Lib MP Charles Caccia
Social activist June Callwood
Lib Sen. Larry Campbell
Lib MP Raymond Chan
Ont. MPP Kim Craitor
Ont. MPP Bruce Crozier
Ont. MPP Bob Delaney
Ont. MPP Vic Dhillon
Lib MP Joe Fontana
Former NB MLA Ray Frenette
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Ont. MPP Michael Gravelle
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Ont. MPP Pat Hoy
Ont. MPP Kuldip Kular
Ont. MPP Jean Marc Lalonde
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Lib Sen. Terry Mercer
Lib MP Gurbax Malhi
Ont. MPP Ted McMeekin
Ont. MPP Phil McNeely
Ont. MPP Madeleine Meilleur
Former PEI Premier Keith Milligan
Former Lib MP Bob Nault
Janice Nicholson
Lib MP Bernard Patry
Ont. MPP Ernie Parsons
Ont. MPP Steve Peters
Phil Pietersma
Lib Sen. Robert Peterson
Ont. MPP Khalil Ramal
Ont. MPP Tony Ruprecht
Lib MP Mario Silva
Lib MP Scott Simms
Lib MP Brent St. Denis
Ont. MPP Harinder Takhar
Lib MP Andrew Telegdi
Bruce Young
Ont. MPP Jim Watson
Lib Sen. Charlie Watt
Ont. MPP John Wilkinson
Lib MP Borys Wrzesneski

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Chris Axworthy
Manjit Bal
Monique Bégin
Amanda Bennett
Lib Sen. Michel Biron
Roy Bluehorn
May Brown
Former Lib MP Barry Campbell
Armand Caouette
Former Lib MP Martin Cauchon
Raj Chahal
Ajay Chopra
Megan Cornell
Lib MP Irwin Cotler
Mario Cuconato
Lib Sen. Pierre De Bané
Jean-Yves Boisclair
Herb Dhaliwal
Lib MP Ujjal Dosanjh
Terry Duguid
Danny Dumaresque
André Garon
Robert Gauthier
Paul Genest
Sheila Gervais
Valerie Giguere
Jonathan Goldbloom
Eddie Goldenberg
Former Lib. Sen. Alistair Graham
Jack Graham
Lib Sen. Mac Harb
Vicky Harvey
Reine Hebert
Bill Hogg
Lib Sen. Mobina Jaffer
Elias Kassab
Former Lib MP Gar Knutson
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Kevin Lamoureux
Eugene Lang
Kim Leclerc
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Allan MacEachen
Pam McDonald
Isabelle Metcalfe
Lib MP Brian Murphy
Ontario Lib Sen. Jim Munson
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Oscar Peterson
Randy Pettipas
David Price
John Rae
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Lib Sen. William Rompkey
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Bill Saundercok
Brian Scott
Johanne Sénécal
Joachim Simard
Bernie Simpson
Lib MPP George Smitherman
Lib MPP Greg Sorbara
Jane Stewart
Christine Stewart
Michel Tremblay
Julia Turnbull

Liberal MP Joe Volpe:

Amar Bajwa
Lib MP Joe Comuzzi
Generino Conte
Former Lib MP Nick Discepolo
Corey Hobbs (campaign staffer)
Al Iafolla
Lib MP Wajid Khan
Ted Lojko
Lib MP Massimo Pacetti
Ian Perkins (national campaign director)
Lib MP Yasmin Ratansi
Ontario campaign manager Robin Russell
Lib MP Lui Temelkovski
Former Lib MP Bob Speller
Lib MP Joe Volpe

Liberal MP Hedy Fry

Lib MP Hedy Fry
Doug Fry
Steve Rodrozen

Undecided Liberal MPs:

Lib MP Larry Bagnell
Lib MP Don Bell
Lib MP Ken Boschcoff
Lib MP Brenda Chamberlain
Lib MP John Godfrey
Lib MP Ralph Goodale
Lib MP Charles Hubbard
Lib MP Nancy Karetak-Lindell
Lib MP Jim Karygiannis
Lib MP Diane Marleau
Lib MP Bill Matthews
Lib MP David McGuinty
Lib MP Dan McTeague
Lib MP Gary Merasty
Lib MP Shawn Murphy
Lib MP Anthony Rota
Lib MP Andy Scott
Lib MP Judy Sgro
Lib MP Paul Steckle
Lib MP Belinda Stronach
Lib MP Alan Tonks
Lib MP Tom Wappel
Lib MP Blair Wilson

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Lib MP Ray Bonin
Lib MP Bill Graham
Lib MP Jean Lapierre
Lib MP Dominic LeBlanc
Lib MP Paul Martin
Lib MP Peter Milliken
Lib MP Karen Redman
Lib MP Lucienne Robillard

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Lib Sen. Willie Adams
Lib Sen. Jack Austin
Lib Sen. Tommy Banks
Lib Sen. George Baker
Lib Sen. John Bryden
Lib Sen. Ione Jean Christensen
Lib Sen. Joan Cook
Lib Sen. Eymard Georges Corbin
Lib Sen. Joseph Day
Lib Sen. Ross Fitzpatrick
Lib Sen. Francis Fox
Lib Sen. Aurélien Gill
Lib Sen. Yoine Goldstein
Lib Sen. Jerry Grafstein
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Lib Sen. Céline Hervieux-Payette
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Lib Sen. Raymond Lavigne
Lib Sen. Rose-Marie Losier-Cool
Lib Sen. Paul Massicotte
Lib Sen. Lorna Milne
Lib Sen. Lucie Pépin
Lib Sen. Fernand Robichaud
Lib Sen. Nick Sibbeston
Lib Sen. Peter Stollery
Lib Sen. Claudette Tardif
Lib Sen. Rod Zimmer

Neutral Liberal Senators:

Lib Sen. Catherine Callbeck
Lib Sen. Percy Downe
Lib Sen. Joan Fraser
Lib Sen. Dan Hays
Lib Sen. Serge Joyal
Lib Sen. Marie-Paule Poulin

—Compiled by Abbas Rana and Kate Malloy. Note: This is not a complete list and will be updated regularly over the coming months.

NEWS

Hardest thing about Hill reporting is accessing the bureaucracy

Continued from Page 1

The disease has degenerated his muscles, put him in a wheelchair and hindered his ability to type. For the past six months, his son has typed out his columns from rough drafts he's written by hand.

Mr. Fisher joined the *Toronto Sun* in 1971 and was a long-time dean of the Parliamentary Press Gallery. He doesn't call himself a journalist, saying, "I never worked in a newsroom," but he has seen the profession of political journalism change over the decades, and with it, the way the politics is done.

He witnessed the arrival of television, for instance, a medium he says completely transformed his profession. He also saw the arrival of women journalists on the Hill, an impact he describes as "striking." He now identifies women columnists as the great writers of today, and in a sense, his heirs. In 2000, Mr. Fisher was named to the Canadian News Hall of Fame. The *Hill Times* asked him to share with readers his experiences, opinions and wisdom.

What does it mean to be a lifetime member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery?

"I've never thought much about it. The Parliamentary Press Gallery is a device that was created in order to ration in access and limit the reporting of politics on Parliament Hill in an ordered way. That's the way I've always looked upon the Parliamentary Press Gallery. The gallery as a collective hasn't any real function journalistically relating to what you might call 'the profession.' It's just a device or an organization that enables the speaker and the government of the day to have a fairly normal and ordered relationship. So it's not something, it's not a collective of professional people who are carrying out or living up to any particular professional code. I have perhaps an unfortunate attitude to the Parliamentary Press Gallery because I never went through an apprenticeship in journalism. I just switched from being a politician to being a columnist. I never worked in a newsroom. So in a sense it's a great privilege if you can get into a line of work without going through the training. So I never thought that I was a journalist in the traditional sense of things."

What did you like about working on the Hill?

"I've been very much engaged since I was a teenager. I worked on my first election in 1935. During the war, I took very keen interest in politics. My family was a political family in the sense that my father knew the MPs and my father was active in the Liberal Party organization, that kind of thing."

Was there anything you disliked?

"I was in love and still am with the Parliament Hill Centre Block Building. I just like the feel of it. I like the look from outside and I treasure the place inside including the chamber and the Parliamentary dining room and the Library of Parliament, I think, is the single most beautiful room in Canada. I am a librarian by training, that was my apprenticeship, in library-work and archives. I just enjoy everyday to have a look in and look up at the dome in the Parliamentary library. Try it some day, and you'll get a little thrill."

What is your best memory on the Hill?

"It wouldn't be as a columnist. It would be as a Member of Parliament. And that was making my maiden speech in 1957. It was memorable because tradition was that, when a person's making their first speech, nobody razzes them or causes them any trouble. That didn't happen with me for various reasons. I was greeted by a storm of roasting and jeering and I had to just deepen my voice and shout a little bit longer and louder. It was a trying, but at the same time, an amusing and happy experience."

How has the role of the national media changed in the years you've been on the Hill?

"When I was there in '57, before TV came in, you'd recognize it as the same world. But the television in almost every sense has altered the behaviour in the House. Part of Question Period every day is kind of an arranged farce or drama, a lot of silly questions and silly and mean answers. When I first came into the House in '57, sometimes Question Period didn't last the whole 45 minutes. As a matter of fact, it didn't have that limitation. Sometimes there'd only be two questions."

How has the relationship between the media and the government changed?

"When I came here there were 78 members of the Parliamentary Press Gallery and they all worked for newspapers or magazines. By the end of the Diefenbaker years—and Diefenbaker was a great prime minister and a great entertainer, as a politician—there were over 300. By the time Trudeau was through there was almost 400. And it's pretty well stayed at that number. The TV people do somewhat a different chore than the print people. The print people are less important and less well-known now but in some ways they remain the basic people in terms of providing the story. You very rarely get, consecutively, from the television coverage of Parliament, much information of worth or weight about, say, an important bill that's coming through. Television tends to report on politics as though it's a game and every day has winners and losers."

"Simply because of television, there's had to be a complete rearrangement. There was much more intimacy back when there were 70 people in the press gallery. Almost everybody in the press gallery was a veteran and they almost all knew the politicians. It was kind of a close, far more friendly relationship. Most of the people back then had not gone through journalism school, Ryerson or Carleton, where they're indoctrinated with the rules and the duties and the principles of reporting."

"In terms of the quality of the coverage, the people covering the Hill are better educated and some are certainly better-informed in a modern way than back when I arrived here. But there were some wonderfully skilled journalists back then compared to now. There's very few what you might call real senior 'wise men' in the gallery compared to what it used to be. The turnover now on the parliamentary press gallery is very heavy. And the people going away to jobs in PR or working for government departments or out in the private sector, there isn't a great deal of continuity or historicity in the gallery now compared to back then. I don't know if that's good or bad."

Who is the best reporter on the Hill now, and who is the best columnist?

"I think you have to make a distinction between a reporter and a column-writer. A columnist is just someone who's by and large the opinion you're looking for. For reporters you're getting a story, maybe a running story, by someone who is assiduous and follows it and makes every call, checks everything, and is fair. I wouldn't like to pick anybody out in particular but we have three or four columnists who are outstanding. Particularly [Jeffrey] Simpson with the *Globe [and Mail]* and Chantal Hébert with the *[Toronto] Star*.

"She is the best journalist operating today on the Hill. She is the ablest, the most interesting, the most intellectual and analytical. And that's one of the things that's the most striking in the change of the media. It's the arrival of the women. At the present time the woman writer, Christie Blatchford, is the greatest reporter in the country and Margaret Wente is probably the greatest columnist. They're not on Parliament Hill."

What's the hardest part about covering federal politics?

"I think it's having access to what is going on in the bureaucracy in terms of the planning and organization. It requires beaver-keeping away. It's a hard thing to do because to do it without becoming tied in with the bureaucrats, so that you can almost wind up being protecting them because they are your source. In our system of government with its emphasis on secrecy and anonymity of public servants, you're really lost if you haven't got some good contacts."

Do you have interests outside politics?

"[Chuckles] Oh, a great many. That was one of the reasons I switched from being an MP to being a columnist—because it allowed me to pursue my other interests. I was an adviser to the federal government for years on subjects of sport and recreation. I was the founding director of Hockey Canada and the Coaching Association of Canada. I was active for some time on labour conciliation boards for unions, particularly the ones in railroading and air transport. I was also very active in the Canadian forestry association in pushing forestry. I was on a commission for the Ontario government active in establishing TV Ontario."

"My hobby has been sports history and I've written a couple of government reports and also co-authored a book on the history of Canadian sport. The other thing is for 32 years I had a weekly program on CJOH. A half-hour program of interviews and conversations with people, with visiting prime ministers, with Canadian politicians, that sort of thing. It was 'Insight,' the name of it."

The Hill Times



Photograph by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*
From MP to journo: After 40 years on the Hill, Douglas Fisher retired last week, and shared his wisdom with *HT*.



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					4	3		
		4	8	1	9			
	6		4	5				
		1			7	8	4	
7	8						5	1
	2	6	1			3		
				3	6		1	
			2	7	1	9		
1		5						

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DIFFICULTY: 1 OUT OF 6

2					1	3		7
4		1			7			
		7		4				
	2		5			9	6	
	9	5			8		3	
				5		8		
			3			1		4
5		3	4					9

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DIFFICULTY: 5 OUT OF 6

Last week's solutions

6	9	8	5	4	1	3	2	7
5	7	3	6	9	2	1	8	4
2	4	1	3	8	7	9	5	6
8	2	9	4	1	6	7	3	5
1	5	4	9	7	3	2	6	8
3	6	7	8	2	5	4	9	1
4	8	2	1	5	9	6	7	3
7	3	5	2	6	4	8	1	9
9	1	6	7	3	8	5	4	2

DIFFICULTY: 2 OUT OF 6

7	6	3	5	4	8	2	1	9
2	8	9	3	7	1	4	5	6
1	5	4	2	6	9	7	8	3
6	9	2	1	3	7	8	4	5
4	1	7	9	8	5	3	6	2
5	3	8	4	2	6	9	7	1
8	7	1	6	9	2	5	3	4
3	2	5	7	1	4	6	9	8
9	4	6	8	5	3	1	2	7

DIFFICULTY: 6 OUT OF 6

HILL CLIMBERS



Photograph by Abbas Rana, *The Hill Times*, and courtesy of Benjamin Perrin

Alan Martin, left, joined the NDP Caucus research bureau two weeks ago as a researcher and Benjamin Perrin, senior policy adviser to Citizenship and Immigration Minister, is leaving the Hill on Aug. 11 to work for a Supreme Court judge.

Former Sun Media bureau chief Bill Rodgers joins Prentice's staff

Perrin leaves the Hill to work for a Supreme Court Justice

By ABBAS RANA



Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs **Jim Prentice** has hired a new director of communications for his ministerial political office.

Bill Rodgers, former Ottawa bureau chief for Sun media joined Minister Prentice's (Calgary Centre-North, Alta.) ministerial political staff recently. Mr. Rodgers, 54, who was laid off by Sun Media two months ago along with 120 reporters nationally as a cost cutting measure, has succeeded **Mike Winterburn**.

As the chief spokesperson for Minister Prentice, Mr. Rodgers is responsible for providing strategic planning and communications advice to his boss, and for briefing the minister on issues relevant to the department. He is also required to consult regularly with the Prime Minister's Office and other Cabinet ministers' offices to coordinate communications within the government. Mr. Rodgers was not available for an interview.

The directors of communications to Cabinet ministers can earn up to \$121,000 a year. A native of St. Thomas, Ont., Mr. Rodgers first came to the Hill in 1982 as a reporter for CFTO-TV, a Toronto-based affiliate of CTV. He covered federal politics for about a year and then returned to Toronto.

In 1985, Mr. Rodgers returned to the Hill as a political reporter for CTV. He joined the Hill staffers ranks in 1999 and worked there for three years. During this time, he served as the Progressive Conservative Caucus director of communications, and, in the 2000 federal election, as press secretary to then-PC leader **Joe Clark**.

Mr. Rodgers resumed his journalism career again in 2002 as Ottawa bureau chief for Sun Media and stayed there until two months ago.

Perrin leaves Citizenship minister's office to work for a Supreme Court Justice

Benjamin Perrin, senior policy adviser to Citizenship and Immigration Minister **Monte Solberg** (Medicine Hat, Alta.) announced last week that he's leaving his Hill job to work as a law clerk for a Supreme Court judge for the next year. Starting Aug. 14, Mr. Perrin will be working at the Supreme Court of Canada as a Law Clerk to Justice **Marie Deschamps**.

Mr. Perrin, a native of Calgary, Alta. who holds a law degree from the University of Toronto, was hired in March by Minister Solberg as a senior policy adviser.

Mr. Perrin's association with the Conservatives goes back to 1998, when he worked as an intern in then-Reform Party leader **Preston Manning's** OLO as a summer student. And in the 2000 federal election, he worked in the Canadian Alliance war room as a staff member responsible for overseeing the leader's tour.

As a senior policy adviser, Mr. Perrin worked in collaboration with the Citizenship and Immigration Department to oversee policy development and brief the Minister regularly on issues relevant to the department. He was also required to keep in touch with the PMO and other ministers' offices to coordinate the development of policies.

Senior policy advisers to Cabinet ministers earn up to \$121,000 annually.

NDP Caucus Research hires a former reporter as a researcher

NDP caucus services has hired a new researcher. **Alan Martin** started his new job as a political researcher on July 24.

Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, Mr. Martin, 36, came to Canada at the age of 12 in 1982 with his parents. He earned his bachelor's in political science from Trent University in Peterborough, Ont., in 1994, as well as a graduate diploma in journalism from Concordia University in Montreal, Que., in 1996. Most recently, he completed his master's degree in Violence, Conflict and Development at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, England.

In the last two federal elections, Mr. Martin worked as a researcher in the rapid response unit of the NDP war room.

As a journalist, he wrote for a number of news organizations, including *Maclean's*, *The Ottawa Citizen*, *The Sudbury Star*, *Diplomat & International Canada* and *The Independent*.
Arana@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

FEATURE

The Spin Doctors

by Abbas Rana

"Do you think Prime Minister Harper's position on the current Middle-East crisis is a principled or strategic decision and why?"



Mike Streshaw
Conservative Strategist

"Whether it's principled or strategic, it's a decision—a foreign concept to previous Liberal governments, who were content when it came to the Middle East to hesitate and equivocate under the guise of neutrality and 'nuance'.
"The government under this Prime Minister isn't neutral between a democratic state and a terrorist organization whose stated purpose

is the destruction of Israel. The Prime Minister has rightly determined that Israel has a right to defend itself from Hezbollah attacks, and that any ceasefire must be sustainable and lasting, with not just Israel observing it, but Hezbollah as well. This principled direction is in line with Canada's core values of peace and democracy.

"In fact, it's that old Liberal 'nuance' that lacks anything resembling principle, and is based solely on strategic political considerations. By trying to please everyone domestically, Liberals end up with wishy-washy positions that mean nothing to anyone, and render Canada's voice meaningless."

Leslie Swartman
Liberal Strategist

"Whether it was principled or strategic, it is certainly deeply unpopular. The Decima poll out late last week showing the Tories sinking like a stone in popularity nationally shows that their recent hard-line positions are not popular with Canadians.

"The poll showed that the Conservatives and Liberals are statistically tied in popular support among Canadians, with the Tories at 32 per cent and the Grits at 31 per cent.

"More worrisome for the Conservatives is the story in Ontario and Quebec. They are trailing badly in Ontario and the Liberals have

pulled out ahead of the Conservatives in Quebec for the first time since prior to January's election.

"This obviously has the Tories spooked, as the PM and David Emerson have backed down from talk of a confidence vote on the softwood lumber deal.

"Let's watch to see if the government softens its position on the Israel-Lebanon conflict. We'll know then whether their decision was strategic or principled."



France Amyot
Bloc Strategist

"Prime Minister's position was neither principled nor strategic. It was ideological.

"If he had taken a strategic decision, he would have kept a balanced position—like Canada did in 1982 when it reiterated Israel's right to self-defence while reminding Israel of its legal obligation to respect the principle of proportionality and the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure—rather than siding unequivocally the way this

Prime Minister has. Stephen Harper could not ignore that his stand would be utterly unpopular in Quebec and that it would hurt the Conservative Party.

"On the other hand, a principled decision would have made him support peace initiatives rather than obstructing them. Every day that passes, tens of people die, most of them civilians. One third of them are children, according to UNICEF. Affirming that this situation is 'measured'—Canada has been the only country in the world to say so—cannot be based on principles. Refusing to demand a ceasefire, thus allowing the bloodshed to continue, cannot be based on principles.

"But while principles cannot blind you, ideologies can. If you divide the world into good and evil, military action is the only option. Diplomacy and political discussions are the best way to solve problems but they cannot be used when you seek to defeat evil."



Karl Bélanger
NDP Strategist

"Actually, it was a reckless decision to take sides in this crisis. And Mr. Harper continues to confirm his incapacity to show any kind of positive leadership. Canadians are aghast at his government's failure to back a ceasefire to stop the civilian bloodshed—as virtually the entire global community has now done.

"Canada should be reacting with strength and compassion to this crisis, instead of trying to please the Bush administration. Since Stephen Harper's government is unable to dig down and do so, Parliament should be recalled now. Canadians' elected representatives, I hope, could guide this minority Conservative government to get back on the side of

peace building.

"Most Canadians expect their government to stand up to protect civilians and the rule of international law. By failing to respect Canadians' vision for our role in this world, Stephen Harper continues to alienate himself from citizens — just as his government is so quickly alienating itself from the international community."



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PARLIAMENTARY CALENDAR



Intellectuals, politicians gather for Couchiching conference in Orillia

TUESDAY, AUG. 8

Algonquin Basketry Techniques at the Canadian Museum of Civilization—Join Algonquin artist Catherine Cayer for a demonstration of traditional basketry techniques. 12 noon to 4 p.m., Aug. 8 and 9. Grand Hall, Canadian Museum of Civilization, Gatineau, Que. Free with museum admission. For more information, call 819-776-7000 or 1-800-555-5621.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 9

Mel Hurtig Warns of Nuclear Holocaust—Canadian author and nationalist Mel Hurtig will be the featured speaker at this year's commemoration of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki in Toronto, organized by the Toronto Hiroshima Day Coalition. Mr. Hurtig warns that the world is "sleepwalking towards an inevitable cataclysmic nuclear holocaust." Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto. 6:30 to 9 p.m. For media information please contact Mr. Hurtig at 604-684-8443 or melhurtig@shaw.ca.

THURSDAY, AUG. 10

75th Couchiching Conference—Some of the most progressive thinkers from Canada and abroad will be featured at this summer's blockbuster conference, "Wedded to Progress: For Better, For Worse." Speakers include former Director of the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, Dr. Vivian Rakoff; philosopher and author John Ralston Saul, Research in Motion chair and Co-CEO, Jim Balsillie; and Green Party leadership candidate Elizabeth May. Aug. 10 to 13. Geneva Park Conference Centre (Rama Road), Orillia, Ont. For more information or to register please call 416-960-4949, 705-330-0381 or 705-330-0382.

SATURDAY, AUG. 12

Battlefield Medicine—If a soldier were wounded in battle, would he survive a trip to the doctor? Learn how battlefield surgeons treated musket ball wounds in the 18th century at one of a number of the Canadian War Museum's family workshops this summer. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Aug. 12 to 18. Free with museum admission. For more information please call 819-776-8600 or 1-800-555-5621.

Métis Painting Workshop—Join Métis artist Christi Belcourt for a colourful painting workshop. Participants will have the opportunity to create paintings with Ms. Belcourt's assistance. Aug. 12 and 13 at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, Gatineau, Que. Free with museum admission. For more information please call 819-776-7000 or 1-800-555-5621.

SUNDAY, AUG. 13

Yukon Liberal Golf Tournament—Join Liberals for this golf tournament at the Whitehorse Mountain View Golf Course, Yukon. For more information please send an email to robbiemculloch@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, AUG. 19

The Musket—Combatants on all sides of the Seven Years' War used muskets. Learn how to roll cartridges and see how a musket works at one of a number of the Canadian War Museum's family workshops this summer. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Aug. 19 to 25. Free with museum admission. For more information please call 819-776-8600 or 1-800-555-5621.

SUNDAY, AUG. 20

LPCO Boat Cruise—The Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario) holds its annual summer boat cruise, sailing from the Toronto harbour. Meet Liberals from across the province, MPs and leadership candidates. 1 p.m. \$50. For further information, or, to reserve, please send an email to boatcruise@lpcoco.ca or call 1-800-361-3881 ext. 375.

MONDAY, AUG. 21

Liberal Party Caucus Retreat—The 167 members of the federal Liberal Party caucus will hold a summer retreat in Vancouver, B.C., from Aug. 21 to 24. The meeting is expected to discuss caucus interest in the Pacific Gateway effort, the 2010 Olympics and First Nations issues. For media information please call Liberal Party of Canada communications in Ottawa at 613-783-8423.

THURSDAY, AUG. 24

Green Party National Convention—The Green Party of Canada will hold its national convention in Ottawa August 24 to 27 at the Ottawa Congress Centre. For more information please call Derek Pinto at 613-562-4761.

SATURDAY, AUG. 26

Build a Fort—Learn about redans, redoubts and parapets and then create a fort with blocks and 18th-century fort designs at one of a number of the Canadian War Museum's family workshops this summer. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Aug. 26 to Sept. 1. Free with museum admission. For more information please call 819-776-8600 or 1-800-555-5621.

SUNDAY, AUG. 27

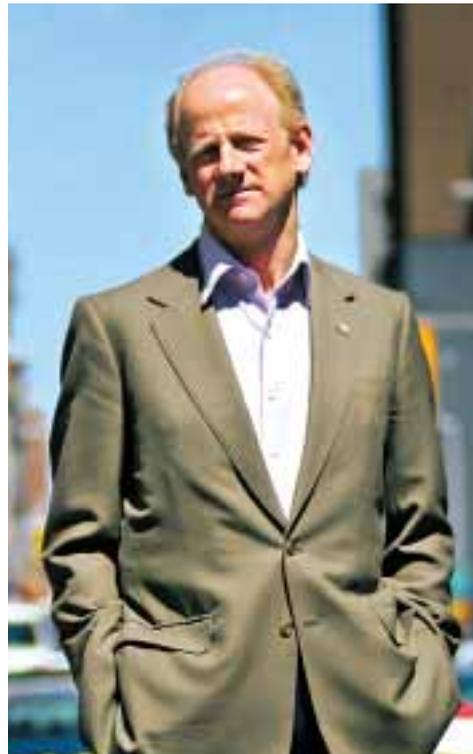
2006 IPAC Annual Conference—The theme for the Institute of Public Administration of Canada's annual conference is "In search of democracy" and will review the challenges and options faced by public administrators as they seek to capture the diverse voices of individuals and groups that animate democratic society. The conference takes place in Charlottetown, P.E.I., from Aug. 27 to 30 at the Delta Prince Edward Hotel. For more information, please email carl.cameron@vac-acc.gc.ca.

Clash of Empires Walk & Talk Tour: Weaponry—The Canadian War Museum offers a number of Walk & Talk tours with expert commentary from curators and collections managers. This talk features Phil White, the CWM's former Arms and Armour collection manager. Canadian War Museum, Ottawa. 3 p.m. Free with museum admission. For more information please call Pierre Leduc, media relations, at 819-776-8608.

THURSDAY, AUG. 31

Second Annual Peter Stoffer Golf Tournament—Join Sackville-Eastern Shore MP Peter Stoffer for a golf tournament at the Oakfield Golf Club, Grand Lake, NS. For more information, please call Evelyn at 902-455-1743.

Calgary Petroleum Women's Fifth Annual Charity Golf Tournament—One hundred and forty-four women from the oil and gas industry will enjoy a golf tournament in support of the Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter. Valley Ridge Golf Course, Calgary, Alta. \$175. Lunch and registration at 11:30 a.m. For more information please contact Deanna Burgart at 403-290-5635 or



Photograph by Jake Wright, *The Hill Times*

Around town and then some... The 75th Couchiching Conference will start Thursday in Orillia, Ont., with speakers Elizabeth May, Green Party leadership candidate, left, and John Ralston Saul, philosopher, right, among many others.

Deanna.burgart@directenergy.com.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 8

NDP Policy Convention—The federal NDP policy convention, originally scheduled for July 2005, has been re-scheduled for Sept. 8-10, 2006 in Québec City.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 10

Liberal Party Quebec Leadership and Policy Forum—Liberal leadership candidates will hold a policy debate in Québec City. Hilton Hotel, Québec. 3 p.m. For media information please contact the Liberal Party Press Office at 613-203-0216.

MONDAY, SEPT. 11

International Symposium on Hate on the Internet—B'nai Brith Canada will hold this symposium commemorating the 2001 terrorist attacks, and bringing together stakeholders from the legal, law enforcement, government and IT professions. For more information please call 416-633-6224 ext. 112 or visit www.bnaibrith.ca.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 15

Barbecue and Mugging—The Parliamentary Press Gallery will hold a barbecue and mugging for full-time members of the press gallery. East Block Courtyard (access is through the north side of the building), Parliament Hill, Ottawa. 12:30 p.m. For more information please call the press gallery at 613-992-6517.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 17

Liberal Party B.C. Leadership and Policy Forum—Liberal leadership candidates will hold a policy debate in Vancouver. Chan Centre, University of British Columbia, Vancouver. 2 p.m. For media information please contact the Liberal Party Press Office at 613-203-0216.

MONDAY, SEPT. 18

The House Returns—The House of Commons is scheduled to return on Monday Sept. 18. The Senate is scheduled to resume sitting on Tuesday, Sept. 19.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 19

National Summit on Corporate Governance in the Public Sector—This conference will explore best practices in evaluating, improving and managing effective governance in departments and Crown corporations under the new Conservative government. Sept. 19 to 21. Chateau Cartier Resort, Gatineau, Qué. For more information please call 1-800-882-8684 or email annie.obrien@iqpc.com.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20

PM's Trip to UN—Prime Minister Stephen Harper will go to the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Sept. 20 to 21. For more information, call the PMO Press Office at 613-957-5555.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 23

Reporting and Editing Seminar—The Canadian Newspaper Association and the Canadian Association of Newspaper Editors hold their fifth reporting and editing seminar, featuring Don Gibb and Steve Buttry. Sept. 23 to Sept. 24. Saskatoon, Sask. \$150 for either Saturday or Sunday or \$250 for both. For more information, contact Bryan Cantley at the Canadian Newspaper Association at bcantley@cna-acj.ca.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 28

Aboriginal Writing Challenge Awards Reception—The Dominion Institute and Enbridge host a reception to celebrate the national winners of the 2006 Aboriginal Writing Challenge. The National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information please visit www.our-story.ca or call 1-866-701-1867.

SATURDAY, OCT. 14

11th Annual Wordstock—A two-day series of seminars and workshops for writers and copy editors, with a keynote speech by Dana Robbins of *The Hamilton Spectator*. Rogers Communications Centre, 80 Gould St., Toronto. Begins Saturday at 9:15 a.m. \$75 for Saturday, \$100 for Sat-

urday and Sunday. \$25 discount for journalism students or members of the Ryerson Journalism Alumni Association. For more information please contact Bryan Cantley at 416-923-3567 ext. 230 or bcantley@cna-acj.ca.

SUNDAY, OCT. 15

Liberal Party Ontario Leadership and Policy Forum—Liberal leadership candidates will hold a policy debate in Toronto. Roy Thompson Hall, Toronto. 2 p.m. For media information please contact the Liberal Party Press Office at 613-203-0216.

MONDAY, SEPT. 25

Commission of Inquiry into the Investigation of the Bombing of Air India Flight 182—The Commission will begin evidentiary hearings under Commissioner John C. Major. Bytown Pavillion, Ottawa. For more information please call 613-992-1834.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26

National Press Club Golf Tourney—The Annual National Press Club Golf Tournament will be held at the Kingsway Golf Club. For more information please visit www.pressclub.on.ca.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27

Maple Leaf Day—Canadians are encouraged to plant a tree. For more information please visit www.mapleleafday.ca.

MONDAY, OCT. 23

Public Affairs Association of Canada AGM—PAAC will hold its annual general meeting. For more information please call PAAC at 416-367-2223.

TUESDAY, OCT. 24

Art & Science of Public Affairs Conference—This seventh annual conference is scheduled to take place in Toronto. For more information please call the Public Affairs Association of Canada at 416-367-2223.

SATURDAY, NOV. 4

Governor General's Performing Arts Awards—Join Governor General Michaëlle Jean for this 15th annual celebration honouring Canada's performing artists. Tickets go on sale at the NAC box office and Ticketmaster on Sept. 20. National Arts Centre, Ottawa. For more information please visit www.bce.ca/ggawards or call Taline Jirian at 613-241-5297 ext. 202.

TUESDAY, NOV. 28

NATO Summit—NATO Heads of State and Government will for two days meet to take stock of accomplishments and chart the way ahead for the Alliance. November 28 to 29, Riga, Latvia. For more information please visit www.rigasummit.lv.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 29

Liberal Party Leadership Convention—The Liberals are scheduled to elect a successor to former leader Paul Martin at a convention in Montreal from Nov. 29 to Dec. 3, 2006. For more information, please call Tait Simpson at 613-203-0216.

MONDAY, DEC. 11

Canadian Study of Parliament Group Essay Competition Deadline—The CSPG welcomes submissions relating to Parliament, legislatures or legislators, including political parties or the relationship between legislatures or legislators and other branches or areas of government such as the executive or the courts. For more information please visit www.studyparliament.ca.

The Parliamentary Calendar is a free listing edited by Simon Doyle who can be reached at 613-232-5952, ext. 260. Emails regarding political, governmental and cultural events should be sent to sdoyle@hilltimes.com with the subject line "Parliamentary Calendar" by Wednesdays at noon. Our fax number is 613-232-9055. We can't guarantee every event will get in, but we do our best.

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



JUDITH WOLFSON

On behalf of the Governing Council of the University of Toronto, President David Naylor is pleased to announce the appointment of Judith Wolfson to the position of Vice-President, University Relations. In her new position, Ms. Wolfson is responsible for external and international relations and communications at the University of Toronto.

Ms. Wolfson brings a wealth of experience to the university in all facets of policy development for external relations. Since 1998 Ms. Wolfson has been President and CEO of Interac Association/Acsys Corp., which manages Canada's shared network of electronic financial services.

Prior to entering the financial services industry, Ms. Wolfson spent more than 10 years with the Government of Ontario, as Assistant Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology and as Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism.

Ms. Wolfson graduated from the University of Toronto in 1972 with a Master's in Social Work and later returned to the university, earning a law degree in 1980.

Established in 1827, the University of Toronto is Canada's largest university, recognized as a global leader in research and teaching.





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