



THE HILL TIMES

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CANADA'S POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018 \$5.00

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News Public service

Feds shell out \$250K to bureaucrats for Phoenix-related financial losses

The government has paid out 86 per cent of the more than 1,400 claims it has received since the program started in September 2016.



Treasury Board President Scott Brison, pictured March 20, is responsible for the program reimbursing bureaucrats for out-of-pocket expenses they rang up due to the troubled Phoenix pay system. The highest number of claims by department has come from Employment and Social Development Canada, Fisheries and Oceans (including the Coast Guard), and Correctional Services Canada. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

BY EMILY HAWS

The government has doled out nearly \$250,000 since September 2016 to cover financial losses public servants have incurred because of the Phoenix pay system, according to the Treasury Board, which unions say indicates the program is working well despite seemingly low engagement.

From September 2016 to January 31, 2018, 1,452 claims have been processed government-wide, said Treasury Board spokesperson Martin Potvin in an emailed statement. Of that number, 1,244 claims (86 per cent) were fully or partially approved; 167 (11 per cent) were not eligible; and 41 claims (three per cent) are still in progress.

Known as the "Claims for expenses and financial losses due Phoenix" program, it reimburses bureaucrats being charged financial penalties because of pay issues stemming from the Phoenix pay system, which was launched in February 2016.

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News Political financing

Time to plug loopholes that make it 'almost an invitation' for foreign money to influence elections, Liberals, opposition agree

The Liberals are planning new rules to limit third-party spending between elections.

BY CHARELLE EVELYN

Time to plug loopholes that make it 'almost an invitation' for foreign money to influence elections, Liberals, opposition agree

The government wants to ensure "our democratic institutions are protected and defended from cyber threats and foreign interference. That includes ensuring we have tough election financing laws that serve Canadians' interests," Nicky Cayer, a spokesperson for Democratic Institutions Minister Karina Gould, said in an email. Ms. Gould (Burlington, Ont.) is on maternity leave following the birth of her son. Treasury Board President Scott Brison (Kings-Hants, N.S.) is handling her portfolio during her absence.

The Liberals "will propose measures to ensure that third-party spending between elections is subject to reasonable limits," said Ms. Cayer. "We are looking at all options and we will bring forward measures soon that will strengthen our existing laws, and ensure greater transparency for Canadians."

The longstanding issue of foreign money being used to support third-party political actors in Canadian elections came to a head after the 2015 election when some Conservatives accused non-governmental organizations operating with American money of torquing the election to oust the Harper government.

It's difficult to quantify with the current tools how big of a problem foreign money is in Canadian elections, said Karl Bélanger, a former national director of the NDP.

"The reality is there's all kinds of things that are happening that could fall into the category of third party, especially outside of the writ period that is not tabulated," he said. "So in that sense, especially in the light of what we've seen in other countries recently, I think

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News Politics

NDP too slow on Singh Sikh controversy, say strategists, but it's not likely to hurt him in 2019

BY EMILY HAWS

The NDP should have expected questions on leader Jagmeet Singh's associations with Sikh nationalist or extremist groups,

so it's surprising his team took so long to mount a defence when the issue blew up in the past week, say political strategists.

But, they say, given that the Liberals and Conservatives have both also taken

heat over their relationship with the Sikh community in Canada recently, it's unlikely they'll want to use the issue as

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HEARD ON THE HILL

by Shruti Shekar

PMO's Purchase, McNair welcome babies



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's director of communications Kate Purchase gave birth to baby boy Christos Thomas Periklis Tsergas on St. Patrick's Day. Photograph courtesy of Twitter

The luck of the Irish came for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's director of communications Kate Purchase who gave birth to baby boy Christos Thomas Periklis Tsergas on St. Patrick's Day.

"Befitting a Greek Irish boy, our Son Christos (but we call him Kit) Thomas Periklis Tsergas as born this morning, on St Patrick's Day at 9:48 a.m. We couldn't be more in love with him, and more thankful for the rockstars at the Civic [Hospital] for all of their help," Ms. Purchase tweeted on March 17, with a really cute photo of her newborn in a green and white hat.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's director of communications Kate Purchase, left, and Mr. Trudeau's executive director of cabinet and legislative affairs Mike McNair, both had babies this month.

He was also exactly on schedule; back in October Ms. Purchase told *The Hill Times* her due date was that day.

Congratulations flooded in online from friends and colleagues, including Veterans Affairs Minister Seamus O'Regan, who sent love from her "other Greek-Irish boys"—referring to his husband Stelios Doussis and himself, respectively—and Liberal MP Terry Sheehan, who posted an Irish blessing: "A newborn babe brings light to the house, warmth to the hearth, and joy to the soul, for wealth is family, family is wealth."

The PMO saw one more baby addition in the past two weeks.

Mike McNair, executive director of cabinet and legislative affairs, tweeted an adorable photo of his new baby boy Gordon McNair.

"Happy to announce the arrival late yesterday of our third kiddo: Gordon McNair," Mr. McNair tweeted on March 5. Gordon was born at the Montfort Hospital, which is located near the Vanier neighbourhood in Ottawa.

More than 30 new Canadian-specific words added to the Oxford Dictionaries website

After conducting a lot of research, Oxford Dictionaries has finally added Trudeauania and fuddle duddle, among other words that many Canadians may be familiar with, to its online database of words.

Katherine Martin, head of the U.S. dictionaries team at Oxford University Press, said in an email that over 200 new words were added, of which more than 30 were Canadian. She noted that the website is updated four times a year with new and revised entries and the most recent update was in December.

She said the words added in the latest update were found through consulting other Oxford University Press dictionaries, analyzing Canadian sources, "and some (like gong show) were simply suggested by Canadian members of our editorial staff."

"We have a central database for collecting all of our new word candidates, and so once an item is identified, we collect information about it, including how old it is, how much evidence there is for it, whether it is associated with any particular country, and even whether it has ever been searched for on our website," Ms. Martin said.

The website includes contents of the Oxford Dictionary of English, New Oxford American Dictionary, Oxford Thesaurus of English, and Oxford American Writer's Thesaurus.

Asked how a Canadian word is selected, Ms. Martin said there wasn't a specific factor to determine which country gets a word added.

"We have to prioritize...we're aiming to cover a diverse range of words that may be of interest to both our Canadian readers and our international audience," she said.

Ms. Martin said defining Trudeauania surprised many non-Canadians, who thought the word was associated with the current prime minister. But it's now clarified for all as "extreme enthusiasm" for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's father, former prime minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau, "especially during his 1968 election campaign and early years in office, or (more recently) his son Justin Trudeau, prime minister of Canada since 2015."

The elder Trudeau also inspired the recently added fuddle duddle, defined by Oxford as an exclamation "used euphemistically in place of an expletive," famously offered up by the former PM to mask a supposed obscenity uttered during Question Period in 1971.

Words are given to editors to research and draft on a quarterly basis, Ms. Martin said, adding that the new update "represents one small slice of the Canadian lexicon."



The Oxford Dictionaries has added more than 30 new words including Trudeauania and fuddle duddle, which was first used by former prime minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau to mask a swear word. Dutch national archives photo by Rob Mieremet

Minister LeBlanc, MP Zahid doing well after cancer treatments



Liberal MP Salma Zahid, left, and Fisheries Minister Dominic LeBlanc are undergoing treatments for their cancer. Spokespeople have indicated they are both doing well. *The Hill Times* file photographs

Fisheries Minister Dominic LeBlanc has gone through two-thirds of his treatments and "they're going very well," his press secretary Vincent Hughes said in an email.

Mr. LeBlanc announced on Dec. 6 that he was battling chronic lymphocytic leukemia and was diagnosed after a physical exam in April.

"The doctors are pleased with the results so far," Mr. Hughes said.

Mr. LeBlanc said in a statement back in December that he would be continuing his work as a Parliamentarian and minister during treatment for his cancer, which is the most common type of leukemia in adults.

Liberal MP Salma Zahid is reportedly in good spirits as she focuses on her treatment of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Jeff Jedras, her executive assistant, said in an email that she has completed her first round of chemotherapy and is at home resting.

"We'll know soon how the first round went. Her spirits are high and she would like to thank everyone who has called, written, visited, or sent a card for their support and their prayers, as it has meant a lot," Mr. Jedras said.

Mr. Zahid announced on Feb. 20 she would be taking medical leave from her role as a Toronto-area MP to undergo an "intensive course of chemotherapy."

She said in a press release at the time she was diagnosed with the disease after several weeks of intermittent pain that happened after travelling over the holidays.

MP Todd Doherty back in the House after nearly two months

Conservative MP Todd Doherty was back in the House Monday after recovering from an emergency gallbladder-removal surgery that led doctors to discover he was suffering a life-threatening illness.

Mr. Doherty rose in the House and thanked the doctors and nurses at the University Hospital of Northern British Columbia and urged his colleagues to take care of their health.



Conservative MP Todd Doherty is back in the House after undergoing an emergency gallbladder surgery. *The Hill Times* file photograph

"To my colleagues: we lead busy lives and it is easy to lose sight of what is most important. The work we do here in the House and in our ridings has meaning, every meeting, every speech, every event, every text, and every call.

It is easy to get caught up in the whirlwind, but without our health, we have nothing. I ask them to stop, take time to reflect, and above all else, to take care of themselves," Mr. Doherty said, holding back tears.

Back in late January, Mr. Doherty was rushed to hospital, after an outing with friends, to have his gallbladder removed. During surgery, doctors found a "glue/gunk like infection and pneumonia" in his lungs causing his body to go septic and shut down.

MP Clement rocks on with TV presenter Strombo at SXSW

Conservative MP Tony Clement was hanging out with Canadian TV and radio personality George Stroumboulopoulos at the South by Southwest (SXSW) interactive conference and festival last week.



Conservative MP Tony Clement hangs out with Canadian TV presenter George Stroumboulopoulos at the South by Southwest festival last week in Austin, Texas. Screenshot of Tony Clement's Instagram

"Hangin with @strombo last night/this morning in Austin TX, listening to great Canadian breakout artists @partner_band!! #sxsw #sxsw2018 #rocknroll #guitarrock #checkthemout," Mr. Clement captioned a selfie posted on his Instagram page on March 15.

The SXSW festival, hosted annually in Austin, Texas, was from March 9 to 13. It showcases film, interactive media, and new music.

If you didn't know this already, Mr. Clement regularly goes to music festivals, like the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, which brings artists of all music genres together in a desert setting for a pair of three-day weekends in April.

He also frequents local festivals and music shows in his riding of Parry Sound-Muskoka, Ont.

And none of this is out of the ordinary either because Mr. Clement is pretty involved in music himself with his own band *The Dock Spiders* and his occasional radio show on a local Hunter's Bay community station.

Minister McKenna bumps into Neil Patrick Harris, not Minister O'Regan



Environment Minister Catherine McKenna hanging out with American Actor Neil Patrick Harris. Photograph courtesy of Twitter

Environment Minister Catherine McKenna bumped into U.S. actor Neil Patrick Harris, and yes, he looks exactly like Veterans Affairs Minister Seamus O'Regan.

"Never know who you will run into.... great to meet you @ActuallyNPH!!" Ms. McKenna tweeted on March 15.

Ms. McKenna was in Vancouver participating in the Globe conference, which brings together industry, organizations, and people, to talk about a clean, sustainable economy. The conference ran from March 14 to 16.

Mr. O'Regan retweeted the picture captioning it: "Catherine. It's me. (Awkward)."

The Hill Times made the comparison back in early February, and this picture just proves even more how similar Mr. O'Regan and Mr. Harris look.

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CLARIFICATION

Re: "NDP MP Erin Weir still in the dark about harassment allegations, yet to speak to investigator," (*The Hill Times*, March 14, p. 5). The story said NDP MP Erin Weir confirmed March 13 he had no new information. In fact, that should have been attributed to a staff member of Mr. Weir, not him directly.

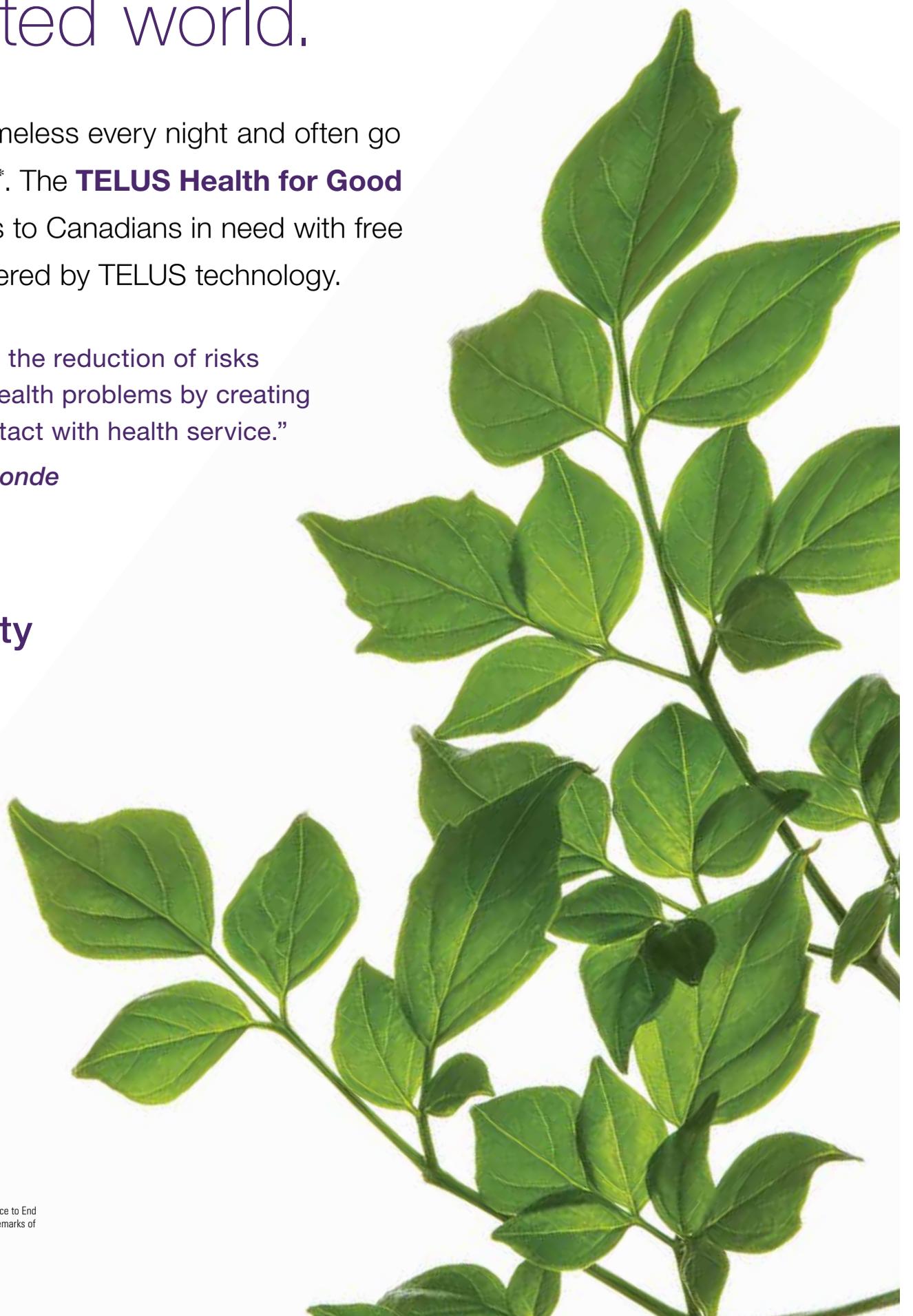
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News Party politics

Defence minister denies funding lapse for ambitious policy amid project delays

BY SAMANTHA WRIGHT ALLEN

Money for new defence policy projects is delayed, not discarded, Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan told a House committee Tuesday, putting some of the blame for slower spending on Stephen Harper-era cuts to the public service as he sought to justify his department's additional funding requests to close out the fiscal year.

During an appearance at the House National Defence Committee March 20, Mr. Sajjan (Vancouver South, B.C.) insisted the Liberal government is on pace with its spending targets and "all projects are fully funded," despite Conservative MP James Bezan's suggestion that the estimates show funding has lapsed.

The \$435-million requested in the supplementary estimates means policy spending sits around \$4-billion despite a \$6-billion promise, said Mr. Bezan (Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman, Man.), citing defence analyst David Perry, who wrote in January that DND "is on track to fall at least \$2 billion short of the capital spending plans outlined in the policy," by the end of this fiscal year, which means Canada "will fall well short of NATO's two per cent of GDP target."

"So is that lapsed funding?" said Mr. Bezan, his party's defence critic, during the Tuesday morning meeting where Mr. Sajjan was flanked by six of his department's top bureaucrats. "What's not getting funded out of [defence policy] Strong, Secure, Engaged?"

No funding is lapsed, Mr. Sajjan replied, but "certain projects" are not mature enough to move forward. A key problem is a shortage of procurement staff, added Mr. Sajjan, who pointed to the Harper-era public service staffing cuts for scaling back the manpower needed to get projects off the ground.

"If you increase your projects, you need people with the right expertise to move it forward," he said. "We would love to be able to move on projects as quickly as possible. We would have liked to do the full \$6-billion. ... We're not going to write a cheque if delivery of certain projects is not going to be there."

Patrick Finn, assistant deputy minister of materiel, said the department has grown its procurement staff by about 10 per cent annually over the last two years.

Deputy minister Jody Thomas told committee members the lower spending on the policy came down to a combination of factors: suppliers not being ready, ability to deal with procurement internally, projects paused because of



Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan was peppered with questions about department spending by the House National Defence Committee on March 20. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

issues like intellectual property rights in the case of the surface combatant ships, and in some cases money saved on projects.

Noting a budget "almost mute" on national defence, Mr. Bezan echoed criticisms levelled last week by Parliamentary Budget Officer Jean-Denis Fréchette. In his report, Mr. Fréchette noted the budget hasn't given a detailed breakdown of the defence policy's fiscal plan and has asked DND for its spending projections.

"The Department of National Defence indicates that the infor-

mation will be forthcoming," the report said.

But, as Mr. Fréchette also pointed out in his March 15 report, other information received on request from Finance Canada about government spending was "provided this information to the PBO on the condition that the specific departments and agencies, as well as the detailed dollar amounts, remain confidential."

"National defence isn't giving the reconciliation... there's no idea for us as Parliamentarians how taxpayer dollars are being used. Where's the transparency here?" asked Mr. Bezan, pressing for details of the 20-year plan to be tabled. Strong, Secure, Engaged was published in June, outlining two decades of defence priorities.

Mr. Sajjan said the investment plan should be public by May 2018, and stressed the policy was put in place last year to avoid the department having to make "quick knee-jerk reactions," which would cause problems.

The third set of spending estimates, known as supplementary estimates 'C,' was tabled on Feb. 12 and includes about \$4-billion in total extra spending for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

DND had two major asks in the estimates—\$435.4-million to fund "defence engagement program

expansion, health and wellness strategy, in-service support and operating funding for Strong, Secure, Engaged initiatives," as well as \$277.6-million to support various Canada's various military engagements, including Operation Impact, and the Ukraine-based Operation Unifier mission.

Australian jets 'combat ready': Defence ADM

Canada is on track to purchase 18 second-hand Australian fighter jets, Mr. Sajjan told committee, a "fortunate" option to help replace Canada's aging fleet.

They are expected to arrive in "combat-ready status" said Mr. Finn, though he later noted the first round of aircrafts will likely come from the portion of the Australian fleet undergoing "heavy maintenance," which Canada would have to continue.

Conservative MP David Yurdiga (Fort McMurray-Cold Lake, Alta.) raised concerns that the some of the 18 Canada plans to purchase are in need of refurbishment but Mr. Finn said recent inspections showed "very few if any" will require replacement.

Neither Mr. Sajjan nor his staff said they could make public the price tag because they don't have a final agreement.

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Ex-Bloc MPs name spokesperson, no leader

On Monday, beleaguered Bloc leader Martine Ouellet agreed to put her leadership to a confidence vote at a mid-April annual general meeting.

BY SAMANTHA WRIGHT ALLEN

The breakaway group of seven Bloc Québécois MPs says it has a spokesperson, but no formal leader, and isn't ready to start talking about forming a new party—for now it plans to continue working from the Bloc platform on which its members were elected.

The collective, now known as the Groupe parlementaire québécois, is working as a collective and won't have a formal party structure, but will still represent the Bloc platform they were elected on, said group MP Rhéal Fortin (Rivière-du-Nord, Que.).

"We will see in the weeks and months to come if we need a new

structure but for now are going to govern ourselves according to our mandate that the electorate gave to us in 2015 with a collective agreement between us," said Mr. Fortin in an interview last week. "We're not forming a party, not yet at least. Will it happen or not? I don't know; everything's on the table. We have to discuss all the options but nothing has been decided yet."

On Monday, beleaguered Bloc leader Martine Ouellet caved to pressure and agreed to submit her leadership to a vote of confidence. Previously she'd refused to move the scheduled 2019 leadership vote and instead last week said the party would hold a referendum on the party's role in Ottawa at the April annual general meeting. The party also moved that meeting up one month in the face of pressure to act, but by Monday agreed to add her leadership as a second referendum question, with a threshold of 50 per cent plus one.

She made the concession after consulting with her team, Bloc members, and party officials, she said, but also referred to "coup attempts" and a desire to "get back to the grassroots," according to media reports.

While the Bloc offered a list of 30 riding associations that support her leadership, *Le Devoir* reported last week at least 11 wanted a vote.

All seven MPs and their riding associations have been locked out of Bloc membership lists. Three other MPs remain loyal to Ms. Ouellet.

The riding association for Chicoutimi-Le Fjord, where a byelection must be called by June, is decidedly not in her corner, saying it won't run a Bloc candidate with her as leader, according to the Canadian Press. The Bloc has insisted, despite that barrier, it will run a candidate, though it won't be Ms. Ouellet, who is keeping her Quebec National Assembly seat. In 2015, the Bloc came in third in the riding with 20.5 per cent of the vote, behind former Liberal MP Denis Lemieux's 31.1 per cent and the second-place NDP who had 29.7 per cent. Mr. Lemieux resigned in November, citing family reasons.

On Monday, Quebec parliamentary group MP Luc Thériault (Montcalm, Que.) criticized Ms. Ouellet's about-face, noting 50 per cent plus one was a low bar for a confidence vote and that he's rarely seen it considered by

leaders as enough support.

That move demonstrates that the defectors' decision to leave was the right one, he said while speaking to reporters in Ottawa, adding he was "disappointed."

The group is waiting to let the dust settle before making any decisions, but on most fronts "nothing has changed" in their parliamentary lives after leaving caucus, Mr. Fortin said, noting they didn't have much support from the Bloc and aren't seeing the loss of any resources on that front.

It didn't affect their time in the House, either. Each Independent MP gets one question per week, so they'll have seven while the Bloc will have three. Even with the full team of 10, the former Bloc caucus didn't rise to the House's definition of a recognized party, which meant they never had funding for party research.

Most meetings take place in their personal offices and the caucus meets every Wednesday meetings in Centre Block's Francophonie room at 9:30 a.m. Ms. Ouellet used to have meetings with the group on Mondays, so Mr. Fortin said negotiating room times and locations wasn't an issue.

For the time being, the group isn't giving out any official titles, but Mr. Fortin has been acting as the spokesperson MP. One of his aides, Mathieu Renaud St-Amand, has been working as a press secretary for the group. He used to do that work for all 10 Bloc MPs,

as well as Ms. Ouellet, and now Antoni Gilbert, who was working for the Bloc taking care of its social media, is taking on that press secretary role for the remaining three. Mr. Gilbert works for the Bloc and Ms. Ouellet, and isn't assigned to one MP's office, he said.

Mr. Fortin said all of the seven MPs' staffers have stayed despite their bosses' defection, though he made the distinction that while they resigned from the caucus, they did not leave the party.

"I think I can say they all agree with what we have done," he said of staff, noting they collaborate on all issues. "They were part of our discussions since the beginning. We always take their opinion into consideration."

Mr. Fortin said they are "almost done" assigning critic roles and Mr. St-Amand said the group will discuss them at caucus Wednesday.

The remaining Bloc trio include former party leader and current party president Mario Beaulieu, party whip Marilène Gill (Manicouagan, Que.), and former Bloc youth wing president Xavier Barsalou-Duval (Pierre-Boucher-Les Patriotes-Verchères, Que.), who took on the role of parliamentary leader after Gabriel Ste-Marie (Joliette, Que.) resigned from the role on Feb. 25, three days before the en masse defection.

Mr. Gilbert said the party would be in a better position later in the week to discuss critic roles and its new caucus structure for the remaining Bloc MPs.

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JACKLIN, ANGELA //

ENROL DATE

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RETIRED AS

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CDN FORCES ELECTRONIC
WARFARE CENTRE //**

DEPLOYMENTS

AT SEA //

DIVISION

OTTAWA //

TITLE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR //

SERVICE

2014-PRESENT //

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COMMISSIONAIRES

After a year's delay, justice minister called on to finally slay zombie laws

Bill C-39 was tabled on March 8, 2017 and has not moved beyond first reading, leaving Alberta Conservative MP Michael Cooper worried Criminal Code errors could rise again in court.

BY CHARELLE EVELYN

A government bill aiming to remove unconstitutional parts of the Criminal Code is barely lurching along, much to the chagrin of a Conservative MP and his constituent who could have seen a guilty verdict handed down in the death of his parents scrapped after a trial judge mistakenly used an outdated provision.

Bill C-39, An Act to Amend the Criminal Code, is part of the Liberals' suite of justice-reform bills and, if passed, would remove a handful of offences from the books that have over time been found by the courts to be unconstitutional—known as “zombie laws.”

But the bill has not progressed since Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould (Vancouver Granville, B.C.) introduced it March 8, 2017, despite a recent claim she would get the ball rolling.

“I’m at a loss for words to explain why it is that one year later we’re talking about this legislation being stuck at first reading,” said Conservative MP Michael Cooper (St. Albert-Edmonton, Alta.), his party’s deputy justice critic. “It’s not controversial; I think everyone agrees that unconstitutional sections of the Criminal Code that have no force or effect should be removed. So get it done.”

In a Jan. 31 email to Mr. Cooper’s constituent, Bret McCann, Ms. Wilson-Raybould said “we will be seeking unanimous consent in the House of Commons to move Bill C-39 forward expeditiously.”

Mr. McCann’s parents, Lyle and Marie, disappeared while on a trip from St. Albert, Alta., to Abbotsford, B.C., in July 2010. Travis Vader was found guilty of second-degree murder on Sept. 15, 2016, but the same day, it became apparent that Alberta Court of Queen’s Bench judge Denny Thomas had made a mistake.

Defence lawyers immediately launched an appeal and sought a mistrial on the grounds that the judge had applied Section 230



Conservative MP Michael Cooper, left, is calling on Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould, right, to make progress on Bill C-39 to remove zombie laws from the Criminal Code, after more than a year of inaction. *The Hill Times* file photographs

of the Criminal Code, categorizing causing the death of someone while committing another offence as murder, which had been deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of Canada through a pair of decisions in 1987 and 1990.

At the end of October 2016, the mistrial application was dismissed, and Mr. Vader’s convictions were downgraded to manslaughter. He was given a life sentence, with eligibility for parole after seven years.

“Please be assured that your tragic ordeal has been front and centre for me as I seek to advance the changes needed to ensure that the text of the Criminal Code reflects the current state of the law, thus preventing reliance on invalid sections in the future,” Ms. Wilson-Raybould wrote in the Jan. 31 email, which Mr. McCann said is the first direct correspondence he’s had with the minister.

The email was in response to a note Mr. McCann had sent the minister a year prior. While he said he found it odd that it took a year to receive a response, he was optimistic the minister was going to address the issue. That optimism has begun to fade somewhat as three more sitting weeks passed with no further action.

In an emailed statement to *The Hill Times*, Ms. Wilson-Raybould said she knows “that the McCann family wants to see this legislation passed quickly so that so-called ‘zombie laws’ are not mistakenly relied upon. I agree with them.”

But she didn’t offer any timelines as to when that might take place.

“Ensuring that the criminal law, as written, reflects the law as pronounced by the Supreme Court of Canada is an important objective. I want to assure all Canadians that we remain committed to working with Parliamentarians to pass this bill as quickly as possible.”

A spokesperson for Government House Leader Bardish Chagger (Waterloo, Ont.), who is responsible for shepherding legislation through the House, was equally vague in response to a question about the bill’s timeline.

“Bill C-39 is an important legislation and it will return to the House in due course,” Sabrina Atwal said in an email.

“It’s been quite frustrating to see. The delays are mysterious to me, and from what I understand from Michael, mysterious from his point of view, too,” Mr. McCann said, speaking to *The Hill Times* from Australia, where he now lives. “It’s more of a house-keeping issue; it’s nothing contentious. So it’s kind of a mystery why this was delayed.”

Getting the news that there was a problem with the verdict amid a family celebration on Sept. 15, 2016, was “crushing,” Mr. McCann recalled.

“It was unbelievable that there’d be this obsolete law and Justice Thomas would make such a mistake,” he said. “To think, now a year and a half later, that nothing’s been done about this. And it’s going to happen again unless the government takes action. It’s frustrating.”

As explained in the Charter statement accompanying C-39, a “judicial declaration that a law

is inconsistent with the Charter does not automatically remove unconstitutional provisions from the statute books, since changing the text of federal laws requires an Act of Parliament. Parliamentary repeal or amendment of invalid legislation can be considered a final step that fully vindicates the rule of law, since it ensures that the law ‘on the books’ reflects the actual state of the law in Canada.”

Bill C-51, which, among other things, cleans up archaic provisions in the Criminal Code,

was tabled in June. It passed the House in December and is now at second reading in the Senate. The minister did not respond to questions about why C-51 was moved forward ahead of C-39.

Calling it an “omnibus bill,” Mr. Cooper said he supports the parts of the legislation that get rid of the old and unnecessary Criminal Code sections in the same way he supports C-39.

Aside from cleaning up zombie laws, Bill C-51 also aligns sexual assault laws with existing Supreme Court of Canada decisions.

“The minister has repeatedly said when asked that [Bill C-39 is] a priority of the government,” he said. “Well, if it’s a priority of government, then move forward with the legislation. It could be passed very, very easily.”

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Criminal Code provisions removed by Bill C-39

- Section 159—Anal intercourse
 - Section 179(1)(b)—Loitering
 - Section 181—Spreading false news
 - Section 229(c)—Unlawful object murder
 - Section 230—Murder in the commission of offences
 - Sections 258(1)(c) and 258(1)(d)—Impaired driving – legal presumptions
 - Section 287—Abortion
 - Section 719(3.1)—Credit for pre-sentence custody
- Source: *Library of Parliament*

Status of Government Bills

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Second reading:

- C-5, An Act to Repeal Division 20 of Part 3 of the Economic Action Plan 2015 Act, No. 1
- C-12, An Act to amend the Canadian Forces Members and Veterans Reestablishment and Compensation Act
- C-27, An Act to amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985
- C-28, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (victim surcharge)
- C-32, An Act related to the repeal of section 159 of the Criminal Code
- C-33, An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act
- C-34, An Act to amend the Public Service Labour Relations Act
- C-38, An Act to amend an Act to amend the Criminal Code (exploitation and trafficking in persons)
- C-39, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (unconstitutional provisions)
- C-42, Veterans Well-being Act
- C-43, An Act respecting a payment to be made out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund to support a pan-Canadian artificial intelligence strategy
- C-52, Supporting Vested Rights Under Access to Information Act
- C-56, An Act to amend the Corrections and Conditional Release Act and the Abolition of Early Parole Act
- C-68, An Act to amend the Fisheries Act
- C-71, An Act to amend certain Acts and Regulations in relation to firearms

Committee:

- S-5, An Act to amend the Tobacco Act and the Non-smokers’ Health Act
- C-47, An Act to amend the Export and Import Permits Act and the Criminal Code (amendments permitting the accession to the Arms Trade Treaty)
- C-59, An Act respecting national security matters
- C-62, An Act to amend the Federal Public Sector Labour Relations Act and other Acts
- C-65, An Act to amend the Canada Labour Code, the Parliamentary Employment and Staff Relations Act, and the Budget Implementation Act, 2017, No. 1 (harassment and violence)
- C-69, An Act to amend the Impact Assessment Act and the Canadian Energy Regulator Act, to amend the Navigation Protection Act

Report stage:

- C-21, An Act to amend the Customs Act
- C-48, Oil Tanker Moratorium Act
- C-55, An Act to amend the Oceans Act and the Canada Petroleum Resources Act
- C-57, An Act to amend the Federal Sustainable Development Act
- C-64, Wrecked, Abandoned, or Hazardous Vessels Act

SENATE

Second reading:

- C-24, An Act to amend the Salaries Act and the Financial Administration Act
- C-45, Cannabis Act
- C-50, An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act (political financing)
- C-51, An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Department of Justice Act
- C-58, An Act to amend the Access to Information Act and the Privacy Act
- C-66, Expungement of Historically Unjust Convictions Act

Committee:

- C-46, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (offences relating to conveyances)
- C-49, Transportation Modernization Act
- C-70, Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee Governance Agreement Act

Third reading:

- C-25, An Act to amend the Canada Business Corporations Act, Canada Cooperatives Act, Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act, and Competition Act

Agriculture minister most lobbied in February as trade, grain shipments topped industry interests

Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay was lobbied 40 times in February, which almost triples the number of his second-busiest cabinet colleague.

BY SAMANTHA WRIGHT ALLEN

Lobbyists targeted Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay three times as often as his nearest cabinet colleague in February as industry groups pushed trade interests and raised the alarm about a “crisis” in grain shipments, according to the latest lobby filings.

Agriculture was the third-most popular subject lobbyists spoke to office holders about last month, with 373 mentions. Despite coming behind international trade (473 mentions) as well as health (377 mentions), there was some overlap with both as stakeholders looked to discuss Canada’s Healthy Eating Strategy and proposed food labelling changes.

Mr. MacAulay (Cardigan, P.E.I.) was listed in 40 communications, tripling Trade Minister François-Philippe Champagne’s (Saint Maurice-Champlain, Que.) 13 mentions, according to the filings from the lobbying registry exported as of March 19. Groups are expected to register all oral and arranged communications by the 15th day of each month.

February is typically busy as the first full month back after winter break. Both Chambers were in full swing, with 14 sitting days in the House and 10 in the Senate. Organizations and consultants filed 2,320 reports in February, just 200 shy of the combined total for the two previous months.

Several agriculture groups held their lobby days last month but many were making trips to the Hill to talk trade agreements and the grain shipment backlog, which was the subject of a four-hour emergency debate Monday night at the House Agriculture Committee.

Canadian Federation of Agriculture members accounted for four of Mr. MacAulay’s files.

The grain backlog is an issue that’s “been building” for months, said CFA president Ron Bonnett, but became a “hot-button” file recently as farmers face a cash flow crunch because they don’t get paid if grain isn’t shipped. Mr. Bonnett said they’ve been rais-

ing the issue since fall and more urgently as of late, calling for amendments to Bill C-49, which will change the Canada Transportation Act.

“With some amendments—where the proper data was collected—and the Canadian Transportation Agency was given the ability to respond and act, it could’ve likely stepped in and tried to solve this problem before it came almost a crisis state that it’s in now,” said Mr. Bonnett. As the situation stands now, it’s “hurting” Canada’s reliability as an exporter of grain products, he said.

Transportation was the fifth most lobbied subject in February, clocking 244 mentions.

The Canadian National Railway Company was the seventh

Lloyd Longfield (Guelph, Ont.) had 19.

NAFTA, CPTPP top trade talks with agriculture groups

With the sixth round of NAFTA negotiations ending in Montreal on Jan. 29 and the seventh round in Mexico City at the end of the month, the agreement was top of mind for most in February.

As the negotiations drag on, Tactix principal Howard Mains said there’s a “growing concern” and “greater effort to try and get closure to some of the outstanding issues.”

It was a key issue for the Dairy Farmers of Canada, which held



Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay was the most lobbied member of cabinet in February, according to stats from the lobbying registry. *The Hill Times file photograph*

busiest organization on the Hill, posting 19 files in February. Spokesman Jonathan Abecassis said in an emailed statement that it “has regular interactions with government officials on various transportation and agricultural issues” and most were related to grain transportation and C-49 last month.

Groups also sought out meetings with lead agriculture negotiator Frédéric Seppey, mentioned in 46 filings; PMO policy adviser Maxime Dea, mentioned in 22; and Liberal MP and rural caucus chair TJ Harvey (Tobique-Mactaquac, N.B.), who groups communicated with 27 times and is also chair of the All-Party Agriculture Caucus. House Agriculture Committee members were also popular—

Conservative MP John Barlow (Foothills, Alta.) had 30 communications listed, Conservative MP Luc Berthold (Mégantic-L’Érable, Que.) 26, Liberal MP Francis Drouin (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, Ont.) had 25, and Liberal MP

its lobby day earlier in the month. DFC president Pierre Lampron wrote after Mexico City talks wrapped that the agriculture text remains “largely bracketed,” or there’s no consensus, and access to supply management sectors weren’t discussed.

Chief NAFTA negotiator Steve Verheul was mentioned in nine filings, but his agriculture negotiator Mr. Seppey quadrupled that number, making him the busiest bureaucrat in February.

Organizations also said they were talking to Mr. Seppey about the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, which Canada signed March 8.

Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance president Brian Innes said it was a “major focus” because the 11-country agreement will offer “a level playing field in the Asia Pacific region where demand is growing for agri-food products.”

But Mr. Innes said six countries are set to ratify it, which

would put the agreement in effect.

“When that happens without Canada, Canada will be left behind,” he said, echoing a concern several industry groups offered. “Now is not the time to take our foot off the pedal.”

The Canadian Seed Trade Association was the fourth most active group last month, holding a lobby day and several other meetings where executive director Dave Carey said they focused on innovation and the CPTPP.

“It’s always great to be signed on to this [agreement], but you get a position of strength if you’re an early ratifier,” he said, adding when it met with Mr. Champagne, the association pushed for continued trade discussions with China and Mercosur countries.

“We can’t rest on past success.”

Mr. Mains said agriculture has really “picked up it’s game,” reaching out to other departments and bringing the industry’s “innovation story” into the public debate. Innovation is one of this government’s buzzwords, was one of the most-mentioned words in last year’s budget and for the last six months is the most lobbied department.

Senate among top lobbied institutions in February

February filings show Senate lobbying in 2018 is keeping pace with 2017’s record-breaking year, which tripled historic averages for influencers focused on the Red Chamber.

Last month, lobbyists recorded 169 communications compared to 175 in February 2017, putting it third for the month behind the House of Commons (958 reports) and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (222 reports). This is the “new normal” for the Upper Chamber, said former Liberal Senate staffer and consultant Lisa Kinsella. During sitting months last year, lobby filings for the Senate ranged between 105 to 215 communications.

Mr. Bonnett said CFA takes a “parallel approach” to lobbying the House and the Senate, noting Bill C-49 is before a Senate committee, which can offer amendments.

“We’re hoping to push on all sides to get both houses working on trying to put the appropriate amendments in place,” said Mr. Bonnett.

Much has changed since Ms. Kinsella, now managing partner of Daisy Consulting Group, worked as Senator Grant Mitchell’s (Alberta) chief of staff from 2007 to 2009, when parties could rely on whipped votes. Sen. Mitchell was a Liberal Senator before being removed from the Liberal caucus along with his all of his colleagues to sit as independents by leader Justin Trudeau in 2014. He

is now an unaffiliated Senator, as part of the three-person government representative team.

“The Senate has turned into the Wild West where they have really this newfound independence and they’re willing to exert it,” she said, though as appointees she thinks they’re still “respecting the tradition” where they don’t needlessly hold up government bills.

The uptick is no surprise given the restructuring in the Senate and the dominance of the Independent Senators Group, who are now the largest group in the Upper Chamber, said consultant Jim Thompson, who worked for a decade on the Hill mostly for former NDP leader Ed Broadbent.

“I pay more attention now to what’s going on in the Senate... just because it is a much more potentially activist institution,” he said.

Both he and Ms. Kinsella say the Senate is fulfilling its role offering sober second thought and are an important part of an advocacy strategy.

“You can’t take it for granted anymore,” Ms. Kinsella said.

swallen@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

Most lobbied ministers

Minister Name	Communications
Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay	40
Trade Minister François-Philippe Champagne	13
Environment Minister Catherine McKenna	10
Finance Minister Bill Morneau	8
Public Services Minister Carla Qualtrough	8
Health Minister Ginette Petitpas Taylor	7
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau	7
Transport Minister Marc Garneau	6
Government Leader House Bardish Chagger	5
Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains	4
Treasury Board President Scott Brison	4
Infrastructure Minister Amarjeet Sohi	4

Most lobbied MPs

MP Name	Communications
Conservative John Barlow	30
Liberal Wayne Easter	28
Liberal T J Harvey	27
Liberal Francesco Sorbara	27
Conservative Luc Berthold	26
Liberal Francis Drouin	25
Liberal Julie Dabrusin	20
Green Party leader Elizabeth May	19
Liberal Lloyd Longfield	19
Liberal Bill Casey	19

Most lobbied Senators

Senator Name	Communications
Non-affiliated Grant Mitchell	15
Liberal Terry Mercer	13
Conservative Donald Plett	11
Conservative David Tkachuk	9
Liberal Dennis Dawson	8
Liberal Joseph Day	8
Independent Lucie Moncion	8
Independent Patricia Bovey	8
Independent Diane Griffin	6
Liberal Jane Cordy	6
Independent Stephen Greene	6

Top lobbied subjects in February

Subject matter	Communication
International Trade	471
Health	377
Agriculture	373
Industry	319
Transportation	244
Environment	240
Economic Development	213
Science and Technology	210
Budget	208
Aboriginal Affairs	178

Source: Office of the Lobbying Commissioner, exported March 19, 2018

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Editorial

Mali peacekeeping mission: a cautious step in the right direction

More than two years into its mandate, and after much consultation, the Liberal government announced this week it would send 250 military personnel and helicopters to Mali as part of an ongoing United Nations mission there.

The force is expected to land in the West African country in August and stay for a year. It's set to replace a German contingent.

There is a lot at stake with this mission. It's one of the United Nations' most dangerous, with 162 peacekeepers killed there in recent years. The UN mission is trying to stabilize the country after a 2012 coup and subsequent takeover of much of the arid north by separatist anti-government militants and terrorist groups.

So it's to some extent understandable that Canada took its time in deciding on the mission. It needed to get its ducks in order.

However, there were other factors at play that led Canada to take years to follow through on the Liberals' 2015 platform commitment to "renew Canada's commitment to peacekeeping operations." The platform promise included providing specialized capabilities and "well-trained personnel that can be quickly deployed, including mission commanders, staff officers, and headquarters units."

The Canadian Press, for instance, reported in January that Canada may have missed a chance to send a commanding

officer for the Mali mission because it wanted to talk it over first with the new United States administration under Donald Trump.

Even after the Liberals hosted a showy peacekeeping summit in Vancouver last year, they didn't deliver much in the months that followed. They promised troops, trainers, helicopters, and more. Yet the number of Canadian soldiers on UN peacekeeping missions hit a new low recently, with the Department of National Defence saying there were only 22 Canadians involved in four UN-authorized missions at the end of February, while the UN had a slightly higher number.

The UN and Canada's allies had just about given up waiting for Canada, according to several media reports.

So this week's announcement is positive, in that Canada is finally living up to its word.

UN peacekeeping is not the kind of warm, fuzzy assignment Canadians may reminisce about from days past, of men in blue berets patrolling no-man's land. It's dangerous and it could very well involve Canadian casualties. For that reason, it's smart for Canada to go into this mission with eyes open. At the same time, it's important for Canada to share some of the burden among its allies of helping to quell violence abroad, and to boost its international credibility by following through on its commitments.

Letters to the Editor

With Taiwan in CPTPP, Canada will get a trade boost

Canada and 10 other countries in the Asia-Pacific region signed the historic Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) on March 8 in Chile. Taiwan welcomes this development, and is making every effort to meet the high standards required for entry into this important free trade bloc.

Taiwan's participation would increase significant economic benefits to Canada and would enhance Canada's worldwide trade diversification strategies for three reasons.

First, Taiwan is Canada's 12th-largest trading partner in the world and fifth-largest in Asia. Total merchandise trade between Canada and Taiwan in 2017 reached \$7-billion, an 9.09 per cent increase from 2016. Taiwan's GDP is higher than that of seven of the signatories of the CPTPP and is only smaller than that of the remaining four: Japan, Canada, Australia, and Mexico. The stock of Taiwan's foreign direct investment in Canada was \$134-million at the end of 2016. Canada's FDI in Taiwan is expected to go up in the next few years.

Second, Taiwan has been a member economy of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation organization since 1991. Membership in CPTPP is open to all APEC members. Canada and Taiwan already have good cooperation in APEC and the World Trade Organization. In these platforms both sides hold similar views on free trade and economic liberalization.

Third, Taiwan maintains close economic and trade ties with Japan and Southeast Asian countries such as Vietnam, Singapore, and Malaysia. All of them are CPTPP members. There are more than 200,000 Taiwanese-Canadians who can serve as facilitators to promote Canadian interests and business opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region.

I sincerely hope the Canadian government will take this opportunity to support Taiwan's entry into the CPTPP to further strengthen Canada-Taiwan trade relations.

Frank Lin
 Acting Representative
 Taipei Economic and Cultural Office
 in Canada
 Ottawa, Ont.

Latvian government has no part in parades honouring vets who fought for Nazis: ambassador

Re: "Canada should denounce those who glorify Latvia's Nazi past," (*The Hill Times*, March 14, p. 10). Once again, Scott Taylor's article appears to be a defence of Russia's most common contemporary narratives. Coincidence?

Latvians celebrate the Nazis no more than they celebrate when their country was in Soviet hands. Both of these totalitarian regimes ignored international law and used conscription and force to place Latvians into their armed forces.

It's vital to distinguish between those who perpetrated crimes and soldiers who died in battle on the front lines. The author brushes off this dichotomy and points to commemorative ceremonies and the laying of flowers on March 16 as a sign of something amiss.

Latvia has consistently and strongly condemned the crimes against humanity committed by both Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. Latvia mourns and honours the victims of the Holocaust and supports Holocaust education and remembrance.

During the Second World War, many tragic events took place in occupied Latvia affecting all its residents: two ruthless occupations, the Holocaust, the illegal conscription of able-bodied men into foreign armies, and mass deportations of the civilian population. Through all of this, Latvia lost one-third of its population.

One of those tragic chapters of history is also related to what is known as the Latvian Legion, a military unit that was created illegally against international law.

Light should be shone on all dark corners of history. I agree with all those truthfully seeking to achieve that. It's the

way to avoid getting stuck and repeating history, and it's the best way for progress. That won't be achieved through erroneous finger-pointing, name-calling, and visualizing Nazi sympathizers where there are none. It is destructive for an author to gloss over of the important nuances of history, and to try to fit things into black and white categories that have no foothold in reality. Taylor should go to Latvia and see things with his own eyes, not take the ill-fated advice of somebody else.

Latvians commemorate those who died in the Second World War on different dates. Battles between the Soviet and Nazi troops in March 1944 caused major fatalities among Latvian men unlawfully drafted into the Nazi German Army.

Since the restoration of independence, the Latvian government has consistently pursued an approach that Latvia commemorates its fallen soldiers on Nov. 11 (the Lāčplēsis Day).

As a democratic country, Latvia respects and also guarantees freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. March 16 is not an official remembrance day, and people, on their own private initiative, pay their respects to fallen soldiers. Senior officials and government members do not participate in those commemorative gatherings in the centre of Latvia's capital city.

Today, rather than creating new front lines, we must seek jointly to explore the tragic lessons of history in order to prevent politicization, radicalism, and the spread of extremist ideas.

Kārlis Eihenbaums
 Ambassador
 Ottawa, Ont.



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Russia tried to kill Sergei Skripal? I doubt it

Any smart Russian agent wouldn't use a Russian-produced nerve agent to off someone. This isn't *James Bond*.



Scott Taylor

Inside Defence

OTTAWA—Last week, Canada joined in the chorus of countries demanding an explanation from Russia as to how a weapons-grade nerve agent was used in an apparent assassination attempt in Salisbury, in the United Kingdom.

The suspected target in this attack was former Russian spy Sergei Skripal, who was in fact a double agent for Britain. The ex-spy was found unconscious alongside his daughter Yulia on a park bench on March 4.

A British police officer who found the pair and attempted to help the incapacitated Russians, also became seriously ill. Skripal and his daughter remain in serious condition in hospital, and British authorities have since

concluded that the cause of their symptoms was a deadly nerve agent from a group of compounds known as Novichok.

As this chemical weapon was developed by the former KGB around the time of the Cold War, it seems only logical that Vladimir Putin's present-day intelligence agency, the FSB, would be the prime suspect in the attempted killing of Skripal.

That, of course, is the scenario put forward by British Prime Minister Theresa May, who is demanding answers from the Kremlin as to whether this was an ordered assassination. Joining in May's quest, the United States, France, Germany, and Canada have all called for answers in what they claim to be a major threat to Western security.

To accept this theory, we also have to accept that Putin's FSB agents must be some of the dumbest spies in the business. Either that or they believe the James Bond genre of movies to be a non-fiction documentary series.

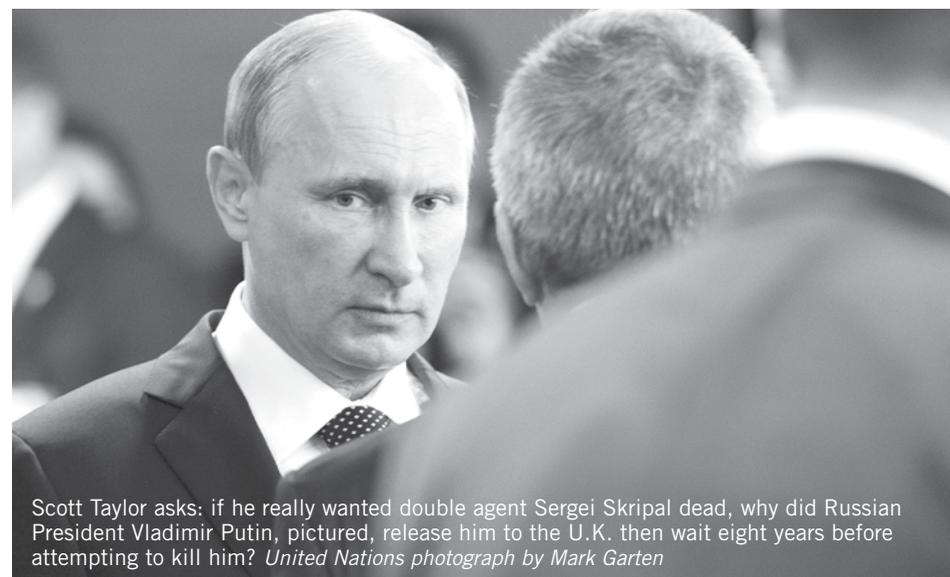
For starters, if they wanted Skripal dead, why go through all the trouble of employing a nerve agent. Given that it affected Skripal's daughter and the police officer as well, that would indicate it had a fairly wide range of toxicity.

British investigators should therefore be scanning closed-circuit television footage for the would-be assassin wearing a hazmat suit and gas mask.

Like all the countless Hollywood Russian villains who manage to capture James Bond, none of them were ever content with

simply shooting him. Instead, they had to concoct some sort of elaborate slow-death scheme that Bond inevitably thwarted with some new gizmo that he got from Q.

If Putin's FSB agents wanted Skripal dead, given that they seemingly knew his exact whereabouts, why not simply shoot him, or stab him, and fake a robbery? No, these FSB jokers had to use an unstable area weapon like a nerve agent, and one that is produced exclusively in Russia at that.



Scott Taylor asks: if he really wanted double agent Sergei Skripal dead, why did Russian President Vladimir Putin, pictured, release him to the U.K. then wait eight years before attempting to kill him? *United Nations photograph by Mark Garten*

Even the dumbest of common criminals knows enough to wear gloves to avoid leaving fingerprints, but Russia's top intelligence operatives are so clumsy that they left a clear trail

of evidence right back to Putin's desk in the Kremlin. Strange.

Like the Bond villains, they also failed to kill their intended target.

Which brings us to the question of why the FSB would want to kill Skripal now. He was arrested in Moscow in 2004 when it was discovered he was a double agent working for Britain's MI6.

Convicted of treason in 2006, he was released to Britain in 2010 as part of a spy exchange.

While it is possible that Putin still harbours a personal grudge

dential election. Perhaps Putin thought he'd best take care of loose ends such as Skripal on the off chance that he would lose at the ballot box on March 18? (He didn't.)

To accept the theory put forward by the British prime minister, that Putin and Russia are the "likely" culprits behind the "plausible" assassination attempt on Skripal, means that we have to trust in the evidence presented by British and U.S. intelligence agencies.

These are the same MI6 and CIA that told the world in 2003 that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction. That fabrication of evidence led to the invasion of Iraq and the resultant violent anarchy that continues. That deliberate falsehood from our own allied intelligence agencies has indisputably claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians.

One has to hope they will be a little more sure of their findings when they start accusing a nuclear-armed superpower of aggression.

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

The Hill Times

Time for a global Canadian food policy

A proposed national food policy has a profound limitation: it stops at the border.



Sophia Murphy

Agriculture

The government is soon to release a new food policy for Canada. With six departments actively engaged, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at the helm, the national food policy has occasioned an ambitious and often contentious—but widely welcomed—debate.

The engagement of so many departments, not least Health Canada, speaks to the growing

understanding in policy circles that food security rests on a series of interlocking systems that are not easy to coordinate, but whose interdependence can no longer be ignored.

Understanding interdependence means addressing climate change, soil health, and the acidification of our oceans; improving access to affordable housing and adequate social protection; rethinking what kinds of food production and distribution the government supports; and looking at what production and distribution systems should be more heavily taxed, or more closely regulated, to better internalize the costs they generate.

Access for everyone in Canada to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food means all these things.

Already, many pieces are in place to build something innovative, interesting, and useful to guide Canada's future food policies.

But for all its promise, the proposed national food policy has a profound limitation: it stops at the border.

The new policy will affect Canadians. But what about people in other countries? Canada grows 1.5 per cent of the world's food—

pretty significant for a country that has just 0.5 per cent of the world's population. It is the fifth-largest agricultural exporter in the world.

How do these exports affect people around the world? That's a big question, but one that so far hasn't been mentioned in discussions about the new national food policy.

How does Canadian food production affect the world?

One area where Canada can get some guidance is through the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which Canada has endorsed along with other countries.

Known as Agenda 2030, the second goal is to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture globally. Canada cannot meet this ambitious goal if it divides food policy into two baskets: home and abroad.

After all, the same food production and distribution system that puts food on Canadian plates also fills containers for export.

And so, we need to ask: how does our food production and consumption affect other countries? Do Canadian exports enhance or weaken global food security? Those are important questions to consider.

Agenda 2030 challenges every country to think about how they might improve their performance, not just in relation to their citizens, but also in relation to everyone on the planet—and the health of the planet itself. Since Canada profits from being a global food exporter, as Canadians we should ensure our wealth is not at the expense of the well-being of others, especially the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

In this regard, one obvious area to consider is climate change. Agriculture is a contributor to the problem and, at the same time, agriculture is one of the most affected sectors.

Canadian agriculture relies heavily on fossil fuels, which have an impact on the climate we all share. The whole world pays a price for Canada's greenhouse gas emissions, including some of the poorest regions of the world.

We should also consider the production of crops that origi-

nate elsewhere. For example, Canadians are now big consumers of quinoa. The creation of a global quinoa market has brought wealth to the Andean highlands in South America, including to smallholders, but it has also raised the cost of quinoa for poor urban consumers in the same region—undermining their nutrition security.

Finally, what about those exports? When people say we need to grow more food to "feed the world," we need to think about the impact of our exports on small-scale farmers in the world's poorest countries. They are also actively "feeding the world," on a smaller scale but often more sustainably, if less competitively. A national food policy should delve into the international implications of the food we ship overseas.

In other words, a robust food policy should span from local to global. A broad policy discussion with such a scope could be a model for the world.

Sophia Murphy is a doctoral candidate at the University of British Columbia and holds a Trudeau and a Vanier scholarship. She is also a senior adviser on trade to the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, based in Minneapolis. She lives in Squamish, B.C.

The Hill Times

Global

U.K. careens into economic, political unknown as time runs short on Brexit

Leaving the EU imperils Prime Minister Theresa May's future, the U.K. economy, Britain's standing in the world, and the peace process in Northern Ireland.



Les Whittington

Need to Know

OTTAWA—Euroskeptics are worried that British Prime Minister Theresa May will allow her country's historic Brexit en-

deavour to degrade into nothing more than Brino.

An acronym for "Brexit in name only," Brino is a term used by British MP Jacob Rees-Mogg that encapsulates the angry concerns of anti-European Union stalwarts who are pushing for a clean break with Europe in the aftermath of the Leave victory in the 2016 referendum.

The decisive moment resulting from that vote will arrive in just about a year. As of 11 p.m. British time on Friday, March 29, 2019, the United Kingdom will no longer be part of the EU.

Unravelling 45 years of efforts to integrate the United Kingdom with the now-28-member European bloc has proven every bit as difficult as might have been imagined, imperilling among other things May's future, the U.K. economy, Britain's standing in the world, and the peace process in Northern Ireland.

The key question on what kind of economic and trade relations the U.K. will eventually settle on with the EU, which takes nearly half of all U.K. exports, is still very much up in the air.

With negotiations entering an intense phase, it's hoped a series



U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May, speaking in the House of Commons foyer during a September 2017 visit to Canada, faces backlash from Brexit hardliners in her divided caucus if she doesn't commit to a strong break from the EU. *The Hill Times photograph by Sam Garcia*

of high-level meetings of U.K. and EU officials will pave the way for the second stage of the divorce negotiations.

As part of the ongoing talks, May has reached agreement on a transition period of about two years after March 2019 in which the current state of affairs would largely remain in place while the final details of the separation are worked out. This would give the worried British business community assurance of an orderly transition.

But the U.K. will have to continue during the two years to abide by laws passed in Brussels and honour current rules on the free movement of people within the U.K. and other EU states—the latter being the very issue that inflamed the Leave campaign two years ago.

And progress has been seriously held up by the conundrum of how to avoid re-establishing the border-checking facilities that would be expected between Northern Ireland, as part of the U.K., and the Republic of Ireland, an EU member, once Brexit happens. It is feared that a "hard" border might reignite sectarian conflict in Northern Ireland.

Beyond that, it's unclear what form of lasting U.K.-EU trade deal might be acceptable. May would like a special arrangement on trade and services that still gives the U.K. access to the EU market. But Britain rejects a semi-loose arrangement like Norway's, which requires the Norwegians to live with EU laws, including free movement of people, without any voice in making the laws.

But officials in Brussels say May is trying to cherry-pick the

best parts of relations with the bloc and suggest the U.K. may have to settle for an arm's-length free trade pact like Canada has with Europe under CETA.

Meanwhile, the political turmoil in Britain from Brexit continues. It seems hard to know from one day to the next whether May, who unnecessarily lost a parliamentary majority in a snap election last June, will survive as leader. The Conservatives are split between the Brexit hardliners like Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and others

who want to protect business by keeping the closest trade ties possible with the EU. A rebellion against May is building among the anti-EU forces around her and Johnson and Rees-Mogg are limbering up for a possible leadership bid.

At the same time, Rebrexit, a term for the regrets of those with buyers' remorse about the Leave decision, appears to be on the increase. Polling shows a slim majority—the reverse of the results in the 2016 referendum—having second thoughts about Brexit, while there is also widespread support for a second referendum on leaving the EU once the terms of the U.K.'s departure finally become clear.

Les Whittington is an Ottawa journalist and a regular contributor to The Hill Times.

The Hill Times

Shaping the 'Canadian way' in Africa

If Canadians want to be innovative, they have to realize development and trade are not mutually exclusive.



Andrew Caddell

With All Due Respect

OTTAWA—I remember quite clearly one fall morning several years before I retired from Global Affairs Canada when I joined other staff at a roundtable coffee-and-muffins breakfast with the deputy minister responsible for international development.

I was the last to speak. I described my responsibilities for trade in 25 countries in West and Central Africa. "My sympathies,"

he said and smiled. Perplexed, I asked why. "Well, promoting Canadian trade in Africa must be a pretty tough job. There can't be much going on."

Given that the deputy minister had a reputation as a strong player in government, I was surprised by his remarks. I proceeded to inform him about the reality of my work: on my desk was \$800-million worth of pending contracts—mining and pipeline projects and the sale of aircraft. I told him our trade offices in the field were working flat out. He was astonished.

This illustrates the dichotomy of the Canadian view of Africa: there are people in positions of authority who presume the continent is the same as it was decades ago, and that policy prescriptions should not change.

For Canada, the conundrum lies in deciding which Africa our government wants to cultivate: the emerging Africa of free enterprise or the "dependent" Africa, relying on development funds to sustain its economy. Of the \$5.4-billion offered in Canadian official development assistance in 2016, nearly half went to Africa: \$400-million to a range of sub-Saharan countries; \$190-million to Ethiopia; about \$130-million each to Mali, Tanzania, and Ghana;

Nigeria received \$105-million.

Could we be investing that money more effectively? While there remain substantial challenges to development in Africa, including related to governance, infrastructure, training, education, and conflict, there are several positive indicators that should lead Canada to join in the growing international interest in the continent's economy.

According to a 2016 report from the consulting firm McKinsey & Co., the three key advantages Africa offers are substantial: a young population, compared with the trend to aging in much of Asia and Europe; the move towards greater urbanization, where the levels of productivity are far higher than in the countryside; and the rapid adaptation of technology, from the workplace to the proliferation of smartphones.

As Africa grows, there will be a demand for more effective infrastructure; spending on bridges, roads, ports, pipelines, and airports is already growing at a rate of 3.5 per cent per year. Canada is well placed to take advantage of these changes; our expertise in building bridges, roads, and ports is recognized globally. In aerospace, Bombardier has established maintenance hubs in Morocco and South Africa; its Q400 has proved popular,

as there are many trips between cities in Africa of 600 nautical miles (1,200 kilometres) or less.

And Canada is welcomed in Africa as an investor. This is one of the interesting byproducts of being a country small in population but rich in expertise. Canadian companies that go to Africa have had to rely on training local talent, rather than shipping in expatriates, as China has done in the recent past. What is known as the "Canadian way"—training and promoting Africans—grew completely out of necessity, but has engendered a great deal of goodwill for Canada.

The Trudeau government has promoted alternative energy companies as the answer to dependence on petroleum-based energy sources. This strategy may prove timely, in an Africa leaping from one stage of technological development to another. There is no need for telephone wires if cellular phones dominate.

Canada has dozens of trade and development officers in Africa; working together, they could focus on combining development objectives with trade tools to focus on Canada's inherent skills: trade expertise, good governance, investment, and education.

Global Affairs Canada is in the process of developing a new

trade and development strategy for Africa. While it has not yet been made public, there are some indications as to what it may contain. A November 2017 working paper by researchers with Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs says: "There are opportunities to better link trade and development strategies, both in areas of current strength (e.g. agriculture and agri-food) and especially from a forward-looking perspective with regards to high-tech, high-value added and 'sunrise' sectors (e.g. clean technologies), in a... 'win-win-win' for development impact, Canada's international priorities, and future trade and investment diversification."

If Canadians want to be truly innovative, we have to put aside the separation of development and trade in Africa. If the new direction and thirst for innovation is any indication, the government is at last recognizing the two are not mutually exclusive.

Andrew Caddell retired last year from Global Affairs Canada, where he was a senior policy adviser. He previously worked as an adviser to Liberal governments. He is a fellow with the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, for which he first published a condensed version of this piece. He is also a principal of QIT Canada. He can be reached at pipsom52@hotmail.com.
The Hill Times

Scheer is picking up points by keeping his head down

Conservative leader Andrew Scheer is taking a page from Napoleon Bonaparte, who said: 'never interfere with your enemy when he is making a mistake.'



Tim Powers

Plain Speak

OTTAWA—Maybe being bland isn't such a bad thing in politics

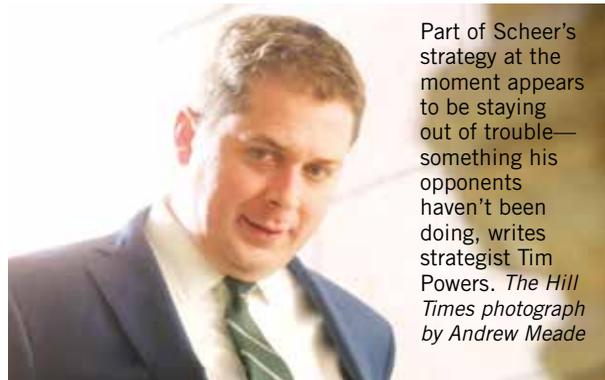
after all. Who needs flashy socks anyway? Apparently not Conservative leader Andrew Scheer, who seems to be having an easier time of it these days than Prime Minister Justin Trudeau or New Democrat leader Jagmeet Singh.

While Trudeau tries to continue to live down the mess that was his trip to India and Singh finds himself fighting back over his relationships with controversial Sikh groups, Scheer for the first time seems to be sitting pretty in various public opinion polls. Remember, in the fall many were chastising him for what was perceived to be lacklustre leadership.

According to a recent Angus Reid poll released on March 19, the man with the minivan is perceived to be the leader best suited to steward the economy. In both Canada and Ontario, government spending and the deficit are emerging as top issues. This is helping Scheer and the Conservative Party.

Both Angus Reid and Abacus Data have found in different samplings that for the first time since he became prime minister, Justin Trudeau's personal nega-

tive impressions outweigh (Reid) or equal (Abacus) his positive impressions. And the fellow who is not trying to be all flash-bang, and even in some cases keeping



Part of Scheer's strategy at the moment appears to be staying out of trouble—something his opponents haven't been doing, writes strategist Tim Powers. *The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade*

his head down, Scheer is seeing his party pick up points in the polls.

The Angus Reid research says that if an election were held tomorrow, four in 10 Canadians would mark their ballot for a Conservative candidate in their riding, 30 per cent would vote Liberal, and 19 per cent for the NDP. Both

Angus Reid and Abacus, though to differing degrees, found the Liberals slipping in Ontario. One man's anchor is another man's elevator: if you are Andrew Scheer, you take those numbers with that apple-cheeked smile of his.

Part of Scheer's strategy at the moment appears to be staying out of trouble—something his opponents haven't been doing. He has been around politics long enough to know if your opponent is taking

heat and it is being self-generated, don't get in the way. Or as Napoleon Bonaparte more eloquently put it, "never interfere with your enemy when he is making a mistake." In the past, Conservatives have

not been as good at that as they should have been. Credit goes to Scheer and his team for exercising the right amount of discipline not to take away opportunity.

Scheer and the Conservatives haven't been entirely sedate. They have tried to use whatever bit of attention Question Period still gets to chip away at the character and

values of the government. They have been steadily pushing the narrative of the prime minister and his team as self-interested elites disconnected from reality. Often it is boring and pedantic to take in, but that is the point. If you want to have a story take hold and cross into other arenas, you keep going with it. Don't give them anything else to talk about, and your arch will flow from there.

Another assist for Andrew Scheer is coming from new Ontario Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford. Scheer did not get caught in any crossfire during the Ontario race. With none of his own blood on the floor, Scheer can sit back and watch as Ford takes his gloves off to fight for an Ontario Andrew Scheer would be very comfortable with. Ford can lead the charge on both a campaign strategy and some ideas the federal Conservatives might co-opt in the next federal election in 2019.

So boring, young Andrew Scheer might not be getting all the ink or the attention. But right now he doesn't need it anyway. Things are looking up for him and the federal Conservatives. He has been astute enough to let the hand he sees play itself out.

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

The Hill Times

On veterans, let's compare apples to apples

A recent opinion piece in these pages doesn't quite meet that standard.



Veterans Affairs Minister Seamus O'Regan

Ministerial response

OTTAWA—I am grateful for the opportunity to respond to the recent article by Brian Forbes (re: "O'Regan's entitled to his own opinion but not his own facts," *The Hill Times*, March 12, p. 14). Forbes is to be admired for his longtime advocacy for veterans, and I am fully supportive of his suggestion that we should compare "apples to apples." Unfortunately, analysis in his article doesn't quite meet his own standard.

Forbes expressed his desire to see the best of the Pension Act and the best of the New Veterans Charter brought together to provide a better compensation/wellness model for all disabled veterans in Canada. Through the announcement of Pension for Life, a range of programs supporting veteran and family well-

being, and an investment of close to \$10-billion over the last three budgets, I am proud to say that we are doing just that.

In making his comparison, Forbes ignores the Income Replacement Benefit, which is a main component of the Pension for Life. In addition to the monthly, tax-free, payments for life received through the Pain and Suffering Compensation (PSC) and the Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation (APSC), veterans who are unable to return to work will receive 90 per cent of their pre-release salary, indexed annually, for as long as they need it (for life).

Further, there is a one per cent career progression factor provided for those who were not able to continue their career in the military. It recognizes potential career loss progression. It provides an additional amount of compensation to veterans in receipt of the Income Replacement Benefit long term and who released prior to 20 years of service (or age 60). It does not represent the actual career progression an individual veteran may have had in the military.

Forbes dismisses this as being nominal. Prior to our changes, a 25-year-old with five years of service, making \$60,000, who is seriously injured would have received \$1.6-million of income support over the course of their life. Under our program, that same veteran will receive \$2.9-million over the course of their life. Hardly nominal. It's almost double.

To put that in perspective, after 10 years of being on this program,

that veteran would be receiving an annual salary of \$72,500, compared to \$54,800 under the previous program. Of course, that doesn't include the tax-free monthly payments they will receive.

When we look at what that means in terms of total support, it exceeds what the same person would receive under the Pension Act, if they were single. If that person were married and had two kids, they would receive more, as there are increased benefits for a spouse and each dependant.

While I am proud of being able to bring back the monthly pension option that the veterans community asked for, I am equally pleased to highlight how we are providing a full range of programs to support veterans and their families.

We know how important education is to building a post-service future for veterans, and in just a few weeks we will launch the new education and training benefit for veterans released since April 2006. This is above and beyond the continued vocational rehabilitation programs referenced by Forbes that support our ill and injured veterans.

We have also enhanced our career transition services to ease the transition process, supporting veterans, spouses, and survivors with career counselling,

Lifetime Values

Pension for Life (PFL) 2019	Pre-Budget 2016 New Veterans Charter	Pre-2006 Pension Act		
		Single	Married + 2 children	
Total Gross	\$4.273M	\$3.891M	\$3.830M	\$4.398M
Total After Tax	\$3.830M	\$3.273M	\$3.624M	\$4.192M

Gross Lifetime Values per Benefit:

Income Replacement Benefit ¹ (IRB)*	\$2.912M	Earnings Loss Benefit ¹ (ELB)*	\$1.674M	Canadian Armed Forces - Long Term Disability ¹ (CAF LTD)*	\$1.674M	\$1.674M
Pain and Suffering Compensation ¹ (PSC)	\$689,600	Retirement Income Security Benefit ¹ (RISB)*	\$346,900	Disability Pension ¹ (DP)	\$1.705M	\$2.273M
Additional PSC ¹ (APSC) - grade 2	\$599,600	Career Impact Allowance ¹ (CIA) - grade 2*	\$748,600	Exceptional Incapacity Allowance ¹ (EIA) - grade 4	\$451,400	\$451,400
Critical Injury Benefit ² (CIB)	\$71,800	CIA Supplement ¹ (CIAS)*	\$688,200			
		Supplementary Retirement Benefit ² (SRB)*	\$46,600			
		Disability Award ² (DA)	\$314,700			
		CIB ²	\$71,800			

¹Paid Monthly ²Paid as a lump sum *Taxable Benefit

job placement, and preparation services. Other new programs and supports coming in April include access to all Military Family Resource Centres, support to veterans in emergency situations, and a Centre of Excellence on PTSD and Mental Health.

And I would be remiss if I didn't respond directly to the critique that we should create a new family benefit. We did. It becomes effective April 1, and provides \$1,000 per month, tax-free, and is paid directly to the caregiver, just as the ministerial advisory group on families asked us to do.

Today's veterans and their families deal with very different challenges—related to various

domains of well-being, not only financial—in everyday life. Veterans Affairs is committed to providing veterans and their families with access to the right combination of financial security, education and training, and well-being and family supports to enable them to achieve their goals in post-service life.

I will continue to meet with veterans across the country and work hard to make sure people fully understand the new benefits and how they will help veterans and their families.

Seamus O'Regan is the Liberal MP for St. John's South-Mount Pearl, N.L., and Canada's minister of veterans affairs.

The Hill Times

News Political financing

Time to plug loopholes that make it 'almost an invitation' for foreign money to influence elections, Liberals, opposition agree

The Liberals are planning new rules to limit third-party spending between elections, amid calls for action now to stop U.S.-style problems from bubbling up.

Continued from page 1

it would be wise for Canada to be proactive and take measures to make sure that the political financing system in Canada remains fair and does not open the door to especially foreign interference."

Third parties are people or groups other than a candidate, registered party, or electoral district association. According to the Canada Elections Act, they have to register with Elections Canada if they incur or intend to spend more than \$500 on election advertising. In a 37-day election period, the current limit is for third parties to spend no more than \$211,200, of which no more than \$4,224 can be spent in any one riding to oppose or promote a particular candidate. The limit increases for every day over 37.

The law says third parties must be Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or corporations that carry on business in Canada. It also says that non-residents can't, "during an election period, in any way induce electors to vote or refrain from voting" either for a specific candidate or in the election overall.

Third parties have to report on their election advertising spending, including all contributions and loans received for that purpose, for a period starting six months before the writ is dropped, and ending on election day.

But the way the rules are worded now leaves a massive loophole, critics and election officials have argued, allowing third parties to amass a war chest of funds collected from a variety of sources more than six months prior to a campaign that can be used for political purposes aside from advertising and don't need to be reported on.

Yves Côté, Canada's elections commissioner, told the Procedure and House Affairs Committee last year that the country's elections laws should be rewritten to fend off foreign influence, as did the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee in a June 2017 report, and former chief electoral officer Marc Mayrand in his report on the 2015 general election.

Conservative Senator Linda Frum's (Ontario) public bill S-239, which she introduced May 30 and is now at second reading debate in the Upper Chamber, aims to fix this issue. The bill looks to outlaw non-Canadian funding for election activities

all the time, not just in a certain timeframe before voters head to the polls.

Sen. Frum said in an interview that with her bill, she tried to attack what she thought was "the biggest vulnerability and also the one that was the most straightforward to fix" by "closing down the loophole that allows foreign funding of third parties."

Complaints filed with the elections commissioner's office about third-party activities jumped from 12 after the 2011 election to 105 following the 2015 race, according to the *Toronto Star*. One of the complaints, as detailed by the *Calgary Herald*, came in 2017 from a registered society called Canada Decides, which includes as one of its directors former Calgary-area Conservative MP Joan Crockatt, who lost her seat in 2015 to Liberal Kent Hehr (Calgary Centre, Alta.). It alleges foreign money "spawned" Leadnow, a progressive advocacy group, and helped finance a campaign to kick out Stephen Harper's governing Conservatives, according to the *Herald*. Ms. Crockatt's riding was targeted in the group's campaign.

Conservative MP Michael Cooper (St. Albert-Edmonton, Alta.) also submitted a complaint in May, asking the commissioner to "commence an investigation into eight third parties that collectively received nearly \$700,000 from the U.S.-based Tides Foundation in 2015."

The California-based Tides Foundation gives money to other groups that are often socially liberal, and has been accused of backing campaigns against Alberta's oilsands.

Last week, the Public Policy Forum think-tank released a report commissioned by Elections Canada with eight recommendations for modernizing the country's political financing system. It focused on levelling the playing field for all participants in elections—candidates, parties, riding associations, and registered third parties—and echoed Sen. Frum's call to



New rules to 'strengthen' laws around third-party election activity are coming, says the office of Democratic Institutions Minister Karina Gould, left, pictured in June 2017. Treasury Board President Scott Brison is filling in for Ms. Gould while she is on maternity leave. *The Hill Times* photograph by Sam Garcia

limit political contributions to Canadians.

Even though there are spending limits during the writ period, the PPF report noted that the limit "only applies to election advertising, which means that many election activities, including telephone calls, emails, texts and content posted on websites, fall outside of the realm of regulated expenses for third parties," but are captured and regulated for other political actors.

Foreign money in Canadian elections could become 'big issue': think-tank head

The ambiguity in the Canadian rules, that allow for "unlimited sums of money" to be donated to and used by third parties outside of the writ period, is "almost an invitation for people who want to influence elections," said Edward Greenspon, PPF president and CEO. "The foreign issue is not yet a big issue in Canada, but it could become one."

Recommendations in the report around only allowing donations from eligible voters "pretty much squeezes down on the ability to have the kinds of things we've seen or many other potential abilities that would exist for non-Canadians to try to influence elections," said Mr. Greenspon. Referring to the political financing system in the United States, he added, "we're very mindful in all this about the [political action committee], super PAC idea—that there could be entities that could spend much more than the political parties, that could overwhelm political parties potentially and could spend it the two weeks before the election is called, let's say."

Mr. Cooper said he would be writing to Elections Canada to follow up on his complaint, "because this is a serious issue that goes to the integrity of elections—Canadians should be able to expect that only Canadians should decide the outcomes of elections."



NDP MP Nathan Cullen says his party welcomes rules around election spending, but if they're rooted in facts backed by federal departments. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

Legislation has to be based on fact, says NDP's Cullen

Implementing rules around election spending is something the NDP can get behind, so long as they're based on evidence, said NDP MP Nathan Cullen (Skeena-Bulkley Valley, B.C.), his party's democratic institutions critic.

"Unfortunately, where much of this conversation started was around Conservatives making up stuff about Canadian [non-governmental organizations] as if it were true, and that can't be the motivation of the legislation," Mr. Cullen said. "It has to be based on facts that, whether it's from Revenue Canada or Elections Canada, is the basis of legislation."

Tides Canada CEO Ross McMillan told *The Hill Times* that his organization is often conflated—perhaps intentionally—with its American namesake.

Tides Canada was subject to multiple audits of its charitable status by the Canada Revenue Agency after charges that it was funnelling foreign funds from politically motivated charities to Canadian advocacy groups opposing oilsands and pipeline development.

Changes to the rules proposed by both the Public Policy Forum and Sen. Frum wouldn't affect its operations, Mr. McMillan said, adding that he personally supports the initiatives.

"I think there has been concern voiced about international funding supporting environmental and social justice work in Canada, and I think that the theories, many of which I would argue are conspiracy theories, about that have been transported into election activities," he said.

Organizations and charities that might receive grants from Tides Canada could be registered as third parties during elections "but that doesn't mean that they're engaged in the election process at all. It could simply be that they're working on a specific issue that could be an election issue and they're required by law to register," Mr. McMillan said.

For its part, an emailed statement from Leadnow, which led the Vote Together strategic voting campaign in 2015 to defeat Conservative candidates, denies the use of any foreign funds for its election work.

"Allegations of foreign funding in the 2015 election are just shameless attacks by Canada's far-right, who are threatened by everyday Canadians coming together to exercise our democratic rights to drive progressive change."

According to Elections Canada filings, Leadnow spent \$137,545 and brought in \$427,578 from 6,793 contributors for the 2015 election. In a 2016 update, Leadnow said less than 17 per cent of its funding "currently comes from international donors for international collaboration on some of the biggest challenges of our times, including on climate."

cevelyn@hilltimes.com

Let's reject the privatization of our democracy



Daniel Green

Political financing

Andy Fillmore, parliamentary secretary to the democratic institutions minister, rose in the House of Commons earlier this month to announce that the Trudeau government will not support proposed legislation that would strictly limit donations to political parties. The goal of the bill, sponsored by Quebec MP Michel Boudrias, is to reduce the political influence of wealthy individuals and corporate interests.

Quebec's government passed similar legislation around the time of the Charbonneau Commission that exposed politicians who were bought off in exchange for juicy government contracts. Boudrias fears the same thing happening in Ottawa.

The Green Party of Canada and the NDP both support the Boudrias bill as a way to limit the corporate sector's undue influence on how Canadians are governed. The Liberals and the Conservatives disagree, of course, because they are raking in so much money under the current system.

While the maximum amount a Canadian citizen can give to a political federal party and a riding association is around \$3,000, Elections Canada data show that when a company's executives and board members act together, that company can easily give very large amounts to a minister's or Member of Parliament's local riding association. Through individual maximum contributions from, say, the president, CEO, human resources director, finance director, and others, one company could donate enough money to pay for an entire election campaign.

This is perfectly legal in Canada under current political financing laws, and it presents the clear danger that buying a Canadian politician is as easy as having a dozen people swipe their credit cards. This is why the Boudrias bill is so important. It will slash the maximum political contribution and reduce the temptation for a politician to sell political favours to the highest bidder.

Our politicians may fear the withdrawal pains of having less cash for signs, posters, and advertisements for their re-election campaigns but Boudrias's bill has the solution: a return of the per-vote allocation that the Harper government killed in 2015. Jean Chrétien's Liberal government put this allocation into place in 2004. It gave political parties \$1.75 per year per vote received in the previous election. This cost \$46-million a year, around 0.015 per cent of the annual federal budget and a very small price to pay to avoid having our Parliament held hostage by big-money donors and shady politicians.

We can only hope that when Boudrias's bill comes back to the floor of the House of Commons, Liberal backbenchers will push back against Andy Fillmore's instructions and vote for what is right: getting big money out of Canadian politics.

Daniel Green is deputy leader of the Green Party of Canada.

The Hill Times

We need recycling options for boats before they're abandoned



Sara Anghel

Transport

There has been more attention lately on how to deal with abandoned vessels in Canada. Recently introduced federal legislation is a good step. The solution to clean up these boats and avoid this problem altogether is, however, not as simple as one would think, or hope.

Canada does not have good recycling options when boats reach their useful

end. This is especially so when it comes to disposing of a commercial vessel, which is much more complicated and expensive than for a recreational boat. The options now for recreational boat owners are either to take their boat to a landfill or try to work with a local marina and recycle various boat parts. Although the vast majority of boat owners care about the environment and are responsible owners, their options to dispose of their vessels are limited.

A strong and enforceable licensing program providing accurate data on ownership and registration is a good start in addressing the issue. Due to lack of information, Canada does not know how many boats are being abandoned or are nearing their useful end. Looking at recycling options in other countries, such as France, Sweden, the Netherlands, and Japan, is also important as these countries provide boat owners safe, reliable recycling options that Canada could emulate.

According to statistics gathered by the National Marine Manufacturers Association Canada, there are about 8.6 million recreational boats in use today with about 50 per cent of those being human powered, that is, they do not have engines. In 2017 alone, 39,000 new boats and 61,000 used boats were sold across Canada. The lifespan of a recreational boat is quite long. Requirements for construction standards and certification are high. The problem isn't so much with new boats being built, which about half are aluminum, but with older boats.

As Canada's leading association representing the recreational boating industry at the national level both in Canada and United States, our member companies produce more than 80 per cent of the boats, engines, accessories, and gear North American boaters use. We are committed to a healthy environment and want our waterways clean and free for Canadians to enjoy. The federal government is working to find a solution to abandoned and wrecked vessels. We are happy to see this; it's long overdue.

Sara Anghel is president of the National Marine Manufacturers Association Canada.
The Hill Times



Tsleil-Waututh Nation
PEOPLE OF THE INLET

As things have begun to heat up in the debate surrounding the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline, now seems like a good moment to take a step back and reflect on how, and why we have arrived in this place and where we hope to be in the future.

Although this project was approved by the federal government last year, it had already been formally rejected by the Tsleil-Waututh Nation based on the knowledge we obtained from the comprehensive assessment of the project we completed in May of 2015.

We made our reasons for rejecting this project clear to the federal government and yet they decided to move forward, despite the evidence that this project represents a risk that is too great to accept. This project threatens the ecological, cultural, and economic health of the region and all of its communities.

Our assessment report, grounded in TWN law and backed by research from leading experts has confirmed that these risks are unacceptable. TWN has denied it's free, prior, and informed consent, because we would be placing the people and creatures of Burrard Inlet, the surrounding communities, and the global climate in jeopardy. This decision was based in science and economics and was not taken lightly. It was informed by our laws and reached after significant consideration of the ethical and moral consequences of our actions or inactions.

Tsleil-Waututh are the People of the Inlet and it is our sacred obligation to protect our water, lands, and resources. The Tsleil-Waututh government recognizes that there are varied approaches to opposition to Kinder Morgan and protection of the inlet. We are many people paddling different canoes in the same direction.

We respect that all residents and individual TWN members have the right to voice their concerns and act according to their own beliefs. While direct action has played a vital role in moments of important social change, it is not the way the Tsleil-Waututh government chooses to address the proposed expansion. The Tsleil-Waututh Nation Council is focused solely on the legal challenge that is currently being considered by the Federal Court of Appeal.

All we ask of everyone involved is that all approaches and efforts pledge to be safe and respectful in these difficult times.

I look forward to a day, in the not too distant future, when we can all more actively collaborate on the restoration of local ecosystems and on new economic opportunities. We do not need added risks of dangerous toxins and ever-increasing greenhouse gases.

This positive vision is the focus of our Nation's Yes Agenda. I hope you will join us in choosing this critically important work instead of Kinder Morgan's proposed dilbit pipeline and tankers.

hay čx'w'qə si'em'

Chief Maureen Thomas
Tsleil-Waututh Nation



Employees affected by the Phoenix pay system rallied outside the Prime Minister's Office building last fall to voice their displeasure with the system that has left them overpaid, underpaid, or not paid at all since February 2016. The government has paid \$250,000 to bureaucrats who incurred financial losses due to the system since September 2016. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

Feds shell out \$250K to bureaucrats for Phoenix-related financial losses

The government has paid out 86 per cent of the more than 1,400 claims it has received since the program started in September 2016.

Continued from page 1

The Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (PIPSC) applauds the program, but add the low claim numbers indicate either employees don't know about it or don't have faith in it.

Dividing \$250,000 by the 1,244 fully or partially approved claims, the average payment per claim is about \$200. There is no indication of how many individual employees have filed claims, however, as Treasury Board doesn't track that information. One employee may file multiple claims.

"We fought for the claims office to be created and it actually seems to be working relatively well," said Debi Daviau, president of PIPSC, which represents 57,000 government scientists and IT workers. "It seems that those who are going through that process are finding it to be okay for what it covers, and the only concern is that it doesn't cover everything."

Public Service Alliance of Canada president Robyn Benson said workers deserve greater compensation for the losses, and reiterated that the government should "[hire] additional compensation advisers and [invest in the] additional resources needed to ensure our members are paid accurately and on time."

She added that Phoenix problems "have been very time-consuming" and "members are still overwhelmed with all they have to do to report problems and get emergency pay, let alone filing a claim for out-of-pocket expenses."

The program also provides bureaucrats with up to \$200 to cover obtaining tax advice because of

Phoenix, and offers interest-free advances for government benefits that have decreased due to paycheque overpayments causing higher income brackets.

The Phoenix pay system was supposed to consolidate payroll and save the government \$70-million annually, but so far it's cost the government \$460-million; with another \$447-million announced in the Liberals' latest budget to fix the system and start looking for a new one.

The money to cover employees' financial losses comes from individual department and agency budgets, said Mr. Potvin, and each claim is assessed individually and processed outside of the Phoenix system.

The most commonly approved claims were for interest fees, bank fees, and accounting fees. To make a claim, employees must provide a summary of their pay issues and the fees they were charged because of them. They must also provide documentation such as bank or credit card statements.

"Claims for late payment charges, penalty fees, and private insurance premiums have also been paid," said Mr. Potvin in the statement.

PIPSC hasn't run any specific campaigns to educate members about the program, but they have linked the website in their Phoenix updates. PSAC also hasn't run any specific campaigns, but posts regularly on social media and their website about how to access available supports.

Ms. Daviau said the program is "quite appropriate," but added some cases are complex and not all penalties are covered. For example, it doesn't compensate workers for their inability to invest in their pension plan or other more ambiguous losses.

Those are expected to be covered in the ongoing Phoenix damages negotiations, said Ms.

Daviau. The government announced it initiated formal damages talks in the budget.

"[The talks] are going relatively well. It's been made slightly more complicated by the fact we can't get accurate reporting out of [Public Services and Procurement Canada]," she said, adding it's not a matter of the department withholding information, but that the Phoenix system itself is making accessing that information complicated. She said she is hopeful that they will resolve the damages discussion in the near future.

Originally the pay problems were scheduled to be resolved by October 2016, but the 2018 federal budget announced \$16-million over two years for the Treasury Board to engage in exploratory talks about moving forward with a new pay system.

Meanwhile, Public Services and Procurement Canada aims to get Phoenix to a "steady state" or consistently paying public servants correctly on time, although this state does not solve more long-term issues, hence the discussion around an alternative system.

In the fall, Public Services and Procurement Minister Carla Qualtrough (Delta, B.C.) said she was hopeful Phoenix would reach a steady state by the end of 2018. However, even once it is at a steady state the Public Service Pay Centre in Miramichi, N.B., would have a massive backlog of open cases, which the government calls transactions, to clear.

The Public Service Pay Centre's "dashboard"—a government website tracking the issue—was updated Friday, and showed the backlog decreased by 4,000 cases. Despite the good news, the government warned it could go up again and "a continual decline is not expected until later this spring."

Until it's all resolved, the

government will continue to pay out claims for financial losses. More than 61 per cent of the claims came from 10 departments or agencies, with the top being Employment and Social Development, Fisheries and Oceans (which includes the Coast Guard), Correctional Services Canada, Public Services and Procurement, and Environment and Climate Change.

Ms. Daviau said she wasn't surprised by the departments listed as "it seems reasonable that they'd have a higher number of claims."

Treasury Board doesn't specifically track claims by employee type, said Mr. Potvin, but said that full-time, part-time, casual, students, retired employees, and those on leave without pay have made claims.

Mr. Potvin noted the claims have been submitted on a relatively consistent basis since the program's inception, with only significant increase coming between May and July 2017 for those claiming tax expenses.

"We expect a similar increase again this year for claims for tax advisory services, claims for employees whose income is being taxed at a higher tax bracket (new for 2018)," he added.

According to federal law, if reimbursement of an overpayment doesn't occur in the same tax year it was given, than an employee is responsible for the gross overpayment instead of the net overpayment, which has deductions. The law caused headaches for bureaucrats in December.

Since then, the government has said it won't claw back any overpayments until all issues on an employee's file are resolved and they receive their correct pay for three periods.

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NDP too slow on Singh Sikh controversy, say strategists, but it's not likely to hurt him in 2019

Jagmeet Singh's vague views on a Sikh homeland feed into the Indian government's accusations that Canada is soft on Sikh nationalist movements, say some strategists.

Continued from page 1

ammunition against the NDP leader in the next election, for fear of mud being slung back on them.

Mr. Singh came under fire last week when the *Globe and Mail* published front-page stories two days in a row, on March 13 and 14, about his associations with people and groups that want a separate Sikh state cut from India, including some who condone using violence.

That followed an interview with CBC's Terry Milewski after Mr. Singh won his party's leadership last October, in which Mr. Singh would not denounce extremists in the Sikh community in Canada who glorify Talwinder Singh Parmar, recognized by a public inquiry as the mastermind behind the 1985 Air India bombing that left 329 people dead, including 280 Canadian citizens or permanent residents.

Mr. Singh ended up writing an op-ed that appeared in the *Globe and Mail* March 15, and did a series of one-on-one media interviews to clarify his views.

Susan Smith, a Liberal strategist and Bluesky Strategy Group principal, said Mr. Singh's op-ed in the *Globe* would have been smarter after his interview with Mr. Milewski.

"I feel like they should have anticipated that there was more that could come," she said. "[The op-ed] was a smart way to get an unfiltered perspective out, but it could have been faster."

"He would have been able to just lay it out at the beginning and eliminate any questions."

Although it may be an unusual topic for a federal party to address, former Crestview Strategy lobbyist Supriya Dwivedi said Mr. Singh's people "should have been on top of it." She was surprised it was never addressed in his leadership race, as his views are widely available.

Kevin Dorse, a StrategyCorp consultant and former NDP staffer, agreed it should have been addressed earlier, but said he's pleased with Mr. Singh's clarifications. The op-ed and interviews were the right fix, he said, as "you need a longer-form format to push this back properly."

Voters remember results more than process so it probably won't follow him, he added.

NDP MP Kennedy Stewart (Burnaby South, B.C.), who sup-



NDP leader Jagmeet Singh has been under fire for his associations with people or groups who support Sikh nationalism and separatism, including some who condone the use of violence. Mr. Singh has said he condemns violence to achieve political objectives. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

ported Mr. Singh during the race, said he hasn't heard much from constituents about it. All indications suggest the caucus is united behind Mr. Singh, added Mr. Dorse.

In the op-ed, Mr. Singh clarified that he accepts the findings of Air India inquiry.

In subsequent interviews he issued a blanket condemnation of terrorism. The Sikh community should be able to process its trauma related to the 1984 invasion of the Golden Temple, the holiest site in the Sikh religion, he said. It was invaded by the Indian army in June 1984 after being occupied by militant religious leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.

He also called the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in India a genocide, in which 3,000 or more (the numbers are disputed) Sikhs were killed. Those were sparked after then-Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi was killed by her Sikh bodyguards. Many Sikhs fled to Canada and it's widely suggested that Canadian Sikhs feel more strongly about the need for a separate Sikh state, known as Khalistan, than Indian ones, because many fled India at this time.

The Sikh community in Canada is a political force, and is well represented in ridings in British Columbia's Lower Mainland and the Greater Toronto Area.

Singh's vague views on Sikh sovereignty could affect India-Canada ties: politicians

Mr. Singh hasn't indicated whether he agrees with a separate

Sikh homeland, and won't commit to stop attending Sikh rallies similar to those reported on.

Mr. Singh can't afford to be vague on the issue if he wants to be prime minister in 2019, said some political strategists, as Indian-Canadian relations are already strained. The Indian government has criticized Canada for being soft on what it sees as terrorism.

Ms. Dwivedi said she doesn't think he needs to answer the homeland question as "we wouldn't ask any NDP leader to come out and denounce...an Independent Catalan in Spain." Mr. Dorse said Mr. Singh's response that it's up to Indian Sikhs to decide is a "fairly strong statement to make."

However, Rachel Curran, a staffer to former Conservative prime minister Stephen Harper, said political engagement as a private citizen versus a potential prime minister is very different. Nobody would care if he were a private citizen, she noted, but he's the leader of a major federal political party.

Mr. Harper supported the right to free speech, she said, but as prime minister he "certainly wasn't going to advocate or support any kind of separatist movements internationally, particularly since India is a close ally."

Mr. Singh might have become involved before he set his sights on federal politics, she said, but he should've had a response ready.

"If you're going to take on a more high-profile role that requires you to represent Canada internationally, then...you're

going to have to take positions that are good for the country and don't just represent your personal [views]," she said.

He probably doesn't want to alienate the small subset voters who support a Sikh homeland, she added, as "they're probably politically active and they have been supportive of him." Ms. Dwivedi said it's probably not a vote-getting ploy because Mr. Singh has long been active on the file.

Shuvaloy Mujumdar, a former policy director to then-Conservative foreign minister John Baird, said fair questions are being raised to Mr. Singh.

"By affording oxygen around the idea of a Sikh homeland, he stands against the Canadian interest of preserving a united India," he said.

"It's certainly a bold claim to stake...akin in some respects to [a politician] coming to Canada and declaring that Quebec has a right to be free and independent," said Mr. Majumdar, who now works at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute think-tank, but added the comparisons aren't quite equal.

Sikh nationalism and extremism has often been compared to Quebec nationalism and separatism, but Ms. Dwivedi notes the violence against Sikhs makes it different. The media has failed to give Sikh Canadians the appropriate airtime on the issue, she added.

Mr. Singh doesn't need to disavow the Sikh nationalist movement, she said, "but he needs to disavow—which he did last week—some of the more insidious elements of the movement, which is a minority that propa-

gates conspiracy theories [about Air India]."

Pollster Nik Nanos, of Nanos Research, said Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Singh need to appeal to Sikh audiences to be successful. Because of Mr. Trudeau's India visit, in which Jaspal Atwal, who was convicted of attempted murder and is a former member of an illegal Sikh separatist group, was mistakenly invited to a dinner at the Canadian High Commission, Mr. Nanos said "I think it's genuinely probably going to be a wash."

Conservatives could gain because they have more ammunition for their narrative of being tough on terrorism and extremism "while the other two parties have to explain themselves," he said.

"There's probably an opportunity for the Conservatives to come in definitely on the issue in order to appeal to Indo-Canadians who have concerns," he said, adding they've done well with the community historically.

The Conservatives, too, got in hot water on the issue, as they were forced to walk away from their proposed House of Commons motion on a united India that a Canadian Sikh group felt painted its community as terrorists.

The Sikh community is important to every party, said Ms. Smith, and "they will choose their words and choose their battles carefully" in 2019, so Mr. Singh's views won't be an election issue.

As of March 16, Nanos' latest public opinion survey results indicate the Liberals were sitting at about 36 per cent support, with the Conservatives nipping at their heels at about 35 per cent, and the NDP at about 19 per cent. The results are each considered accurate plus or minus 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

An Angus Reid Institute poll released March 19 suggested 40 per cent of Canadians would vote Conservative, versus 30 per cent Liberal and 19 per cent NDP. The drop in Liberal support is thought to be because of a number of issues, including the India trip.

'Ottawa shenanigans' won't capture attention: NDP MP Stewart

Mr. Stewart said these new kinds of discussions are what comes with having the first racialized and Sikh federal political party leader, as "this is part of the adjustment, we'll be talking about different issues."

About 10 per cent of his riding is Indo-Canadian, he said, and most are "incredibly proud" of Mr. Singh. He said he's gotten one email on the matter, but has received a lot more feedback on Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline.

"Really, this isn't on people's radar on the ground," he said. "A bit of Ottawa shenanigans isn't going to capture their attention."

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DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES

by Shruti Shekar

Croatia sees growth in tourism, post-CETA trade after 25 years of ties

In other diplomatic news, Saint Lucia has its first high commissioner accredited to Canada, Anton Edmunds, who is based in Washington, D.C.

Trade is still “very modest,” but the ambassador of Croatia says signing the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement was a positive step that has “strengthened” bilateral relations between her country and Canada.

CETA was 98 per cent provisionally implemented in September and Canada, as well as eight of 28 EU countries, have already ratified it. Croatia was the third to do so. All of them must ratify the deal for it to be permanently in force.

During an interview last week at her embassy in the Sandy Hill neighbourhood of Ottawa, **Marica** (pronounced Mar-ee-zah) **Matkovic** said groups like the Canada-Croatia Chamber of Commerce, which is based in Canada, and the Croatia-based Croatia-Canada Business Network, have been able to capitalize on trade and build business relations.

The deal has improved Canada-Croatia relations, said Ms. Matkovic, who arrived in Canada back in 2016. Croatia will mark 25 years of diplomatic relations with Canada on April 14.

“For the first time Canada opened quarters for cheese, and we exported cheese for the first time to Canada... [We have noticed] there is much more interest in [Croatian cheese],” Ms. Matkovic said on March 14.

Trade between the two countries totalled nearly \$97-million last year, according to stats available through Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.

Croatia joined the European Union in 2013, after CETA negotiations had already started, and Ms. Matkovic said Croatia never had issues with the deal.

Ms. Matkovic first joined the public service in 1983, when Croatia was still part of Yugoslavia, settling in the health ministry where she worked on drafting legislation before joining the foreign service. One of her diplomatic colleagues, **Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic**, is Croatia’s current president—the youngest person and first woman to hold the role. Ms. Grabar-Kitarovic also served in Ottawa at the Croatian Embassy from 1997 to 2000.

In 2009, the same year Croatia joined NATO, Canada lifted visa requirements for Croatian citizens travelling to Canada. It was also the first time a Canadian governor general, **Michaëlle Jean**, made a state visit to the Mediterranean country. Later in 2010, then-prime minister **Stephen Harper** also visited in an official capacity.

Last October, the Speaker of the Croatian Parliament, **Gordan Jandrokovic**, made an official visit to Canada, but Croatia’s president or prime minister has yet to do the same. Ms. Grabar-Kitarovic came to Canada in November 2016 for a working visit.

Ms. Matkovic said she was hopeful that would change, and she was working on having an official visit take place, but was not able to provide a timeline.

Since her arrival in 2016, Ms. Matkovic said tourism had increased, with more flights now available between Canada and Croatia.

In 2016, Air Transat increased direct flights to Croatia’s capital, Zagreb, out of Toronto from one to two per week. Last September, Air Canada announced it will begin a seasonal flight service with four trips per week from Toronto to Zagreb starting this summer.

“I participated one time at a lecture and this one girl said she visited Croatia... and she said ‘I realize now what Ibiza was for my parents, is Croatia for me,’” Ms. Matkovic said, referring to the Spanish island known for its nightlife.

Croatia is also the location of Destination Ultra, a seven-day music festival and one of the largest outdoor electronic music festivals, which first began in Miami.

Canada accredits first Saint Lucian high commissioner

Anton Edmunds, the first high commissioner of Saint Lucia to Canada, was accredited on Feb. 14 and will be based in Washington, D.C.

“I am basically a non-resident high commissioner to Canada,” Mr. Edmunds said in a phone interview. Along with that title, he is also his country’s ambassador to the United States, for which he was accredited back in September. He also received accreditation in fall 2016 as Saint Lucia’s representative in the Organization of the American States.

Saint Lucia was part of the High Commission of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, which closed down its Ottawa office in 2011 for economic reasons.

Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, all of which were represented out of the now-defunct OECS mission, have representatives based in Washington to support Canada.

Saint Kitts and Nevis established an independent high commission in Ottawa in 2015.

Dominica has no Canadian representative following the closure of the joint mission.

From 1990 to 1995, Mr. Edmunds worked for the Saint Lucian government as a manager of investment promotion for the Eastern Caribbean Investment Promotion Service based in Washington, D.C. He later moved to New York to work as a senior manager for business development.

After leaving the government, he became a consultant and then joined the Caribbean-Central American Action, a private economic development group, as the director of marketing and business development. He later went on to serve senior roles in the organization and later became the CEO in 2008.

He also ran his own consulting firm advising governments and corporations on doing business in the Caribbean.

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Diplomats don their finest to fête visiting Belgian royals

The Hill Times photographs by Sam Garcia



Governor General Julie Payette at the Canadian Museum of History for a concert March 13 as part of the Belgian royals' weeklong visit to Canada.



Fatemeh Delcorde Javadi, wife of the Belgian ambassador, with Konstantin Zhigalov, ambassador of Kazakhstan, and his wife Indira Zhigalova.



Kerry and Jonathan Vance, chief of defence staff, with Belgian Ambassador Raoul Delcorde, Ms. Delcorde Javadi, and Belgian defence attaché Brig.-Gen. Georges Franchomme.



Queen Mathilde of the Belgians and her husband, King Philippe, arrive at the museum with Ms. Payette.



Joe Craft, his wife, U.S. Ambassador Kelly Craft, Mr. Delcorde, and Ms. Delcorde Javadi.

Baltic-Nordic film fest opening was a bright night



Canadian Film Institute executive director Tom McSorley and Latvian Ambassador Karlis Eihenbaums (along with their furry friend) mark the opening of the 8th Bright Nights: Baltic-Nordic Film Festival, March 8 at Ottawa's Arts Court.



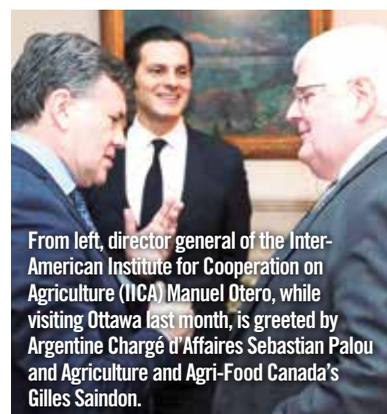
Estonian Embassy public affairs officer Paul Läänemets and the Lithuanian Embassy's Elze Rimkute. The festival wrapped up March 18.



Romanian Embassy first secretary Silvana Bolocan and her husband Gabriel Bolocan.

Canada welcomes head of Americas ag agency

Sam Garcia photographs courtesy of IICA Canada



From left, director general of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) Manuel Otero, while visiting Ottawa last month, is greeted by Argentine Chargé d'Affaires Sebastian Palou and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Gilles Saindon.



Argentine Embassy senior trade commissioner Franco Seniliani, IICA Canada Representative Audia Barnett, Canadian Food Inspection Agency deputy director for technical cooperation and multilateral relations Rolf Schoenert, Mr. Otero, Global Affairs Canada director general for Latin America and the Caribbean Cheryl Urban, IICA deputy director general Lloyd Day, Mr. Palou, his spouse Joaquina Testa, and IICA senior adviser to the director general Jorge Werthem.



HILL CLIMBERS

by Laura Ryckewaert

Conservative leader Scheer hires new stakeholder relations aide



Conservative leader Andrew Scheer, pictured centre speaking to CTV *Power Play* host Don Martin, left, on budget day in the House foyer Feb. 27, has a new special assistant and stakeholder relations adviser. Finance Minister Bill Morneau, right, has said goodbye to senior special assistant Nicholas Brown. *The Hill Times* photograph by Sam Garcia

Conservative Party leader **Andrew Scheer** recently bolstered his official opposition staff by one, having hired **Stephanie Keron** as a special assistant and stakeholder relations adviser.

Ms. Keron was previously working as executive assistant to Conservative MP **Shannon Stubbs** on the Hill since the 2015 federal election, before which she'd been executive assistant to then-Conservative MP **Chris Alexander**.

Mr. Alexander represented Ajax-Pickering, Ont., from 2011 up until 2015, when he lost his bid for re-election. Ms. Stubbs, who represents Lakeland, Alta., was elected to be an MP for the first time in 2015 after garnering roughly 72.81 per cent of the vote.



Stephanie Keron has joined Conservative leader Andrew Scheer's staff. *Photograph courtesy of LinkedIn*

Ms. Keron also previously worked as an assistant to then-Conservative MP **Peter Penashue**, after interning in his office as the then-minister for intergovernmental affairs over the summer of 2012. She has a bachelor's degree in international studies and modern languages from the University of Ottawa.

In her new role, Ms. Keron is working under associate director of stakeholder relations **Semhar Tekeste** and alongside fellow stakeholder relations advisers **Elvane Veeramalay** and **Stephanie Delorme**.

As official opposition, the Conservatives have a \$2.8-million budget to run their caucus research office, also known as the Conservative Resource Group (or CRG), on top of \$4.5-million for the fiscal year to run Mr. Scheer's office as leader. While they have separate budgets, these two offices, and the 77 staffers who work between them, operate in close coordination and both are ultimately Mr. Scheer's responsibility.

David McArthur is chief of staff to Mr. Scheer, while **Marc-André Leclerc** is deputy chief of staff, and **Kenzie Potter** is principal secretary to the leader. **Martin Bélanger** is director of caucus services, research, and administration, along with serving as a senior Quebec adviser to the Conservative leader, and **Philip Bailey** is manager of caucus services.

Cudmore to become policy director to democratic institutions minister

Former CBC reporter **James Cudmore** is lined up to exit National Defence Minister **Harjit Sajjan**'s office to take over as director

of policy to Democratic Institutions Minister **Karina Gould**, *Hill Climbers* has learned.

Mr. Cudmore left journalism to become senior policy adviser to Mr. Sajjan in January 2016, and by September of that year had been promoted to director of policy in the minister's office. Before then, he'd spent more than a decade working as a national reporter for the CBC, including most recently as a senior reporter in its parliamentary bureau on the Hill, covering defence and foreign affairs. He's also a former national correspondent for *The National Post*.

Last week, *The Ottawa Citizen* reported that Mr. Cudmore was set to leave Mr. Sajjan's ministerial office to join Ms. Gould's political staff team. Her former policy director, **Laura LeBel**, left in late February.

Once he joins Ms. Gould's office, Mr. Cudmore will be working alongside his former colleague, **Jordan Owens**, who is now communications director to the democratic institutions minister, but had served as press secretary to Mr. Sajjan up until last November.

Rob Jamieson is chief of staff to Ms. Gould, who gave birth to her first child, **Oliver**, earlier this month—becoming the first sitting cabinet minister to do so. While she's on maternity leave, Treasury Board President **Scott Brison** is acting in her stead.

Also working in the democratic institutions minister's office are: **Dan Linden**, director of parliamentary affairs; **Nicky Cayer**, press secretary; **Margaret Jaques**, communications adviser; **Danielle Keenan**, issues manager; **Donovan Allen**, senior special assistant for parliamentary affairs; **Kelsey MacDonald**, special assistant for parliamentary affairs; policy advisers **Samantha Nadler**, **Victoria Windsor**, and **Jean-Sébastien Côté**; special assistants **Jamieson Rees** and **Shawn Sylvestre**; and executive assistant **Linda Hooper**.

The March 16 *Citizen* piece suggested Mr. Cudmore is "a central figure in the ongoing legal battle facing Vice Admiral Mark Norman," who's been charged for allegedly leaking information about the Liberal government's supply-ship procurement plans to a Quebec shipyard. He denies any wrongdoing. Mr. Cudmore wrote a related story for the CBC, though the *Citizen* said there's no suggestion his ministerial move was in any way related to the Norman case. It suggested Mr. Cudmore wants to spend more time with family, which is tough in the DND role.

New aide joins natural resources minister's team

Natural Resources Minister **Jim Carr** has scooped up **Emerson Vandenberg** to work in his office as assistant to the minister's parliamentary secretary, Liberal MP **Kim Rudd**.

Mr. Vandenberg started in the new job earlier this month, and before then had been on the Hill as a legislative assistant to Liberal MP **Terry Duguid**, a former Winnipeg city councillor who was elected to represent the federal riding of Winnipeg South, Man., for the first time in 2015 with roughly 58.3 per cent support. Mr. Duguid is currently also the parliamentary secretary to Status of Women Minister **Maryam Monsef**. Mr. Carr is the Liberal MP for Winnipeg South Centre, Man.

Mr. Vandenberg had been working as Mr. Duguid's Hill aide since September 2016, and before then served in a similar capacity in the office of Liberal MP **Chandra Arya**, who represents the Ottawa-area riding of Nepean, Ont.

He studied for a bachelor's degree in political science and government from the University of Toronto, and later did a

master's degree in public policy analysis at the University of Ottawa. Mr. Vandenberg docked experience as a research assistant during both his master's and undergraduate studies, as indicated by his LinkedIn profile.

During the summer of 2013 he was a research analyst intern for the Ontario Liberals at Queen's Park, and returned in the summer of 2014 as a policy analyst intern. He also volunteered on Ontario Liberal Premier **Kathleen Wynne**'s 2013 leadership campaign.

Mr. Carr spent nearly \$1.4-million to run his ministerial office in 2016-17, as indicated in the government's public accounts. Of that, \$1.2-million was to cover personnel costs.

Finance Minister Morneau bids adieu to senior assistant

Post-budget, Finance Minister **Bill Morneau** has said goodbye to one of his political aides, senior special assistant for communications **Nicholas Brown**, who is no longer working on Parliament Hill.

Mr. Brown marked his last day in the minister's office in Ottawa on March 2, having originally been hired in December 2016. Before that, he was working as a senior adviser for communications to then-Ontario Liberal tourism, culture, and sport minister **Eleanor McMahon**.

He first started working for the Ontario Liberals at Queen's Park

in 2014, according to his LinkedIn profile, as a research analyst for the provincial caucus' research office, and later became a writer in Ontario Liberal Premier **Kathleen Wynne**'s office.

Mr. Brown was a communications officer and media monitor for the federal Liberals during the 2011 federal election, and subsequently joined then-interim Liberal leader **Bob Rae**'s office on the Hill to serve in a similar capacity. He's also a former communications officer for Save the Children Canada in Toronto, and a former research assistant for the University of Ottawa's Heart Institute.

Now no longer working for the finance minister, Mr. Brown has reportedly returned to Toronto.

Daniel Lauzon is director of communications to Mr. Morneau, while **Chloe Luciani-Girouard** is press secretary, and **Matthew Barnes** is a special assistant for communications.

Richard Maksymetz is chief of staff to the minister, whose office also includes: **Justin To**, policy and budget director; **Catherine Loiacono**, director of parliamentary affairs; **Ben Chin**, senior adviser; **Sharan Kaur**, senior manager of operations; **Ian Foucher**, senior policy adviser; **Elliot Hughes**, senior policy adviser; policy advisers **Allie Chalke**, **Emily Yorke**, and **Maximilien Roy**; **Marion Pilon-Cousineau**, legislative assistant; **Samar Assoum**, special assistant to the parliamentary secretary; **Christina Lazarova**, assistant to the parliamentary secretary; **Priya Gurnani**, executive assistant; and **Milaine Leduc**, executive assistant to the chief of staff and office manager.

Liberal MP **Joël Lightbound** is parliamentary secretary to the finance minister. Mr. Morneau spent a total of \$1.8-million to run his ministerial office in 2016-17, of which \$1.6-million was to cover personnel costs.

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Nicholas Brown, a former aide to the finance minister, is no longer working on the Hill. *Photograph courtesy of LinkedIn*



Emerson Vandenberg is now in the natural resources minister's office. *Photograph courtesy of LinkedIn*

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

The House Is Sitting—The house sits every weekday for the next nearly two weeks, then it will again break from March 30 to April 13. It will resume sitting April 16 and sit every weekday until leaving for a one-week break from May 14 to 21. After returning on May 22, the House is scheduled to sit every weekday until adjourning for the summer break in late June. The Senate will largely follow the same schedule, though the Senate traditionally only sits Tuesday to Thursday, and is scheduled to break a week later in the spring, on June 29.

Canadian Cattlemen's Association Annual General Meeting—The CCA's 2018 Annual General Meeting will take place March 21-23, at the Ottawa Marriott Hotel, 100 Kent St., Ottawa. The meeting brings together directors from provincial member associations to determine policy for the industry. It also allows CCA the opportunity to meet and discuss industry issues with Parliamentarians at an annual reception held near Parliament Hill.

Canadian Beef, Beer, and Whisky Reception—The Canadian Cattlemen's Association presents this reception at the Ottawa Marriott Hotel, Victoria Ballroom, 100 Kent St., Ottawa. 6:30-8:30 p.m. RSVP to rspv@cattle.ca by March 12.

Joint Annual Reception—The Chicken Farmers of Canada, Egg Farmers of Canada, Turkey Farmers of Canada, and Canadian Hatching Egg Producers are hosting their joint annual reception, 6-9 p.m. in the ballroom of the Chateau Laurier hotel. Parliamentarians, their staff, and industry friends are invited to come have delicious, high-quality Canadian chicken, turkey, and eggs, and share a drink with the farmers who raise them.

Rare Disease Conference—The Canadian Organization for Rare Disorders is holding its annual Rare Disease Conference in Ottawa from March 21 to 22. Delta Hotel Ottawa City Centre, 101 Lyon St. N. For more details, visit goo.gl/nBiR5d. In advance of its conference, advocates and patients from the rare disease community will be in Ottawa and on Parliament Hill on March 20 to discuss how care and access to treatments can be improved for the three million Canadians affected by a rare disease.

Jamaican Gastronomy Festival—Executive chef Glenroy Walker from Sandals Resorts International will offer a Jamaican buffet and dinner special from March 21-23 at the Sheraton Hotel Ottawa. Hosted by the Jamaican High Commission and Jamaica Tourist Board. Lunch buffet: 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. \$30 per person plus tax. Five-course dinner on March 23: 6 p.m. cocktails. Dinner and wine pairing at 7 p.m. \$90 per person plus tax, includes cocktail. \$120 with wine pairing. Limited to 40 guests. Contact Sheraton Ottawa at 613-238-1502 ext. 6607, for reservations.

Friends and Allies: Openness, Freedom, and the Rule of Law in the Indo-Pacific—The Macdonald-Laurier Institute will hold this event in cooperation with the Japanese Embassy, bringing together panellists to discuss the future of Indo-Pacific security cooperation. Speakers include James Boutiller, Maritime Forces Pacific Headquarters, and Edward Luttwak, Center for Strategic and International Studies. 10 a.m.-noon. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Program begins at 10 a.m. Kildare House, 323 Chapel St., Ottawa. RSVP online via macdonaldlaurier.ca.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22

Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Contemporary Argentina—The University of Ottawa and the Argentine Embassy in Canada are organizing an international conference from March 22-24 on perspectives of contemporary Argentina. Simard Hall, University of Ottawa, 60 University Pvt. For more information, see artsites.uottawa.ca or visit the Facebook page ArgentinaUOttawa2018. Free entrance.

Laissez-Faire or Leadership?—Join the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) and the Alternatives to Austerity project (McMaster University's Faculty of Social Sciences) for a panel discussion on what roles government can play in building an inclusive economy, examining the recent federal budget and beyond. Participants include: Dennis Howlett, Canadians for Tax Fairness; David Macdonald, CCPA; Jesse Whattam, Carleton University; Heather Whiteside, University of Waterloo; and moderator Gauri Sreenivasan, CCPA. Free. 5:30-7:30 p.m. 251 Bank St., Ottawa, 2nd floor.



FRIDAY, MARCH 23

Former First Lady Michelle Obama to Speak in Calgary—Former U.S. first lady Michelle Obama will be in Calgary for a 7 p.m. event at the Calgary Stampede Corral. For tickets, calgarychamber.com or ticketmaster.ca.

MONDAY, MARCH 26

Women on the Hill Gathering and Reception—In honour of International Women's Day, join women in politics, government, media, business, academia, diplomacy, and civil society to celebrate where we've been and where we're headed. Hosted by Earncliffe Strategy and facilitated by Famous 5 Ottawa, Equal Voice, and the All-Party Parliamentary Women's Caucus, this event is invitation only. March 26, 5-7 p.m., Sir John A. Macdonald Building, 144 Wellington St., Ottawa.

JAMA Canada Reception on the Hill—Join the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association of Canada and its members on the Hill to celebrate the recent signing of Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership at a reception sponsored by International Trade Minister François-Philippe Champagne. 5:30- 7:30 p.m. Room 256-S, Centre Block (Senate Banking and Commerce Committee room). RSVP to info@capitalhill.ca.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27

South Africa and Zimbabwe: Limits to Change—In Zimbabwe, the 37-year regime of Robert Mugabe came to an end in the last year, while in South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa emerged as a powerful alternative to Jacob Zuma. What a difference a year has made, or has it? The Group of 78 presents this lunch and presentation by Prof. Linda Freeman. 210 Somerset St. W., Ottawa. Lunch and presentation, \$30; Presentation only, \$5. Online registration, or pay at the door and please make a reservation via Group78@group78.org, 613-565-9449 ext. 22, by Friday, March 23, by noon.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

HRAI Parliamentary Reception—Join Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada board members at their annual reception. They will speak to how their industry works to help the federal government achieve its climate change goals. Parliamentary Restaurant, Centre Block. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be provided. Please RSVP to kyle@impactcanada.com.

Women of Note—This music concert will showcase the work of European women composers. It's organized by the embassies of Bulgaria, Poland, Portugal, and Slovakia, with the support of several EUNIC member countries. MacKay United Church, 39 Dufferin Rd., Ottawa. General admission: \$10. 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29

Community Liaison Officers' Group Ottawa—The CLO Group is hosting a 2017/2018 series of information sessions for foreign diplomatic missions' personnel responsible for welcoming new embassy staff members and their families. The group involves networking and sharing information essential for a smooth transition and settlement of new families to Ottawa/the National Capital Region. Monthly meetings feature guest speakers. March's topic is the job search. 2:30 p.m. To join the group or participate in the meeting, please contact andjelka.vidovic@embassyservices.org.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10

Reflecting on the Legacy of Chief Justice McLachlin—A two-day conference at the University of Ottawa reflecting on the legacy of the longest-serving chief justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, Beverley McLachlin, who resigned last year after 17 years in the position. It will feature a keynote lecture by Brenda Hale, Baroness Hale of Richmond and president of the

Conservative MPs Peter Van Loan and Karen Vecchio at last year's Canadian Cattlemen's Association Beef, Beer, and Whisky Reception. This year's bash is taking place March 21 at the Marriott hotel in downtown Ottawa. *The Hill Times* file photograph

Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, and a fireside chat between former chief justice McLachlin and broadcaster Catherine Clark. The program contains 9.5 hours of substantive content and will run April 10-11. For more information and to register, visit commonlaw.uottawa.ca/en/legacy-chief-justice.

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



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