



FALL 2016

# Beyond the Hill

Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians



**An interview with  
Governor General  
David Johnston**

**E.U. former  
members on the  
state of Europe**

**AGM 2016**

**100 years since  
the Parliament  
Hill fire of 1916**

**The return of  
pointing in  
politics?**





# CAFP Holds 11th Annual Frith Dinner

By Scott Hitchcox, photos by Neil Valois

In April 2016, CAFP held its Annual Douglas C. Frith Dinner. Established in 2005, the dinner invites leading public figures in both the political and business realms for a night of food and fun, with all proceeds benefitting the Association's Educational Foundation. This year's iteration again took place in the elegant Château Laurier Ballroom. After a brief reception outside, the crowd was ushered to their seats and CAFP President Andy Mitchell thanked guests and sponsors, especially presenting sponsor Innovative Medicines Canada. Andy recognized president of Innovative Medicines Canada, Russell Williams, presenting him with honorary membership.

Andy described Russell as, "Someone who has been a great friend and supporter to our organization, and who himself had a distinguished career as a member of the Quebec National Assembly."

Upon receiving this recognition, Russell mused about how the association's initiatives inspired him nearly a decade ago, and how this made providing financial assistance to CAFP an incredibly easy decision.

"Innovative Medicines Canada allows me to help through our company, to support the great work that you're doing," Russell explained. "We believe in good public policy, we believe in good evidence to make sure that we can make the right decisions, and we want to thank Andy and the rest of your group for everything you strive to accomplish."

Russell also shared his gratitude for the supportive role of parliamentary families and spouses and saved special thanks for Educational Foundation President Gerry Weiner, who he praised for his mentorship and guidance.

## A message from the minister of democratic institutions

As dinner wrapped up, the evening's guest speaker, the Hon. Maryam Monsef, Minister of Democratic Institutions, took to the stage.

"The Honourable Maryam Monsef is tasked with the huge responsibility of democratic reform. I do not envy her," joked Speaker of the Senate the Hon. George Furey, introducing the Peterborough-Kawartha MP. "However, as the fourth youngest member of cabinet in Canadian history, who better to reach out to



*Hon. Andy Mitchell presents Russell Williams with his honorary membership.*



*Guests at the Table of Honour, including cabinet minister Maryam Monsef, enjoy their dinner and one another's company.*

young Canadians? Who better to start to reform our political institutions?"

Minister Monsef launched into a story about a young girl in a war-torn land, whose father was gone, whose mother's dream of becoming a doctor was abruptly cut short by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and whose grandfather, despite everything, insisted that she and her sisters were going to grow up to accomplish great things. Since fleeing the Middle East, Monsef has become Canada's first Muslim federal minister.

"Isn't it ironic that my job as minister of democratic institutions is to make sure

that all those firsts become the norm?" explained Monsef. "Isn't it ironic, somewhat of a gift even, that someone like me is now tasked with the incredible opportunity to engage those who are not particularly engaged in the democratic process – like young people, new Canadians, rural Canadians, indigenous people, and people with disabilities and exceptionalities, whose voice and participation is needed in this country?"

Minister Monsef concluded with a call to explore ways of achieving electoral reform without losing the constitutional foundations that hold this country in place.

# Beyond the Hill

Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians

Volume 13, Issue No. 1

Fall 2016

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*His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston greets Barack Obama on a visit to Ottawa in June 2016. Photo by Sgt Ronald Duchesne, Rideau Hall ©OSGG, 2016.*

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#### Our Mission Statement

*Beyond the Hill*, a magazine for former parliamentarians, is designed to engage, enlighten and inform its readers about each other, their Association and its Educational Foundation. Its aim is to encourage participation in the Association and to promote democracy. The views of the contributors to this publication do not necessarily represent those of CAFP nor its Educational Foundation. *Beyond the Hill* welcomes letters to the editor, submissions and suggestions. P.O. Box 1, 131 Queen St., House of Commons Ottawa, ON, Canada, K1A 0A6. Telephone 1-888-567-4764, Fax: 613-947-1764 E-mail: [ex-parl@parl.gc.ca](mailto:ex-parl@parl.gc.ca). Website: [www.exparl.ca](http://www.exparl.ca).

## CAFP names Francis LeBlanc new executive director

**C**AFP is pleased to announce the appointment of Francis LeBlanc to the position of executive director of the Association.

A former parliamentarian, ministerial chief of staff and economist in the public service, Francis LeBlanc brings a wealth of managerial experience, understanding of parliament and parliamentarians and a deep personal commitment to the association and its sister organization, the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians Educational Foundation. For the past decade, Mr. LeBlanc has been actively involved with both organizations. He served on the Board of Directors and from 2009-2014 was president of the Educational Foundation, during which time he was a member of the executive committee of CAFP.

In making the announcement, President of CAFP, the Hon. Andy Mitchell, said, "The focus of Mr. LeBlanc's position as executive director will be in building the capacity of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians and its Educational Foundation to service and engage the membership (former senators and members of the House of Commons) in activities that promote democratic development and good governance in Canada and abroad."

Mr. LeBlanc succeeds Mr. Jack Silverstone who was executive director from September 2010 until October 2015.

ians Memorial Service. Everything was very well organized, and I would like to congratulate you for a job well done, and for the efforts of the entire team.

The testimonials we heard were very beautiful, and we were very moved throughout the ceremony, including during the meeting with Mr. Gary Peters, who graciously invited us to visit his office and shared several memories with us.

Ceremonies like these are the perfect example of why we are proud to be Canadian.

Thank you again, and I look forward to seeing the photos and videos.

Yours sincerely,  
**Cindy Lajoie**  
(Mourner for Claude Lajoie)

Dear CAFP Staff,

I hope you have a wonderful holiday! I can't tell you how much we enjoyed the parliamentarian event on Monday. Yves and I haven't stopped talking about it. It was so moving and so beautifully organized by everyone.

Thank you so much for the wonderful tribute. Flora would have been very pleased.

Again....have a wonderful time off. You deserve it!

**Linda and Yves Grearson**  
(Mourners for Hon. Flora MacDonald)

Dear CAFP Staff,

Our family just wanted to let you know how much we appreciated the memorial service. It was extremely well organized and our dad would have been very proud.

Thank you,  
**Lori Carty**  
(Mourner for Donald Paul Wood)

## Corrections

From the previous issue:

- Table of Contents: p. 38 should read "Tambora" not "Tamboura".
- p. 10: MP Arif Virani did not emigrate from Uganda to Canada when he was 10 years old, he was instead 10 months old.

*Beyond the Hill* apologizes for these errors.

## Thank yous

Please thank all involved in the article: "Youth Voter Apathy", especially Scott Hitchcox. It was excellent.

**Ian Waddell (former NDP MP, 1979-1993)**

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to you for the invitation to attend the Former Parliamentar-





*Hon. Andy Mitchell.*

# How the President sees it

In May 2016, the Association welcomed our new executive director, Francis LeBlanc. Francis has been a long-time supporter of the Association and the Educational Foundation and we are pleased to welcome him in his new position.

The Boards of Directors of the Association and the Foundation have provided Francis with an aggressive mandate, designed to address the challenges and opportunities facing the association. This includes ensuring the organization's long-term financial sustainability, attracting new members, providing additional services and opportunities for networking including the enhanced use of social media and ensuring that members continue to have an opportunity to contribute to public life.

As part of the renewal process, we have asked Francis to assist the boards of both CAFP and the Educational Foundation in enhancing our governance structure within the existing articles of incorporation. The purpose is to broaden the decision making process, better access the expertise of association and board members and better focus our activities on key priorities.

Over the next few months, we will be striking a number of committees in addition to the existing executive committees. These will be organized around the administrative and programming activities of the Association and the Foundation.

Committees struck will include:

- CAFP Budget and Finance: responsible for producing the CAFP budget and overseeing the finances of the Association.
- CAFP Programs and Services: responsible for reviewing and enhancing the array and performance of the programs and services supplied to members by the Association.
- CAFP Membership and Renewal: responsible for encouraging the participation of members in the Association and for renewing the boards of both organizations. This committee will support the immediate past president in his responsibility to present a slate of candidates to fill board vacancies at the AGM.
- Educational Foundation Budget and Finance: responsible for producing the budget for the Educational Foundation and overseeing its finances.
- Educational Foundation Fundraising and Endowment: responsible for developing strategies to raise funds for the Educational Foundation's purposes, including the creation of endowments, the earnings from which will finance future Educational Foundation programs.
- Educational Foundation Awards: responsible for evaluating and recommending to the board projects worthy of the Educational Foundation's support.

Committee membership has been drawn from the boards of both groups and I want to take the opportunity to thank each of them for taking on their assigned tasks.

In order to better inform the membership of our activities I have asked Francis to post the agendas and minutes of both the board meetings and our committee meetings to the CAFP website. Your input and comments are welcomed and appreciated.

**Hon. Andy Mitchell,  
President**





Francis LeBlanc

# Executive Director's Report

By Francis LeBlanc

I began my responsibilities as executive director just before our association's Annual General Meeting in late May, where I joined our dedicated staff in organizing another successful gathering. Since then, we've spent the summer busily planning our regular program of activities and exploring new avenues for serving and reaching out to our membership.

## Hello Maritimes

The CAFP Regional Meeting this year was in Nova Scotia, my home province. We worked with House of Commons Speaker the Hon. Geoff Regan, Kings-Hants Liberal MP the Hon. Scott Brison, former Halifax NDP MP Megan Leslie, former Halifax PC MP George Cooper, former Halifax Liberal MP Mary Clancy and others to produce a rich and multifaceted two-day program of activities. These included our meetings at the Nova Scotia House of Assembly, wine tours in the Annapolis Valley, a visit to the renowned Acadian museum in Grand-Pré, a morning at the International Ocean Institute and luncheon at Dalhousie University, in collaboration with the newly formed MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance.

Our Nova Scotia program was combined with a reception for our members in St. John's, N.L., which we put on with the invaluable assistance of our new CAFP Vice President, former St. John's East NDP MP Jack Harris, and the support of the Senate Speaker and

Newfoundlander George Furey, who hosted the event. You'll see photos of our trip in the next issue of *Beyond the Hill*.

## Moving the ball forward

We launched the next season of Parliament to Campus lectures and renewed our cooperation with our friends at the Teachers Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy and the Parliamentary Internship Programme, under their new director, Dr. Anne Dance. We've also started planning for the next Annual Douglas C. Frith Dinner and a forthcoming event to present one of our deserving colleagues with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

On June 13, I attended a day-long scholar's forum on "Canada's Role in Democracy Promotion", at the University of Ottawa. This forum, sponsored jointly by the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation and the university's Centre for International Policy Studies, brought together leading lights from Canada's democratic development community to consider the question of whether Canada should enter this field of endeavour with our own flagship program. This is a subject of long standing interest among our members and, since then, I have been reaching out to potential partners and collaborators to see if CAFP could be part of a new initiative in this area. Stay tuned.

In July, I met with executives from Chartwell Retirement Residences in

Ottawa to explore opportunities for collaboration between our two organizations. Chartwell has since made a generous contribution to the Educational Foundation.

By working with your CAFP President, Andy Mitchell, and your Educational Foundation President, Gerry Weiner, a new set of committees has been created to enable our two boards of directors to serve you better.

## We want you!

One of my priorities as executive director is engaging with our members from across Canada. As I mentioned in my introductory letter to members in July, former parliamentarians constitute a potential powerful network of service to Canada if we mobilize and communicate with one another. That is why we at the CAFP office are busy reaching out to members to update email accounts, and to add all of you as our Facebook friends and Twitter followers. We also intend, with the help of our *Beyond The Hill* staff, to publish an electronic newsletter highlighting the interesting and important things our members are up to, as a more regular update to this magazine.

So, please, send us emails, tweets, posts and letters to let us know what you are doing and how the Association can serve you better. We know that former members are continuing to serve and we are there to serve you.

Francis LeBlanc served as a Liberal MP from 1988-1997 in the riding of Cape Breton Highlands-Canso, Nova Scotia.

# Former parliamentarians gather for 2016 AGM

By Scott Hitchcox, photos by Harrison Lowman

As with every year's rendition of the early summer gathering, former members from across the country and the political spectrum took time between remembrance and reminiscing to discuss the mandate, goals and successes of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians at the Annual General Meeting.

This year's gathering took place within the ornate halls of the Sir John A. Macdonald Building. After a light luncheon, CAFP President, Andy Mitchell, gave his report, accounting for a membership base of 445 people, with the aim to continue to increase that number in the future. He also expanded on a newly implemented activity the association has undertaken.

"We started in 2015, and we are continuing in 2016, with what we refer to as regional receptions," Andy explained. "This is an opportunity to go into the various regions of the country and ask members to come together so that we can have a chance to speak with one another and talk about issues that are important to us."

"One of the things we've done where possible, which seems to have resonated well, is to put on these receptions with our provincial counterpart organizations," he added. "It has been a lot of fun to see both federal and provincial formers coming together and sharing stories."

In addition to the organization's activities, Andy also hinted at future goals, including the modernization of CAFP's online presence and an expanded capacity for digital communications amongst members and the association. This goal, he said, will allow us to build on the brand CAFP has established; one that continues to grow through partnerships with groups like the Parliamentary Centre, the Library of Parliament, the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa, Elections Canada and the Canada School of Public Service.

"Much of what it is, is facilitating partnerships with other organizations so that we're able to move way beyond



*CAFP President Andy Mitchell reports on the state of CAFP.*



*Hon. Raymond Setlakwe.*



*Hon. Sue Barnes.*

what our reach would be for the size of our own organization," Andy emphasized.

Adding to this theme, he elaborated on the partnership CAFP maintains with Samara Canada, a non-partisan organization aimed at increasing Canadian civic engagement. Together, the two groups will replicate an exit interview project they conducted several years ago, only with an added emphasis on female parliamentarians. The last project culminated in the best selling book *Tragedy in the Commons: Former Members of Parliament Speak Out About Canada's Failing Democracy*.

Andy then welcomed CAFP's new ex-

ecutive director, former member Francis LeBlanc, who assumed the position after Jack Silverstone stepped down. After hearty approval from other members, Andy introduced Marlene Catterall, who delivered her final financial statement as Treasurer. Marlene guided the crowd through the numbers, explaining that the association received a completely clean audit report, and that despite some unexpected costs, CAFP will ultimately be able to cover all of its expenses from the year.

CAFP's 2016 AGM then reached an adjournment, with the hopes that the upcoming year will only produce more good news.



# Hon. Jack Murta presented with CAFP's Distinguished Service Award

By Scott Hitchcox, photos by Christian Diotte

As the 2016 AGM drew to a close, guests and members gathered in the Reading Room to present CAFP's annual Distinguished Service Award to the Hon. Jack Murta. The award's recipient is nominated by peers within the organization, and chosen from a pool of candidates by a selection committee.

"...[A] former parliamentarian who has continued to selflessly share his knowledge and understanding of Parliament and parliamentary practices with colleagues both past and present," said Speaker of the Senate George Furey, describing Jack.

Jack's leadership within the country's annual and weekly prayer breakfasts and his work with The Ottawa Mission and the Canadian Christian Meditation Community were the principle reasons for his nomination.

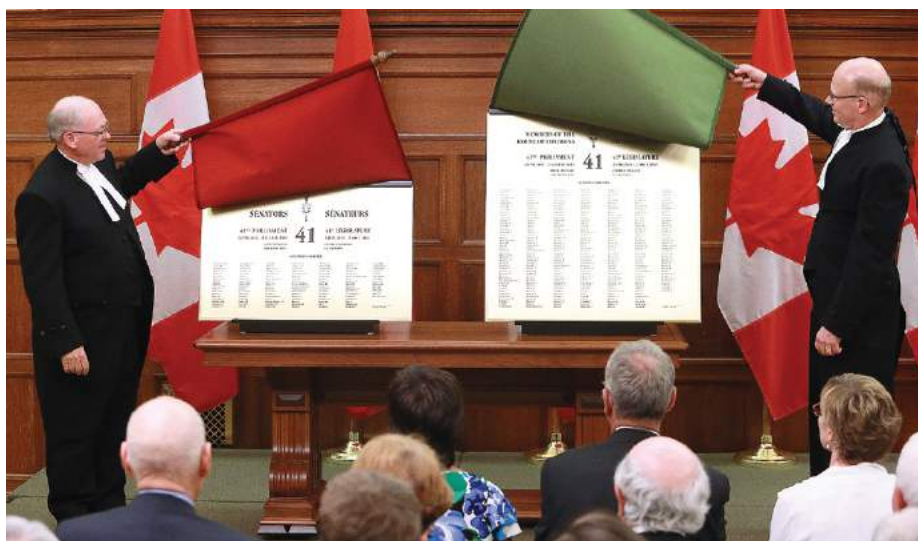
"His desire to give, to provide service, to reach out and help those who are in need, [are] qualities that distinguished his political career and his post-political career," emphasized CAFP President Andy Mitchell.

Upon receiving his award, Jack contemplated aloud how people are drawn to the vocations they ultimately find themselves in. He said his vocation was not revealed to him until nearly 15 years after his lengthy political career had drawn to a close. While he was well suited for politics, his post-political career was well suited for him.

In 2004, Jack was asked to return to Ottawa to assist with the National Prayer Breakfast. The former parliamentarian found this opportunity to help attendees build lasting personal relationships and explore their own faith. The breakfast has been held for nearly 52 years, and is coupled by weekly breakfasts that include sitting MPs. Jack moderates the non-partisan discussions. He considers his work at the breakfast, along with his time on the board of the Ottawa Mission, to be



*Hon. Jack Murta is presented the CAFP's annual Distinguished Service Award.*



*41st Parliament plaque unveiling ceremony hosted by both Speakers in conjunction with the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association.*

the most meaningful ventures of his life.

According to Jack, the environments are starkly contrasted. "It's like working with both ends of society; people that have everything, they have power and prestige and the ability to make change, and then there's this whole group of people who have absolutely nothing." Jack is always eager to ask

the question, "Can you tell me more?" Such a request prompts both those recounting the ups and downs of public life, and those lamenting missed opportunities and questionable choices, to expand upon the topics of their choice, and flush out the issues for Jack to help them through.

Citing psychiatrist and Holocaust survivor, Viktor Frankl, Jack concluded-





*Hon. Jack Murta with Lyn, Shevaughan, Meaghan and Liam Murta.*



*Hon. Gerry Weiner, Hon. Walter McLean and Barbara McLean.*



*Nic LeBlanc and Francis LeBlanc.*



*Marie Reid, Helen Rowland and MJ McBride.*

ed by insisting that the primary desire of the human psyche is not pleasure, but rather the pursuit of what we find meaningful. For Jack, this meaning has stemmed from his new vocation, as he seeks to give back, contribute and try to make things better for the people around him.

# AGM Hall of Honour Dinner

Photos by Christian Diotte and Harrison Lowman



*Greg Peters, the Usher of the Black Rod, gives the Loyal Toast.*



*A view of the AGM Hall of Honour Dinner.*





# Memorial Service reception

Photos by Harrison Lowman



*Patricia Bovey, Laura Kilgour, Hon. David Kilgour and Hon. Irwin Cotler.*



*Family members of deceased parliamentarians attending the memorial service.*



*Hon. Raymond Setlakwe, Terry Christopher and Hon. Terry Mercer.*



*Hon. David MacDonald, Dorothy Dobbie and Hon. John Reid.*



*Members of the Ottawa Police Chorus.*



*Family members attending the Memorial Service.*



*John Barnes, Mel Gass and Geoff Scott.*



*Relatives of those who have passed on.*



# AGM President's Reception

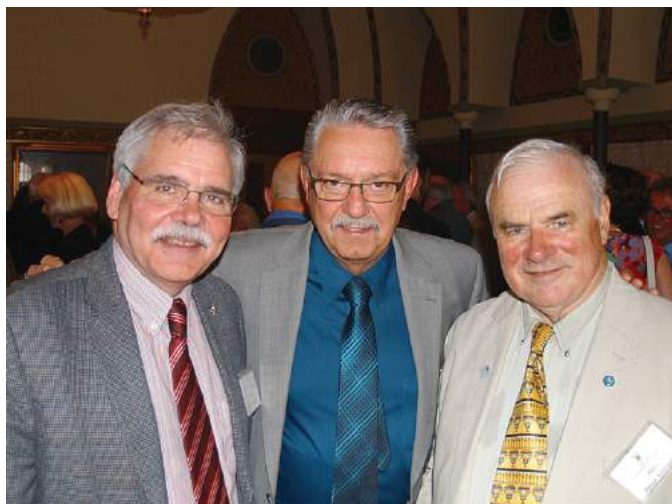
Photos by Harrison Lowman



*Dr. Gary O'Brien awarded Honorary Membership. Kevin S. Macleod awarded Honorary Membership. Audrey O'Brien awarded Honorary Membership.*



*Dr. Gary O'Brien, Audrey O'Brien and William Young.*



*Hon. Andy Mitchell, Gene Zwozdesky and Hon. Peter Milliken.*



*Hon. Eleni Bakopanos, Svend Robinson and Nancy Karetak-Lindell.*



*Janette and Geoff Scott.*



# Former parliamentarians recall political lives lived

By Scott Hitchcox, photos by Christian Diotte



*Current and former parliamentarians and bereaved family members gathered in the Senate chamber to honour former parliamentarians who left us over the past year.*

Amidst a day of celebration, the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians took time for solemn reflection at their annual Memorial Service, where they paid tribute to colleagues and friends no longer with us. Outside, the flag atop the Peace Tower flew at half-mast; inside the Senate chamber families and fellow parliamentarians alike grieved for the 26 former members and one honorary member who left us in the past year.

Speaker of the Senate George Furey offered his condolences on behalf of the upper house and promised that these men and women would not be forgotten.

"All parliamentarians recognize that public service begins with a deep desire to strive to improve the world we live in," Furey lamented. "Each of the 27 lives that we have come here to celebrate today has been molded into the fabric of the parliamentary system, and there they will stay."

Speaker of the House of Commons Geoff Regan reaffirmed this, speaking to the challenge inherent to a public

life, but a life made worthwhile by the potential positive impact MPs can have on all Canadians.

CAFP President Andy Mitchell spoke at length about each individual being celebrated, noting they forged their own paths to the Senate or House of Commons; some through the world of business, others from a career in law and still others who called politics their passion for the duration of their lives.

"It is the parliamentarians we remember today that inspire new generations of Canadians," he said. "Each in their own way provided service to their community, on behalf of causes they cared about, and to build a better world."

Several of the family members of the departed provided readings from iconic moments in Canadian history.

Before a minute of silence and the wreath presentation, Former Bloc Québécois MP Madeleine Dalphond-Guiral led





*BaAmaapii (See You Again) performed by David Charette.*



*The Ottawa Police Chorus.*



*Meditative Moment by Madeleine Dalphond-Guiral.*

the audience in a meditative moment, contemplating that death is necessary in order for life to be sacred.

"Death is interwoven in life; it lives among us, discreet but always present," she said. "Then one day, death appears and opens the door to the fundamental energy that threads its way toward the stars."

Indeed, the 2016 Memorial Service is not only intended to be a mourning of death. It is also a celebration of life. It is a chance to recognize the impact created by parliamentarians who have passed, an impact that has resonated in Parliament through both space and time.

# CAFP supports Teachers Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy



*CAFP Executive Director Francis LeBlanc stands alongside House of Commons Speaker Geoff Regan and Teachers Institute participants. Photo by Jonathon Harrington.*

Each fall, the Teachers Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy brings together approximately 70 educators from across Canada, for an intensive and informative week on Parliament Hill, run by experts.

The Institute was launched in 1996 and is coordinated by the Library of Parliament and supported by both the Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. The program aims to provide a unique immersive opportunity to educators teaching governance and citizenship. Following the event, teachers are able to take invaluable knowledge as well as physical resources back to their classrooms to share with their students.

CAFP provides 10 bursaries, valued at \$500 each, for teachers across Canada who would be unable to attend without financial assistance. The bursaries allow these educators to participate in the program. Our bursaries are named after two deceased former parliamentarians: Jack Ellis and Benoit Sauvageau.

In February 2016, CAFP executive director Francis LeBlanc joined educators during their parliamentary experience. The next gathering, the 20th edition, will take place from October 30 to November 3.

# Beyond the Hill talks Europe with our friends at the European Parliament Former Members Association

By Scott Hitchcox, photos by Harrison Lowman



FMA's Brigitte Langenhagen alongside former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Hon. Andy Mitchell and Marlene Caterall at CAFP's 2015 AGM.

**Brigitte Langenhagen**  
(Management Committee Honorary Secretary, the European Parliament Former Members Association) (Former MEP, Germany)

**Q: What is the European Parliament Former Members Association (FMA)?**

The FMA is a relatively young organisation founded in 2001. Our aims are using our parliamentary experience and knowledge to strengthen parliamentary democracy and to serve European unity, promoting the political debate on the development of the E.U. in public opinion and fostering the relations between former and current MEPs.

We are currently composed of 650 former MEPs from all E.U. member

states (28) except for Croatia and Estonia and political groups.

A highlight is our engagement (pro bono) in the European Parliament to Campus Programme, a cooperation with universities and academic bodies.

We participate in election observation missions, organize study visits in and outside the E.U. and put together seminars and roundtables on hot topics such as migration and E.U. economic governance or freedom.

**Q: What kind of relationship does the FMA have with the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians?**

Our excellent relations go back to 2006, with the setting up of the International Election Monitors Institute. This institute is a collaboration between

the FMA, the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress (USAFMC) and CAFP and outside bodies to provide global training and deployment for election monitors.

In 2012, we widened the scope of the institute, renamed Global Democracy Initiative, which now includes democracy building activities focussing on rule of law, fair and transparent election processes, the building of legislative institutions and the development of vibrant political party structures.

Our associations are in permanent contact and exchange information on their activities through their respective newsletters and publications.

Lord Balfé (former MEP, U.K.) coordinates relations between the FMA and similar associations outside the E.U.





*FMA's Brigitte Langenhagen speaks to CAFP at our 2015 AGM.*

We aim to attend their annual meetings from time to time. Last year, I joined CAFP in Ottawa. This year, our president Enrique Barón Crespo attended the USAFMC meeting in Washington.

**Q: How do FMA members feel about how the E.U. is handling the refugee crisis?**

We are deeply concerned. The refugee crises put strong pressure on the E.U. institutions in Brussels to reform common asylum rules. Current rules adopted in the 1990s, require refugees to seek asylum in the first country they arrive in. In July, officials finalized plans to reform the Common European Asylum System, aiming to create a fairer, more efficient and more sustainable system for allocating asylum applications among member states.

It's no coincidence that our annual seminar in December focused on the migration crisis, and included almost two hundred participants. Many of us are personally involved in local activities on migrant integration policies and in pro bono initiatives in refugee camps.

**Q: How do you think the migration crisis has influenced politics in European countries? Why do you think right-wing isolationist parties have been gaining support?**

Instead of concentrating our attention

on the refugee crises in Europe only, we need first to go back to the causes of the crises. Wars in Afghanistan, Somalia, and Syria alone were responsible for more than half of the world's refugee population by mid-2015. Forty million people are displaced within their own countries due to conflict and violence.

Deputy director general of the International Organization for Migration, Laura Thompson, keynote speaker at our December seminar, admitted that people in Europe, and beyond, are barely aware that the three countries that sheltered the most refugees as of mid-2015 were Turkey, Pakistan, and Lebanon. At the end of 2014, some 86 per cent of the world's displaced were residing in developing countries with enormous economic, development and governance issues.

The crisis highlighted the importance of long-term solutions for a long-term problem. This problem is objective for politicians, who are under incredible pressure to find immediate answers. As suggested by Ms. Thompson, sooner rather than later, migration policies in Europe should be re-framed, with a view to a more economically sustainable, human and carefully managed migration strategy. If we do not succeed, populist parties will win.

**Q: What does Brexit mean for the E.U.? (This question is answered by Lord Richard Balfe [former MEP, U.K.] )**

The referendum result is a severe shock which ignored the advice of almost the entire political, business and trade union leadership in Britain. The campaign was fought on a chauvinist and almost racist basis, appealing to the worst sentiments to be found in the voting public. Britain's new prime minister Theresa May has decided to trigger the two-year withdrawal process provided under article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty by the end of March 2017.

**Q: What do you feel you gained from attending CAFP's AGM last year?**

It was just great! And I would stress the necessity to meet again! I appreciated your hospitality, the talks on how to deepen friendship and mutual understanding and I was fascinated by the sincere and solemn memorial service. Both our associations have to find new ways and funding or sponsors to become more attractive internally and to the public. Let's commonly work on that. Democracy needs the support of all of us!

*This interview has been edited and condensed for space.*

# Creating a smart and caring nation

Canada's 28th Governor General reflects on lifetime of public service

By Hayley Chazan

“I ask only to serve.”

Those immortal words, first spoken by Governor General Georges Vanier, have been the theme of David Johnston's mandate as Canada's 28th Governor General.

In his installation address, “A Smart and Caring Nation: A Call to Service,” Johnston pledged to help Canada become a country of keener minds and kinder hearts.

Appointed by former Prime Minister Stephen Harper in 2010, Johnston will soon become the second-longest serving Governor General since Confederation. In March 2015, Johnston accepted an invitation to stay in his current role until September 2017. This was considered desirable, at the time, in order to ensure that an experienced viceregal be in place should the 2015 federal election result in a hung parliament or be otherwise inconclusive. Soon, the only post-Confederation Governor General to serve longer than him will be Georges Vanier.

## A focussed tenure

During Johnston's time in office, the theme of public service has been at the forefront of a number of initiatives he has put forward. One of the causes he and wife Sharon have publicly championed is mental illness, attempting to remove stigma and helping people understand that mental illness is an illness just like any other.

As a lifelong academic, Johnston has also placed a particular focus on education, establishing a special initiative within Rideau Hall called “Eduzone,” which helps to teach school children about Canada's constitutional democracy and parliamentary system. He has also helped to reinforce and accentuate a culture of innovation within the country; not simply technological and business innovation, but also social innovation in order to build healthier communities.

Education has always been an important part of Johnston's life. Before becoming a representative of Canada's monarch, he taught as a professor and



*His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston. Photo by Sgt Serge Gouin, Rideau Hall ©OSGG, 2010.*

eventually became president and vice-chancellor of the University of Waterloo.

In his installation address as GG, he remarked, “If there is one trumpet call from my remarks today let it be ‘Cherish our teachers.’”

“If I had hours I'd tell you stories of 100 different teachers that have made a difference in my life and a good part of that is a love of learning and a love that comes from reading,” added Johnston in a phone interview with *Beyond the Hill*.

## “Grandpa Book”

While he's known as “Your Excellency” to most of the outside world, his

12 grandchildren call him “Grandpa Book”.

“I love to read them stories,” he said.

In fact, it was his love of reading that recently served as the inspiration for Johnston's latest book, released last April, entitled *The Idea of Canada: Letters to a Nation*. The book is a compilation of actual letters the viceregal has written to Canadians as well as letters he would have liked to have written, but never got the chance. Some of his letter recipients include Olympic gold medalist Clara Hughes, retired astronaut Chris Hadfield and an Inuit boy he met in Re-





*The Governor General speaks to Prince William at Buckingham Palace in June. Photo by MCpl Vincent Carbonneau, Rideau Hall ©OSGG, 2016.*



*David Johnston stands outside Rideau Hall with his wife Sharon. Photo by Sgt Ronald Duchesne, Rideau Hall ©OSGG, 2015.*



*The Governor General congratulates Mr. Trudeau during his swearing-in ceremony. Photo by Sgt Ronald Duchesne, Rideau Hall ©OSGG, 2015.*



*David Johnston signs books at the Ottawa International Writers Festival. Photo by MCpl Vincent Carbonneau, Rideau Hall ©OSGG, 2016.*

pulse Bay, Nunavut. He addressed one of his letters to Canada's Unknown Soldier.

"That's not a person we knew specifically, but we know the many many heroes for whom that person stands," explained Johnston. "These are letters to individuals that tell stories about Canada, especially about a smart and caring Canada."

The art of letter writing has long been a hobby of Johnston's. There was a time when he got to the office every morning, he would write one of his five daughters a letter. When all five were eventually away at school, he would photocopy a letter and send it to all of them. He said that at any given time, two of them

would hardly read them, two would read them with interest and maybe reply once a week, and then for one, it would come at a particularly poignant time and it would mean quite a great deal.

Johnston explained that for him, the book and the letters are a way of maintaining contact with different Canadians and learning from them.

"By having a bit of a dialogue, we can share what's happening in Canada and how we're making it a healthier country for all," Johnston said.

And that's exactly what he hopes to accomplish during the final year of his mandate.

In coming months, His Excellency

will have the opportunity to show off Canada. This fall, he will be helping to tour the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge around the Yukon and British Columbia. It will be their second visit to Canada.

"It's wonderful to see the royal family with the next generation of marvellous babies," he said.

Reflecting on his six years as Canada's Governor General, Johnston said he's proud of what he's been able to accomplish.

"Anytime I've taken on a new position, rule number one is to leave the office better than how you found it, and I think I've been able to do that," he said.

# Remembering the flames that engulfed a House

## 100 years since the Parliament Hill fire of 1916

By Scott Hitchcox, photos courtesy of the Parliament of Canada



*Before the fire: The original Centre Block, circa 1880.*

As all Canadians await their country's highly anticipated 150th birthday celebrations in 2017, another landmark historical anniversary has come and gone. Though it was an occasion less apt for celebration, the fire that decimated Canadian Parliament in 1916, nonetheless, had a profound impact on the formation of Canada as it exists today.

During this year's AGM, the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians was fortunate enough to have House of Commons curator Johanna Mizgala regale us with the story of this

historical blaze, at the prestigious Sir John A. Macdonald building.

Mizgala's story began with the original parliamentary building, which was erected throughout the late 1850s and into the 1860s. The final structure, the library, was completed in 1876. The overall project was over budget and well past its estimated timeline for completion, much like Parliament's rejuvenation today.

### Up in smoke

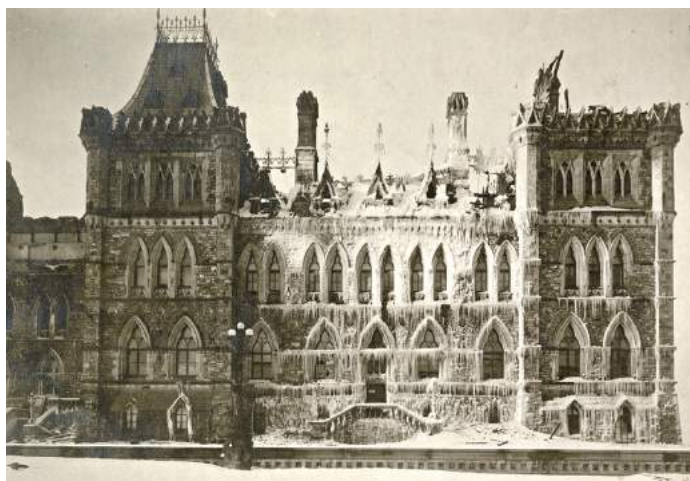
The Neo-Gothic building was gradually expanded upon until Thursday, February 3, 1916, when it all quite liter-

ally came crashing down. Following a relatively mundane day of business, one in which the particularly contentious issue of fish trade was discussed at length, a Mr. Francis Glass, MP for Middlesex East, Ontario, smelled smoke whilst sitting in the reading room. A small fire below a shelf quickly ignited the freshly oiled and varnished pine walls. The chief doorkeeper of the House urged everyone inside to evacuate as the fire spread quickly, threatening to engulf the entire building. Although most made it outside, parliamentary workers were not willing to let the entirety of

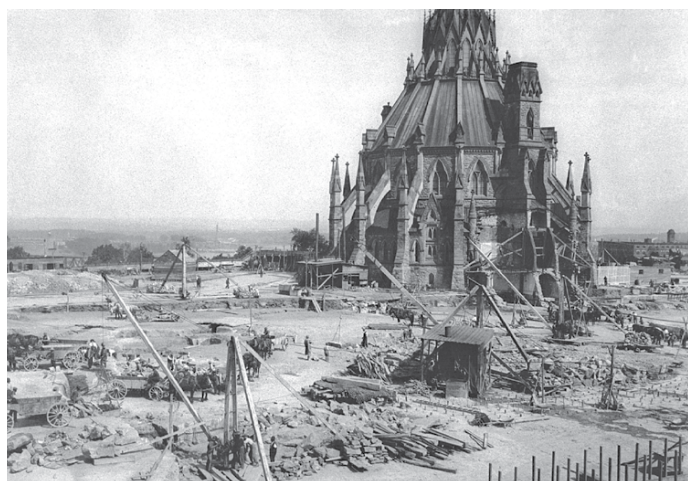




*The Centre Block engulfed in flames, late into the night on February 3, 1916.*



*A view of Centre Block, destroyed and covered in ice, February 4, 1916.*



*The Library of Parliament was the only part of Centre Block saved from the fire.*

their nation's cultural heritage go up in smoke.

"Countless staff risked their lives again and again by going back into the burning building to try to save what items of significance they could," Mizgala recounted. "In particular, many of the Speakers' portraits that line the walls of the north corridor of the House are only there today because of these brave souls."

The fire raged through the night, with the clock ominously clanging out

the hours, before finally crashing to the ground just before midnight. By the morning, all of Parliament had been reduced to a smouldering ruin, save for the Library of Parliament, which remained intact thanks to librarian Connolly MacCormac, who ordered the iron fire doors shut. When the dust settled, seven people had lost their lives.

#### **Rising from the ashes**

Although the physical structure of the Canadian government was no more, Prime Minister Borden and the leader

of the opposition, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, were determined that this incident would not collapse the government as well, urging the House to continue the business of government in the name of service to Canadians.

As politics went on as per usual at the Victoria Museum, architects John Pearson (no relation to our 14th prime minister) and Omer Marchand were tasked with assessing the damage and developing a new parliamentary building.

"...[A] new structure would rise on





*On July 1, 1927, Canada turns 60 and the Peace Tower is inaugurated.*

Parliament Hill. This building would evoke the old exterior but would be something entirely new – using modern building techniques such as a steel-enforced under structure, and Canadian materials throughout,” Mizgala shared. “Pearson would envision a space in which every detail would serve as tangible reminders to parliamentarians of their call to serve Canadians.”

The building was erected during one of the most tumultuous times in world history, as all countries experienced the devastating after effects of the First World War. Canada was of course no exception. The final structure to be implemented into the new design, the Peace Tower, within which the Memo-

rial Chamber would be built, would reflect a reverence for the fallen. Reading a letter written to Prime Minister Mackenzie King by architect Pearson, Mizgala revealed perhaps the origin of the name of Parliament’s most iconic feature.

“In all my thoughts of the Tower... Peace was dominant- I believe there is a quiet peaceful dignity about it. I somehow bring myself to read it that way- no matter what troubles and differences of opinion take place in that building,” Pearson wrote.

While the new building reflects the structure and style of the old, it is indeed an expanded and enhanced vision. It is building that keeps one foot firmly in

the historical heritage of Canada, while striding the other into modernity. Pearson designed the revamped building to remind Members of Parliament of their task to represent and support the interests of all Canadians. As the Parliament of Canada was rebuilt to be stronger than before, so too was the resolve of the politicians toiling within bolstered.

Our association was very grateful for this enlightening and informative presentation. Although 2017 will be chock-full of elaborate 150th celebrations, recognition of the Parliament Hill fire of 2016 also serves as an important lesson for Canadians and a reminder as to why our modern-day Parliament has “No Smoking” signs.



# Tamil refugees thank former parliamentarians, Newfoundlanders and Canada 30 years after sea rescue

By Scott Hitchcox and Hayley Chazan

An interesting distinction can be made between the words history and the past. Any thesaurus worth its salt will attest that the two words mean one and the same – a time that has come and gone. However, the terms in fact split from one another. The past is an ever-growing and ever-receding collection of every moment that has occurred. Meanwhile, history is an indomitable force of a select few moments, and an indication of the present and the future. While the past includes events that fade as time disappears into the abyss of yesteryear, history is the unbudging rock we look back upon and learn from. As men and women gathered in St. John's, Newfoundland this August, they gave an action the recognition necessary to transform it from a mere event in the past into Canadian history.

## Saved from the waves

Thirty years ago, amidst a civil war in Sri Lanka that saw the death of approximately 3,000 people over three years, 155 Tamil refugees sought safe passage to Canada.

Boarding the barely seaworthy Regina Maris, steered by a captain whose name does not deserve to be remembered, the refugees sailed for two weeks in cramped and harsh quarters with little food and nowhere to relieve themselves. Finally, they arrived near the coast of Montreal, and crawled into lifeboats to await the Canadian Coast Guard.

However, they weren't near the coast of Montreal at all, they had not sailed down the St. Lawrence River. Instead, they had been abandoned by their human trafficker well off the coast of Newfoundland, with little food or water, no distress signal and no indication that any help was on the way.

Days later, on August 11, 1986, the fishing boat, *Atlantic Reaper*, captained by Gus Dalton, found the lifeboats. Without hesitation, Dalton called for help from other fishing boats, four of which navigated to his location, promptly dumped their cod catches (an estimated thousands of dollars in revenue) and



*Gus Dalton surrounded by the Tamil refugees he helped rescue. Photo courtesy of the Canadian Tamil Congress.*

helped the refugees aboard. The Navy met the boats as they returned to shore. The weary travellers were welcomed with open arms by the residents of nearby St. Shott's and housed in Memorial University residences.

Bringing these Tamil refugees to Canada required more than kindness however, it required legality. At the time, the Hon. Gerry Weiner, currently the President of CAF's Educational Foundation, had just been named Immigration Minister by Prime Minister Mulroney.

"Shortly after my appointment, the Prime Minister called, stating that boats with people had been sighted off the coast of Newfoundland; the prime minister asked, 'What do we do?'" Gerry recalls. "Without hesitation I simply answered, 'Prime Minister, people that arrive on our shores must never be turned away.'"

## A lesson for Canada

This decision may well have saved the lives of these 155 men, women and children, who were welcomed into Canada with open arms to become part of our cultural mosaic.

For three decades, this event generally escaped the lens of history. However, at the start of August 2016, the Canadian

Tamil Congress organized a multiday celebration commemorating the 30th anniversary of this epic rescue and the new lives these refugees were granted by Parliament.

Fittingly, Gerry Weiner attended the event, and spoke on behalf of a Canadian government that did not hesitate to offer assistance to these stranded citizens of the world. A hundred Tamil Canadians, many of whom arrived that fateful day, as well as the crew that saved them, joined him. According to Gerry, while this day in 1986 was not one of flashy brilliance, it was of huge importance in perpetuating and entrenching the identity of Canada.

"Although not a perfect country, Canada is a successful experiment in living together. An example we are most willing to share to this world," Gerry told the crowd during his speech. "The challenge [is] reconciling diversity within the common goals of a freely formed national unity, without which the state itself has no meaning or reason for being. It is confronting this challenge that I believe is the Canadian experience."

A whole 30 years after the event itself took place, Canadian history has been written.

# The young and the responsible

## The NDP's youthful class of 2011 reflects on their time in Parliament

By Harrison Lowman

The average 20-something does not lose sleep over cluster munitions treaty implementation legislation. They are far more concerned about university credits, summer employment and finding a date for Friday night. Not so, for the unprecedented group of youthful NDP MPs that made their way to Parliament Hill some five years ago.

During the 2011 federal election, Jack Layton's Orange Wave consisted of many adolescent droplets. The party won a whopping 59 seats in Quebec. Seventeen of these politicians were under 30 years old. The NDP was the only party to elect MPs under 30. Today, the average age in the House of Commons is 51.

Overnight, the responsibilities of these young adults went from caring about themselves, to caring for the hundreds of thousands of residents in their ridings.

During the 2015 election, the NDP was reduced to 16 seats in *La belle province*, sending many of these young elected representatives back to lives of millennial normalcy. Nevertheless, they left having had legislative successes and having faced unique prejudice. These youngest-ever former parliamentarians may have also encouraged Canadian youth to participate in the democratic process and made the House of Commons more accepting of young voices.

"What's really interesting is that at the end, they were kind of asking me about my opinion on things," says former NDP MP Charmaine Borg, elected at the age of 20. "That dynamic that is set up at the beginning, where you have your mentor and mentee, that kind of disappears after awhile."

### Out of left field

Young NDPers won their ridings filled with shock and fuelled by next



*Left to right: Mylène Freeman, Charmaine Borg, Laurin Liu and current NDP MP Matthew Dubé in Parliament. The photo now hangs in the young NDPers watering hole, Brixton's Pub. Photo Credit: Mylène Freeman.*

to no campaign spending. In 2011, Thomas Mulcair held the NDP's first and only Quebec seat. Across the rest of the province, the party often finished fourth at best. In a desperate attempt to maintain their orange outpost on the French Canada map, the party threw nearly all of its resources behind Mulcair's Outremont riding. By bringing all hands on deck, they summoned their young candidates to Montreal, leaving these politicians little to no time to knock on doors in their own ridings.

When the results dribbled in on election night, those who had volunteered simply to be paper candidates were astonished to learn they themselves had won.

"My mouth definitely dropped," re-

members Mylène Freeman, who was 22 at the time.

"My phone didn't even work because everybody was trying to call me and text me," says Ève Pécelet, who was also 22.

"I did not think I had a chance," explains then 20-year-old Laurin Liu. The newly elected MP for Rivière-des-Mille-Îles says she was afraid to call her mom because she had not told her she was running.

For newly elected 20-year-old MP Charmaine Borg, her first ever vote in a federal election was for herself. Days later she sat down with Mylène and made a list: 1. Buy car 2. Quit job 3. Drop out of school. Then came hiring staff, all of whom were older than she.

Before being thrust into one of the





Former NDP MP Laurin Liu meets with constituents at a community event. Photo courtesy of Laurin Liu.

most significant jobs in the country, many of these young adults were enrolled in university. Ève, the newly minted representative for La Pointe-de-l'Île, had not yet finished her bachelors degree in law before travelling to Ottawa. Thanks to an accommodating party and a *Université de Montréal* professor, she was able to complete her final class while serving her constituents.

### Learning the ropes

The NDP was also helpful when it came to assisting these green parliamentarians get acquainted with parliamentary procedure, assigning them mentors. Even though the party soon became consumed by a leadership race following Jack Layton's death, veterans tried to find time to talk with them over coffee, where they relayed tips and tricks.

However, what could not be taught were the unique stresses and strains their newfound responsibilities would have on their young lives.

"It really becomes your whole life," explains Charmaine. She adds that because many young NDP MPs were alone in Ottawa, they became consumed by work. "Because you have no one at home saying, 'Hey it would be nice if you came home for dinner once in a while.'"

Many lost sleep. Others lost rela-

tionships with partners who could not comprehend their hectic schedules of committee meetings and community events.

"You have to tell people, 'No' a lot," says Ève. "You have to explain to them that, 'No I cannot be there for your birthday'. 'No I cannot be there for your supper.'"

In order to fill a void once occupied by a significant other, friend or family member, Mylène bought a cat. "Bowie" accompanied her on the long drives to and from her riding.

"At least I had my cat," she laughs.

Those outside the NDP were far less accepting of the new arrivals.

"In the House of Commons, of course, it's a real jungle," says Ève. She describes name-calling and intimidation. It was often remarks like, "I don't think that young people like you should be here."

"You kind of walk in and you feel that, 'Ok I don't belong here, what do I do?'" adds Charmaine. "I thought that being young wouldn't be such a taboo. But it was. I don't know how many times I was asked, 'Oh, whose office do you work for?' Or I was actually even once mistaken for a page in the House."

For many, there was an additional hurdle that came with being both young and female. Some say they felt

they were underestimated and not taken seriously because of their gender.

Laurin recalls meeting with Washington automotive executives to discuss the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Rather than directing their attention to her, the businessmen instead focused on her male assistant.

In reaction to this animosity, the NDP's class of 2011 often sought refuge in Ottawa's Brixton's Pub. They met in solidarity over drinks in the dimly lit bar.

"Sometimes we look at each other and we can understand each other without even saying it," says Ève. They still keep in touch.

### Assessing achievements

As members of the first NDP Official Opposition, some of the young MPs were able to leave the House with legislative legacies.

Laurin's first private members' bill involved making the Guaranteed Income Supplement for low-income seniors largely automatic. She says the then Conservative government integrated measures from her bill in their 2012 budget.

Charmaine was named to the shadow cabinet, focusing on digital issues. The move made her the youngest full critic in Canadian history. She brought forward a motion to study the measures taken by social media

companies to protect personal information.

Mylène highlights the party's motion to eliminate the federal tax on female hygiene products. The Tory government eliminated the GST on these products in July 2015.

But, their more lasting accomplishments may have been how they changed what MPs and voters thought a politician should look like.

"Close your eyes for two seconds and think about a politician," says Ève. "What's the image you have in your head? It's not me. It's this middle-aged guy, white, with a tie and probably a suit and probably kind of greyish hair and looks a little bit serious."

The group claims they were able to chip away at the preconceptions of fellow MPs and the public.

"When I was first elected, there was a lot of criticism around whether young people could do the job. I just don't think that that's the kind of things people say anymore," says Mylène. "I think they saw that we were able to do the job. We didn't make any mistakes, that we very were true to our ethics, that we worked hard, that we were able to fulfill our obligations as members of parliament just as well, and with a lot of dedication."

According to these former parliamentarians, they have now become the living embodiments of successful young policymakers that millennial Canadians can cite. Ève says she has received dozens of messages from young Canadians saying they would like to run federally.

"Now when I tell someone who's 20, 21, 22, that she should run, I'm very serious about it," adds Mylène.

It appears that the present Liberal government is also getting serious when it comes to acknowledging the input of Canadian youth. This July, Prime Minister Trudeau announced plans to form a non-partisan youth council, 16 to 24 year-olds who would help him shape national policy like employment, education and climate change. His Liberal majority was brought into power in an election that saw voter turnout among 18 to



Former NDP MP Charmaine Borg stands alongside NDP leader Thomas Mulcair during the 2015 election. Photo Credit: Samara Canada.

24 year-olds increase by over 12 per cent.

### A flash in the pan?

Unfortunately for the NDP and its young representatives, Quebecers did not spawn a second Orange Wave in the 2015 election. The party lost 43 seats in Quebec and was returned to third party standing. Only five of the 17 Quebec NDP MPs elected before they had turned 30 were re-elected. Some might wonder if the unprecedented ascension of these rookie MPs in 2011 was merely a fluke, a flash in the pan caused by the naturally fickle Quebec voter. The young former parliamentarians say the 2015 federal results are simply an example of a different wave, this time red, powered by strategic voting.

Their loss did not come from a lack of trying. Following 2011, the NDP built up Quebec grassroots infrastructure that included establishing budgets, creating riding associations and knocking on doors that had never been knocked by NDP candidates.

They remind Canadians that some of their colleagues were returned to the House, and continue to espouse the optimism that comes with being young.

During the 2011 election, 27-year-old bartender and NDP candidate, Ruth Ellen Brosseau, was belea-

guered by the press for not visiting her Quebec riding, instead travelling to Las Vegas, and for her inability to speak French. She was then elected. Since then, she has met extensively with constituents and become bilingual. In 2015, she was re-elected with over 42 per cent of the vote.

Similarly, NDP MP Pierre-Luc Dusseault was elected in 2011 at 19-years-old, becoming the youngest MP in Canadian history. Before winning his riding he had planned to take a summer job at a golf course. He was re-elected in 2015.

### Headed home

For 43 other Quebec NDP MPs, electoral victory did not come twice. Mylène, Laurin, Ève and Charmaine left the Hill and headed back to a more typical twenty-something existence. The loss stung. However, it allowed them to rebuild relationships and pursue other opportunities. While Mylène is doing consulting in Montreal, Laurin is starting a master's degree in human rights at The London School of Economics and Political Science; her interest sparked by her committee work. Ève is studying for the bar and Charmaine is attending law school. All four would consider running again.

When Parliament resumed in December 2015, Charmaine says it felt strange not to be in her green chair in the House.

Ève is similarly struggling to figure out who the Ève Péclet without the "MP" after her name is.

In an age where millennials are criticized for failing to move out of their parents' homes, 17 youth moved into the Canadian peoples' house and were not ashamed to act their age.

Beyond the election night shock, the parliamentary crash course headaches and the judgmental hallway stares, the experience they gained as members of parliament will make for one hell of an icebreaker at the parties these young Canadians can now add back to their schedules.

"It certainly provides for great cocktail party conversation," says Laurin, who remains the youngest woman ever elected to Parliament. "I think people continue to be surprised."



# Former parliamentarians mark 40 years of Status of Women Canada

By Harrison Lowman



*Former members gather in the Senate Banking Room to discuss the status of women.*

Former parliamentarians gathered in the Senate Banking Room during the early hours of May 30th, to both commemorate and discuss the 40th anniversary of Status of Women Canada. Current Minister of Status of Women Hon. Patty Hajdu conducted a roundtable discussion with members who have worked on the file, during its four-decade lifespan.

"I like to think of it as the activist agency of the government," said Minister Hajdu. "Small, but mighty. Empowering Canada to make real changes towards gender equality."

## A storied past

Status of Women Canada traces its roots back to the 1970 Royal Commission on the Status of Women. It was a commission demanded by a coalition of 32 women's groups, who eventually told then Prime Minister Pearson they would conduct a two million women strong march on Parliament Hill if he did not comply. One of the resulting report's 167 recommendations was a call for a federal representative for women.

In the organization's birth year of 1976, with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's Liberals in power, 10 out of 270 MPs were

female, a mere three per cent. During the last federal election, Canadian voters elected 88 women, accounting for 26 per cent of the House of Commons. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau then brought 15 men and 15 women into his cabinet.

Today, the federal organization's mandate has not changed: "[T]o coordinate policy with respect to the status of women and administer related programs". It aims to do this by improving women's economic security and prosperity, encouraging women leadership and democratic participation and eliminating violence against women.



*Minister of Status of Women Hon. Patty Hajdu addresses the group.*

## Questions to the Minister

Minister Hajdu said she often gets emotional, thinking about the parliamentarians who shaped Canada and her portfolio, in particular, as she passes their portraits on the way to her office. She said she believes Canada remains a country firmly rooted in patriarchy, and that there is still much work to be done. In discussing gender equality and the policies that promote it, former members posed questions and ideas to her.

Former Liberal MP the Hon. Sheila Copps asked what tools the federal government had to ensure there is female leadership in the private sector. While many in the room agreed there has been real progress in the public sphere, private companies appear to be uncharted territory for the organization.

Minister Hajdu stressed that there is a fiscal argument to be made for female leadership. She said companies with boards that contain 30 per cent women or more can see as high as a 15

per cent increase in revenue. She said that while they can't force the private sector to make changes, they can get their attention by demonstrating the financial benefits.

"Look, we have to think like social entrepreneurs. People don't want to eat apples because they're good for you. How can we make eating an apple the sexy, right thing to do?" she said, recalling the advice of a former colleague.

Former Progressive Conservative MP the Hon. Walter McLean mentioned that in his experience, one of the best channels to pressure the private sector to bring about equal representation was in provincial territorial meetings. Today, all of Canada's provinces and territories now assign a minister to tackle the status of women.

## Changing the conversation

In addressing Status of Women, Canada's aim to end violence against women, former NDP MP Tyrone Benskin highlighted the need to transform the upbringing of those who ultimate-

ly become aggressors – men. Benskin said because violence is learned, governments need to examine how we are educating Canadian boys and work to change generational mindsets.

Minister Hajdu agreed her agency needs to "leverage our male allies", and challenge the families, corporations and cultures that mold young men's minds. She once ran a homeless shelter in Thunder Bay, where many women arrived with their faces bruised. The minister also shared the challenges she herself faced in raising two compassionate, violence-free boys.

"The dominant message of violence that surrounds them, about what it means to be a man, and what they have to do in order to be manly, it drowns out sometimes the positive messages that you may have as a parent, or that you may have as a school," she said. "It's really about changing the cultural tone towards women."

The minister says she is developing a federal gender-based violence strategy. She added that Prime Minister Trudeau is already challenging narratives on a personal level, by teaching boys that it is acceptable to express their emotions.

"I am so proud of a prime minister that freely cries when he is moved," she said. "This is a very important attribute that we train out of our men at a very early age."

Former Liberal MP the Hon. Jean Augustine reminded the minister and attendees not to overlook the various backgrounds of Canadian women. Noting that she was the only black woman in the room, she said that Status of Women's beneficiaries tend to be white and part of traditional, accepted structures.

"When we talk about women, and we talk about the status of women, we have to talk about the status of all women in our society," she said. "And I think it's important that we change the communiqué, we change the way in which we do things and say things and we make sure that all women feel that Status of Women Canada meets the needs of every woman, wherever she is in this country."



# Samara Report criticizes heckling in Parliament

By Harrison Lowman

One fine day in Westminster, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill was perturbed. He'd been listening to a member opposite deliver what seemed to be an endless monotone monologue. The remarks went on and on. After some time and many a grumble, the speaker at last told the crowd his speech was coming to a close. Churchill saw the perfect opening for a well placed heckle. "He'd better hurry up, or he'll be overcome by old age or senility!" he barked. The remark was met with chuckles and the member stopped dead in his tracks.

In January, Samara Canada, a non-partisan organization aimed at increasing Canadian civic engagement, released a report entitled *Cheering or Jeering?: Members of Parliament Open Up About Civility in the House of Commons*. In the spring of 2015, they surveyed MPs of the 41st Parliament on their experiences around heckling. Surprisingly, a mere 29 of the 305 parliamentarians responded.

The majority of MPs, 69 per cent of those who responded, felt heckling was a problem. Meanwhile, a 2010 poll from the Public Policy Forum, shows that 56 per cent of Canadians think less of their government when they watch Question Period. Two thirds believe it "needs to be reformed and improved."

## Heckling as a tool

*Beyond the Hill* spoke to former MP Keith Penner, to get his reaction to the findings. Keith served as a Liberal MP in Ontario from 1968 to 1988. During his 20 years of service, he sat in government and in opposition, giving and receiving many a heckle. Contrary to the report, Keith says heckling is a relevant parliamentary tool and is part of an important tradition in the House.

"Heckling has a long parliamentary history. And I think it has a place in the parliamentary system," he stresses. "If

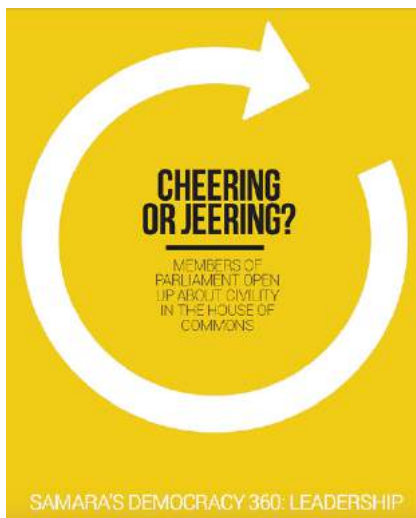


Photo Credit: Samara Canada

it's properly done, it can do a lot of help to deflate self-important windbags."

## Heckling 101

According to Samara, heckling is defined as calling out in the chamber of the House of Commons, without being recognized by the Speaker. Two thirds of MPs in the report claimed they heckle because a member is spreading misinformation, using responses like "lies", "shame", or "rubbish". Seventy nine per cent of women respondents said they heard heckles related to age and gender. They also reported hearing the odd remark about language, religion and their appearance.

Keith says it is very important to draw a distinction between what he believes is real heckling that is substantive and is relevant to the conversation, and the rare remarks that are "below the belt".

"If they're talking about boorishness or noise, or making personal remarks, that in my view, does not fall under the definition of heckling," he adds.

Ninety per cent of report respondents said men heckled more than women. Eighty-nine per cent noted that hecklers were more often veterans than rookies.

## A backbencher favourite

Heckling may be one of the few outlets backbenchers have to express their disagreement with an issue, and have it recognized. When the Speaker is forced to shush those who are speaking out of turn, his or her action is recorded in Hansard. Seventy five per cent of the respondents said that heckles more often came from the lips of backbenchers. Keith bemoans the limited opportunities backbenchers have to vocalize their opinions in the House; opportunities that are shrinking as the number of seats swell. He can sympathize with those who simply want their day in the sun.

"I think it's a very big problem in the Canadian parliamentary system," he says. "How do you ever get known or feel that you're a part of the parliamentary system?"

## In the crosshairs

Keith himself has been at the business end of heckles and says he feels better for it. He recalls giving a speech in the House while in government for the sole purpose of it being put into Hansard, so that he could distribute the remarks to his constituents. No sooner had he began his speech, did someone from the opposition benches yell out, "Home cooking!" Keith said the remark reminded him that he wasn't contributing to the debate. It also made him laugh.

## Seeking solutions

Samara concludes their report by offering some potential fixes to what they see as a heckling culture that needs mending. Among others, they suggest that the Speaker could punish hecklers by removing one of their party's questions during QP, removing the guilty member from the House, or by applying a financial fine. They also offer the option of implementing a rotating seating plan; the thought being that it

“Parliament is a political arena, where there is a daily clash of strongly held ideologies...”

would be difficult to be rude to a rival member you recently shared a desk with.

Keith insists a seating adjustment would likely suck the air right out of the chamber. Years ago, he visited Sweden's halls of government, and watched what he described as very quiet and uneventful discussions take place. In their national legislature, the “Riksdag”, rather than sitting across from one another, Swedish government members sit next to members of the opposition, in a semicircle. Keith says the members even admitted how dull the proceedings were, and were desperate for ways to liven things up.

#### **New government, new approach?**

Kicking off the first week of the 42nd government, the new Speaker of the House, the Hon. Geoff Regan, announced in his maiden address, “I will not tolerate heckling. We do not need it. We will not tolerate unparliamentary conduct.”

What exactly the new Speaker considers to be heckling and whether his strong tone will have any effect is yet to be seen. Just one month later, the officer of the lower house was heckled while condemning the practice of heckling.

Keith says Canadian parliamentarians could benefit from being a bit less sensitive. He reminds members that Parliament is a political arena, where there is a daily clash of strongly held ideologies, the result of which decides how the second largest country in the world is run.

“These politically correct individuals who are talking about safe spaces; you can't turn the House of Commons into a place where everyone feels that they are appreciated and loved,” he says. “You're not there to be appreciated or loved. You are there to cogently and vigorously and effectively present an idea or an argument or a viewpoint regarding legislation before the House. And you're not there to be kind or considerate to others, but to make a point.”

# Getting to the point

## In the art of political gesturing, The Point, may be back

By Harrison Lowman

**A**rm extended, hand outstretched, finger elongated, “the point” in politics was once forbidden territory politicians dared not venture into during stump speeches. Pointing was seen as a harsh, aggressive gesture that was unwanted and unwarranted. It became a political Dodo bird; dead and buried in the 1990s.

However, the point may be making a comeback. As political climates in the United States and Europe become increasingly unstable and divisive, so too have the gestures of the public figures leading or vying to lead them.

“The point is quite dangerous,” says expert in body language and human behavior Mark Bowden, who has advised leaders across Canada, the U.S. and Europe, including former Prime Minister Harper. “However, if things get a bit more unstable and we're feeling a little more disgruntled by the world around us, we feel there are stresses out there and dangers, we might actually feel okay about the leader being aggressive and pointing towards us.”

In many countries, what were once softer political gestures appear to be undergoing a regression, replaced by harsher movements from political leaders. Meanwhile, the increasingly unsettled and fearful public they are directed towards seem to be satisfied with what they are seeing.

#### **Behind the curtain**

Peek behind the curtain behind world leaders giving speeches and one finds advisors who have plotted out every head tilt, finger wag and raised fist. According to Bowden, good gesturers are not born but made. It is the politician's goal to appear consistently genuine under intense pressure. They must not reveal they are acting, or allow their innate behaviors to leak out for the cameras to see. For example, recall Prime Minister Trudeau

visibly losing his temper during “Elbowgate”.

Bowden stresses that when it comes to communication, if you are not being seen, you are not being heard. Politicians must first use gestures that make them stand out. In Trump's case, Bowden says the then GOP candidate separated himself from his some 16 opponents by taking up more space using gestures performed far away from his body. Once politicians have separated themselves from the pack, they can then begin to use gestures that make themselves appear trustworthy, credible and knowledgeable.

Different body language elicits different reactions. For instance, some politicians make use of the “precision gesture”, bringing their thumb and forefinger very close together as if they were holding a penny. According to Bowden, this tells the audience, “I can handle the detail”, suggesting that the speaker is evolved enough to handle small objects without dropping them.

Over the course of time, different gestures have fallen in and out of favour. One of these is the point.

#### **Points in history**

Many say the death of the point came at the hands of the 42nd President of the United States Bill Clinton. Concerned that the American public felt relatively safe and did not desire an aggressive leader, advisors told the Democrat to stop making use of his Peter Pointer. They replaced it with what body language expert Judi James calls the “thumb of power”. The gesture involves making a fist and placing the thumb flat on top of that fist, as if you were holding the reigns of a horse.

This truncated point was seen as a middle ground between the angry clenched fist and the accusatory point. Soon, its popularity grew, and it en-





*GOP nominee Donald Trump points directly at his audience. Photo Credit: Alex Wong/Getty Images.*



*British Foreign Minister Boris Johnson making use of the "thumb of power". Photo Credit: AFP*

tered the toolbox of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and others.

Although it is still used today, the gesture has its faults. According to Bowden, because the thumb of power is fabricated and not a natural gesture it causes audiences to question what it is, rendering it essentially useless. Apparently, well-placed gestures shouldn't cause people to stop and think.

"It's a ridiculous move," he explains. "It's not a real gesture. It's nothing that we do. It has no function, it has no use." Instead, he says an open palm does a much better job of softening the discussion.

However, in 2016, there does not appear to be a call to soften the discussion. Instead, as political discussions intensify, Europe and the U.S. appear to have become fertile ground for the Second Coming of the political point.

#### **The return of the point**

The proverb, "Desperate times call for desperate measures," may be the perfect mantra for a public that is increasingly comfortable with the use of the accusatory, aggressive point in politics today.

According to Bowden, Americans and Europeans once considered a politician who pointed as intimidating. They would see someone who is pointing and targeting them and might direct aggression towards them, disturb-

ing their lives. Times have changed. Today, he says, many have become more open to extreme right wing viewpoints centred around immigration concerns. These individuals are more accepting of leaders willing to take immediate, aggressive action, in order to cure their unease.

"The people fired up by the idea of, 'They're coming over here, taking our land and our jobs', they could easily feel like a bit of aggression wouldn't hurt. And so they are willing to tolerate, if not even enjoy, or feel safe around, a more aggressive leader, even if that means they get pointed at now and then," he says. "We might go, 'You know what? A bit of aggression would be good. Some people need sorting out here and this is the guy to do it.'"

Buttressing his point, an Ipsos/MORI poll released immediately before Britain's decision to leave the E.U., showed that 65 per cent of those planning to vote Leave said immigration has been bad for the country. Meanwhile, a Pew Research Center poll released in May told us that 69 per cent of Trump supporters say immigrants are a burden to the U.S. because "they take our jobs, housing and healthcare".

Contrast this with the fact that more refugees became citizens of Canada than any other country in 2015. According to Bowden, this appetite for

aggression and the gestures that come with it end at the Canadian border.

#### **Pointing North**

Bowden says he cannot recall any pointing taking place during the last Canadian federal election, and adds that he has advised the Canadian politicians he works with that pointing will not elicit the responses they want from the public. Canadian politicians are overwhelmingly not pointers. According to Bowden, the one exception was former NDP leader the late Jack Layton, who liked to use the gesture during his fiery, rhetorical soapbox speeches.

Our new Prime Minister Justin Trudeau does not appear to see value in including the aggressive point in his repertoire either. Instead, he settles for friendlier gestures.

"His gestures are open, they're at naval height in the area that I call the 'truth plane'. It sends a signal that you can be trusted," says Bowden. "It's the signal of, 'there are no predators in the area and you're not a predator', because the body language is open at the most vulnerable spot on the body, and the hands have no tools or weapons in them. It's a signal of safety."

While the aggressive gesture appears to be on the rise in the rest of the West, for better or for worse, Canada appears to remain "pointless".



Dorothy Dobbie

# Changing the way we vote

By Dorothy Dobbie

Allowing people into parliament who did not finish first in their district was described by David Cameron as creating a, 'Parliament full of second-choices who no one really wanted but didn't really object to either.'

—The Telegraph

If you want to make your head hurt, start examining the many possibilities and permutations of the voting systems that could be proposed to replace our 150-year-old method of electing our governments. Everyone who favours reform has a different twist and a new label to mark their brilliance in band-aiding proposed alternatives when one of them is shown to be just as defective, in its own way, as First Past the Post, known hereafter as FPTP for simplicity.

This is the last simple thing I will show you here.

Everyone seems to have a bias. If you're under 35, you are likely highly susceptible to media claims that the current system is broken and needs to be radically changed. That doesn't mean you have a solution, but it's obvious, isn't it? If it doesn't work, change it. How stupid can us old guys be?

If you feel under-represented in any way, you are also likely to be all for change. After all, if they pick the right method, your party might get to Parliament and you can have a say. Hey, why not start your own party to be sure you get on some ballot, in say, the MMP (mixed member proportional representation) system, where you get two votes – one for a candidate your party picks and one for your direct elected member. New Zealand does it this way. They have 120 seats. Since 1993, they have set aside 71 of them for your direct representation and the other 49 for the parties' picks, chosen in numbers to represent the popular vote. They have given

the Maoris, who get a special vote, representation proportional to their population – right now that number is seven electorates. (In Canada, we can elect as many Aboriginal reps as we want and they are there to represent all of us, just as do other MPs, whether we voted for them or not).

By the way, there are 13 parties in New Zealand (population 4.5 million). A party needs to get five per cent of the vote, or one elected seat, to receive an allocation for the multi-member party seats.

Don't like the idea of your party selecting their buds as candidates? Maybe you'll like Australia's system better. Here they make you rank your choices and have a run-off to select the winner. Voting – and ranking – is mandatory. Even if you hate all other candidates but the one from your own party, you have to number everyone on the ballot in order of your preference.

Australians vote for both houses, using what they call "majority-preferential instant-runoff voting in single-member seats" to elect members to the lower house and "single-transferable proportional voting" to elect the Senate. Each senate seat is a multi-member seat, with senators elected according to the party's proportional percentage of the vote. Five to six five per cent of the votes for the lower house are spoiled, apparently to protest mandatory voting and ranking.

There are around 80 registered parties in Australia, although four have formed a coalition called "The Coalition", to fight the Australian Labor Party. Those

two, plus the Greens, take up most of the vote. Even so, 13 parties are currently represented in the two houses. Coalitions are formed after the election and are often forming and re-forming behind the scenes.

Not that this is all there is to it – Australians are constantly tinkering with a system that doesn't work very well, partly because there are two elected houses, but also because of many of the same complaints we hear about FPTP here at home: it's unfair, it doesn't really represent the true demographics of the country, it's too adversarial . . .

Canadian proponents of this system laud the co-operation and harmony that is supposed to occur among representatives who "have to get along in a coalition". Not so, say the critics in Australia. Dr. Klaas Woldring, a former associate professor of government and management at Southern Cross University, says that there is an urgent need for a fairer, simpler and less adversarial model. He goes on to say that, "Politicians are recruited from an extremely small number of people," because party membership is at an all-time low.

Nevertheless, those who like preferential voting claim that it solves the "wasted votes" of FPTP. I can't see how that works when your first choice is likely to be discarded and allocated in favour of a person supported by some other group that you may heartily dislike. If that isn't waste, what is?

The two alternative systems above illustrate the kind of choices that may be faced by Canadians soon. They are clum-



Tony Blair, defending FPTP, argued that other systems give small parties the balance of power, and influence disproportionate to their votes.

– P. Dorey, *The Labour Party and Constitutional Reform: A History of Constitutional Conservatism*

sy, complicated, subject to manipulation and they require greater third party intervention between the electorate and their representative.

Before you get all excited about Germany's Proportional Representation system, know that, according to *Der Spiegel*, it is considered so complicated that most Germans don't understand it. And again, Germany has just tinkered with their PR system – really it's a mixed member system now. It elects some 598 members to the Bundestag but the new system could see the numbers swell to 800 seats. There are 299 constituencies at the moment. Basically, the voter gets two votes: one for a general candidate, who is elected according to FPTP rules, the second, and more important, for the party list candidate. After this, it gets much more complicated as the exact ultimate representation is decided on some proportional representation formula that seems to have been subject to many changes.

Nor do you know who the leader will be until after the election: the chancellor is nominated by the winning party after the vote. The president is elected by a special assembly. There are 14 parties currently represented in the Bundestag.

So with all these complications, why ditch FPTP? According to Canadians, in a recent Internet poll conducted by the Ottawa-based Institute on Governance and Environics among 2,000 respondents, we are not particularly interested in doing so. When it comes to electoral reform, most people (58% in the poll) just want to vote online. Of the respondents, 45 per cent were opposed to mandatory voting. For the most part, even those with enough interest to take an Internet poll just weren't sure what any changed system might be and what they would prefer.

As for those final results on election night? Apparently, not much changes under alternative systems: the party that was ahead before the vote is usually the party that wins, despite convoluted voting systems. Elections do get a lot more expensive and confusing, though, and your ability to choose your own direct representation is diluted. A lot more power goes to the back rooms.

As for getting the system right? Not likely for at least hundred years (Germany and Australia have been trying since 1918).

On the other hand, First Past the Post has been the most stable system since voting became the way governments were created. Why change it now?

Dorothy Dobbie, PC MP for Winnipeg South from 1988 to 1993, co-chaired a constitutional committee, The Joint House-Senate Committee on the Renewal of Canada, which studied this issue.



*Hon. John Reid.*

## Democracy at Work

By Hon. John Reid

"The best argument against democracy is a five minute conversation with the average voter."

– Winston Churchill

It's tough out there for people interested in "democracy". The intellectual concept of democracy means that each vote counts the same as every other one, that discussions of issues will be carried on in a relatively sane way and that discussion and honest debate will result in policies that are broadly acceptable. But the world is aflame now, and even Pope Francis has said we are at war. But this is a

particular kind of war. Not a religious war, but one that he says is "a war of interests, for money, resources, dominion of peoples." There is a feeling among many that our democratic systems cannot cope with the very real problems our societies are facing.

### Fair comment?

Winston Churchill is known for two remarks about democratic systems. The most quoted is the one

that, "democracy is the worst form of government, except all those others that have been tried." But his second statement is just as true: "The best argument against democracy is a five minute conversation with the average voter."

If you wish to test that second comment, all you have to do is to go on the online comment sections of newspapers, TV shows or magazines.

“Remember too that democratic elections are wars  
and revolutions by other means.”

– Hon. John Reid.

Some media outlets have begun to rein in the Wild West of remarks because they range from intelligent suggestions to rants from individuals (mostly men) who have either not read the item or do not understand it at all. It has become so difficult for the media, that some, like the Toronto Star, have simply closed their comment sections. Others have outsourced the monitoring of these sites. Then there are articles on “sensitive” subjects where the comment section does not exist. For example, CBC does not allow commenting on stories related to First Nations, due to the racist response they’ve seen the stories produce in the past.

Of course, social media is even more revealing. Nevertheless, these forums give us an insight into the human condition, which does not appear to have changed in history. One of the reasons that Homer’s stories about the ancient Greeks still resonate, why Shakespeare’s plays are still seen on stages today, is that people have not changed. You can see the same exact characters in their tales strutting on stage today or writing in social media.

### The Second Coming

We have been here before. In 1919, poet William Butler Yeats published his famous poem The Second Coming on the crumbling of the world, as he saw it. An excerpt:

*Turning and turning in the widening gyre  
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;  
Things fall apart;  
the centre cannot hold;  
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,  
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed,  
and everywhere  
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;  
The best lack all conviction,  
while the worst  
Are full of passionate intensity.*

On a larger scale are the problems

being faced by all modern societies – the continued fallout from the Great Recession of 2007-2008 and the lack of any sustained growth and the increasing expansion of automation by robots and software that has resulted in significant increases in productivity but at the cost of jobs. So while globalization and the new methods of production have increased world wealth, it has not come down to the working man.

Reagan’s “trickle-down theory”, if it ever worked, is no more. Kennedy’s “a rising tide lifts all boat” theory is no more as well. When we went through the recession, one of my economist friends told me that it would be more than a decade before we got back on track. But he also warned that in a recession the economy goes through very severe stress, as companies cut costs as quickly as they can to match demand. Those cuts often remain in place when the recovery returns, as new means are found to improve productivity. The old jobs disappear. Now, wage stagnation abounds.

Since we are emotional animals with an intellectual side bolted on, when we are frightened or hurt we fight back. Just like individuals, governments of all types find it difficult to cope with these sudden changes and so we have seen a variety of responses by various governments to the lack of jobs and growth. From austerity to great expansions of the money supply (and sometimes both at the same time, to cancel the effects of the other) to Keynesian stimulation, all attempts have failed to get the economies of the world rolling again. We do not know how our economies create wealth and jobs and we still have not worked out a system of distribution.

### What in the world?

For many people, economic and social changes have combined to cause them to wonder what has happened to their world. The pace of economic

change, the slow recovery from the recession, the loss of good jobs, the worldwide concentration of wealth in the hands of the few, wars in the Middle East and the mass migration and terrorism they have begat, rapid changes in society (the “war” on marijuana is over after great costs and it is now for sale openly, same sex marriage...etc.). All these and other changes have destabilized the world. Democracies are not very supple in dealing with these types of problems, especially all at once. Uncertainty is flowing powerfully out into democratic politics, where it belongs, so it can be at least considered for discussion.

The chattering classes are concerned that discussion and reason in politics has declined. But if you pay attention to what is being said by those who voted to leave the E.U., for example, they have real issues that were not being addressed or debated satisfactorily. Those who missed out during the recent political and social upheaval are now raising their voices and demanding to be heard. The political class has ignored most of these groups or made promises to deal with them but never delivered. Today they are on the front burner.

There are no easy answers to any of these matters, but the issues have not been prominent in the public arena until now. Remember too that democratic elections are wars and revolutions by other means. Important groups in society are making their voices heard, demanding their issues be addressed and not suppressed. This is a most important function of the democratic process – to give voice and power to the people. Issues affecting people must be addressed. The democratic process provides a way for that to happen.

Hon. John Reid served as a Liberal MP from 1965-1984 in the riding of Kenora–Rainy River, Ontario.



# Staying in touch

By Harrison Lowman and Scott Hitchcox

**Hon. Eleni Bakopanos**  
(Liberal MP, 1993-2006)

**Q: What is your background?**

I am a child of Greek immigrants who came to Canada when I was five years old. My story is a great immigrant story, but it is also a great story about Canada. Canada gives immigrants so many more opportunities than they would have had in their country of origin. I would not have had the same opportunities for an excellent education and to aspire to public service if my parents had not immigrated to Canada.

**Q: How did you end up running?**

In 1993, I had the privilege and honour to work with a great leader and prime minister who gave me my first opportunity to run as a member of parliament, the Right Honorable Jean Chrétien. I can still remember my conversation with him because I said “No I cannot run. I have two babies at home.”

When I went home, I told my husband that I had a great offer to run in the riding of Saint Denis, a riding that was a good choice for me because there were at least 15,000 voters of Greek origin. My husband said, “You have to do this.” The next phone call was to my parents, “Will you help us with the kids?” and they agreed. I then consulted a number of good friends, with whom I had worked with in provincial politics and they agreed to help me organize and raise money. On Monday morning I went to Liberal headquarters and bought my first LPC membership card.

I was first elected in 1993 in the riding of Saint-Denis, Quebec. In 1997, I ran and won in the riding of Ahuntsic, Quebec. During my time on the Hill, among other things, I was Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Assistant Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Social development with a special emphasis on Social Economy. In that role, I was sworn into the Privy Council in 2004 under the then



*Hon. Eleni Bakopanos.*

Prime Minister, the Right Honorable Paul Martin.

**Q: What was it like as a mother coming to the House some years ago?**

It was not easy but I succeeded because I had an incredible husband and amazing parents who supported me. I had wonderful staff that would “babysit” my daughters when my family was in Ottawa for special occasions. Also, I had colleagues who would sometimes take my duties in the House, so that I could have more time at home with my daughters.

I never missed my children’s parents-teachers nights or their special school events. Every weekend I took my daughters to swimming lessons, to gymnastics and art classes. I also tried, as a rule, and as much as my MP responsibilities permitted, to spend Sundays with my family.

**Q: Have you felt the need to impart your knowledge on anyone else?**

I’ve mentored many young women about running for public office. My

riding of Ahuntsic is now held by Mélanie Joly (Minister of Canadian Heritage), who I encouraged and mentored for two years. I am very proud of her. I knew she had the potential to be an MP and minister. She is an incredible young woman and she reminds me of myself at her age. She has such potential. I remember having a conversation with her when I first encouraged her to run, after she ran for mayor of Montreal. At first, like many young women, she had a number of concerns, including how she would be able to have a family as an MP. I said, “If I can do it Mélanie, you can do it too!”

I tell men and women who want to run for office to ask themselves how much are they prepared to sacrifice to achieve their goals. Being an MP is not like other professions. It is a commitment to serve the public that never ends and which requires personal sacrifice.

**Q: What are you focusing on now?**

For the last 10 years, I have involved myself in the voluntary sector as well as politics. My husband says, “You are supposedly retired but you are hardly at home!” I have never left politics, because politics has always been my passion and not my work. I worked with the Hon. Stéphane Dion as the opposition leader’s caucus liaison, ran in the 2008 federal election and, at the request of Jean Charest in 2012, as a Quebec Liberal Party candidate in Crémazie.

I was president of the Women’s Commission of the Liberal Party of Canada in Quebec. I was the senior director of government relations at McGill University, which is my alma mater. I was also president of the McGill Women’s Alumni Association. I was vice-president of the Montreal Council of Women and president of an organization that assists women who have faced conjugal violence and which runs a women’s shelter. I am also very active in the Hellenic community.

Having lived through poverty when I was young, I believe we have to create a

“Politics is about public service; it’s about what you are able to do to change in peoples’ lives for the better.”

- Hon. Eleni Bakopanos.

society that shares the wealth. I believe strongly in giving people the tools and the opportunities to get out of poverty. I believe in the social economy and in a basic income for all Canadians. I am a member of the national board for the Basic Income Canada Network and am working to convince the Liberal government to introduce a form of basic income, which will help many Canadians overcome poverty.

**Q: When you’re not giving back are you taking some time for leisure?**

I do yoga and exercise regularly at the YMCA. I read a novel a week and spend time with family and friends. I started a Scrabble club with my very close friends. I also plan to write a book about my 40 years in federal and provincial politics when I turn 65. It’s going to be called “Rewarding Bad Behavior”.

**Q: What does politics mean to you?**

Politics is about public service; it’s about what you are able to do to change in peoples’ lives for the better. It is not about money and power.

As an MP, I used to bring elementary students to Parliament Hill. The first question they would ask then Prime Minister Chrétien is, “What’s your salary?” He used to say, “What does the lowest paid hockey player in the NHL get?” A student would throw out a number. Chrétien would respond, “I’m not even getting half of that. It’s not about the money.”

I swear the day I lost was the saddest day in my life.

**Q: How do you recover from losing an election?**

I was devastated in 2006 when I, a strong federalist, lost to a separatist in a very closely contested race. It really was my passion and it was my way of giving back to the world. I fully recovered last year when my friend, Mélanie Joly won back, with my help, the newly formed riding for the Liberals and our party formed government.

**Q: Should we be expecting you at more CAFP events?**



*Lynn McDonald.*

I have not participated in recent years because of too many other obligations, but I plan to get more involved.

I really like what CAFP is doing in terms of education in schools. It was very difficult for us to do this as Liberals in Quebec. I had to create inventive ways of getting into the school system to speak to students about our democratic system and the role of MPs. Certain administrators and school commissioners, considered my presence in their classrooms as promoting “partisan politics” which was untrue. As a result, I was not allowed to visit certain public schools, with the exception of “anglophone” schools and private schools. I had to create other opportunities to educate students about my role. For example, outside of the schools, I organized an annual drawing contest for elementary school students, where I would give prizes for the best drawing. My favourite times were taking questions from students. I always told them that their questions

were better than those I was asked in the House of Commons.

**Lynn McDonald  
(NDP MP, 1982-1988)**

**Q: Why did you first get into politics?**

Probably women’s issues. I had been president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women. When I started to work on these issues, there were hardly any women in broadcasting or in the House. We had to fight for everything – sexual assault legislating, custody issues and support payments.

I came in at a time in which the situation was bad, but we were on the verge of a breakthrough.

**Q: What garnered you the most attention in Parliament?**

My claim to notoriety is I was the author of the Non-smokers’ Health Act of Canada, which established for the first time in the world, smoke-free work and public places. It was a private member’s bill and it was very dicey getting it passed.

This covered spaces under federal jurisdiction, which meant the House of Commons became smoke-free. Before, you could smoke on the floor, so long as you stood behind a curtain, but of course the smoke circulated, and the meeting rooms were terrible. I actually collapsed in a meeting of the health committee once.

Cigarette companies funded some shameless philosophy professors to write papers on the rights of smokers. There were people who said commerce would collapse, that people wouldn’t go to restaurants anymore. People in Toronto said they would go all the way to Buffalo so that they could smoke. Meanwhile, outfits like IBM insisted they have smoke-free places for their computers, because they didn’t want their machines to wear out so fast.

I’ll never forget this. I had a bus driver in British Columbia who said,



"I was the author of the Non-smokers' Health Act of Canada, which established for the first time in the world, smoke-free work and public places. It was a private member's bill and it was very dicey getting it passed."

- Lynn McDonald.

"Because people smoke on my bus, I'm afraid I'm going to run off the cliff." He was afraid he was going to kill people.

The Non-smokers' Health Act eventually ended up influencing the U.S.; beginning with smoke-free flights, and then other countries. Helen Clark, who was later prime minister of New Zealand came to see me about it. Eventually there was a framework treaty at the World Health Organization. It also went to the European Union. So, we influenced the world for a while.

In terms of future challenges, I look towards branding on cigarettes packaging, glamorous smoking in movies and e-cigarettes. I'm worried that when it comes to legalizing marijuana there will be the same advertising- the Marlboro Man will become the "Marijuana Man".

**Q: What did it feel like to be awarded the Order of Canada?**

I was pleased to be honoured and they do it very nicely. I had award winners coming up to me to thank me for the Non-smokers' Health Act.

**Q: How do you keep busy these days?**

I have always been an environmentalist. I now work a lot on climate change with Just Earth.

Working on climate change is tougher and different than working on women's issues. Women are half the population and are voting. With climate change, those who are the worst affected don't have a vote. Animals don't have a vote, people in sub-Saharan Africa don't vote in Canada.

My other big issue now is proportional representation. If we had proportional representation, we would move forward faster on climate change and elect more Greens. It is a fair system. We would also elect more women, more minorities and more Aboriginal people.

At my day job I edit the collective works of Florence Nightingale, who



*Hon. Ross Fitzpatrick.*

pioneered nursing and was the first person to have a vision of healthcare that gave quality care to the poor, as well as the rich. She was very much a political reformer.

**Q: What does it feel like to attend CAFP events and see former colleagues?**

It's been very nice. I'm a New Democrat, but I've seen people who are Liberals and Conservatives, and we worked together amiably on issues. At the time I was in the House, things were very tough during Question Period. However, once you got into committees, there was a lot of collaboration. You could even get out of QP to get on the elevator and it was friendly.

**Hon. Ross Fitzpatrick  
(Liberal Senator, 1998-2008)**

**Q: What have you been up to since you left the Senate?**

I've been busy. We've been maintaining our Vineyards at Greata Ranch in B.C.'s Okanagan Valley. We sold CedarCreek Estate Winery in Kelow-

na about two years ago and we're in the process of building a new winery at Greata Ranch. An authentic Champagne house.

**Q: Do you miss the activities, atmosphere and responsibilities that come with a parliamentary lifestyle?**

Oh, sure I miss it. I miss my colleagues, I miss the involvement particularly when I worked to do things for my area, Okanagan-Similkameen, B.C. I was there for ten good years and retired at 75 to move on and do other things!

**Q: What are some of your proudest accomplishments from your time on the Hill?**

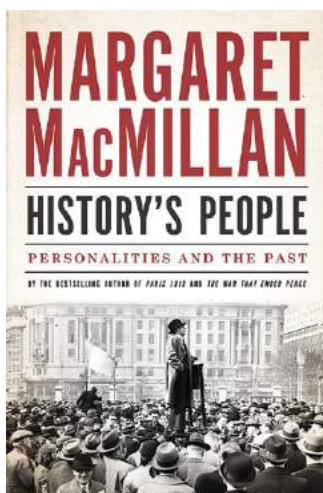
Oh, goodness! I concentrated on environmental infrastructure for the Okanagan Valley - upgrading the sewer systems and implementing water treatment plants. I was lucky to be there during a period when I was able to get funding for infrastructure like the Rotary Centre for the Arts in Kelowna and a number of other projects. That's really what I enjoyed doing. I enjoyed the committee work, but I was really happy to be able to do things for my community.

When I was in the Senate, I was able to arrange an agreement between the B.C. government and the federal government to establish a national park in South Okanagan-Similkameen, which during the Conservative years was placed on hold. But, now we're back at it and hopefully it will proceed because it's very important both economically and environmentally.

**Q: How else have you been keeping busy?**

I just wrapped up being the Honorary Chairman of the University of British Columbia-Okanagan Fundraising Programme which was very successful. We raised over \$100,000,000 dollars for the university.

*Interviews have been edited and condensed for space.*



# A History Lesson for MPs

Reviewed by Hon. Peter Adams

**History's People: Personalities and the Past.** By Margaret MacMillan. House of Anansi Press. September 2015. Toronto. 304 pages. ISBN 978-1487000059

Margaret MacMillan is a scholar who can write. She is a Canadian historian who should be read by MPs. Indeed, even though human beings notoriously do not learn from history, her famous books, *The War That Ended Peace: The Road to 1914* and *Paris 1919: Six Months That Changed the World*, should be compulsory reading for MPs. They deal with the origins and effects of the First World War and the sowing of seeds for many of the great problems which the world faces today, including the strife in the Middle East. Countries like Syria, Iraq, Israel, Palestine and Lebanon were more or less invented by politicians in 1919, including members of the great parliaments of the day.

MPs who are part of this latest 42nd Parliament can also gain from reading MacMillan's most recent book, *History's People: Personalities and the Past*, which deals with the impacts individuals can have on the world in which they live. Some of the individuals she cites were charismatic leaders who, as dictators or powerful parliamentarians, changed the society of their day. Others influenced society in less dramatic but equally important ways.

## Putting leaders head to head

In a chapter entitled "Persuasion and the Art of Leadership", MacMillan compares the roles of Otto von Bismarck, William Lyon Mackenzie King and Franklin Delano Roosevelt

in the evolution of their countries. Each worked patiently through negotiation and persuasion over many years, rather than by dashing leadership. Bismarck patiently, but with great authority and force where necessary, brought together tens of Germanic states to form the federation that is Germany today. MacKenzie King, in power for decades, held together the Canada we know today, balancing English, French and other interests not by lightening charges but by patient compromise and delay. Roosevelt nursed a fractured, demoralized and isolationist United States into a position of world leadership. He too was patient; able to pursue his objectives through political mine fields.

MacMillan argues that the lives of these three individuals made a real difference to the societies of their day and to our lives today.

In another chapter, MacMillan compares Margaret Thatcher, Woodrow Wilson, Hitler and Stalin. The title of the chapter, "Hubris", is a clue to characteristics they share. They all believed they were right.

Both Thatcher and Wilson worked within parliamentary institutions. Each had strong personal views and a strong vision for their country. They came into power with great popular support and had considerable initial success. But, according to Macmillan, their early success gave them an overly strong belief in their own infallibility. Gradually they surrounded themselves with people who shared their own views and cut themselves off from dissenting opinions. They could not work with strong-minded people. As a result, they lost the ability to carry their people with them.

Both ended up with failures, Wilson with his failed League of Nations and political defeat, Thatcher with her own humiliating political defeat.

Hitler and Stalin both came to power during periods when their countries were in dire straits. In Hitler's case, the First World War and the Great Depression were devastating for Germany. For Stalin, the Tsar's Russia had collapsed and the new USSR was being forged in an overwhelming civil war. Both men had very strong personal beliefs and national visions. They believed that they alone could build up their countries. Hitler, to the end, believed in German superiority and viewed the future of the world through the lens of a racial struggle. Stalin was a total believer in Communism. He saw the future as a struggle between classes. Both had national and global aspirations. Hitler lived to see his new Germany collapse around him. Stalin's new USSR disappeared soon after his death.

## Inquisitive individuals

MacMillan devotes one chapter ("Curiosity") to individuals who were driven to travel, explore and record life of their day by "the quality of curiosity". Most of those cited are women who overcame the prejudices of their times to make lasting contributions to history. These included great female explorers and writers such as Gertrude Bell and Freya Stark. She discusses women in different parts of the British Empire who made lasting contributions to knowledge at the time. In the case of British India, she provides informative thumbnail sketches of the wives of British administrators, who went to great lengths to reach outside their European



social circles and leave us glimpses of life outside the British Raj.

In Canada, she dwells on the contributions of Elizabeth Simcoe, wife of Colonel John Graves Simcoe, first lieutenant governor of Upper Canada. Elizabeth had 11 children in total. She and her family lived in tents in an Upper Canada, which was far more primitive than Lower Canada. She travelled extensively through southern Ontario and left records of it, including her depiction of the untouched site of York (today Toronto), which are quite different from the records left by the surveyors who worked for her husband. Like Champlain, long before her, she accepted and loved Canada as it was and was driven to learn about it and pass on her experiences.

Given the recent interest in the discovery of Sir John Franklin's ships, I was surprised that Lady Jane Franklin was not included in this chapter. Her travels within the Middle East and Australia are credentials enough. She demonstrated tight control over Sir John Franklin's career, played a large role in sending him on his doomed

voyage to the Northwest Passage, and showed extraordinary effort in launching the search expeditions that continue to this day. In his book *Lady Franklin's Revenge*, author Ken McGoogan describes Sir John (not Jane) as "the plodder". Jane Franklin was clearly driven by curiosity and ambition.

#### Observers of history

The final chapter of the book is devoted to "observers", people who made their contributions to their societies and to our era through recorded, very personal, observation. They were diarists and writers of memoirs. Good diarists record their personal lives, as well as the observations of the society around them. In doing this, they provide us with a human view of their era that cannot be gained in any other way. They are often not leaders of their times. How does one conquer a continent and at the same time keep a meticulous record of it and one's personal life?

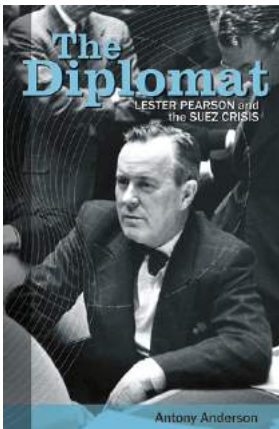
The diarist Samuel Pepys was, among other things, an MP, but his main contribution was as a fly on the walls of London, England, in the 17th

century. We have official records of the Great Plague of London and of the Great Fire of London, but through Pepys we actually see them; as it would have been for us if we were there. Other observers include Canadian feminist Nelly McClung and Canadian diplomat Charles Moody, among others. She also cites Victor Klemperer who described vividly what life was like as a Jew in Germany throughout the Hitler regime and beyond into the era of East Germany.

Our current House of Commons has many MPs, new and old, who sometimes wonder what they as individuals can do to leave their mark on Canada. Reading this book will give them some thought provoking ideas. It is an uneven book, but easy to read. MPs might start their learning process by adding some personal detail to their daily logs, to give those who come after a personal glimpse of the Parliament Hill and Canada of today.

Perhaps we can learn from history!

Hon. Peter Adams served as a Liberal MP from 1993-2006 in the riding of Peterborough, Ontario.



## Lester Bowles Pearson and the Blue Berets

Reviewed by Harrison Lowman

**The Diplomat: Lester Pearson and the Suez Crisis.** By Antony Anderson. Goose Lane Editions. September 2015. New Brunswick. 400 pages. ISBN 978-0864928740

When TV and documentary writer Antony Anderson set out to tell the story of Lester Pearson, he intended for it to be on screen rather than paper. That was before two broadcasting licenses

fell through and his wife demanded he make use of his abundant research, and put pen to paper to tell the tale.

The filmmaker turned author spent two decades interviewing those who had crossed paths with Pearson, whether it was at UN headquarters or in the House of Commons. He also poured over diaries, memoirs, diplomatic cables, official memoranda and interviewed historians to present a full, yet at times, exhaustive picture.

This is Anderson's first book. Outside of publishing, the author has written and produced for CBC Radio, the Discovery Channel, History, Global Television Network and TVO. He's penned articles in outlets including the National Post, the Ottawa Citizen and the Toronto Star.

The culmination of Anderson's 20-year obsession is *The Diplomat: Lester Pearson and the Suez Crisis*, which details the painstaking work of then dip-



Lester B. Pearson. Photo courtesy of The Nobel Foundation.

“By contributing to the birth of peacekeeping, Pearson in turn acted as an apostle for what became a Canadian religion.”

lomat and future 14th prime minister of Canada to avert a global war during the Suez Crisis. The diplomat's efforts led to the creation of the world's first UN peacekeeping force, and ultimately cemented Canada's reputation as “a moderate, mediatory, middle power”. It also won Pearson the Nobel Peace Prize.

#### “Mike”

Anderson tells the story of an introverted, sport-loving, First World War-scarred Methodist who found his way into Canada's fledgling diplomatic service in 1927. At the time, the author writes, you could fit the entire External Affairs staff into a pair of double decker buses.

As Pearson's reputation grew, so did his international postings – London, Washington, New York. The future leader's technique became renowned. Antony describes his “delightful charm”, “self-mocking humour”, his patience, his resistance to dogma and his ability to “settle for what was feasible rather than hold out for the best”. He highlights how Pearson thrived off a schedule that was bursting at the seams, and leaves little to no room to detail time spent with his family.

Pearson's talents eventually meant he was coaxed away from civil servants operating behind closed doors to work under the spotlight with the elected crowd. In 1948, he became Secretary of State for External Affairs under then Liberal Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent. His riding became Ontario's Algoma East. Interestingly, Anderson describes how Pearson's diplomatic prowess did not transfer onto the political stage. As Pearson became party leader, his talents became liabilities. These included his

lisp, “utter lack of stage presence”, “his instinct to avoid simplistic answers” and “his unwillingness to paint opponents in crude strokes”.

#### Egypt erupts

But it was the trial by fire in Egypt that ultimately defined the then 59-year-old's life. In 1956, the Suez Canal carried nearly a quarter of all goods destined for Britain. Joining the Mediterranean and the Red Seas, this water highway was described as the “umbilical cord” of an imperial power increasingly relinquishing its colonies due to domestic economic strains. On July 26, 1956, in an effort to rid his country of its colonial presence, Egyptian President, Gamal Abdel Nasser, nationalized the French and British company that operated the waterway. In a last ditched attempt to maintain control, London and Paris conducted covert meetings with Israel, convincing them to invade Egypt. The attack would provide the world powers with an excuse to step into the fray, demand peace, and maintain their rule. They soon initiated a land war.

Diplomatic stickhandling on the part of Pearson helped greatly to ease tensions between world powers bent on maintaining their dominance, and those who considered Britain and France to be “white imperialist” aggressors that deserved to be punished. In an age where the Canadian answer to most British requests was met with “ready, aye, ready”, Pearson instead sought more of a middle ground, expressing concern with the Motherland.

Nevertheless, as Anderson reveals in his book, it was not Pearson's peacekeepers alone that rescued the world

from the brink of war. Instead, economic blackmail on the part of the U.S. was the catalyst that truly forced the British to retreat. President Eisenhower blocked Britain's request to draw from the International Monetary Fund until the guns fell silent.

In an effort to have their emergency force dispatched as soon as possible, the UN improvised to cover a shortage of blue berets by dipping helmet liners in blue paint. Nevertheless, a ceasefire was reached before those blue-headed men even arrived on Egyptian shores. The Canadian contingent spent the next 11 years advocating for peace in Cairo.

#### Forward into the future

By contributing to the birth of peacekeeping, Pearson in turn acted as an apostle for what became a Canadian religion. In 1993, under the leadership of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, 10 per cent of all UN peacekeepers, 4,300 personnel, came from Canada. Today, a mere 106 Canadians take part in peacekeeping operations. However, Prime Minister Trudeau recently pledged to commit up to 600 troops.

The Diplomat offers readers a colourful diplomatic drama that plays out on the world stage, and is well worth the read. It details how the planet was nearly plunged into conflict, only about a decade after it was consumed by the Second World War. It paints pictures of the powerful personalities behind the countries and the institutions that shaped the 20th century. Among them was Lester Bowles Pearson, a man who fought for Canada at home – creating our flag, our peacekeepers, our Order of Canada, but whose focus and concern truly had no boundaries.



# Our tribute to those who have passed on

By Harrison Lowman

## Hon. Bill Jarvis

Former Progressive Conservative MP The Hon. William Jarvis passed away on April 26, 2016 in Cornwall, Ontario. He was 85 years old.

Bill entered this world in 1930 in the city of Hamilton, Ontario. He attended school in London, Ontario at Central Collegiate. When he reached university age, it was off to Western University.

Bill was first elected in the riding of Perth (formally Perth–Wilmot), Ontario, in 1980. He would remain at this post for 11 years. From 1979 to 1980, he served as Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations, appointed by then Prime Minister Joe Clark. While in opposition, he acted as critic in areas such as labour, energy and the environment.

Bill was a lawyer by trade. After leaving the Hill, he went on to serve as president of his party from 1986 to 1989.

“He was a pillar of our community for many years and served his constituents admirably in the House of Commons,” voiced current Perth–Wellington MP, John Nater.

He leaves behind his children, Richard and Elizabeth, and their mother Vivian Jarvis.

## Hon. Yvon Charbonneau

Former Liberal MP, Yvon Charbonneau, left us on April 22, 2016, following a stroke in Florida. He was 75 years old.

Yvon was born in 1940 in the community of Mont-Saint-Michel, situated in the Laurentides region. He studied in Mont-Laurier and went on to gain a degree in French literature from the University of Montreal in 1968.

Throughout the 1960s, Yvon worked as a teacher. On two occasions (1970-1978, 1982-1988), he was leader of the teacher's union, *Centrale de l'enseignement du Québec* (CEQ) (now *Central des syndicats du Québec* [CSQ]). During his tenure, many considered him the face of Quebec's labour movement.



Hon. Bill Jarvis



Hon. Yvon Charbonneau.

In the early 1970s, he played a key role in the contract negotiations between the Quebec government and the common front of unionized public sector workers. Yvon, along with other union leaders was sent to jail for being in contempt of court; challenging the special law created by Bourassa's government which ordered public employees to end their strike. They were released after two weeks.

In the late '80s and early '90s, he chaired a commission on hazardous waste, worked with SNC-Lavalin on their approach to the environment, and delved into planning and development at the *Société québécoise de développement*. He voted “Yes” in Quebec's first referendum on sovereignty.

Dipping his toes into the waters of Quebec provincial politics, Yvon sat as a Liberal in the National Assembly for the riding of Bourassa from 1994 to 1997. At one point, he served as vice president of the board of education.

Yvon soon changed government branches, representing the Liberals federally in the riding of Anjou-Rivière-des-Prairies from 1997 to 2004. During those seven years in the House, he was Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister, and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health.

After his years on the Hill, Yvon was Canada's ambassador to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

from 2004 to 2006. He then worked as a consultant.

His former union had many words of praise for a life well-lived:

“Yvon Charbonneau led the destinies of Central Quebec's education at a pivotal moment in the development of our society. He left a deep mark on our trade union organization while helping to write an important page in our history,” said Louise Chabot, president of CSQ.

“It is with great sadness that I learned the death of my friend and former colleague Yvon Charbonneau,” said Montreal Mayor, Denis Coderre.

It has been said Yvon's memoirs will be released in the near future.

## Hon. Hugh Faulkner

Former Liberal MP, the Hon. Hugh Faulkner, died in Switzerland on April 18, 2016, as a result of surgery complications. He was 83.

Hugh was born in 1933 in the city of Montreal. He went on to study at McGill University. After also studying in Switzerland, he moved to the Ontario city of Peterborough.

Hugh tried his hand twice at federal election campaigns, having been convinced to put his name on the ballot while working as a teacher at Lakefield College School. He pulled off a win in 1965, leaving the House in 1979. Hugh served as Deputy Speaker, Secretary of State, Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

After his time in politics he worked as vice-president of Canadian mining and aluminum manufacturing company Alcan in Europe. The job took him to India, and then Geneva. He then worked as the executive director of the International Chamber of Commerce in France. A love for sustainable business led him to establish the Business Council for Sustainable Development and his own NGO called Sustainable Project Development.

In 1989, Hugh and his wife, Jane, opened the doors of their very own winery in Provence, France, called Le Grand Cros.

"He really was a politician of some stature and principle," described former mayor of Peterborough, Sylvia Sutherland.

"He really represented Peterborough with great dignity and great passion," said Betsy McGregor, a close friend and a two-time federal Liberal candidate in Peterborough.

Peterborough MPP Jeff Leal says he got his first taste of politics while stuffing envelopes for Hugh's campaign in 1972. Former Peterborough MP and MPP Peter Adams was also out on the hustings for Hugh in his youth.

"He was a real gentleman – a non-partisan kind of guy for whom the interests of the community came first," said Leal.

"His life of public service is an inspiration to me and many others," admitted Maryam Monsef, Minister of Democratic Institutions and current MP for Peterborough-Kawartha.

#### **Hon. Andrew Thompson**

Former Liberal Senator the Hon. Andrew Thompson passed away on February 3, 2016. He was 91 years old.

Andrew was born in December of 1924 in Belfast, Ireland. He went to school at Monkton Combe School in England and Oakwood Collegiate in Toronto. His post-secondary education took place at the University of Toronto until 1943.

The young man served in the Canadian navy during the Second World War. He then continued university at Queens and the University of Brit-



*Hon. Hugh Faulkner.*

ish Columbia, where he ultimately received a masters in Social Work. He went on to work as a social worker and businessman.

Andrew was elected as the MPP for the Toronto constituency of Dovercourt in 1959. He became leader of the Ontario Liberal party in 1964. He left Queens Park in April 1967, citing health reasons.

Andrew was appointed to the Senate in 1967 by then Prime Minister, Lester Pearson. In the late 90s, the press and his colleagues criticized him for his poor attendance record in the red chamber. Andrew said that his poor health was the reason for his absenteeism. He was eventually expelled from the Liberal caucus in November of 1997. He resigned his seat in March of 1998.

Andrew leaves behind his wife, Amy, his daughter, Anya and his granddaughter, Sioban. His family remember him as a kind and caring man.

#### **Hon. Jean Lapierre**

Former Liberal and Bloc Québécois MP, the Hon. Jean Lapierre passed away in a tragic plane crash in les Îles-de-la-Madeleine on March 29, 2016. Jean's wife, Nicole Beaulieu, brothers, Marc and Louis and sister, Martine, were also on the plane and lost their lives. Pilots, Pascal Gosselin and Fabrice Labourel, also passed away. The family was on their way to attend the funeral of Jean's father, Raymond, in eastern Quebec when they hit bad weather. Jean was only 59.

Jean was known as a Canadian and Quebec political institution. He is remembered for the ease at which he moved between sovereigntist and



*Hon. Andrew Thompson.*

nationalist ranks and for his endless Rolodex. He has been called the "king of Quebec pundits" and a "politico-media hybrid."

Jean was born in May 1956, in Bas-sin, a village in Quebec's Magdalen Islands. It was while attending junior college in Granby that he discovered his interest in politics, serving as president of the local federal Liberal youth wing, and then as special assistant to cabinet minister André Ouellet. After studying civil law at the University of Ottawa, he ran as the Liberal candidate for the riding of Shefford and won.

While in the House, he was Minister of State for Youth and for Fitness and Amateur Sport (at the time, the youngest federal cabinet minister in our history), and was parliamentary secretary for a variety of ministers. The Mulroney wave sent him into opposition.

In the early 1990s, Jean co-chaired Paul Martin's unsuccessful leadership bid. He left the Liberals and sat as an independent and then with the newly formed Bloc Québécois; he was frustrated that Chrétien did not support the Meech Lake Accord. He left the separatist party in 1992 and became a radio commentator and news anchor.

In 2004, now with Paul Martin as Liberal leader, Jean returned to the Liberal bench during the Sponsorship Scandal, having been elected in the riding of Outremont. He became Minister of Transport.

Jean left the House of Commons once again in 2007 to bring his populist tone to Quebec's airwaves and television sets. He worked as a radio and television host and commentator for



*Hon. Jean Lapierre.**Lyle Kristiansen.*

about 22 years. During the 2014 Quebec election, Jean actually had more airtime than any politician in the race. On the side, he also headed a successful consulting business.

While tracking elections, Jean was known to travel by rented van; driving through communities to meet with voters face to face.

"[He was] an extraordinary, thoughtful, passionate man who was deeply committed to his country, and always looked for the very best for it," said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Former prime ministers also sang his praises. Former Prime Minister Paul Martin explained Jean was someone who could, "explain Quebec to Canada and Canada to Quebec."

"He left an extraordinary legacy," added former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. "This is a particularly brave guy, who always saw to advance his ambitions and his positions."

"There was a deep emotional attachment between Quebecers and Jean Lapierre," expressed Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard.

"His eyes glittered with energy, with intelligence, with enthusiasm and with the joy of whatever battle he was in and whatever cause he was espousing," said former Newfoundland premier and Liberal MP Brian Tobin. "Jean did it all out, full passion."

"You were, and will forever be, our beacon. Despite the troubled waters, we promise to be real sailors," said his daughter, Marie-Anne Lapierre, at a funeral that was attended by hundreds and featured Jean's favourite ragtime music.

Jean leaves behind his children,

Marie-Anne and Jean-Michel, his mother, Lucie Cormier, a sister and four grandchildren: Alix, Oscar, Mila and L  nox.

#### **Lyle Kristiansen**

Former NDP MP, Lyle Kristiansen, passed away of pneumonia on June 18, 2015. He was 76, and was suffering from emphysema and lung cancer.

Lyle was born on May 9, 1939, in Vancouver. His name came from the man that delivered him – Dr. Lyle Telford, who helped found the B.C. branch of the CCF and served as his parent's MLA and later as Vancouver's mayor.

Lyle's left wing political roots ran deep. His ancestors were a part of various social movements, which included the United Grain Growers and Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. A young Lyle took up the torch early on in his life, becoming the president of the Vancouver Centre CCF constituency association at 18.

Lyle studied at the University of British Columbia. He met his wife Vera Sharko during the 1960 provincial election campaign. She was campaigning for eventual B.C. NDP leader, Tom Berger. Lyle's romance mirrored that of his ancestors: his parents met at a CCF social evening and his grandparents attended the party's founding convention. Lyle and Vera married the next year and being political addicts, honeymooned at the NDP's founding convention in Otawa.

The couple worked hand in hand to increase the NDP's membership numbers out West. By the 1968 fed-

eral election, they had recruited over 1,000 local members.

Aside from his political endeavours, Lyle at one point laboured on saw mills and acted as the director of the West Kootenay Pollution Control Society.

In the lead up to the 1979 election, Lyle was finally convinced by friends and family to throw his hat in the ring as the NDP candidate for Kootenay West. Many noticed that there were very few blue collar voices in the House of Commons. Lyle ultimately lost.

Nine months later, Lyle was back on the hustings. The collapse of Joe Clark's minority government meant he had another chance to woo voters. He went on to win the 1980 election.

While in office, he worked to preserve the paddle steamer sternwheeler SS Moyie, Rossland Miners' Hall, the David Thompson University library's collection, the city of Nelson's Capitol Theatre and the area's beloved Streetcar 23.

In 1984, Lyle lost the election to PC candidate Bob Brisco. Lyle told people that he got the next four years off for "good behaviour". He spent part of his time acting in plays that included *I Always Wanted to Ride a Streetcar*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Cinder Fella* (where he had two silent roles that included an Egyptian eunuch and a hockey player).

When 1988 came around, Lyle returned to knocking on doors, this time in the new riding of Kootenay West–Revelstoke. He won the election but did not seek re-election in 1993. Instead, he and his wife travelled to Madeira Park on the Sunshine Coast and retired. By the end of his political career he had served as the critic for mining, forestry, Canada Post and industrial health and safety. The couple travelled to South Africa and Tanzania, where Lyle later boasted he had the opportunity to pet a cheetah. He was also a lover of Napoleonic history.

Lyle made sure to keep an ear to the ground when it came to politics. He was all smiles when the NDP formed the Official Opposition following the 2011 election.

"He loved that," his daughter Haida

said last year. “He was really happy to see the NDP form government in Alberta this year and so wanted to hold on until the next federal election. He was preparing a month ago to get his ID updated so he could vote.”

NDP leader Thomas Mulcair told his wife, “The strength and resilience of our party are thanks to people like Lyle.”

“My mom will miss having political and historical discussions with him,” Haida said. “His mind was sharp. He was great at debates and could pull up facts like an encyclopedia.”

Lyle is survived by his wife Vera, his daughter, Haida, his sons, Eric and Colin, and his five grandchildren.

#### **Hon. Edward Lawson**

Former Liberal and independent Senator, Edward Lawson, passed away on February 29, 2016 at the age of 86.

Ed was born in September 1929, in Gerald, Sask. Before entering the red chamber, he was a union representative for the construction industry. He spent 40 years with the Teamsters, and became the only Canadian vice-president on the 21-member board of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. He also helped develop the Canadian Conference of Teamsters in 1976 and was its director for 16 years. He was awarded their James R. Hoffa Lifetime Achievement Award.

“He helped lay the foundations of what became Teamsters Canada,” said François Laporte, president of Teamsters Canada (the successor of CCT). “Without him, Teamsters Canada might not exist today.”

Ed was appointed to the Senate in October 1970 by then Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, representing Vancouver, British Columbia as an independent. He sat for almost 34 years. In 2004, once Paul Martin had been elected party leader, Ed joined the Liberal Party. He retired from the Senate in 2004. He is regarded as the second longest-serving member of the Senate.

He and his wife then travelled to Palm Desert and spent time in the sunshine playing golf.

They were active in a variety of



*Hon. Edward Lawson.*



*Fernand Jourdenais.*



*Ian Deans.*

charities and community bodies, including Variety Club, Lions Society, The Mel Jr. & Marty Zajac Foundation and Child Help USA.

Ed leaves behind Beverley, his loving wife of 32 years, daughters, Linda and Wendy Lawson, and Lisa, grandchildren, Justin and Tara and great-granddaughter, Sawyer.

#### **Fernand Jourdenais**

Former Progressive Conservative MP Fernand Jourdenais, passed away in his home on February 29, 2016. He was 82 years of age. Before trying his hand at politics, he was a businessman and trader.

Fernand sat in the House of Commons for nine years, representing Quebec's La Prairie riding from 1984 to 1993. During his tenure, he at one point served as chair of the Subcommittee on Immigration of the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration.

Outside of the office, Fernand was a member of the Knights of Columbus 3rd and 4th degree.

Fernand leaves behind his wife, Lise Jourdenais, as well as his children.

#### **Ian Deans**

Former NDP MP Ian Deans passed away on May 3, 2016 following a lengthy battle with Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. He was 78.

Ian was born in Kilmarnock, Scotland in August of 1937. After a trip over the pond to Canada in the 1950s, he settled in Hamilton and worked as a fire fighter for eight years. In doing so, he served on the executive board

of Local 288.

Ian first tried his hand at provincial politics and was elected in 1967, when he was made the NDP MPP for the riding of Wentworth. He would go on to be re-elected four times. He was NDP House leader at Queen's Park from 1971 to 1978. After leaving Queen's Park, he became commissioner of the Hamilton Harbour Commission.

In the 1980s, Ian moved to the federal scene. Between 1980 and 1986, he represented the constituency of Hamilton Mountain. While on the Hill, he was the acting and official House Leader and critic for the trade, housing and industry files. While formulating policy, Ian was known for the voice he gave labour movements and the importance he placed behind personal rights.

In 1986, Mulroney appointed him to chair of the Public Service Staff Relations Board, a post he held for 10 years. Under Ian's leadership the board completed a backlog of more than 1,000 cases.

In 2003, Ian was diagnosed with Parkinson's. The neurological disorder stunted his attempts to restart his political career in the late 2000s.

“My condolences to the family and friends of Ian Deans, a former firefighter, NDP MP and House Leader who passed away earlier this morning,” said federal NDP leader Thomas Mulcair.

“He was passionate, he was emotional, he was powerful any time he rose on a point of order or a question,” said Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson, who





Hon. Gilles Lamontagne.



Hon. Rod Zimmer.



Hon. Len Marchand.

worked for the Speaker of the House when Deans was NDP House leader.

“He was a defender of anyone whose rights were being abridged,” said MPP for Ancaster–Dundas–Flamborough–Westdale Ted McMeekin, who helped manage many of Ian’s campaigns.

“A great inspiring leader in his day was Ian Deans! Sorry to hear of his passing,” voiced Hamilton mayor Fred Eisenberger.

Ian leaves behind his sister Janis, his children Trish, Ian, Jeffrey, Megan, along with his many grandchildren.

### Hon. Gilles Lamontagne

Former Liberal MP, the Hon. Gilles Lamontagne, passed away in Quebec City on June 14, 2016. He was 97 years of age.

Gilles entered this world in 1919 in Montreal. As a young man he studied at Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf and HEC Montréal. During his childhood, he became friends with Pierre Trudeau.

During the Second World War, he fought as a bomber pilot with the RCAF. During the conflict, Gilles was shot down over the Netherlands and was a prisoner in war in Germany for 26 months. In the final days of Nazi rule, Gilles was made to walk 240 kilometres.

After working in imports, Gilles tried his hand at municipal politics. He was mayor of Quebec City from 1965 to 1977. He is praised for the intense development that took place under his leadership, including Complexe G, Place Québec, and the Dufferin-Montmorency highway.

Following a 1977 federal byelec-

tion, Gilles was elected MP for the riding of Langelier, Quebec. He kept his seat during the 1979 and 1980 elections. While in the House, he served as Minister of National Defence, acting Minister of Veterans Affairs and Postmaster General. In 1984, Gilles left federal politics to become Quebec’s lieutenant-governor, a position he held until 1990. A year later, he became an Officer of the Order of Canada. He was eventually made a Knight of the *Ordre national du Québec* and a Knight of the French Legion of Honour.

“Mr. Lamontagne was a great Canadian who lived a full life in service to his country,” said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

“This man invested his heart and soul into his job as mayor as well as in all his other engagements in the community during his long life,” said current Mayor of Quebec City Régis Labeaume. “He positioned Quebec among the large cities during his reign as mayor.”

Gilles leaves behind his children Michel, André and Marie, his grandchildren Julie, Catherine, Alexandre, Maude, Camille, Ella and Leah. His wife was the late Mary Schaefer.

### Hon. Rod Zimmer

Former Liberal Senator, the Hon. Rod Zimmer, died June 7, 2016. He was 73.

Rodney was born in Kuroki, Saskatchewan in 1942. He was educated at St. Peter’s College and later at the University of Saskatchewan, where he received a bachelor of commerce.

Rod once held executive positions at Can West Capital Corporation and later the Manitoba Lotteries Foundation.

He was also a major champion and fundraiser for the Liberal Party. Rod was once executive assistant to Liberal defence minister James Richardson. He was made the Liberal Party’s chair of revenues in 2003. Two years later, then Prime Minister Paul Martin appointed him to the Senate.

In 2013, the Manitoba senator left the red chamber due to health reasons. Years earlier, doctors told him he had throat cancer.

Rod was a lover of sports. In his youth he was a champion swimmer, diver and water skier. He served on the board of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. During the 1999 Winnipeg Pan Am Games, he was vice-president of the Pan American Games Society. He was also once director of project management for the Canadian Sports Pool Corporation.

“Senator Zimmer graced this chamber for eight years as an eloquent senator and good friend,” Conservative Senator Don Plett told fellow senators. “Senator Zimmer led a life dedicated to the values of democracy and to the people of this great nation.”

“His commitment to the community, his support of the Liberal party, his loyalty to his friends and his twisted sense of humour were all an integral part of his character,” remembers his friend Neil McDonald.

Rod leaves behind his loving wife, Maygan Sensenberger, and his older brother, Wayne.

### Hon. Len Marchand

Former Liberal MP and Senator, the Hon. Len Marchand, passed away on June 3, 2016 from kidney problems. Len was this country’s first Aboriginal federal cabinet minister. He was 82.

Len was born in Vernon, B.C. in 1933 to illiterate parents. He was a proud member of the Okanagan Indian Band, growing up in Six Mile Creek. He attended residential schools in 1949 and 1950. Early in his life, Len broke an academic milestone by becoming the first status

Indian to graduate from public high school in Vernon. It was then on to UBC and later the University of Idaho where he obtained a masters degree in forestry in 1964. He then thought long and hard about getting a PhD.

But while Len looked towards the towers of academia, it was ultimately the Peace Tower that grabbed his attention. He worked tirelessly within the North American Indian Brotherhood on issues like First Nations federal voting rights. In 1965, he worked with the Ministry of Indian Affairs.

In the lead up to the 1968 general election, he was convinced to run in Kamloops–Cariboo, B.C. for the Liberals. He won, making him the first status Indian to serve as an MP. He was Parliamentary Secretary to then Minister of Indian Affairs, Jean Chrétien. In the late 1970s he became Minister for Small Business, where he helped bring the metric system to Canada. He also served as Minister of the Environment.

After losing his seat during the 1979 federal election, he worked for the Nicola Valley Indian Bands and the Western Indian Agricultural Corporation.

In 1984, he was appointed to the Senate, becoming Canada's second Aboriginal senator. He left the red chamber in 1998.

One year later he was awarded the Order of Canada. In 2014, he added to his accolades when he received the Order of B.C.

"Mr. Marchand was a trailblazer for indigenous involvement in Canadian politics and a champion of their rights," said Prime Minister Trudeau.

"Senator Marchand's achievements are testimony to how one man, through sheer courage and tenacity, can rise up to the challenge and make a difference in the lives of Aboriginal peoples and countless others across the country," said B.C. regional chief for the Assembly of First Nations Shane Gottfriedson.

Former chief of the Tk'emlups Indian Band, Manny Jules, said Len ran for public office at a time when First Nations would never consider putting their names on the ballot.



*Hon. Norbert Thériault.*



*Ken Hurlburt.*

"People told you not even to think about it, that it wasn't our way, that wasn't our parliament, that wasn't our legislative assembly," he said. "And what he chose was to say 'no, these are ours and we are part of the Canadian federation and we should participate.'"

"My Dad never yelled," explained Len's daughter, Lori. "He stated his mind clearly, whether it was to us, or to world leaders." "Hearing everyone else's stories was always more important than telling his own. He made everyone feel special, and treated everyone with equal respect and dignity."

Len is survived by his wife, Donna Parr, daughter, Lori, and son, Len Jr.

#### **Hon. Norbert Thériault**

Former Liberal Senator, the Hon. Norbert Thériault, died on June 19, 2016 in Shediac, N.B. He was 95 years old.

Norbert was born in Eel River Bridge, N.B. in 1921. In 1948, he started working as a school trustee. In 1954, he became a member of the Municipal Council for the County of Northumberland and served as warden.

Norbert was first elected to the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick in 1960, becoming the Liberal MLA for Northumberland. Under then premier Louis J. Robichaud, Norbert served as Minister of Health, where he played an important role in developing equitable access to health and hospital care throughout the province. He also served as Minister of Municipal Affairs, where he intro-

duced a centralized taxing regime. In 1977, he was interim Liberal leader. In the late 1990s, his son Camille would follow his father's footsteps, becoming premier of New Brunswick.

Norbert was a social justice advocate and was always concerned for those less fortunate. His awareness of inequality helped form the New Brunswick government's Equal Opportunity Program, which aimed to ensure equal services would be provided to citizens residing in all parts of the province, regardless of how affluent a region was.

In 1979, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau appointed Norbert to the Senate, at which point he ended his provincial political career. Norbert left the upper house in 1996, at the age of 75.

"Rarely will you meet someone who has given as much of themselves to their province as Norbert did," said current New Brunswick Premier, Brian Gallant.

"He was speaking truth to power, and he was talking about the needs of the forgotten in society. He was really making the case for the social purpose of politics," explained former premier Frank McKenna.

Norbert is survived by his ten children: Raoul, Ginette, Monette, Aurèle, Berthe, Gilles, Jean-Marie, Camille, Nicole and Mario. He also leaves behind his 29 grandchildren, his 24 great-grandchildren, six great-great grandchildren and one great-great-great-grandchild. He was predeceased by his wife Josephine and his son Gerry.





*Hon. Mauril Bélanger.*

### **Ken Hurlburt**

Former Progressive Conservative MP, Ken Hurlburt, left us on July 17, 2016. He was 88 years old.

Growing up in Milk River, Alberta, during the Great Depression, Ken helped his family make ends meet by working as early as the age of seven. During his youth, he toiled away in stockyards.

His passion for the land peaked, after he and a partner bought a cattle-purchasing company just as livestock auctions were starting to pick up steam in the 1940s. The pair spent the coming days roaming the country in search for bovines. During their new business endeavor, Ken's brother set him up on a blind date with his future wife, ReNée. When the cattle industry was hit by an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in 1952, Ken enrolled at the Western College of Auctioneering in Billings, Montana.

Upon his return to Canada, Ken gained fruitful work at the Calgary Public Stockyards, Pincher Creek Community Auctions and Medicine Hat and Walsh. In Vancouver, Ken auctioned off a record-setting Angus bull, which was valued at \$10,000. Ken also pioneered the idea of selling Alberta land by auction, auctioning off 26 sections of land near Foremost. He eventually opened up his own group of auction markets.

In the 1960s, the family migrated to Fort Macleod, Alberta. Ken entered politics at the municipal level there, serving as mayor of Fort Macleod, Alb.. From 1967 to 1971. His people person skills seemed to be

perfect for politics. Three years later, he threw his hat into the federal ring and was elected as the PC MP for Lethbridge in 1972. He served as a parliamentarian until 1979.

Among his many achievements, Ken was president of the Fort Macleod Rodeo Association from 1960 to 1966 and president of Alberta Auction Markets from 1963 to 1965. In 1967, he received the Alberta Achievement Award. In 1974, he was granted the RCMP Scroll. He was honoured to judge both the World Auctioneers' and Calgary Stampede Auctioneers' Championships. He was a Calgary Stampede Lifetime Alumnus and was inducted into the Livestock Marketing Association of Canada's Hall of Fame.

"Southern Alberta suffered the loss of a great community leader this week with the passing of Mr. Ken Hurlburt," current Foothills, Alberta MP, John Barlow said. "I offer my heartfelt condolences to his community, friends and family."

"He made sure that he always had time for his kids and his grandkids. People knew he really cared about them and I think that's what I'm going to miss most," his son Thane added.

Ken leaves behind his sister, Kathryn, and six children Jody, Brant, Darcee, Kim, Thane and Heath. He also said goodbye to 20 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.

### **Hon. Mauril Bélanger**

Liberal MP the Hon. Mauril Bélanger lost his fight with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) on August 17, 2016. He was 61.

Mauril was born in Mattawa, On. and graduated from the University of Ottawa in 1977. While he was enrolled, he served two terms as president of the University of Ottawa's student federation.

Mauril became the Liberal MP for Ottawa-Vanier in 1995. He held the riding for 21 years. While in Parliament, he was an advocate for Franco-Ontarians, working to save Ottawa's French-language Montfort teaching hospital. He served as the Minister

responsible for Official Languages, Associate Minister of National Defence, Minister responsible for Democratic Reform and the Minister of Internal Trade. He also co-founded the Canada-Africa Parliamentary Association in 2003, making many trips to the continent.

During the 2015 federal election, Mauril noticed he was losing his voice. At first he believed it was exhaustion and stress. However, in November 2015, he was diagnosed with the untreatable neurodegenerative disease known to shut down the body's muscles. Approximately 2,500 to 3,000 Canadians suffer from the condition.

Before the devastating news, Mauril had been a front-runner for the role of Speaker of the House. His colleagues attempted to fulfill his dream by unanimously voting for him to be honorary speaker for a day. At this point, he was still showing up for work each morning and communicating through a tablet computer.

As he gradually lost his ability to speak, control his movement and breathe, Mauril summoned the strength to attend a House of Commons vote where many fellow MPs backed his private member's bill to make the lyrics of the national anthem more gender neutral. On June 15, his bill passed. The second line of the anthem has now been changed from "in all thy sons command" to "in all of us command".

"Mauril's immense contributions to our country will be honoured and remembered. We are all the poorer for his passing. Goodbye my friend," said Prime Minister Trudeau.

"Mauril was a friend and a great parliamentarian. I will miss him. He was a good man," voiced interim Conservative leader Rona Ambrose.

"Saddened to learn of the passing of Mauril Bélanger. Very well-liked and respected colleague. Our condolences to his loved ones," noted NDP leader, Thomas Mulcair.

Mauril is survived by his loving wife Catherine, his son and three grandchildren.



Geoff Scott.

# Ditties from Parliaments Past

By Geoff Scott

Perhaps it was because I attended the 150th annual Parliamentary Press Gallery Dinner in June. Maybe a couple of old songs on our Sirius XM car radio triggered memories of many years of past Press Gallery Dinners. But, for whatever reason, my musical funny bone has started acting up. And so, I have reached back to my very first Gallery show in 1959. In my journey down memory lane, I've unearthed snippets of some of the most laughable political song parodies we produced for the show for two decades.

My earliest encounter with political satire through song indeed happened more than a half-century ago, thanks to the writing geniuses of the Press Gallery; mostly senior correspondents of national fame (CBC TV's Norman DePoe, Southam News Ottawa bureau chief, Charles Lynch, Globe and Mail columnist George Bain, Vancouver Sun Ottawa bureau chief Ian Macdonald, CBC TV's Don Newman, Ottawa Citizen associate editor Bill MacPherson, and others). Among the comedic scribes was Walter Gray, then Ottawa bureau chief for The Globe and Mail. As a Gallery neophyte, I sang along with Walter, and have been lustily belting out his song for the 57 years since.

Walter's version of I've Been Working on the Railroad is sung by then Canadian National Railways president and chairman Donald Gordon. The imposing, three-piece suited, prosperous-looking Mr. Gordon, who wracked up an astronomical \$75,000-a-year salary, looked like he came straight out of an old Jimmy Stewart movie. The CNR mogul suffered one of English Canada officialdom's earliest encounters with what, in the late '50s, were the embryonic sparks of Quebec separatism. They were burning Donald Gordon in effigy.



Geoff Scott and Charles Lynch (on harmonica) perform parodies for the masses.

*I've been working on the railroad  
Trying to make the damn thing pay;  
But no one working on my railroad  
Knows how to parle français;  
I did away with coal and fire –  
Changed them all to oil and gas;  
The way the separatists are acting  
Really burns my ass!*

## CHORUS:

*Donald won't you parle,  
Donald won't you parle,  
You gotta parlez-vous français...  
(repeat)*

*Someone's setting fire to Donald;  
Someone's setting fire I see-e-e-e;  
Someone's setting fire to Donald!;  
Burning him in effigy  
(and he sings)  
My fee's \$75 Gs,  
And that'll buy a lot of effigies;  
I'll take the \$75 Gs,  
So burn me all you goddam please!*

Speaking of separatists, when René Lévesque dominated *La belle province*, Quebec politicians lived and died by the polls. That's why the 1973 hit tune by Tony Orlando and Dawn Say Has Anybody Seen My Sweet Gypsy Rose? seemed a natural polling song then. It works to this day. We rewrote this one to be sung by NDP and Conservative strategists.

*Say has anybody seen the  
Next Gallup poll?  
Can you tell us who is up and  
Who's in the hole?  
To raise our proportions  
We'd both sell our soul;  
Say has anybody seen the  
Next Gallup poll?*

*Byelections – we try to win;  
Those mental midgets – misrepresent us in  
their digits;  
Yah, hah, hah, hah...*



*Most Quebecers voted PQ, that we agree;  
We now hope they'll all vote NDP or PC  
That is the answer for us fed'rally;  
In Quebec we don't get many,  
So we gotta count on René;  
And if we don't we won't win any polls!*

Our revised lyrics have turned out to be snapshots of Canadian political history. Through these songs, we can, to use President Obama's line, "look directly into the eye of history." Mind you, there is also a downside to butchering the words as we did, purely for the benefit of the Parliament Hill crowd. To this day, I can't hear a familiar tune on the radio, or in a TV commercial, without chortling on the inside at how we totally bugged up the original, often beautiful lyrics of the songwriter. Let me cite a very recent example. During one of my daily work-out classes, they played The Beatles' classic Let It Be. The way I heard it was the Tommy Douglas version imagined by Bill Grogan, policy writer for PC leader Robert Stanfield.

*When I find myself in trouble  
Tommy Douglas says to me;  
There will come an answer, NDP!  
NDP, NDP, NDP, NDP;  
Speaking words of wisdom- NDP!*

Rod McKuen was an American songwriter who made Jean famous in the late '60s. For us in the Gallery, it became the natural tune for our tribute to Canada's renowned Liberal Minister of Agriculture from Essex-Windsor, On., Eugene Whelan.

*Gene, Gene, noses are red  
Out where the moonshine is clean;  
Though you won't stoop to beg,  
You're a good egg  
So lay us another one, Gene.*

Back in the '70s, one of Canada's most popular premiers was New Brunswick's Richard Hatfield. He was known to his friends to be gay, although in those days, certainly not openly. The PC premier did, however, have a great self-deprecating sense of humour. He was reportedly thrilled when we press types (led by fellow New Brunswicker, Charles Lynch) chose a familiar Coca Cola jingle I'd like to buy the world a Coke to describe Mr. Hatfield as being "the real thing".



*Geoff Scott, Ron Collister, and the Hon. Paul Hellyer performing at a Press Gallery Dinner.)*

*I'd like to be the man to lead  
You straight to victory;  
I'm a real cool cat, that's where I'm at,  
New Brunswick's Dick, that's me!  
We're big at growing shads and spuds  
And Irving's Oil, KC;  
And here in hand,  
I'm gonna take my stand,  
New Brunswick's Dick, that's me!*

*He's the real thing!  
Really big in N.B.  
All the Tories say, Je-SUS  
He's the real thing!*

We now head west, for the skewering of another one of Pierre Trudeau's cabinet ministers. The Press Gallery's aforementioned columnist/showman Mr. Lynch, along with the very witty Norman Depoe, were fond of resurrecting old First World War and Second World War military ditties. Along with George Bain, they kicked around the British music hall song It's a Long Way to Tipperary. At the time, Prime Minister Trudeau's Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board was Saskatoon's Otto Lang. The Liberal MP had infuriated Prairie farmers by suggesting, because of a glut in the wheat market, they should cut back on their production of grain and turn their fields into summer fallow. Thus, the Tipperary tune was reborn.

*It's a Lang way to trick the Prairie;  
It's a Lang way to sell;  
It's the Lang way to trick the Prairie,  
And the West can go to hell;*

*Hello, marijuana, change the wheat to grass;  
It's a Lang, Lang way to trick the Prairie;  
Otto Lang's way, my ass!*

I leave you with one of my all-time favourites, written by the diabolical geniuses at the Winnipeg Press Club. A scandal was rocking Manitoba's government in the late '60s, headed by Dufferin Roblin. It concerned an icebreaker, commissioned by the Roblin administration, to patrol Manitoba's northern waters. The Lord Selkirk, was insured by Wawanesa's marine insurance division. What better song could there be to chronicle the vessel's odyssey than Nat King Cole's classic Mona Lisa?

*Wawanesa, Wawanesa has insured her;  
This ship is no Titanic or Graf Spee;  
The Atlantic knew real panic  
when the Thresher,  
Got her radar screwed and finally  
lost her way;  
The Noronic was no tonic for insurers;  
Andrea Doria was a story-a of dismay;  
Proper coverage could have  
minimized the mania  
On the sinking Lusitania;  
It's marine insurance now at Wawanesa;  
And at 90 million bucks,  
THIS SHIP WILL SAIL!!!*

We're out of runway already. There's a whole bunch more of these musical memories in my files. We'll see if we can present a few more in future issues.

Geoff Scott served as a Progressive Conservative MP from 1978-1993 in the riding of Hamilton-Wentworth, Ontario.

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