

It shouldn't come as a huge surprise - a headline in The Hill Times this morning: Feds launch web ad 'orgy' to promote income splitting, billions in child care payments. We can assume that it won't be too long until the ads start showing up in the mass media as well, all paid for, of course, by thee and me. It has been noted that this is all perfectly legal, but it will be interesting to see the public's reaction.

Notwithstanding the fact that government cheques are not due to be sent out before July, there is now speculation that we could be into a federal election a lot sooner, with a vote before April 7th, the start of the Mike Duffy trial.

There seems to be a push from some quarters to bring back the long form census, as technical observers note the shaky data generated by the voluntary version and political observers note that we paid over \$20 million more for inferior results.

Justin Trudeau's actions after harassment complaints from two as-yet unnamed NDP MP's against two Liberal MP's continued to draw commentary and analysis over the past week, with praise or criticism starting to line up according to the partisan leanings of the writer.

Remembrance Day observations tomorrow will re-ignite discussions about the shooting incident on Parliament Hill, with more consideration of the need for anti-terrorism measures in response to what people increasingly believe to have been a mental health issue. Liberal messages caution against an overreaction. Meanwhile, veterans may again show displeasure with the federal government's actions on their issues, this time by avoiding photo-ops with politicians.

Our messages to the public:

Changes to Canadian Security Intelligence Service Act

Proposed changes to Canada's national security laws should be taken very seriously and implemented only following thorough debate and consideration.

The acts were meant to intimidate us and to encourage Canadians to forget who we are. It is imperative that we remember that we are a proud democracy, a welcoming and peaceful nation, and a country of open arms and open hearts. We are a nation of fairness, of justice, and of the rule of law.

These are the values and principles we must hold on to. Our dedication to democracy and to the institutions we have built is the foundation of our society, and a continued belief in both will guide us correctly into the future.

We believe that Canada can have a strong national security framework, which is embedded in our existing laws, and provide law enforcement with necessary tools - without compromising the freedoms that make us Canadian.

Given the seriousness of this matter, the government has an obligation to explain how existing laws are being used, or not being used.

The Liberal Party of Canada also continues its call for a Parliamentary national security oversight committee.

Items of interest from the news and the party:

-The Toronto Star speculates on an early election call:

http://www.thestar.com/opinion/commentary/2014/11/09/why_stephen_harper_will_call_an_early_election.html

-National Post columnist Andrew Coyne was promoting this item, critical of Justin Trudeau's handling of the harassment issue, linking it to an ongoing Conservative theme that the leader lacks maturity:

<http://www.ipolitics.ca/2014/11/07/mr-trudeaus-maturity-gap-seems-to-be-getting-wider/>

-Another iPOLITICS writer sides with Trudeau and takes a heavy shot at the NDP's Tom Mulcair:

<http://www.ipolitics.ca/2014/11/07/tough-calls-cheap-shots-trudeau-mulcair-and-harassment/>

-A coalition of veterans groups will demonstrate their displeasure with the government in tomorrow's Remembrance Day ceremonies:

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/blogs/dailybrew/new-veterans-coalition-refuses-to-co-operate-with-234748694.html>

-Mailers from Conservative MP's are touting the government's job creation record, but while the numbers look impressive, those jobs are something else (keep these ones handy!):

<http://m.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/the-15-hour-workweek-canadas-part-time-problem/article20926986/?service=mobile>

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2014/09/24/low-paying-jobs-canada-morgan-stanley_n_5877084.html?utm_hp_ref=canada

-An advocacy group calls for a return of the long-form census and the Globe & Mail says poor data is 'crippling' our ability to compete

<https://evidencefordemocracy.ca/census>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-debate/poor-census-data-is-crippling-canadas-ability-to-compete/article21474370/>

As always, you'll find much more on our Seniors Commission Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bclibs/>

Looking ahead:

Those two by-elections - in the late Jim Flaherty's Whitby-Oshawa riding and in Yellowhead - will be held a week today