

This past week, we saw the Parliamentary Budget Officer confirm that Justin Trudeau had it right on the Conservatives' EI premium cuts...a lot of money for little or no benefit, and in fact a risk of losing jobs overall. The Conservatives tried to sneak through a change to the copyright laws inside a forthcoming omnibus bill, which would allow them to take news video footage, use it for political ads (notably attack ads), without permission from the broadcasters, without paying for it ... and then force the TV outlets to run the resulting ads. As you can imagine, the broadcasters are not pleased.

The Conservatives are using recent editorials critical of Justin Trudeau's comments on Canada's military role in Iraq (and maybe Syria) to raise funds. At the same time, more and more commentators are providing background on the issues over there and, just like with the EI premium rollback, JT's assessment is gaining credibility.

Our messages to the public:

Conservative EI Proposal Fails to Support Job Creation

Yesterday's report from the Parliamentary Budget Officer found that the Conservatives' EI plan will cost \$550 million and create only 800 net new jobs - or almost \$700,000 for each new job created under the program.

Canadians deserve a plan for jobs and growth. The Conservatives' EI plan provides neither. Their EI rate reduction only encourages businesses to stay small and punishes them if they grow and are successful. With the Conservatives' plan, only businesses with EI taxes below \$15,000 would see any savings - creating an incentive for businesses to fire workers.

Liberals' proposal will reward businesses for each new job created in 2015 and 2016. This would represent a benefit that can reach as much as \$1,300 for each new job created.

We must create the conditions that allow for economic prosperity, including investment in infrastructure, education, and expanding trade. Liberals' focus is on creating new jobs and hiring more Canadians; this is the only way that we can grow the middle class and expand opportunities for Canadian families.

Please view and share Mr. Trudeau's [op-ed](#) in the Toronto Star on the Liberal EI plan.

Liberal Party of Canada opposes Prime Minister's decision to go to war in Iraq

The security threat and the urgent humanitarian crisis created by ISIL requires coordinated, international action. The Liberal Party believes that Canada can play a

substantial, non-combat role as a part of the coalition assembled to deal with this threat.

The Liberal Party disagrees with the government on how best Canada can help confront the ISIL threat. Reflecting our Caucus discussion, last night we voted against the government's motion to send our Canadian Armed Forces into war.

The members of the Canadian Armed Forces who will now go into harm's way have our full and unwavering support.

Liberals Welcome CAMH Call for Marijuana Legalization

Liberals welcome the call for the legalization and regulation of marijuana by the CAMH, which is widely recognized as a world-leading research centre in the field of mental health and addictions.

Canada leads the developed world in the number of youth who use marijuana. The current system serves to fund gangs and criminal elements. When it comes to the big things, this government has failed to get them right.

We agree with the CAMH that a well-regulated, legal system for marijuana access promotes public health and safety, reduces the harms associated with marijuana use, and helps keep the drug out of the hands of our children - exactly what Liberals have been advocating.

Items of interest from the news and the party:

-The Conservatives believe the media has an agenda against them. In response, the Globe & Mail ran this item:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/harpers-media-foes-arent-liberal-theyre-moderate-conservatives/article20586614/>

-Yet another instance where Justin Trudeau's 'take' on an issue proves to be the right one...this time on understanding the root causes of terrorism:

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2014/10/09/trudeau-root-causes-terrorism-studies-conservatives_n_5960410.html?utm_hp_ref=mostpopular&ir=Canada+Politics

-The unFair Elections Act will be challenged in court:

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2014/10/09/fair-elections-act-court-council-canadians_n_5959356.html

-The Prime Minister can make a good case for an early election call (vs. the set date of October 19, 2015).

<http://www.hilltimes.com/news/news/2014/10/13/pm-harper-could-justify-calling-an-early-election-say-former-pmo-advisers/39895>

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

Looking ahead:

Ken Halliday and I will be attending a meeting of Vancouver Island EDA presidents and others on October 21st; the session has been organized by Gloria Wells.

If you are among the people in our group who have had experience in the medical system or health care, I will be organizing a discussion group meeting for mid-to-late November. The idea is to start with a wide ranging discussion to determine the scope of our collective experience and to begin identifying issues with which we've had direct experience in the trenches. If you wish to be part of this discussion, please let me know by return email.