

Just today, another book on Mr. Harper has debuted - "Party of One" - that examines his leadership style and dwells more on what many refer to as his 'contempt for parliament'. It follows another critical review - "Harperism" - that looks at the 'neo-liberal' basis of his approach to governance. I attended that book launch and the room at SFU's downtown campus was packed.

I had an opportunity to comment at the SFU session, first to complain a bit about the term 'neo-liberal' and then to ask the author, SFU communication professor Donald Gutstein, what might have been the catalyst for the country's hard swing to the right. On the first, he said that the term reflected the original foundation for liberalism back in the 19th century, very strong support for laissez faire in the marketplace and a minimal role for government. Mr. Gutstein said that neo-liberalism first appeared in the 1930's in opposition to activist governments trying to deal with the Great Depression, notably Franklin Roosevelt in the US.

Based on this, we can think back to government activism in the years leading up to the creation of the Reform Party in Canada and caution ourselves that, just as there are limits as to how far to the right Canadians will swing, there are limits on how 'progressive' they want their governments to be.

One could go broke buying all of the books on Mr. Harper that have hit the shelf since 2008, now emerging at the rate of one per month.

Our messages to the public:

Liberals Building a Strong Team and Plan for Canadians

This week, Justin Trudeau is continuing to reach out and engage with Canadians in Quebec, having visited Quebec City, Montreal, Mirabel, Saint-Jérôme, and Sainte-Adèle. Today, Mr. Trudeau is hosting roundtables on regional issues with local candidates [Karl Trudel](#), [Janice Bélair Rolland](#), and [David Graham](#).

Earlier this week, Mr. Trudeau delivered a keynote address to the Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de Québec. Please view and share the [text](#) and [video](#) of his speech. You may view and share recent coverage of Mr. Trudeau's tour in the [Journal de Quebec](#), [TVA 22H](#), [98,5 fm](#), and [FM 93](#). He will also be appearing on "Tout le monde en parle" this Sunday.

Liberals believe that government must not only create the right conditions for economic growth, but also ensure that growth is sustainable and will finally help struggling middle class families. Mr. Trudeau has spoken extensively on the need

for increased trade, as well as investment in infrastructure and post-secondary education.

Please view and share Chatelaine's recent piece on Mr. Trudeau [here](#).

NDP's Record on Childcare

National comprehensive childcare would have been in place for nearly a decade if it had not been for the NDP.

Canada had a national childcare plan - a Liberal government negotiated a comprehensive national childcare deal with all of the provinces, contrary to Mr. Mulcair's revisionist history. In 2005, it was the NDP that joined with Stephen Harper's Conservatives to topple the Liberal government. One of Mr. Harper's first actions was to cancel the childcare plan.

As a result of the NDP's and the Conservatives' actions, an entire generation of children was raised without access to high-quality, universal childcare.

Items of interest from the news and the party:

-The Toronto Star's piece on Government of One:

http://www.thestar.com/news/insight/2014/10/19/author_michael_harriss_new_book_is_a_takedown_of_stephen_harper.html

-The Tyee published a review of Harperism:

<http://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2014/10/06/Reign-of-Stephen-Harper/>

-Yet another book; a look at the Conservatives' attack ad strategy and the 'merchant of venom' behind it:

<http://www.canada.com/Maher+Stephen+Harper+merchant+venom/10301876/story.html>

-The NDP has been active over the last week, with a major policy announcement on national daycare (see our Liberal messaging above):

http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2014/10/14/ndp_proposes_15aday_national_childcare_program.html

-And just to prove that no good deed goes unpunished by the Conservative's attack ad factory:

<http://www.pressprogress.ca/en/post/conservatives-say-moms-who-use-day-care-arent-raising-their-own-kids>

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 tomorrow to boost our Commission's activities on the Island; the session has been organized by Gloria Wells.

There are two by-elections scheduled on November 17th in Whitby-Oshawa (formerly held by the late Jim Flaherty) and Yellowhead. These have been strong Conservative ridings for quite a while, and the local press has the Yellowhead contest a slam-dunk for the Conservative candidate. We shall see ...