

The battle against the so-called 'Islamic State' has dominated the news over the past week, with almost as much ammunition flying in Canadian politics as in Iraq and Syria. The battle lines have been drawn over our military involvement, with all party leaders either praised or criticized for their positions. In Justin Trudeau's case, opponents and some columnists have cast both his position and the joke about 'whipping out our F18's' as an example of his inexperience, especially on the world stage. On the other hand, the Prime Minister's track record for partisanship, contempt for parliament and secrecy has shaped the criticism leveled at him for not having clear military or political objectives. Once again, Thomas Mulcair of the NDP has been more or less shunted to the sidelines in the public commentary; his anti-combat stance is seen as playing to the long-standing sentiments in Quebec.

Our messages to the public:

Liberal Party of Canada cannot and will not support Prime Minister's motion to go to war in Iraq

[Click here](#) for remarks from the Leader.

There is a clear line between non-combat and combat. If the Prime Minister wants to take Canada across that line, he must make the case to Canadians as to why.

The Prime Minister has not been upfront with Canadians about his plans. He has not made the case for engaging in a combat mission. He has given us no reason to believe that once in combat, the government will be able to limit our role.

That is why the Liberal Party of Canada cannot and will not support the Prime Minister's motion to go to war in Iraq.

We have the capabilities to meaningfully assist - in a non-combat role - a well-defined international mission in Iraq. Canada's role must reflect the broad scope of Canadian capabilities and how best we can help

Items of interest from the news and the party:

-Justin Trudeau's comments at Canada 2020 (where he also made 'the joke'):
<http://www.liberal.ca/newsroom/news-release/remarks-canada-2020-liberal-party-canada-leader-justin-trudeau/>

-Columnist Lawrence Martin gives PM Harper the public opinion edge over Justin Trudeau on the decision to involve Canada in military operations:
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-debate/did-trudeau-reject-a-liberal-combat-plan/article20959491/>

-Jeffrey Simpson looks at the 'quagmire' of issues in Iraq and Syria, and the long list of unstable players:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-debate/our-mideast-mission-implausible/article20893866/>

-On other matters, former Progressive Conservative pollster Allan Gregg levels a harsh analysis of Stephen Harper's Conservatives:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-debate/our-mideast-mission-implausible/article20893866/>

-Donald Gutstein's new book 'Harperism' looks at the stealth transformation that has taken place in Canada:

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

-In making a strong case for infrastructure investment, the International Monetary Fund ends up on the same page as Liberals - a key issue going into the next election is tax cuts (Conservative) vs. government stimulus of our economic fundamentals (Liberal infrastructure

proposal): <http://blogs.wsj.com/economics/2014/09/30/its-time-to-build-roads-to-prosperity-literally-imf-says/>

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

Looking ahead:

Our BC Seniors Commission executive meeting will be held next week, Wednesday, Oct 8th, 1:30 pm, at the Liberal Party offices on Hornby Street. One of the items we'll be discussing is ways to differentiate our federal party from the mis-branded BC provincial Liberal party