

A number of newspaper items and online publications have noted that the Tories have not yet gained much traction in terms of generating public support. In fact, although the summer is usually a time when the governing party at least shores up its approval and gets its message out to the public, the Conservatives have been sliding backwards. However, we can't emphasize enough the fact that the polls are so often dramatically wrong, and while they may indicate a trend, it will still be up to us to keep reinforcing our message to Canadians.

Our messages to the public:

Conservative Government Fails Canadians

Mr. Harper and his Conservative government have failed to work as partners with the premiers on the most critical issues facing our country, demonstrating yet again that they get the big things wrong.

The Conservatives have failed to provide substantial, predictable, and sustainable infrastructure funding; in fact, they have slashed infrastructure investments this year by 90 percent. This harms the ability of our cities and communities to modernize and repair public transit, roads, bridges, housing, and water systems.

At the same time, Mr. Harper and the Conservatives have completely mismanaged the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, only to introduce blanket changes without any consultation.

Under a Conservative federal government, unilateral changes have been made to health care funding, refugee care, immigration, and employment insurance - all while Mr. Harper refuses to sit down with his provincial and territorial colleagues.

Liberals believe that a different, collaborative approach is needed if we are to offer a real and fair chance at success for all Canadians.

Items of interest from the news and the party:

-With Conservatives attempting to make hay with Justin Trudeau's opposition to their Transparency Act for First Nations bands, it will be useful to have the real background on the Liberal position (transparency is a good thing - the way the Tories are doing it isn't): <http://www.liberal.ca/newsroom/news-release/transparency-with-first-nations/>

-There's an important Party poll underway right now -- please take a moment to register your position on these issues: http://www.liberal.ca/6-question-issues-poll/?utm_source=liberal&utm_medium=emailutm_content=august_members_update&utm_campaign=summer_caucus_issues_poll

-A good example of how interests and positions can differ on key issues across the country -- in this case, the issue of fracking: <http://www.alaskahighwaynews.ca/news/local/trudeau-slammed-for-lng-comments-1.1334199>

These items and more are featured on our Seniors Commission Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bclibs/>

Looking ahead:

There's a new social media campaign that is already getting good pickup and notice on Twitter and Facebook: #IAmALiberal - a 'hashtag' you can use to let your friends and followers know where you stand!

PS: If you're not receiving Ralph Goodale's blog postings, you are really missing some excellent perspectives.