

Parliament is back in session this week, and most observers are predicting a nasty session as the Conservatives, buffeted by poor polling results, try to position themselves for the 2015 election. It will be interesting to see if the Tories stick to their income-splitting pledge in spite of the negative feedback they've received on the poor distribution of benefits -- funding this tax cut has been the reason they've tried their hardest to manufacture a budget surplus next year. This contrasts with the Liberals' signal of a focus on funding economy-building and good job-creating infrastructure projects. With the NDP announcing that they intend to start rolling out their platform policy planks soon, we can expect similar pressure on Liberals to show their hand. Of course, our big news is the establishment of the Ontario Seniors Commission, thanks to hard work (and smart work) by Ken Halliday, Anne Adams and the new Ontario Commission president, Kathie Brown!

Our messages to the public:

Liberals building a strong team and a strong plan

Mr. Trudeau is offering a bold vision for Canada. His priority is clear: we must bolster the strength and prosperity of middle class Canadians, who have not had a decent raise in 30 years. Canadian families deserve a real and fair chance at success.

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.

Canadians have made it clear that they want a better government, not just a different government. They want a government that is focused on them, their future, their communities, and their families. They want a vision that brings Canadians together, not one that pits them against their fellow citizens.

Items of interest from the news and the party:

-The Hill Times reports that the Conservatives will try to make the economy the key issue in this session, but there are other issues that will nip at their heels: <http://www.hilltimes.com/news/news/2014/09/15/cabinet-to-pitch-%2464-billion-surplus-economic-bucket-in-multiple-files-this-fall/39571>

-CBC Radio broadcast an interview with Justin Trudeau last Sunday as Michael Enright looks 'for substance beneath the sizzle' - grab a cup of tea or coffee...it runs 30 minutes (thanks to Greg Guptill for the link): <http://www.cbc.ca/thesundayedition/features/2014/09/14/justin-trudeau/>

-Our seniors' cohort is one of the wealthiest in history...so McLean's asks why the government should do so much for us. The article, "Old and Loaded", is attached.?

-There was a great column in The Sun this morning, as writer Daphne Bramham suggests that we're 'citizens' -- not just 'taxpayers' -- a perspective that supports core Liberal values of a strong and engaged middle class working toward the common

good: <http://www.vancouversun.com/opinion/columnists/Daphne+Bramham+need+citizens+just+taxpayers/10203291/story.html>

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

Looking ahead:

The New Brunswick election is a week today, and the provincial Liberals have done well in the pre-election polls (for what that's worth). Apparently there has been a good turnout for the advance polls, and traditionally, a good turnout signals a change in government.