

Quite a start to the week, with news this morning that Conservative MP Eve Adams has crossed the floor to sit as a Liberal. There are many aspects and angles to this development as Ms. Adams has had a tumultuous relationship with the Conservative Party over the last year or so and found herself without prospects as a candidate for that party. The media began covering the story with difficult questions for Justin Trudeau, but now there is further analysis of the implications of her move, including the status of her partner, former Conservative Executive Director, Dimitri Soudas.

Here are some of the news items thus far today:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/trudeau/article22856743/?ord=1>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/globe-politics-insider/eve-adamss-defection-makes-little-sense-unless-it-makes-perfect-sense/article22860994/>

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2015/02/09/eve-adams-crosses-the-floor-to-join-justin-trudeaus-liberals/>

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2015/02/09/john-ivison-will-soudas-follow-adams-to-liberal-party-harper-better-hope-not/>

In other news today, Pierre Poilievre, famous for the (un)Fair Elections Act, has been appointed Minister of Employment and Social Development. Rob Nicholson is the new Foreign Affairs Minister, replacing John Baird, and Jason Kenney is now Minister of National Defence. Mr. Poilievre has been a champion of 'right to work' legislation in the past, with the following link posted on the Toronto Star's site today..

http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2012/12/20/tim_harper_pierre_poilievre_wants_to_bring_righttowork_legislation_to_canada.html

The resignation of John Baird from cabinet and parliament has had the pundits scratching for implications for Mr. Harper and the Conservatives, with some suggesting his move may shrewdly position him for a run for party leader, should the job open up. Another speculative piece suggested that Mr. Harper may yet retire before the election.

Oil prices appear to have stabilized at just over \$50 a barrel, a level that some analysts say could still produce a budgetary surplus for the federal government. In spite of this, Mr. Harper is quoted by Ralph Goodale as calling the current economic situation 'a crisis'. The Veterans Affairs issue will not go away, with a 'rant' this week from Rick Mercer about a vet who is reportedly required to prove every year that he still does not have his legs, lost in Afghanistan. The reasonable person would be likely to think that this situation is the result of poor judgement by

bureaucrats rather than the actions of the governing party. But it is still a fact that there is a minister responsible for that bureaucracy and the media continues to hold the Conservatives to account.

PM Harper's anti-terror legislation appears to have driven a wedge -- not so much between the Conservatives and the Liberals, but between news commentators and average Canadians. Editorials and columns in Canada's biggest newspapers (Toronto Star, Globe & Mail and National Post) all challenge the scope of the new policing powers and the anti-democratic bent of the governing Tories. Although the Liberals will support the bill, Mr. Trudeau intends to push for a level of parliamentary oversight that the Conservatives are not likely to accept. At the same time, surveys indicate that most Canadians are prepared to accept the risks that come with the new legislation, preferring to inflict as much difficulty as possible on domestic and international jihadists.

The Nanos weekly poll continues to show the Liberals and the Conservatives virtually tied in terms of voter support, with the Conservatives pegged to achieve a minority government at this point.

Our messages to the public:

Justin Trudeau pitches a medicare approach to fight climate change in Canada

Today in Calgary, [Justin Trudeau announced](#) that a future Liberal government will take a medicare approach to fight climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Our children's future requires that we take meaningful action, and we must position Canada to be competitive in a global economy focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

A Liberal government would welcome provincial and territorial leaders to attend the Paris climate conference, and within 90 days, hold a First Ministers meeting to work together on a framework for combating climate change. Central to this would be the creation of national emissions-reduction targets.

Provincial and territorial governments will have the flexibility to design their own policies to meet these commitments, including their own carbon pricing policies. We will provide targeted federal funding to help achieve these goals, in the same way the federal government supports health care in Canada.

While many of our provinces and territories have already introduced their own initiatives, history shows that Canada works best when all orders of government work together to solve problems that matter to Canadians - as we have on issues like health care and pensions.

Liberals are serious about engaging in an open and innovative partnership with the provinces and territories, as we work together to fulfill our environmental responsibilities.

Physician-assisted death

Physician-assisted death is an emotional and complex issue that touches the lives of a great number of Canadians.

We respect today's significant ruling by the Supreme Court of Canada, and we will thoroughly review the decision.

This ought to be a non-partisan issue. The federal government has a responsibility to follow the guidance of the Supreme Court in any legislation it presents to Parliament and Canadians.

Bill C-51, Anti-terrorism Act, 2015

Please view Mr. Trudeau's [remarks](#) on Bill C-51.

Bill C-51 includes measures that will help keep Canadians safe, and as such, the Liberal Party of Canada will support this legislation. However, there are concerns with Bill C-51, and we hear them.

When a government asks its citizens to give up even a small portion of their liberty, it is that government's highest responsibility to guarantee that its new powers will not be abused. We also know that the individual freedoms we cherish as Canadians cannot exist without collective security.

Liberals will offer amendments to address the gaps in this bill, including on oversight and mandatory reviews. The current government can accept that Canadians want greater oversight and accountability, or we will take these amendments directly to Canadians in the election campaign.

Our response to terror must not be confined; it must include a robust plan for preventing radicalization before it takes root. Equally, we must ensure that our security agencies are adequately resourced so that they can carry out the new tasks required of them.

Please check in with the [Liberal Party](#) and [Justin Trudeau](#) for content to share with your networks over the coming days.

Items of interest from the news and the party:

-More on today's cabinet shuffle:

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2015/02/09/cabinet-shuffle-pierre-poilievre-rob-nicholson-jason-kenney_n_6645076.html

-Some analysis on John Bair's departure

<http://ottawacitizen.com/opinion/columnists/reid-john-bairds-departure-a-shrewd-move-from-a-shrewd-player>

-Justin Trudeau went right to the heart of Conservative territory - Calgary - to take aim at PM Harper's handling of Canada's energy sector

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2015/02/06/pm-spent-years-trying-to-bully-obama-while-ignoring-issues-trudeau-at-calgary-rally/>

<http://calgaryherald.com/news/politics/trudeau-takes-aim-at-harpers-energy-promises-in-calgary-rally>

-The Liberals and the NDP were both called out for their 'weak-kneed' opposition to the Conservatives 'terror bill':

<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2015/02/03/weak-kneed-opposition-lets-conservative-terror-bill-sail-through-walkom.html>

-A story about the veteran who has to keep proving he lost his legs in Afghanistan:

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/veteran-tired-of-government-making-him-prove-he-lost-his-legs-1.2227180>

Looking ahead:

Liberals will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Canada's flag on February 15th! (No sign of anything from the Tories so far on this...)