

It is highly unlikely that anyone close to the Liberal Party will ever create an award for the person coming up with the best lines and the best message. That's because Ralph Goodale would win all the time and it would be no fun for the rest of us, except, of course to read his latest commentary.

In Ralph's words this week, the delay in tabling a federal budget is a clear indication that the Tories are 'out of gas'. They haven't had a very robust vision for the country's economy and, as their one big idea literally dries up, Canada is left with a government that is too weak, both in resources and creativity, to respond. Ralph's latest item is attached.

The latest batch of polls suggest that somebody out there is confused. Either it's the polling companies themselves (and we've commented before on their poor track record) the Liberals and the NDP, who simply have yet to understand what really motivates Canadian voters, or our fellow citizens who have not had access to the sorts of things that have motivated us to seek change at the top. An Ipsos-Reid survey puts the Conservatives in the lead, while others show the Liberals out in front, but not by very much. With so much evidence on how badly Mr. Harper's party has managed the country, they should really have to look up to see bottom, yet most surveys show that things are very tight. With the possibility of an early election still quite 'live', there must be a sense of urgency for all of us to get to those one-on-one discussions with people.

There are two very interesting items in our media clippings. The item in Macleans Magazine about the Liberals' background work on economic policy demonstrates a couple of key examples of how we differ from the Conservatives. First, we want to base policies on evidence, best practice and marshalling the best talent we can find. Secondly, the focus isn't on partisan politics and photo ops but on coming up with policies that will work for the country, not just for a political core. Basing political positioning on that kind of foundation is smart, and ultimately better for the country. There is a series of items from rabble.ca on Canadians' choices in 2015; the links are below.

Another item is a bit shocking...that Alberta leads the country in the number of 'working poor'. This *before* the full impact of falling oil prices hit their economy. When trickle-down economics don't even work in a place that had been swimming in money, what hope is there for a strong middle class anywhere else in the country? It was interesting to note that the focus on the middle class has become a key message in Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, and just this weekend, President Obama has moved to bolster the middle class by rebalancing tax revenues toward the financial elite.

Our messages to the public:

Liberals focused on growth for middle class Canadians

By delaying the federal budget for months, this Prime Minister has thrown up his hands and admitted that he has no economic plan at all.

The Conservatives' income splitting plan favours the wealthy, is bad for growth, and will do nothing to help most Canadian families. TD Economics' report on falling government revenues is the latest example of how irresponsible and unfair it is for the Prime Minister to ask middle class Canadians to pay to give families like his a \$2,000 tax break.

The NDP wants to be entrusted with steering the Canadian economy, but Thomas Mulcair's numbers do not add up. Government revenues are falling, yet Mr. Mulcair refuses to explain how his platform promises - which will cost Canadians tens of billions in new spending - will be funded. Mr. Mulcair pretends to be supportive of free trade, but he has not hesitated to criticize new agreements for Canadians when he sets foot outside the country.

Canadians need a plan to strengthen the middle class and invest in job-creation. Mr. Trudeau's 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.

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:

Note: The real value of these items is the fact that they are from independent writers and publications and not from the Liberal Party. As such, they can be quoted or shown to people in your riding as credible and more objective 'third party' views.

-The Liberals have pulled in 'the brain trust' to develop an economic platform:
<http://www.macleans.ca/politics/ottawa/the-inner-circle-inside-trudeaus-economic-advisory-team/>

-Nik Nanos says the Conservatives are sliding....
<http://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/nanos-on-the-numbers>

-...while Ipsos-Reid says the Tories have surged ahead...and lead among seniors:
<http://news.nationalpost.com/2015/01/15/federal-tories-lead-the-liberals-across-canada-including-in-ontario/>

-Rabble.ca comments on Stephen Harper's Conservatives, Tom Mulcair's NDP and Justin Trudeau's Liberals:

<http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/karl-nerenberg/2015/01/voters-choice-2015-harpers-conservatives>

http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/karl-nerenberg/2015/01/canadas-choice-2015-ndps-mulcair-treats-voters-adults#at_pco=smlrebv-1.0&at_si=54bd9387e2901160&at_ab=per-3&at_pos=1&at_tot=5

http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/karl-nerenberg/2015/01/canadas-choice-2015-trudeaus-liberals-are-about-more-celebrity#at_pco=smlrebv-1.0&at_si=54bd9488c7f3824a&at_ab=per-14&at_pos=4&at_tot=5

http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/karl-nerenberg/2015/01/canadas-choice-2015-trudeaus-liberals-are-about-more-celebrity#at_pco=smlrebv-1.0&at_si=54bd9488c7f3824a&at_ab=per-14&at_pos=4&at_tot=5

http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/karl-nerenberg/2015/01/canadas-choice-2015-trudeaus-liberals-are-about-more-celebrity#at_pco=smlrebv-1.0&at_si=54bd9488c7f3824a&at_ab=per-14&at_pos=4&at_tot=5

-More Albertans are using food banks, and the number is growing at twice the national average:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/alberta/alberta-has-more-working-poor-food-bank-executive-director-says/article22372295/>

-A first look at Hillarynomics -- created by some of the same people we follow:

<http://www.vox.com/2015/1/16/7557803/inclusive-prosperity-hillarynomics>

Much more can be found on our Seniors Commission Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bclibs/>

Looking ahead:

The Liberal calendar is packed with events right across the country: <http://events.liberal.ca/Event-List.aspx>