

Ottawa will be heating up with parliament back in session this week and the state of the economy as well as the forthcoming security legislation will likely be the major issues. The most recent Nanos polling indicates strong agreement among Canadians that the jihadist threat is real and that strong measures are necessary. Their weekly 'Power Index' puts the Liberals more strongly in the lead, except with Canadians over 60.

With respect to the economy, some newspaper columnists are musing that Mr. Harper is still in a position of strength, especially in the absence of alternatives from the Liberals and the limited platform released by the NDP.

News today that Finance Minister Joe Oliver may not have a budget to show us until May could set off a whole new round of speculation on a likely date for the election.

### **Our messages to the public:**

Liberals focused on growth for middle class Canadians

After a productive Winter Caucus in London, Ontario, this week, Justin Trudeau and the Liberal Caucus are on an outreach tour to discuss [jobs and growth for middle class families and the economic importance of the region.](#)

Liberal MPs are fanning out across the province to visit over 45 ridings and hold more than 150 meetings. Mr. Trudeau has been clear that we need a plan to strengthen the middle class and generate more economic growth.

This week the Bank of Canada took action, but this [Prime Minister is making it up as he goes along](#), cancelling meetings with our largest trading partners and allies, and [pushing back the budget](#). Liberals are focused on a plan to grow the economy for all Canadians, in every sector, and in every region.

We need a [plan that recognizes the manufacturing advantages](#) that already exist in Southwestern Ontario, the educated and skilled workers there, and the need to innovate to Canada's advantage. Canadian families deserve a real and fair chance at success. 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.

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 number of media clips has started to grow. All of the following are from the last couple of days' publications and broadcasts.

-The federal budget may be delayed beyond April:

<http://globalnews.ca/news/1791231/federal-budget-might-come-down-later-than-april-joe-oliver-says/>

-The left-leaning 'Press Progress' offers five items to watch for in the Tories anti-terrorism bill

<http://www.pressprogress.ca/en/post/5-things-keep-eye-harpers-anti-terrorism-bill>

-Nik Nanos has released his latest Party Power Index and some survey findings on Canadian's attitudes toward the threat from jihadists:

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/nanos-on-the-numbers>

-With the usual caution about the dodgy accuracy of polls, here is the full Nanos Power Index report - note that seniors now tend to support the Conservatives:

<http://www.nanosresearch.com/library/polls/Nanos%20Political%20Index%202015-01-02E.pdf>

-The Toronto Star examines the direction Mr. Harper may take toward re-election:

<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2015/01/25/the-three-pillars-of-stephen-harpers-re-election-hopes-tim-harper.html>

-If the economy is the top election issue with Canadians, the Windsor Star says the latest developments haven't been bad news for the Conservatives

<http://www.windsorstar.com/Loewen+economy+such+news+Stephen+Harper/10755006/story.html>

-First Nations may be swept up with students and seniors in experiencing difficulties in voting due to the so-called 'Fair Elections Act':

<http://www.thestarphoenix.com/life/First+Nations+activists+address+stricter+voting+rules/10752640/story.html> 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>