

One must wonder if another public opinion survey, a more comprehensive one than that done by Angus Reid, is necessary to gauge Canadians' true attitudes toward Bill C-51. Weeks of unrelenting criticism from legal experts, past politicians, academics, columnists and editorial writers were topped off over the weekend with well-attended demonstrations held all over the country. All said the same thing: C-51 overreaches and gives too much power to authorities with too little oversight.

So is there as much support for the anti-terror agenda as has been claimed? If there is support, how is it being translated into public approval for the individual political parties? The Nanos poll may offer some indicators (<http://www.nanosresearch.com/library/polls/Nanos%20Political%20Index%202015-03-06E.pdf>) and all of them tend to contradict the Reid survey results. For example:

- 1.Conservative support over all is fairly steady or may be trending up slightly in some areas, with Stephen Harper and Justin Trudeau showing almost even support as preferred Prime Minister. Ratings for Tom Mulcair are unchanged at a distant third, where he has been throughout the past year or more. This has certainly not been a 'home run' for Mr. Harper.

- 2.Quebec is worth watching very closely because support for the Conservative agenda (terrorism / culture) is said to be highest there. Indeed, Tory fortunes have improved substantially since December, but NDP support remains steady and highest in spite of their opposition to C-51, with the Liberals strong in second place.

One would have expected a combined surge in Conservative support and a decline in NDP fortunes if the public as so onside with C-51...especially in Quebec. But that hasn't happened and, coupled with all of the opposition to C-51, plus perhaps some public fatigue on the issue, we should be watching to see if Tory fortunes weaken in the coming weeks. This will be especially so if the Liberals and the NDP can take advantage of the media's waning interest in terrorism and switch the spotlight to the economy, which, once the big bright light is shone on it, is dreadful news for the Conservatives. One item a few days ago noted that the manufacturing sector shed over 19,000 jobs over the last couple of months, in spite of a weaker Canadian dollar, lower oil prices and a surging US economy.

And then, of course, the Mike Duffy trial in about three weeks will be a whole, new, salacious and absorbing soap opera. Even if the revelations are no big deal, the media and the public may be in the mood to enjoy each and every one of the naughty bits as they are uncovered.

Our messages to the public:

Liberals focused on jobs and economic growth for middle class

Canadians want new leadership dedicated to strengthening the heart of our economy: the middle class. Our economy works best when it's balanced, and Canada's strength should not rely on any one region or sector; it is built on the diversity of our people and on the diversity of our economy.

Mr. Harper wants to talk about anything but the economy. His priority is a \$2 billion tax break for the wealthiest Canadians, and he is much more interested in stoking fear than providing solutions.

Liberals believe that government must not only create the right conditions for economic growth, but also ensure that growth is sustainable and will help struggling middle class families.

Canadian families deserve a real and fair chance at success - and that means growing incomes and real job opportunities.

Trudeau promotes Canadian liberty, rejects politics of fear

Canada needs new leadership that recognizes we are strong not in spite of our differences, but because of them. That means bringing Canadians together, not dividing them against one another.

Canada's success is rooted in its unique approach to liberty through inclusive diversity. We have proven that a nation can be built on shared values, and we all have a responsibility to be strong custodians of this country's character.

This week, Liberals called on the Prime Minister to remove John Williamson from the Conservative caucus for his incredibly offensive comments.

Mr. Harper has failed to denounce these divisive and offensive views, and Mr. Williamson still refuses to formally apologize for them.

Items of interest from the news and the party:

-Tom Mulcair is rolling out the NDP's economic position...wants to be 'Goldilocks':
<http://www.thestarphoenix.com/news/Mulcair+push+kitchen+table+economics/10892956/story.html>

-In spite of comments from a Quebec NDP MP on opposition to the niqab, Leader Tom Mulcair says there is no party split on the issue:
<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/national/Mulcair+says+party+split+over+niqab+controversy/10893846/story.html>

-Letter writers to the Toronto Star challenge the Conservative story line ('propaganda of hate') linking its opposition to the niqab to the Holocaust:
http://www.thestar.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editors/2015/03/14/tories-adopt-propaganda-of-hate.html

-The Tyee's Steve Burgess (not exactly a giant among thoughtful journalists) takes shots at Justin Trudeau's stand on Bill C-51 and highlights the Liberals conflict on the terrorism issue:
http://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2015/03/16/St-Paddys-Day-Racket/?utm_source=daily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=160315

-Who'd have thought it? The Conservatives having trouble raising campaign funds in Alberta BEFORE oil prices hit the skids? Well it did happen in that Fort McMurray by-election:
<http://www.hilltimes.com/news/news/2015/03/16/alberta-tory-ridings-transferred-money-to-secure-fort-mac-in-2014-byelection-after/41398?mcl=&muid=>

-Canada's neglected manufacturing sector may be too weak to rebound in spite of cheap oil and a lower Canadian dollar:
http://thetyee.ca/News/2015/03/16/Manufacturers-Back-On-Feet/?utm_source=daily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=160315

-Here's a good background piece on the opportunities presented by a universal drug coverage plan:
<http://news.ubc.ca/2015/03/16/universal-public-drug-coverage-would-save-canada-billions/>

-And, finally, there's the Mike Duffy trial:
<http://www.ipolitics.ca/2015/03/15/duffys-day-in-court-sure-to-shed-light-on-harpers-secretive-pmo/>

Looking ahead: -- For details on the following items, click the 'Events' tab here: <https://www.liberal.ca/get-involved/>

March 16

Change on the Doorstep in Vancouver Grandville and Oakridge

Change on the Doorstep in Okanagan - Shuswap

March 17

Coffee Meeting: North Okanagan - Shuswap

Persian Fire Festival in North Vancouver

Change on the Doorstep in North Burnaby-Seymour

Calling for Change - Vancouver South / Vancouver East

March 18

House meeting - Courtenay-Alberni

Change on the Doorstep in Chilliwack-Hope

Pints & Politics at Piper's Pub in Nanaimo

House Meeting - Vancouver South

Calling for Change in Vancouver Granville (northeast)

Change on the Doorstep in Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo

Meet & greet the Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke nomination candidates

House meeting in Burnaby South

House meeting in Vancouver Granville (northwest)

March 19

Change on the Doorstep: Vancouver South (west)

Coffee Meeting: Vancouver-Quadra

March 20

Candidate Selection Meeting - Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke

Finally:

Keep up to date on the activities of the major ABC groups:

-[C.R.U.S.H.](#)

-[Council of Canadians](#)

-[Canadians Deserve Better](#)

-[Operation Maple](#)

- [Lead Now](#)

-[Anything But Conservative in 2015](#)

Feel free to share these weekly updates with your riding executive and others who are following the issues. If you have outreach ideas or photos of events, pass them along!