

A whole day late this week, but worth the wait for a bit of intel I picked up while out and about yesterday. Some new public opinion research - not the 'pop survey' stuff done in the media - has positive signs for the Liberals in the upcoming election. Based on the responses (I do not have the sample size, margin of error, etc. but trust the source implicitly) the NDP vote is collapsing across Canada and the migration is to the Liberals. The only places where the NDP may have good chances of electing members is Quebec and BC. Other surveys show them continuing to be strong in Quebec, while in BC a couple of solid members like Nathan Cullen will prevail. My source is calling a minority Conservative government based on the current polling, but there is a lot of time for that to change, especially when the Liberal platform is rolled out in more detail. Justin Trudeau is in Metro Vancouver for the next three days, and he may build upon the directions already released.

While Bill C-51 remained the biggest top of mind issue last week, Veterans Affairs' moves to quell ridicule over the requirement for amputees to confirm that they hadn't re-grown missing limbs appears to have fallen far short. At the very least, Minister O'Tool's item in the Huffington Post (see below) suggests that vets indeed have needed to assure VA staff annually that they were still without arms and legs lost in military service. Although the Minister and his Parliamentary Secretary have announced that the review will now be done once every three years, they have not clearly and categorically said that they will no longer need to prove they have not recovered their limbs. This defies reason and logic, and while rank and file conservatives are trying to assure that the media reports are hyperbole, the Minister has not been helpful.

Another item in this week's collection of clips is a blog post from a self-described loyal conservative who is taking Stephen Harper to task on his handling of security and privacy issues. That too is below.

Finally, a Globe & Mail article calls on the Liberal Party to get Ralph Goodale's message about the poor Conservative economic record out to the public more effectively.

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

Liberals share strong economic vision for Canada

Friday, Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau was in Montreal, meeting with Canadians and discussing their real priorities. This afternoon, Mr. Trudeau delivered a keynote address at the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal. In his address, Mr. Trudeau shared his economic vision for Canada, centred on investing in the middle class and those who seek to join it.

Specifically, Mr. Trudeau has committed to reinstating the Labour Sponsored Venture Capital Corporation (LSVCC) tax credit, which is being phased out by the Harper Conservatives. The LSVCC tax credit helps Canadian workers save for their retirement, while allowing labour funds to make significant investments in small and medium enterprises, as well as infrastructure projects.

While the Prime Minister's priority is a \$2 billion tax break for the wealthiest Canadians, Liberals are committed to bolstering middle class prosperity. A future Liberal government will focus on priorities that best serve Canadians, including support for infrastructure, post-secondary education, science and innovation, and entrepreneurship.

### **Liberals call for action on question of physician-assisted dying**

Physician-assisted dying is a complex and emotional issue that touches the lives of a great number of Canadians, and we respect the Supreme Court's significant decision.

Canadians expect their elected representatives to take a leadership role on this issue. They also expect a respectful and responsible conversation about strengthening end-of-life care and support, including palliative care.

Please view and share an op-ed from Mr. Trudeau and an editorial from the Toronto Star on why Parliament must act now on physician-assisted dying. <http://on.thestar.com/1LRhIq0>

### **Items of interest from the news and the party:**

-Ralph Goodale's message on the Liberal vs. Conservative economic performance was featured in Lawrence Martin's column in today's edition:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-debate/tories-liberals-who-are-the-better-economic-managers/article23252879/>

-Veterans Affairs Minister Erin O'Toole comments on the need for vets to prove they haven't re-grown lost limbs:

[http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/erin-otoole/veterans-lost-limbs\\_b\\_6633620.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/erin-otoole/veterans-lost-limbs_b_6633620.html)

-A conservative blogger asserts that the Tories do not deserve another majority government:

<http://www.freedominon.ca/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?f=312&t=171405>

-On Bill C-51, [rabble.ca](http://rabble.ca) is not comfortable with the Liberal Party's position:

<http://rabble.ca/columnists/2015/03/liberals-have-lost-their-way>

-The decline in unions equals the rise in income inequality according to the International Monetary Fund:

<http://www.pressprogress.ca/en/post/rise-income-inequality-linked-decline-unions-new-imf-study>

-Here's a great ad produced by Friends of the CBC, that may never be seen on regular TV:

<http://www.straight.com/blogra/402951/watch-anti-harper-ad-cbc-refuses-air>

### **Looking ahead:**

Our next BC Seniors Commission Executive Meeting will be a pot-luck luncheon - a fund-raiser to support our Commission's new web site now under construction. All executive members and EDA reps are invited - bring along an appetizer and \$10 - we'll get underway at noon with the executive meeting to follow. Mark the time and place: Wednesday, March 11 - noon - 1033 Marinaside Crescent in Vancouver, just 3 1/2 blocks from the Yaletown - Roundhouse Canada Line station. Please RSVP to me [ken.hardie@telus.net](mailto:ken.hardie@telus.net) so that we'll know how many to expect.

The Friends of the CBC are holding an ABC meeting at Surrey's Fleetwood Rec Centre (the swimming pool complex) tonight from 7:00 to 8:30

### **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!