

Although a large number of observers have identified major weaknesses in the federal budget tabled last Tuesday, the impact on at least one public opinion survey (conducted by Forum Research) has shown a lift for the Conservatives, especially among older voters. That same survey says the NDP, while running in third place, has been nibbling away at Liberal support. Another survey by EKOS tells a similar story, but while they don't provide any background to support their analysis, the pollsters at EKOS say that there is strong interest in the Liberal platform and that the lead the Tories currently enjoy is fragile. Now, rumours are starting to warm up that the Liberals will begin rolling out the economic plank in their platform now that the budget and the underlying assumptions are public. Clearly it will be interesting to see what the polls do in the coming weeks, with the usual cautions about their accuracy.

In the meantime, here is a quick list of some things Mr. Trudeau has committed to over the past number of months:

- Reopen the Veterans Affairs offices closed across the country
- Reopen the Kits Coast Guard Base in Vancouver
- Cancel the Conservatives' income-splitting program that benefits on 15 per cent of the wealthiest Canadians (but NOT cancel income splitting for seniors as recent Conservative ads have stated).
- Roll back the Conservatives' increase in the Tax Free Savings Account Limits to \$5,000
- Return eligibility for Old Age Security to 65 - the Tories want it to be pushed back to 67
- Revamp Employment Insurance premiums for businesses - the Conservative program actually encourages companies to lay off employees to stay 'small' while Mr. Trudeau's alternative would encourage job growth
- Look to the major pension funds for infrastructure financing (some observers have believed that the Liberals would simply scoop the money from the funds, but that's not the case; these would be loans that would be repaid)
- Finance infrastructure projects across the country with the billions of dollars the Tories have budgeted for the income-splitting program
- New support for First Responders (police, firefighters, Urban Search & Rescue)

Some of the media clips will provide further information. If there are further items on the above list, please email me a note and we'll keep a running update.

Latest public opinion survey results

Nanos: <http://www.nanosresearch.com/library/polls/Nanos%20Political%20Index%202015-04-17E.pdf>

Ekos: <http://www.ekospolitics.com/index.php/2015/04/conservatives-hang-on-to-narrow-lead/>

Forum: <http://www.hilltimes.com/politics-this-morning/2015/04/27/politics-this-morning-tories-take-polling-lead-possible-minority/41917>

Our messages to the public:

Stephen Harper's budget gives the most to those who need it least

Stephen Harper's tenth budget gives the most to Canadians who need it the least. It is time for a better plan investing in jobs and growth for the middle class and those working hard to join it.

Canadian families deserve a real and fair chance at success, but Mr. Harper's priority is a \$2 billion tax break for the rich.

What's more, Mr. Harper is doubling the TFSA limit by taking away tens of thousands of dollars in Old Age Security for seniors. In the long-term, doubling the TFSA will help the rich and do nothing for the middle class.

Mr. Harper's proposals will benefit the rich on the backs of the middle class, and that is simply not fair. His Finance Minister even says the Conservatives are willing to push these costs onto our grandchildren.

Canada needs a better plan focused on strengthening the heart of our economy, the middle class.

Please view and share [what the experts have to say](#) about Mr. Harper's doubling of the TFSA limit.

Please view Mr. Trudeau's [speech](#) responding to the Conservatives' budget.

Please view and share Mr. Trudeau's [statement](#) on this week's budget.

Please share [Justin Trudeau's](#) and the [Liberal Party of Canada's](#) messages about this week's budget.

Additional messaging:

While the Conservatives claim to focus on national security, they have delayed funding for defence until 2017. This does nothing to address serious and present threats.

The Conservatives have revealed a shell game with no new investment in community infrastructure for two more years, when cities are calling for help today.

For years, Liberals have been calling for improved compassionate care EI benefits, for a longer accelerated capital cost allowance horizon for manufacturing, and for greater flexibility on RRIF withdrawals.

Items of interest from the news and the party:

-Liberals' reaction to the budget and one of its major economic planks:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/justin-trudeau-to-reveal-major-economic-plank-now-that-fiscal-landscape-clear-1.3043481>

-Jobs did not appear to be the focus of Mr. Oliver's budget:

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/how-many-jobs-will-the-budget-create-finance-minister-admits-he-doesn-t-know-1.2345313>

-Although seniors were the intended target for the Conservatives' budget, a small survey by CARP suggests it didn't address a critical concern for the less-wealthy:

<http://www.ipolitics.ca/2015/04/27/carp-seniors-survey-shows-mixed-response-to-budget-measures/>

-Star candidate - ex-Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair – runs for the Liberals in Ontario:

<http://news.nationalpost.com/toronto/bill-blair-torontos-outgoing-police-chief-announces-he-will-run-for-federal-liberals-in-scarborough-southwest>

-...and Justin Trudeau backs up this Star Candidate with new support for first responders, including reinstatement of funding for heavy urban SAR units cut by the Tories:

<http://www.ipolitics.ca/2015/04/27/justin-trudeau-vows-to-bolster-support-for-police-firefighters-as-he-showcases-bill-blair/>

-Conservatives may be gaining an edge in some strategic ridings in Quebec:
<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/conservatives-recruiting-high-profile-candidates-in-push-to-regain-lost-quebec-seats-1.3049332>

-The court calendar for the Tories is busy - Dean Del Mastro is back in court tomorrow after a guilty verdict in an election fraud trial:
<http://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/2015/04/27/del-mastro-back-in-court-tuesday>

-The Duffy Trial continues and anyone following it sees more peril for the Conservatives as the role played by PM Harper is examined:
<http://www.ipolitics.ca/2015/04/26/harper-feigns-ignorance-as-crowns-case-against-duffy-in-shambles/>

-Although the Conservative budget has tried to limit options for the Liberals and NDP, there are opportunities for the opposition parties to carve out alternative strategies:
<http://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorials/2015/04/26/mulcair-trudeau-are-far-from-boxed-in-by-harpers-budget-agenda-editorial.html>

-The Liberals give an account of the Conservative's economic management:
<http://jonathanwilkinson.liberal.ca/what-you-wont-see-on-tv-during-the-playoffs/>

Looking ahead: -- BC Events below (now with direct links to the event page) -- for details on all scheduled events, click the 'Events' tab here: <https://www.liberal.ca/get-involved/>

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| Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Chilliwack-Hope | Apr 28, 2015 | Chilliwack |
| Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Burnaby North-Seymour | Apr 28, 2015 | Burnaby |
| Team Trudeau: Calling for Change in North Vancouver | Apr 28, 2015 | North Vancouver |
| Team Trudeau: Calling for Change in Vancouver South, West | Apr 28, 2015 | Vancouver |
| Annual General Meeting - Vancouver South | Apr 28, 2015 | Vancouver |
| Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Vancouver Granville, Northwest | Apr 28, 2015 | Vancouver |

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| Team Trudeau: Calling for Change in Vancouver Centre | Apr 28, 2015 | Vancouver |
| Team Trudeau: House Meeting in West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country | Apr 28, 2015 | Gibsons |
| Team Trudeau Outreach: Pints and Politics in Courtenay-Alberni | Apr 29, 2015 | Courtenay |
| Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Burnaby North-Seymour | Apr 29, 2015 | Burnaby |
| Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Chilliwack-Hope | Apr 29, 2015 | Chilliwack |
| Team Trudeau: Calling for Change in Vancouver Granville, Northeast | Apr 29, 2015 | Vancouver |
| Team Trudeau: Calling for Change in Vancouver Granville, Oakridge | Apr 29, 2015 | Vancouver |
| Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo | Apr 29, 2015 | Kamloops |
| Pints and Politics in North Okanagan-Shuswap | Apr 29, 2015 | Salmon Arm |
| Team Trudeau: House Meeting in Burnaby South | Apr 29, 2015 | Burnaby |
| Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in North Vancouver | Apr 30, 2015 | North Vancouver |
| Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Vancouver Granville, Oakridge | Apr 30, 2015 | Vancouver |
| Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Vancouver Granville, Fairview | Apr 30, 2015 | Vancouver |
| Team Trudeau Outreach: Pints and Politics in North Vancouver | Apr 30, 2015 | North Vancouver |

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| Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Vancouver South, West | Apr 30, 2015 | Vancouver |
| Coffee Meeting in Mission | Apr 30, 2015 | Mission |
| Team Trudeau: Team Meeting in North Vancouver | Apr 30, 2015 | North Vancouver |
| Team Trudeau Outreach: Pints and Politics in Central Okanagan-Similkameen-Nicola | May 1, 2015 | Kelowna |
| Team Trudeau Outreach: Coffee Meeting with Terry Beech in Burnaby North-Seymour | May 2, 2015 | Burnaby |
| Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Central Okanagan-Similkameen-Nicola | May 3, 2015 | Kelowna |
| Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Central Okanagan-Similkameen-Nicola | May 3, 2015 | Central Okanagan— Similkameen—Nicola |
| Annual General Meeting - South Okanagan - West Kootenay | May 3, 2015 | Osoyoos |
| Candidate Selection Meeting - Langley-Aldergrove | May 3, 2015 | Langley |
| Team Trudeau: House Meeting in Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo | May 3, 2015 | Kamloops |
| Volunteer Training Session in Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo | May 3, 2015 | Kamloops |
| Campaign Volunteer Event in Nanaimo-Ladysmith | May 3, 2015 | Nanaimo |
| Team Trudeau: Calling for Change in North | May 4, | North Vancouver |

[Vancouver](#)

2015

[Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in North Okanagan-Shuswap](#)

May 4,
2015

Salmon Arm

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!

Have a great week!