

It has been a rough and tumble seven days for Canadian politics, with a good push by the NDP and some Conservative counterattacks against the Liberals initiatives to support the middle class. For their part, the Liberals were busy driving the 'Fairness' theme, taking after the Conservatives for using public resources (tax revenues and staff time) to produce 'vanity' videos that were ill-disguised ads for the Tories, and quietly affirming the Party's stand on Bill C-51.

C-51 has been problematic for the Liberals whose support for the Bill in parliament was either not understood or simply not supported by a large number of people making comments on line. It is evident that NDP supporters were posing as outraged Liberals, cutting up their membership cards in protest. The 'noise' around C-51 seems to be dying down, leaving the Liberals to learn the lesson that if you have to explain a policy (as they've had to do with C-51) you've probably not made a very sound decision. The Liberals in the Senate are lining up to vote against the Bill, and national groups like Leadnow are trying to bring public pressure on the rest.

While the NDP are clearly enjoying what has been a good couple of weeks for them, the big question is whether the positive polling results they've experienced are sustainable, with one major pollster, Nanos, saying the answer is probably 'no'.

If a week is an eternity in politics, the five months between now and October 19th will likely see every party's fortunes rise and fall in turn. The trick is to 'peak' at the right time. If the Conservatives intended their budget to provide their peak, they might be gravely disappointed. However, PM Harper and Co. are not out to swing mass amounts of voters to their cause; only the core vote with a few extras to get them to that 39% support that wins majority governments. We should not discount the possibility that they'll have more to roll out in the coming weeks. In the meantime, they've relapsed into attack ads on Justin Trudeau and are likely cooking up some for Tom Mulcair.

We await the next Liberal plank with great interest.

Finally, it is getting increasingly difficult to keep up with the Conservatives seemingly endless stream of pernicious legislation. The latest is stuffed into another of their infamous omnibus bills and could be used to 'rewrite history' to provide retroactive protection against potential criminal charges. The agency being protected is the RCMP, but the legislation could be used in the future, as some speculate, to shield the government itself.

Latest public opinion survey results:

Nanos: <http://www.nanosresearch.com/library/polls/Nanos%20Political%20Index%202015-05-08E.pdf>

Ekos: <http://www.ekospolitics.com/index.php/2015/05/federal-race-transforms-into-three-way-tie/>

Forum: <http://poll.forumresearch.com/post/288/all-three-federal-parties-tied/>

Our messages to the public:

Justin Trudeau presents plan to deliver fairness for middle class

Justin Trudeau has a [plan](#) to stand up for the middle class and those working hard to join it.

Over the past two years, Mr. Trudeau has met thousands of Canadians, in hundreds of communities across the country. Their message is clear: under Stephen Harper, middle class Canadians have had to work longer and harder just to make ends meet. Yesterday we learned that [another 1,500 Canadians](#) lost their jobs.

Our plan for fairness:

A Liberal government will make the tax system fairer and cut the middle class tax rate by seven percent. That's a \$3 billion tax cut for those who need it the most.

The Liberal plan will also provide one bigger, fair, tax-free monthly cheque to help families with the high cost of raising their kids.

With the Liberal plan, a typical two parent family, with two kids, earning \$90,000 per year will get \$490 tax-free every month. With Mr. Harper, the same family only receives around \$275 after-tax.

We will ask the wealthiest Canadians to pay a little more so the middle class can pay less. Liberals will cancel Mr. Harper's income splitting and other tax breaks for the wealthy. We will introduce a new tax bracket for the top one percent - on incomes over \$200,000.

Canadians now have two fundamentally different choices. Mr. Harper offers tax breaks for the wealthy. Liberals believe in a country that works for everyone.

Mr. Trudeau's priority is clear: we must strengthen those at the heart of our economy, middle class Canadians, who have not had a decent raise in 30 years. Liberals will continue to present solutions to grow our economy.

On costing:

New Conservative claims about our plan for fairness are misleading and completely inaccurate.

Stephen Harper's Conservatives have turned to baseless attacks. They know that the Liberal plan will put more money in the pockets of the middle class and those working hard to join it.

Our platform will be fully costed, and Liberals will provide Canadians with a plan that restores fiscal responsibility to government.

Items of interest from the news and the party:

- Marc Garneau's blog on the Liberal position on Bill C-51:
<http://marcgarneau.liberal.ca/en/blog/the-liberal-position-on-c-51/>
- Warren Kinsella lists ten reasons why the Liberals were right to vote for C-51 (now nine, given that the public support cited in the first reason has dipped below 50%):
<http://warrenkinsella.com/2015/03/dear-tom-ten-reasons-why-trudeau-is-right-to-support-c-51/>
- A taxpayer-funded Conservative video (featuring the guy who many hope will be working a McDonalds take-out window in November) drew complaints and criticisms:
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/poillievre-paid-public-servants-overtime-to-help-film-promotional-video/article24448233/?cmpid=rss1>
- While the Conservatives say they will not participate in the leaders' debates produced by a consortium of major broadcasters, Justin Trudeau continues major prep for whatever face-offs take place:
<http://www.hilltimes.com/news/news/2015/05/18/trudeau-has-been-doing-dry-runs-of-leaders-tv-debates-for-months/42182?mcl=&muid=>
- The impact of the (un)Fair Elections Act could be frustration at the polls:
<http://ottawacitizen.com/storyline/thousands-of-people-could-show-up-on-election-day-only-to-learn-they-cant-vote>
- The Tories may be out to rewrite laws to retroactively absolve government agencies that break laws:
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/omnibus-budget-bill-alters-history-to-clear-rcmp-of-potential-criminal-charges/article24417074/>

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

First, a reminder of a special event coming up next month in Abbotsford:

Pints & Politics

Monday, June 22nd

6 pm at Phoenix Lounge - 33780 King Road, Abbotsford

To RSVP: Call Brenda at [604-217-9136](tel:604-217-9136)

With a 'weekend of action' scheduled next Saturday and Sunday, the events calendar is crammed!

Team Trudeau: House Meeting in Nanaimo-Ladysmith	May 19, 2015	Nanaimo
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Cloverdale-Langley City	May 19, 2015	Langley
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Nanaimo-Ladysmith	May 19, 2015	Nanaimo
Team Trudeau: House Meeting in Courtenay-Alberni	May 19, 2015	Parksville
Nanaimo-Ladysmith - Coffee and Campaigns	May 19, 2015	Ladysmith
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Chilliwack-Hope	May 19, 2015	Chilliwack
Team Trudeau: Calling for Change in North Vancouver	May 19, 2015	North Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Burnaby North-Seymour	May 19, 2015	Burnaby
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Vancouver Granville, Northwest	May 19, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Calling for Change in Vancouver Centre	May 19, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Vancouver Granville, Oakridge	May 19, 2015	Vancouver
Meet Cindy Derkaz, Candidate for North Okanagan-Shuswap	May 20, 2015	Sicamous
Pints and Politics in Nanaimo-Ladysmith	May 20,	Nanaimo

	2015	
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in North Okanagan-Shuswap	May 20, 2015	Salmon Arm
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Chilliwack-Hope	May 20, 2015	Chilliwack
Team Trudeau: House Meeting in Richmond Centre	May 20, 2015	Richmond
Team Trudeau: Calling for Change in Vancouver Granville, Northeast	May 20, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Calling for Change in Vancouver South, East	May 20, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Calling for Change in Vancouver Granville, Oakridge	May 20, 2015	Vancouver
DEMOCRACY TALKS Canada's Role in the World	May 21, 2015	West Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Cloverdale-Langley City	May 21, 2015	Langley
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Nanaimo-Ladysmith	May 21, 2015	Nanaimo
Meet and Greet with Cindy Derkaz, Candidate for North Okanagan-Shuswap	May 21, 2015	Vernon
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Vancouver Granville, Fairview	May 21, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Calling for Change in Vancouver South, West	May 21, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau: House Meeting in Vancouver Granville, Northwest	May 21, 2015	Vancouver
Annual General Meeting - Nanaimo-Ladysmith	May 21, 2015	Nanaimo
Annual General Meeting - Pitt Meadows-Maple Ridge	May 21,	Pitt Meadows

	2015	
Team Trudeau: Team Meeting in North Vancouver	May 21, 2015	North Vancouver
Building a Better Canada - A Community Conversation with Jonathan Wilkinson	May 21, 2015	North Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Cloverdale-Langley City	May 22, 2015	Langley
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Nanaimo-Ladysmith	May 22, 2015	Nanaimo
Team Trudeau: Calling for Change in Vancouver Granville, Northwest	May 22, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau Day of Action: Sign up to volunteer in Burnaby North-Seymour!	May 23, 2015	Burnaby North-Seymour
Team Trudeau Day of Action: Change on the Doorstep in Vancouver Quadra, Morning Shift	May 23, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau Day of Action: Change on the Doorstep in North Okanagan-Shuswap	May 23, 2015	Vernon
Team Trudeau Day of Action: Change on the Doorstep in Burnaby South (Morning)	May 23, 2015	Burnaby
Team Trudeau Day of Action: Calling for Change in Burnaby South	May 23, 2015	Burnaby
Team Trudeau Day of Action: Calling for Change in North Okanagan-Shuswap	May 23, 2015	Salmon Arm
Annual General Meeting - West Vancouver	May 23, 2015	West Vancouver
Team Trudeau: House Meeting in Nanaimo-Ladysmith	May 23, 2015	Nanaimo
Team Trudeau Day of Action: Calling for Change in North Vancouver	May 23, 2015	North Vancouver
Team Trudeau Day of Action: Change on the Doorstep in	May 23,	Vancouver

Vancouver South	2015	
Team Trudeau Day of Action: Change on the Doorstep in Burnaby South (Afternoon)	May 23, 2015	Burnaby
Team Trudeau Day of Action: Change on the Doorstep in Vancouver Quadra, Afternoon Shift	May 23, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country	May 23, 2015	West Vancouver
Team Trudeau Day of Action: Calling for Change in Nanaimo-Ladysmith	May 23, 2015	Nanaimo
Team Trudeau Day of Action: Change on the Doorstep in North Vancouver	May 23, 2015	North Vancouver
Team Trudeau Day of Action: Sign up to volunteer in Burnaby North-Seymour!	May 24, 2015	Burnaby North-Seymour
Team Trudeau Day of Action: Change on the Doorstep in Burnaby South	May 24, 2015	Burnaby
Team Trudeau Day of Action: Calling for Change in Burnaby South	May 24, 2015	Burnaby
Team Trudeau Day of Action: Change on the Doorstep in Chilliwack-Hope	May 24, 2015	Chilliwack
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country	May 24, 2015	Gibsons
Team Trudeau Day of Action: Calling for Change in North Vancouver	May 24, 2015	North Vancouver
Team Trudeau Day of Action: Calling for Change in Vancouver South	May 24, 2015	Vancouver
Annual General Meeting - Vancouver Centre	May 24, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau Day of Action: Change on the Doorstep in Nanaimo-Ladysmith	May 24, 2015	Ladysmith
Team Trudeau Day of Action: Change on the Doorstep in	May 24,	Vancouver

Vancouver Quadra	2015	
Team Trudeau Day of Action: Calling for Change in Vancouver Quadra	May 24, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Calling for Change in Vancouver Granville, Fairview	May 24, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau Day of Action: Change on the Doorstep in North Vancouver	May 24, 2015	North Vancouver
Pints and Politics in Nanaimo-Ladysmith	May 24, 2015	Ladysmith
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country	May 25, 2015	Sechelt
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in North Okanagan-Shuswap	May 25, 2015	Salmon Arm
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Vancouver Quadra	May 25, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Calling for Change in Vancouver Granville, Northwest	May 25, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Vancouver Granville, Oakridge	May 25, 2015	Vancouver

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!