

This week has kicked off with a couple of major policy announcements from the Liberal Party. Leader Justin Trudeau has pledged the following measures to bring about 'fairness for the middle class':

1. A Liberal government will cut the tax rate for middle class earners from 22 per cent to 20.5 per cent

2. There will be a new Canada Child Benefit - a monthly, tax-free amount that will be paid to parents of children, including single parents, divorced parents, or families with stay-at-home fathers or mothers. It will be a progressive benefit, with more for lower income people. For a family of four with total income of \$90,000, the benefit will be \$490 per month. For a single mother earning around \$30,000 per year, the tax-free amount would receive \$6400 per year tax free.

3. To pay for this, there will be a new tax rate for 'the top one per cent' of earners - defined as those making over \$200,000 per year. The Liberals have already vowed to rescind the Conservatives' income-splitting plan, which would give between \$2 to \$3 billion per year to only 15 per cent of Canadian families, disproportionately to the wealthy, and would exclude single parents. In response to media questions, Mr. Trudeau said that the Liberals would rescind the increase in the Tax Free Savings Account limit because of its long-term impact on government revenues but would not reverse pension splitting for seniors.

Mr. Trudeau said that this is the first in a series of announcements that will roll out in the coming months.

Reaction to the Conservatives' federal budget continues to be muted. The increase in the TSFA limit to \$10,000 per year has generated support, but a Nanos public opinion survey released today says that Canadians would give greater support to improvements to the Canada Pension Plan, which have been called for by both the Liberals and the NDP. With little focus on the economy, the budget has not produced any apparent lift to public approval ratings for the Conservatives, while analysts say the impact of the anti-terrorism/security issue has faded. Finance Minister Joe Oliver's comment that dealing with the future decrease in federal government revenues due to the higher TSFA limit would be 'up to Stephen Harper's granddaughter' provided an opening for the opposition to highlight the weakness in the Tories' strategy.

All eyes will be on the Alberta provincial election tomorrow, where, according to the polls, a stunning breakthrough may vault the NDP into power after 44 years of Conservative government...not to mention the preceding dynasty of the conservative Social Credit Party. Then again, the polls were dead wrong in the previous Alberta election. Still, with the NDP appearing to have absorbed the Liberal vote in Alberta, many will be looking for spin-off traction for the federal NDP.

Latest public opinion survey results

Nanos: <http://www.nanosresearch.com/library/polls/Nanos%20Political%20Index%202015-04-24E.pdf>

Ekos: <http://www.ekospolitics.com/index.php/2015/05/budget-lands-with-a-thud-as-voters-intentions-locked-in/>

Forum: <http://poll.forumresearch.com/post/273/approval-highest-among-seniors-the-wealthy-and-males>

Our messages to the public:

Liberals focused on jobs and growth for middle class

Under Stephen Harper, Canadians have faced rising debt and unemployment, stagnant incomes, and continued deficits. Yesterday, 1,000 more Canadians in the auto industry learned that they will now be out of work, and Statistics Canada confirmed that, so far this year, Canada has seen no economic growth at all.

Instead of introducing a plan to grow the economy, Mr. 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.

Liberals are committed to cancelling Mr. Harper's unfair tax breaks. We will use this money to help the middle class and those working hard to join it.

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.

Items of interest from the news and the party:

-Media reaction to today's announcement by Justin Trudeau:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/liberals-propose-middle-income-tax-cut-new-child-benefit/article24241118/>

<http://news.nationalpost.com/news/canada/canadian-politics/justin-trudeau-unveils-his-plan-tax-hikes-on-the-rich-to-boost-child-care-benefits>

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/justin-trudeau-plan-taxes-top-1-to-cut-taxes-boost-benefits-for-middle-class-1.3060323>

<http://globalnews.ca/news/1978064/trudeau-unveils-major-economic-plank/>

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/trudeau-unveils-liberals-major-economic-plank-1.2356892>

<http://www.ipolitics.ca/2015/05/04/trudeau-pitches-tax-hike-for-rich-tax-cuts-for-middle-class/>

-Some key questions arising in Alberta's election focus on how little Canada is getting for its natural resources:

http://theyyee.ca/Opinion/2015/05/04/Alberta-Election-Nerves/?utm_source=daily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=040515

<http://www.canada.com/News/canada/Tory+more+likely+reap+gains+from+income+splitting/11025449/story.html>

-The Ottawa Citizen has concluded that some of the biggest winners from the Conservatives' income splitting plan are Conservative MP's:

<http://www.canada.com/News/canada/Tory+more+likely+reap+gains+from+income+splitting/11025449/story.html>

-The Council of Canadians has enlisted the 'rogue Parliamentary page' Brigitte DePape to build the youth vote:

[https://secure.canadians.org/ea-](https://secure.canadians.org/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=1899&ea.campaign.id=33104&ea.url.id=354315)

[action/action?ea.client.id=1899&ea.campaign.id=33104&ea.url.id=354315](https://secure.canadians.org/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=1899&ea.campaign.id=33104&ea.url.id=354315)

-Some background analysis on the issue of a Liberal-NDP coalition:

[http://theyyee.ca/Opinion/2015/05/01/Liberal-NDP-Coalition-](http://theyyee.ca/Opinion/2015/05/01/Liberal-NDP-Coalition-Inevitable/?utm_source=daily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=010515)

[Inevitable/?utm_source=daily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=010515](http://theyyee.ca/Opinion/2015/05/01/Liberal-NDP-Coalition-Inevitable/?utm_source=daily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=010515)

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/>

Team Trudeau Outreach: Coffee Meeting in North Okanagan-Shuswap	May 5, 2015	Vernon
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Vancouver Granville, Northwest	May 5, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Vancouver Quadra	May 6, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Calling for Change in Vancouver South, West	May 6, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Vancouver South, East	May 6, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Calling for Change in Vancouver Granville, Northeast	May 6, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Calling for Change in Vancouver Granville, Oakridge	May 6, 2015	Vancouver
Annual General Meeting - Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke	May 6, 2015	Colwood
Team Trudeau Outreach: Coffee Meeting with Terry Beech in Burnaby North-Seymour	May 7, 2015	North Vancouver
Fundraising Mixer for David Merner	May 7, 2015	Colwood
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in North Vancouver	May 7, 2015	North Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Vancouver Centre	May 7, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Vancouver Granville, Oakridge	May 7, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Vancouver Granville, Fairview	May 7, 2015	Vancouver

Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Vancouver South, West	May 7, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Team Meeting in North Vancouver	May 7, 2015	North Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in North Okanagan-Shuswap	May 9, 2015	Vernon
May Day Parade at the Campaign Office	May 9, 2015	Port Coquitlam
DEMOCRACY TALKS Hope for Healthcare	May 9, 2015	Sechelt
Team Trudeau: House Meeting in Vancouver Granville, Oakridge	May 9, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country	May 9, 2015	Gibsons
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Victoria	May 9, 2015	Victoria
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Vancouver Granville, Northeast	May 9, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in North Vancouver	May 9, 2015	North Vancouver
Mother's Day Lunch with the Honourable Hedy Fry	May 10, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Central Okanagan-Similkameen-Nicola	May 10, 2015	Central Okanagan— Similkameen—Nicola
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Vancouver Quadra	May 11, 2015	Vancouver

Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Burnaby North-Seymour	May 11, 2015	Burnaby
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in North Okanagan-Shuswap	May 11, 2015	Salmon Arm
Team Trudeau: Change on the Doorstep in Vancouver Centre	May 11, 2015	Vancouver
Team Trudeau Training in Vancouver South	May 11, 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!