

There have been many reflections on the impact of the extra campaign time for the election, most to date observing that it will take until after Labour Day for people to start paying attention. But the daily revelations from the Mike Duffy trial seem to be dragging the election into the discussion as Stephen Harper and the Prime Minister's Office have been under a critical microscope.

The extent to which Nigel Wright and others in the PMO sought to manage Mr. Duffy's situation may be unsettling to Canadians, as might the power and influence wielded by that office. There are aspects of this that will be particularly troublesome for those holding traditional conservative values, and it will be interesting to see if this all has an impact on that 'core' vote that normally supports the Tories through thick or thin. The issue has major potential to shape the campaign as it moves into the post-Labour Day phase.

In terms of the campaign itself, the Conservatives have made a number of announcements that either involve targeted spending programs or measures that will have an impact on future government revenues, most notably the proposal to bring back a home renovation tax credit and to preserve the higher limit on Tax Free Savings Accounts. These have not received positive reviews from analysts. Justin Trudeau announced a new plan to assist Canada's indigenous communities, particularly in education, funding for children and family services and a reiteration of a promise to launch a national public enquiry into missing and murdered women. Mr. Trudeau has made public calls for the Conservatives to address the issues raised in the Duffy Trial

Mr. Mulcair has been missing from a number of news cycles, but the rise of the NDP under his leadership continues to be examined in the media.

The polls continue to be all over the place:

Latest Public Opinion Survey Results:

Nanos: <http://www.nanosresearch.com/library/polls/Nanos%20Ballot%202015-08-07E.pdf>

Ekos: <http://www.ekospolitics.com/index.php/2015/08/fractured-country-produces-tight-and-unpredictable-race/>

Forum: <http://poll.forumresearch.com/post/328/3-in-10-do-not-need-the-money/>

Leger: http://leger360.com/admin/upload/publi_pdf/soen20150815.pdf

Our messages to the public:

Now that we are into the most dynamic stretch of the campaign, the Party HQ has launched its Social Media Red Team - fast breaking information and messages that we can use in our networks.

Our Seniors' Commission release on Voter ID information has been sent to all senior Liberals in BC, with a request to share with neighbours, family and friends who may need to take extra steps in order to vote. The details are here: <http://federalslcbc.ca/voter-info/>

Sign up to get the latest campaign bulletins here: <https://www.liberal.ca/rr-opt-in/>

Items of interest from the news and the Party:

-The National Observer - an online news source - disassembles efforts by the Prime Minister's Office to manage the Duffy affair:

<http://www.nationalobserver.com/2015/08/17/opinion/your-lie-detector-guide-latest-pmo-spin>

-An article in the Huffington Post from an ex-NDP MP sheds a critical light on Mr. Mulcair's leadership style:

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2015/08/17/bruce-hyer-thomas-mulcair_n_7996188.html?utm_hp_ref=tw

-The New York Times published an article from Canadian writer Stephen Marche that claims 'darkness and ignorance' have been products of Stephen Harper's regime:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/16/opinion/sunday/the-closing-of-the-canadian-mind.html?smid=fb-share& r=0>

-Ralph Surette of the Halifax Chronicle-Herald zeros in on what seems to be the Conservatives' path to electoral success.:

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/opinion/1303862-surette-harper-banks-on-the-distracted-to-pursue-destructive-spreed>

-Macleans is the latest to take the NDP to task over its \$15 minimum wage promise:

<http://www.macleans.ca/economy/economicanalysis/why-the-numbers-behind-the-ndps-minimum-wage-promise-dont-add-up/>

-Gerald Caplan, writing in the Globe & Mail, believes the Conservatives are running out of tricks and time:

http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/stephen-harper-running-out-of-tricks-to-win-back-canadian-voters/article25986465/?click=sf_globefb

Looking ahead: --

Click here: <http://event.liberal.ca/#/en/events> enter your riding name and find an event near you.

This is the time when your effort to show up at an event will give volunteers and candidates the boost they need, better yet if you're able to volunteer yourself!

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!