

A day late this week, thanks to a rather brisk wind that transported us back to the 19th century for a couple of days (56 hours, in fact). But while we cooked our breakfasts over the barbie, the campaign lit up some more burners. If you'll pardon the cooking/food analogies (cooking being akin to the Quest for Fire for the last few days), it seems that Mr. Harper is crisped and Mr. Mulcair is badly burnt but Mr. Trudeau has risen wonderfully.

Everyone is watching to see if the Duffy trial will now start to peel away some of that Conservative core, which has kept Mr. Harper at the 30% support level through thick and mostly thin. For good Tories who hold dearly to their values, the exhibition of manipulation and mendacity coming out of the Prime Minister's Office must be too much to take. The thin gruel of the Conservative platform mustn't be overly satisfying either. Although I'm not a fan of using casual comments as 'gotcha' moments, Mr. Harper's 'don't let me handle the cash' comment at a Tim Hortons, just a few hours before Stats Canada confirmed we were in a technical recession, are but nasty sprinkles on the top of a stale donut.

Now to Mr. Mulcair. His platform might remind you of a rip-off donut with a big air pocket inside and none of the promised filling. Both the Liberals and the Conservatives set upon him over the last two days for his disparate collection of programs and spending announcements that: a) - will not work, and ; b) - he can't pay for and still balance the budget. Leaving aside the deliberate deception in the NDP's \$15 minimum wage promise (only for federally-regulated workers, not the folks at Timmies), Mr. Mulcair appeared to suggest that he could achieve a balanced budget in part by abolishing the senate in time for fiscal 2015/2017 next April. Maybe he didn't actually make that connection in comments to the CBC, but stranger things have come out of his campaign. His promise of a national \$15 per day child care program has suffered severe damages with work from Ontario and BC that they might be reluctant to commit to their 40% share of the funding. Now other challenges are emerging that may call into question the NDP's ability to deliver on its transit infrastructure program (which remains inferior to the Liberal plan) or to its health care funding commitment.

While NDP and Conservative programs were starting to darken and curl at the edges, the Liberals turned up the heat. There was a new program for veterans that will restore the kind of benefits and respect they deserve. This added to the new strategy for our First Nations and aboriginals that will undo years of neglect. The economic platform has clearly differentiated the Liberals from the other two, with promises of jobs and progress as opposed to austerity and cuts. The reaction from the media, municipalities and many others who follow the issues closely has been significantly positive. We have two half-baked platforms and one that appears to be juuusst right.

In past posts, it has been noted how much the NDP has been behaving like the Conservatives. Now commentators have also been making that connection. While one might understand why Mr. Harper would want to stay the course he has followed throughout his time as Prime Minister, it is more than strange that Mr. Mulcair has set the NDP on pretty much the same course. Austerity in the face of Recession 2.0 during Mr. Harper's watch takes both of them back to the time of RB Bennett, who also preached the virtues of smaller, less-engaged government just as the Great Depression began. We all know how that worked for us....all, it seems, but the leaders of the Tories and the NDP.

Now, with 49 days left, we'll watch with interest how Canadians react to the menus being offered.

### **Latest Public Opinion Survey Results:**

Nanos: <http://www.nanosresearch.com/library/polls/Nanos%20Ballot%202015-08-28E.pdf>

Ekos: <http://www.ekospolitics.com/index.php/2015/08/duffy-awakening-slumbering-electorate/>

### **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:**

-Justin Trudeau makes 'a bold move' with the Liberal economic platform - Toronto Star:

<http://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorials/2015/08/28/justin-trudeaus-bold-move-editorial.html>

<http://www.thestar.com/opinion/commentary/2015/08/26/trudeau-is-talking-sense-amid-deficit-hysteria.html>

-Justin Trudeau - a review and analysis - National Observer:

<http://www.nationalobserver.com/2015/08/25/news/justin-trudeaus-fight-top>

-Economic credibility will become the major issue - Macleans:

[https://video-sea1-1.xx.fbcdn.net/hvideo-xpf1/v/t42.1790-2/11893002\\_10153476910883950\\_1521215654\\_n.mp4?efg=eyJybHIiOjMwMCwicmxhIjo1NTZ9&rl=300&vabr=126&oh=b1a42fae867fdb9967871bec6ec9fe6f&oe=55E63069](https://video-sea1-1.xx.fbcdn.net/hvideo-xpf1/v/t42.1790-2/11893002_10153476910883950_1521215654_n.mp4?efg=eyJybHIiOjMwMCwicmxhIjo1NTZ9&rl=300&vabr=126&oh=b1a42fae867fdb9967871bec6ec9fe6f&oe=55E63069)

-Tom Mulcair has moved the NDP to the right...maybe too far - Vancouver Sun:

<http://www.vancouversun.com/sports/Mulcair+closet+Tory+From+Israel+Thatcher+seven+reasons/11315647/story.html>

-Raising money for NDP programs with a higher corporate tax may be a challenge - Vancouver Sun / Macleans / National Post:

<http://epaper.vancouversun.com/epaper/viewer.aspx?noredirect=true>

<http://www.macleans.ca/economy/economicanalysis/why-the-ndps-exact-plan-for-the-federal-corporate-tax-rate-matters/>

<http://news.nationalpost.com/full-comment/andrew-coyne-on-tom-mulcairs-amazing-vow>

-Did he or didn't he? Tom Mulcair may have said he could balance the budget by abolishing the Senate, but like other NDP promises, this one doesn't add up - CTV:

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/election/fact-check-mulcair-says-harper-spent-1b-on-the-senate-1.2536030>

### **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!

...and then there's 'Just don't let me handle the cash' : [https://video-sea1-1.xx.fbcdn.net/hvideo-xfp1/v/t42.1790-2/11958749\\_1115801511782016\\_2139587655\\_n.mp4?efg=eyJybHIiOjgzNywicmxhIjo1MTJ9&rl=837&vabr=465&oh=8492448378da9736a03b033460bb0cdc&oe=55E62AC5](https://video-sea1-1.xx.fbcdn.net/hvideo-xfp1/v/t42.1790-2/11958749_1115801511782016_2139587655_n.mp4?efg=eyJybHIiOjgzNywicmxhIjo1MTJ9&rl=837&vabr=465&oh=8492448378da9736a03b033460bb0cdc&oe=55E62AC5)

### **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!