

The campaigning and the polling are hitting a fever pitch and the election is turning out to be a real horse race. Just what the media loves but tough on the constitutions of those in the various campaigns. The big news of the day was the release of the Liberals' seniors platform and the big news in that announcement was the promise of a 10 per cent lift in the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), aimed at helping the poorest of our seniors. The Liberals would create a special inflation index that tracks things that seniors tend to buy and use it to increase both the GIS and the Old Age Security payments. Over the past week, the Liberals have announced an enhanced program for youth employment and reforms to the Employment Insurance system, both of which respond to issues raised with Justin Trudeau in his travels over the past 18 months.

The next leaders' debate is on Thursday and the subject in the Munk Debates session will be the economy. Mr. Mulcair has been increasingly challenged over the apparent gap between the sum of his campaign promises and the money available to him in the balanced budget he promises to table next spring. The Conservatives will point to the results released today showing a \$1.9 billion surplus for the 2014/15 fiscal year, but it is certain that analysts will be examining this claim closely to see if it passes the 'sniff test'. The Liberals, of course, are proposing three years of deficits - no more than \$10 Billion per year before returning to a balanced budget in 2019. The proposed deficit is only half of the average annual deficit the Conservatives have recorded over the past seven years. The Globe & Mail has published an article on the whole issue of surpluses and deficits, and which of them is appropriate for Canada right now (see below).

And then there are the polls. There seems to be great volatility in the results, with fairly significant swings taking place every day. All three parties are essentially in a dead heat nationally, but there are regional results that show quite an uneven picture across the country. The Liberals continue to be well out in front in the Maritimes, the NDP are doing well in Quebec and BC (although the Liberals will do better than in 2011 on the Coast), the Conservatives own the prairies (as usual) and Ontario it's a two-way race between the Liberals and the Tories. With it all being so close, the coalition discussion refuses to go away, with the Green Party's Elizabeth May offering to broker a deal between the Liberals and the NDP to deny power to Mr. Harper.

Latest Public Opinion Survey Results:

Nanos: <http://www.nanosresearch.com/library/polls/20150913%20Ballot%20TrackingE.pdf> - Nanos will now be doing daily tracking using a three-day rolling average.

Forum: <http://poll.forumresearch.com/post/1374/liberals-tied-with-conservatives-in-second/>

Ekos: <http://www.ekospolitics.com/index.php/2015/09/how-the-yawning-chasm-across-conservative-and-progressive-canada-masks-the-real-prospects-for-harpers-conservatives/>

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:

- Here's the Party's release on the Seniors platform:
<https://www.liberal.ca/files/2015/09/Retirement-security-for-our-seniors.pdf>
- About that 'surprising ' surplus announced today - Globe & Mail:
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-debate/editorials/how-to-react-to-canadas-surprising-budget-surplus/article26361999/>
- The Form Poll on Canada's Economic Action Plan - not much of a plan...not much action either:
<http://poll.forumresearch.com/post/1376/blame-poor-government-planning-for-poor-economy/>
- Once was evidently enough as Stephen Harper won't debate Elizabeth May - National Observer:
<http://www.nationalobserver.com/2015/09/14/opinion/four-reasons-why-stephen-harper-wont-debate-elizabeth-may>
- Jean Chretien strikes again in the Globe & Mail:
<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/jean-chretien-stephen-harper-ashamed-1.3225673>
- Justin Trudeau merits a closer look from the undecideds - Toronto Star:
<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2015/09/11/undecided-voters-giving-trudeau-a-look.html>

- The Hill Times sees the Liberals on a winning streak:
<http://www.hilltimes.com/opinion-piece/2015/09/14/liberals-build-momentum-in-tight-race/43353>

- Many have been asking...can the NDP keep its promises? - CTV
<http://www.ctvnews.ca/ctv-national-news/video?clipId=703476&binId=1.1299042&playlistPageNum=1>

- 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!