

First, apologies for the absence of this item last Monday. Our Fleetwood-Port Kells campaign is in high gear, and yours truly, The Candidate, is covering the ground on foot and by phone. A fascinating experience that I will undoubtedly parlay into a few liquid lunches after October 19th.

Some months ago, we mused in this space about the terrifying situation the NDP was facing: high in the polls for reasons they couldn't understand and thus could not manage. Now, all the signs are there -- they have not succeeded in efforts to maintain their lead. Over the past two to three weeks, there has been a gradual, but now escalating decay in their polling, with both the party and Mr. Mulcair slipping back into third place in Ontario and their Quebec bastion looking more vulnerable. While all polls now are extremely suspect, the trends can still provide a somewhat reliable glimpse as to what's going on. In BC, the trends in eastern Canada may begin to undermine the NDP's currently-strong showing if voters recognize that the best place chance of ousting the Conservatives rests with the Liberals.

The Conservatives continue to hover around the 30% support mark, bolstered it seems by their stand on the refugee and niqab issues. Fear, suspicion and division continue to be strong, motivating forces in Canada, and the latest wave of angst appears to have flowed out of the French language debate in Quebec. A sizeable number of voters appear to be under the impression that Mr. Harper has done a good job of managing the economy, although we've found that a few simple factoids can change this perception right on the doorstep. Still, so many doorsteps and so little time. With Conservatives so exposed on so many issues, the 'air war' (campaign ads) will play a key role in the remaining three weeks. We've had a big lift from the number of people who tell us they are quite fed up with the Conservative ads, which as we know, have saturated the airwaves for over a year.

The Liberal campaign has featured a series of policy announcements that have highlighted intelligent, coherent and results-based initiatives. Not only has the Party laid out a distinctly different strategy for the country, the substance presented is far and away superior. A key example was the Party's platform costing document which provided comprehensive details in sharp contrast to the NDP's one-page costing document that left reporters grumbling for more details. There will be more platform rollouts in the coming days and we should prepare to support those announcements on our social media channels, given the traditional absence of major media coverage of policy matters during the campaign. With a foreign affairs debate scheduled today, the focus for the leaders will be to provide the quotable quotes that will appear on newscasts and reach more people than the debate itself.

We can expect a major GOTV (Get Out The Vote) push to begin in the lead-up to the Thanksgiving Day weekend.

Latest Public Opinion Survey Results:

Nanos: <http://www.nanosresearch.com/library/polls/20150927%20Ballot%20TrackingE.pdf>

Forum: <http://poll.forumresearch.com/post/1388/conservative-minority-liberal-opposition-seen/>

Ekos: <http://www.ekospolitics.com/index.php/2015/09/conservatives-swing-into-lead/>

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.

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 Conservative 'fear campaign' trips up star candidate Dianne Watts - Vancouver Sun:

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Star+Tory+candidate+Dianne+Watts+denies+fear+mongering+flyer+controversy/11385518/story.html>

- NDP fortunes fading in Quebec...falling in Ontario - Globe & Mail:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ndp-fading-in-new-poll/article26556882/>

- Competition is tough in BC - National results could swing the undecided - Globe & Mail:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/trudeau-struggling-to-win-over-bc-voters-despite-direct-tv-pitch/article26556323/>

- The Conservatives continue to claim that the Liberals will cancel pension splitting - Liberals respond:

<http://www.liberal.ca/fact-check-trudeau-will-keep-pension-income-splitting-for-seniors/>

- 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>
- Another crushing opinion piece against the Conservatives in the New York Times (from 2013):
http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/09/23/new-york-times-harper-conservatives-science_n_3975521.html
- Canada's standing in the world...not as great as it used to be - Toronto Star:
<http://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorials/2015/09/28/canadas-chance-to-walk-taller-in-the-world-editorial.html>
- **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!