

Making Canada Post a community affair p. 6

Inflation squeeze shocked money watchers p. 4



Les Whittinton p.9

Atoning for treatment of Black Battalion Scott Taylor p. 7

Aerospace policy briefing pp.19-26

Erica Ifill p.13



THE HILL TIMES

THIRTY-THIRD YEAR, NO. 1882

CANADA'S POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2021 \$5.00

NEWS

Canada may be back at pre-pandemic employment levels, but the hard part isn't over, say experts

BY ALICE CHEN

As Canada comes out of the COVID-19 pandemic, early impressions of good economic recovery may be fool's gold, say experts, who point to new and long-standing issues that will require government action.

The good news is that according to the recent Statistics Canada October Labour Force Survey, employment nationally has maintained the pre-pandemic levels it returned to in September, with 19.16-million employed Canadians (compared to 19.13-million in

Continued on page 18

'There is work to be done'

Governor General Mary Simon, her husband Whit Fraser, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau process into the Senate Chamber for the Throne Speech on Nov. 23. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade



NEWS

'COVID is just purely an excuse': Advocates call for auditor general review of access to information regime

BY NEIL MOSS

With government departments still citing COVID-19 as causing delays in processing access to information requests more than 20 months since the onset of the pandemic, those who use the system are asking why the government can operate as usual,

Continued on page 14

NEWS

House committees set to be whipped up as MPs settle in

How committees are struck and how long it takes varies Parliament to Parliament, and depends on what parties agree to through negotiations.

BY LAURA RYCKEWAERT

Government House Leader Mark Holland kicked off the new Parliament by setting out a list of bills the Liberals want to see passed in the next four weeks, before the House of Commons rises for a six-week break on Dec. 17, but to do that, the government

will need to move fast to strike committees.

In a press conference Nov. 22, Mr. Holland (Ajax, Ont.) said "with co-operation" from opposition parties, he thinks it's possible for the House to quickly adopt legislation to continue COVID-19 supports, protect health-care workers and facilities, introduce 10-day paid sick leave for federally regulated workers, and ban conversion therapy.

"I think with goodwill, all of the things that I mentioned are possible in terms of adoption by the Christmas period," he said.

Passing legislation requires committees to be up and running.

Continued on page 15

NEWS

Following Three Amigos summit, Canada looking for friends in U.S. Senate to curtail EV tax credit

BY NEIL MOSS

Without securing a deal during the Three Amigos summit on an electric vehicle tax credit that is part of the Biden administration's \$1.75-trillion "Build Back Better" legislation, Canada will now turn its eyes to the U.S. Senate to see if it can find supporters of Canada's position.

The American bill, which passed the House of Representa-

tives on Nov. 19, includes a tax credit of up to \$12,500 for electric vehicles (EVs) that are manufactured exclusively in the United States.

Lobbying Capitol Hill has been a recurring strategy for Canada as a recognition of Congress' role in international trade—performed by cabinet members, MPs and Senators, and the congressional

Continued on page 28

Publications Mail Agreement #40068926 0 94922 81130 1



Alice Chen

Heard On The Hill

Embattled Greens look to fill in their leader spot on an interim basis



Former Green Party leader Annamie Paul is pictured at a Sept. 10 press conference in Ottawa. The Green Party is looking for an interim leader to fill the void left by Ms. Paul's resignation. *The Hill Times* photograph by Sam Garcia

After the drama of party in-fighting and the pointed exit statement former Green leader **Annamie Paul** made on Sept. 27 when she said “I didn’t realize ... I was breaking a glass ceiling that was going to fall on my head,” the party is now looking mercilessly forward and is ready to find a new interim leader.

The party made the call for interim leader ahead of an upcoming member-voted leadership review. Applications were open from Nov. 15 to Nov. 19. Those interested in the job had to be a member of the Green Party in good standing, with no debt owed to the party, “no open litigation” against the party, and have knowledge of the Greens’ “guiding principles, policy, platform, and positions.”

Longtime Green MP **Elizabeth May** (Saanich–Gulf Islands, B.C.) was one of the expected suspects to take this role but she declined, in order to concentrate more on her MP duties, a logical decision given the lowered seat count of her caucus in the House.

Jo-Ann Roberts, the former interim leader who stepped up in 2019 when Ms. May stepped down, was similarly urged to take on the role, but also said no, citing a need to focus on the book she is writing about democracy.

Whoever ends up going up to this position, temporary as it may be, will find themselves leading a weakened party, shut down partially by financial woes and expenditures used in legal battles with its former leader.

As advertised, among the key attributes for candidates to demonstrate were an “ability to use ‘inspired leadership’ to reach a common Green vision and political strategy”; have a “demonstrated sensitivity towards and recognition of the needs and rights of equity-seeking groups including but not limited to IBPoC, women, LGBTQ2+, youth and linguistic duality”; as well as the “ability to lead a healing process aimed at re-establishing member’s confidence” in the Green Party.

Pierre Nantel makes another political go

Former NDP MP **Pierre Nantel** is looking to make his entry to Quebec provincial politics. The Parti Québécois said Mr.

Nantel will be its candidate in an upcoming byelection in the province’s Marie-Victorin district, which is expected to be held after Christmas. The previous MNA, **Catherine Fournier**, was elected mayor of Longueuil on Nov. 7.

Mr. Nantel, first elected as a New Democrat in 2011 to represent what would become Longueuil-Saint-Hubert, Que., ended his federal career as an Independent MP in 2019, booted from caucus that summer after the party confirmed his intentions to run under the Green Party banner in that fall’s election. He came in third in the 2019 election, receiving 11.3 per cent of the vote, behind the Liberal and victorious Bloc Québécois candidate, **Denis Trudel**—who kept his seat in September’s election, with 41.2 per cent of the vote.



Former NDP MP Pierre Nantel will run for a seat in Quebec’s legislature for the Parti Québécois. *The Hill Times* file photograph

Mr. Nantel said during a Nov. 21 press conference that the PQs are the party with strongest climate measures, and that he ran as a Green federally because the climate crisis was a key issue for the residents of his riding.

Senator Batters gets kicked out of the Conservative faction, drama ensues

Conservative Leader **Erin O’Toole** may not be able to kick MPs out of his caucus, but that didn’t stop him from giving Senator **Denise Batters** the boot.

The Saskatchewan Senator was unceremoniously removed from the Conservative

caucus on Nov. 16, one day after launching a petition and urging party members to add their name to a call for a CPC leadership review within six months. She said Mr. O’Toole “reversed core policies” without input from members and caucus and ultimately lost the party the election.

Mr. O’Toole volleyed back that evening. “As the leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, I will not tolerate an individual discrediting and showing a clear lack of respect towards the efforts of the entire Conservative caucus,” started Mr. O’Toole in the two-paragraph missive that quickly turned to an attack on Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** and his “disastrous” Liberal government.

Good try, but people are probably more interested in the Conservative fratricide in full swing.

Speaking of, Sen. Batters quickly swung back in response to the 7:41 p.m. statement, tweeting at 8:13 p.m. that the move was an effort to silence her for giving members a voice.



Sen. Denise Batters was removed from the national Conservative caucus on Nov. 16. *Photograph courtesy of Conservative.ca*

“I will not be silenced by a leader so weak that he fired me via voicemail,” Sen. Batters said in the evening tweet. And she posted the link to the petition again for good measure.

“It was a necessary decision to make for the well-being of our caucus, our Parliament and our country,” Mr. O’Toole said to reporters before a Conservative caucus meeting on Nov. 17. “We’re united on our way forward as a team. People that are now allowing their frustrations and their own personal agendas or issues on the pandemic to interfere with our progress are not part of that team.”

Though Sen. Batters was removed from the national Tory caucus, she remains a member of the Senate’s Conservative caucus.

A senior Conservative told *The Hill Times* that it would require a vote in the 18-member caucus to kick Sen. Batters out. A simple majority, 10 Senators, would have to vote in support of the motion removing her from the caucus. According to this source, based on the Aug. 16 meeting of the Conservative Senate caucus, the leadership does not have enough support to do this.

Christmas lights scatter across the four winds of Canada

With winter and Christmas fast approaching, lights are preparing to brighten up our national nights with a flurry of activity and radiant joy.



A holiday light display is returning to Parliament Hill next month. *Unsplash* photograph by Cole Ciarllo

Specifically, as Canadian Heritage minister **Pablo Rodriguez** unveiled on Nov. 18, the Christmas Lights Across Canada programming will be flying all around the country to celebrate the Canadian winter.

“People in Canada’s Capital Region can enjoy the new multimedia projection on Parliament Hill every evening from Dec. 8 to Jan. 7, free of charge. The 15-minute show will play on a loop from 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. It will combine digital imagery and music on the impressive backdrop of Parliament Hill’s architecture. You’ll see luminous sparks travelling across the Canadian landscape, adding light to winter evenings,” reads the press release announcing the news.

“While in Canada’s Capital Region, people can enjoy the Pathway of Lights along Confederation Boulevard, a ceremonial route through the capital. As in other parts of the country, the lights will highlight many sites and monuments.”

There will even be a television show, called *IllumiNATION—A Celebration of the Winter Solstice*, which will invite Canadians to “discover, share and celebrate Canadian traditions and legends.” It will be first broadcast Dec. 21 at 8 p.m. on the Canadian Heritage YouTube, Rogers TV, and OMNI Television.

Journalists jailed, released in northwest B.C.

Award-winning photojournalist **Amber Bracken** spent the weekend in jail after being arrested by the RCMP while out doing the journalistic duties integral to our democracy.

Specifically, she was on assignment for *The Narwhal* in Wet’suwet’en territory in northwest B.C.

Arrested on Nov. 19, she was held in a jail cell in Prince George, B.C., along with dozens of Indigenous land defenders who had set up camp at a Coastal GasLink work site.

As *The Narwhal*’s daily newsletter on the subject succinctly states: “Journalism is not a crime.”

“Amber’s arrest—along with the arrest of freelance filmmaker **Michael Toledano**—marks just the latest in a long string of illegal RCMP actions against journalists,” the newsletter reads.

“Amber was there to act as eyes for the rest of us, as the conflict on Wet’suwet’en territory has raised crucial questions of justice and Indigenous rights that have reverberated across Canada.”

Ms. Bracken and Mr. Toledano were released on Nov. 22 after a court appearance and a promise to respect the B.C. Supreme Court injunction that prohibits the land defenders from occupying the pipeline worksite—which would keep them from carrying out their jobs as journalists documenting the RCMP’s enforcement of the injunction at the site.

achen@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times



New Metric Media's LETTERKENNY



Circle Blue Entertainment, Freddie Films and Waterstar Entertainment's DIGGSTOWN



Kratt Brothers Company and 9 Story Media Group's WILD KRATTS



Shaftesbury's DEPARTURE



Hamilton-Mehta Productions' FUNNY BOY



Eagle Vision, ICF Films and Entertainment One's BURDEN OF TRUTH



Seven24 Films and Cineflix Media's WYNONNA EARP



Boat Rucker's ORPHAN BLACK



No Trace Camping Productions' ROOM



Omnifilm Entertainment's JADE FEVER



Rezolution Pictures' MOHAWK GIRLS



Sphere Media's TRANSPLANT



Sinking Ship Entertainment's DINO DANA THE MOVIE



marblemedia's BLOWN AWAY

YOU KNOW WHO MAKES THE TV SHOWS AND MOVIES YOU LOVE? CANADA'S INDEPENDENT PRODUCERS.

Let's build on our industry's success by keeping the content we make — the stories we tell — proudly independent and truly Canadian.



Canadian Media Producers Association

cmpa.ca

News



Deputy Bank of Canada Governor Lawrence Schembri recently said employment is the most important determinate of our economy's productive capacity—and that labour market uncertainties 'pose a challenge to the foundations of this paradigm.' *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

Inflation pressures on economy, workforce 'absolutely surprised' everyone, including BoC, says top economist

There have been a variety of reasons why inflation has 'absolutely surprised' everyone, including the persistence of strong energy prices and how widespread supply issues have been globally, says BMO's Douglas Porter.

BY MIKE LAPOINTE

Long-term unemployment levels in Canada remain stubbornly high, despite increasing consumer demand as people look to return to normal, with "ferocious inflation pressures" having caught the Bank of Canada and other economic forecasters flat-footed at this stage of the pandemic, according to one top economist.

Deputy Governor of the Bank of Canada Lawrence Schembri spoke to the Canadian Association for Business Economics on Nov. 16, touching on the interplay between labour market uncertainties and monetary policy. They

have become more pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has dominated business headlines for nearly two years.

Mr. Schembri, in his remarks, noted that labour shortages have become more pervasive because of the pandemic, and that the "ultimate goal of monetary policy is to support strong employment and output growth by keeping inflation low, stable, and predictable."

The bank's current plan to hold Canada's policy interest rate at lower levels is conditional on "economic slack being absorbed," so that inflation is sustainable at the bank's two per cent target, he said. With the rate of vaccination increasing, health restrictions easing, and employment in service industries rebounding, global supply constraints have dampened economic activity and employment in some goods-producing industries.

As to how that affects the conduct of monetary policy, Mr. Schembri said employment is the most important determinate of our economy's productive capacity—and that labour market uncertainties "pose a challenge to the foundations of this paradigm."

Canada's inflation rate hit 4.7 per cent in October—an 18-year high—something which costs Canadians more at the pumps, in grocery stores, at car dealerships, and in home renovations. There

are expectations that the interest will rise in the months.

"I think the Bank of Canada, much like almost every forecaster out there, was simply caught flat-footed by just how ferocious the inflation pressures have been this year," said Bank of Montreal chief economist Douglas Porter in an interview with *The Hill Times* on Nov. 23.

There have been a variety of reasons why inflation has "absolutely surprised" everyone, including the persistence of strong energy prices and how widespread supply issues have been globally, according to Mr. Porter.

He also noted that every single economic indicator out there is a little bit more complicated and has to be judged through a variety of lenses these days, as opposed to what was looked at pre-pandemic.

"One is just simply the data quality," said Mr. Porter. "And on top of that, we've got the extremely unusual backdrop underway, whether it's the wide variety of very different government support measures or just the complexity of closures and re-openings and all of the different hassles that employers and employees are facing in this environment."

"I'm sure it's very complicated, and let's face it, people are not working the traditional 37-and-a-half hour workweek, some might

be working a lot more and some might be working a lot less from week to week, so the snapshot of the labour force each month might not be giving us the entire story of what's going on," said Mr. Porter.

Chief economist of the Conference Board of Canada Pedro Antunes said part of the background to all of this is that we've had a recession that had really no impact on household incomes—and actually saw household incomes grow at pretty much a record pace.

"At the same time, we couldn't spend, so we ended up saving all this money, and now we're trying to spend it," said Mr. Antunes. "And of course there are all sorts of supply constraints, because the supply has been held back and we're just having trouble getting product produced and to the market."

In terms of the labour market, early in the pandemic, Canada saw a "massive hit" in terms of employment, with women being hit the hardest—particularly those between the ages of 15 and 24.

"Now, when I look at where we are, with the latest data from October that we compare to pre-COVID, what you're seeing is the labour markets that have recovered, and have recovered for men and women," said Mr. Antunes. "But you have to wonder [about] people in sectors like health care and social services, where perhaps we are seeing early retirements or people holding off on coming back to the workforce because it has been exhausting over the past two years."

"There's something going on in that cohort, and I'm not quite sure why that cohort hasn't come back to the workforce, whether it's people deciding not to come back or whether they really can't find employment," he said.

And in terms of immigration numbers, Mr. Antunes said the Conference Board didn't expect figures to be very strong in 2020, 2021, or in 2022.

"What we're seeing is, despite [the government's] ambitious targets, it's just hard with all of the travel restrictions and restrictions in embassies—processing all of that is, I'm sure, very difficult," said Mr. Antunes.

Don Drummond, a former official at Finance Canada, said the most recent job vacancy survey from Statistics Canada shows that almost one million jobs are vacant in Canada, and that almost one-third of them have been vacant for more than three months.

"But at the same time, we've seen the long-term unemployment rate remain high, and [it] begs the question [of] why those people that are in that pocket aren't filling these new jobs," said Mr. Drummond, who is now a professor at the School of Policy Studies at Queen's University and is involved with the C.D. Howe Institute.

More a phenomenon in the United States than in Canada, Mr. Drummond also pointed to the "so called Great Resignation," something which *Forbes* recently reported on, noting that the pandemic "allowed people to pause long enough to discover the meaning of life," and that fully two-thirds of people leaving jobs this past August weren't actually "quitting," they were retiring.

"The pandemic has been a wake-up call for people who say 'we don't want to work that way, we're not interested in these jobs,' not at that salary and not on those working conditions," said Mr. Drummond. "The other thing that has been a remarkable transformation in Canada, that's not getting reported on, is the collapse of people with multiple jobs. That is the largest source of this reduction of hours—a surprising number of Canadians had two or three jobs before the pandemic, and that crashed."

Senior director of workforce strategies at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce Leah Nord said that in more general terms, what we've seen through the labour market during the pandemic is not as much the introduction of new phenomenon or trends—aside from the work-from-home phenomenon—but their acceleration.

"We've been talking about upskilling and rescaling in skills matches for decades now, but it's taken on a different form," said Ms. Nord. "When the numbers came out last month, everyone was cheering that we got back to pre-pandemic levels. That was good, but that's not great, that's looking back—we've got to look forward and through this long middle and into recovery," said Ms. Nord.

The chamber's chief economist, Stephen Tapp, said when the deputy governor was talking about the signals we're getting between the labour market, the impact on inflation, and the uncertainty about getting back to normal levels of employment, they're looking at things like wage pressures.

"That's an area where the unemployment rate has come down quite considerably from the initial peak, yet we still have about 400,000 long-term unemployed workers and we still have something like 1.3- or 1.4-million unemployed in total," said Mr. Tapp. "So the concern is really about these long-term unemployed, people that have been employed for six months or longer, whether they have dropped out of the labour market entirely."

mlapointe@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times



AN OPEN LETTER TO CABINET: LOWER INTERNET RATES AND HELP CANADIANS WITH AFFORDABILITY

The job ahead of Parliament as it resumes is not easy.

People are hurting. Many aspects of daily life are becoming unaffordable. Housing costs continue to soar, gas prices are at record highs, inflation is climbing and nearly half of Canadians report difficulty feeding their families as food bills skyrocket.

Understandably, affordability was the number one issue in polls leading up to the federal election.

Ask any Canadian and they will tell you that communications costs are a big part of this problem.

Study after study shows that Canada has some of the highest wireless costs in the world.

The same is true for home internet service, where Canada has some of the highest costs among peer nations. A recent report from the department of Industry, Science and Economic Development found Canadian internet prices rose across the board during the pandemic just as they dropped in nearly every other country studied.

On this front, the newly appointed cabinet has a crucial opportunity to make a difference for millions of Canadians.

In May of this year, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission reversed an earlier 2019 decision that would have significantly lowered wholesale internet rates.

Those rates, which independent providers such as TekSavvy pay to larger carriers including Bell and Rogers for using parts of their networks, determine the retail prices Canadians pay for internet service.

When wholesale rates are lowered, independent providers lower retail prices. The bigger carriers' ability to raise prices is disciplined and prices drop. Canadians, regardless of who they get service from, save as a result.

The CRTC's 2019 decision to lower wholesale rates was made after years of study and is based on mountains of evidence. That decision was upheld unanimously by the Federal Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court declined to review it.



Pictured: Bell CEO Mirko Bibic and CRTC Chair Ian Scott having beers alone on Dec. 19, 2019, one week after Bell filed its application asking the CRTC to reverse its 2019 internet wholesale rates decision.

The CRTC's 2021 reversal came after heavy lobbying from Bell and other big carriers. CRTC Chairman Ian Scott, a former lobbyist for a Big Three carrier, also held inappropriate meetings with telecom executives outside of the regulatory process.

The CRTC's anti-consumer reversal makes a mockery of its proceedings and undermines cabinet's mandate to promote affordable pricing and competition. Cabinet has also previously removed a CRTC commissioner for inappropriately meeting with incumbent lobbyists, as it should now do with Mr. Scott.

TekSavvy and other independent providers have appealed the CRTC's reversal to cabinet. With the stroke of a pen, cabinet can reject that reversal, reinstate the evidence-based 2019 decision and lower prices for millions of consumers.

We urge you, for the sake of all Canadians, to take this easy and effective step to lower Canadians' cost of living and to spur competition in Canada's telecom sector.

News

Canada Post community hubs a ‘very good value proposition’, but can’t go too far into private sector services, say Liberal, Tory MPs



The new Canada Post Office hub in High Prairie, Alta., features signs in English, French, and Cree. The Crown corporation is assessing whether to add other financial and public services to future hubs, but Liberal Julie Dzerowicz says it shouldn't stray into postal banking. Photograph courtesy of Therese Yacyshyn

A new community hub in northern Alberta includes financial services, money transfers, business supplies, access to local business and community information, electrical vehicle charging, and postal and parcel boxes.

BY ALICE CHEN

The newly opened Canada Post community hub is a good start towards creating a more cohesive way to deliver government and community services, experts say, but there's still a lack of cohesion over just what this model should ultimately look like.

The High Prairie Canada Post community hub opened in the rural Alberta community on Nov. 2.

Canada Post spokesperson Nicole Lecompte said in an email statement the hub includes money services, like an ATM (coming soon), a Canada Post MyMoney Loan system run in partnership with TD Canada, money transfers, business supplies, access to local business and community information, electrical vehicle charging, and 24/7 access to package drop-off and postal and parcel boxes. It comes as part of Canada Post's Indigenous and Northern reconciliation strategy.

The High Prairie Post Office, located in a town roughly 370 kilometres northwest of Edmonton, will serve as a hub for roughly 11,000 people, including up to 8,000 Indigenous people in the Métis Settlements and First Nations communities, according to a Canada Post press release.

"We are piloting our model in this location at this time but hope to further refine our approach and expand further to improve our services in other locations," Ms. Lecompte wrote.

"I salute Canada Post being innovative, creative, reinventing themselves and trying to add value," said Conservative MP Philip Lawrence (Northumberland—Peterborough South, Ont.). "The only caution I would have is that I don't want them to infringe on the private sector."

That's why he noted these services are reasonable in rural communities, but not as much so in urban centres where access is already provided by local business.

Quentin Sinclair, director of community impact at United Way of Calgary and Area, said that the services provided at the new High Prairie location seem helpful. For what it is, he said, it's "totally" good.

However, what it is may be lacking in scope compared to the broader community hub label "that kind of means a million things to different people," said Rob Howarth, executive director of Toronto Neighbourhood Centres. Generally, the hubs he sees support locals with services, but also can act as meeting places with autonomy for direction and action taken done with consultations with locals.

Community hubs are, according to a 2015 Ontario government

action plan, "a central access point for a range of needed health and social services, along with cultural, recreational, and green spaces to nourish community life."

"I think it makes sense to use the word hub, not community," Mr. Howarth said, pointing to how Service Ontario could technically fall under this definition since it offers multiple services in one place. "I don't know if that's exactly a community hub."

Critically, Sarah Hobbs, CEO of the Alliance for Healthier Communities, said that what's offered needs to be tailored to the community in question.

"Was [the Canada Post hub] designed by the community that they're trying to serve? Was it led by a community development approach that ensures it's not providing services they don't need?" she asked.

Ms. Lecompte said that "consultation occurs with the communities where we open a community hub," while noting that their upcoming hub in Membertou, N.S., will feature design in consultation with the local Indigenous community.

Brian Panasiuk, mayor of High Prairie, said: "I do not believe the community was consulted in creating the hub, but perhaps something was done that I am not aware of. I can say for certain that [the] town council was not consulted."

The offering of financial services at this hub harkens back to longstanding push for postal banking services to be offered by Canada Post, which the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, among others, has campaigned for. This sort of service, its website explains, would be publicly owned, be more accessible, and turn more profit for the postal service,

calling it a "win-win if there ever was one."

Ms. Lecompte said that the organization is "assessing whether adding financial and other public services in addition to postal services can better meet the needs of Canadians."

Liberal MP Julie Dzerowicz (Davenport, Ont.), herself the daughter and sister of Canada Post workers, said this should not be something the Crown corporation should do at all. While it's "interesting," she said of postal banking, "it's like saying I'm a computer software company and all of a sudden I want to do parcels and mail. It's like you're attaching two non-related services together."

Essentially, she said, with postal banking, Canada Post would be asked to develop a whole new expertise in a completely different sector.

"So for me, I don't see how that could be an efficient way of delivering banking services."

However, she said she was open to commercial banks paying for space in Canada Post buildings.

On the topic of efficiency, Luanne Rayvals, senior manager at Toronto's Victoria Park Hub of the Working Women Community Centre, said that in some ways, the Canada Post hub is taking advantage of its strengths.

"It's a good way of maximizing the infrastructure [and services] that you have in those areas," she said.

She said this is something that the government could look at on a broader scale in other government service operations, like at Service Canada buildings.

She pointed to the example of the December 2013 power outage in Toronto, where people went to city social service hubs to give out gift cards, because it was warm,

powered, and connected to a grocery store and other social services.

"[It's] more neutral, they were already set up to distribute things and [had] the administrative capacity to manage that kind of burden," Ms. Rayvals said.

On top of those advantages, the big win here is, she said, the amount of money that could be saved. By renting out space, she said you're sharing the cost with what are essentially organizational roommates.

It's a "very good value proposition" for an organization that needs occasional turnkey office or delivery space, and is useful for making connections, forming partnerships, and doing community outreach, Ms. Rayvals said.

It's also, Ms. Rayvals noted, pretty easy to run and get people to work together and collaborate "if you're a reasonable person."

And these hubs can respond well to community needs, Mr. Sinclair said. The hubs his organization helped put together used discussion with people on the ground to see what their issues were, which in his case was low-income and vulnerable people saying they had a lack of access to employment, services, and meaningful participation in the neighbourhood.

With these problems out in the open, it was possible to build a model to address these concerns from counsellors to food programming. Each hub may have taken a different approach, he said, but it was all about meeting the need.

"It [solves] issues for people that had transportation issues, it meant greater access to ... be able to partner with municipalities, offer exercise options, food security," Ms. Hobbs said. "If someone's there with a clinical appointment, you can literally walk them down the hall where otherwise it would've meant travel and future appointments."

There's also the advantage of relationship building, she said.

"It builds collaboration across multiple sectors, building relationships, which means at the end of the day better care for folks," she continued. "I think there are communities that are still underserved, especially communities that face poor outcomes in health equity, I think more community hubs could be beneficial and I think they could be developed by communities."

Mr. Sinclair said that "government support is always welcome, when we are trying to develop collective solutions to complex problems and working at the community level ... government is a key partner in trying to eradicate poverty and to lift a vulnerable population out of barriers that they are facing to be successful."

achen@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

Comment

Righting a racist wrong long overdue

It took all this time, but the powers that be in the Canadian military have finally realized that it was wrong to segregate Black volunteers and make them do menial tasks.

Scott Taylor

Inside Defence



OTTAWA—The Canadian military's changing policies, regulations, and culture are reflective of the shift in our societal values. For instance, the current explosion of sexual misconduct scandals within the senior ranks of the Canadian Armed Forces includes many allegations of incidents that date back 10, 20, and even 30 years ago.

Up until 1987, women were not allowed to serve in combat arms units or serve aboard warships.

Fast forward to 2021 and we now have women serving at the highest levels of command, with many of those individuals having actual combat experience.

That is an incredible transition within the military culture in a relatively short span of time.

As for the sexual orientation of CAF members, up until 1992 it was illegal to be a homosexual and serve in uniform. Closeted service members were routinely interrogated and summarily dismissed from the Forces.

Although a court ruling overturned that military policy in 1992, it was not until 2017 that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued a formal apology to all those personnel who had been purged by those discriminatory rules.

It took the Department of National Defence another two years before it issued personal letters of apology to 432 individuals who had been released from service due to their sexual orientation.

The military's record of racial discrimination has also not been stellar.

During the First World War, the enlistment of Black recruits was vehemently opposed by Canada's top soldier. In April 1916, at the height of the Great War recruiting crisis, Major-General W.G. Gwatkin, chief of the general staff, issued an official memo that stated, "The civilized negro is vain and imitative; in Canada he is not impelled to enlist by a high sense of duty; in the trenches he is not likely to make a good fighter."

The problem with Gwatkin's assessment, besides its outright racism, was that many Black Canadians did wish to enlist and serve in uniform.

While they were not explicitly forbidden to join, Black people were often rebuffed by the individual commanding officers who had the authority to reject volunteers using their own discretion.

Despite the discrimination and racism, several hundred Black men did manage to enlist.

This created a problem for the military and the solution came about in 1916, when the decision was made to create a segregated unit. The No. 2 Construction Battalion consisted of Black enlisted men with white officers.

As the name implies, they were not to be employed as combat soldiers, but rather as labourers digging trenches and cutting down trees to provide revetment and shelter for the rest of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Flanders.

Between Gwatkin's comments and the creation of a segregated, Black-only labour battalion, it clearly illustrates the prevailing official racism of the times in Canada.

However, in recent years there has been a deliberate effort to celebrate No. 2 Construction Battalion's contribution to the war efforts as some sort of success story.

This unit's history was the central theme of the CAF's annual recognition of Black History Month and I even had the occasion to attend a special concert dedicated to this very unique unit.

Unlike most of the Canadian Expeditionary force, No. 2 Construction Battalion did not return to Canada in 1918 following the armistice. In fact, it was not until September 1920 that these Black volunteers were brought home and promptly disbanded.

Since that juncture, members of the Black community have persistently

lobbied the Canadian government for some sort of formal acknowledgement for No. 2 Construction Battalion.

On March 28 of this year, the Liberal government bowed to that pressure and announced its intention of issuing a formal apology to the descendants of the members of this unit for the racism and discrimination which these Great War veterans faced.

It took all this time, but the powers that be in the Canadian military have finally realized that it was wrong to segregate Black volunteers and make them do menial tasks.

What was until recently something the military celebrated as inclusion is now being apologized for because it is finally being recognized as racism.

The formal apology to descendants is scheduled to take place in Halifax in early July 2022.

Scott Taylor is the editor and publisher of *Esprit de Corps* magazine. *The Hill Times*



Black soldiers load Canadian Corps tramways with ammunition in July 1918. In recent years there has been a deliberate effort to celebrate No. 2 Construction Battalion's contribution to the war efforts as some sort of success story, writes Scott Taylor. Photograph courtesy of Library and Archives Canada

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2021 MITACS AWARD WINNERS

Celebrating bold research innovation for Canada's future

Mitacs Award for Outstanding Innovation — **PhD**



Prisca Bustamante

Mitacs Award for Outstanding Innovation — **International**



Sophie Charron

Mitacs Award for Outstanding Innovation — **Postdoctoral**



Dr. Lisa (Diz) Glithero

Mitacs Award for Commercialization, awarded by NRC



Dr. Seyyedarash Haddadi

Mitacs Award for Outstanding Innovation — **Master's**



Adam Schachner

Mitacs Award for Outstanding Innovation — **Indigenous**



Dr. Moneca Sinclair

Mitacs Award for Exceptional Leadership — **Professor**



Dr. Raymond Spiteri

Mitacs Award for Exceptional Leadership — **Industry**



Structural Genomics Consortium

Platinum Partner



Event Supporter



National Research Council Canada

Conseil national de recherches Canada

Reception Partner



Media Partner



Gold Supporter



Silver Supporters

We would like to thank our government partners for their support.



mitacs.ca

Editorial

Editor Kate Malloy
 Managing Editor Charelle Evelyn
 Deputy Editors Peter Mazereeuw, Laura Ryckewaert
 Assistant Deputy Editor Abbas Rana
 Digital Editor Samantha Wright Allen
 Publishers Anne Marie Creskey,
 Jim Creskey, Leslie Dickson, Ross Dickson
 General Manager, CFO Andrew Morrow

Editorial

Muted response to press freedom a symptom of feds' apathy towards reconciliation

A pair of journalists covering the police enforcement of an injunction against land defenders in a First Nations territory spent the weekend in police custody.

Those looking for the Canadian government's swift condemnation of such heavy-handed tactics by law enforcement against members of the media doing their jobs have been left wanting—let alone those wondering why First Nations people on their own land were being removed by the state.

The Liberal government makes a lot of noises in favour of press freedom when the work of journalists is being infringed upon in other countries, but here at home, there's less to be said.

Photojournalist Amber Bracken and documentary filmmaker Michael Toledano were among the more than two dozen people arrested at a camp established by land defenders occupying a Coastal Gas-Link work site on Wet'suwet'en territory in British Columbia. The RCMP are enforcing a B.C. Supreme Court injunction that allows pipeline construction to proceed.

The project, which has the support of elected chiefs, has long been opposed by hereditary chiefs, and the ongoing effort to stop the resource project has spurred solidarity actions across the country, including the rail blockade in early 2020 in eastern Ontario—an issue upon which the Liberals found themselves on the back foot shortly after the 2019 election, and at odds with their stated commitment to reconciliation.

Well, the 44th Parliament is beginning as the 43rd did, with the added seasoning of the infringement of press freedom to kick it up a notch.

Ms. Bracken and Mr. Toledano were released after an appearance in front of a Prince George judge on Nov. 22, with a further promise to appear and a promise to abide by the injunction—which bars them from doing their job and reporting on the RCMP's movements against the First Nations camp.

In a series of Nov. 21 tweets, Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino said he was "aware of and am concerned" about the arrests.

Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Marc Miller went a step further and also acknowledged the actual conflict the journalists were documenting. "Although the Coastal Gas Link project and E Division are under provincial jurisdiction, we recognize the seriousness of the current situation on the Yintah and acknowledge that tensions are high," he said in Nov. 21 tweets.

There was silence on the matter from the prime minister and other cabinet ministers, such as François-Philippe Champagne, Chrystia Freeland, and Karina Gould, who have all been major players in the government's press freedom work with the Media Freedom Coalition.

At the very least, a comprehensive and unified call for the freedom for journalists to do their work would have been convenient cover for barely acknowledging the actual Indigenous rights issue at hand, but if members of the government can't even do that, it doesn't say much for the path towards reconciliation upon which the Liberals are allegedly travelling.

The Hill Times

Letters to the Editor

It's long past time for Erin O'Toole to take charge of the CPC, says Winnipeg reader

Re: "Tories can't let tiff get in the way of parliamentary progress," (*The Hill Times*, Nov. 17, p. 8). Your editorial in the Nov. 17 edition, coupled with Tim Powers' *Plain Speak* column in the same edition speak volumes as to the silliness and utter stupidity taking place within the Conservative Party's parliamentary caucus since the Sept. 20 election.

It's hard to fathom in this day and age as our nation and, indeed, the world, slowly makes its way toward the other side of the COVID pandemic, that we have some dozen or more Conservative MPs refusing to state whether or not they've been double-vaxxed against COVID, and then throwing hissy fits and complaining about their loss of parliamentary privileges when they are told they will not be allowed into the House of Commons unless they prove they've been vaccinated. Do these MPs have no sense of shame or embarrassment? Most Canadians who have been vaccinated against COVID are more than proud to say publicly that they've been vaccinated, and they wear their vaccination status as a badge of honour and rightfully so. Meanwhile, these Conservative MPs have now isolated themselves into a seemingly impervious bubble dubbed the "Civil Liberties Caucus" which will now spend the next number of weeks and months undermining Leader Erin O'Toole and causing irreparable damage to the Conservative Party brand. They must have a political death-wish.

I feel fairly confident in stating that the members of this "Civil Liberties

Caucus" were probably members of the Reform Party and they secretly long for what they believe were the glory days of that disreputable party. But, wait a minute—there were no glory days for the Reform Party. They never won a single general election. It wasn't until the Reform Party amalgamated with the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada to form the Conservative Party of Canada that the CPC won elections and finally formed government—three elections in a row. And then, in the fourth election, the Reform dinosaurs got control of the agenda and what happened? They lost—three elections in a row. Do these clowns never learn?

It's long past time for Mr. O'Toole to take charge of the CPC and clamp down on those members of his caucus who are sowing division and disunity. He's already kicked Senator Batters from his caucus, and now he should remove the so-called Civil Liberties group from his caucus as well. It's a certainty that Mr. O'Toole is not going to win any elections while this group remains within the CPC caucus, so he might as well take Brian Mulroney's advice and show them the door and then rebuild the CPC into a modern party that Canadians feel comfortable in supporting. As Tim Powers so eloquently put it in his column: "Erin O'Toole and Conservatives: get your shit together or else remain in opposition for decades to come."

Jae Eadie
 Winnipeg, Man.

Let's give a crap about funding global sanitation: letter writer

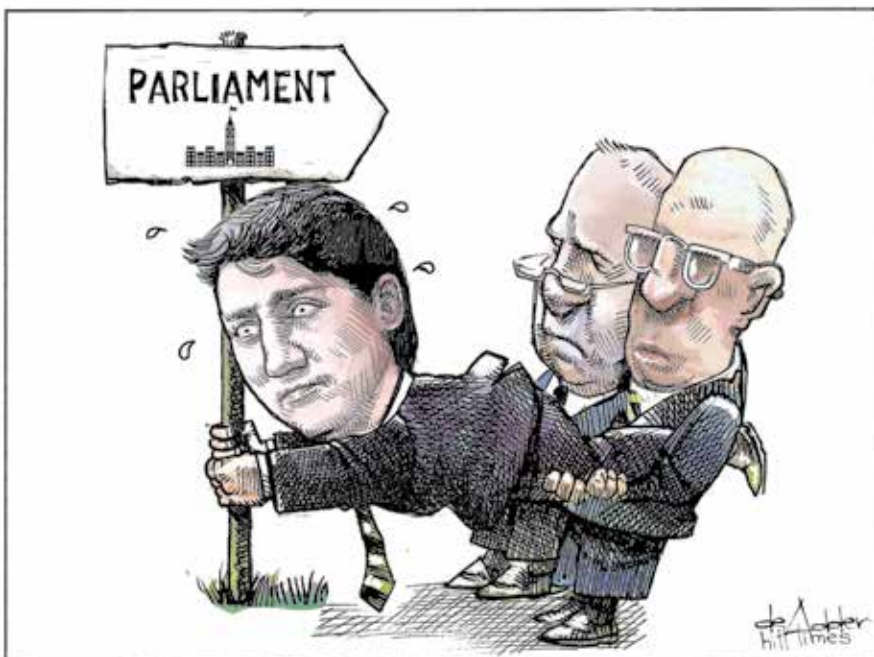
World Toilet Day has come and gone (it was Nov. 19) without anyone giving a crap. Why would they? If you're not one of the 3.6 billion people without a toilet or not reading this newspaper, you're probably unaware. We should care.

Sanitation is underfunded, poorly managed, or neglected in many parts of the world—if it exists at all—with devastating consequences for health, economies, and the environment, particularly in the poorest countries and most marginal-

ized communities. Every \$1 invested in basic sanitation returns up to \$5 in saved medical costs and increased productivity. For women and girls, toilets help them fulfill their potential and enables a full role in society, especially during menstruation and pregnancy.

At the current rate of progress, it will be the 22nd century before sanitation for all is a reality. Call your MP and make it a higher priority. Let's give a s*@%!

Randy Rudolph
 Calgary, Alta.



EDITORIAL

NEWS REPORTERS Alice Chen, Jesse Cnockaert, Matt Horwood, Mike Lapointe, and Neil Moss

PHOTOGRAPHERS Sam Garcia, Andrew Meade, and Cynthia Münster

EDITORIAL CARTOONIST Michael De Adder

COLUMNISTS Andrew Caddell, Andrew Cardozo, John Chenier, Sheila Copps, David Crane, Jim Creskey, Murray Dobbin, Gwynne Dyer, Michael Geist, Dennis Gruending, Michael Harris, Erica Ifill, Joe Jordan, Amy Kishak, Rose LeMay, Alex Marland, Arthur Milnes, Tim Powers, Susan Riley, Ken Rubin, Evan Sotiropoulos, Scott Taylor, Nelson Wiseman, and Les Whittington.

ADVERTISING

VICE PRESIDENT MARKETING AND

MULTIMEDIA SALES Steve MacDonald

DIRECTORS OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Craig Caldbick, Erveina Gosalci, Martin Reaume, Ulle Baum

PRODUCTION

DIGITAL AND PRODUCTION MANAGER Joey Sabourin

DESIGN MANAGER Serena Masonde

WEB DESIGNER Ian Peralta

CIRCULATION

MARKETING MANAGER Paul Goubko

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND LICENSING EXECUTIVE

Darryl Blackbird

VICE PRESIDENT OF

CONTENT LICENSING SALES Sean Hansel

CIRCULATION MANAGER Stephanie Ramirez

ADMINISTRATION

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER Tracey Wale

DELIVERY INQUIRIES

circulation@hilltimes.com

613-688-8821

THE HILL TIMES

Published every Monday and
 Wednesday by Hill Times
 Publishing Inc.

246 Queen Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5E4
 (613) 232-5952

Fax (613) 232-9055

Canadian Publications Mail Agreement No. 40068926

www.hilltimes.com

Please send letters to the editor to the above street address or e-mail to news@hilltimes.com. Deadline is Wednesday at noon, Ottawa time, for the Monday edition and Friday at noon for the Wednesday edition. Please include your full name, address and daytime phone number. *The Hill Times* reserves the right to edit letters. Letters do not reflect the views of *The Hill Times*. Thank you.

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40068926
 RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN
 ADDRESSES TO: CIRCULATION DEPT.
 246 Queen Street Suite 200, Ottawa, ON K1P 5E4





Prime Minister Justin Trudeau faces a political landscape jammed with crises, long-overdue action, unexpected challenges, regional tension, and a multi-faceted, expensive, and publicly demanding policy agenda, writes Les Whittington. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

A parliamentary session like no other

Although the looming implosion in the Conservative Party gives the Liberals an edge, this daunting and potentially tumultuous agenda will put Trudeau's reputation up for grabs.

Les Whittington

Need to Know



OTTAWA—Politicians droning on day after day in service of complicated legislative endeavours, amendments, and obscure procedure may not rank high on the average person's excitement meter. But the unfolding events of the new Parliament should contain enough drama to keep almost anyone riveted.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau faces a political landscape jammed with crises, long-overdue

action, unexpected challenges, regional tension, and a multi-faceted, expensive, and publicly demanding policy agenda.

Managing these files would test a government relying on a parliamentary majority, but Trudeau will once again have to navigate the uncertainties bestowed on him by voters who delivered the Liberals another minority.

That Sept. 20 election seems like ages ago now. One of the takeaways at the time was that voters weren't particularly excited about any of the main parties and their leaders and, that in electing another minority, Canadians were signalling a desire for their elected representatives to co-operate to work out hasty, practical fixes.

We'll soon find out to what extent MPs do indeed see this as their post-Sept. 20 marching orders. NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh is certainly committed to working with Trudeau on most of the Liberals' priorities, although his party may not support the government's plan to reconfigure COVID-19 aid for individuals and businesses. Looking ahead, it's also not clear, given everything that's happening now, if the Liberals will be able to afford to meet NDP demands on issues like pharmacare or dental care. And there may come a time when Singh will have to face up to the

inevitable risks to his party of helping the Liberals make the NDP irrelevant.

Still, for now Liberal-NDP co-operation is opening the way for one of the most active few weeks in memory in the House of Commons as the government rushes to honour promises for early action on a range of issues. This projected whirlwind of law-making within the 20 Commons sitting days before Christmas could include the latest COVID-19 aid benefits and the provision of criminal penalties for anti-vaxxers convicted of blocking access to hospitals or threatening health care professionals. Extensive aid for B.C. will also require immediate attention.

The Liberals also want to quickly push through a raft of other new or previously side-tracked legislation, including on 10 days of paid sick leave for workers in federally regulated business, banning "conversion therapy," a move which ran into Conservative delay tactics in the spring, and regulating foreign internet giants.

The Conservatives have supported Trudeau's massive COVID-19 support programs. But beyond that, all indications are that Leader Erin O'Toole will try to use this session to reinvent himself with the kind of antagonistic flare that might dampen the gathering revolt on

the right against his stewardship. O'Toole's default description of his approach is "holding the Liberals to account." Fair enough, but the question is whether that can be interpreted as holding up Trudeau's legislative agenda, something O'Toole's party proved adept at last spring.

This may be Trudeau's last term and it's obvious he wants to establish his reputation as the climate change-fighting prime minister rather than his current standing as the COVID prime minister. With his appointment of environmentalists to run both the environment and natural resources departments and his COP26 pledges, Trudeau is pushing climate change to the very forefront of Canada's political and economic life. His crackdown on emissions in the oil and gas industry, the fourth largest in the world, has the potential to produce the kind of fireworks in the West that ironically accompanied his father Pierre's National Energy Program 40 years ago (although Alberta Premier Jason Kenney's current weakness may be a mitigating factor). How increasingly cash-strapped consumers will respond to the prospect of rising carbon taxes at the pump is another question.

In any case, this historic drive to transform Canada's energy and environmental posture at break-neck speed would be enough

in itself to occupy any federal government. But Trudeau is also confronting the ongoing pandemic, the needed recovery from the worst recession in a century, a disarrayed labour market, provincial health care funding demands, and the worst cost-of-living crisis in decades. At the same time, the Liberal government is faced with the difficult matters of Indigenous reconciliation, tapped out government coffers, and an overdue foreign policy realignment.

Although the looming implosion in the Conservative Party gives the Liberals an edge, this daunting and potentially tumultuous agenda will put Trudeau's reputation up for grabs. With substantial success, he could end up in a position to be remembered as an architect of change who left the country better equipped to take on the momentous demands of the 21st century, including above all the enlistment of Canadians in a national mobilization to decisively address climate challenges.

But, while Trudeau should be complimented for a far-reaching agenda some might call inspirational, the opportunities for setbacks, political calamity and personal miscues for the inheritor of his father's heritage are manifold.

Les Whittington is a regular columnist for The Hill Times.
The Hill Times

Comment

Into the unknowns of the 44th Parliament

Is this Justin Trudeau's last term as prime minister? Will the Liberals and NDP join forces? Do the Conservatives get a reprieve from their fratricide? Let's get to it to find out how all this turns out.

Tim Powers

Plain Speak



OTTAWA—After a five-month absence, the House of Commons has begun sitting again and MPs are back to work in Ottawa.

With a Speaker now selected and a Throne Speech delivered, speculation will heat up as to whether this is Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's last term. That is arguably the most significant thing to watch for as they begin anew. Trudeau has been the most

prominent political player in Ottawa for nearly a decade. If he eventually decides to slip off the political stage in next 18 months or so, that has the potential to change all manner of the federal political landscape. Tectonic change may lie ahead.

How Parliament will work is another dynamic to keep an eye on. That dynamic has multiple dimensions and, ultimately, will determine how long until we return to the polls. While public talk of a formal Liberal-NDP non-aggression pact has gone silent, the government is nonetheless talking about fast-tracking legislation. While the Liberals aren't revealing who their partner or partners are now, or the specifics of the legislation, it is not hard to guess who will put their hand up to say "I'm in." Jagmeet Singh, come on down.

Speaking of the legislative agenda, there will be a few things to monitor on that front. First, does it have legacy policy written all over it? Second, will the government and its partners continue to spend like drunken sailors, binging at the Royal Canadian Mint? Third, will the Conservatives be able to stake out reasonable territory in opposition to the government that doesn't allow them to be cast as retrograde but as thoughtful critics.

Ah, the Conservatives. Will the return of Parliament grant them



Some of the issues to watch during this parliamentary session are how Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, left, co-operates with NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh and dodges attacks from Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole's party. *The Hill Times* photographs by Andrew Meade

and their leader Erin O'Toole a reprieve from their fratricide? Can O'Toole doubters and saboteurs be distracted by the opportunity to attack Trudeau daily? O'Toole will be hoping so. He is a good performer in Parliament and with Pierre Poilievre back as finance critic, hardcore Conservative supporters will delight in his regular jousting with Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland. Conservatives will know, though, that being a strong parliamentary actor, as former NDP leader Thomas Mulcair was, doesn't translate into electoral success. But for many, it will feel good to get their own party out of the hot seat and put the Liberals in it.

Liberal leadership posturing is something to keep on the horizon over the next 18 months. Where will current Liberal ministers like Freeland, Mélanie Joly, François-Philippe Champagne, and maybe even Dominic LeBlanc look to showcase themselves? Who else from the Liberal caucus will look to put their hand up and use their parliamentary opportunities as an audition for bigger things? What will Mark Carney do to keep one foot in this Liberal camp while maintaining a suitable amount of distance from the government to cast himself as fresh in a potential leadership race? Oh, the intrigue, it is about to hit high gear.

Lastly, as this Parliament marches on how much COVID-19 will

continue to dominate all aspects of our collective lives? While no doubt our public health and economic rebuild will surpass the lifetime of this Parliament, will controversial political debates around mandatory vaccinations and other COVID protection measures stay with us? They are prominent now, bearing political fruit for the Liberals and throwing lemons at the Conservatives. Are there lasting brand impacts?

So, let's get to it to find out how all this turns out.

Tim Powers is vice-chairman of Summa Strategies and managing director of Abacus Data. He is a former adviser to Conservative political leaders.

The Hill Times

Quebec's hockey committee should focus on more than pride

The committee's report is bound to recommend the need for better coaching, outreach to new Canadians, and a move to eliminate racism, but there has to be a certain joy in getting out on the pond or the outdoor rink.

Andrew Caddell

With All Due Respect



KAMOURASKA, QUE.—François Legault is concerned about a crisis in Quebec. No, it is not COVID-19 deaths, among the highest in the country during the pandemic, the lack of family doctors in the province, a rise in violent crime, or the prospect paramedics will go on strike. The issue he was seized with last week was the lack of Quebec players in the NHL.

To that end, he announced a blue-ribbon committee of former NHL players and women Olympic stars to determine how to get more Quebec players in the NHL. However, the premier's objec-

tive seemed to be crystal clear: among the experts (Marc Denis, Jocelyn Thibault, Guillaume Latendresse, Caroline Ouellette) there was not one anglophone or allophone, and no Indigenous person or person of colour. This in a province where Black, Indigenous, and non-francophone players have often been the subject of abuse.

Standing at a podium inscribed with the words "Hockey, our pride" in French, the premier waxed nostalgic about his days in minor hockey and the great Quebec players who inspired him, like Maurice "Rocket" Richard and Jean Béliveau. Legault said: "I find it unfortunate to see that there are fewer young people in hockey, and what we want is to revive hockey, our national sport, in Quebec. And we are even aiming for, I would dare say, a renaissance."

It is clearly a renaissance that doesn't include players with names like Corey Crawford, Alex Killorn or Marco Scandella, all non-francophone Quebec NHL players; or former Canadiens enforcer Georges Laraque, a Black man, who asked "How can you attract minorities to come and play hockey if there's no representation in [this] group?"

And indeed, that is a problem: the committee does not represent the future of hockey in Quebec. As the province becomes more diverse, fewer children will play hockey. There are a number of reasons: the lack of awareness of the hockey culture among new Canadians; the high cost of the sport, which is beyond the reach of low-income families; and the attraction of other less expensive sports, like soccer. And then there

Continued on page 11

Quebec's hockey committee should focus on more than pride

Continued from page 10

are children who prefer video games to exercise.

Still, more than 600,000 Canadian children play hockey, more than any other country. Of those, more than 100,000 are in Ontario, which has produced almost half of all the Canadian players in the NHL. Quebec, on the other hand, has only 13 per cent of the Canadian players in the NHL. Legault made a point of mentioning that last season, for the first time in its history, the Montreal Canadiens iced a team without a francophone player.

The odds of making it to the top echelon in hockey, whether the NHL or the women's Olympic team, are daunting. There is an old calculation, that still rings true: of the 600,000 players in Canada, one per cent (6,000) will advance to junior hockey. Of that 6,000, one per cent (60) will make it to the NHL; and of that 60, six will become stars.

There are countries with much smaller populations that perform as well as Canada. I lived in Switzerland for five years in the late 1990s, when they were developing into a hockey power. Although only 30,000 children play hockey in the country of 8.6 million people, it often ranks in the top five of the international junior championships. Finland, with 70,000 players in a country of 5.5 million, is another.

The approach these countries take is to encourage players who are dedicated, motivated, and skilled. In Switzerland, after a major study in the 1990s, professional coaches were hired by the few rinks and community hockey organizations. These coaches oversee every level of hockey, from five year olds to juniors.

The Quebec committee's report, due next spring, is bound to recommend the need for better professional coaching, outreach to new Canadians, and a move to eliminate racism in minor hockey. But all that said, there has to be a certain joy in getting out on the pond or the outdoor rink. The committee should not be looking at how to get more pride in Québécois hockey players, but rather how to put the fun back in hockey, get kids off the couch, and make people of different backgrounds feel more at home on the ice.

Andrew Caddell is retired from Global Affairs Canada, where he was a senior policy adviser. He previously worked as an adviser to Liberal governments. He is a fellow with the Canadian Global Affairs Institute and a town councillor in Kamouraska, Que. He can be reached at pipson52@hotmail.com.

The Hill Times



Quebec Premier François Legault made a point of mentioning that last season, for the first time in its history, the Montreal Canadiens iced a team without a francophone player. Photograph courtesy of Flickr/Dinur

ADVERTISING

Kazakhstan is a Land of the Great Steppe

This year Kazakhstan marks the 30th Anniversary of its Independence. This is an important milestone that marks the revival of the Kazakh statehood and the acquisition of freedom. Since the beginning of the Independence, culture has been among the state priorities. Professional experts unanimously call the 30 years of Independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan as the era of the Renaissance of Kazakh culture, which has been greatly influenced by the country's nomadic history. Its rich and diverse past is reflected in national cuisine, music, cinematography, literature, theatre, fashion, arts, religion and traditions.

The ancient land of nomads gave many historical figures who made an invaluable contribution to formation of the steppe people's statehood.

The names of the greatest thinkers Abu Nasr Al-Farabi and Kozha Akhmet Yassau, outstanding figures Tauke, Abylai, Kultegin, Beibars, Kerey and Zhanibek and many famous batyrs, who were born by the Great Steppe, are commemorated in the history of sovereign Kazakhstan. The role of the ancient Kazakh steppe greatest representatives - Abai, Zhambyl Zhabayev, Alikhan Bokeikhanov, Akhmet Baitursynov, Shakarim Kudaiberdiev, Magzhan Zhumabaev, Zhusupbek Aimaurov, Sultanmakhmud Toraigrov and other prominent figures of Kazakh culture in the development of world civilization has been recognized by the world community.

Kazakhstan is one of the most ethnically and religiously diverse countries in the world. This is in part a result of its unique geography, located at the center of Eurasia, as well as resettlement of European and Asian peoples throughout 20th century. Ethnic and religious tolerance is deeply embedded into Kazakh culture, and the country's nomadic heritage is based upon principles of hospitality and openness. Today, Kazakhstan is home to nearly 130 different ethnic groups and 17 different religions. Ethnic Kazakhs account for 65% of the population, Russians constitute 26%, and the remaining includes Uzbeks, Ukrainians, Germans, Tatars, Uyghurs, Belarusians, Azeris, Turks, Koreans, Dungans, Poles, Greeks and other ethnic groups. Around 70% of Kazakhstan's population identify themselves as Muslims, and about 26% are Christians, predominantly Russian Orthodox.

Kazakhstan's diverse society is an integral part of the national identity. The First President and Leader of the Nation Nursultan Nazarbayev has said that "the huge potential for integration into Kazakh culture for every ethnic group of the country may be implemented only through the open character of the Kazakh culture itself". The consistent policy of Elbasy in the national issue ensured national unity based on the country's economic success and establishment



of equality of peoples principle. First President of Kazakhstan put forward the idea of creating the Assembly of Peoples of Kazakhstan (APK). In the republic equal opportunities are created for all its citizens, regardless of nationality and religion, and social peace is preserved, interethnic and interfaith harmony is being developed.

Currently, the uniqueness of the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan is recognized all over the world, it has become an international brand of Kazakhstan and serves as a link between civil society and the state. The meetings of the Assembly and the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, regularly held in Nur-Sultan since 2003, have contributed to growth of Kazakhstan's international reputation as a country that effectively solves the problems of interethnic relations. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan during his visit to Kazakhstan called the APK an example of interethnic harmony and sustainable development for other states of the world. Pope John Paul II, who visited Kazakhstan in 2001, spoke highly of the Assembly and Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions.

The Assembly not only unites all ethnic groups of the country within the framework of ongoing common events that strengthen mutual understanding and unity, but also plays an important role in country's political life. Having received the status of a constitutional body with a socio-political status, the Assembly is represented in the country's Parliament. So, in the Mazhilis (Lower chamber) of the Parliament, the APK group is represented by 26 deputies, who cover with their attention a variety of topical issues and put forward bills aimed at improving quality of life of country's population.

The state policy in culture area in Kazakhstan is aimed at preserving cultural heritage and

developing cultural diversity, increasing the level of citizens' involvement in cultural life, expanding cultural services for socially unprotected segments of the population. The state allocates grants for development of all spheres of culture and education, and for significant cultural projects.

The state program «Cultural Heritage» was launched by the initiative of the First President of Kazakhstan-Elbasy N.Nazarbayev. This program considers creation of the whole system for studying the cultural heritage as well as the creation of an integrated system of cultural heritage studies, including modern national culture, folklore, traditions and customs: reconstruction of significant historical, cultural and architectural monuments of the country; generalization of centuries-old experience of national literature and writing, creating a detailed artistic and scientific series; the creation of full spectre of humanitarian education taught in state language and based on the best achievements of world scientific thought, culture and literature.

It is in this spirit of cultural openness that the 'Seven Facets of the Great Steppe' initiative is being implemented. This initiative is designed to commemorate and celebrate the Kazakhs' role in global history. Kazakhstan is the birthplace of apples and tulips and is place where horses were first domesticated. Its people also played a key role in both the Great Silk Road and development of the Turkic world. As Kazakhstan looks to promote its rich history, it also has its eyes on the future, with the ambitious Ruhani Zhangyru program aimed at modernizing Kazakhstan's identity and to ensure its pivotal role in the global community is preserved.

Kazakhstan authorities initiated a unique project - the Uly Dala museum of ancient art and technology of the Great Steppe. The museum exhibits inexhaustible treasures of progressive thought of "high art and technology" and expositions of valuable archaeological finds. Our country has created excellent conditions: bright, modern educational buildings with concert halls, cinemas and galleries, with best musical instruments and equipment have been built. State grants are allocated for teaching young people at school, college, undergraduate, graduate and doctoral studies - young people have excellent opportunities to develop their talents.

As Kazakhstan approaches 30th Anniversary of Independence we have clear and long-term vision of developing our rich cultural heritage and promoting our country as a Land of the Great Steppe.

**H.E. Akylbek Kamaldinov,
Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Canada**

Opinion

How a new approach to IP could have helped prevent COVID vaccine apartheid

Unfortunately, ensuring access to life-saving pharmaceuticals and health products for underserved communities and countries is often an afterthought, or non-existent priority for governments when they fund health innovation.

Jocelyn Mackie
& David
Brook

Opinion



A recent *New York Times* article, "Moderna and U.S. at Odds Over Vaccine Patent Rights," highlights an all-too-common challenge in the world of public-private partnerships for health research and innovation—who has the legal right to deploy the novel products and services that are developed, particularly during a global health crisis? Most of the time, this is simply a question of who gets to profit from what can be incredibly lucrative intellectual property, or IP. In the case of the

COVID-19 vaccine developed by Moderna and the U.S. government, however, this question has much deeper implications for the health and transmission of COVID in communities and countries around the globe and so, by extension, for all of us.

Unfortunately, ensuring access to life-saving pharmaceuticals and health products for underserved communities and countries is often an afterthought, or non-existent priority for governments when they fund health innovation. Instead, the emphasis is too often placed solely on supporting new research and commercializing the ideas of innovations that are produced. This is good for pharmaceutical companies but not so helpful in global health crises like the COVID pandemic. Relying on market forces, assumptions about co-invention, or the goodwill or moral compass of companies like Moderna was a grave mistake by the U.S.' National Institutes of Health, or NIH, that cannot be repeated.

So how can public funders of research like the NIH, Canadian Institute of Health Research, or National Research Council Canada ensure that the products developed with their funding are readily and affordably available to address future global crises? This is an area where domestic research funders can learn some important lessons from global health innovation platforms like Grand Challenges Canada.

As a funder of global health innovation, issues of global access (ensuring that underserved populations have access to life saving health products and ser-



Moderna's global rollout of its COVID vaccine would have looked very different if it had been subject to a strong and legally binding global access licence, helping to prevent the current vaccine apartheid that is inhibiting the world from getting beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, write Jocelyn Mackie and David Brook. *Unsplash photograph by Ian Hutchinson*

vices) are at the core of our work. Because of this, we build a commitment to global access in at all stages of our funding processes, particularly as we support ideas that have achieved proof-of-concept and begin to go to scale. At the core of our approach to global access is a commitment that gives us the right to a non-exclusive licence for all intellectual property (importantly, including its underlying/enabling intellectual property) that is developed with our funding. This licence only comes into effect if the IP owner chooses not to make a resulting product available at a reasonable price in low- and middle-income countries.

Our approach allows companies to keep ownership of the intellectual property they create and to capitalize on it in high-income markets, to sell their product for profit in countries

that can afford it. This allows for sustainable profit generation which enables companies to raise capital to build factories, source raw material, and pay employees, an important aspect of scaling innovations as Jacob S. Sherkow rightly points out. At the same time, our approach also ensures that there is an enforceable licence in place that creates a strong incentive for inventors to also make their products available in underserved markets.

In relevant circumstances, we also add a worldwide licence that kicks in if the World Health Organization (WHO) declares a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, such as COVID-19. In such cases, we can then also license the resulting product for accessible access worldwide. In the case of the Moderna vaccine, had the NIH required this form of licence in exchange for its billions

of dollars in funding, the U.S. government would have had more bargaining power to access the vaccine for use by high-income countries, too, like Canada.

Moderna's global rollout of its COVID vaccine would have looked very different if it had been subject to a strong and legally binding global access licence, helping to prevent the current vaccine apartheid that is inhibiting the world from getting beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. All public funders of research need to learn from NIH's failing and prioritize global access from the beginning of their funding partnerships and not as an afterthought once the work is concluded. Our ability to respond to future global crises depends on it.

Jocelyn Mackie is co-CEO and David Brook is chief strategy officer of Grand Challenges Canada. *The Hill Times*

Sounding the alarm: Canada must address a growing crisis in Guatemala

It is imperative that Canada speaks out visibly and consistently to support civil society leaders and organizations in Guatemala that are under increasing attack.

Lise-Anne Léveillé
& Deanna
Fasciani

Opinion



As our new Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly assess-

es priorities for Canada's foreign policy, it's crucially important that Guatemala be on the agenda.

The Central American country was cause for extreme concern during decades of armed conflict and genocidal violence by the army that saw 200,000 mostly Indigenous Mayan people killed or disappeared and another 150,000 forced

into exile, many of them in Canada.

Today, we are once again witnessing a desperate exodus, as a growing number of Guatemalans feel they have no choice but to flee the devastations of climate change, deterioration of their livelihood, violence and pervasive insecurity. Add to that an assault by the state on human rights defenders, free press, and organizations that have sought to protect land, Indigenous territory, and the rule of law for all.

It is imperative that Canada speaks out visibly and consistently to support civil society leaders and organizations in Guatemala

that are under increasing attack. It is also imperative that Canada works with international allies to stop a return to terror and impunity.

In recent weeks, Canadian organizations received urgent calls for solidarity from El Estor in eastern Guatemala. In July 2019, the country's Constitutional Court ordered a suspension of operations at the notorious Fenix nickel mine, formerly Canadian-owned and long accused of violating Indigenous rights. Last month, President Alejandro Giammattei decreed a state of siege and sent in heavily armed security forces

to quash a peaceful protest by community members against the mine's continued operation. Human rights organizations documented excessive use of force by security forces, injuring women and children. Fear spread as the homes of Mayan Q'eqchi' community leaders were raided and journalists threatened.

The situation in El Estor is only the latest in a pattern of repression and persecution of people who speak up for Indigenous rights and the environment in areas where mines and hydro-

Continued on page 29



NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh has led the party through two elections and hasn't delivered, writes Erica Ifill. *The Hill Times* photograph by Sam Garcia

The continued mystery of the NDP's existence

Fauxgressives with zero ambition will never deliver the systemic change that is necessary in this country, so I wish they would stop wasting my time.

Erica Ifill

Bad+Bitchy



OTTAWA—During the post-election lull between choosing cabinet and the Speech from the Throne, I ruminated on the political issues that have shaped the year. And increasingly—now perennially—one question always sticks in my mind and will continue to in the years to come.

Why does the NDP exist?

No seriously.

The recent pointless election was an opportunity for the NDP to solve that mystery. After a year and a half, there's still a pandemic that left a lot of people struggling economically, inflation is on the rise, there's a housing crisis, a climate crisis, a military crisis, rising white supremacy, domestic terrorism, and broken promises of reconciliation. This country is in crisis, which would be a perfect time for the NDP to tout its progressive policies. But instead, the party fell into formation with a Liberal-lite platform that was as fleshed out as a rotten peach, since it provided only slightly greater detail than a university protest flyer.

According to Canadian Dimension, the NDP's biggest promises on the expenditure

side included: pharmacare, maintaining child care promises of the Liberals, guaranteed income for people with disabilities, and upholding the Human Rights Tribunal decision on Jordan's Principle. Funny, I could've sworn the NDP promised a wealth tax, which, in itself, is a government expenditure, yet not mentioned in Canadian Dimension's piece. Even those supporting the NDP don't seem to know how government works. In addition, these policies are eventually going to be absorbed into the Liberal washing machine, where they'll be sanitized for neoliberal sensibilities. In other words, even when they do get a little progressive, they end up as a policy farm for the Liberals. Don't see why this parliamentary session should be any different.

And the most frustrating part? The NDP seems to be fine with its lot in life, which seems rather regressive as far as ambitions go. According to *The Toronto Star*, "Jagmeet Singh and the federal NDP are set to return to Ottawa to face the prospect that, after campaigning for 36 days with a deeper war chest and a more experienced national leader, not much really changed." Despite more resources and a familiar leader, the party achieved roughly the same returns as when it was broke and invisible. And the NDP leadership seems to be fine with that outcome. Progress for progressives, I guess.

Fauxgressives with zero ambition will never deliver the systemic change that is necessary in this country, so I wish they would stop wasting my time.

Don't even get me started on their leader.

Singh has led the NDP through two elections and hasn't delivered. I have written about his naked self-promotion at the expense of communicating NDP policies, commitments, and values to the larger public. Assuredly, relying on social media to convert a younger audience to the polls is an unproven strategy that requires meticulous planning and organizing—two things the NDP has proved it's incapable of doing.

But the most egregious part of Singh's schtick is that he confuses likeability with power, and it's the one mistake BIPOC make in elevated positions of visibility.

During the English leaders debate, Shachi Kurl asked the question everyone in this country should've been asking but are too cowardly to do so, which was to ask Bloc Québécois Leader Yves-François Blanchet why he denies systemic racism in a province that, well, practices systemic racism in the form of Bill 21. Naturally, the perversity of "reverse racism"—which

doesn't exist—was bandied about by three white men and one brown man, Singh.

Singh, the first racialized leader of a major federal party in Canada, sided with patriarchy and white supremacy in the form of joining three white men to bully a brown woman who was the only one in this country to have the courage to stand up to Quebec's racism. When national director of the NDP Anne McGrath was asked by Politico Canada about the party not pushing back harder against Bill 21, her reply was, "I don't see any value in barnstorming the rest of Canada against Quebec, for one thing. I think that would be a huge mistake. ... To identify Quebec as one particular place for people to generate that anger, I think is dangerous from a national unity point of view." According to McGrath, it's quite acceptable to disenfranchise BIPOC for national unity.

Qwhite a middle finger to communities of colour and religious minorities, delivered by the NDP.

In addition, who can trust Singh and this party on Indigenous rights and the climate crisis? No one. At least, no one in B.C. Time and time again, Singh has either stayed silent or tepidly supported Premier John Horgan's crusade against Indigenous land defenders. From Fairy Creek to a re-ignited Wet'suwet'en, Singh and the federal and provincial NDP have demonstrated that they will protect colonialist interests above all.

The NDP has some great MPs, like Matthew Green and Leah Gazan, however even if they're the heart of the party, they're not the soul of the party. That was sold out a long time ago.

Erica Ifill is a co-host of the *Bad+Bitchy* podcast.

The Hill Times



Family friends charity **LAST FEW DAYS**

Family and friends are rightly always the priority when you write your Will.

Your Will is also a great opportunity to make a difference to a good cause – a gift that costs you nothing now.

If you are aged 55 or over, you can write or update your Will free of charge via **Free Wills Month**.



CPAWS is Canada's voice for wilderness.

After remembering family and friends, please consider a gift in your Will to



www.freewillsmoonth.ca/cpaws

Call an Ottawa lawyer TODAY

Halcyon Legal

Chadwick Boyd – **613-763-4543**
206-460 West Hunt Club Rd K2E 0B8

**James Anderson
Barrister & Solicitor**

James Anderson – **613-261-9024**
305-185 Somerset Street W K2P 0J2

**B. Turner Law
Professional Corporation**

Babette Turner – **613-680-6804**
517-1200 St. Laurent Blvd K1K 3B8

**More & McLeod
Barristers & Solicitors**

James B. More – **613-820-7888**
212-2249 Carling Avenue K2B 7E9

Lister-Beaupré

Amy Jean Cornew
613-234-2500 x228
301-200 Catherine Street K2P 2K9

Your appointment can be any time but you must call a lawyer by 5pm on **Tuesday November 30**

Advertisement placed by Capacity Marketing For Charities on behalf of CPAWS. You are not obliged to include a bequest to CPAWS. The promotion covers the cost of a simple Will, as defined by the drafting lawyer. You might be charged directly for work beyond what the lawyer considers a simple Will.

News

‘COVID is just purely an excuse’: Advocates call for auditor general review of access to information regime

A September report from Information Commissioner Caroline Maynard found that nine separate complaints of access to information delay were ‘well founded.’

Continued from page 1

but not the regime that gives it transparency.

Experts and advocates are calling for Auditor General Karen Hogan to perform an audit of the access to information regime.

“The auditor general should do a system wide audit to make sure that we know as a public, as a people, whether or not the information system is engineered to fail or in fact due to inefficiency or whatever is not delivering what it should be,” said Michel Drapeau, a lawyer who specialized in access to information.

Prolonged issues with the access to information system have worsened during the pandemic with government departments citing health restrictions as reasons behind delays in processing access to information requests. Requests are used by opposition MPs, journalists, the private sector, and members of the public to gain access to information on the operation of the federal government—a bureaucracy which isn’t inclined to publicly releasing information.

Mr. Drapeau said an audit should look to see if ATIP offices and the Office of the Information Commissioner is properly staffed to fulfill the obligations of the Access to Information Act, noting it isn’t necessarily a question of quantity but making sure there are enough investigators and ATIP officers and not an abundance of executive-level bureaucrats.

“[The audit] should take a look to see if our ambition to have records released in 30 days is fair and reasonable and attainable or whether or not it’s pie in the sky,” he said. “If it’s not 30 days, let’s

make it 60 days, but abide by it and change the law.”

Mr. Drapeau said he doesn’t see how the government can continue operating as normal, but the work of ATIP offices is stalled.

“The machinery of government has continued to work reasonably well during COVID-19,” he said, noting the work of many departments continues while civil servants are working from home. “If there is anything that should be able to work at a distance, I think, it is the management of records—all of that is done electronically.”

While some departments can operate the same as they did while in the office, Mr. Drapeau said it is not the case for ATIP offices because “delays are expected.”

demic as having a “significant impact” on processing the requests. According to the report, Global Affairs’ ATIP office was closed from mid-March to September 2020, which led to one of their “information repositories” not being accessible due to its security status.

The report noted that Global Affairs is responsible for having “appropriate internal processes in place” to meet the 30-day legislative deadline set out by the Access to Information Act.

“This is not the first time that Global Affairs has failed to meet its legislative obligations under the Access to Information Act and I will be monitoring the situation closely to ensure that these issues are not systemic in nature,” Ms. Maynard noted.



“We’ve grown accustomed to having a lot of delays in the access regime,” he said, noting that the regime wasn’t working famously well before the pandemic, and the health restrictions give “an easy and perhaps more acceptable off-ramp” to explain the delays.

Information Commissioner Caroline Maynard released a report in September concerning nine separate complaints about delays in processing requests under the Access to Information Act by Global Affairs, in which she found all the complaints were “well founded.”

Of the nine complaints, Global Affairs cited the COVID-19 pan-

She ordered the release of all nine requests by Oct. 15—a power the federal information commissioner was given when the Access to Information Act was amended.

Global Affairs did not respond to *The Hill Times* before publication deadline regarding if it has made changes to quicken the processing of access to information requests.

As part of the passage of Bill C-58 in June 2019, which amended the Access to Information Act, it committed the Treasury Board to a review of the access to information regime within a year of coming into force. That review began in March and a final report



A recent report from Information Commissioner Caroline Maynard noted that she will be monitoring Global Affairs to ensure access to information issues are ‘not systemic in nature.’ *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

is scheduled to be submitted to Treasury Board President Mona Fortier (Ottawa-Vanier, Ont.) by Jan. 31, 2022.

Mr. Drapeau said there is insufficient will to fix the delays that have been ingrained in the system as it isn’t a top priority for the Canadian public.

“Where there is a will, there is a way. Obviously in departments or maybe across the government, starting with the Treasury Board, which is responsible for access, they know that in this particular area the public has no limit when it comes to its patience.”

A spokesperson for the Treasury Board didn’t respond to questions on delays in the access to information system before publication deadline.

Treasury Board President Mona Fortier oversees the Access to Information Act which governs how members of the public can request information from federal government departments. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

tions and Estimates in February that the right of access “cannot be suspended because of the pandemic.” She added that the government has not “seized the opportunity for change” during the pandemic.

Mr. McCauley, who noted that the complaints to the information commissioner on the Global Affairs access to information requests were submitted by a staffer that works in his office and that of another MP, said departments aren’t even returning calls or emails about information requests.

“It requires strong political will to get these departments to do their job and to follow the required mandate,” he said. “The Treasury Board rules [aren’t] suggestions, they are rules. Under this government, they are treating them as suggestions.”

He endorsed Mr. Drapeau’s desire to see a review of the access to information system by the auditor general, saying it is a “fantastic suggestion.”

Canadian Association of Journalists president Brent Jolly also supported the idea of an auditor general review.

“I would be completely in favour of the auditor general doing something to push this along. I think we’ve gotten in a habit of sort of accepting the status quo. Over time the status quo continually depreciates in terms of its functionality,” he said.

Mr. Jolly said there have been decades of inconsequential action on the access to information system.

“A lot of problems that have been amplified because of the pandemic—exemptions, delays, all the usual stuff—hasn’t been acted on for the better part of a quarter [century],” he said. “You reap what you sow at this point.”

He said he is hopeful that action will be taken following the Treasury Board’s review of the system.

“You can’t get cynical about this stuff because if you do then you’re just going to sort of allow the system to disintegrate like it has over the past 25 years,” Mr. Jolly said. “I don’t think that is in any of our interest to do. You have to stay hopeful and you have to keep pushing for change.”

nmoss@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times



MPs, including New Brunswick Conservative John Williamson, donning a purple scarf, are pictured arriving at the West Block for the first day of the new Parliament on Nov. 22. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

House committees set to be whipped up as MPs settle in

How committees are struck and how long it takes varies Parliament to Parliament, and depends on what parties agree to through negotiations.

Continued from page 1

Standing committees are re-established at the start of each parliamentary session, and the process (typically) begins with a motion from the government House leader striking and naming members to the Procedure and House Affairs Committee (PROC), which then has 10 sitting days to return a report with membership lists for the other 25 standing House committees, and two standing joint committees. Under House rules, only recognized parties—those with at least 12 sitting members—are given seats on committees.

Once struck, and after electing its own chair and vice-chairs, PROC (typically) adopts a motion to delegate the task of compiling committee membership lists to caucus whips, who submit their choices for assignments to the chair. These names get compiled into a report which is tabled in the House and then must be agreed upon. PROC has 10 sitting days after its formation to table this report. Once the House agrees to PROC's report, committees have 10 sitting days to

hold their first meeting and elect chairs and vice-chairs.

Opposition whips reached by *The Hill Times* said they're ready to go as soon as possible.

"As soon as we can get things started, the better," said NDP Whip Rachel Blaney (North Island-Powell River, B.C.) in a phone interview Nov. 22.

"The process to establish committees shouldn't take much time at all," said Conservative Whip Blake Richards (Banff-Airdrie, Alta.) in an emailed statement Nov. 17. "In fact, we're ready for committees to start meeting as early as [this] week. The Liberals have dragged their feet for far too long. It's time to get back to work."

How committees are struck and how long it takes varies Parliament to Parliament, and depends on what parties agree to through negotiations.

In 2015, the motion to strike PROC came the same day as the Throne Speech; after a six-week winter break, the first standing committee meetings (other than PROC's) took place on Feb. 3, 2016. In 2019, a motion to strike PROC was tabled and passed five days after the governor general delivered the Speech from the Throne, but the House also opted to strike three standing committees—Finance, Trade, and Health—earlier, which met for the first time on Jan. 29, 2020; PROC's report on members for the other standing committees was adopted on Feb. 5, 2020. After prorogation in August 2020, an agreement between House leaders saw PROC's role bypassed entirely when the

Chamber returned in September, with whips instead directed to send membership lists to the Clerk of the House of Commons.

"The establishment of these things—both PROC and the other committees—timing is a matter of negotiations between the House leaders and the whip of various parties," explained now-former Liberal MP Larry Bagnell, who represented Yukon, N.W.T., in the House from 2000 to 2011 and 2015 until earlier this year (he opted not to run for re-election), and chaired PROC during the 42nd Parliament. He recalled the Liberal government's attempt to get unanimous consent to quickly strike the House Finance Committee and launch a special joint committee on physician-assisted dying after the 2015 election, which was delayed due to a push back by the Bloc Québécois over the fact that only recognized parties—it was two MPs short of meeting the threshold—get seats at committee.

"If there's no contention, then it's done quicker," said Mr. Bagnell.

Committee formation is just one item on a list of things House leadership teams need to find agreement on in the early days of this Parliament. Other questions still to be determined via a motion in the House include whether any of the three special committees that existed during the last Parliament will be re-struck, and how many members each standing committee will have. The Standing Orders provide for 10, but that number can be increased, as happened during the last Parliament (and the 39th and 40th Parliaments,

which were both minorities), when four parties had recognized status and it was boosted to 11 members for official opposition-chaired committees and 12 for government-chaired ones.

If those efforts are any indication of parties' willingness to co-operate, things could be off to a rocky start, with Mr. Holland saying on Nov. 22 that he was "incredibly frustrated" by the fact Parliament was starting without having found "common ground on this issue," singling out the Conservative caucus' opposition.

The number of seats each party gets on each committee is proportional to its standing in the House. With a 12-member committee, that would work out to six Liberals (five on 11-member committees), four Conservatives, and one member each from the Bloc and the NDP.

Four House committees—Public Accounts; Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics; Government Operations and Estimates; and the Status of Women Committee—will be chaired by a Conservative, with the rest chaired by Liberal MPs.

Another decision that'll have to be made is whether to once again appoint a third vice-chair, as was done during the last Parliament, which gave every opposition party a vice-chair at each committee. The rules set out two vice-chairs, stipulating that the first be either a member of the official opposition or governing party, depending on who is chair, and the second be a member of an opposition party other than the official opposition. In turn, the NDP and the Bloc pushed for a third vice-chair to be appointed to each committee last time around.

Asked where things stand for this Parliament, Ms. Blaney said on Nov. 22 that there had been no discussion yet, but she said, "I'm not worried about it, it's not something that's top of mind right now."

Settling committee assignments

The process for drafting committee membership lists looks a bit different for each party.

Mr. Bagnell said for Liberals, the Whip asks all MPs to rank their preferences, and in his experience, they've been "generous

in allowing ... people to be on the committee that they wanted to be on," noting he was assigned to his No. 1 pick, the National Defence Committee, during the last Parliament.

"There are certain committees that everyone loves that are very popular that a lot of people want to be on, like Foreign Affairs," he said. "A lot of people [last time] got one of their first three choices—the vast majority, if not all ... I was very surprised at that, I would have thought administratively the government would be more heavy handed in picking people for certain reasons."

Liberal Whip Steven MacKinnon (Gatineau, Que.) was tight-lipped on Nov. 18 on where work to draft his caucus' committee membership lists stood, but said it started "early on" after the election and begins with asking MPs to rank their preferences. "We want to try and accommodate everyone's interest and that's why we asked for several preferences, of course, and we do our best to see that everyone's objectives are met."

"This is a process that, of course, includes consulting widely, but mostly with the Members themselves," he said. "We just try and ensure that ... we can supply everyone with a challenge that kind of meets their interests, their expertise, their experience, and gets committees into a sort of instantly productive mode."

For the NDP, Ms. Blaney said "because we have a smaller caucus, I just look at critic roles, basically, and identify where people will be the best fit and if we have anybody who's working on a particular focus they will receive a role in committee."

First-time Conservative MP Shelby Kramp-Neuman (Hastings-Lennox and Addington, Ont.), her party's seniors critic, said she learned from her father, former MP and current Ontario MPP Daryl Kramp, "that some of the most productive, non-partisan, constructive work happens at the committee level." In advance of getting her own committee assignments, she said she's been doing research on a number of committees to get up to speed on past studies and where things stood at the end of the last Parliament.

"I can't decide exactly what committee I'm going to be on, but my intent is to do well on whatever committee it is," said Ms. Kramp-Neuman.

Caucus does a lot of work "getting to know one another, and they've done extensive background on us as well and everyone has strengths and weaknesses," she explained, noting she's made them aware, for example, of her experience as a financial adviser, with foreign affairs from interning for a Senator on the Upper Chamber's committee, the fact she's bilingual, and that she's the mother of two competitive athletes.

"Sometimes people want spicy committees and they want something that's going to get a lot of media attention," she said. "That's not how I work. I think that any committee that I would be honoured to be part of, there's work to be done."

lryckewaert@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times



Le 15 novembre 2021

Lettre ouverte aux parlementaires

Au nom des **236 stations de ski au Canada**, nous tenons à vous remercier de votre appui aux Canadiens, aux membres de notre personnel et à l'ensemble de notre secteur pendant la pandémie de COVID-19.

Globalement, Statistique Canada estimait à 1,2 milliard de dollars les retombées économiques des stations de ski avant la pandémie. Le nombre d'emplois générés par ce même secteur s'élevait, quant à lui, à environ **35 000**. La pandémie a eu des répercussions négatives sur les stations de ski partout au pays, les baisses de recettes ayant atteint jusqu'à 60 %.

Alors que notre nation émerge de cette terrible pandémie, l'hiver à venir laisse entrevoir une saison de reprise pour les stations de ski grâce à la levée des restrictions et au retour à des conditions d'exploitation plus normales pour les entreprises. Les stations de ski canadiennes sont bien prêtes à contribuer à la reprise économique du secteur touristique.

Notre importance pour les Canadiens

Les recherches du Conseil canadien du ski (CCS) estiment que jusqu'à 21 % de la population canadienne (7,9 millions d'habitants) a déjà fait l'essai des sports de glisse ou pratique activement l'un de ces sports. D'après le nombre de personnes ayant acheté un billet de remontée la saison dernière, le CCS évalue à quelque 2,7 millions le nombre de skieurs et de planchistes canadiens actifs en 2018-2019.

L'industrie canadienne du ski en est une à forte densité de main-d'œuvre. La masse salariale annuelle totale en 2018-2019 était estimée à plus de 450 millions de dollars, les stations de ski ayant versé plus de 50 millions de dollars en cotisations sociales. L'industrie, qui emploie plus de 35 000 personnes en hiver, compte sur de nombreuses petites collectivités de ski.

Après près de deux ans de restrictions et de confinement, il est primordial que les Canadiens puissent sortir dehors et tirer le maximum des merveilleux hivers canadiens. En tant qu'activités hivernales, le ski et le surf des neiges procurent maints avantages pour la santé, tant sur le plan physique que mental.

Et peut-être ces sports n'ont-ils jamais été aussi importants qu'en cette période où **les Canadiens sont à la recherche d'activités extérieures qui se pratiquent naturellement à distance**.

Une menace pèse sur notre reprise

Le secteur touristique est reconnaissant au gouvernement fédéral pour son soutien à nos exploitants et travailleurs, mais une menace importante guette notre reprise. La pénurie de main-d'œuvre aux stations de ski canadiennes est devenue un problème critique et pourrait faire en sorte que 30 % des postes demeurent vacants cet hiver. Nos membres n'accepteront pas de mener leurs activités si la sécurité est compromise. De plus, la pénurie actuelle signifie que de nombreuses entreprises au sein de l'industrie connexe du tourisme d'accueil pourraient avoir à fermer leurs portes ou à réduire leurs heures d'ouverture, ce qui nuirait encore davantage à la reprise économique de notre secteur.

Les stations de ski partout au pays travaillent dur à chercher de la main-d'œuvre canadienne pour l'hiver à venir. Cependant, le faible nombre de participants au programme Expérience internationale Canada (EIC) entrant au pays représente une contrainte importante liée à la main-d'œuvre du secteur touristique. Communément appelés « détenteurs d'un visa de vacances-travail », ces voyageurs sont des travailleurs essentiels pour le secteur touristique. Depuis mars 2021, le nombre de permis de travail délivrés dans le cadre d'EIC a chuté bien en deçà de la normale, et le nombre de voyageurs détenteurs d'un tel permis de travail qui entrent vraiment au Canada est probablement encore plus bas. Le rejet des demandes de visa de vacances-travail, la fermeture des centres de demande, l'absence de contrôle des données biométriques et d'autres mesures pandémiques nécessaires ont contribué à la formation de ce que l'on décrit comme un « nœud bien serré » dans une source essentielle de travailleurs. Les stations de ski canadiennes perdent des employés à cause de l'extrême retard dans le traitement des demandes.

Nous demandons au gouvernement du Canada de veiller à ce que toutes les mesures possibles soient prises pour augmenter les ressources affectées au traitement des demandes de visas et de résidence permanente associées aux entreprises du milieu touristique hivernal.

Le Conseil canadien du ski et ses membres insistent pour que le gouvernement du Canada saisisse sans tarder cette occasion de préserver la saison du tourisme d'hiver au pays.

Nous vous prions d'agréer nos sincères salutations.

Conseil canadien du ski
C.P. 773, Beeton (Ontario) LOG 1A0



November 15, 2021

An Open Letter to Parliamentarians

On behalf of **Canada's 236 ski areas**, we want to thank you for supporting Canadians, our employees and our sector during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Collectively, Stats Canada estimated the pre-pandemic economic impact of ski areas to be \$1.2 Billion. The same estimate pegged employment **at 35,000 people**. The pandemic negatively affected ski areas across the country seeing revenues drop by up to 60%. As our nation emerges from the worst of the pandemic, the coming winter promises to be a recovery year for ski areas as restrictions lift and businesses return to more normal operating routines. Canada's ski areas stand ready to play a part in the economic recovery of the tourism sector.

Our value to Canadians

The CSC research estimates that up to 21% of the Canadian population (7.9 million people) has tried or is actively engaged in snow sports. Of the active market (those who have purchased a lift ticket in the past season), the CSC estimates that in 2018/19, there were 2.7 million active Canadian skiers and snowboarders.

The ski industry in Canada is a labour-intensive business. Total annual payroll in 2018/19 is estimated at over \$450 million, with ski area contributions of over \$50 million in payroll taxes. With total employment estimated at over 35,000 winter staff, the industry is relied upon by many small resort town communities.

It is imperative that after nearly two years of restrictions and lock downs that Canadians are able to get outside and enjoy our wonderful Canadian winters to the fullest. Skiing and snowboarding offer physical and mental health benefits as a winter activity. Perhaps this has never been as important as **Canadians seek naturally distanced outdoor activities**.

A looming threat to our recovery

The tourism industry has appreciated the work of the federal government to support our operators and workers, however a significant threat has emerged to our recovery. The labour shortage at Canadian ski areas has become a critical issue that may see as much as 30% of positions go unfilled this winter. Our members will not allow operations to go on in a manner that compromises safety. Still, the current shortage means that many supporting hospitality businesses will face closure or reduced hours that will further hamper the economic recovery of our industry.

Ski areas across our nation are working hard to engage the domestic workforce for this coming winter. However, a key constraint on the tourism labour force is the low number of International Experience Canada (IEC) participants entering the country. Commonly referred to as working holiday travellers, these individuals are essential workers for the tourism sector. Since March 2021, the number of IEC permits being issued has fallen well below normal levels—and the number of individuals who then actually arrive in Canada on an IEC permit is likely even lower. Rejections of working holiday visas, closed application centres, lack of available biometric screening, and other necessary pandemic measures have contributed to what has been described as a "tightly wound knot" in an essential source of workers. Canada's ski areas are losing employees due to the extreme backlog of applications.

We are asking the federal government of Canada to ensure all available measures are taken to increase resources focused on the processing of PR and Visa applications relating to winter tourism businesses.

The Canadian Ski Council and our members urge the Government of Canada to act swiftly on this opportunity to preserve the winter tourism season in our country.

Sincerely,

Canadian Ski Council

PO Box 773 | Beeton, ON LOG 1A0

News

Canada may be back at pre-pandemic employment levels, but the hard part isn't over, say experts

'Once the tide rolls out on all of this rebound, we're expecting fairly weak economic growth for Canada,' says the Conference Board of Canada's Pedro Antunes.

Continued from page 1

September and February 2020). However, long-term unemployment—meaning being out of work for 27 weeks or more—rates were little changed at 380,000 people, as was the overall unemployment rate at 6.7 per cent, one percentage point higher than it was in February 2020 before the tides changed with COVID and only 0.2 percentage points lower than it was in September.

A press release from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce called these gains something of a "mirage."

"Although we have returned to pre-pandemic levels, the labour market has fundamentally shifted since then. We need to be looking forward, not backward," reads the Nov. 5 release. "The fact is the hard part begins now. Filling almost 900,000 job vacancies is an order of magnitude more difficult to achieve than a rebound in employment following a significant economic downturn."



'Once the tide rolls out on all of this rebound, we're expecting fairly weak economic growth for Canada,' says Pedro Antunes. Photograph courtesy of Pedro Antunes

This year's second quarter job vacancy review from Statistics Canada, released on Sept. 21, found that there were 731,905 job vacancies across the country.

Tying into this is the larger issue of labour shortages.

"There's a real shortage, there's so many businesses in my com-



Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, pictured at an event at the CEHO School in Ottawa on Oct. 21. Experts and MPs offered a mixed bag of suggestions for what the government should do next to support the economy, including calls to tweak, expand, or end support programs. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

munity with 'help wanted' signs out there," Conservative MP Philip Lawrence (Northumberland—Peterborough South, Ont.) said.

In fact, according to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business' Business Recovery Dashboard, only 43 per cent of small businesses in Canada are fully staffed, and 26 per cent can't find all the staff they need.

Still, Julien Picault, associate professor of teaching economics at the University of British Columbia, said he's satisfied by the current market numbers, after going through "a massive event that destroyed a lot of jobs and almost stopped the economy," and which, he noted, is still ongoing.

"What I don't want people to think is that the pandemic has no effect on the labour market," he said, pointing to the fact that typically these figures grow over time, meaning being back at pre-pandemic levels still sets Canada behind where it should be.

In chief economist at the Conference Board of Canada Pedro Antunes' view, there is an upcoming price to pay, particularly with the "massive" amount of government support given out during the pandemic.

In fact a lot of these benefits, he said, have actually boosted the disposable income of the average family, and helped some businesses turn record profits, with business counts increasing and bankruptcies decreasing—the opposite of how a recession normally operates.

"Once the tide rolls out on all of this rebound, we're expecting fairly weak economic growth for Canada ... when the tide rolls out you can see who's swimming naked," he said, quoting American investor Warren Buffet.

This is mainly because government supports have been borrowing from the future, and adding new debt that all Canadi-

ans are responsible for, he said. Restrained economic activity from consumers and government, along with a drop in support programs and huge structural changes like the move to remote work, will create a fallout of bankruptcies and business failures, he said.

This is unavoidable, he said. "Once the pandemic dollars are spent we're going to see much weaker economic growth." In fact, it's not so much about preventing this decline as it is about "[bringing] the financial situation to something that's manageable long-term," he said.

In contrast, Liberal MP Julie Dzerowicz (Davenport, Ont.) said the massive transformation in how we deliver services, with more people at home, could be a positive chance.

"We're in a period of transition ... there's challenges, but there's also a lot of opportunity," she said, noting the potential for more efficient work and greater digitization.

Ian Lee, associate professor at the Sprott School of Business at Carleton University, said he expects the pandemic to burn out within a year and that "we underestimated the recovery and resilience of the economy."

"The lockdown ended and the economy snapped back," he said.

However, there may still be difficulty with supply chains, Trevin Stratton, national economic advisory leader at Deloitte Canada, said. This is in particular owing to the fact that our decades-old supply chains are being reformulated to regional supply chains that are more disaster resistant.

Also of note is the "unequal recovery," said Bea Bruske, president of the Canadian Labour Congress. While job recovery figures are good, she said you have to look at quality, wage, and hours as well. Particularly in food

services, and hospitality, there is still "less work for workers to come back to," she said.

In many ways, said Deena Ladd, executive director of the Workers Action Centre, COVID-19 has made the public aware of the issues of poor working conditions and precarity in the labour market.

The hard part, then, isn't necessarily over because, she said, "we're dealing with a reckoning about the slow deterioration of wages and working conditions," that is resulting in workers refusing to go back to poor-quality jobs, even with the "government sort of trying to persuade us that everything is normal again."

Still, while the situation isn't over despite the seeming respite of some economic and market bounce-back, there's a lot that the government can do, those interviewed by *The Hill Times* said, even if some of their suggestions seem to clash.

For Conservative MP Michelle Ferreri (Peterborough—Kawartha, Ont.), the necessary changes aren't going to be easy, particularly with the shift in how workplaces will operate, "but the government has to be implementing programs that are incentivizing people to go back to work, you have to stop printing money, and you have to open up business safely."



Ian Lee says he thinks income support rules have to revert back to what they once were. Photograph courtesy of Ian Lee

"It's not a simple solution, nothing is," she said.

Ms. Dzerowicz pointed towards the government's national childcare plan as an example of the building blocks needed to help Canadians "to be able to transition to more online, agile, flexible workplace."

However, Mr. Lawrence criticized the government's recovery efforts, arguing that the way the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) was rolled out encouraged people to work less hard, lest they move out of the

income bracket that was eligible to receive benefits. Similarly, the income tax code, he said, burdens lower- and middle-class people.

"We need to incentivize work. There should never be a situation where someone is further behind by working harder," he said.

Mr. Lee also criticized the income supports for dropping the classic EI rules requiring those receiving benefits to be looking for work and to accept jobs for which they are qualified.

"When income support ends as we have experienced it for the past year and a half ... then what I'm arguing is that a lot of those shortages will disappear, because people will say, 'gee whiz, I don't have income any more I need to get back to work,'" he said. He emphasized that he doesn't blame minimum-wage workers, noting that if he were a 20-year-old offered \$2,000 a month to not work, he would take the offer, too.

For Mikal Skuterud, a professor in the economics department at the University of Waterloo, another area of focus for the government should be targeting long-term unemployment. He noted that employers typically have stigma against those who have been out of the workforce for an extended period of time. To combat this, he said, the subsidies for hiring programs should be tweaked.

"That [Canada Recovery Hiring Program] subsidy should be bigger if they hire workers that are long-term jobless," he said, offering the idea of a 75 per cent subsidy for long-term jobless workers. "It incentivizes them to take a risk."

Last month, the CRHP was extended until May 2022 and boosted back to a 50 per cent wage subsidy (from 20 per cent) for employers hiring new workers or expanding hours work.

On the topic of benefits, Corinne Pohlmann, senior vice-president of national affairs for the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, said that the remaining rent and wage subsidies should have their thresholds for qualifying lowered, as "a lot of businesses we know that are in the 20, 35 per cent revenue loss ... they're going to get nothing."

On the labour side, Ms. Ladd said the government should reinstate the Canada Recovery Benefit, which ended in October, "until the pandemic is fully over and kids are fully vaccinated," especially with many sectors like entertainment and tourism still floundering.

And, of course, there's the classic call from Ms. Bruske for the government to put money towards employment and re-skilling, especially for a green economy, and a tweaking of the EI system (a federal consultation on which ended Nov. 19) to better allow for this kind of training.

For Mr. Lawrence, the answer is as straightforward as partnership.

"I would like to see the government partner with the private sector to promote innovation and economic growth," he said. "I think it's incumbent on all MPs of all political stripes to work together to promote economic growth."

achen@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

AEROSPACE

A dare
to not only
dream big,
but actively
support Canada's
aerospace future

p. 21

**Aerospace
recovery will
take time
and strong
partnerships**

p. 22

Sunnier skies
ahead for **Canada's
aviation sector**

p. 23

The
new
space race
is Canada's
to lose

p. 25

Aerospace Policy Briefing

Reforms to aviation sector business model needed to support COVID-19 recovery, says Canadian Airports Council president



Innovation Minister François-Philippe Champagne's office says that the transition to a green aviation industry is critical to the future of Canada's aerospace sector. *The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade*

The federal government 'needs to recognize the strides the industry is making, especially when it comes to climate and sustainability efforts,' says Conservative MP Matt Jeneroux.

BY JESSE CNOCKAERT

The business model of Canada's airports needs a rethink to support their recovery from the devastating financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, with an equity-based financing model as one possibility, according to the president of the Canadian Airports Council (CAC).

"There could be a role for equity financing in the model, [but] the devil is in the details," said Daniel-Robert Gooch. "We do think some big conversations need to be had with airports and the government on how we ensure that these airports are financially stable."

The federal government owns 26 airports across Canada, with 21

of them operated by nonprofit airport authorities that pay rent to the government. Reforms to this model may be needed to find a better way to financially support Canada's airports, which are still struggling to bounce back from the pandemic, according to Mr. Gooch. Airport authorities rely largely on passenger revenues to stay operational, and passenger volumes this past October were about 47 per cent of what they were compared to Octobers from before the pandemic, according to Mr. Gooch.

Equity financing is a way of gaining capital by selling some of the stake in a company. If this model were to be adopted in Canada, private sector investors would be able to buy shares of the airports to make money through a share of the profits.

An alternative form of financing is debt financing, which involves taking out loans to grow a business. An advantage to equity financing is it lacks the obligation of fixed loan payments.

"There could be a way for equity investors to be part of the mix in terms of airport financing, because the way it is structured right now the airports really have to rely on debt," said Mr. Gooch. "We want to see discussions on the model and the reliance on debt financing. We'd like to see what could be possible in terms of a role for equity financing."

Reforms to Canada's airport industry were also proposed in

a report released on Oct. 19 by Deloitte, a provider of financial advisory, risk advisory, and tax services. The report suggested that airports in other international markets have benefited from "a higher level of private sector participation."



Daniel-Robert Gooch, president of the Canadian Airports Council, says 'the devil is in the details' when it comes to an equity finance model for Canada's airports. *Photograph courtesy of Daniel-Robert Gooch*

"Allowing the larger Canadian airports to use private-sector equity could lead to an invigorated, technology-led sector that grows and develops to meet future travel demands while reducing the potential market and financial risk to the federal government and the Canadian public at large," said the report.

A possible shift towards equity-based financing was also considered by the federal government following the last review of the Canada Transportation Act. The review resulted in a report released on Oct. 5, 2015, that included a recommendation to strengthen the national airports system by moving towards a share-capital structure for larger airports, with equity-based financing from large institutional investors.

Mr. Gooch added that he would not be in favour of a complete sale of an airport's assets, which he said would allow the federal government to pocket the money and walk away.

"The airports have invested in their own infrastructure—more than \$6.5-billion since 1992—almost all of which was user funds, not government funds. The government would have reaped the value of selling those assets and getting the value of those improved assets, but the airport wouldn't have had any benefit under that type of an arrangement," he said. "Maybe we can tweak the model in such a way that we can benefit from equity financing. That's a bit different from what most people are saying when they propose privatization, and it's certainly quite different from what we believe the government was looking at several years ago."

Mr. Gooch proposes that an airport's assets could be partially sold to buyers in the private sector, and for the money to be reinvested in the airport, rather than going to the federal government. This would make it easier for some airports to incorporate infrastructure related to climate change adaptation, he said.

"The ability of airports to invest in their own facilities, whether it be for climate change, or whether it be to support continued growth ... is going to be severely restricted after the pandemic, versus what it was before the pandemic. We need the government to work with us on ensuring that airports have the funds available to them to make these investments, but at the same time remain competitive," he said. "Airports are going to be very hard pressed to make [investments in climate change infrastructure], with all of the debt they already have on their books, if they have to take on more debt to finance them."

The Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act, which received royal assent on June 29, formalized Canada's target of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. Federal programs to encourage the green transformation of the aerospace sector include the Strategic Innovation Fund's Net Zero Accelerator, an \$8-billion fund that supports decarbonization in heavy industry, and supports clean technologies.

Mohammad Hussain, a spokesperson for Innovation Minister François-Philippe Champagne (Saint-Maurice—Champlain, Que.) said that preserving Canada's global leadership position in green aviation is critical to the "prosperous future of Canada's highly innovative aerospace sector," in an email to *The Hill Times* on Nov. 18.

"Canada's strengthened climate plan recognized this and identified clean technology development in the aerospace sector as a key focus area," said Mr. Hussain. "Through our investments in the aerospace sector, our overarching goal is to ensure that aerospace investments build on Canada's existing strengths and anchor production mandates and jobs, while supporting the green transformation of the sector to reduce GHG emissions through aviation."

The aerospace sector continues to be among the hardest-hit manufacturing sectors in Canada by the pandemic, due to the sharp decline in air travel, according to Mr. Hussain.

"We are focused on enhancing our competitive advantages, attracting investments to anchor production and employment, and stimulating innovation and technology development," said Mr. Hussain in the email. "Investments to support the adoption of advanced and efficient manufacturing processes; the development of disruptive technologies, including autonomous flight and space-enabled technologies; and innovations to protect safety and security in the wake of COVID-19 also represent significant growth opportunities for the sector."

Mr. Gooch said that airports are taking the initiative to develop their own plans to reach net-zero emissions. The "most ambitious" plan, according to Mr. Gooch, comes from the Vancouver International Airport in B.C., which announced a plan on Oct. 7 to reduce its carbon emissions to zero by 2030. Other airports have set their own targets, including the Edmonton International Airport, which announced a commitment to become carbon neutral by 2040, and the Greater Toronto Airports Authority, which has committed to net-zero emissions by 2050.



NDP transport critic Taylor Bachrach says he will look for opportunities this parliamentary session to discuss a recovery plan for the aviation sector. *Photograph courtesy of Twitter*

NDP MP Taylor Bachrach (Skeena—Bulkley Valley, B.C.), his party's transport critic and deputy infrastructure critic, told *The Hill Times* that aerospace supported roughly 230,000 jobs, and contributed \$28-billion to Canada's GDP in 2019. Mr. Bachrach was part of the House

Policy Briefing **Aerospace**

A dare to not only dream big, but actively support Canada's aerospace future

If Canada wants to maintain and grow its market share, it is imperative that all levels of government collectively prioritize and invest in accelerating aerospace R&D, in recruiting and training workers, and building capacity.

Maryse Harvey

Opinion



Aerospace has long stood as a beacon of Canadian ingenuity and industrial capacity, one that earned our nation rank among the leaders of this hotly competitive, global sector. Now, as we emerge from a pandemic and its shattering economic fallout, the question is: what will it take for Canada's aerospace sector to not only regain its might, but achieve even greater heights?

To answer that question, it is helpful to appreciate Canada's pre-pandemic aerospace strength, where we stand today, and also to get a fix on where the global industry is heading.

Prior to COVID-19, Canada's aerospace industry supported more than 213,000 jobs, generated more than \$31-billion in revenue annually, and contributed more than \$25-billion to our gross domestic product. Ontario alone is home to more than 200 aerospace firms, the vast majority of them small- and medium-sized enterprises, responsible for a combined 44,000 direct and indirect jobs. Impressively, some 93 per cent of Canadian aerospace manufacturing firms are exporters.

It's important to note that aerospace means much more than aircraft. Canada's

space industry is also a bona fide world leader in areas spanning robotics, earth observation, satellite communications and more. This extraordinary expertise took decades to develop and needs continued support if we are going to do it justice.

How do these firms compete internationally at such a high level? Through relentless R&D that generates innovative products. By building the capacity to serve global manufacturing supply chains. By maintaining a highly skilled workforce. And by bringing integrity to their trade, and providing top-quality service to clients.

While the aerospace sector worldwide contracted heavily over the past two years, major Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) including Airbus and Boeing now see brighter skies on the horizon.

For its part, Airbus expects a full recovery of air traffic between 2023 and 2025. Based on anticipated demand, Airbus anticipates 39,000 new aircraft deliveries by 2040. Within a similar recovery timeframe, Boeing is forecasting 43,610 airplane deliveries by 2040.

Notably, both of these OEMs expect low-carbon technologies and efficiency gains to drive markets for new aircraft sales well into the future.

Unfortunately, over the past two years, Canadian aerospace firms of all sizes collectively experienced a 40 per cent reduction in revenue, and more than half of them laid off employees.

How will this important sector for the Canadian economy recover?

Part of the answer will undoubtedly involve enhanced government support. In the realm of global aerospace practices, this is nothing new. Historically, nations including the U.S., France, Brazil, and more recently China and India, have recognized the importance of this industry to national economies. They unapologetically provide various forms of government incentives and support that help national aerospace industries become global juggernauts.

Most recently, the Trudeau government demonstrated its commitment by launching the Aerospace Regional Recovery Initiative (ARRI), a positive and urgently needed measure. And federal Innovation, Science, and Industry Minister François-Philippe Champagne has proven to be an engaged and supportive ally.

If Canada wants to maintain and grow its market share, however, it is imperative that all levels of government collectively prioritize and invest in accelerating aerospace R&D, in recruiting and training workers, and building capacity—the foundations of a thriving aerospace innovation ecosystem.

This is where the Downsview Aerospace Innovation and Research (DAIR) hub can make a difference. Located in Toronto, and working closely with the Ontario Aerospace Council (OAC) and several pan-Canadian organizations, DAIR's mission is to build capacity within Ontario's industrial, academic and human resource ranks to underpin a world-class aerospace sector in this province—one that will also help propel the entire Canadian aerospace sector forward.

By fostering collaboration among its members and the broader industry, providing facilities where they can accelerate R&D in areas spanning green tech to advanced manufacturing, training a new generation of highly skilled workers, and building other forms of capacity, DAIR is providing a mechanism critical to our industry's and nation's aerospace success: teamwork.

We invite government, academic, and industry partners that share our vision and confidence in Canada's aerospace sector to learn more; to dare to not only dream big, but to actively help Canada's aerospace sector realize its full potential.

Maryse Harvey is executive director of Downsview Aerospace Innovation and Research.

The Hill Times

THE VOICE OF CANADA'S AIRPORTS

CANADA'S AIRPORTS SUPPORT OUR AEROSPACE SECTOR



Canada's airports are vital transportation links and manufacturing/logistics hubs for dozens of Canada's world-leading aerospace companies.

Working with airports, the federal government can jumpstart new economic opportunities for aerospace by:

- + Removing barriers to international travel recovery, to restore critical connectivity to international markets and financially stabilize airports.
- + Continuing to invest in airport capital projects through programs like the National Trade Corridors Fund and a recapitalized Airport Critical Infrastructure Program.
- + Reforming Canada's Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) program to allow businesses to leverage tax advantages.

Visit canadasairports.ca find out how we are working for travellers and communities.



CANADIAN
AIRPORTS
COUNCIL

CONSEIL DES
AÉROPORTS
DU CANADA

Aerospace Policy Briefing

Action on sustainable aviation is critical for our planet and future workforce

The goal of net-zero emissions by 2050 requires radical action, as it depends on sustainability innovations if the aviation industry is to avoid a high dependence on carbon offsets.

Suzanne Kearns

& Paul Parker

Opinion



Aeronautics is a force for good—driving cultural connections, economic exchange, and social value. But to realize these benefits now and into the future, we need sustainable solutions and practices. Sustainability has three pillars of equal importance: social, environmental, and economic.

The federal government is looking to award a single contract in 2023 for aircrew training, infrastructure, aircraft and airfield maintenance through the Future Aircrew Training (FACt) program. The FACt program will be setting a foundation for training and base operations for decades into the future. As military activity is a major source of government GHG emissions, procurement decisions must carefully consider sustainability metrics.

Social sustainability is associated with building equitable, diverse, and inclusive workforces—a critical consideration within future Royal Canadian Air Force operations. Personnel shortages of pilots, controllers, and maintenance professionals plagued civil aviation pre-pandemic, and are expected to re-emerge shortly. These challenges are, perhaps, more acute within the Forces.

A rapid technological evolution is on the horizon—reshaping the nature of work and raising research, technological, and upskilling questions. A viable future requires us to improve the effectiveness, engagement, and customization of learning to optimize retention and individual performance. We need evidence-based innovations in human factors, flight physiology, machine

learning, education and simulation (including augmented- and virtual-reality); as well as how to best support equity, diversity, and inclusion.

From an environmental sustainability perspective, we must ask ourselves how new technologies and research innovations can help society move forward?

Global emissions from aviation doubled between 1990 and 2019. The industry emits 2.5 per cent of global carbon dioxide, but the increased impacts of emissions at altitude makes this equal to 3.5 per cent of radiative forcing, or warming potential. As COVID restrictions ease, growth is expected to resume at four to five per cent per year.

The goal of net-zero emissions by 2050 requires radical action, as it depends on sustainability innovations if the aviation industry is to avoid a high dependence on carbon offsets.

Aircraft operate for decades. For example, half of the current aircraft in Canada's flight schools were built in the 1970s. The fleet of 2050 is already being purchased today. We need to act now to make informed decisions consistent with 2050 targets.

Industry is responding. Emissions per passenger kilometre travelled have declined

with more efficient engines and lighter airframes. Biofuels are being developed to provide SAF (sustainable aviation fuels) although emission reductions depend on the source, chemical process and distribution network selected. Dozens of start-ups are launching designs of e-VTOL (electric-vertical takeoff and landing) aircraft, *Jetsons*-style autonomous flying cars which may fly overhead of our future cities.

Excitement is growing, but where does the transition in aviation start?

The flight training segment is a prime target for e-planes (as current battery capacities match one-hour training requirements).

The year 2020 marked the first certification of a small two-seater electric aircraft, the Pipistrel Velis Electro, in Europe. It is used for pilot training in Switzerland and France, ecotourism along the Thames in the U.K. and military training in Denmark and the U.K.

Canada's civil flight training units have 1,400 registered aircraft, with utilization rates that can exceed 1,000 hours/year per aircraft. Replacement by a low-carbon electric training aircraft would cut emissions by 50 kilograms per hour or 50 tonnes per

year. Over a 20-year period, each decision to go electric represents a 1,000-tonne reduction in emissions.

Co-benefits include the elimination of lead emissions from aviation gas, quieter operations and a future-ready cohort of new pilots trained and familiar with electric technology as it emerges into a larger role over the next decade.

Future aviation professionals will be required to apply knowledge in contexts that are challenging to imagine today. We must plan future infrastructure to include electrical (and possibly hydrogen) capacity at airports, mobilize interdisciplinary research within our universities to foster global impact, and develop testing and certification capacity within our regulators to evaluate and certify new technologies.

We can reduce emissions, but we need to accelerate early adoption in current procurement decisions. Canada requires innovative technologies and talent to create and guide our complex future—and make it a sustainable one. Ensuring that sustainability metrics are used in upcoming procurement programs will support our ability to convert targets into actions and impact.

Dr. Suzanne Kearns is the founding director of the Waterloo Institute for Sustainable Aeronautics (WISA) at the University of Waterloo. Dr. Paul Parker is WISA's associate director, leading the environmental stream.

The Hill Times

Aerospace recovery will take time and strong partnerships

In every aerospace nation, the industry has always depended on a close partnership with government. That has never been more true than it will be in the post-pandemic global marketplace.

Mike Mueller

Opinion



Almost two years into the COVID-19 pandemic and with a new session of Parliament beginning, there is no better time to leverage the strengths of Canada's aerospace industry and its ability to bolster economic

recovery and grow thousands of new high-paying jobs in every region of this country.

The industry has seen significant job losses that impact our domestic capability. As other countries around the world are doubling down on their strategic industries, we also have an opportunity to position our industry with targeted approaches to overcome the complex hurdles that inevitably come as a result of an unprecedented pandemic and a changing geopolitical landscape.

While support programs and large-scale government supports have a role to play—they must be accompanied by setting a long-term roadmap for economic recovery; one that recognizes the unique characteristics of an industry built up over 80 years with a world-leading legacy that today supports more than 200,000 workers in every region of Canada, rural and urban, from coast to coast to coast.

This week, the Aerospace Industries Association of Canada is pleased to host hundreds of aerospace industry stakeholders, gathering virtually for an important conference with political decision-

makers for discussions around the government's key priorities in the context of a strategic industry vital to Canada's economic recovery, skills development and capabilities, national sovereignty and security—and to our global standing in aerospace, innovation and R&D.

Because of the global nature of aerospace and the broad applications of its technological advancements, in every aerospace nation, the industry has always depended on a close partnership with government. That has never been more true than it will be in the post-pandemic global marketplace.

It was through industry-government partnership and commitment that Canada rose to fifth among aerospace nations. Today, we rank ninth. This positioning was slipping even prior to the effects of the global pandemic which hit this industry disproportionately hard.

Recovery will take time. Without a roadmap for the next 20 to 30 years, there is no doubt there will be further job losses, further movement of talent overseas, and further challenges for Canadian aerospace companies, more

than 500 of which are small- and medium-sized enterprises, to compete and lead in innovation and sustainability.

Canada needs a national aerospace strategy—spanning civil, defence, and space—led by industry and government that looks to 2050, defines Canada's role in the global marketplace and sets out a clear roadmap for the future.

Aerospace is entering a new era of transformational growth. Post-pandemic growth will be fuelled by a green revolution, the race to decarbonize flight, global defence procurements and partnerships, pent-up demand for travel, and the trillion-dollar future of space exploration.

As an R&D and productivity leader, there's no reason why Canada's aerospace industry can't be a leader among modern Canadian manufacturers to innovate and help grow our national economy to contribute to stronger communities across the country and strong exports around the world.

Every other top aerospace nation—including the United States, the U.K., France, Germany, and Australia—has their eye on the future, implementing sector and industrial strategies. There are numerous examples of how a shared vision between industry and government—and a clear strategy—can support growth and jobs.

In 2010, the Aerospace Growth Partnership (AGP) was established

as a strategic partnership between the U.K. government, the U.K. aerospace industry, and other key stakeholders, to secure the future of the industry. As a result, their industry saw incredible gains with its space industry tripling in size and outperforming the global space economy.

Is Canada prepared to step up to ensure our world leading legacy in aerospace is preserved for future generations? If the answer is yes, let's get to work on a national strategy.

The greening of aviation, unmanned aerial systems, and the rise of commercial space activity, are just a few of the opportunities that lie ahead. However, the support of policy makers is imperative to industry's efforts to capitalize on them.

How we plan our aerospace recovery will set the stage and determine our competitiveness for the next 30 years. We have much to build on, including Canada's expertise and leadership in smaller, business aircraft that provide a best-in-class example.

Let's not miss an opportunity before us. Let's not stand by as our competitors move forward. Let's seize our chance to reaffirm Canadian leadership building on our strengths and competitive advantages.

Mike Mueller is president and CEO of Aerospace Industries Association of Canada.

The Hill Times

Sunnier skies ahead for Canada's aviation sector

If Canada selects its own home-grown businesses for FAcT, we'll not only keep a critical capability fully in our own hands for future challenges, but we'll seize the opportunity to create something new, something exciting, and something uniquely Canadian for the next generation.

Tracy Medve

Opinion



“Just when you think you’ve seen it all.” Those of us who have spent our careers in aviation are used to the clichés: “unprecedented”, “never seen anything like it.” We’ve heard them all before. When major world events disrupt the natural flow of business and life, we’re usually among the first to feel it.

Canadian aerospace is a wonderful industry to be a part of. It’s fascinating, it’s dynamic, and it’s absolutely an essential part of our economy and our cultural identity. But we do learn to steel our spines in anticipation of the next challenge that might come out of nowhere, as this pandemic certainly did in early 2020. You think you have your plans all laid out, and the next thing you know, you are making significant, important decisions on information that is evolving in real-time, with people’s lives and livelihoods on the line. But that is what we sign up for in this business. I think our government leaders can certainly relate.

The business I’m fortunate to lead—KF Aerospace—really has seen its fair share of adversity. That’s what happens when you’ve been in business for nearly 52 years. And when you’ve come from nothing, perseverance is in your DNA. Our founder, Barry Lapointe, started this company in 1970 from the back of his pickup truck in the Okanagan Valley, B.C. He’d drive that truck out onto the field to



Canadian aerospace is a wonderful industry to be a part of, but we do learn to steel our spines in anticipation of the next challenge that might come out of nowhere, as this pandemic certainly did in early 2020, writes Tracy Medve. Photograph courtesy of Pixabay

meet a crop duster, writing up the maintenance receipt on his tailgate, the paper stained with the grease from the work he just did with his own two hands. Today, KF Aerospace is Canada’s largest commercial aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) company. We have four facilities across Canada, employing more than 1,000 Canadians. We are also an aircraft

engineering firm, lessor, cargo carrier and have been a proud training and support partner of the Royal Canadian Air Force for the past 16-plus years. It really is one of those great Canadian success stories we hear about but almost can’t believe are real. But this one is real, and you can find many more like ours across our country. It’s why Canada remains so resilient today.

When COVID-19 grounded Canada’s airlines, KF Aerospace lost a significant amount of our regular business virtually overnight. But we didn’t panic; we dug in. With the world reeling and the future uncertain, we knew we had to take immediate and decisive action to protect our employee’s health, their jobs, and be ready to do whatever was necessary to continue support-

ing our commercial and military customers. It wasn’t easy, but in collaboration with the federal government, I’m proud to say we were able to get through the worst of the pandemic’s shock without any significant operational closures or large-scale layoffs.

Today, the demand for our expertise is growing so fast we can barely keep up the hiring. Recently, we announced a new deal with Boeing to add two new cargo conversions lines in Kelowna. Next year, we’ll officially open the KF Aerospace Centre for Excellence—an aviation-themed exhibition hall and conference centre in Kelowna, B.C., that we hope will honour Canada’s legacy and inspire future generations to join the list of great Canadian builders in aviation.

But when we look to the future, perhaps we’re most excited about the opportunity to continue supporting the Royal Canadian Air Force. We’ve teamed up with CAE—another great Canadian business success story—to create SkyAlyne and compete together as the made-in-Canada solution for Canada’s Future Aircrew Training (FACT) Program. FAcT is a generational program that will train all RCAF pilots and aircrew for the next 20-plus years. Building on the foundation of our experience, we will innovate, collaborate, and work together with our pan-Canada team of companies to build something truly Canadian for the future. Our solution ensures that all the jobs, R&D, and economic benefits from the FAcT Program fully support Canada’s recovery and long-term goals. Suppose Canada does select its own home-grown businesses for FAcT. In that case, we’ll not only keep a critical capability fully in our own hands for future challenges, but we’ll seize the opportunity to create something new, something exciting, and something uniquely Canadian for the next generation.

So, if you ask me how I feel about the future of Canadian aviation right now? Well, there’s still a lot of work to do, but perhaps I can try on a different cliché this time—I see sunnier skies and an industry that’s cleared for takeoff.

Tracy Medve is the president and CEO of KF Aerospace and the board chair of SkyAlyne. She is the past chair of the Air Transportation Association of Canada and the first woman in Canada to be inducted as an honorary life member of the organization. She previously sat as a director of the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries (CADSI).

The Hill Times

Aerospace Policy Briefing

Reforms to aviation sector business model needed to support COVID-19 recovery, says Canadian Airports Council president

Continued on page 24

Transport Committee in the previous Parliament, which adopted a motion on Oct. 29, 2020, to study the impact of the pandemic on the aviation sector. A report from the study, released on June 16, 2021, contained 31 recommendations for how the federal government can help ensure the survival and recovery of the aviation sector.

The committee recommended that the federal government work with industry and labour groups to develop a recovery plan for the aviation sector that includes measures for protecting jobs in the wider aerospace sector. The committee also recommended that the federal government partner with the aerospace industry to develop a national aerospace strategy to address the civil, military and space sectors, with a focus on retaining workers, and assisting with the transition to new technologies.

Mr. Bachrach said he hasn't heard about any specific plans from the federal government about following up on these recommendations.

"It's certainly something, as Parliament returns, that we're going to be keeping a close eye on, and something that I will be looking for opportunities to raise at the Transport Committee," said Mr. Bachrach. "Broadly, we need to ensure that airline and aerospace jobs stay in Canada, that we support Canadian-owned airline and aerospace companies, and that we work with the aviation sector to meet the imperatives of a low carbon future."

The Liberal government's 2021 budget, released on April 19, promised \$1.75-billion to support recovery in the aerospace sector, as well as \$250-million over three years towards an Aerospace Regional Recovery Initiative to support small- and medium-sized firms. Mr. Bachrach said he would be looking for feedback from the aerospace sector during the current parliamentary session to get a sense of if this funding is sufficient.

"The government has made a commitment to funding, and we're now going to be watching closely to ensure that those funds are distributed in a timely way, and are effectively directed at addressing the impacts of the pandemic on the sector," said Mr. Bachrach.

Conservative MP Matt Jeneroux (Edmonton Riverbend, Alta.) told *The Hill Times* in a Nov. 18 emailed statement that Canada needs a national aerospace strategy for the country to compete with other "top aerospace nations" coming out of the pandemic. Mr.



The aerospace sector continues to be among the hardest-hit manufacturing sectors in Canada by the pandemic, due to the sharp decline in air travel, according to Mohammad Hussain, a spokesperson for the innovation minister. Photograph courtesy of Pixabay

that all of a sudden people think that they can start an airline and make some money," said Mr. Gradek. "Unfortunately, I've seen this picture before, and this is not something that's new. I've been around the business a long time. You see these blips ... and the end result will probably be that most of these carriers will not survive."

jcnockaert@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

Canada air transport sector statistics (2018)

- Canada's air transport sector is directly or indirectly responsible for a total of 633,000 jobs across the country.
- Approximately 241,000 of these jobs are with airlines; airports and their onsite enterprises (e.g., retailers, restaurants, financial services); and air traffic controllers. Another 146,000 jobs are supported by the air transport sector buying goods and services from local suppliers, and a further 55,000 jobs are supported through the wages paid to air transport sector employees.
- Foreign tourists arriving by air to Canada, who spend their money in the local economy, are estimated to support 190,000 jobs.
- The air transport industry, including airlines and its supply chain, are estimated to support US\$37-billion of GDP in Canada. Spending by foreign tourists supports a further US\$12-billion of the country's GDP, totalling to US\$49-billion. In total, 3.2 per cent of Canada's GDP is supported by inputs to the air transport sector and foreign tourists arriving by air.

—Source: *The International Air Transport Association (IATA), The Importance of Air Transport to Canada*

The impact of COVID-19 on airports in 2020

- In 2020, COVID-19 ended a streak of 10 consecutive annual increases in air passenger traffic. The total number of passengers at Canadian airports dropped to 45.9 million in 2020, which was a decrease of 71.8 per cent from the previous year.
- Domestic cargo transported by air increased 2.5 per cent from 2019 to 608,000 tonnes in 2020, while transborder cargo with the U.S. dropped by four per cent (230,000 tonnes). Other international cargo fell by 41.4 per cent (319,000 tonnes).

—Source: *Statistics Canada, Airport Activity: Air Carrier Traffic at Canadian Airports, 2020, released on Aug. 25, 2021*

- The five Canadian airports that reported the largest losses in revenue in 2020 were Toronto Pearson International Airport (\$383.4-million), Vancouver International Airport (\$380.1-million), Calgary International Airport (\$242.6-million), Montréal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport (\$234-million), and Edmonton International Airport (\$89.3-million).
 - Debt carried by Canada's airports increased to \$16.77-billion in 2020, compared to \$15-billion prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Source: *Data compiled by Western Aviation News, released on Nov. 2, 2021*

Jeneroux serves as a co-chair of the all-party parliamentary aerospace caucus.

"I think the government needs to recognize the strides the industry is making, especially when it comes to climate and sustainability efforts," said Mr. Jeneroux in the email. "There is no doubt that in order for Canada to be a competitor in the aerospace sector, there needs to be a collaborative ... whole-of-government approach to climate solutions and sustainability, a clear focus on clean-tech innovation and evolving regulatory mechanisms to promote change, Canada is uniquely positioned to be a leader in aerospace sustainability."



Conservative MP Matt Jeneroux says Canada needs a national aerospace strategy to compete with other 'top aerospace nations.' Photograph courtesy of LinkedIn

There are big opportunities for Canada's aerospace sector to contribute to economic recovery from the pandemic through "outer space" activities, according to Mr. Jeneroux. The COVID-19 pandemic showed how reliant society is on space technologies, including the satellites used for virtual communications such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and Webex, he said in the email.

"COVID-19 will have long lasting impacts to Canada's aerospace sector and with a highly skilled workforce, robust exports, and a global reputation for cutting-edge innovation and technology, Canadian aerospace is one of few industries in Canada that creates jobs and economic activity in rural and urban communities from coast to coast," he said. "Canadian space organizations are internationally renowned for their leading-edge technologies, including our scientific excellence in space robotics, optical telescope, satellite communications and Earth Observation and Space Situational Awareness, as well as countless contributions to international collaborative science missions over the past five decades."

John Gradek, a lecturer at McGill University in Quebec and co-ordinator of its Aviation Management program, said he predicts the aviation industry will experience some turmoil over the next two years as new airports open in response to a surge in demand, only to fold shortly thereafter. Some airlines have resorted to increasing the cost of tickets to compensate for the economic downturn during the pandemic, and the gradual easing of restric-

tions for air travel by the federal government will also lead to an increase in passengers, according to Mr. Gradek. Smaller airlines may attempt to take advantage of the heightened demand, but should be wary of competing with the larger airlines, such as WestJet and Air Canada, he said.

As examples, Mr. Gradek pointed to Flair Airlines in Edmonton, which announced on Oct. 19 that it will add four new Boeing 737 MAX aircraft to its fleet in the spring of 2022, and Porter Airlines in Toronto, which announced on July 12 it would bolster its fleet with up to 80 Embraer E195-E2 aircraft.

"One of the consequences of all of this demand showing up is



John Gradek, McGill University's Aviation Management program co-ordinator, says the aviation industry will likely experience an expansion of smaller airlines as travel restrictions are eased. Photograph courtesy of John Gradek

The new space race is Canada's to lose



In September, SpaceX took the next big step, sending four tourists to an orbit higher than the International Space Station. These achievements in human spaceflight reflect more than the power of imagination. They are the outcome of the dizzying pace of innovation and investment driving the rapidly growing space economy, writes Mike Greenley. *Flickr photograph courtesy of SpaceX*

ago, the government of the day made the decision to look to space for a solution to communicating across this vast country. Then, 40 years ago, as the world moved further into space, the government of the day made the decision to contribute robotics to the U.S. space shuttle program. And, some 30 years ago, Canada decided to lean into Earth observation as a strategic solution to monitor and manage Canada's vast and rugged terrain and coastline.

These world-leading areas are a result of deliberate, focused, and effective decisions by government to address a national need while building a strategic domestic industrial capacity.

One of the challenges of the last couple of decades is that our intrinsic Canadian value of "fairness" has diluted government decision-making. Rather than picking strategic areas of strength and pressing forward (full speed ahead) with policy levers, investment, and an intent to excel, we instead see government attention spread thinly across many areas, with an aversion to picking winners and losers. This also applies to the use of the government's buying power to support domestic industry. Other countries' governments don't seem as intent as we do on "creating a level playing field" for their foreign competitors. Instead, they unabashedly get behind their home teams, creating jobs, innovation, and intellectual property.

Canada can't afford to not be in space. Our critical space infrastructure provides benefits to Canadians every single day and is poised to solve some of this country's—and the world's—most pressing economic and social challenges, including monitoring climate change, sensitive land and coastal ecosystems, deforestation and illegal fishing; managing and mitigating natural disasters; safeguarding the country and our sovereignty; and connecting remote and rural populations across our country, the world, and the galaxy.

This country is well-positioned to lead in the new space economy. We have the capability in Canada to build space systems from end to end with hundreds of Canadian companies involved. We have the domain expertise. We have world-class research institutions and a highly skilled STEM workforce. The team is in place. But our competitors are well-conditioned and in the blocks.

The new space race is Canada's to win or lose. The Government of Canada must once again use all of the levers at its disposal to build a globally-competitive industry, because this is a podium we need to own.

Mike Greenley is the chief executive officer of MDA. He has more than 25 years of experience in the defence and security business, including as the former sector president of L-3 WESCAM, a provider of systems for defence, homeland security and law enforcement, and as former vice-president and general manager of CAE Canada.

The Hill Times

Other countries' governments don't seem as intent as we do on 'creating a level playing field' for their foreign competitors. Instead, they unabashedly get behind their home teams, creating jobs, innovation, and intellectual property.

These achievements in human spaceflight reflect more than the power of imagination. They are the outcome of the dizzying pace of innovation and investment driving the rapidly growing space economy. There is a new space race on and the prize is enormous.

In the first few decades that Canada was in space, there were a little more than a handful of participants. Today, there are close to 90 countries with space agencies or space programs, and thousands of commercial companies vying for first mover advantages. In the U.S. alone, since the first FAA-licensed commercial launch took place 33 years ago, a total of 420 commercial launches have taken place. More than 20 per cent of those have taken place since January 2020. Industry and governments are moving swiftly, decisively, strategically, and in partnership to gain a foothold in the new space economy.

The numbers tell the story of the economic opportunity. Invested capital in space has doubled every year for the last three—even through the pandemic—breaking records and leading to the creation of more and more space companies, and space jobs, globally. The global space economy is now worth \$560-billion a year, and by the 2030s is forecast to reach more than \$2-trillion—about the size of Canada's current GDP.

Here's the thing about any race—you have to show up at the start line ready to run—fast. When it comes to space, Canada understood that earlier than most, becoming the third country in space, after the Soviet Union and the U.S. It wasn't chance that got us there, it was a strategic choice to invest in key areas of space technology—satellite communications, Earth observation, and space robotics.

Canada is a leader in these areas today because 60 years

ers took passengers to the edge of space for several minutes, breaking four world records in the process. In September, SpaceX took the next big step, sending four tourists to an orbit higher than the International Space Station (ISS), where they stayed for three days. During that period, between the ISS, the Chinese space station, and the SpaceX Inspiration4 spacecraft, there were a record 14 people in orbit. Since then, legendary Canadian and intergalactic space icon, William Shatner, became the oldest person to fly in space at the age of 90.

Mike Greenley

Opinion



Over the last several months, the world has witnessed a series of historic firsts in human spaceflight happening one after the other.

In July, with the world watching, Virgin Galactic and Blue Origin and their ambitious found-

Aerospace Policy Briefing

We have the resources, the skills, and the capacity needed to undo the pandemic's worst economic effects and regain some ground the industry has lost over the years, but getting there means doubling down on Canada's aerospace industry and taking bold steps over and above investments, writes Jerry Dias. *Unsplash photograph by David Preston*



It's time to double down on Canada's aerospace industry

Canada needs a national aerospace strategy that enshrines these measures and brings together government, labour, business, and training sectors through an industrial development council.

Jerry
Dias

Opinion



The past 20 months have been devastating for Canada's aerospace workers.

Analysts agree that even though air traffic is slowly filling the skies again, the aerospace industry isn't in the clear yet. Not by a long shot.

The sector relies on a delicate ecosystem of careful long-term planning by governments and businesses to ensure a steady stream of aircraft and parts or-

ders. Being successful also relies on well-developed education infrastructure to supply a highly skilled workforce. It also helps to have busy airports.

Air travel in Canada is transporting just 50 per cent of the passengers it did before the current crisis. The numbers are similar for most parts of the globe. The sluggish recovery in aviation is stalling the aerospace sector so much so that employment is down 15 per cent and GDP output has shrunk by 20 per cent compared to 2019.

In 2018, approximately 220,000 direct and indirect jobs were sustained by aerospace manufacturers. Now, thousands have been laid off or, worse, lost their jobs completely.

A strong aerospace sector is so important to Canada's economy. The aerospace industry has a history of creating good, union jobs with above average pay, stability, and health benefits for workers. This is the gold standard for creating economic growth and part of the high-tech manufacturing sector so coveted by other countries.

The aerospace industry spends more on research and development than any other advanced manufacturing sector, contributing to cutting edge innovation and fuelling economic growth.

That kind of innovation includes Unifor members at the space technology company MDA who will contribute to the next generation Canadarm for the Lunar Orbital Platform-Gateway—the next frontier in our permanent presence in space and a proving ground for future human exploration of the solar system.

Magellan Aerospace workers in Winnipeg build components for the F-35 short take-off, vertical landing vehicle. Innovation in the defence sector is generally a test-

ing grounds for next generation commercial applications which means exceptional potential for expanded market share and economic contribution long into the future.

Workers at Pratt and Whitney in Quebec are developing hybrid,

turboprop technology to substantially decrease carbon emissions and help the aviation industry meet its climate goals.

Canada must continue to be home to projects like these. Doing so means balancing investment in research and development projects that create aerospace jobs while implementing the right policies that protect them, ensuring workers in Canada prosper, too.

So far, the federal government has focused on the former, committing \$2-billion from its Strategic Innovation Fund to the sector over the next seven years.

That's a start, but not the comprehensive approach Canadian aerospace workers need.

What's missing from the equation is the government's strategic policy lever: procurement.

Canada needs to purchase replacements for its aging fleet of Aurora Maritime patrol aircraft and fight the very real threats posed by climate change. That will mean buying new firefighting, flood monitoring and rescue aircraft. Each of these projects need to be put in motion now and Canadian content made a top priority.

There's also the matter of Canada's fighter jet order. Significant effort has already gone into connecting small- and medium-sized Canadian businesses with the contenders through the Industrial and Technological Benefits (ITB) Policy. The fighter jet contract will be awarded next year, but the ITB program must continue and expand to additional procurements to build on the work that has been done.

Also missing is an approach to improving job quality and security. That requires tackling temp agencies in the industry and ensuring decent pay, pensions and benefits through better access to unionization and improved employment standards. The procurement program should set standards for government contracts that go beyond the minimum and require decent working conditions and stable employment.

Canada needs a national aerospace strategy that enshrines these measures and brings together government, labour, business, and training sectors through an industrial development council.

When the Canadian government has fought for and supported our aerospace industry, it has always paid dividends.

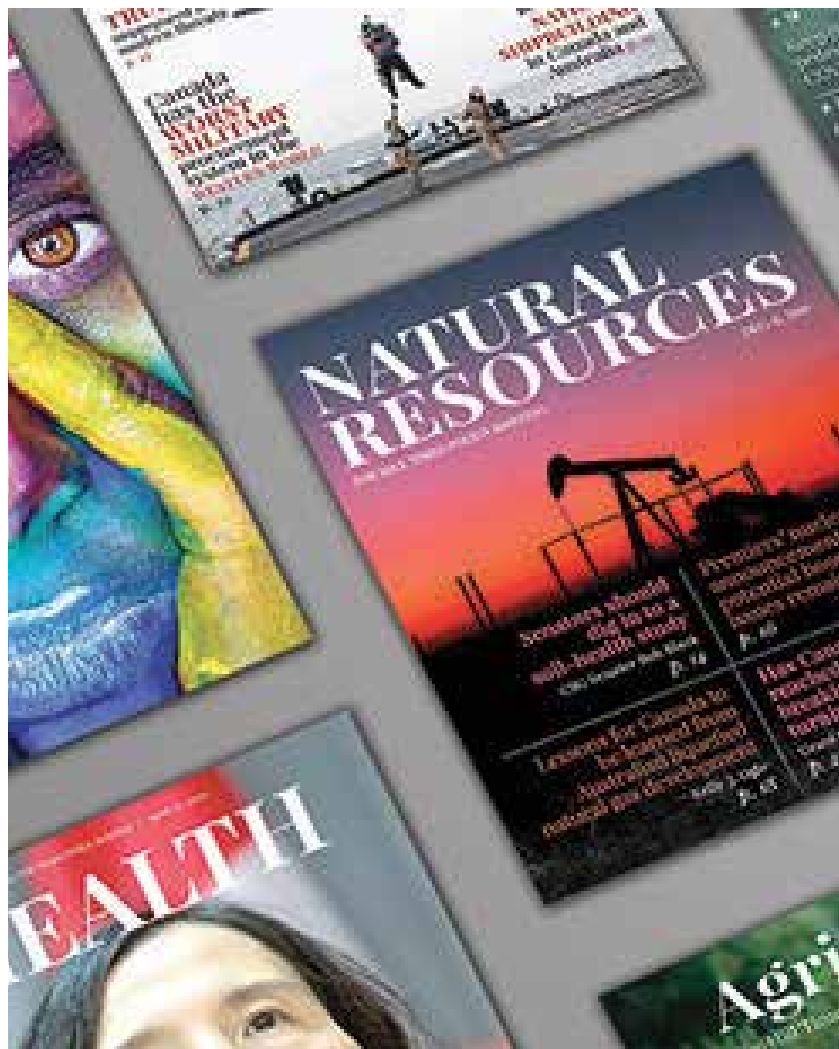
We have the resources, the skills, and the capacity needed to undo the pandemic's worst economic effects and regain some ground the industry has lost over the years.

Getting there means doubling down on Canada's aerospace industry and taking bold steps over and above investments. We need a government-led strategy that secures those investments for the long-term and ensures they benefit aerospace workers now and in the future.

Jerry Dias is the national president of Unifor, Canada's largest private sector union with more than 315,000 members working in every sector of the economy including 11,000 aerospace workers.

The Hill Times

“
We need a government-led strategy that secures those investments for the long-term and ensures they benefit aerospace workers now and in the future.”



Policy Briefings

JANUARY

Lobbying & Ethics - Wednesday, Jan. 19
Exclusive feature 100 Most Influential - Monday, Jan. 31
Back To Parliament - Monday, Jan. 31

FEBRUARY

Innovation - Wednesday, Feb. 2
Health - Monday, Feb. 7
Transportation - Monday, Feb. 28

MARCH

Energy - Wednesday, March 2
Special Report on Electric, Hybrid and Hydrogen Vehicles - Monday, March 7
Exclusive feature 100 Top Lobbyists - Monday, March 14
Exclusive feature 50 Top Foreign Policy Influencers - Wednesday, March 16
Agriculture - Monday, March 21
Special Report on AI & 5G - Wednesday, March 30

APRIL

Aviation - Monday, April 4
Infrastructure - Wednesday, April 6
Health - Monday, April 25

MAY

Research & Innovation - Monday, May 9
Digital Privacy & Security - Wednesday, May 11
Exclusive feature Guide to Hill Staff & Terrific 25 Staffers - Wednesday, May 18

JUNE

Natural Resources - Wednesday, June 8
Environment - Monday, June 13
Exclusive feature Annual Politically Savvy Survey - Wednesday, June 22

SEPTEMBER

Biotechnology - Monday, Sept. 12
Back to Parliament - Monday, Sept. 19
Universities & Colleges - Wednesday, Sept. 21
Indigenous Reconciliation - Wednesday, Sept. 28

OCTOBER

Mental Health - Monday, Oct. 3
Infrastructure - Wednesday, Oct. 5
Innovation - Monday, Oct. 17
Special Report on Cyber Security - Wednesday, Oct. 26

NOVEMBER

Transportation - Monday, Nov. 14
Defence - Wednesday, Nov. 23
Aerospace - Monday, Nov. 28

DECEMBER

The North - Wednesday, Dec. 7
Environment - Monday, Dec. 12
Exclusive feature Best Books & All Politics Poll - Monday, Dec. 19



A custom package can be created in collaboration with *The Hill Times*, we will help you craft a unique message for our Canadian government readership. Please email or call:

✉ sales@hilltimes.com

📞 613.688.8841

News

Following Three Amigos summit, Canada looking for friends in U.S. Senate to curtail EV tax credit

With the American Senate's even-split among party lines, U.S. Democratic Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia is 'a decent bet to upset the vote,' says Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association president Flavio Volpe.

Continued from page 1

relations section of Canada's Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association president Flavio Volpe said Canadian officials and industry representatives have moved the focus of their lobbying efforts to the U.S. Senate.

"It may come down to a Senate vote that defeats [the EV tax credit], and that looks like a real possibility—if not a probability," he said.

He added the lobbying effort is focused on reaching out to senators who are critical swing votes and to have them understand the argument that Canada has been making. This argument spotlights the need for America to respect its trade obligations and that the tax credit would hurt the American auto parts sector due to the integrated nature of North American automobile production. He noted that 43,000 U.S. auto part workers are employed by 150 American factories that are owned by Canadian companies.

Mr. Volpe said he is "hopeful, but not naïve" that a resolution to the issue can be reached in the Senate.

During the Nov. 18 Three Amigos summit between the leaders of Canada, the United States, and Mexico, U.S. President Joe Biden did not commit to any possible resolution to the issue, noting that the American legislative process hasn't been completed.

After the day-long event in Washington, D.C., Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (Papineau, Que.) told reporters that there are a "number of ways" that Canada is looking at to solve the situation and it is continuing to work to "find solutions."

For the Biden administration, movement on the big-budget omnibus bill has been slow as it has tried to solidify the support from oft-clashing ideological flanks of

the Democratic Party—sidelining the Canadian concerns with a provision of the bill.

Mr. Volpe said there was an understanding by Canada that the lobbying effort would have to be one that focuses on the Congressional level, remarking that is why Mr. Trudeau visited Capitol Hill the day before the Three Amigos summit.

While in Washington, Mr. Trudeau and some of his cabinet ministers met with Democrat and Republican leaders of the House of Representatives and the Senate.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, centre, Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly, left, and International Trade Minister Mary Ng, right, were on Capitol Hill meeting with Congressional Democrat and Republican leadership before the Nov. 18 Three Amigos summit in Washington, D.C. *The Hill Times* photographs by Andrew Meade

Republican Senator Jim Risch of Idaho said Mr. Trudeau's visit was "very, very helpful in moving the dialogue in the right direction on that very narrow tax issue," according to a Politico Canada report, which noted that he said Senate Democrats are giving the tax credit another look.

Mr. Volpe said Democratic Senators are the targets, as well as some Republican Senators who come from auto states who are important in the leadership.

"We've been trying to arm them with as much information as possible to make the debate less about partisan lines and more about the harm they've been doing to their own parts sector," he said.

He highlighted the case of Democratic Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia, where there is a Toyota engine assembly plant that is the engine supplier for Toyota vehicles built in Ontario.

"I think he's going to be a key vote," Mr. Volpe said, noting that he is "a decent bet to upset the vote."

The U.S. Senate is evenly split along party lines, with 50 members caucusing with each party.

Sen. Manchin has previously indicated that he opposes the additional \$4,500 tax credit for union-made electric vehicles.

Liberal MP John McKay (Scarborough-Guildwood, Ont.), a member of the Canada-U.S. Inter-Parliamentary Group (IPG), said MPs and Senators should be lobbying members of the Senate "sooner

rather than later" to prevent the U.S. politicians from reaching a position that they can't back down from.

The ability of MPs and Senators to raise the issue with their American counterparts has been curbed as the IPG has been dormant since the dissolution of Parliament for the September federal election, which Mr. McKay said is a "regrettable consequence" that is hampering the lobbying effort at the Congressional level.

"I think MPs and Senators have unique access and there's a lot of sympathetic voices, particularly along the northern border,"

always go to "Defcon 1" when it has a trade irritant with the U.S.

"I don't think this government, which has had six years now, is pretty adept at foreign relations," he said. "Their approach to every issue is to go to Defcon 1 immediately."

He said he thinks the government's approach to treat each trade irritant as a crisis is for domestic purposes, to be seen to be defending Canadian interests abroad.

Mr. Warner, who previously was the legal director of the Ontario Ministries of Economic

Development and Trade during the bailout of Chrysler and GM, said discussion about withholding critical minerals from the U.S. is irrelevant as the U.S. gets its critical minerals elsewhere.

"It's a great line in speeches and press releases," Mr. Warner said, but the reality is that the critical minerals are sitting in the ground and aren't being mined.

"There's a massive gap between what Canadians are talking about and what they are doing," he said.

Mr. Warner said even with the removal of the tax credit, it won't necessarily bring investment to Ontario as it is a high-cost jurisdiction.

"I don't think the economics of that changes by virtue of the move from the internal combustion engine," said Mr. Warner. "If you're a person trying to establish a plant ... and you are faced with the prospect of doing it in Michigan or North Carolina or Georgia or Ontario, Ontario is not a very attractive jurisdiction."

Bloc Québécois MP Simon-Pierre Savard-Tremblay (Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot, Que.), his party's international trade critic, said the debate over the tax credit is not over.

He said the Three Amigos summit showed that there is an effort by the U.S. to bring all North American leaders to the table.

Mr. Savard-Tremblay sent a letter outlining concerns over increased American protectionism to Democratic House of Repre-

sentative Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the departments of Treasury, Commerce, and Energy, as well as to the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa and consulates in Montreal and Quebec City.

He said the Bloc isn't unsympathetic to the U.S. wanting to benefit its own companies first.

"I understand economic nationalism. We ourselves are economic nationalism. But there should be an exemption from it ... on green trade, green products, and green innovation because it's a planetary issue."

"In some cases like the environmental issue, we need to work together," he said. "The fundamental issue is to save ourselves as North America from the dependence to China."

In his letter, Mr. Savard-Tremblay noted that Canada and the U.S. "share an interest" in gaining independence from Asian manufacturing, noting that 96 per cent of batteries are made in China, Japan, and Korea.

He suggested that the two countries should negotiate an exemption for Quebec and Canada in the original Buy America Act and the new Buy American Act for "green products, technologies, and initiatives."

"Over time, controlling rare earth elements is likely to replace controlling oil in global economic competition. Canada-U.S. co-operation in this area is a matter of national, and North American, energy security," he wrote in the Nov. 15 letter.

Following the summit, the Conservative Party said Mr. Trudeau didn't do enough to defend Canadian interests, saying the Canada-U.S. relationship has declined with Mr. Trudeau at the helm, as evidenced by "the doubling of tariffs on softwood lumber, stringent Buy American policies, measures targeting agricultural exports, and actions against energy pipelines."

"And now, the U.S. is threatening measures that could shut Canada out of EV auto manufacturing."

"Mr. Trudeau's approach to these threats has been to play down their seriousness and to sound hopeful. Downplaying these threats and being hopeful is not a plan to protect Canadian jobs," said Conservative foreign affairs critic Michael Chong (Wellington-Halton Hills, Ont.) and international trade critic Randy Hoback (Prince Albert, Sask.) in a Nov. 18 statement.

Mr. Volpe—who was referenced in the Conservative statement as noting that the EV tax credit would be worse for the automobile industry than tariff threats of past U.S. president Donald Trump—said everyone should be helping with the outreach effort.

"There are a lot of people that show up after the fight to criticize the punches. The reality is they should be getting on the phone and talking to those Congressional leaders themselves as well," he said. "I would encourage any political party's leadership that reads your newspaper to take up my offers of [a] briefing on the issues before they quote me."

nmoos@hilltimes.com
The Hill Times

Sounding the alarm: Canada must address a growing crisis in Guatemala

Continued from page 12

electric projects have obtained permits to operate. Guatemala has a pattern of issuing such permits—many to companies with Canadian financial backing—despite clear corporate failures to comply with environmental assessment requirements, engage in meaningful consultation or obtain the free, prior and informed consent of affected Indigenous peoples.

Economic imperatives behind Canada's promotion of Canadian mining projects must not trump international obligations to protect human rights and threatened human rights defenders. As an endorser of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, Canada knows only too well what those obligations are.

Meanwhile, the situation is becoming ever more dangerous. Guatemala was the world's seventh-deadliest country for land and environment defenders in 2020. Smear campaigns and unfounded criminal charges are also used to attack Indigenous rights defenders, human rights activists and their supporters.

Disturbingly, prosecutors, judges, and magistrates are now being criminalized, too. Those targeted include members of the Human Rights Prosecutor's Office, the Special Prosecutor's Office against Impunity, magistrates of the Constitutional Court, judges of higher-risk courts, and tribunals involved with emblematic cases of serious human rights violations and large-scale corruption investigations.

In May, a former analyst with the International Commission against Impunity, who worked on the so-called La Línea bribery-to-avoid-taxes case against former president Otto Pérez Molina, was arrested along with the former head of the Tax Administration Superintendency. Both remain in preventive detention where they have received threats and are in a high-risk situation, made worse because they investigated many of the people detained in the same place.

Equally alarming is the transfer last month of Hilda Pineda, head of the Human Rights Prosecutors Office, to a new office investigating crimes against tourists. Pineda worked on conflict-era crimes, including the genocide case against former dictator Efraín Ríos Montt, won the conviction of two military officials in the landmark Sepur Zarco sexual violence case and advanced other important cases that led to the conviction of high-level military officials for crimes against humanity. Tellingly, the office from which Pineda was moved

also oversees units investigating current violations against human rights defenders and journalists.

A dangerous backslide is clearly underway. What is at stake is nothing less than the independence of the judiciary, the right to due process, and the right to protect human rights, Indigenous territory, and the environment. UN and OAS experts are sounding the alarm. Will Canada do the right thing and unequivocally prioritize the defence of justice, human rights, the rule of law and hope in Guatemala?

Lise-Anne Léveillé and Deanna Fasciani co-chair the Americas Policy Group, a national network of Canadian civil society organizations working for human rights and justice in Latin America.

The Hill Times



Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly is pictured speaking to reporters in the West Block on Nov. 8. Economic imperatives behind Canada's promotion of Canadian mining projects must not trump international obligations to protect human rights and threatened human rights defenders, write Lise-Anne Léveillé and Deanna Fasciani. *The Hill Times* photograph by Andrew Meade

THE HILL TIMES

Politics This Morning

Your guide to what's happening on the Hill

Political Junkies' Favourite Newsletter

THE HOUSE will soon be sitting and it's a critical time for so many files. That's why we're offering a two-week trial of our **Politics This Morning newsletter**. Normally reserved for our subscribers, **Politics This Morning** is a mini edition of *The Hill Times* so you don't just know what's happening on the Hill, but get the nuances of what's happening in the halls of power and the details that make all the difference as a political player.

Get the inside scoop

Right now we are offering a two-week trial to our subscriber-only **Politics This Morning** newsletter.

Go to hilltimes.com to sign up for your trial.



Laura Ryckewaert Hill Climbers

Health Minister Duclos names chief of staff, policy head

Plus, new Rural Economic Development Minister Gudie Hutchings has hired Alex Howell to run her office.

Health Minister **Jean-Yves Duclos** scooped up experienced staffer **Jamie Kippen** to serve as his new chief of staff.

Mr. Kippen was most recently busy as a senior director of election readiness at Liberal Party headquarters, but before he left to take up that post in March, he'd been chief of staff to then-diversity, inclusion, and youth minister **Bardish Chagger** since the 2019 election.



Jamie Kippen, pictured with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Photograph courtesy of LinkedIn

An Ontario campaign strategist for the Liberals during the 2015 race, which first saw the party form government under **Justin Trudeau**, Mr. Kippen subsequently

joined the Prime Minister's Office as a regional adviser for Ontario, staying in the role throughout the 42nd Parliament.

Mr. Kippen previously tackled political operations and the Ontario desk in then-interim Liberal leader **Bob Rae's** office, and went on to spend a year as director of operations for the Ontario Liberal Party, from 2013 to 2014.

Mr. Duclos will have a familiar force at the helm of his policy shop after naming **Jean-Sébastien Bock** as director of policy in his new ministerial office.

Mr. Bock has spent the last two years working for Mr. Duclos, starting in December 2019 as a senior policy adviser in his office as Treasury Board president, and was promoted to director of policy in that office this past March.

He spent the recent election as a campaign manager for Liberal candidate **Florence Gagnon** in Longueuil-Saint-Hubert, Que. Ms. Gagnon ended up coming second



Jean-Sébastien Bock, right, pictured with candidate Florence Gagnon, left, and others on the campaign trail. Photograph courtesy of Facebook

in the riding, behind re-elected Bloc incumbent **Denis Trudel**, but managed to narrow the margin of difference and increase the Liberal Party's vote share by 4.1 percentage points over the 2019 election.

Mr. Bock has been working on the Hill since early 2016, starting as a special assistant and assistant to the parliamentary secretary in National Revenue Minister **Diane Lebouthillier's** office, working his way up to policy adviser by 2017. He moved over to then-employment minister **Patty Hajdu's** office as a Quebec adviser at the beginning of 2018, but by that fall joined then-finance minister **Bill Morneau's** team as an operations and policy adviser.

He has a bachelor's degree in communications from the Université du Québec à Montréal and a master's of science in administration from HEC Montréal, and has also previously worked for Montréal International.

Along with Mr. Kippen and Mr. Bock, **Marie-France Proulx** has been confirmed as press secretary to Mr. Duclos, as previously reported.

Over in Government House Leader **Mark Holland's** office, **Mark Kennedy** is set to stay on as director of communications. He last held the title of senior communications adviser in the office under **Pablo Rodriguez**, having been there since early 2017, starting as communications director to then-House leader **Bardish Chagger**.



Government House Leader Mark Holland, accompanied by communications director Mark Kennedy, takes part in a scrum in the West Block on Nov. 16. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

A former longtime press gallery reporter—including as parliamentary bureau chief of *The Ottawa Citizen* and Postmedia News, and managing editor of the old Canwest News Service—Mr. Kennedy crossed over to political staff work in August 2016, roughly six months after taking a buyout at *The Citizen*, starting as a communications adviser in the PMO.

Along with Mr. Kennedy, **Rheal Lewis** has been confirmed as chief of staff to Mr. Holland.

In other communications staff news, **Hill Climbers** was told that while a chief of staff was not yet fully confirmed in Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister **Chrystia Freeland's** office late last week, a new press secretary had been determined, with **Adrienne Vaupshas** taking on the role.

Ms. Vaupshas has spent the last two years working for then-Indigenous services minister **Marc Miller**, having been hired there as a communications assistant at the beginning of 2020, after helping with communications for Mr. Miller's successful 2019 re-election



Health Minister Jean-Yves Duclos, pictured with Mental Health and Additions Minister Carolyn Bennett, Housing and Diversity and Youth Minister Ahmad Hussen, and Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure Minister Dominic LeBlanc during a post-swearing in press conference on Oct. 26. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

campaign in Ville-Marie-Le Sud-Ouest-Îles-Soeurs, Que. In August 2020, she was promoted to press secretary in his office.

She has a bachelor's degree in business administration, design, and management from the Parsons School of Design in New York City, according to her LinkedIn profile, and before joining Mr. Miller's office was doing marketing for L'Oréal—both L'Oréal Paris and Vichy—in Montreal.

New minister Hutchings hires chief of staff

Rural Economic Development Minister **Gudie Hutchings**, a rookie minister and now three-term Liberal MP for Long Range Mountains, N.L., has landed on a chief of staff for her new office: **Alex Howell**.

Ms. Howell has spent the last two years as director of communications to **Maryam Monsef** as minister for women and gender equality and rural economic development.

A staffer on the Hill since 2013, she started out as an assistant to **Carolyn Bennett** as the Liberal MP for Toronto-St. Paul's, Ont., and joined then-Liberal **Celina Caesar-Chavannes'** office after the 2015 election. Ms. Howell first joined the ministerial staff ranks in the spring of 2017, when she was hired as a special assistant for communications in then-infrastructure and communities minister **Amarjeet Sohi's** office. She worked her way up the proverbial ladder and ended her run in the infrastructure

office as director of operations and tour. Ms. Howell has a bachelor's degree in political science from Western University and is also a former events and communications co-ordinator for Wellspring Cancer Support Network, among other past jobs.

Updates for innovation minister's team

In Innovation, Science, and Industry Minister **François-Philippe Champagne's** office, where **Sarah Hussaini** will continue to serve as chief of staff (as recently reported), three policy staffers have opted to leave federal political work: senior policy advisers **Celine Caira** and **Marco Chan**, and policy adviser **Amanda Woodley**. Mr. Champagne has been innovation minister since January 2021.

Ms. Caira worked on the Hill for three and a half years overall, all of which was spent working for the federal innovation minister, starting as a policy adviser under then-minister

Navdeep Bains. She added senior to her title last year. In an email confirming her departure, the minister's spokesperson, **Mohammad Hussain** (whose future in the office was still to be confirmed) noted she's played "a key role in the government's response to COVID-19, particularly on the production and procurement of vaccines and personal protective equipment."

Already, Ms. Caira has started a new job as an economist and policy analyst, focused on artificial intelligence, with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, as noted on her LinkedIn profile.

Mr. Chan marked his last day in Mr. Champagne's office last week, having "played a leading role in shaping industrial policy and plans for the green economy," according to Mr. Hussain. A former policy adviser with the Privy Council Office's LGBTQ2 Secretariat and consultant with Bain & Company (among other past jobs), Mr. Chan first joined the innovation minister's office under Mr. Bains as a policy adviser in the spring of 2020.

Ms. Woodley spent roughly three years in all working as a policy adviser to the innovation minister, starting in December 2018 under Mr. Bains, and has been focused on "driving science policy," as described by Mr. Hussain. Before then, she was an assistant to then-Liberal MP **Will Amos**. Ms. Woodley is now working for the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), a federal agency under the innovation department, as a senior policy adviser to the vice-president of strategic, corporate, and public affairs.

Meanwhile, **Helena Botelho** recently joined Mr. Champagne's office as the minister's new executive assistant.

She was most recently executive assistant to **Marc Garneau** as foreign affairs minister, and has also done the same for **Seamus O'Regan** as natural resources minister and for Mr. Duclos during his time as families minister. Between her first run working for Mr. Duclos and her time with Mr. O'Regan, Ms. Botelho spent a little more than a year and a half as executive assistant to the chief of investor services at Invest Canada.

lryckewaert@hilltimes.co

The Hill Times



Amanda Woodley is now working for NSERC. Photograph courtesy of LinkedIn

Parliamentary Calendar

Sen. Galvez, MP Jeneroux to discuss intersection of science and Parliament on Nov. 26

MONDAY, NOV. 22—
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 24

Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Atlantic—The Canadian Institute hosts the fifth annual “Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Atlantic,” a three-day conference (Nov. 22–Nov. 24) exploring some of the most contentious consultation issues seizing the East Coast, including the federal response to moderate livelihood fishing, land claims, court cases, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. For the agenda and to register, visit: canadianinstitute.com/indigenous-consultation-engagement-atlantic/.

TUESDAY, NOV. 23—
THURSDAY, NOV. 25

CAZA Board Meeting—Canada’s Accredited Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA) board of directors will meet in Ottawa. The agenda includes a strategic planning session and first in-person board of directors regular meeting since the pandemic began.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 24

Canadian Conference on Global Health—International Development Minister Harjit Sajjan and Governor General Mary Simon will deliver remarks at the Canadian Conference on Global Health, taking place Nov. 24–26. This event will take place at the Delta Hotel by Marriott, 101 Lyon St. N. Opening plenary runs Wednesday, Nov. 24, from 8:30–10:30 a.m. For information and to register for virtual attendance, visit cagh-acsm.org/en/events/canadian-conference-global-health.

Climate Crisis, Energy Crisis, Security Crisis? Global Energy Politics and Canada’s Role—The Macdonald-Laurier Institute hosts a webinar, “Climate Crisis, Energy Crisis, Security Crisis? Global Energy Politics and Canada’s Role.” Tim McMillan, president and CEO of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, is among the panellists exploring the nuances of both Canadian and global energy production and demand, what an energy transformation will look like in practice, and what the consequences are for getting it wrong. Wednesday, Nov. 24, 10 a.m. to noon. Register at macdonaldlaurier.ca.

Coming in from the Cold—The University of Ottawa hosts a webinar, “Coming in from the Cold: Canada’s National Housing Strategy, Homelessness and the Right to Housing in a Transnational Perspective.” Looking at examples from

Finland and Scotland, this panel discussion will explore how the Canadian government could realize the right to housing in the context of reducing homelessness. Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2–3 p.m. Register at cdp-hrc.uottawa.ca.

Children’s Healthcare Canada Annual Conference—ISG Senator Rosemary Moodie will take part in a panel discussion on “Leadership on Tap,” part of the Children’s Healthcare Canada’s annual conference, “From Crisis to Catalyst: The Next Chapter in Children’s Healthcare,” taking place Nov. 22–26. Wednesday, Nov. 24, 3:30–4:45 p.m. For information and register, visit eventscribe.net/2021/childhealthcan/.

A Conversation with Michael Wernick—Michael Wernick, former clerk of the Privy Council and secretary to cabinet, will discuss his new book, *Governing Canada: A guide to the tradecraft of politics*, in an event hosted by IPAC Nova Scotia. Wednesday, Nov. 24, 4:30–5:30 p.m. Atlantic time. Register at ipacnovascotia.ca.

Writers’ Trust of Canada’s Balsillie Prize for Public Policy—The Writers’ Trust of Canada hosts the inaugural Balsillie Prize for Public Policy, a new \$60,000 award for the best public policy book in Canada. Finalists include Jody Wilson-Raybould for *Indian in the Cabinet: Speaking Truth to Power*; André Picard for *Neglected No More: The Urgent Need to Improve the Lives of Canada’s Elders in the Wake of a Pandemic*; Gregor Craigie for *On Borrowed Time: North America’s Next Big Quake*; and Dan Breznitz for *Innovation in Real Places: Strategies for Prosperity in an Unforgiving World*. The winner will be announced online, Wednesday, Nov. 24. More details at writerstrust.com/BalsilliePrize.

Paradis Hosts Book Launch—Former Quebec Liberal MP Denis Paradis will host his book launch at the Métropolitain, on Nov. 24 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOV. 25

West Coast Security Conference—RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki will take part in a panel discussion on “Future-Proofing Policing,” part of the West Coast Security Conference (Nov. 22–26) hosted by the Canadian Association for Security and Intelligence Studies Vancouver. Thursday, Nov. 26, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. PST. Visit casivancouver.ca/westcoastconference/ for information.

Campaigns, COVID, and Candidates—Liberal MP Ya’ara Saks will take part in a webinar on “Campaigns, COVID, and



Conservative MP Matt Jeneroux and Independent Senator Rosa Galvez take part in a panel discussion on ‘Science Meets Parliament,’ part of the Canadian Science Policy Centre’s annual conference on Friday, Nov. 26. Photographs courtesy of the House of Commons and the Senate

Candidates,” a conversation with three female candidates about what motivates them, what they’re most proud of, and what it was like to run a campaign during COVID-19, hosted by Equal Voice. Other participants include former NDP candidate Larisa Julius and former Conservative candidate Krystina Waler. Thursday, Nov. 25, 12–1 p.m. RSVP at equalvoice.ca/toronto_workshop.

An Evening with Author Terry Fallis—The Milton Public Library hosts a virtual evening with author Terry Fallis who will discuss his latest book *Operation Angus*. Angus McLintock (accidental Member of Parliament, has won re-election and now junior global affairs minister) and his trusty chief of staff Daniel are thrown into a race against the clock to uncover the Chechen sleeper cell, thwart their plans, and ultimately save the Russian President from an assassination plot in Ottawa. Thursday, Nov. 26, at 7 p.m. Visit crowdcast.io/e/an-evening-with-author-11/ to register.

Teamwork in Action: Canada’s Vaccine Task Force—The University of Alberta hosts a lecture featuring Dr. Lorne Tyrrell, one of 12 people appointed by the Government of Canada to the Vaccine Task Force, who will deliver remarks on “Teamwork in Action: Canada’s Vaccine Task Force.” Thursday, Nov. 25, 9 p.m. EST. Register via Eventbrite.

FRIDAY, NOV. 26

A Polite Parliament—The Canadian Study of Parliament Group hosts a webinar, “A Polite Parliament,” exploring the procedural and practical realities behind addressing the occasional headline-making behaviour of legislators. How is conduct regulated within legislatures? How can Speakers and other presiding officers maintain order and decorum? How is unbecoming conduct addressed and redressed by legislative institutions? Friday, Nov. 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Register via Eventbrite.

Science Meets Parliament—ISG Senator Rosa Galvez and Conservative MP Matt Jeneroux will take part in a panel discussion on “Science Meets Parliament” part of the Canadian Science Policy Centre’s annual conference from Nov. 8–26. Friday, Nov. 26, 10:30 a.m. For information and to register: sciencepolicyconference.ca.

Canadian Conference on Global Health—Canada’s Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam will take part in a panel discussion on “Truth and consequence: The impact of misinformation in COVID-19,” part of the Canadian Conference on Global Health taking place Nov. 24–26. Tam will be joined by Kwaku Agyemang-Manu, Ghana’s Minister of Health. This event will take place at the Delta Hotel by Marriott, 101 Lyon St. N. Friday, Nov. 26, 3–4:30 p.m. For information and to register for virtual at-

tendance, visit cagh-acsm.org/en/events/canadian-conference-global-health.

MONDAY, NOV. 29

Mayor’s Breakfast with RoseAnne Archibald—National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations RoseAnne Archibald will deliver remarks at the Mayor’s Breakfast hosted by the Ottawa Board of Trade. This event will take place at Ottawa City Hall, 110 Laurier Ave. W. Monday, Nov. 29, 7:30–9 a.m. Tickets available at business.ottawabot.ca.

TUESDAY, NOV. 30

Inside the Constituency-Level Election Campaign—Policy Options hosts this

webinar on the vital machinery of local campaigning, which is also the subject of a series of articles called Inside the Constituency-Level Election Campaign in the IRPP’s Policy Options magazine, on Tuesday, Nov. 30, 1 p.m.–2 p.m. ET. Register online. Panellists include: Erin Crandall, associate professor, Acadia University; Royce Koop, professor, University of Manitoba; and Sarah Stoodley, minister of digital government, Newfoundland and Labrador. The discussion will be moderated by Alex Marland, professor of political sciences at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador. For more information, please contact Judy Manny at jmanny@irpp.org.

THE HILL TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

Information and advertisement placement:
613-232-5952 • classifieds@hilltimes.com

CONDOS FOR RENT



TOWNHOME CONDO FOR RENT IN NEW EDINBURGH - DUFFERIN HOUSE - 174 DUFFERIN ROAD

December 1st / \$3,900 Plus Hydro. Across from Rideau Hall. 4 BR / 2.5 Bath. Fully Updated. Underground Parking. (613)854-3890



CONDO FOR RENT - 428 SPARKS ST. 2BED & 2BATH

AVAILABLE NOW! Luxurious 2bed & 2bath condo unit on the 19th floor with amazing views. Email: ottawacondos4rent@yahoo.ca. Website: <https://ottawacondos4rent.com/cathedral-hill>

CONDOS FOR RENT



CONDO FOR RENT - 85 BRONSON AVE. 2BED, 2BATH + OFFICE (3RD BEDROOM)

AVAILABLE NOW! A must see luxurious 2bed+office(3rd bedroom) and 2bath condo close to Parliament Hill. Email: ottawacondos4rent@yahoo.ca Website: <https://ottawacondos4rent.com/the-gardens>

Do you have a house to rent or sell?

Items or products to sell?

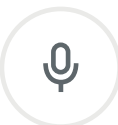
Advertise them in The Hill Times’ classifieds section.

classifieds@hilltimes.com
613-232-5952


The Parliamentary Calendar is a free events listing. Send in your political, cultural, diplomatic, or governmental event in a paragraph with all the relevant details under the subject line ‘Parliamentary Calendar’ to news@hilltimes.com by Wednesday at noon before the Monday paper or by Friday at noon for the Wednesday paper.



Store Associate Interview



Join

 Share Screen

Helping support **235,000** Canadian jobs.

That's enough employed Canadians
to fill over **5,100 city buses.**

Google commissioned polling conducted by Public First, 2021

