

## A \$15 Million Mansion

The Department of Foreign Affairs ran up a property bill of \$208 million a year just to maintain overseas homes and offices for diplomats, including a \$15 million mansion in Oslo and two empty apartments in Brussels, according to records obtained by *Blacklock's*.

Documents newly filed through Access to Information show the foreign ministry was perplexed when Finance Minister Jim Flaherty ordered a property downsizing last year.

"Can you confirm what is happening here?" one senior staffer wrote in an email; another complained of "confusion."

Records show the foreign ministry owned and leased 2,296 properties worldwide, including 107 residences for diplomats – like a 14,122 sq.ft. mansion for Canada's ambassador to Norway, with household staff of two housemaids, a cook and a gardener.

"It's \$1,700 a month in heating alone," noted one report.

When Flaherty announced the sale of foreign real estate in his March 29, 2012 budget, email records show staff became alarmed.

"I think we need to take a few days to let the dust settle," wrote one senior employee.

Concerned by the cost of the Norwegian mansion, the department had staff look up internet realty listings to find

alternative housing for the ambassador.

"We have been on the net today intermittently looking for more photos of official residences in Oslo," explained one staffer: "Costs are as high as 4.25 times higher in Oslo over Ottawa."

In Belgium, diplomats feared "bad publicity" over the fact the foreign ministry had five official residences at the same time – two of them vacant.

"I recall some bad publicity received by the government in the '90s when the media highlighted that there were three Canadian 'official residences' in Singapore at the same time," a diplomat wrote on June 29, 2012; "Given potential challenges ahead selling existing properties in Brussels, I assume someone is working on communication lines to answer potential questions like, 'Why does the Government of Canada now have 5 official residences in Brussels?'"

By October, seven months after the finance minister promised taxpayers savings, foreign ministry staff drafted a "Dear Head Of Mission" form letter to send to Canadian diplomats abroad: "We know this change will cause disruption both personally and professionally for you and your family and they may create challenges for you..."

No cabinet members responsible for consular affairs would take *Blacklock's*

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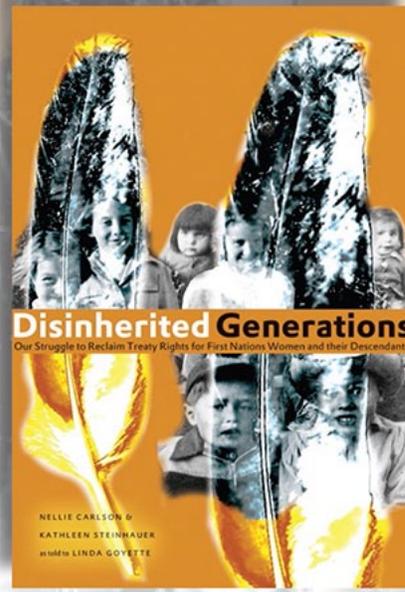


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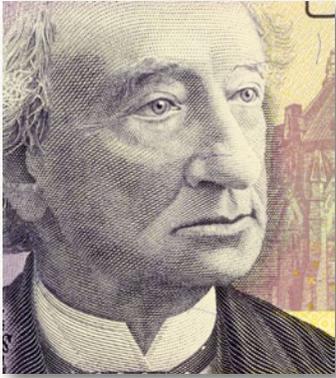
questions.

In the end it's a question of competence," said MP Paul Dewar, New Democrat foreign affairs critic. "What kind of advice did cabinet get? Did they listen to it? This is a problem in terms of how government functions."

In one case, the department sold a diplomatic home in Buffalo, NY at a \$1.2 million loss less than three years after purchasing the property, as reported by *Blacklock's* May 3.

TOM KORSKI

“ We know this change will cause disruption both personally and professionally for you and your family and they may create challenges for you... ”



The foreign ministry told staff to stress “prudent financial management” even as it concealed records on expensive real estate holdings from taxpayers, records show.

Documents show the Department of Foreign Affairs went to intricate lengths to justify its realty portfolio – even hiding details from the public and media – after it was ordered to cut back on spending.

“This undermines accountability,” said MP Paul Dewar. “They are so consumed with controlling the message that it’s gone beyond the pale.”

Foreign Minister John Baird declined comment. MP Diane Ablonczy, minister responsible for

consular affairs, would not take *Blacklock’s* questions.

Records show that, after being ordered to cut spending in the 2012 budget, the department on April 22, 2012 commissioned a survey of tax records for foreign missions in Ottawa’s Rockcliffe Park to compare favourably with Canada’s overseas spending. The Swedish ambassador’s home on Manor Avenue was a \$10.5 million property, staff wrote; the Japanese ambassador’s residence on Acacia Avenue was assessed at \$12 million.

Emails show by July 27, 2012 senior staff were told to advise the minister’s office “of any media calls,” and were instructed: “The following are approved holding lines... ‘Our government respects taxpayers’ dollars.’”

On Aug. 22, 2012, in response to a *Blacklock’s* question on whether the ministry had recently sold a mission, consulate or embassy in Sweden, 10 staffers exchanged emails on how to respond. “We have not,” wrote one; “I

confirm the proposed answer is correct and acceptable” – then added a confidential note:

*“For background information only internal to the Department, we did move from the former rented chancery premises leased since 1972 to a new rented premises in 2010. Also, we did sell the former official residence in 2011, under ownership since 1969, and purchased a replacement official residence. Since these transactions do not constitute the sale of a mission, consulate or embassy, we agree with your response.”*

In a Dec. 19, 2012 memo, staff were urged to stress “prudent financial management” on foreign real estate – even as the department prepared to sell its Buffalo consular residence at a \$1.2 million loss, as reported by *Blacklock’s* last Friday.

“The media and general public are sensitive to public spending, especially in this current economic climate,” a senior staffer wrote; “Canadians may question

any spending associated with embassies abroad. This is especially relevant in a time of fiscal restraint.”

In a separate email, staff were told to refer to realty transactions as a “right-sizing exercise,” and were instructed on how to speak with reporters or the public:

*“Key Messages: the purchase of a new official residence, staff quarter or chancery will only be done if there is a compelling economic business case; the economic downturn has provided us with investment opportunities in several markets.”*

Documents show at the time, the ministry owned five separate residences in Brussels – two of them vacant.

“They have a problem with trusting the public because they always want to control the message,” said Dewar. “When it comes to overseas missions and real estate I think they are hypersensitive, particularly when it doesn’t look good.”

 BY STAFF

## CHINESE “NOW WANT TO WORK LESS, EARN MORE”: REPORT

Chinese in the People’s Republic want to “work less and earn more,” according to a report from a parliamentary group that spent a week touring the country.

The reference was cited in a tabling by members of the Canada-China Legislative Association.

“I think that got lost in translation,” said Manitoba Conservative Senator Donald Plett, co-chair of the association.

In a summary of meetings with Communist delegates of the Chinese People’s Congress, the report

concluded: “It was noted by the Chinese that even though the internet has played an important role in education of the people, China still has a long way to go. Furthermore, the Chinese people it was suggested would now want to work less and earn more.”

The account was unsigned, and Senator Plett said he couldn’t recall who made the remark.

“What I remember from the meeting was that the internet made it easier for them,” he said.

MP Darryl Kramp, fellow co-chair of the association,

said in an interview that “I honestly don’t recall the source,” but said the remark was an accurate expression of meetings with Communist delegates.

“I think there’s some pretty serious expectations on the Chinese leadership,” said Kramp, Conservative MP for Prince Edward-Hastings, Ont. “They’re heading in the right direction but have a hell of a challenge.”

Kramp continued, “I think there’s a recognition that they have a growing middle class; 20 years ago they had maybe 400,00 people in the middle

class, now it’s 400 million. It’s a dramatic escalation. And it’s the old story – once you get a taste of the fruit, you sort of like it.”

The parliamentary report also noted that Chinese own more homes and automobiles, and stated that “air quality has improved” in the country.

“Beijing has seen a marked improvement,” said Kramp, “but it’s still just an absolutely dismal situation.”

The 10-member parliamentary delegation travelled to Beijing, Xiamen, Hangzhou and Shanghai in the week of April 7 to 14, at a cost of \$120,030.

 BY STAFF

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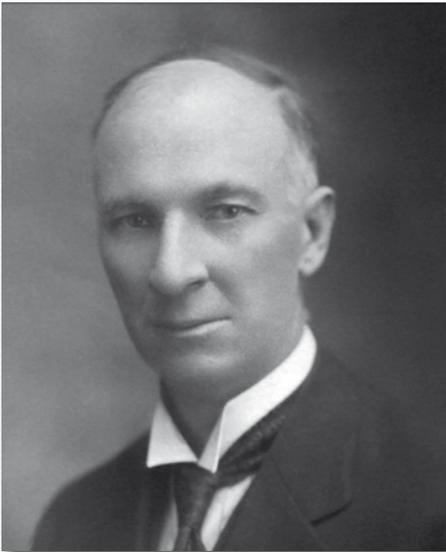


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# Alex Campbell

## THE BRIDGE



### Tom Hyland Blacklock

A pioneer publisher and war correspondent, confidante of three prime ministers and 1922 president of the Ottawa Press Gallery, Tom Blacklock was mourned at his passing in 1934 as “a keen observer blessed with a sense of proportion.” Born in Halton County, Ont. in 1870, he became a frontier editor and first mayor of Weyburn, Sask. in 1903. Assigned to Parliament Hill by the Winnipeg Telegram in 1912 he remained a gallery man for life with columns published from Victoria to Halifax: “As Tom Blacklock used to say, ‘That ain’t the way I heard it.’”

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This week marks 16 years since the Confederation Bridge opened, ending the physical isolation Prince Edward Island had known for centuries. That causeway became a cause célèbre. When the province held a 1988 plebiscite on the issue – “Are you in favour of the fixed link?” – only 59 percent of the population thought it was a good idea.

Opponents were tenacious and outspoken. They raised money and ran a media campaign that touched Islanders’ inherent resistance to change. There was a genuine sense of impending doom; the Confederation Bridge was vilified as an avenue for crime, drugs and social disorder. We were told we’d lose our sheltered, bucolic way of life, and that hooligans from the mainland would have an easy drive to the Island.

As a people we are firmly rooted in tradition and self-reliance. Change has always been vigorously resisted. Our history is rich with examples of challenges to modernism.

As a young lawyer in Summerside in the 1950s I discovered many adult sons of farmers rarely owned a bank account. When I became premier in 1966, eighty-five percent of homes had no indoor plumbing. Prince Edward Island was the last province to enforce prohibition, in 1948. Even rural electrification was opposed by some farmers who refused to permit a public utility to string wires along their property lines.

Yet Prince Edward Island is not an outpost of Canada, and Islanders will not tolerate being isolated from the mainstream of Canadian life.

If you took that plebiscite today I suspect 98 percent of Islanders would give the Confederation Bridge their blessing. The crime rate has not spiked; our way of life has not been destroyed. I asked the bridge manager, what impact has it had on the Island? He replied, “Well, it brought on-time delivery.” It enabled businesses such as Walmart to move to P.E.I.

There is a different climate in P.E.I. retailing today; many of the village stores have closed, though that was a long, transitional change that most rural Canadians would recognize regardless of what part of the country is home. As business moved from rural P.E.I. to the big box stores, so did the habits of neighbours. And so today, you will still encounter friends greeting friends, enquiring about relatives and exchanging news of the day.

My sense is Prince Edward Islanders consider themselves very privileged, especially when they go away and sample life in other parts of North America. You often hear the expression, “There’s no place like the Island.”

That’s something I feel very deeply in my own soul. Wherever I travel, on my return I feel I’m reconnecting with my people, and that the people care. Are Islanders different than other Canadians in this respect? I’m not sure – but you feel it here, even with the bridge.

*(Editor’s note: the author is a former four-term Liberal premier of Prince Edward Island)*

[IMAGE: CANADIAN POSTAL ARCHIVES]

# The #1 Security Threat To Railways: Not Terrorists

Trespassing and traffic violations at train crossings are a greater threat to public safety than terrorism, says the Railway Association of Canada.

The industry group's cautionary appeal comes amid demands that the Commons public safety committee investigate the state of Canada's rail security. It follows the April 22 arrest of two men, in Montreal and Toronto, charged with conspiring to bomb a VIA Rail passenger train in an alleged al Qaeda-inspired plot.

MP Francis Scarpaleggia urged the Commons committee to probe all issues related to the safety of passenger and freight trains.

"It is essential that we hear from outside experts, as well as officials at Public Safety Canada and other departments, in order to obtain a balanced view of the situation and gauge our preparedness," said Scarpaleggia, Liberal MP for Lac-Saint-Louis, Que.

The MP told reporters that, while airport security has been overhauled since 9/11, Canadians "have now idea how other modes of transport are protected."

"They need assurances that passenger trains are well protected," said Scarpaleggia.

The MP proposed that the RCMP, Canadian Security Intelligence Service, VIA Rail, Department of Public

Safety and the nation's two largest railways be summoned for committee testimony "on current modes, systems and procedures for protecting rail transport in Canada – passengers and freight – against terrorism."

However, the Rail Association said commonplace traffic mishaps and public indifference to rail safety pose a greater demonstrable risk to public safety.

"You shouldn't walk on the tracks any more than you would walk on a highway," said Michael Bourque, association president and CEO.

The association, in its public information program Operation



Lifesaver, calculated some 300 accidents involving trespassing pedestrians or collisions at level crossings occur each year, resulting in 130 casualties: "Virtually all of these incidents could be avoided."

Bourque said railways currently have a Memorandum of Understanding with the federal government on security measures, including regular inspections of rail lines.

There have been no recorded terrorist strikes against passenger trains in North America.



BY ALEX BINKLEY

## BUDGET CUTS KILL POST-COLD WAR SAFETY FUND

In a move that's alarmed scientists, the Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed cabinet is quietly withdrawing Canada's membership in organizations in the former U.S.S.R. as an austerity measure.

"In a world of finite resources, it does not make sense to spend more than a million dollars a year on a Cold War-era organization," a ministry official told *Blacklock's*.

Canada is the first nation to quit its membership in the International Science & Technology Centres in Moscow and Kiev, which include the U.S., Russia, Japan and the European Union.

"I think they fail to understand or appreciate the importance of this," said MP Bob Rae, Liberal foreign

affairs critic.

Foreign Minister John Baird declined comment.

Canada invested more than \$60 million in the centres, which date from 1992 to fund peaceful research by unemployed Soviet weapons scientists. The centres "minimize incentives to engage in activities that could result in proliferation," according to their founding mandate.

Canada's unannounced decision to resign was detailed in Cabinet minutes.

"We know from the kind of budget austerity now in place, there will be all kinds of these decisions," said Rae, MP for Toronto Centre. "The notion that somehow this is simply a Cold War institution doesn't make sense."

Researchers familiar with

the centres' work in the former Soviet bloc questioned the budget cut.

"The dividend for the \$1 million investment is relatively good," said Dr. Vasu Appanna, a biochemist at Laurentian University. Appanna conducted joint work at the Moscow centre in 2005 on a \$515,000 project to stabilize explosive petroleum stockpiles.

"This organization is doing a commendable job," Appanna said.

An executive of the *Bulletin Of The Atomic Scientists*, Professor Rod Ewing of the University of Michigan, said the work in the former U.S.S.R. remains crucial in preventing underground trade in weapons know-how to terrorist organizations and states.

"I have spent a fair amount of time in Russia, and a number of my colleagues there rely on outside funding," said Dr. Ewing, recently appointed chair of the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.

"The Cold War as we knew it is over, but I don't think the need for this program has passed," said Ewing; "Given all that is happening in the world today, with Iran and North Korea, and the ease with which technology and expertise can be transferred, it is prudent to maintain these centres."

The remaining signatory countries are the U.S., Russia, the European Union, Norway, Japan, South Korea, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic.



BY TOM KORSKI

# MPs Told \$220 Million Tax Credits “Make No Sense”

A Commons committee on income equality is being urged to reform or repeal two popular family tax credits if it wants to help the poor.

McMaster University economist Michael Veall said non-refundable credits for children's sports and arts programs do nothing for families who could most benefit from federal aid.

“Elimination of these would save \$220 million for other purposes,” Professor Veall told MPs. “But if they are to exist, I believe they should be refundable.”

Veall continued, “In effect, these subsidize participation in arts and sports activities for children in all families except those too poor to be subject to personal income tax – probably the only families for which the subsidy might make an appreciable difference.”

The 15 percent arts credit applies to expenses up to \$500 for piano lessons or other “cultural” activities, according to the Department of Finance, while the sports credit offers comparable bonuses on hockey fees or similar expenses.

Both are non-refundable, meaning claimants must have receipted expenses and file income tax to claim the benefit.

“Non-refundable tax credits make no sense at all if you accept there is a welfare wall,” Veall said in an interview; “Why would you exclude people at the poor end of the spectrum for whom this money would make a difference?”

“The problem is, if the purpose is to get more kids participating in arts and sports, it provides no incentive to the many families that do not pay income tax.”

The finance department offers a range of other non-refundable credits, including those for volunteer firefighters, commuters who use public transit, homebuyers, adoptive parents, caregivers and student loan recipients.

The finance committee is conducting weeks of hearings on historic inequality in the growth of incomes between different categories of tax-filers.

Veall calculated that in the period from 1986 to 2010, after-tax incomes for the bottom nine-tenths of taxpayers increased only 19 percent when adjusted for inflation, while comparable incomes for the top one percent increased by 77%: “The incomes of the top 0.01 percent increased by 160%.”

 BY STAFF

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# Landmarks Destroyed: The Charlotte Street Spy Ring



BEFORE



AFTER

Atop a hill overlooking the Rideau River, on Ottawa's Charlotte Street, stood a mansion that had its share of drama. It saw a sensational spy scandal, and a suspicious fire.

Custom-built for a lumber baron's son, John Frederick Booth, the home was cast in the ornate Queen Anne Revival style in 1917. The architect was John W.H. Watts, a former Public Works designer who turned to building expensive homes for Ottawa's elite. The house was a baronial retreat for one of the city's wealthiest families; here Booth married off his only daughter to a Danish prince in 1924.

It was after Booth's death that the house at 285 Charlotte Street achieved international

notoriety.

In 1942 the Government of Canada purchased it from Booth's heirs and sold it the U.S.S. R. as an embassy. Prime Minister Mackenzie King would call it "a place of intrigue." From the day the Russians opened the mission, the house on Charlotte Street "was almost immediately used as a source for espionage," wrote one historian.

Here, on Sept. 5, 1945, cipher clerk Igor Gouzenko fled with enough secret cables to send eight Canadian spies to prison, including MP Fred Rose, and expose a continent-wide espionage ring. Gouzenko was sentenced to death in absentia by the Soviet Supreme Court; he spent the rest of his years

hiding in southern Ontario under the pseudonym "Mister Sabotka."

On New Year's Day, 1956, the Charlotte Street mansion burned to the ground. The cause was undetermined, but fire crews agreed the building might have been saved – if only embassy staff had not blocked their entry. Instead, the Russians let the flames spread as they hurriedly carted boxes of secret documents to awaiting cars.

The Soviets, it turned out, had much to hide.

KGB defector Vasili Mitrokhin recounted in his 1999 memoirs *The Mitrokhin Archive*, "Between 1951 and 1953 the Ottawa legal residency, spurred on by Moscow's criticism of its

inertia since the defection of Gouzenko, recruited eleven agents."

They stole the plans for the Avro Arrow, and recruited Laval economist Hugh Hambleton as a Soviet agent, Mitrokhin wrote. They planted an agent in the RCMP, and secretly financed the Canadian Communist party with funds codenamed "U.S. wheat." In a spy operation nicknamed Operation Cedar, the Soviets scouted areas to sabotage oil and gas pipeline installations from B.C. to Quebec, and arranged an agents' rendezvous at Lake of the Woods on the Minnesota border.

Only years afterward, with KGB defections and the collapse of the U.S.S.R., was the extent of Soviet skullduggery on Charlotte Street finally revealed.

And today? The address at No. 285 remains the Embassy of Russian, rebuilt in 1957 as a grey Stalinist bunker.



BY ANDREW ELLIOTT

*(Editor's note: the author is a federal archivist who chronicles historic architecture at [glebeheritageblog.wordpress.com](http://glebeheritageblog.wordpress.com), and in 2012 wrote *The Glorious Years: Peterborough's Golden Age of Architecture 1840-1940*, Borealis Press)*



## "A PROCEDURAL MISTAKE"

Telecom giant Cogeco has lost a bid to skip payments on its contributions Canadian programming.

"It was just a procedural mistake," said Cogeco's Michel Messier, director of regulatory affairs.

The Canadian Radio-Television & Telecom Commission rejected two applications from Cogeco to

repeal its obligation to finance made-in-Canada shows.

Under the Broadcasting Distribution Regulations, companies are required to devote five percent of annual gross revenues to Canadian programming.

The CRTC unified separate categories of program funding into a single system in 2011, but said Cogeco did not

comply with the change.

In their decision, regulators said they were "not satisfied" by arguments from Cogeco that they "had not been aware" of the new policy.

Cogeco agreed to pay the balance it owed to the fund.

"It was really neutral because we spent the money from the budget on the community channel," said Messier.



BY STAFF

## NO "SUNSHINE LIST" HERE



Government amendments to a Conservative bill would bar public disclosure of many six-figure salaries paid to federal employees.

MPs are to open committee hearings in two weeks' time on Bill C-461, *An Act To Amend The Access to Information Act*, that mandates disclosure of benefits paid to senior civil servants.

However, the Department of Justice is drafting amendments that would restrict the bill's reach and exclude disclosure of bureaucrats paid more than a quarter-million dollars in salary.

"The federal government is bucking the trend towards greater transparency," said Conservative MP Brent Rathgeber, the bill's author. "Corporate Canada and most provincial governments are moving towards less opaque decision-making and more transparency and openness."

"My bill is an attempt to remedy what is an unhealthy trend," said Rathgeber, MP for Edmonton-St. Albert, Alta. "I'm very concerned the government is attempting to mitigate my attempts to bring more transparency to the federal government."

Rathgeber's bill as passed on Second Reading mandates disclosure of salaries paid at a federal pay scale called Deputy Minister 1, at a minimum \$188,600 a year. The justice department has proposed to raise the disclosure level to D4 pay scale, up to \$319,000.

"The government pays these people a lot of money,"

Rathgeber said in an interview. "Perhaps they would prefer if taxpayers remain unmindful of that."

MP Robert Goguen, the parliamentary secretary for justice who proposed the amendment, would not take *Blacklock's* questions. In the Commons, Goguen called the higher limits a "more practical level to administer," but did not explain.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation said the proposal would water down the disclosure bill.

"The threshold on the amendment is far too high," said Nick Bergamini, federation research director.

Bergamini said Parliament should follow the lead of the *Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act* passed by the Ontario legislature in 1996, that requires publication of all government salaries over \$100,000 a year – the so-called Sunshine List.

"That's what we want to see," said Bergamini. "Anybody paid more than \$100,000 on the public dime should have the fact published."

Under federal pay scales, public servants paid the DM4 category of up to \$319,900 may also qualify for annual bonuses of 39 percent for a total \$379,981, more than the Prime Minister's \$320,000 salary.

Bill C-461 passed the Commons on a vote of 155 to 127 on March 27.

## Ads To Cost \$10,000,000

The Department of Finance is spending \$10 million to promote its 2013 budget, though federal research shows two-thirds of Canadians cannot recall seeing the TV or internet ads.

In testimony to the Commons finance committee, an official acknowledged the ad blitz appeared to have little impact on Canadians' habits or behaviour.

"At this point in time, in terms of how the \$10 million will be spent this year, decisions haven't yet been taken," said Jean-Michel Catta, assistant deputy minister at the finance department's Consultations and Communications Branch.

Accounts show the department spent \$13,826,833 promoting its 2012 budget on television, radio and internet, and \$7,373,657 the year before.

Under regulations, departments are required to account for the effectiveness of large media campaigns.

Catta told MPs that advertising has resulted in "quite significant" gains in public awareness of successive budgets, prompting this exchange with MP Scott Brison (Liberal, Kings-Hants, N.S.):

**BRISON:** "You commissioned Ipsos Reid to conduct a survey on the effectiveness of the jobs and growth campaign using the Government of Canada's advertising campaign evaluation tool. The results were that more than two-thirds of Canadians did not see any Economic Action Plan ad during the survey's timeframe. Of those who could remember the ads, 92% said they did nothing as a result of the ad. So, how can you say they're effective when 92% of the people who

actually remember the ads, said they did nothing as a result of the ads?"

**CATTA:** "As I said...The fact you're made aware of the Economic Action Plan is one part, knowing that the government has a plan..."

**BRISON:** "Yes, but you said your research validated the effectiveness of the ads...In fact, it was quite damning to the effectiveness of the campaign. More than two-thirds didn't recall it, and of those who did recall it, 92% said it did not affect their behaviour."

**CATTA:** "Our research has shown that Canadians do want the government to communicate about its priorities, and that's what the Department of Finance is doing –"

**BRISON:** "Do you ask Canadians questions such as, do you want the government to communicate or advertise its priorities? Do you attach a price tag to that? Do you ask whether it's worth \$10 million of tax revenue? Do you provide them with the opportunity to weight it against the actual cost to the Treasury?"

**CATTA:** "...To answer your question, I don't have the exact wording with me..."

**BRISON:** "Have you ever considered the idea of asking a question, for instance, 'Which would be priority for you in terms of government investment – advertising, or food safety?'"

**CATTA:** "Well, we haven't."

The finance department has declined *Blacklock's* request for details of its 2013 media campaign, saying all accounts will be disclosed once the fiscal year is complete.

# Bees Versus Insecticide

Health Canada, farmers and the Sierra Club are clashing over the environmental danger of insecticides blamed for killing bee hives.

"There has been a significant amount of work involved in this whole matter," said Rod Scarlett, executive director of the Canadian Honey Council.

The health department's Pest Management Regulatory Agency confirmed the presence of neonicotinoid chemicals in 200 apiaries last year in southern Ontario, a phenomenon the agency attributed to a hot, dry spring that caused the insecticides to become airborne.

In an interim report on the resulting damage to the \$151 million honey industry, the agency proposed that farmers take precaution in using the insecticides, which are banned in the European Union.

"There has been a significant amount of work involved in this whole matter," said Scarlett; "What is the next step?"

The insecticides have been commonly used since 1996, according to the Honey Council.

The health department said that, to minimize bees' exposure to dust from insecticide-treated seed, it recommended "communication and co-operation among growers, seeders and beekeepers," and that farmers monitor dry and windy conditions.

Honey bees can forage 5 kilometres or more from a hive in daytime temperatures above 13°C.

"Part of the short-term measures include making sure growers are aware about what is on the seed," said Pierre Petelle, vice president



of chemistry at CropLife Canada; "Alerting growers to the fact that dust was from treated seeds was an issue. The beekeepers have been kept informed of all initiatives that are underway."

However the Sierra Club said the 2012 experience made the case for a federal ban on the three pesticides: Imidacloprid, Clothianidin and Thiamethoxam.

"The Pest Management Regulatory Agency is now 'urging' farmers and 'talking' to chemical producers and machinery manufacturers about changing their practices," said John Bennett, executive director of Sierra Club Canada. "The agency has got it backwards; its job is to protect Canadians, not the profits of chemical companies."

A producers' group, the Grain Farmers of Ontario, said local circumstances were not comparable to the experience overseas that led to the E.U. ban on the insecticides.

"We are continuing to support research here in Ontario to learn more about the complex relationship between pollinators, cropping practices, equipment and weather," said John Cowan, vice president.

 BY STAFF

## UNDER THE S, "SERIOUS"

A vague definition of what defines the word "serious" has prompted a national petition. Thirteen of the nation's largest conservation groups have appealed to cabinet for clarification of amendments to the *Fisheries Act*.

"We would like a report that provides a scientific basis for the amendments," said David Browne, director of conservation at the Canadian Wildlife Federation.

"With the amendments coming into force in July there is still no publicly-available policy about what any of this is going to mean, or how it's going to be managed," said Browne. "It's kind of strange, really."

Changes to the *Fisheries Act* were written into an omnibus budget bill, C-38, signed into law on June 29, 2012.

Among the amendments was the unexplained rewording of Sec. 35.1 of the Act, "No person shall carry on any work or undertaking that results in the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat."

The section was rewritten, "No person shall carry on any work, undertaking or activity that results in serious harm to fish that are part of a commercial, recreational or Aboriginal fishery, or to fish

that support such a fishery."

In a petition to Fisheries Minister Keith Ashfield, groups asked for scientific definition of what constitutes "serious" harm, and lamented the "lack of clarity" on the amendments. The Act itself defined "serious" as the death of fish or "permanent alteration" or destruction of habitat, without further clarification.

The Department of Fisheries declined comment.

"They have not engaged in the level of consultation that we would have expected," said MP Robert Chisholm, New Democrat fisheries critic.

Signatories to the petition were wildlife federations for British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Newfoundland & Labrador and the Canadian federation; the Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters and Fédération québécoise des chasseurs et pêcheurs; Atlantic Salmon Federation and Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters; Ducks Unlimited; Trout Unlimited Canada; Canadian Sportfishing Industry Association; and the Outdoor Network.

 BY KAVEN BAKER-VOAKES



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 Follow

# “Paramilitary” Bill Okayed By Senators

A contentious RCMP bill dubbed a “paramilitary” measure has cleared a Senate committee.

A Conservative majority of the security committee defeated amendments to curb the commissioner’s powers to fire or suspend police officers under Bill C-42, *An Act To Amend The RCMP Act*.

Lt.-Gen. Roméo Dallaire, committee deputy chair, told fellow senators the bill’s provisions “are very close to what National Defence has, a military structure.”

“We have this paramilitary thing again,” said Dallaire (Liberal-Quebec); “You either become a police force or you become a military gendarmerie.”

RCMP members attempting to unionize the force through a pending Supreme Court appeal said C-42 is extreme and likely unconstitutional.

“Power corrupts,” said Lloyd Pinsent, B.C. representative of the Mounted Police Professional Association. “The commissioner will be empowered to discharge or demote a member for any cause as he sees fit; if this clause were to pass, what little protections that did exist for members will be gone.”

Under the bill, the RCMP commissioner may suspend, demote or fire any rank-and-file member “whose performance in the Commissioner’s opinion is unsatisfactory” (Sec. 20.2.e); and “recommend the discharge of any Deputy Commissioner for the promotion of economy and efficiency of the force” (Sec. 20.2.j).

The legislation also sanctions closed-door hearings on grievances filed by employees; and permits dismissal of workplace complaints deemed to conflict

with “the safety or security of Canada” (Sec. 30.1.3), with the commissioner’s rulings on grievances considered “final and binding” under Sec. 32.1.

“By solidifying the power imbalance in the RCMP and by not having independent oversight, a collective bargaining process or an independent arbitration process to resolve deadlocks, Bill C-42 will ultimately lead to the destruction of the force,” Pinsent told the Senate committee.

Senator Grant Mitchell (Liberal-Alta.) proposed several amendments to the bill that were defeated by Conservative members, including a provision for more civilian oversight of the force; removal of a clause that waives RCMP members’ right against self-incrimination; and allowance to search an RCMP member’s home

with a warrant obtained by telephone.

“I feel there is a lack of fairness here to RCMP members,” said Mitchell; “Why would RCMP members who are subject to allegations not have the rights of every other Canadian in a situation like this?”

Under C-42, a disciplined police officer’s only appeal is a Federal Court lawsuit – an option “that is very expensive,” “cumbersome,” and “not consistent with what occurs in other major police forces across the country, which emphasize civilian independent oversight outside the command structure of the police force,” Mitchell said.

Conservative Senator Dennis Patterson, former premier of the Northwest Territories, said the “issue is the ultimate accountability of the commissioner.”

“One purpose of the bill is to make the buck clearly stop with the commissioner,” Patterson said.

 BY STAFF

## RCMP SILENCED?

RCMP say were silenced from testifying before a parliamentary committee on new disciplinary legislation affecting the force.

“The fact I am speaking here to you, I am placing my own career in peril along with

that of my executive,” Ray Banwarie, president of the Mounted Police Professional Association, told reporters on Parliament Hill.

“We’re going down a dangerous road here,” said Banwarie. “The precedent has been set.”

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews would not take *Blacklock’s* questions.

Banwarie said one policeman, on sick leave, was told he would face consequences if he testified on Bill C-42, *An Act To Amend The RCMP Act*, that grants the commissioner new powers to discipline members of the force.

“It is a Draconian piece of legislation,” said Banwarie, who represents RCMP members appealing to the Supreme Court for the right to unionize the force for the

first time in its history.

“The commissioner is not accountable to anybody,” said Gaétan Delisle, president of the Quebec Mounted Police Members’ Association; “He wants to be almighty and do whatever he wants, whenever he wants, and not be accountable.”

“If you want to be accountable like any other police department in Canada – which are – then you put a system in place that makes them accountable,” Delisle told reporters.

The Canadian Police Association earlier told the Senate security committee the bill extends “extraordinary powers” that “go far beyond what one might find in other police services across Canada.”

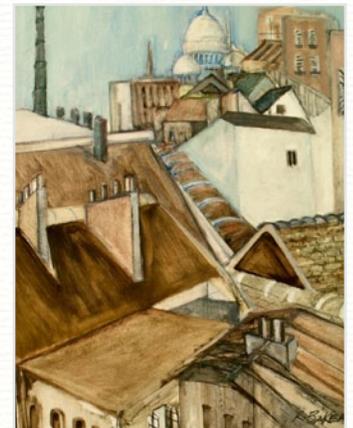
“There needs to be a sense of balance,” said Tom Stamatakis, association

president. “We cannot take steps to restore or enhance the public’s confidence with the RCMP at the expense of weakening RCMP members’ own confidence with their employer.”

 BY STAFF

“  
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”



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# Book Review: Eureka

Treasure hunters strike it rich in the oddest places, but none stranger than a document vault at the University of Alberta. There, largely undisturbed for nearly 50 years, were cartons containing the life's work of reporter Miriam Green Ellis.

Inside, gold.

Ellis covered the Prairies for the *Edmonton Bulletin* and *Family Herald and Weekly* in pre-war years. Where other journalists sought the reflected glory of the big story – earthquakes, scandals, assassinations – Ellis covered extraordinary events in ordinary lives.

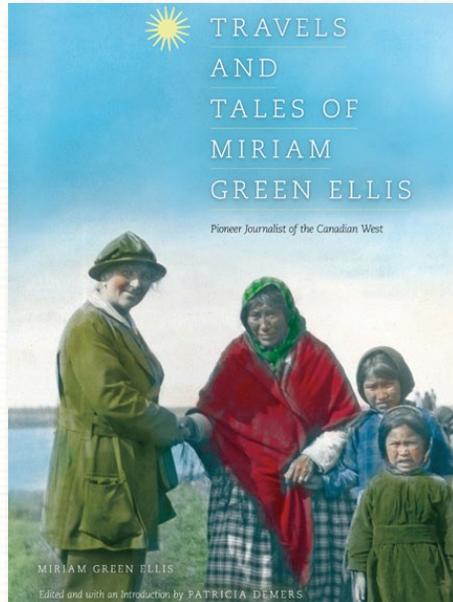
Here is her account of a 1922 steamboat journey through the Northwest Territories: "An Eskimo woman called Laura – since we could not pronounce her Eskimo name – was brought in by the police and is being taken into Edmonton to be committed for insanity. Imagine a woman who has been living along the shore of the Arctic Ocean all her life going into the asylum at Ponoka. The policeman who is accompanying her says that she beat her husband and I suggested that perhaps the husband needed a beating. She fought like a tiger when the boat started to leave Aklavik..."

Ellis was born in Richville, N.Y., raised in Edmonton, and survived an unhappy marriage. She was a working reporter for decades. When Ellis died in 1964, she bequeathed her notes and clippings to the U of A.

In Ellis' day female reporters were relegated to the drudgery of women's page assignments: society 'news,' cookery, entertainment. Ellis instead documented a society in upheaval, the Prairie culture that scaled the height of the Wheat Boom and fell to the depths of the Dustbowl.

"Miriam Green Ellis' journalism," writes editor Patricia Demers, "is positioned at points of intersection" – success and failure, wealth and poverty.

Here is a 1928 gem, *Their Second Honeymoon*, her article on an elderly farm couple taking the first vacation of their lives: "I would kinda like to see Lake Louise," put in Ma, who was tenderly dusting off the new car. 'I can't believe the water is as blue as it looks in the pictures on the calendars; and I'd like to see the



glacier,' she added with a faraway look in her eyes of the desires that had been repressed for many years. 'But they say the roads up in there are awful dangerous. Maybe we had better not go that far.'

Here is Ellis' 1923 account of a Hobbema Sun Dance: "The government is discouraging the continuance of the ceremony of the Sun Dance, believing it to have a detrimental effect on their efforts to settle the Indians on the land... For the greater part of three days, the dancers neither ate, drank nor slept, and their bodies were almost constantly going through the monotonous motions peculiar to the dance. To say it was weird is a commonplace, and my only wonder is that our Natives did not bring us the knowledge of hypnotism."

In 1922, Ellis wrote of this encounter with a lone woodcutter who froze his feet outside Fort Norman: "Crawling on hands and knees he finally managed to get home but the toes were frozen badly and gangrene set in, so that eventually he had to amputate his own toes with his jackknife. He does not know how long he was unconscious...He was in the shack alone from December 8 to April 19 when the Mounted Police found him. During that time he lived on twenty-five pounds of flour which he mixed with a little snow."

To read *Travels and Tales* is to be glad that treasure hunters went searching for gold in a university's archives.

BY HOLLY DOAN

*Travels and Tales of Miriam Green Ellis: Pioneer Journalist of the Canadian West*, edited by Patricia Demers; University of Alberta; ISBN 9780-8888-6462; \$34.95

## "POEM FOR BULLYING"

– by Shai Ben-Shalom

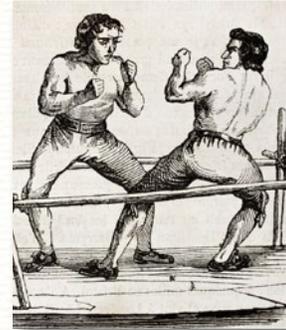
Take this poem,

wrap it around your fist,

smash it in the face of the bully.

If it doesn't help,

I'll write you a stronger one.

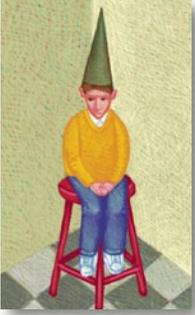


(Editor's note: the author, an Israeli-born biologist, in 2012 published his first collection of poems, *Martians Among Us*, with In/Words Press)

## Best of Sheree



## “IRONIC”: MINT MAKES \$1.8M MATH ERROR



The Crown agency that produces the nation's coins admits it made a seven-figure arithmetic error in its accounts, and mistakenly inflated the profits it reported to taxpayers.

The Royal Canadian Mint acknowledged for the first time it made a \$1.8 million error in counting its inventory, presumably of precious metals, and overstated its 2011 profit by \$1.3 million.

No Mint executive would grant *Blacklock's* interview requests. And the agency refused to provide details of the mistake. “It was a manual input error,” an official said.

“Sometimes, the secrecy around here – I don't understand it,” said Liberal MP Scott Simms. “You have to dig hard just to find out where taxpayers' money is going.”

The Mint only discovered the error dating from its 2011 accounts while reviewing its books and inventory this past winter, according to an accounting note in its latest annual report.

“Is it that they didn't count right?” asked Simms, MP for Bonavista-Gander-Grand Falls-Windsor, Nfld. & Labrador. “This is ironic.”

The Mint attracted notoriety in 2009 when it admitted selling \$3 million worth of gold at a fraction of its value to U.S. recyclers; then lost track of 17,500 troy ounces of gold valued at \$15.3 million. A subsequent \$1.3 million audit attributed the blunder to sloppy bookkeeping.

In its most recent accounts, the Mint reported a modest net profit of \$29.8 million last year on revenues of \$2.58 billion, a fraction of annual profits that ranged as high as \$68.6 million in 2009.

The coin-maker attributed its hard times to “intense competition,” declining demand for investment coins and “economic turmoil in Europe.”

Bullion sales fell 30 percent last year, while total revenues fell 18 percent.

The Mint also reported a dramatic rise in rates of serious workplace injuries in its Winnipeg and Ottawa plants, including many “hand and eye injuries,” but refused comment on workplace safety.

 BY STAFF

## A Brave Man Remembered

A British Columbian who became the only lawmaker in the Commonwealth to win a Victoria Cross while serving as an MP has been honoured by Parliament.

Cy Peck, a former Klondike prospector and Prince Rupert salmon broker, died in 1956. As Conservative MP for Skeena in 1918, he was awarded the VC for bravery under enemy fire at the Battle of Arras-Cambrais.

“He was not a man who sought recognition,” said Ed Peck, his son. “He was a humble person; he never made a big deal about the Victoria Cross.”

Veterans Affairs Minister Steven Blaney and MPs hosted Peck's family at a tribute in Parliament's Centre Block.

“It's hard to believe that next year will mark a century from the time my Dad enlisted,” Peck said.

Peck, Sr. was one of 27 MPs to enlist in the First World War, and remains the only serving parliamentarian worldwide

awarded the VC for courage in combat. At Arras-Cambrais, he was cited in dispatches for leaping from a shell hole under machine-gun fire to direct British tanks to high ground.

Peck left Parliament in 1921 and went on to serve nine years in the B.C. legislature.

“The oldtimers rarely talked about the First World War – very seldom,” Peck said in an interview. “It was a devil to get my Dad to talk about his experiences. I said to him one time, ‘You must have shot a lot of Germans.’ And he paused for a long time and replied, ‘Well, I might have shot one in the foot once.’”

Peck's family donated his Victoria Cross to his old battalion, the 16th Canadian Scottish, in 1987. It is now preserved in the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.

 BY STAFF

## A BLACK RUN

A British Columbia skier who claimed a hillside condo as a residence for tax purposes has hit icy conditions at the Supreme Court of Canada.

Justices declined to hear a GST appeal by James Wotherspoon, a Big White, B.C. condo owner who applied for a sales tax refund on his condo at the acclaimed Kelowna ski resort.

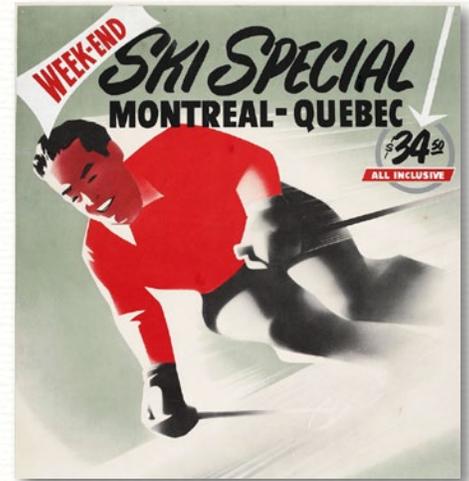
“The Court will almost never give reasons on leaves, but the test is public or national importance,” said Eugene Meehan, partner at Ottawa's Supreme Advocacy LLP and a former executive legal officer at the Supreme Court.

“One can reasonably assume the Court made the decision that this case was not one of public or national importance,” Meehan said.

Wotherspoon bought the condo in a complex on Big White's Whiskey Jack Road for \$139,000 in 2007, paying the GST of \$8,340. At trial in Tax Court, the vendor who sold the property said it was considered an investment, rented by the week to Okanagan skiers.

However, Wotherspoon subsequently claimed the condo as a personal residence under the *Excise Tax Act*, and therefore exempt from the Goods and Services Tax.

The Act defines a “residence” as any home, townhouse, condo, trailer or



houseboat “used primarily as a place of residence” for months at a time.

Canada Revenue denied the request for a refund from Wotherspoon, who represented himself in unsuccessfully challenging the ruling in Tax Court and Federal Court of Appeal.

Supreme Court justices typically decline to hear scores of applications for judgment ever year.

“Whether a case was appealed and dismissed, or the appeal is granted, it's really in most cases neither here nor there,” said Meehan.

 BY DALE SMITH

[IMAGE CANADIAN PACIFIC/LIBRARY & ARCHIVES CANADA #1990-106-23]



**Angell, David** – appointed Ambassador to Somalia, May 7

**Barban, Gaston** – of Ottawa, appointed High Commissioner to Lesotho, March 19

**Belisle, Richard** – of Longueuil, Que., appointed a member, Parole Board of Canada, Quebec Division, effective July 2

**Bercovici, Vivian** – of Toronto, appointed a director, CBC, March 7

**Bernard, Peter** – of Vancouver, appointed a member, Pacific Pilotage Authority, March 13

**Blanchard, Joanne** – of Saint-Bruno, Que., appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 11

**Brazeau, Murielle** – of Ottawa, appointed chair, Social Security Tribunal, March 13

**Brisebois, Marcel** – of Montreal, re-appointed chair, Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board, effective June 27

**Coulombe, Michel** – of Ottawa, appointed interim director, Canadian Security Intelligence Service, May 13

**Coulombe, Michel** – of Ottawa, appointed interim director, CSIS, with a salary in the range of \$188,600 to \$221,800, May 13

**Crane, Mary** – of Kensington, PEI, appointed a part-time member, National Parole Board, Atlantic Region, April 2

**Creelman, Kenneth** – of Fredericton, appointed a director, Canada Foundation for Sustainable Development Technology, March 7

**Dubé, Micheline** – of Ottawa, reappointed CEO, Federal Bridge Corporation Ltd., with a salary in the range of \$175,600 to \$206,500, March 31

**Duggan, Sharon** – of St. John's, appointed a director, Marine Atlantic Inc., March 13

**Dupont, Serge** – of Ottawa, appointed a director, Atomic Energy of Canada, March 13

**Durand, Claude** – of Trois-Rivieres, Que., appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 11

**Dyck, Connie** – of Steinbach, Man., appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, April 13

**Eyford, Douglas** – of Vancouver, appointed Special Representative on West Coast Energy Infrastructure, March 19

**Fadden, Richard** – of Ottawa, appointed Deputy Minister of National Defence, with a salary in the range of \$272,000 to \$318,900, May 13

**Fonberg, Robert** – of Ottawa, appointed Special Advisor to the Clerk of the Privy Council, with a salary in the range of \$242,900 to \$285,700, May 13

**Fothergill, Simon** – of Ottawa, appointed Deputy Secretary to Cabinet and Counsel, Privy Council Office, with a salary in the range of \$188,600 to \$221,800, April 29

**Fujarczuk, Richard** – of Ottawa, appointed Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel to House of Commons, with a salary in the range of \$145,800 to \$171,500, March 7

**Gallagher, Stephen** – of Kirkland, Que., reappointed a member, Immigration & Refugee Board, Montreal region, April 12

**Gignac, Suzie** – of Ottawa, appointed a member, Standards Council of Canada, March 7

**Giguère, Guy** – of Ottawa, appointed chair, Public Service Staffing Tribunal, with a salary in the range of \$139,900 to \$164,600, March 29

**Glover, William** – of Lethbridge, Alta., appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, April 13

**Grey, Deborah** – of Qualicum Beach, B.C., appointed a member, Security Intelligence Review Committee, April 22

**Gupta, Susheel** – of Ottawa, appointed acting chair of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, with a salary in the range of \$226,100 to \$266,000, April 5

**Gwyn, Richard** – of Toronto, appointed a trustee, Canadian Museum of Civilization, March 7

**Hamel, Bruno** – of Ottawa, reappointed chair, Canadian Forces Grievance Board, with a salary in the range of \$139,900 to \$164,500, March 2

**James, William** – of Ottawa, reappointed Superintendent of Bankruptcy, with a salary in the range of \$171,100 to \$201,200, March 7

**Josey, Gregory** – of Brantford, Ont., appointed a director, Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., March 13

**Kavanagh, Sarah** – of Toronto, appointed a director, Sustainable Development Technology Canada, March 12

**Kelly, Robert** – of New York City, appointed chair, Canada Mortgage & Housing Corp., May 3

**Koudys, Ronald** – of London, Ont., appointed a director, Sustainable Development Technology Canada, March 12

**Lafontaine, Pierre** – of Montreal, appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 16

**Langille, Ken** – of New Glasgow, NS, re-appointed a trustee, Canadian Museum of Civilization, March 7

**Lebel, Jean** – of Ottawa, appointed president, International Research Development Centre, April 20

**Leger, Leroy** – of Arcadia, NS, appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 16

**Luciak, Lubomyr** – of Kingston, Ont., appointed a part-time member, National Parole Board, Ontario division, April 2

**Luxat, John** – of Dundas, Ont., appointed a director, Atomic Energy of Canada, March 7

**MacRae, Roger** – of Sydney, NS, re-appointed a director, Royal Canadian Mint, March 7

**Marshall, Robert** – of Winnipeg, appointed a part-time member, Parole Board of Canada, Prairie region, April 2

**McCarthy, John** – of Lindsay, Ont., appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 16

**McCrae, James** – of Brandon, Man., appointed a citizenship judge, April 18

**McCrimmon, D. Ross** – of Hamilton, Ont., appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 16

**McDowell, Mark** – of Ottawa, appointed Ambassador to Burma, March 29

**McEwan, Sandy** – of Edmonton, appointed a member, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, March 7

**McKenzie, Guy** – appointed president, Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec, with a salary in the range of \$216,900 to \$255,100, effective July 1

**McVeigh, Glennys** – of Saskatoon, appointed a Federal Court justice, April 29

**Mitchell, Brian** – of Westmount, Que., re-appointed a director, CBC, April 21

**Morin, Normand** – of Québec City, appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 16

**Morris, Sandy** – of Toronto, reappointed a member, Immigration & Refugee Board, Toronto region, March 1

**Mowat, Jane** – of Toronto, appointed a director, VIA Rail, March 13

**Mungovan, David** – of Toronto, appointed a member, Immigration & Refugee Board, Toronto region, effective June 14

**Nawaz, Neil** – of Toronto, appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 16

**Neville, Richard** – of Ottawa, appointed chief negotiator, St. Anne's Hospital Transfer Project, with per diem in the range of \$1,000 to \$1,200, April 22

**Noonan, John** – of Goulds, Nfld., appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 16

**Oliver, Cynthia** – of Vancouver, appointed a member, Canada Industrial Relations Board, March 7

**Palantzas, Eleni** – of Toronto, appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 16

**Pappas, Takis** – of Pickering, Ont., appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 16

**Payette, Julie** – of Montreal, appointed CEO, Montreal Science Centre, and vice president, Canada Lands Company, eff. July 15

**Persichilli, Angelo** – of Mississauga, appointed a citizenship court judge, March 11

**Pickard, Mike** – of Saskatoon, appointed a member, Farm Products Council, April 26

**Pierre, Sophie** – of Cranbrook, B.C., re-appointed chief, B.C. Treaty Commission, April 2

**Poloz, Stephen** – of Ottawa, appointed Governor of the Bank of Canada, with

a salary in the range of \$431,800 to \$507,900, June 3

**Provo, Dwayne** – of Halifax, appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, April 13

**Rivest, Marie-José** – of Montréal, re-appointed a member, Immigration & Refugee Board of Canada, Montreal region, March 1

**Rodenhurst, Brian** – of Woodstock, Ont., appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 16

**Rouleau, Aline** – of Sainte-Francoise, Que., appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, April 13

**Roussel, Kathleen** – of Ottawa, appointed Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, April 15

**Safran, Laura** – of Calgary, appointed a member, Transportation Appeal Tribunal, May 1

**St. George, Judith** – of Ottawa, appointed High Commissioner to Malaysia, March 15

**Saroli, Pasquale** – of Ottawa, reappointed a member, Canadian International Trade Tribunal, March 10

**Senécal-Tremblay, Marie** – of Montréal, appointed a citizenship judge, April 2

**Sheffe, Michael** – of Thornhill, Ont., appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 16

**Sherwood, Kelley** – of Ottawa, re-appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 11

**Simpson, Stephen** – of Vancouver, re-appointed a member, CRTC, effective June 13

**Smith, Roy** – of Richmond, BC, appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 16

**Sterne, Richard** – of Brantford, Ont., appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 16

**Tannas, Scott** – of High River, Alta., appointed to the Senate, March 25

**Tremblay, Jean-Francois** – of Ottawa, appointed Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet (Operations), with a salary in the range of \$188,600 to \$221,800, April 29

**Uppal, Atam** – of Toronto, reappointed a member, Immigration & Refugee Board, Toronto region, effective July 17

**Volk, Coleen** – of Ottawa, appointed Deputy Secretary to Cabinet (Senior Personnel), with a salary in the range of \$188,600 to \$221,800, April 29

**Yufe, Alyssa** – of Westmount, Que., appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, April 13

**Wallocha, Katherine** – of Coalhurst, Alta., appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, April 13

**Whittle, Joanne** – of Ottawa, appointed a director, Canadian Air Transport Security Authority, May 1