

Tariff Storm Looming: “It’s Not Widely Known – Yet”

A tax regulation expected to raise the price of thousands of everyday goods has been delayed till 2015 amid demands from industry and Parliament that Canada develop a “coherent” policy on tariffs.

“What’s the next step?” said Bob Kirke, executive director of the Canadian Apparel Foundation. “Do we have a method here?”

A multi-million tariff increase on imports from China, South Korea, India, Brazil and dozens of other countries to take effect July 1, 2014 is now scheduled for Jan. 1, 2015, according to a single reference in a budget document. A finance department official said the postponement came after “a number of stakeholders requested more time to adjust,” but failed to elaborate.

The finance department anticipates \$100 million in new revenue from the higher tariffs in 2015, and \$300 million every year after that to 2017.

“We need to discuss this with the minister of finance,” said Kirke. “I’m looking at a spreadsheet from one com-

pany that faces \$1.5 million a year in new tariffs – one company.”

The new tariff code strips China and other leading exporters off a list of nations granted low General Preferential Tariff rates on goods shipped to Canada. It is the biggest adjustment of its kind since 1974.

“Linen garments, silk garments – these are up eight, 10 percent,” said Kirke. “Bottom line is, if you buy a leather coat in Canada the tariff is up 5 percent; that is a hard cost.”

Examples of higher charges on a range of goods include a 1 percent rise in tariffs on corn flour; 2 on hand tools; 3 percent on ground pepper; 4 percent on leather luggage and coffee makers; 5 percent on fur gloves and mitts; and 6.5 percent on vacuum parts and drill bits.

Trade Minister Ed Fast did not take *Blacklock’s* questions.

“You’re not seeing public reaction because it’s not widely known – yet,” said MP Don Davies, New Democrat trade critic. “I expect that will change in the weeks ahead.”

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Davies noted the 2013 budget removed tariffs on selected goods like hockey pads, ice skates and golf clubs in what appeared to be an arbitrary selection.

“Instead of having a careful, intelligent, coherent policy on tariffs, the government picked out a few items they thought they could sell in Midtown Canada,” said Davies, MP for Vancouver Kingsway.

The finance department,

in its budget report, said the selective reductions were intended to promote “healthy living.”

“I’m looking for a coherent, strategic theme and I don’t see it,” Davies said. “This is an area of government that requires transparency and good, predictable policy. Trade is about business; business likes predictability.”

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The budget also removed an 18 percent tariff on infant wear, a measure proposed by the Apparel Foundation, though executive director Kirke said it may take months for consumers to see any benefit.

"We support the choice," said Kirke. "The market is overwhelmingly supplied by importers. But I set a price

today with Walmart for 10 months from now. Am I going to lower my price? Do I have a hole in my head?"

Exporters to Canada that will be affected by the tariff change are: Algeria; American Samoa; Antigua and Barbuda; Antilles, Netherlands; Argentina; Azerbaijan; Bahamas; Bahrain; Barbados; Bermuda; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Brazil; Brunei; Cayman Islands;

Chile; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Croatia; Cuba; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Equatorial Guinea; French Polynesia; Gabon; Gibraltar; Grenada; Guam; Hong Kong; India; Indonesia; Iran; Israel; Jamaica; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kuwait; Lebanon; Macao; Macedonia; Malaysia; Maldives; Mariana Islands; Mauritius; Mexico; Namibia; New Caledonia; Oman; Palau;

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TOM KORSKI

"Consumers Are Not Going To Be Happy"

A tariff hike on everyday goods will cost consumers more than the government predicts, warns the chair of the Senate finance committee.

"Consumers are not going to be happy," said Senator Joseph Day.

The Department of Finance projects new tariffs will raise \$300 million annually by 2016.

"I think \$300 million is off," said Day (Liberal-New Brunswick). "I think it's going to be more than \$300 million."

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty was unavailable for comment.

"The tariff in Canada is applied farther down the supply chain than in other countries," said Day. "The markup from importer to distributor can be 50 percent – then you apply the tariff, and the impact is 50 percent greater."

Under the higher duties,

typical increases include a 1 percent rise in tariffs on flower bulbs; 2 percent more on strawberries, canned sardines and handsaws; 3 percent on cutlery, ovens and cooking stoves; and 3.5 percent on paints and varnishes.

"Consumers will ask why," said Day added. "Why are we pricing products so differently here than in the United States? People can compare. If they can get the same item 100 kilometres across the border for half the price, they will."

Day's senate committee earlier published a Feb. 6 tariff analysis *The Canada-USA Price Gap* that recommended a complete review of duties.

Cabinet in its 2013 budget declined the review, lifted an 18 percent duty on selected goods – baby clothing, golf clubs and hockey helmets – and set January 1, 2015 to impose higher tariffs

on Canada's largest suppliers in the biggest revision of its kind in more than a decade.

"I'm trying to make sense of this," Sen. Day said in an interview. "We made a strong recommendation for a review of the entire tariff system; the government came forward with a few reductions that are attractive to consumers, with no mention of a comprehensive review. I ask myself, why?"

Day continued, "There is a disconnect here. Tariffs are not the way to go. Perhaps the government is using this as a bargaining tool in bilateral trade talks; but consumers are going to pay in the meantime."

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce agreed the tariff revision appeared usefully timed to influence bilateral negotiations.

"These tariffs are often used as bargaining chips in trade talks," said Cam Vidler,

the chamber's director of international policy.

"This gives incentives to India and Korea in negotiations, that Canada should not be giving out so-called 'freebies' under the General Preferential Tariff," he added.

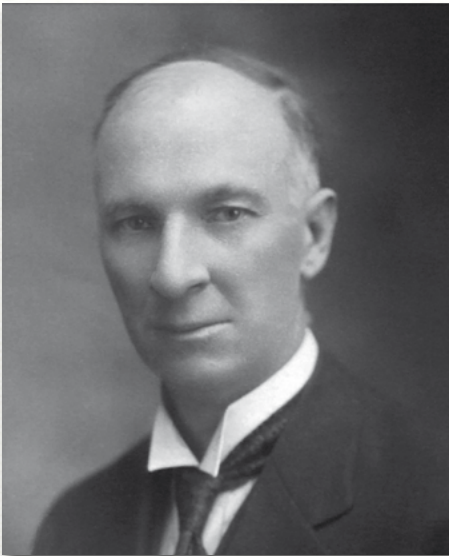
Vidler said the chamber had "no reason to disbelieve" the government estimate that higher tariffs will cost \$300 million annually, but endorsed the senate finance committee's call for a full review of policy.

"We would like to see comprehensive and methodical review," said Vidler. "There are a lot of issues here. We want to see how the tariff changes affect our supply chain generally."

MP Ted Menzies, secretary of state for finance, declined an interview.



TOM KORSKI



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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MEDIA AT THEIR BEST – AND WORST

I was once driving with Jack Layton to an event in Gatineau. He had just gotten off the phone with his mother; she was upset over what the newspapers were saying: “Jack will never be prime minister”; “Jack is a good guy but not a leader”; “The NDP is a bunch of socialists.” I asked him, how do you stand it day after day?

“I don’t read it,” he replied. “You need to tune it out.” It was the best advice I never followed.

I am an enthusiastic media consumer. I tape most evening television newscasts; I read constantly, from clippings and the internet. For four years I hosted a call-in show at Radio CJRC in Gatineau, and spent another two years hosting a current event TV show on Vox

News can provoke anger, or understanding; it can inspire great ideas, or merely irritate. Yet increasingly there are more Jack Laytons than ever – Canadians who are tuning media out. When I travel through my riding, I know more people are definitely not watching newscasts. Why? I think people are fed up with the negativity.

Each morning at CJRC a producer and I worked through topics for our call-in show. Of course there was a question of ratings; the point was to select a theme of sufficient interest or controversy to invite calls. But I am a labour lawyer by profession, and this gave me a unique and cautious perspective. I never provoked the audience for the sake of it.

We discussed substantial themes: racism, freedom, religion. I emphasized education and context of complex issues. Do you know what happened? It worked. Listeners expressed a thirst for information. I was always amazed at the feedback we received from people who said, “Thank you – I did not know this.”

Canadians like to be informed. They like explanations of difficult issues.

Life is complicated for many people, and they accept complications. Given a chance, people will digest facts that are important to know. Audiences are not idiots.

I don’t listen to radio talk shows anymore. I find it difficult to detect balance, and don’t care for personalities who inflame the audience. Now they say just about anything.

Other media increasingly manufacture news from polling and punditry. This is infuriating. It is not “journalism.” Crime coverage caters to vengeance and punishment; political coverage skews to talking points.

On Parliament Hill, analysis of bills and regulations goes to the core of our democratic system. Is it now too specialized? Can news coverage not go beyond rhetoric? Do journalists read legislation? I have had reporters feed me lines that echoed what they were told by the government, rather than cite the substance of parliamentary business.

I make it a point of knowing what type of journalists I’m dealing with. It helps me in scrums in the House foyer. Depending on which reporter asks the question, I will answer more succinctly, or in more detail.

I don’t think the kind of news Jack Layton dismissed is a new phenomenon – the superficial coverage and offensive punditry. But I think it is becoming more common because of the crush of 24-7 deadlines.

Are journalists to blame? I see the stress they are under to file stories, to fill airtime, to be the first with an “exclusive” story.

Interestingly, trying too hard to be the best, can bring out the worst in people. We can do better!

(Editor’s note: the author is two-term New Democrat MP for Gatineau, Que.)

Hello – Hello – Hello...

Canada's phone regulator is reviewing a request to waive restrictions on telemarketing for automatic dialing machines.

The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission is seeking consumers' input on an industry proposal that would relax rules on so-called ADADs, or Automatic Dialing-Announcing Devices.

Proposals by the Canadian Marketing Association would ease limits on the use of the machines where a caller has an existing business relationship with the client, such as a reminder of an appointment from the dentist's office.

"We've always felt where

there was an existing relationship between an organization and a customer and it's been established through a purchase it wasn't unreasonable given the advances of the technology," said Wally Hill, marketers' vice president of public affairs.

"We feel in looking at allowing the use of ADADs in that context the commission should look at qualifying that use with some conditions," said Hill. "It has real consumer benefits in terms of reminders."

Current rules state that automatic dialers may only be used where a phone owner has given consent, or be restricted to specific hours, disclosure of

caller identification, and other requirements.

The commission said it will seek comment from phone owners and telemarketers till May 6.

"To develop rules and enforcement practices in the least-intrusive manner necessary, the Commission will carefully weigh the benefit of any proposed changes against the administrative burden that may result, particularly for small businesses," the CRTC said.


Regulators noted they received 105,338 complaints from the public on telemarketing calls last year. Of those, 2485 were found in violation of the National Do Not Call

List and subject to warnings and fines.

The Consumers Council of Canada noted the most persistent violators of the Do Not Call List are overseas-based telemarketers beyond the reach of Ottawa regulators.

"You can bet if you have a call centre, it will be operating in a country with which Canada has a less-established law enforcement relationship," said Ken Whitehurst, council executive director. "These are plain hard to shut down."

More than 11 million Canadians subscribed to the National Do Not Call List.

 STAFF

"Simple" Luggage Rules!



Air travellers in Canada may soon see standardized rules on baggage handling and check-in.

The Canadian Transportation Agency said it will seek public input till April 15 on a U.S.-style proposal to adopt

uniform regulations on checked and carry-on luggage.

"We are looking at transportation to and from Canada," said Chantal Laflamme, agency spokesperson. "We want to make sure we have a balanced approach that is go-

ing to look at the rights of the consumer, but also interests of the industry."

WestJet last month revised company rules to limit passengers to one piece of carry-on luggage plus a "personal item," effective April 4. WestJet permits one free piece of checked baggage, with a \$20 fee on additional bags.

Air Canada enforces a similar carry-on allowance of one standard bag and one personal item, but has varied check-in rules depending on the fare, destination and travel dates.

"The intent of this consultation is to harmonize the rules," said Laflamme. "We aren't looking at the cost, but of course we will try to minimize it; first and foremost it has to

be simple and clear."

The agency reported longstanding rules that set a worldwide standard by the International Air Transport Association now appear "out of date" due to competing carriers' user fees, a la carte pricing and attempts by airlines to "maximize revenue from baggage."

The United States Department of Transportation last July enacted a new regulation, 399.87, that stated all domestic airlines must provide identical baggage rules and fees throughout a passenger's journey regardless of the number of check-ins.

 STAFF

Columnist Paid \$7,781 For Pre-Budget Help



The finance department paid a newspaper columnist thousands of dollars for help in discussing its austerity budget with business groups, documents show.

Brian Lee Crowley, a contributor to the *Ottawa Citizen* and *Globe and Mail*, received \$7,781 to host three budget roundtable meetings sponsored by the Department of Finance, according to a finance official and accounts tabled in

the Commons.

Blacklock's repeated calls to Crowley's office in Ottawa were not returned.

The department reported Crowley received \$3,526 in fees and expenses to act as moderator for a budget roundtable meeting in Burlington, Ont. last December 19; then \$2,755 to host a similar roundtable in Montreal on January 8; and \$1,500 for an appearance at a meet-

ing in Ottawa Feb. 11.

A finance official said the roundtable meetings typically lasted half a day. The meetings were "aimed at engaging Canadians in discussions about their priorities and ideas for achieving the best use of taxpayers' dollars," the department said in a statement announcing Crowley's Feb. 11 meeting.

Crowley is managing director of the Macdonald-Laurier Institute, which describes itself as "Canada's only truly national public policy think tank."

The finance department arranged two other meetings, in Calgary and St. John's, hosted by Conservative caucus members and MP Ted Menzies, the minister of state for finance.

"We certainly weren't invited," said Bruce Campbell, executive director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

"Those roundtables were mainly a consultation with business groups," added Campbell. "I think they were a sounding board for the finance minister's main constituency."

 STAFF

(PHOTO: MACDONALD LAURIER INSTITUTE)

—THE END.

The Canadian Booksellers Association, a trade group that championed independent dealers since 1953, is no more.

The association served notice with Industry Canada it is surrendering its charter under the *Canada Corporations Act*.

"We have been struggling for ten years," said Jodi White, senior manager. "We receive no government funding. We are financed through membership dues, and every year we lose more members."

The association currently has 500 sup-

porters, including retailers and suppliers, who paid annual \$250 membership dues, and will now fold into the Retail Council of Canada that represents hundreds of other independents.

"This is exactly a new chapter," said White. "We either dissolved and were left with no voice, or found a new partner and stopped worrying about how to pay the bills."

Canada currently has 1,500 surviving independent booksellers, by Industry

Canada estimate.

Revenues for book stores and news dealers has fallen an average 4 percent annually since 2001, by federal estimate, with profit margins averaging less than 2 percent and independents accounting for 38 percent of industry revenues.

"Everyone wants to stay alive," said White.

 STAFF

Telemarketing Complaints up 58%

Consumer complaints of telemarketing calls have increased 58 percent in the past three years, according to records kept by federal regulators.

Formal complaints by phone owners who registered with the National Do Not Call List totaled 106,089 last year, compared to 67,340 in 2009.

The data was contained in records tabled in the Commons by James Moore, minister responsible for the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission.

The agency declined *Blacklock's* interview request.

To date more than 11,000,000 Canadians registered with the Do Not Call List

The Consumers Council of Canada said its research suggests the majority of violations originate from overseas call centres that are beyond the reach of regulators.

"By and large there is not a lot of evidence that domestic companies are failing to comply with the law," said Kenneth Whitehurst, the

council's executive director. "You may find someone occasionally will fall through the cracks."

Despite the rise in complaints, the number of CRTC investigations has declined steadily, with the number of formal probes totaling:

- 61,089 in 2010;
- 48,375 in 2011;
- 46,983 in 2012.

The commission did not explain the decline.

Federal regulators also continue to receive thousands of consumer protests

over unwanted faxes from telemarketers, with complaints totaling 6,044 last year – almost half the number received four years ago.

"There are still people marketing through unsolicited faxes," said Whitehurst. "Of course the fax is a dying medium, but it's still out there."

The telecom commission to date has levied more than \$2.4 million in fines for violations of the Do Not Call List.

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Shhh: Oil And Gas Industry Ponders Its Own Regulations

A secretive federal panel assigned to develop regulations on oil and gas greenhouse emissions has held 18 months' worth of meetings without divulging its discussions.

The Process Working Group, dominated by Albertans and oil delegates, has met fourteen times since October 2011 without disclosing its agenda.

"Carbon pricing has not been considered," the group reported in a four-page summary of its work submitted by Environment Minister Peter Kent to the House of Commons.

However, the group refused to detail any minutes of its meetings. And records show the panel did not meet at all between last October and this past January.

"The committee doesn't meet; you can't get information; and you don't know what the agenda is – all the pieces fit,"

said Green Party leader Elizabeth May. "They have no intention of trying."

The environment minister would not comment.

Eight of 12 panel members are Government of Alberta delegates or representatives of the Alberta-based oil and gas industry. Four remaining panelists are Environment Canada managers.

"To have a working group for national regulations that is limited to one province and the federal government is not appropriate," said May, MP for Saanich-Gulf Islands, British Columbia. "In the past a working group would have been comprised of the federal and provincial governments, industry, experts, non-governmental organizations; you wouldn't even get out of the gate without that."

In a summary of its deliberations since 2011, the panel

concluded that "oil and gas sector greenhouse regulations are anticipated to come into force in 2016" – but failed to say what regulations would target, or how they would be enforced.

"A range of stringency and scope has been considered... from targeted approaches with stringency levels achievable with little compliance flexibility, to 'stretch' targets with compliance flexibility," the panel reported.

May said she expected little regulatory impact from the panel dominated by representatives of industries that stand to be regulated in the first place.

"It's been quite transparent to anyone who's ever observed the development of a climate plan, that the government is not interested," said May.

Members of the Process Working Group are Bob Bleaney, vice president of external relations for the Can-

adian Association of Petroleum Producers; Jenna Dunlop, manager of climate change policy for the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers; Faith Goodman of the Canadian Fuels Association; Andrew Higgins of Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.; Jon Mitchell of Cenovus Energy Inc.; Mike Cassady of Suncor Energy Inc.; Shannon Flint, Assistant Deputy Minister, Alberta Environment; Bob Savage, acting director of regulation and mitigation, Alberta Environment; Mike Beale, associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Stewardship Branch of Environment Canada; and Margaret Meroni, Kate Teeple, and Kimberly Curran of the Oil, Gas & Alternative Energy division of Environment Canada.

 STAFF

PASSENGERS' BILL OF RIGHTS DIES

A bill to legislate air passengers' rights has been voted down in the Commons for the second time in five years.

The private member's bill, sponsored by Opposition MPs, was defeated last night by a vote of

Bill C-459, *An Act Regarding The Rights Of Air Passengers*, would have mandated compensation for travellers up to \$1,000 for flight cancellations or delays, or failure to advise customers of "any development in respect of their flights that could have a significant

impact on their travel plans."

The bill also forced disclosure of all ticket pricing including fees and taxes – a measure subsequently adopted by federal regulation – and required carriers to track baggage.

"The main objective is to regulate the sector as is already the case in Europe so that compensation for a change in travel plans becomes the standard and not the result of long, expensive legal proceedings," said Laval MP José Nunez-Melo, the bill's author.

The bill followed European

legislation enacted in 2005 that provided up to 600 Euros in compensation to travellers stranded by flight disruptions.

Canada introduced a voluntary 2008 code *Flight Rights* that proposed remedies like meal vouchers or overnight kits for inconvenienced travellers.

"The prescriptive regulatory regime proposed in C-459 is not consistent with Canada's approach to consumer protection in transport," said Conservative MP Joe Daniel, of Don Valley East. "As writ-

ten, the bill raises a number of questions and creates systems that would ultimately increase the burden on all parties." Regulations forcing airlines to disclose all fares, fees and taxes in media advertisements were enacted last Dec. 18. The Canadian Transportation Agency said it received 518 air travel complaints last year, the overwhelming majority involving major carriers.

Only 2 percent targeted smaller airlines.

 STAFF

Parliament Hill Managers Broke Labour Law: Panel

A federal panel has ruled Parliament broke its own workplace laws in trying to enact a new layoff policy for employees.

The Public Service Labour Relations Board ruled Parliament Hill management, under supervision of the speakers of the Commons and Senate, violated the *Parliamentary Employment and Staff Relations Act*.

"They are supposed to set an example," said Claude Poirier, president of the Canadian Association of Professional Employees (CAPE).

"They should be a model for others to follow."

The labour ruling came in the case CAPE members working as \$82,400-a-year Library of Parliament staff who do research work for legislators.

While bargaining over terms of contract last July, management introduced a new layoffs policy after Cabinet targeted a 2.5 percent cut in library funding.

"Employers cannot change working conditions while they are at the bargaining table," said Poirier.

The board found no evidence of "malicious" intent, but concluded managers violated federal law by attempting to unilaterally change work terms and conditions.

"The introduction of this policy was not the result of normal business practice or business as usual," the board reported.

No library staff members were laid off. Libraries subsequently signed a three-year contract following arbitration.

"Quite frankly we have good working relations with

the Library of Parliament," Poirier said in an interview. "I think there was some political push here; the government tried to implement changes without looking at the consequences."

"They tried to steamroll these changes," Poirier said.

Commons Speaker Andrew Scheer refused comment; the speaker of the Senate, Noel Kinsella, would not take *Blacklock's* questions.



TOM KORSKI

COMMITTEE PONDERES 0.1 PERCENT

Proponents and foes of genetically-modified food are clashing over a federal proposal to permit a fraction of modified "contamination" in grain shipments.

Farm groups told the Commons agriculture committee that Canada should be a "leader" in opposing zero-tolerance export policies that disqualify whole shipments of grain over minute traces of modified organisms.

"Canada has a chance to be a leader and help direct the tone of the policy around the world," said Franck Groeneweg, a director of the Grain Growers of Canada.

The Department of Agriculture has proposed a policy on so-called Low Level Presence (LLP) of modified ma-

terial – an initiative that's drawn no international consensus.

"The lack of an LLP in export markets has led to their closure when unapproved 'events' show up," Groeneweg told MPs. "Zero tolerance is unachievable."

Growers say LLP "incidents" typically involve cross-contamination of grain shipments during handling and transport.

"The presence is not a food safety issue but rather a technical barrier to trade which some countries are using to protect their own industries or cater to public perception," said Groeneweg, a Saskatchewan producer.

Another industry group, the Canada Grains Council,

noted federal regulators propose an LLP ratio of 0.1 to 0.2 percent – a trace amount that is "below levels that one would normally have to be working with" in grain shipping.

"We need to support and negotiate mutual recognition treaties with other jurisdictions, food-producing and exporting countries," said Gordon Harrison, president of the Canadian National Millers Association.

"This is a strategic objective that has to be realized if we want to preserve and enhance market access," said Harrison.

However, the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network condemned the federal proposal as a Trojan Horse

that would open Canada to shipments of unapproved genetically-modified product.

"This change would ask Canadians to accept GM foods as safe even when Health Canada has not actually approved them," said Lucy Sharratt, network coordinator; "Is the minister of agriculture really ready to ask Canadians to trust the regulatory systems of other countries?"

"There is no justification for allowing the import of foods contaminated with products that have not been fully evaluated by Health Canada," Sharratt said.



ALEX BINKLEY

"It's A Tough Business"

A Canadian group that promoted enterprise journalism as a way to "save" media, is winding down.

Canada Revenue served notice on the Canadian Centre for Investigative Reporting it will have its charitable status revoked for failing to meet federal filing requirements.

The listed telephone number at the centre's Hamilton, Ont. headquarters is out of service. Directors contacted by *Blacklock's* said the board had not met in months, and the treasurer resigned last December.

"It's a tough business," said Bilbo Poynter, executive director.

The centre, established in 2008, published an online newsletter and stories on issues including organized crime in Canada, the trade in Afghan heroin in Vancouver; and the incidence of swine flu.

The centre also sponsored a 2009 panel discussion that asked, "Is The Mainstream Media Dying? Can Investigative Journalism Save It?"

"The idea of keeping this going would have been ter-

rific, but it has largely been a voluntary effort and it is more or less moribund," said Poynter.

In its last tax filing for 2011 the centre reported assets of \$1,954; total revenues of \$29,335; and \$22,443 in spending.

Poynter said the centre did "owe some financial records from 2011," but had not formally received notice it would lose its charitable status.

"It's been winding down for some time," said Poynter; "There will be announcements on this."

The centre previously received funding from numerous private foundations, the Public Service Alliance of Canada, Blake Cassels and Graydon LLP and Isabel Bassett, former chair of TV Ontario.

"This comes as news to me," said director Donald Worme, a Saskatoon lawyer; "It's a blow to investigative journalism in this country. It is just unfortunate."

 STAFF



"NATIONAL SURVEY"

A POEM BY
JEFF BLACKMAN

Reader's Digest insists the most hated phrase in Canada is, "Your call is important to us."

"I've been meaning to tell you,"
seconded by a case of the hang-ups.

The opposite of the Internet
is a secret.

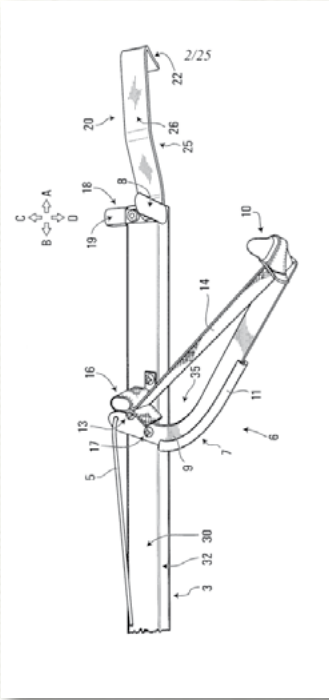
The world's smallest deer,
the adorablest.

(Editor's note: the author is a research analyst who recently published collections of poems in *dead (g)end(er)* magazine, *In/Words* Press and *Ottawater* periodical; and has a chapbook forthcoming with Apt. 9 Press this spring)



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HERE IS THE SECRET THEY DON'T WANT YOU TO SEE



Canada Post is refusing comment on a secret corporate development plan for – a stick.

Neither the Crown agency nor its union would take *Blacklock's* questions on the invention identified as a “reaching device,” or discuss patent drawings.

However, documents filed with Industry Canada show twelve co-inventors, including two Canada Post managers, filed the unusual patent.

“The ‘reaching device’ is in the pilot stage at the moment,” said Jon Hamilton, a spokesperson for the post office; “We are not getting into a lot of details at this point

given the preliminary stage we’re in.”

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers also declined comment, noting the invention was undergoing tests to “help deliver mail in a safe and ergonomic manner in rural areas,” an official said.

According to documents, patent #2753232 is an extending device with jaw-like attachment specifically for country mail delivery.

“Rural properties typically have a mail box at the end of a laneway at the side of the road,” Canada Post wrote in its patent filing; “The mail box is usually located on the passenger’s side of the vehicle, which means it is sometimes

difficult for the mail carrier to reach the mail box while seated in the driver’s seat.”

The invention is designed to allow a driver to open a mail box, exchange letters, close the box and raise or lower the mail flag.

Canada Post would not say if the device has been commercialized; where it is undergoing field testing; or whether the corporation had a royalty arrangement with co-inventors who include the Crown corporation’s manager of standard equipment engineering, and manager of safety programs.

 TOM KORSKI

DEATH OF A TAX CREDIT

Repeal of a federal tax credit for labour-sponsored venture capital corporations spells good riddance to a national “boondoggle,” says an economist for the country’s largest private sector union.

“Outside Quebec these funds served no purpose and will not be missed,” said Jim Stanford, of the Canadian Auto Workers.

“We never supported these outfits,” said Stanford. “They were a boondoggle from the beginning.”

Tax credits for the funds cost federal and provincial governments \$3.6 billion over a twelve-year period, by federal estimate.

The Department of Finance suspended all new registrations of the funds effective March 21, and said it will collapse federal tax credits for investors from 15 to 10 percent beginning in 2015, to five percent the year following, with complete elimination of the credits by 2016.

“I suspect this will be the final nail in the coffin of those funds in English Canada,” Stanford said.

First established in 1983 by the Quebec Federation of Labour as a “Solidarity Fund” with a 30 percent credit for investors, the concept spread to most prov-

inces with additional tax breaks that ranged from 15 percent in Manitoba and New Brunswick to 20 percent in Saskatchewan and Newfoundland & Labrador, and 30 percent in British Columbia.

“The Solidarity Fund had a mandate to preserve Quebec jobs and promote a social mandate; it’s been quite efficient,” said Stanford.

“On the other hand, the funds in English Canada have been rent-a-union ventures with no social mandate, simply to take advantage of tax loopholes.”

Analysts at CIBC Wood Gundy characterized the

investments as “relatively high-risk.” And the Montreal Economic Institute calculated funds averaged “abnormally low” rates of return – about 2.5 percent annually – with “abnormally high” management costs of more than four percent.

The finance department said it will soon table new tax legislation related to investment requirements, wind-ups and redemption of the funds, but would not elaborate.

 STAFF

SUGAR TREATY NOT SO SWEET: INDUSTRY

Ottawa is speeding removal of sugar tariffs under a Colombian treaty despite concerns from Canadian industry.

The finance department disclosed duties on refined sugar, originally \$30.86 per tonne or 8 percent, will be eliminated two years ahead of schedule by 2025 under a free trade pact with Colombia.

Canadian refiners had protested the treaty, citing Colombian imports that account for some 20 percent of refined sugar in supermarkets and food services.

"The long term phase-out is the best of a bad situation," said Sandra Marsden, president of the Canadian Sugar Institute, a national trade association.

"Colombia is already our main competition," said Marsden. "This makes them much more competitive."

Under a Department of Finance schedule, sugar tariffs now fixed at \$24.69 will be reduced an additional \$2 per tonne annually till they are eliminated completely within twelve years.

"They had to have known it was coming," said Conservative MP Larry Miller, chair of the Commons agriculture meeting. "A phase-in period is a lot better than full stop, right now."

"Tariffs protect industry, but Canada is an exporting nation for the most part," added Miller, MP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound, Ont. "You can't have your cake and eat it too."

An earlier 2008 study by the Commons trade committee acknowledged that Colombia "is not a major export market for Canada generally," concluding that free trade with the South American country "would not benefit Canadian producers" in the sugar industry.

"There has to be a balance," Miller said in interview. "In that balance, does it mean some industries may suffer a little bit? Yes it does, unfortunately."

Producers note Canada is one of the world's freest sugar markets with largely unrestricted access to competitors, compared to the U.S. that imposes a 100 percent sugar tariff and limits Canadian exports to a quota of less than one percent of the market.

"That is part of the problem," said LaVar Payne, Conservative MP for Medicine Hat, Alta., a region that remains Canada's largest producer of refined sugar.

"I've talked to our sugar beet growers and U.S. controls are a difficulty," said Payne. "Not being able to get into the U.S. is a big issue."

Canada's refined sugar market is worth some 130,000 tonnes annually.

"We're now one of the few open markets in the region," said the Sugar Institute's Marsden. "Hopefully we can explore other export markets."

 STAFF

NO SPRINGTIME FOR SCIENCE

Groups contacted by *Blacklock's* are breathing a sigh of relief no further cuts appear imminent in longstanding tax credits for scientific research and experimental development. But analysts warn that Canada has "a long way to go" in keeping pace with incentives for innovation.

The SR&ED credit, dating from 1963, was reduced from 20 to 15 percent last year in a much-criticized policy, but escaped further reductions in the 2013 budget.

"This budget has taken some minor steps forward," said Kent Smith, senior Ottawa tax analyst for PricewaterhouseCoopers; "I think this budget gives us some confidence that the government will continue its ongoing support for the SR&ED program."

The finance department did not restore previous cuts, but proposed a \$5 million "outreach" to explain existing credits to first-time applicants.

"That's been the most consistent problem with the program," said Smith. "It's hard for companies to self-assess with confidence that they are going to receive the credits they're entitled to."

The SR&ED program provides some \$4 billion a year in credits to 18,000 claimants, according to Canada Revenue.

Analyst Ron Freedman, CEO of Re\$earch Info-source Inc., said the program remained uncompetitive.

"The budget ignored the key issue with the SR&ED program which is that it forces companies to conduct academic scientific research which is of no use to them," said Freedman; "Government needs to align its criteria for industrial research support."

"The SR&ED uses a fifty-year old discredited definition," he said.

An earlier report by the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters rated Canada 17th in a global ranking of international research and development incentives.

"We are seeing Canada loose its competitive position," said Freedman.

National spending on research and development as a portion of the economy totals 1.74 percent, by StatsCan estimate, compared to an OECD average of 2.4 percent.

"There is a long way to go," said Kim Allen, CEO of Engineers Canada.

"The federal government has an important role to play in this area," Allen told *Blacklock's*. "We recognize that the SR&ED program is a key part in that role."

 KAVEN BAKER-VOAKES

A New Way To Build Roads?

Initial terms for new private sector investments in public works appear promising but will require close scrutiny, say the nation's consulting engineering companies.

The Department of Finance has set a \$100 million threshold for encouraging private sector participation on government works – so-called P3 ventures. And the treasury proposes to set a “P3 screen” on infrastructure projects “to determine whether better value for money can be achieved through P3 procurement.”



John Gamble, president of the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies, noted the practice is already used by provincial agencies.

“We hope there will be some consistency as many projects have both federal and provincial financing,” said Gamble.

The confirmation in the 2013 federal budget that \$1.25 billion will be added to the P3 Canada Fund with a screen test for new roads, utilities and other public works was expected, Gamble said.

“They regard due diligence like any other major invest-

ment,” Gamble said. “Is the risk in the project clearly understood? And can the investors come up with a return that justifies their investment?”

The association estimates P3 financing has been used on more than a hundred public works projects to date.

In a report, consulting engineering firms concluded that “P3 is not a panacea.”

“Owners must carefully assess each project to determine whether a conventional delivery model like ‘design, bid, build’ or a P3 will deliver greater value for money,” the association concluded: “The public owner can benefit from efficiencies and innovations brought to the project by the private-sector partner and cost certainty over the term of the contract, while the private-sector partner can rely on a long-term source of revenue that is reasonably secure.”

In an interview, Gamble said municipalities, unions, contractors and other advocates who joined consulting engineers in pressing for more public works funding should be consulted as the treasury devises its “screen test” for P3 ventures.

Gamble added the \$100 million threshold might exclude worthy ventures, but called it a “starting point.”



RADIO CANADA

A POEM BY
SHAI BEN-SHALOM

7 people died
in Walkerton water crisis.

229 passengers killed
in Swissair Flight 111.

26 women murdered
in the hands of Robert Pickton.

“CBC Radio One;
Canada lives here.”

(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



 ALEX BINKLEY

BAN ON SHARK FINS SPIKED

Parliament has voted against a ban on imported shark fins amid fears it would provoke foreign retaliation against the Atlantic seal hunt or Alberta oil sands.

MPs voted 143 to 138 to defeat C-380, An Act To Amend The Fish Inspection Act and Fisheries Act, that would have abolished the 100 tonne-a year trade in imported shark fins. The Department of Fisheries already enforces a domestic ban on shark finning enacted in 1994.

Legislators voting in favour of the ban numbered New Democrats, Liberals, a lone Green Party MP and two Conservatives — Terence Young of Oakville, Ont.; and James Rajotte of Edmonton-Leduc, Alta., chair of the Commons finance committee.

"The world has acted before to stop the targeting of elephants for their ivory and rhinos for their horns," said MP Finn Donnelly, sponsor of the bill.

"Sharks are another example of demand for single high-value animal parts driving the unsustainable slaughter and waste of an entire mammal," said Donnelly, New Democrat member for New Westminster-Coquitlam, British Columbia.

The House was earlier told that shark fins can yield up to \$700 per pound, and that shark fin soup sells as a delicacy at more than \$8 a bowl in some Asian restaurants.

"Experts predict if current trends continue, up to 20 shark species could be functionally extinct within this decade," Donnelly told the House. "In a few decades some regional shark populations may decline over 95 percent."

Similar bans on shark fins have been enacted in the U.S. states of Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii and Illinois.

However a Conservative majority in the Commons defeated the bill as one critic feared it would provoke retaliation against Canadian resource practices.

"Bill C-380 sets a very bad precedent," said MP Robert Sopuck, a fisheries biologist.

"We must be very careful here; Canada has become a target of ill thought out and disgraceful campaigns by international activist organizations for what are very sustainable natural resource industries," said Sopuck, Conservative MP for Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette, Man. "We can look at the seal hunt, forestry and of course the oil sands."

Sopuck, a member of the Commons fisheries committee, noted federal regulators currently license shark fishing on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts.

"Canada's shark fisheries are clearly sustainable and based on sound scientific advice," he said.

Sopuck added that many Canadians may already eat shark without knowing it: "Shark meat is available in restaurants and supermarkets under many names: fish strips, stockfish and rock salmon. It is also in fish and chips or imitation crab meat. This is probably more than anybody ever wanted to know about sharks."

Several municipalities have voted to ban local sale of shark fins, including Toronto, North Vancouver and New Westminster, B.C.,



PAUL DELAHANTY

AIRPORT CLOSURES NOT MY BUSINESS: TRANSPORT MINISTER

Closure of local airports is "a private matter" and not Parliament's business, says the minister of transportation.

Denis Lebel, in a letter to advocates for a revised airport policy, said the government has "no authority to intervene" in the shutting of small airports, even those considered necessary to relieve traffic at Canada's largest airfields.

"We must fight to retain airports," said Kevin Psutka, president and CEO of the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association. "The federal government does not care. No country our size has a less coherent policy."

Lebel did not comment to *Blacklock's*.

The association pressed the transport minister to save an airport at Mascouche, Que., 20 km northeast of Montreal, slated for closure by the municipality.

In a written reply, Lebel said he was aware of the facility's "status as a reliever airport," but called its closure "a private matter" with the local council: "The federal government has no authority to intervene."

Under a 1994 National Airports Policy, Ottawa retained 26 of the biggest airports, now managed under lease, and transferred control of more than 100 small airports to local authorities from Campbell River, British Columbia to Deer Lake, Newfoundland & Labrador.

"A major assumption was made that communities and

other entities would make decisions in the best interests of maintaining a system of airports," said Psutka. "This has proven to be a mistake."

The association noted the slated closure of Buttonville Airport, 30 km north of Toronto, to make way for real estate development — "a very healthy airport" that is the sixth largest Canadian airfield with a control tower, Psutka said.

"Small airports without commercial airline service, with flight schools, pilot and mechanical training, are absolutely vital," Psutka said in an interview. "In order for aviation in general to be healthy, general aviation must be healthy."

A 2004 Transport Canada report found that, of 66 smaller airports divested of federal management, 48 percent had operating deficits. The report *Regional and Small Airports Study* noted "it is not necessarily the case that the community would see a positive impact from a successfully divested airport."

The association noted Parliament has seen the appointment of nine successive transport ministers since the National Airport Policy was introduced.

"Each time a transport minister is appointed, we go in, wait our turn in line, brief them on the major issues — and you can see them look at their watches," Psutka said.



STAFF

BOOK REVIEW

A Hot Time

On October 6, 1920 the city of Ottawa prepared for a riot.

The mayor dispatched police to ring St. Patrick's Hall. Inside, 700 Canadian Catholics, Sinn Féiners and sympathizers rallied for Irish nationalism. Eamon de Valera, a founder of the Irish republic, sent a note to delegates: "No enlightened Canadian will be able to stand by and see an unoffending people massacred..." Outside, 3000 Protestants from nearby Carleton County threatened to descend on the hall and crack heads.

Historian Robert McLaughlin captures the moment in *Irish Canadian Conflict*, a vivid account of a story now strangely erased from the Canadian experience: the clash of Canadian Protestants and Catholics on the Irish question.

Ancient hatreds from the old country were layered over all the raw nerves that

jangled in the new: English versus French; monarchist versus republican; wealthy versus poor. Irish independence was among the great political upheavals of the 1920s, and there were more than a million Irish in Canada. When an Irish nationalist, Terrence MacSwiney, starved himself to death in a British jail in 1920, sympathy marches were held in Halifax, Montreal and Québec City.

"The siege mentality pervasive among Irish Protestants was transferred and even intensified on the colonial frontiers of British North America, where perceived threats from French-Canadian Catholicism and American republicanism were all encompassing," writes McLaughlin.

It made for a hot time.

The 1920 Ottawa riot was averted, yet in Toronto – the "Belfast of Canada," they called it – street violence between Irish Catholics and Protestants erupted twenty-two times.

Irish Protestants were "members of the upper class," McLaughlin explains. Catholics were seen as dirty, lazy, feckless drunks – "the shiftless type," as Toronto Mayor Horatio Hocken put it in a 1921 speech to the Orange Order, an enthusiastic proponent of Protestant superiority.

The Order boasted 200,000 members in Canada. Its influence was so

great no candidate could become premier of Ontario without its endorsement. Guests at a 1912 Toronto rally included three alderman, two militia officers, and one MP.

Yet Catholics gave as good as they took.

"If I were an Irishman, as I am a Canadian, and it was my country that had been treated as Ireland has, I would take my rifle in my hands and fight to the last drop of my blood," one supporter told Canadian Sinn Féiners. The speaker was MP Armande Laverigne, son of Wilfrid Laurier, and a future deputy speaker of the Commons.

The mainly Catholic Self-Determination League had some 30,000 Canadian members in branches from Charlottetown to Vancouver. One organizer, Charles

Foy, the mayor of Perth, Ont., proposed mandatory teaching of Irish history in Catholic schools. Another, Liberal MP Chubby Power, told a rally: "The British uniform which stood for justice and freedom, has been made the instrument of atrocity, arson and murder in Ireland."

Power today is best known as Canada's minister of the air force in the Second World War. His grandson, Lawrence Cannon, is currently the Canadian ambassador to France.

 HOLLY DOAN

Irish Canadian Conflict and the Struggle for Irish Independence 1912-1925 by Robert McLaughlin, University of Toronto Press; 296 pages; ISBN 9781-4426-10972; \$29.95



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

Bédard, Claude – of Longueuil, Que., appointed a member, Standards Council of Canada, March 7

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

Borer, Mark – of Toronto, appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, April 13

Bouchard, Martial – of Chicoutimi, Que., reappointed a director, Saguenay Port Authority, March 7

Bozzi, Renata – of Milton, Ont., appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 11

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

Brisebois, Marcel – of Montreal, reappointed chair, Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board, effective June 27

Chan, Tung – of Vancouver, appointed chair, Canadian Museum of Immigration, March 11

Charbonneau, Daniel – of Ottawa, reappointed a member, Canada Industrial Relations Board, March 29

Comper, Anthony – of Toronto, appointed chair, PPP Canada Inc., March 12

Craig, Kathleen – of Bedeque, PEI, appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 16

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

D'Amours, Sophie – of Québec City, appointed a member, Natural Sciences & Engineering Council, March 7

Day, Natasha – of Saskatoon, appointed a member, Parole Board Prairie Region, April 2

Demers, Paul – of Sudbury, Ont., appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 11

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-Rivières, 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

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

Galbraith, Jane – of Burlington, Ont., appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 16

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

Garfinkel, Paul – of Toronto, appointed a member, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, March 7

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, effective March 29

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

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

Hungerford, Jane – of Vancouver, appointed a trustee, National Museum of Science & Technology, March 7

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

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, reappointed a trustee, Canadian Museum of Civilization, March 7

Lee, David – of Toronto, reappointed a member, Immigration & Refugee Board, Toronto region, April 12

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, reappointed a director, Royal Canadian Mint, March 7

Mahaffey, Douglas – of Toronto, reappointed a director, Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, March 7

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

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

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

Meyers, Troy – of Dartmouth, NS, appointed a trustee, Canadian Museum of Immigration, effective March 5, 2013

Mitchell, Brian – of Westmount, Que., reappointed a director, CBC, effective 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

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

Parker, Shane – of Saskatoon, Sask., appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 11

Parker, Valerie – of Whitby, Ont., appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 11

Payment, Jean-Philippe – of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que., appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 11

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

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

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

Robichaud, Liza – of Bathurst, NB, appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 16

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

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

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

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

Saunders, Virginia – of Vancouver, appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 11

Schloegl, Andrea – of North Vancouver, appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 16

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, reappointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, March 11

Simpson, Stephen – of Vancouver, reappointed 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

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

Wallocha, Katherine – of Coalhurst, Alta., appointed a member, Social Security Tribunal, effective April 13, 2013