



Clarion Call



“Government For the People”

Mad River Institute for Political Studies

Number 1, July 2006

The Liberal Leadership:

Choosing a PM-in-waiting (and waiting and waiting?)

Many media pundits are suggesting the Liberal Party of Canada is fading fast, in the light of a popular Prime Minister who is doing well. A minority suggest a new, squeaky clean leader will re-apply the shine to the tarnished Grits and the Tories will be packing their bags in the next election. Here are the contenders, and our assessment of them and their chances.



CAROLYN BENNETT, P.C., M.D.

Political Biography

Born: 20 December 1950 in Toronto, Ontario
Profession: Physician
First elected in 1997 for the riding of St. Paul's. Re-elected in 2000, 2004, 2006.

Minister of State for Public Health

from December 2003 to February 2006. Presently Critic for Social Development.

“Known” Factor

Outside of ‘official Ottawa’ and Toronto, not a factor.

Knowledge/Ideas

Her two big issues appear to be that she favours disease prevention and a more integrated healthcare system, and democratic reform with greater public participation, including more women in politics.

Experience

Several years in the political fringes before being elected.

French? She has difficulty carrying a coherent conversation in English let alone our other official language.

In-party Support

Appears small.

Comments

While considered a significant recruit, she failed to

make Cabinet until Paul Martin created the Public Health secretariat, in the aftermath of SARS. Having heard her speak and be interviewed, she seems somewhat scattered when it comes to speaking on issues and ideas.

Has vociferously stated Joe Volpe must quit the race, as his fundraising troubles are hurting the party Canada-wide.

Odds of Winning Leadership

60-1; not a serious contender.

Odds of being a Good Prime Minister

45-1



MAURIZIO BEVILACQUA, P.C., B.A.

Political Biography

Born: 1 June 1960 in Sulmona, Italy

Profession: Consultant

First elected in 1988 for York North, now called Vaughan. Re-elected in 1993, 1997, 2000, 2004, and 2006.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Human Resources Development), Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour (Human Resources Development), Secretary of State for Science, Research and Development, and Secretary of State for International Financial Institutions. Presently Critic for Competitiveness and the New Economy.

“Known” Factor

Very well known in GTA and local multicultural community; not so much elsewhere

Knowledge/Ideas

A conservative business Liberal who has to remind people he's a social progressive. His website is packed with economic information, without any interpretation or opinion.

Experience

A great deal of backbench experience, though little in a senior position. Throughout the Chrétien years, was considered someone of the verge of Cabinet, but was apparently overlooked for supporting Martin. Appointed in the last months of Chrétien's leadership, he was quickly dropped by Martin, evidently for disloyalty.

French skills are apparently passable.

In-party Support

Like Joe Volpe, a solid organizer and fundraiser. However, also like Volpe, his support does not seem to extend much beyond the GTA.

Comments

Rumours have had him preparing a leadership run for several years. Perhaps he should have spent more time becoming known amongst Canadians.

Odds of Winning Leadership

40-1; a possible compromise candidate, if he has the horses to get him late into the convention

Odds of being a Good Prime Minister

50-1; shown little to impress in 17.5 years as an MP



SCOTT BRISON, P.C., B.Comm.

Political Biography

Born: 10 May 1967 in Windsor, Nova Scotia

Profession: Businessman, investment banker

A Progressive Conservative MP for

Kings-Hants, first elected in June 1997, who switched to the Liberals in December 2003 when the PCs were dissolved into the new Conservative Party. Re-elected in 2004 and 2006. Minister of Public Works and Government Services during the Martin government. Was an Environment, Regional Development, Treasury Board, Industry, Finance, National Revenue, Foreign Affairs, and International Trade critic as a PC.

"Known" Factor

As one of the few gay MPs, and having switched parties, he is better known than most. Clearly well thought of in Atlantic Canada

Knowledge/Ideas

Seen as a business Liberal, but one who demands a socially progressive party.

He says he wants Canada to be a leader in 'clean energy' through tax credits.

In Parliamentary debates, he stated his support for Canada's mission in Afghanistan to protect fundamental human rights.

Experience

Good, though not too much to seem an 'old boy'. French-language skills seriously wanting.

In-party Support

Dubious. Too little time as a Liberal, though he is impressive in Parliament. Has a base of support in Atlantic Canada but it's questionable he can grow much beyond it at the leadership convention.

Comments

Unlike others who have recently "crossed the floor", Brison avoided any stigma because the Progressive Conservative Party had been replaced by its non-progressive offspring. He is considered an excellent Parliamentary debater and has often shown up other members with his razor-sharp wit.

A potential contender before his questionable e-mail to a Bay Street friend was exposed as the "leak" that embarrassed Ralph Goodale during the election and reinforced the idea the Liberals were a 'corrupt' government.

Odds of Winning Leadership

40-1

Odds of being a Good Prime Minister

25-1; the aforementioned e-mail draws his judgement into question



STEPHANE DION, P.C., B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

Political Biography

Born: 28 September 1955 in Québec City, Québec

Profession: Author, professor of political science

Recruited to run in a by-election in Saint-Laurent-Cartierville, Quebec in March 1996. Re-elected in 1997, 2000, 2004, and 2006.

Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs specifically to deal with Quebec in the aftermath of the 1995 referendum. Also the President of the Queen's Privy Council until dropped from both by Paul Martin. Later, re-appointed to Cabinet as Minister of the Environment. Presently, Critic for Foreign Affairs.

"Known" Factor

Well-known, though not universally well-liked.

Alienated many in Québec over hardcore stance regarding any future referendum (Clarity Act) though this helped his reputation in English-speaking Canada.

Knowledge/Ideas

A constitutional expert whose campaign is based on three pillars: the environment, social justice, and

the economy. He is pro-Kyoto, and wants Canada to fulfill our commitments to the treaty. He wants protection for farmers and to expand the “value chain” into products from farm waste. Dion calls for an improvement in social programmes and the social safety net. Finally, he wants a research-driven economy.

Experience

A decade of tough slogging against separatists and anti-environmentalists.

English is good, but often hesitant.

In-party Support

In Quebec, he has only solid federalists behind him.

Comments

The only Quebec or French-Canadian candidate. Would be a serious contender for this alone, but then add in his intellectual heft and experience.

Odds of Winning Leadership

25-1; a real potential compromise candidate, especially since he’s the only one from Quebec

Odds of being a Good Prime Minister

5-1; shown real depth of belief, intelligence



KEN DRYDEN, P.C., B.A., LL.B.

Political Biography

Born: 8 August 1947 in Hamilton, Ontario

Profession: Executive manager, lawyer, professional hockey player, writer

Elected in York Centre, Toronto in

2004 and 2006.

Minister of Social Development who negotiated a national daycare programme, only to see it cancelled when the Conservatives took power.

Presently, Health Critic.

“Known” Factor

Undoubtedly best known, due to hockey career.

Knowledge/Ideas

He says he would commit sufficient resources to fight climate change. His economic policy would include balancing budgets, paying down debt, and keeping inflation low. He wants more women in politics. As well, he would reconstitute his national childcare plan.

Experience

Relatively new to politics.

Negotiation of a national daycare programme no mean feat, since many provinces botched previous attempts over ten years.

French is poor.

In-party Support

Unclear.

Comments

In some ways, the most interesting candidate. He probably has the best chance as a compromise choice. Bet he wishes he had learned more French while with Les Canadiens though.

Odds of Winning Leadership

25-1; real talk of being many people’s second choice, if he can stay in the race

Odds of being a Good Prime Minister

15-1; has vision, and negotiation and management abilities



MARTHA HALL FINDLAY, L.L.B.

Political Biography

Born: 1960

Profession: Lawyer

Ran against Belinda Stronach in the 2004 election in the riding of Newmarket-Aurora, Ontario, losing by 689 votes.

“Known” Factor

Unknown. While many in the media seem to find her interesting, it isn’t apparent others do.

Knowledge/Ideas

Apparently, her main goal is to reform the Liberal Party, though she is clearly in favour of social justice issues, a clean environment, renewed peace-keeping, and a government role in the economy, such as in communications and transportation infrastructure.

In order to have a strong economy, she states we “must have a skilled and educated work force”. The federal government needs to spend more on post-secondary education to fight “two-tier education” which has “slipped in the back (door)”.

But in what could come out of a Conservative Party policy book, she’s for lower taxes, saying governments over-tax individual Canadians, taking away their ability to invest in their own futures.

Experience

None on a stage suggesting leadership abilities.

Her French is supposed to be reasonably fluent.

In-party Support

Little, realistically.

Comments

Going by the earlier elements of her website, her motivation seems more directed at reforming the Liberal Party than Canada. She did not take well to Stronach’s defection to the Liberals in 2005, costing

her the party's 2006 election nomination. A newspaper columnist apparently referred to her run as 'audacious'. Perhaps. More likely it is an (expensive) attempt to set up a base to get elected the next time and assure herself a Cabinet job in the event of a Liberal government.

Perhaps an impressive debater, but a lack of ideas and experience make her run pointless.

Odds of Winning Leadership

99-1

Odds of being a Good Prime Minister

98-1; might be good but who knows? Too big a risk at this point.



HEDY FRY, P.C., M.D., L.R.C.P.S.I., L.M.

Political Biography

Born: 6 August 1941 in San Fernando, Trinidad

Profession: Physician

First elected in 1993 for Vancouver Centre. Re-elected in 1997, 2000, 2004, and 2006. Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and the Status of Women. Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Health), Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration with emphasis on Foreign Credentials, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development with special emphasis on the Internationally Trained Workers Initiative, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Presently Critic for Sport and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics.

"Known" Factor

Unfortunately for her, she's now known primarily as a crackpot. In March 2002, she announced in the House of Commons that racists were burning crosses in Prince George, B.C. "You just have to go to British Columbia, in Prince George, where crosses are being burned on lawns as we speak." When it became clear this was entirely untrue, the next day, she said she regretted her statements and apologized to the people of Prince George. In a shuffle the next January, she lost her Cabinet position.

Knowledge/Ideas

Her website says she has an "inspiring vision". Nowhere does it say what it is.

Experience

A secretary of state for several years. What's French?

In-party Support

One can only hope there isn't much.

Comments

Hers is undoubtedly the strangest of the candidacies since her political career effectively ended in March 2002. If this is an attempt to get back into a significant position in a future Liberal government, it won't help. If she thinks she can win, then she is delusional. Should she get to voting day, it would not be surprising if she does worse than Martha Hall Findlay, ending up in last place.

Odds of Winning Leadership

100-1

Odds of being a Good Prime Minister

100-1



MICHAEL IGNATIEFF, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

Political Biography

Born: 12 May 1947 in Toronto, Ontario

Profession: Author, journalist, professor

Elected on 23 January 2006 for the Toronto riding of Etobicoke-Lakeshore.

"Known" Factor

Very well known for intellectual writings and resultant controversy.

Knowledge/Ideas

As an academic, he has written many things on many topics. However, his website is practically empty of ideas ... of his own, at any rate. While there are many postings of general people, there are few (any?) from the candidate himself, especially any on specific issues.

While he claims to be a progressive, many of his more recent thoughts as an academic suggest someone who is actually a conservative. His notion that torture (or "discomfort", as he later phrased it) can be used in an emergency is hardly a liberal interpretation of civil liberties. As well, his willingness to use old-style politics to get his nomination does not suggest he is terribly reformist. Supports the mission to Afghanistan as 'aggressive peace-keeping', stating that had the world favoured this, it would have stopped the Rwandan genocide. A good point, but Afghanistan is no Rwanda.

Experience

None ... which is odd for someone wanting to be Prime Minister. French is quite good.

In-party Support

Significant. Clearly, Ignatieff is the front-runner in endorsements from 'known' Liberals. Appears to have 25-30% of the Liberal caucus with him. Also seems to have the most substantial organization.

Comments

While we applaud new blood for the Liberal Party, we can't help but wonder if a complete neophyte to politics is the best idea for Leader of the Opposition and, presumably, Prime Minister? Yet, as concerning as this may be, it is perhaps more worrisome that Mr. Ignatieff is not sharing much in the way of his views on specific issues. Is he for maintaining/expanding/contracting our universal healthcare system? Does he believe a fiscal imbalance exists? We don't know. We should. As well, he has been criticized for barely being a Canadian, an allusion to his having lived the last three decades in other countries. Theoretically, he comes across as having one of the best understandings of what it is to be Canadian (or what it was like in the 1960s and '70s). However, he has not been asked the practical questions of life in 2006, so we don't know if he has a clue what a litre of milk costs.

Odds of Winning Leadership

5-1; as front-runner, the media will drag many delegates along

Odds of being a Good Prime Minister

35-1; huge unknowns make him a risky bet



GERARD KENNEDY

Political Biography

Born: 1960 in The Pas, Manitoba
Profession: Food bank executive director, politician
First elected to the Ontario Legislature in the by-election to replace Bob Rae on 23 May

1996. Resigned 23 May 2006 to pursue federal leadership. Represented Toronto ridings of York South, then Parkdale-High Park. In government, was Minister of Education, 23 October 2003 to 5 April 2006. In Opposition, was Critic for Education, Health, and Associate Critic on Consumer and Commercial Relations, and Housing.

"Known" Factor

Very high in Ontario. As head of Toronto food bank, scored close second to Dalton McGuinty for Liberal leadership in 1996, and that was without political experience. Generally considered to have taken education portfolio off boiling, where it was

left by constant Tory turning up the heat.

Knowledge/Ideas

Kennedy would set national objectives for alternative fuels and sources of energy including wind, biomass, geothermal, and solar energy. He would create incentives for ground-source heat pumps, programmes and incentives for home retrofit programs and pilot programs to monitor energy consumption and energy cost by-the-minute, as well as a GST exemption of up to \$5000 for hybrid, hydrogen, fuel cell, and ultra clean bio-diesel vehicles in concert with a gas-guzzler tax on all vehicles with worse than average fuel consumption. He says innovation should be enhanced using the tax code to encourage investment in environmental technologies that will result from higher risk, longer term R&D, and companies would have to register and trade emission credits through a mandatory market-based system.

Should have national debate on Afghani mission.

Kennedy wants greater recognition of skilled labour for determining immigration, increased focus on family reunification, and improved access for immigrants to language training. A committee of federal, provincial, municipal, and business representatives would set annual immigration targets.

Experience

As a senior Ontario Cabinet minister, one would have to think this the equivalent, or better, than most of his opponents.

Some say French is poor, others say it's pretty good. Spending a couple of months in Quebec which should improve it, either way.

In-party Support

It would appear some younger Ontario MPs like him a great deal, as well as many young Liberals. However, his support amongst older Liberals seems less assertive. A good Ontario base of support; picking up in Quebec and in the western provinces.

Comments

The "talking heads" love to discuss him, either with interest or to denigrate. Seems especially disliked by more conservative commentators, which is probably good for him.

Given he is the only one to really give up anything (his career in Ontario politics), he should receive major consideration for this alone. A very serious contender.

Odds of Winning Leadership

20-1

Odds of being a Good Prime Minister

8-1



BOB RAE, P.C., O.C., O.Ont.,
Q.C., B.A., B.Ph., LL.B.

Political Biography

Born: 2 August 1948 in
Ottawa, Ontario

Profession: Lawyer

New Democratic Party premier of Ontario, 1
October 1990 to 26 June 1995. With national NDP
from October 1978 to April 2002. With New
Democratic Party of Ontario from 7 February 1982
until resigning as leader on 29 February 1996.

First elected to the House of Commons in a by-
election on 16 October 1978, for the Toronto riding
of Broadview-Greenwood. Re-elected in 1979 and
1980. Resigned on 2 March 1982 when selected to
become Ontario NDP leader, a month earlier.

Elected in by-election in Toronto riding of York
South in 1983. Was Leader of the Official
Opposition from 3 November 1987 till 28 June
1990.

Was also Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Critic
for Intergovernmental Affairs, Critic on the Premier,
Critic for Health and Safety, Equality Issues,
Francophone Affairs, and Housing .

"Known" Factor

As former premier of Canada's largest province,
easily one of the best known of the candidates.
However, that's not necessarily a good thing. Led
Ontario through the worst economic downturn
since the Great Depression. Initially his government
chose to spend its way out of this, doubling the
provincial debt and leading to serious deficit
problems. Though an attempt was made to reign in
costs, it was too late and led to the alienation of the
NDP's core supporters and the election of the Mike
Harris neo-conservatives.

Knowledge/Ideas

Clearly an intellectual heavyweight with tremendous
knowledge of government. His social reform nature
continues, though he now preaches a more
conventional economic policy.

Rae believes the federal government has a role in the
economy and society, even if it impinges on
provincial responsibilities. He wants more direct aid
to post-secondary students for living expenses,
direct support for university research and
apprenticeships, and greater recognition of foreign
credentials to move immigrants into the economy
faster. He would work with provinces to eliminate
"welfare walls" and "poverty traps" caused by both
the Employment Insurance and welfare systems.

In terms of economic policy, he promotes balanced
budgets, lower income taxes, a simpler and greener
tax system, and competitive corporate taxes. While
stating we must have low trade barriers because of
our dependence on foreign markets, he couches
this with our "recognition that other governments
often preach free trade but practise something
else". "In agriculture, Canada as an exporter is faced
with protectionist systems in the United States and
Europe. We cannot abandon our farmers in the
face of these barriers and subsidies in economies so
much larger than our own."

Internationally, he wants Canada to resume its
traditional roles of peace-keeping and
reconstruction, which may well entail getting our
troops out of Afghanistan.

He supports Canada meeting its commitments to the
Kyoto Protocol.

He supports the Kelowna Accord with aboriginal
Canadians.

Experience

Premier of the largest province makes him the most
politically and governmentally experienced,
especially during 'the worst of times'.

French is excellent, the best of all the contenders.

In-party Support

This is a huge question mark. Most pundits suggest
Liberals may have open minds, but they will still be
questioning of his past as a New Democrat and big
Liberal opponent. A few, including the man he beat
to become Ontario premier, David Peterson, see his
running as an insult to Liberals. While people may
forgive the party switch, it's hard to imagine Rae can
overcome his past in government, simply by saying
he's learned from his mistakes and now touting fairly
orthodox economic policies.

Comments

While he himself escaped somewhat less scathed
by his term as Ontario premier, his government is
now seen as little better than incompetent, and
even those who might not have blamed him
personally a decade ago tend to have avoided
voting NDP since. There is no question he carries
this stigma and it lingers.

A serious contender with perhaps the most
impressive advisor corps.

Odds of Winning Leadership

30-1; a nucleus of Liberals will never support him, so
his convention growth potential is at least partially
limited

Odds of being a Good Prime Minister

15-1



JOE VOLPE, P.C., B.A. (Hons.),
B.Ed., M.Ed.

Political Biography

Born: 21 September 1947 in
Monteleone, Puglia, Italy

Profession: Educator, school
principal, teacher, vice-principal

First elected in 1988, for the Toronto riding of
Eglinton-Lawrence. Re-elected in 1993, 1997,
2000, 2004, and 2006.

Was Minister of Human Resources and Skills
Development, and Minister of Citizenship and
Immigration, under Paul Martin; for a time,
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health
under Jean Chrétien. He is presently Critic for the
Treasury Board.

"Known" Factor

Very well known in Toronto and the GTA
multicultural community; not so much elsewhere.

Knowledge/Ideas

- pro-immigrant
- invest in skills training and post graduate research

Experience

A great deal of backbench experience, though little

in a senior position. Throughout the Chrétien years,
was considered someone of the verge of Cabinet,
but never made it.

French is good.

In-party Support

Considered the best organizer and fundraiser of the
candidates. Damaged by revelation he had taken
maximum \$5,400 donation from 10 members of
two families connected to Apotex, the generic
pharmaceutical manufacturer, with two of these
from 11-year-olds. He returned all donations from
those under 18, but not before looking "dirty".

Comments

Considered more of an 'old-time' politician in the
manner of Chrétien, though he supported Martin
in the Liberal leadership schism between the two.
Given his fundraising embarrassment, many have
called on him to step aside. Was a possible
compromise candidate if his core group could keep
him in the convention in later rounds. Hard to
imagine now.

Odds of Winning Leadership

50-1

Odds of being a Good Prime Minister

50-1; shown little to impress in 17.5 years as an MP

Preston, Guergis should set standard

London Free Press, 10 February 2006, A8, reprint

The Mad River Institute for Political Studies is calling on MPs Joe
Preston and Helena Guergis to stand up for their position of eight months
ago, when they co-sponsored a private members' bill in the House of Commons
requiring that a byelection be held after a Member of Parliament crosses the
floor to join another party.

Given the actions of Vancouver-Kingsway MP David Emerson to switch
allegiance just days after an election about ethics, and officials of the
Conservative party to hypocritically solicit this deception of his
constituents, it's clear Canadians need a sign that not all MPs say one
thing and do another.

Last June 17, Guergis said, "Canadians have become cynical of politicians
who turn on a dime and switch their political allegiance ... I believe
constituents deserve better."

We agree. And while we believe there are circumstances when an MP can
ethically cross the floor, we do think an MP should at least have to repay
any campaign funding that came from a riding association or a constituent.

Preston added, "No member of Parliament should put their personal gain
ahead of the electorate."

Again, we agree. We call on the MPs for Elgin-Middlesex-London and
Simcoe-Grey to set the standard.

Both Preston and Guergis have since declined to re-present their private members' bill.



OUR VIEW

Fiscal Imbalance

Stephen Harper, as a core promise, wants to fix the “fiscal imbalance”. That is, to paraphrase him, he wants Ottawa to stop hoarding tax revenues and share fairly with the provinces, which actually have responsibility for most of what are national programmes. Most premiers agree.

They’re all wrong. Canada does not suffer from a so-called fiscal imbalance. Our problem is a constitutional imbalance.

Too many services come from the wrong level of government. When the *British North America Act* was being written in 1866, most of what were seen as unimportant matters were made provincial responsibility – health, education, and what would become social assistance. Now, we consider these the most important. However, the provinces only got the power to levy consumption taxes. The national government got income tax, which has turned out to be the real revenue generator. And while these provincially-run, national services have become preminent to Canadians, we are told by our provincial politicians that sales’ taxes are inadequate to pay their cost.

It started with premiers like Jean Charest and Dalton McGuinty calling for redress. They want the federal government to sign over more cash to pay for these services. Then came how

to do it – equalization or per capita grants from Ottawa? And we’re now where premiers are fighting about if non-renewable resources should be included in equalization. (They should, but that’s another editorial.)

Yet, these national services do not respect provincial boundaries. There’s no reason that the standard of health should vary from Quebec City to Toronto. Ten times ten equals 100 in Vancouver and Halifax. And not having enough to live on is as true in Saskatoon as it is in Saint John. Wouldn’t it make more sense to pass these services over to the federal government, which has the financial ability to pay for them, as well as the power to enforce national standards?

What too many parochial politicians want is to continue to partition Canada into stronger and stronger parts, but at the expense of a weaker whole. The rational thing is to stop dividing and to start uniting. What we need are strong, national services delivered to all people equally. We must stop arguing and competing against each other. We are, after all, all Canadians.

NB: We were supposed to present Part 2 of our discussion of politicians’ wages, including details. However, our work continues and we hope to reach a solid conclusion by fall.

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What we’ve been up to ...

- a study of what politicians should be paid (continuing)
- an examination of the proposed Federal Accountability Act
- advisory participant in the creation of Ontario’s Greenbelt Act and Places to Grow Act

Each January, we choose "**The Idle Canadians**", the worst politicians of the previous year. Our winners for 2005:

The Worst Federal Member of Parliament is ...

Gurmant Grewal, the now retired Conservative MP for Newton-North Delta, BC

- for unethical behaviour in illicitly taping conversations; trying to negotiate with the Liberals to cross the floor and prop up the government; for taking sureties from international visitors as guarantees they will leave, outside any rules; asking for 'stress' leave for being under investigation

The Worst Provincial M.P.P./M.L.A./M.N.A. is ...

Ralph Klein, Premier of Alberta

- using unprecedented revenues to give out \$400 in 'Ralph bucks' to each Albertan instead of strengthening services for people such as health care

The Worst Municipal Councillor is ...

Clearview Township (Ontario) Councillors (all of them)

- for refusing to state their positions regarding a major proposed subdivision development, while going through the process of approving it

The Worst International Politician is ...

Robert Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe

- for inciting political violence and human rights' violations, while undermining his country's economy and farming base

The Worst Civil Servant is ...

Stephen Duff, Senior Policy Advisor, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

- for turning the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) programme against Ontario farmers; suggested farmers who couldn't afford to contribute to their fund should borrow the money

And our Lifetime Lack of Achievement Award goes to ...

Brian Mulroney, former Prime Minister of Canada

- for his self-promoting arrogance, the GST, the Meech Lake constitutional debacle that stirred separatist sentiment, a free trade agreement that is unenforceable, tripling the national debt in just nine years, and his denials he had any responsibility in destroying the national Progressive Conservative party

Rules:

1. Must be nominated by an Institute member.
2. Must be an active politician for first four categories.
3. Must be an active civil servant or one still "in the news".
4. For lifetime award, must have been out of politics long enough to evaluate policies and political decisions or, if still active, have a long track record.
5. "Winners" selected by Board of Directors.

Our Philosophy

As its basic principles, the Mad River Institute for Political Studies, its directors, officers, and members pledge that it, and they, will work to:

1. promote the “public good” through the strengthening of the public nature of government
2. have public servants recognize their inherent responsibilities to citizens
3. create more equity in politics through the expansion of democratic measures
4. have government recognize its inherent responsibility to act directly to help those citizens who need assistance
5. have public servants adopt higher standards of conduct for themselves and all society
6. have public servants recognize their inherent responsibilities in the expenditure of tax dollars while still delivering needed public services
7. have public servants consider more innovative and original ideas to deal with problems
8. assist the public in better understanding the political process and their place in it, as well as the consequences of their political decisions.

It is our belief that people must begin to take greater charge of their own political affairs, and demand more responsibility and accountability from politicians and government for their actions. That is our *raison d’être*. We want to act as an observer, critic, and teacher of government and politics, and try to promote political activity amongst the public by improving the efficacy, accountability, and responsibility of government.



For us, we are in our early days. It is most important we gain members, both for the legitimacy of our cause and for our finances. If you’re not already a member and you think the Institute is on the right track, then please consider joining us. Our basic membership is just \$20.

If you’re already a member, please consider a small donation to help offset the costs of ongoing operations, such as advocating our goals, our educational programmes like **PEAR**, and our everyday expenses, which we keep as low as we can.

* * * * *

Please enroll me as a member of the Mad River Institute for Political Studies. I pledge to assist the Institute in its work to further its stated goals.

Name:

Mailing Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Date: Signature:

Please circle your desired level of membership:
Basic / Gold / Platinum / Diamond

We require your permission, as per the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act to collect and keep personal information about you, such as what is contained in this form. Please check this box if you consent to this. Be assured that, to protect your privacy, the Mad River Institute will never voluntarily share your information with any outside individuals, organizations, business, or government.

This membership is good for a period of one (1) year. It can be paid in cash, cheque, or money order. Please make cheque or money order payable to:

Mad River Institute for Political Studies

Please mail to:

Mad River Institute for Political Studies
34 Caroline Street East, Creemore, ON L0M
1G0

Tel/Fax: (705) 466-2832

E-mail: madriver@sympatico.ca

Web: www.madriverinstitute.ca