

BOB PHILLIPS AWARD FOR BEST EDITORIAL (GENERAL)

This category was a pleasure to judge. Some of the submissions would benefit greatly from efforts by the writer to remove their own feelings and bias which at times became quite evident.

ALLYSON BEAUREGARD

Pontiac Journal

Well laid out discussion with a critical question poised at the end. A fine example of what an editorial should be.

JIM BELL

Nunatsiq News

A well thought out, to the point piece that demands answers to simple yet important questions. A good read.



OP-ED

EDITORIAL

Tootoo's bewildered constituents deserve more

In his brutally honest 1989 autobiography, the most accomplished member of Parliament to ever emerge from Canada's first northern territory, the late Jack Rabin of Yukon, offered eight pages of advice for new members of the House of Commons, including this stern warning: "avoid the degenerative diseases of middle age."

"These are of course, the battle and the nightmare you don't get to recognize the symptoms of a mid-life crisis, which every man and woman encounters, but which in the case of more visible tragedies among politicians (than I care to recount), Nelson wrote.

"We don't know if Nunavut MP Hunter Tootoo, who turns 53 later this month, suffers from a mid-life crisis, but his rapid decline matches an old pattern found not only in Nunavut but also in every other elected legislature in Canada.

We know, by his own admission, that he's spent far too much time in the company of the bottle.

And we suspect, based on a credible allegation leaked to the Globe and Mail, that he may have engaged in an inappropriate sexual relationship with a woman staff member. "Inappropriate" does not mean illegal in the criminal sense, by the way. But it does suggest the breath of some rule or principle.

Whatever it was, neither Tootoo nor his ex-convict Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, have sought a formal denial.

And we also know that the punishment Trudeau imposed on Tootoo — banishment from the Liberal caucus — is a punishment that appears to be reserved only for those linked to embarrassing allegations of drunkenness.

Under Trudeau's leadership, two former Liberal MPs, Scott Andrews and Massimo Pacioli, were thrown out of the Liberal caucus in 2014 — one for alcohol abuse, but for sexual harassment allegations made by two NDP members.

On the other hand, another Liberal MP, Seanamh O'Regan, took time off in 2014 to undergo treatment for alcohol abuse. Trudeau welcomed him back. This mirrors the experience of another Liberal MP, John McCallum, who after an embarrassing incident at an airport in 2002, also attended a treatment program. He was returned to the warm embrace of the Liberal caucus.

And then there's NDP MP Bruce Spagnoli, barred in 2012 from boarding a plane in Montreal in an incident that brought deep embarrassment to the party.

OP-ED

EDITORIAL

CAMPBELL'S BAY BRIDGE REPAIR RESUMES

Repair work on the bridge spanning McAnian (Stevenson) Creek in Campbell's Bay resumed on September 14, with work occurring between 7 am and 5 pm from Monday to Friday. During the operation, one lane will be open at all times and traffic will alternate with a traffic light on a lane reduced to 3.5 metres in width. The maximum speed on the bridge is 50 km/h. The work is expected to be complete by October 23, with the schedule depending on weather and operational constraints.

Lily Ryan, Sophia Ryan, Editors / Publishers, Allyson Beauregard, Rédacteur / Managing Editor; Fred Ryan, Éditeur Emeritus, Publisher Emeritus; Dany Beland, Complexe, petits annonces et ventes (notice@journalpontiac.com); Peter L. Smith, Sales; Lisa Boisvert, Sales; Jess Chantler, Display Ads & Production (journals@journalpontiac.com); Deborah Powell, Lisa Giverson, Galton Forgas, Journalists; Bonnie Zimmerman, Sales & Production; Lynn Lavery, General Manager (info@journalpontiac.com)

LETTERS

Mayor thanks youth project supporters

Dear editor, my name is Ross Pudlak, mayor of Resolute Bay. I can't say enough to thank you for the youth project that you have organized. It is a wonderful help to our town and we are grateful for your support. I will be sure to thank all the wonderful contributors with the fullest measure of my heart.

- Tower Arctic, John and Peter Jacobson, \$5,000
- Nunavut Employees Union, \$5,000
- Inuit Community Center Fund, \$2,200 and
- Outfitter Canada, \$1,000.
- Other contributors in kind and value:
- Merrit Lodge for accommodations, \$2,500
- Budget Co-op, \$2,000
- Aziz Kherat and Alesia Jilani for air passage on his charter from Resolute to Yellowknife, \$5,400
- Polar Continental Shell, Michael Jordan, \$2,465
- First Air, 50 per cent discount on air fares
- Tuleman Canada, Alesia, \$3,000 and
- Joyce Lapierre for lodging, \$200.00

Thank you all, a job well done! Since I got elected mayor, I have been attending all our youth committee meetings to show them that it can be done and to set an example to our youth that with a lot of hard work and willing you can accomplish anything if you put your mind to it.

After this is all done I will give all the responsibility to our recreation coordinator and youth organizer and hopefully make it an annual event. Again my fullest thank-you to all involved.

I am also trying to set an example to other mayors in Nunavut that you have to be proactive in all functions concerning our communities and especially our youth, and be the real leader that you were elected to be. After all, we are the front-line workers for our community as elected officials.

The territorial and the federal governments can only do so much to help us and really have short-term solutions. We, the mayors and councillors are the ones that have to come up with the long-term solutions for our troubled youth. Once again thank you all.

Ross Pudlak
Mayor of Resolute Bay

Opinion & Editorial

High stakes politics and the future of Thomas Mulcair

According to recent news reports, NDP leader Tom Mulcair made up his mind last year, not very long after the October election, that he would stay in regardless of the opposition he might face from party members who were disillusioned following the NDP's disappointing results in the election.

Leading up to the convention taking place the first week of April in Edmonton, NDPers are soul-searching as they prepare to decide if Mulcair should stay on after their party's House of Commons seats dropped from 95 to 44 and they lost official opposition status.

NDP president Rebecca Blake has already declared that Mulcair, a former Commons MNA, will need about 70 per cent support from voting delegates to keep his job. For his part, Mulcair is said to be preparing not only emotionally, but also physically for the grueling challenge ahead.

Mulcair faces a split within the NDP with the first issue of dissent coming from the party's more left-leaning elements. Although he may be forced to remain in the NDP to victory in the next election in 2019, he faces another challenge: involving personal finances.

In January, as part of routine conflict-of-interest declarations that all elected officials must submit to, Mulcair disclosed that he is carrying mortgages. In addition, the change of the NDP's status meant a significant salary cut for Mulcair, the loss of his car allowance, and he is no longer able to live rent-free at Stornoway.

Politics is an expensive occupation to become involved in. Beyond the salaries of the masses and the satisfaction perhaps of having changed public policy for the better, one of the greatest inherent risks for high-level politicians is actual financial insolvency: overhead expenses often exceed income and a significant number of expenses can end up being paid for personally out-of-pocket.

With that in mind, it's arguable that some highly-publicized public trials in recent years for government officials (such as Senator Mike Duffy who stands accused of fraud, breach of trust and misappropriation of public funds) have been politicized, when expenses typically involved while in public office often will be entitled to in reimbursement.

In the U.S., Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton has maintained that she and her husband were "dead broke" when they left the White House in 2001. Her husband, former President Bill Clinton, confirmed "It is hardly true that we were \$7 million in debt."

While the Clintons are now said to have a \$100 million fortune amassed from book publishing and motivational speaking engagements, a good deal of it could end up being squandered on Hillary Clinton's current bid for the U.S. presidency.

The players who sit at the high-stakes gambling table of politics make big wagers. In Thomas Mulcair's case, he may decide to call for the biggest gamble of his lifetime if he has the 2019 federal election in his sights and his finances hold out for the next three-and-a-half years.

—Martin C. Barry

SAVAS FORTIS

The Laval News

Better editing would benefit this thought provoking piece.

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