

Memories of the great Dave Barrett



by Glen Clark

Dave Barrett arrived at the podium impeccably dressed, wearing a blue pin stripe suit, white shirt and red tie. He started speaking slowly, somberly, to the assembled crowd of supporters – me included.

As the BC opposition leader described the latest social injustice perpetrated by the Social Credit government of the day, his voice got louder and his cadence quickened,

but ever so slightly. The crowd responded warmly and politely.

But Dave's genuine indignation was soon fuelling his passion. Like all great orators, Dave fed off the energy in the room and soon was in full eloquent flight. Off came the jacket. The white shirt sleeves rolled up without missing a beat in his speech.

continued on Page 4

Her Honour

The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC

Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia

Thank You and Miscellany

Orders of the Day is published regularly throughout the year, and is circulated to Association members, all MLAs now serving in Legislature, other interested individuals and organizations.

Material for the newsletter is always welcome and should be sent in written form to:

P.O. Box 31009
University Heights P.O.
Victoria, B.C. V8N 6J3

Or emailed to ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com
or ootd@shaw.ca

Editor: Brian Kieran
Layout/Production/Research: Rob Lee

Association Membership (former MLAs) dues are \$60.00 per year. Annual subscription rate is \$40.00 for those who are not Association Members.
Payment can be sent to the above address.

Board of Directors 2017-2018

Penny Priddy President
Jeff Bray Vice President
Ken Jones Secretary
James Gorst Treasurer
Gillian Trumper Past President

Directors

Anne Edwards	Cliff Serwa
Bill Goodacre	Doug Symons
Darlene Marzari	Patrick Wong
Lorne Nicolson	

Honourary Directors

Hon. Iona Campagnolo, PC, CM, OBC, LL.D
Hon. Steven L. Point, OBC

Honourary Members

Hon. Linda Reid
Speaker of the Legislature
Joan Barton, MLSc., MPA

Honourary Life Members

Jim Hume
Ian D. Izard, QC, Honourary Solicitor
E. George MacMinn, QC, OBC

Life Members

(The late) Hugh Curtis

The Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia is strictly non-partisan, regardless of members' past or present political affiliation. Founded in 1987, the Association was formally established by an Act of the British Columbia Legislature on February 10, 1998.

Orders of the Day was conceived, named and produced in its early stages by Bob McClelland, former MLA and cabinet minister, following his retirement from office. Hugh Curtis ably helmed this publication up through May 2014.

In memoriam. We recently learned of the passing of **Louise Pelton** on February 2 of this year. She was the widow of **Austin Pelton**, Social Credit MLA for Dewdney 1983-91. Louise continued to subscribe to OOTD after Austin's passing in 2003, and we offer our condolences to her family and friends.

Dues, Subscriptions and Donations

George Abbott, Victoria
Jeff Bray, Victoria
Peter and Patricia Chipman, Delta
Russ Fraser, West Vancouver
Bruce Hallsor, Victoria
Ken Jones, White Rock
John Les, Chilliwack
Ken Mawdsley, Victoria
Joan McIntyre, Vancouver
Lorne and Frances Nicolson, Nelson
Geoff Plant, Vancouver
Barbara Smith, Duncan
William Wilson, Victoria

From the Editor's Desk

Back in 1972, I was between newspaper careers ... footloose and free. My best pal David Parkin called me on August 30th to inform me that we had a date that night. We were going to "crash" the NDP's election victory bash. Neither of us was intensely political at the time and we were not the kind of individuals who got invited to political parties.

Although my passion for politics would come a bit later when I resumed journalism in a serious way, David was completely in tune with the power of the moment. He understood intuitively that the voters of BC had made history and that our province would never be the same again.

In 1983, while covering provincial politics for the Vancouver Sun, I travelled the province on the campaign buses as Sacred Premier Bill Bennett fought what appeared to be a losing battle defending his restraint program against the irrepressible Dave Barrett and his recharged New Democrats.

A depressed Premier Bennett was sicker than a dog in the East Kootenay and Dave was on a roll in the West Kootenay literally kicking gravel at Sun political columnist Marjorie Nichols who had a knack for getting under his skin. When Barrett claimed he would dismantle Bennett's restraint program, Bennett's handlers rushed into the premier's motel room and told him to get back on his feet because he had just won the election. Barrett fought that election with every ounce of his socialist passion, but in the end, did not prevail.

I want to thank Glen Clark and Jim Hume for their help to make this issue of OOTD a fitting tribute to a great British Columbian and a fearless political leader. Their reflections and recollections on Dave Barrett's contributions and his commitment to the people of this province and country is deeply appreciated.



On behalf of the Barrett Family

The Honourable John Horgan

Premier of British Columbia

requests the presence of

**Members of the Association of Former MLAs of BC
and Guest**

at the Memorial Service for the late

Dave Barrett, O.C., O.B.C.

former Premier of British Columbia

SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2018

AT 10:00 A.M.

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

FARQUHAR AUDITORIUM

3800 Finnerty, Victoria

Doors open at 9:00 a.m.

Dress: Business attire with decorations.

Reception to follow in the Mystic
Market adjacent to the Auditorium

2018 Dues and Subscriptions are now due

Annual membership for former MLAs in the Association is **\$60** (unchanged from previous years) and that includes the subscription fee for *Orders of the Day* (OOTD). Fans of OOTD who are not Association members should send in a cheque for **\$40** to remain on the newsletter subscription list. If you have already remitted, thank you.

Cheques should be made out to:

The Association of Former MLAs of BC

and mailed to:

PO Box 31009, University Heights PO
Victoria, BC
V8N 6J3

From Page 1

Barrett remembered

The crowd got louder and louder as Dave alternatively mocked the heartless provincial government and speculated on the motives of those in power. I not only remember that speech – and many others – I can still FEEL it in my soul.

Dave Barrett was my MLA when, as a teenager, I joined the New Democratic Party. It is no exaggeration to say that he is WHY I joined the NDP. He was an inspiration to me and many, many others to take up the fight for social justice.

The list of accomplishments left behind by the short-lived government that he led is astonishing to those of us who have sat as MLAs in the BC Legislature. It is hard to fathom the sheer volume and scale of legislation passed during that extraordinary moment in BC history.

From relatively “small” accomplishments like the creation of Hansard and Question Period, eliminating corporal punishment in schools, lowering the drinking age to 19, establishing French immersion in schools, creating the first consumer protection legislation, establishing a Labour Code, and creating the SeaBus, to banning pay toilets, BC has never seen such a busy and ambitious government.

The larger accomplishments are well known: The Agricultural Land Commission; the public Insurance Corporation of BC; the province’s first Human Rights Code; its Ambulance Service; and Pharmacare.

I don’t know what it is like in government today, but I can honestly say that “in my day”, it often took longer to draft legislation than it took the Barrett government to draft, pass through the House and implement major structural changes. The mind boggles to think that the government passed a piece of (often controversial) legislation every three days they held power!

And of course, they didn’t stop with legislation. There wasn’t an area of government that wasn’t modernized. MLAs might do well to recall that the Barrett government provided offices for Opposition MLAs and started a major renovation of the grand but leaky legislative buildings – both major departures from the past.

There wasn’t an area of government where bold initiatives weren’t proposed to make life better for working people and marginalized citizens. There was a dramatic increase in the construction of affordable housing, an



extraordinary expansion of childcare, a Royal Commission on Forestry, a radical experiment in locally and democratically controlled social services, super royalties on mining companies, the nationalization of forest companies and even a poultry plant as well as remarkable improvements in environmental protection.

Dave Barrett had a larger than life personality. He was flamboyant, charismatic, entertaining, emotional and funny.

But more than that, Dave Barrett demonstrated conclusively that government can make a positive, progressive difference.

In an age of cynicism, a shrinking middle class, an opioid crisis, and Donald Trump, Dave Barrett reminded us that it needn’t be thus. We don’t need to accept the status quo. Power in the hands of committed and determined people can indeed change the world.

The Barrett family's final tribute

It is with great sadness we share the passing of Dave Barrett, a much-loved husband and father. He will be greatly missed. Dave had a tremendous life beyond his profession in social work and his many years as a provincial and federal politician. At home Dave's quick wit and zany sense of humour kept Shirley and the kids in stitches. His personal interests included the reading of history; he was an expert on the battles of the Second World War. Dave loved classical music, opera, Asian art and antiques.

A sports enthusiast, he played rugby, billiards and ping pong. He was a lifelong fan of baseball's St. Louis Cardinals and closely followed professional football, hockey and basketball. Dave loved family dinners. There were many happy dinners in Victoria's Chinatown and pubs with a burger and chips or fish and chips. Take-out was a highlight to any week. Dad often dreamed of his next fishing trip. The smaller the fish the bigger the story!

Dave spoke of his gratitude to teachers and mentors and was happy to give back as a visiting teacher at Harvard, McGill, Western Washington and Simon Fraser universities.

Although his achievements were many, his greatest devotion and love were for his family; wife Shirley, children Dan (Mary), Joe, Jane (Wayne), grandchildren Andrew, Hannah, Jacob and Noah and his extended family. During his long battle with Alzheimer's he found comfort in listening to his favourite symphonies on his iPod, walks in the Cedar Hill neighbourhood and later, when confined to a wheelchair, strolls through the parks.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Alzheimer's Society of BC, the Oak Bay Kiwanis Pavilion which cared for him with grace and compassion or the New Democratic Party. A state memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at 10 a.m. in the University of Victoria's Farquhar Auditorium at 3800 Finnerty Road.

Meeting our customers' energy needs, every day

At FortisBC, we touch the lives of British Columbians every day. We deliver the energy needed for homes, businesses and schools in 135 communities. From natural gas and electricity, to district energy and geothermal, we serve more than 1.1 million customers, safely and reliably.

Learn more at fortisbc.com/energysolutions.

FortisBC uses the FortisBC name and logo under license from Fortis Inc. (03/12 12-074)



Serving Every Community

Throughout BC there are thousands of insurance brokers ready to serve our community. We help families and businesses protect their most valuable assets. We're right there to help settle claims, offer the best advice and deliver helpful information to keep everyone safe. By being close by, we develop a personal relationship and intricate knowledge of every customer's needs. You can't do that on the phone or a website. That's why we're right there.



ibabc.org

Tributes to Dave

David Barrett - The Passing of a Giant

On February 2, 2018, BC lost a giant: former premier Dave Barrett.

His visionary leadership and unflinching commitment to the well-being of ordinary people around the province led to lasting change that shaped our province for the better.

In just one short term, his government delivered our first modern ambulance service, the Agricultural Land Reserve and public auto insurance. We are all better off, thanks to his tireless work and immeasurable contributions to public life.

His sense of humour and ability to command a room with his oratory was legendary. First and foremost, I will always remember his commitment to working for regular people.

He was an inspiration to me and many other British Columbians, and I am grateful for his friendship and guidance over the years. His legacy will live on in our hearts.

~ Honourable John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia

He connected with ordinary people

Combative, funny and incredibly charming, Dave Barrett embodied a pugnacious and populist style of politics that connected with the lives and aspirations of ordinary people. He passionately believed that government belonged to the people, not just to the rich, and could be a force for good in their lives.

I had the privilege of knowing him and was inspired by his life and work. As a young law student, I brought him to speak at Osgoode Hall and supported his leadership bid for the federal NDP in 1989. To this day I remember how his barn-burning speaking style, combined with his keen intellect, captured the imagination and support of a roomful of otherwise skeptical law students. I won't soon forget all that he taught me and so many of my friends.

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, I offer our sincerest condolences to his family and to all those who mourn his loss in British Columbia and across the country.

~ Alberta Premier Rachel Notley

So much life in Dave Barrett

Dave Barrett was a giant among us. He was sharp and funny, kind and likable, wise and infinitely energetic.

I remember going to a meeting in Nelson where Dave recalled when he as Premier, Emery Barnes and a couple of others were checking in at hotel in Nelson. Dave first, then Emery. But Emery wasn't welcome. In the 1970s, colour discrimination still wasn't dead. When Dave realized what was going on he joined the "conversation." With his keen ability to



express outrage, he said loudly: "Because he's black? Well, I'm a Jew, and I know about discrimination. Why don't you refuse me a room? . . ."

He made the issue loud and probably funny before the clerk booked them all in and sent them off to rooms. Everybody in the place had heard the problem, so Dave invited them all to the meeting. Probably many of them went.

~ Anne Edwards

Flamboyant, funny, gutsy

Many of his colleagues can reflect on Dave Barrett as Premier and MP better than I. But recently, I discovered few can remember his early years as a politician and so I will share this impression.

He was nearly 30 years old in 1960 when he campaigned as the CCF candidate in Dewdney, a riding that stretched from Coquitlam to Agassiz, held by Lyle Wicks of the Social Credit – a stalwart of the party as its founding President and instrumental in electing WAC Bennett as its leader in 1952 just prior to forming government.

As a teen in 1960, I remember a speech Barrett gave in Agassiz, facing some hostility and written off as "just a young kid." Yet he was flamboyant, funny and gutsy making him affable too. So, the election of Dave Barrett in 1960 came as a shock but not surprising in retrospect as we watched this young politician evolve in stature over his long, great, successful career.

~ Allan Warnke

So many positive lessons

Dave Barrett's extraordinary influence as a politician is not only a function of the ambitious policy agenda he pursued as Premier – much of which survives to this day, but also of the positive lessons he provided to others.

Dave showed me and many others of my generation the possibilities of what government could achieve in forging a more democratic, just and sustainable society.

I was hugely privileged to be able to serve as an executive assistant in his administration, and to benefit not only from his example, but also the generosity with which he mentored and supported young people like myself.

His humour, his optimism and his humanity shone through in everything he did. The lessons he taught me about the value of government and the importance of public service are ones that fundamentally shaped my thinking and motivated me to run for office and to make my own contribution.

Thank you, Dave, not only for building a better British Columbia, but also for inspiring us to be better British Columbians.

~ Andrew Petter

A tireless fighter

Dave Barrett. What a huge slice of BC political history. Without doubt, the best speech I ever heard in the Legislature was Barrett's farewell address. It was moving, personal, humorous, poignant and a wonderful look at his career. When he began, there was some heckling, but that stopped quickly. He went overtime, but no one noticed the clock or the lights.

There will be many opinions offered about Dave Barrett's time in office; but without question he will always be remembered as a tireless fighter and one totally dedicated to making our province a better place to live.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Shirley and the Barrett family.

~ Bruce Strachan

Proud to have served with Dave

Dave Barrett, always fiercely loyal to his fellow New Democrat MLAs. "To the mattresses" for us when required, an amazing part of his wonderful personality but sadly often missing today.

In 1983, Mark Rose and I were the only new MLAs elected to the NDP caucus. We were thrown immediately into the great and long debates; the all-night sessions on the "Restraint Program." More than once I wondered what the hell I had let myself in for. But Dave, in times of doubt, would pull me aside or go for coffee, or chat in his office and with his indomitable ability, make things right.

Yep, Dave Barrett, a man of high integrity, a real Leader, a leader one could trust, a fighter for so many. Proud to have served with you, Sir!

~ Robin Blencoe



A decent man who cared

When I arrived at the Leg in 1974 Dave was at the height of his power. He was delighted to see another Liberal to split the centre and right vote, and even after three of my colleagues (Gardom, McGeer and Williams) left to eventually join the Socreds, he was pleased to keep our remaining tiny party alive with House privileges and money. Of course, I was grateful for that, but as the years went by I found much more important reasons to admire this fine man.

Though a complex figure in many ways, he was open and honest, a good and rare start in government. He had enough confidence to surround himself with strong men and women and together they made some major changes to BC that have endured.

He was a decent human being who cared about ordinary people, and just plain a lot of fun to know. We had our differences as politicians, but never as people. With "Wacky" and Barrett, easterners thought British Columbia was nuts. They were wrong. We were the lucky ones.

~ Gordon Gibson

Dave delivered

Anyone who ever met Dave Barrett would have a story to tell. He was that kind of guy. One of my most lasting memories, however, was of a time when he wasn't even in the room. It was BC election night, 1972. I was at the NDP's Coquitlam headquarters with my father. He was 67 years old and had been a member of a socialist movement all his adult life, working in every election campaign since arriving in BC in 1935.

When the first provincial results came in, people remained relatively quiet. They had seen such early leads fizzle too many times before. As I recall, it was only about 45 minutes before the CBC declared an NDP victory. While the place erupted, many of my father's generation remained stunned – as tears rolled down their cheeks.

I don't actually remember the rest of the evening, when Barrett entered the room victorious and the party began. What stayed with me were the faces of a generation of political activists who passionately believed, seemingly against all odds, that one day ... one day ... they would elect a democratic socialist government in BC. Dave Barrett delivered that day.

~ Joan Sawicki

He recognized a need and instinctively acted on it

By Jim Hume

I never knew Dave Barrett well. Better than most by the nature of my work as a political columnist I suppose, but never in the trusted friends group where ideals and beliefs are shared.

Over the years our conversations were many, but often not on politics. Our relationship was friendly with the exception of one or two pyrotechnic spectaculars. As I mentioned, we were not friends in the deepest sense of the word, but we were friends enough for me to feel saddened at the news of his death and a little guilty that I had made no attempt to contact him in the past two years.

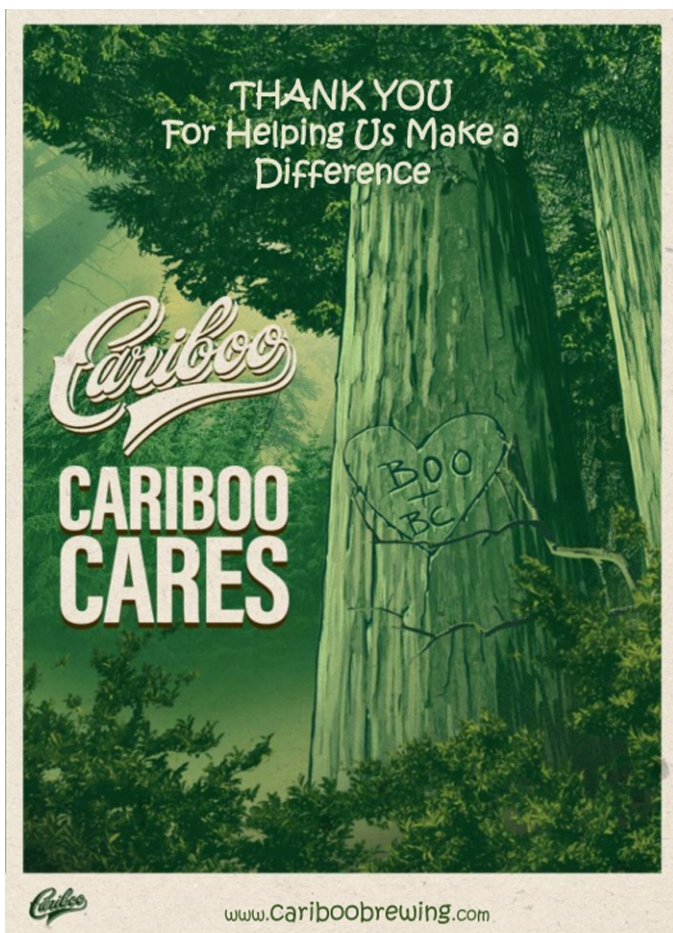
It is an old failing of mine, leaving it too late to make a phone call or write a note to let someone know I had not forgotten. In the case of Dave Barrett, for whom I always had great respect, I also missed our brief if sometimes brittle exchanges.

Many of our conversations began as questions asked a politician by a newspaper columnist, but quickly drifted sideways to more important things. That's the way it was one April morning in 1973 when I visited his newly acquired Premier's Office to ask him about his latest appointment of a stalwart member of the NDP to a key staff job.

He gave me the Barrett stare across his desk: "Who were you expecting me to appoint – a Social Credit guy or a Liberal?" With the question answered we moved on to family matters. He asked how my sons were doing and I reported that one of them – Andrew, 17, – was languishing in Jubilee Hospital recovering from a serious knee injury acquired during an out-of-bounds rugby tackle a few days earlier.

A rugby player himself, Dave wanted all the details and asked me to convey best wishes. When a few hours later I dropped by Royal Jubilee to do just that, Andrew greeted me with a face-wide grin and "Guess what? I've just received a get well note from Premier Barrett!" With a proud flourish he produced a hand-written note expressing regret for the injury and wishing Andrew a full and speedy recovery. It also included a few cheeky references only another rugby player would appreciate. The note, which immediately banished all teenage depression, had been delivered by hand within minutes of my leaving the Premier's Office.

I mention this because it was typical Dave Barrett. He recognized a need and instinctively knew he could do something about it, and he did.



A horizontal advertisement for the Trial Lawyers Association of BC. The top half features a silhouette of a person holding a child over their head, set against a background of water and a light sky. The text "Lawyers helping People" is written in a stylized font across the top. Below this, the heading "Current Campaigns" is followed by a list of three items: "... battling for increased Legal Aid funding for BC's citizens", "... monitoring ICBC's delivery of auto insurance", and "... promoting a Wrongful Death Accountability Act". Below the list, it says "For more info visit www.tlabc.org". At the bottom left is the logo for "TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION of BC" and at the bottom right is contact information: "1111 - 1100 Melville Street", "Vancouver BC V6E 4A6", "Phone: 604 682-5343", "Toll Free: 1 888 558-5222", and "Email: tla-info@tlabc.org".

At times over the next three years, he acted too precipitately on larger issues and it cost him and his party dearly at the polls. In a little less than three years, the Barrett administration approved 357 bills and in the wave of sympathy following his death on February 2, a stranger to our shores could be forgiven for thinking Dave deserved recognition for them all. He would have been the first to point out that, although he led a bunch of rookies to victory in August 1972, he had enough highly talented foot soldiers in the ranks to run a provincial government.

There are several versions of what happened when he called his first cabinet meeting – including one which has him sliding down the long, polished, conference table to its head. It is not the story Dave told me when, years ago, I asked him how that first meeting went.

“I got everybody sitting down and said ‘okay, what the hell do we do now?’... and Ernie Hall (MLA for Surrey and newly sworn Provincial Secretary) boomed out ‘we prepare an agenda.’ And we did.”

There was an impressive array of political talent around the table despite being devoid of “governing” experience ... Eileen Dailly, Bob Strachan, Leo Nimsick, Dave Stupich, Dennis Cocke, Colin Gabelmann, Bill King, Harold Steves, Rosemary Brown, Norm Levi, Gary Lauk, Alex Macdonald, Bob Williams, Phyllis Young to name a few of the better known.

Of that group, seven were (my choices) super star cabinet ministers – Dailly, education; Cocke, health; Stupich, agriculture; King, labour; Levi, social services; MacDonald,



Dave Barrett chats with Jim Hume and Anne Beckett at the 2008 Association Annual Dinner.

attorney general; and Bob Williams, lands and forests. They were the first string, the core of the Barrett team who moved with the highest ideals, but too far and too fast.

They achieved much and Dave Barrett led them with courage and high ideal – if not always wisely. We still owe him, as we owe his widow Shirley for the years she and their children encouraged and supported his service to “the people.” They walked with him through the darkness of Alzheimer’s to his final rest in what Christina Rossetti describes as “the silence more musical than any song.”

Our thanks are not enough.

TELUS PureFibre™

Internet reimagined.

TELUS PureFibre™ has changed the internet experience. So it's time to forget everything you know about uploads, downloads, browsing, streaming and gaming, and discover what's possible with a reliable, lightning-fast connection.

Learn more about the #1 internet technology for speed and reliability* at telus.com/purefibre

*Traditional copper wire or copper wire hybrid networks are subject to capacity constraints and environmental stresses that do not affect TELUS fibre optic technology, which is based on light signals. TELUS, the TELUS logo, TELUS PureFibre, the future is friendly and telus.com are registered trademarks of TELUS Corporation, used under licence. All rights reserved. © 2018 TELUS. 18_00099

TELUS
the future is friendly®

A fragile democracy becomes more brittle

SRI LANKA (Al Jazeera) — Sri Lanka's ruling coalition has suffered a shocking defeat in local elections as the party backed by former President Mahinda Rajapaksa registered a landslide victory.

After the final results, the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) had won 44.65 percent of the vote. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP) garnered 32.63 per cent while the President Maithripala Sirisena's UPFA (United People's Freedom Alliance) came a distant third with 8.94 per cent.



Strongman Rajapaksa.

This is the first local election since the centre-left UPFA and centre-right UNP parties formed a unity government in August 2015. Coalition infighting was clearly evident during the campaign as both the coalition partners contested against each other.

The results of the election may signal what direction the island nation takes in its still-fragile transition from decades of a civil war that killed as many as 100,000 people before it ended in 2009. Rajapaksa, the former strongman accused of human rights abuses who brutally crushed the Tamil insurgency before the war ended, is again at the center of the country's political future.

The Sri Lanka Constitution bars Rajapaksa from another presidential bid. Many observers expect his brother, the once powerful Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa, to launch a presidential bid. With just two years before the next parliamentary elections, and Rajapaksa in the ascendancy, many political observers expect trouble to grow within the ruling coalition.

The election was contested for the first time using a complex system that mixed both the first-past-the-post and proportional representation systems.

Vidura Wickramanayaka, a member of parliament now aligned with the SLPP, told the Al Jazeera news agency that even though this was a local election, "this is tantamount to a national election, if you look at the political platforms, the issues that were discussed were national issues."

Political analyst Kalana Senaratne says: "The mandate received by the government in 2015, was for governance – reforms, swift action regarding accusation of corruption levelled at Rajapaksa, less radicalism regarding constitutional reforms and continuation of the developmental policies of the Rajapaksa regime. However, there has been no visible action against the corrupt."



CANFOR

There is no substitute for Canfor

CANFOR.COM PRODUCT OF CANADA



CANFOR IS A PROUD MEMBER OF 12 COMMUNITIES ACROSS BC
WWW.CANFOR.COM

Democracy does not happen by chance

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN (International IDEA) — The world has experienced continued and steep democratic progress over the past 40 years. However, this progress has started to slow down and those people and institutions with a vested political and humanitarian interest in the health of the globe's democracies find themselves at a crossroads.

Challenges and threats have emerged in specific countries and regions, according to the first edition of The Global State of Democracy publication from The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA). Now, democracy is at a crossroads and continuous actions must be taken to safeguard and protect it.

Here's a scene setter appearing in the first edition of the Global State of Democracy.

"Democratization processes over the last four decades have created many opportunities for public participation in political life. More people today live in electoral democracies than ever before. However, numerous countries grapple with challenges to democracy, contributing to the perception that democracy is 'in decline' or has experienced 'reversals' or 'stagnation.'

"Some of these challenges relate to issues of corruption, money in politics and policy capture, inequality and social exclusion, migration or post-conflict transition to democracy. Many leaders and democratic actors continue to manipulate democratic processes and institutions, which often contributes to democratic backsliding in their respective countries.

"Governments, parliaments and political parties are increasingly viewed by their electorates as unable to cope with complex policy problems. Many see a crisis of legitimacy in democratic institutions and processes, coupled with a creeping erosion of public trust, which exposes democracies as fragile and vulnerable. Even mature democratic systems can corrode if they are not nurtured and protected.

"There is evidence of a growing disconnect between politicians and the electorate. Transnational challenges related to inequality, migration and globalization are complex problems that challenge democratic institutions to respond effectively to public concerns, causing a decline in trust and legitimacy in democratic governance.

"Is there reason to believe that democracy is in trouble, or do recent events simply constitute a temporary downward fluctuation? Are sceptics overreacting to the alarmist daily headlines, and therefore losing sight of democracy's numerous benefits over the last few decades? And under what conditions is democracy resilient?"

According to International IDEA's analysis, the value people give to democracy is strengthened when democratic backsliding occurs. The most difficult aspects for democracies to tackle are corruption and rule of law, which have not improved since 1975.

The first edition of The Global State of Democracy publication analyzes and assesses emerging challenges and threats. It is based on a new set of indices that collect data on key attributes of democracy across 155 countries from 1975 to 2015.

The starting point of 1975 coincides with the ratification of the United Nations Conventions on Civil and Political Rights as well as Economic and Social Rights and the so-called 'Third Wave of Democracy.' Zooming-in on some of the most pressing crises for democracy today, the publication provides insights into the future of political parties and representation, corruption and money in politics, inequality, migration, and post-conflict peacebuilding. The publication also provides actionable recommendations for citizens, politicians and technocrats worldwide in their efforts to combat these threats.

"We see the challenges to our democracy in our daily news. There are cases of national leaders attempting to retain power beyond constitutional limits, attacks on human rights, and the rollback of civil liberties and freedom of the press", says Yves Leterme, International IDEA Secretary-General. "International IDEA is concerned about the rise of challenges to democracy. Our role – every citizen's role – is to protect democracy."

International IDEA's mission is to support sustainable democratic change by providing comparative knowledge, and assisting in democratic reform, and influencing policies and politics. It produces comparative knowledge in its key areas of expertise: electoral processes, constitution-building, and political participation and representation, as well as democracy as it relates to gender, diversity, and conflict and security. For more information, visit www.idea.int.



Serving Every Community

Throughout BC there are thousands of insurance brokers ready to serve our community. We help families and businesses protect their most valuable assets. We're right there to help settle claims, offer the best advice and deliver helpful information to keep everyone safe. By being close by, we develop a personal relationship and intricate knowledge of every customer's needs. You can't do that on the phone or a website. That's why we're right there.



ibabc.org

Cow on the lamb at Perth Parliament

A cow brought to Parliament House in Perth as part of a promotional stunt escaped its handler and made a run for it, causing pandemonium.

The bovine visitor was one of two to visit the political precinct recently as part of celebrations to promote the Perth Royal Show.

But Winston, as he's known, got a bit agitated and slipped away from his handler, before charging off across the lawn, leaping a chain fence and some bushes and heading out onto the street.



The speedy steer was only a short way into his venture through the city's inner-western suburbs when he was brought under control, Perth Now reports.

However, he wasn't up for his big media debut, leaving that to his companion Clementine.

But she was also apparently nervous with all the attention and relieved herself on a camera, causing West Australian Agriculture Minister Alannah MacTiernan to candidly remark: "Clementine's pissing it in!"

Winston's handler Peter Milton said: "It was Winston's first day out in three months, his first public appearance. I guess he got a bit embarrassed."

Or perhaps Winston's anxiety was caused by the fact that his appearance was one day ahead of a big celebration barbecue. MacTiernan assured reporters that Winston was a guest of honour and not on the menu.

A comforting Swiss lobster tale

ZURICH (Reuters) - Switzerland has banned the common culinary practice of throwing fresh lobsters into boiling water in an overhaul of its animal protection rules.

"Live crustaceans, including the lobster, may no longer be transported on ice or in ice water. Aquatic species must always be kept in their natural environment. Crustaceans must now be stunned before killing them," say the rules adopted by the government and taking effect this month.



The Swiss are not alone trying to protect lobsters from what activists call cruel treatment in the kitchen. Neighbouring Italy's highest court ruled in 2017 that lobsters must not be kept on ice in restaurants because it causes them unjustifiable suffering before they head for death by fine dining.

K-9's gubernatorial bid leashed

Kansas election officials are putting the brakes on a dog's campaign for governor.

KWCH-TV reports that Terran Woolley, of Hutchinson, decided to file the paperwork for his three-year-old pooch, Angus, to run for the state's top office after reading stories about six teenage candidates. The teens entered the race after learning Kansas doesn't have an age requirement, something lawmakers are seeking to change.



Angus is a type of hunting dog called a wire-haired Vizsla. Woolley figured Angus would need to run as a Republican. He described Angus as a "caring, nurturing individual who cares about the best for humanity and all creatures other than squirrels."

But the Kansas Secretary of State's office says man's best friend is not capable of serving the responsibilities required of the governor.

Vegas licence to gamble more

Las Vegas authorities want to make it easier for love birds to unite, freeing up gambling time.

Just before Valentine's Day, passengers arriving at McCarran Airport in Sin City were allowed to apply for a marriage license as they waited to get their bags from the carousel. The Clark County Marriage License Bureau set up a kiosk in the baggage terminal for would-be husbands and wives.

Clark County is the wedding capitol of the world, issuing the most marriage licenses throughout the year in the U.S., almost 80,000 a year on average.



Not to be confused with the actual wedding ceremony, no vows are exchanged at the airport. Only the license is issued. Fox News interviewed one Texas couple signing up. Christie Estrada and Hector Castaneda came across the outpost as they were retrieving their luggage.

"We were just walking, we were going to get a taxi and we saw the sign. It saved us a lot of time so we can go gamble," said Castaneda.

Len Norris



January 31, 1973

"Didn't I tell you... anything Bennett could do Barrett can do better."



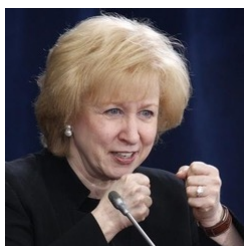
April 13, 1974

"Stop worrying... I'm sure his interpreter will clean it up."

Former MLAs ... then and now

Kim Campbell ... fast to the top and back again

(Kim Campbell is currently chair of the nation's Supreme Court Advisory Board. The former Tory prime minister will be the keynote speaker at the Surrey Board of Trade's ninth annual Surrey Women in Business Awards luncheon March 8 at the Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel. She was making headlines in February admonishing female news anchors who wear sleeveless dresses on the air, calling the bare-armed attire "demeaning." She tweeted her displeasure, saying "bare arms undermine credibility and gravitas.")



Canadahistory.com records that the rise of Kim Campbell in federal Canadian politics was relatively fast as was her ultimate demise 25 years ago.

Canada's 19th Prime Minister was also its first female PM. Campbell was born Avril Phaedra Douglas Campbell on March 10th, 1947 in Port Alberni, BC and her family moved to Vancouver soon after. When Kim was 12, her mother left home and upon doing so, she decided also to change her daughter's name from Avril to Kim.

Campbell attended Prince of Wales High School where she was elected the first-ever female class president. It would not be the first male-only barrier she would bring down.

She attended UBC where, in 1969, she earned her BA in Political Science. She then went to the London School of Economics where she worked on her PhD in Soviet Studies. She left early when she decided to marry and move back to Vancouver in 1972, and began teaching at UBC and Vancouver Community College. By 1980, she was back at UBC as a student studying for her law degree.

Campbell served on the Vancouver School Board from 1980 to 1984 before running as a Social Credit MLA candidate. She lost but became a policy advisor to Premier Bill Bennett and in 1987 she ran for the Socreds again and won. Once in the Provincial Legislature she unabashedly opposed the Premier's

position on abortion by supporting more access for women to abortion services.

Seeing no long-term future in provincial politics, Campbell switched to the Progressive Conservatives. She ran in the 1988 federal election and won in Vancouver Centre. Prime Minister Brian Mulroney brought her into cabinet in 1989 as Minister of State for Indian Affairs and Northern Development. She was also Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

By 1993, Mulroney realized he could not possibly win another mandate and stepped down. Many in the party viewed Campbell as a charismatic leader who could garner national support as the first female prime minister. She defeated Tory stalwart Jean Charest in the leadership race and, on June 25, 1993, she did become Canada's first female prime minister.

Campbell took some very popular actions to start with, such as cutting the number of cabinet ministers from 35 to 23, attending the G7 summit in Tokyo and touring the country in July and August. The polls showed her climbing above 51 per cent approval. By September, she was well ahead of the Liberal leader Jean Chretien and she decided to call an election for the fall.

Campbell's lead in the polls slipped very quickly due to inexperience and an uncoordinated campaign strategy. Still, she was more popular than Chretien so her campaign unleashed attack ads against the Liberal leader. One mocked Chretien's speech impediment and the reaction nationwide was highly critical. The election was lost and the best that could be hoped for was a decent number of Tory MPs to form the opposition.

The final results were Liberals 177 seats, Bloc 54 seats, Reform Party 52 seats, NDP nine seats, Progressive Conservatives two.

Campbell resigned shortly after the election and returned to teaching Political Science at Harvard University. In 1996, she was appointed as Consul General in Los Angeles, a post which she held until 2000. She has remained very active and takes particular pride in her work for the advance of women's opportunities.

Member News

Please send news about your activities to ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com for the next newsletter.

Olympic success has ties to former MLAs

As this issue goes to print, Canada has set a record for most medals won at a Winter Olympics, the final medal count still to be determined. At least two Canadian medal winners have bloodlines that can be traced to our Association.

Kelowna's Kelsey Serwa won the gold medal in the women's ski cross, with teammate Brittany Phelan claiming the silver medal. A three time Olympian, she won silver in the event four years ago at Sochi after placing fifth in the Vancouver Winter Olympics. Serwa is the third Canadian in a row to win the gold in women's ski cross, which became an official Olympic event in 2010.

Kelsey's grandfather is Cliff Serwa, Association board member and former Social Credit MLA 1986-96. He served as Minister of Environment, and was the last Social Credit MLA to sit in the Legislature.

Cliff was one of the co-founders of Big White Ski Resort in the 1960s. Located southeast of Kelowna, Big White was where Kelsey learned to ski, chasing her older siblings down the resort's slopes.

Cliff and wife Lois were among family and friends in Pyeongchang to witness Kelsey's historic performance.

Justin Kripps of Summerland, along with brakeman Alex Kopacz, piloted Canada to a gold medal in two-man bobsleigh in Pyeongchang. Canada and Germany were co-champions after finishing with identical three minute, 16.86 second times after four runs. A three time Olympian, Kripps has another opportunity to medal in the four-man bobsleigh.

Justin is the grandson of the late Agnes Kripps, a former Association member. Agnes served as Social Credit MLA from 1969 to 1972 (Vancouver South, then a two seat riding.) She was the 43rd Profile featured in this newsletter -- see our September 2011 issue.

This is not the first appearance for Serwa and Kripps in this publication. Justin first appeared in the April 2009 OOTD, while Kelsey and family were featured in the April 2014 issue.



From April 2009 OOTD: Justin Kripps won his first Bobsleigh World Cup race in the men's four-man bobsleigh in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, January 2008



From April 2014 OOTD: Olympian Kelsey Serwa, her parents and grandparents in Sochi. Top, Brad and Cliff Serwa; middle, Terri and Lois Serwa; bottom Kelsey Serwa.

100 years ago

Spanish Flu sweeps globe killing up to 40 million

The influenza pandemic of 1918 – known as the Spanish Flu – killed more people than the First World War, somewhere between 20 and 40 million people. It has been cited as the most devastating epidemic in recorded history. More people died of influenza in a single year than in four years of the Black Death Bubonic Plague from 1347 to 1351.

In the fall of 1918 the Great War in Europe was winding down and peace was on the horizon. The Americans had joined in the fight, bringing the Allies closer to victory against the Germans. Deep within the trenches these men lived through some of the most brutal conditions of life, which it seemed could not be any worse. Then, in pockets across the globe, something erupted that seemed as benign as the common cold.

The influenza of that season, however, was far more than a cold. In the two years that this scourge ravaged the earth, a fifth of the world's population was infected. The flu was most deadly for people ages 20 to 40. This pattern of morbidity was unusual for influenza which is usually a killer of the elderly and young children. More than 725,000 North Americans (including 50,000 Canadians) died during the pandemic, 10 times as many as in the world war.

As noted in the Journal of the American Medical Association final edition of 1918: "The year 1918 has gone; a year momentous as the termination of the most cruel war in the annals of the human race; a year which marked the end, at least for a time, of man's destruction of man; unfortunately a year in which developed a most fatal infectious disease causing the death of hundreds of thousands of human beings. Medical science for four and one-half years devoted itself to putting men on the firing line and keeping them there. Now it must turn with its whole might to combating the greatest enemy of all – infectious disease."

The effect of the influenza epidemic was so severe that the average life span in North America was depressed by 10 years. The influenza virus had a profound virulence, with a mortality rate at 2.5 per cent compared to the previous influenza epidemics, which were less than 0.1 per cent. The death rate for 15 to 34-year-olds of influenza and pneumonia was 20 times higher in 1918 than in previous years.



People were struck with illness on the street and died rapid deaths. One anecdote told of four women playing bridge together late into the night. Overnight, three of the women died from influenza. Others told stories of people on their way to work suddenly developing the flu and dying within hours. One physician wrote that patients with seemingly ordinary influenza would rapidly "develop the most viscous type of pneumonia that has ever been seen" and later when cyanosis appeared in the patients, "it is simply a struggle for air until they suffocate." Another physician recalled that the influenza patients "died struggling to clear their airways of a blood-tinged froth that sometimes gushed from their nose and mouth." The physicians of the time were powerless.

The influenza pandemic circled the globe following the path of its human carriers, along trade routes and shipping lines. The origins of the deadly flu disease were unknown but widely speculated upon. Some of the allies thought of the epidemic as a biological warfare tool of the Germans. Many thought it was a result of the trench warfare, the use of mustard gases and the generated "smoke and fumes." A study attempted to reason why the disease had been so devastating and found that humidity was linked with more severe epidemics as it "fosters the dissemination of the bacteria."