

George Garrett to address AFMLABC annual dinner



The Association of Former MLAs of BC is proud to announce that former CKNW reporter George Garrett will be our guest speaker at the annual Government House dinner to be held this year on Sept. 20th.

George is so much more than a retired reporter who spent more than 40 years with CKNW. He is currently the best-selling author of his memoir *George Garrett: Intrepid Reporter*.

Canadian business magnate Jim Pattison describes George this way: "George Garrett is one of the most remarkable reporters of news I have ever known. He has always had the ability to smell a good story and to report on it honestly and accurately."

During his storied career, George also worked for BCTV (now Global TV). He received the Bruce Hutchison Lifetime Achievement Award from the Jack Webster Foundation and the Radio Television Digital News Association of Canada Lifetime Achievement Award. He is an Honorary Life Member of the RCMP Veterans Association, an Associate Member of the Vancouver Superannuated Police Officers Association, and an Honorary Constable of the New Westminster Police Department.

Starting from humble beginnings as a farm boy in Saskatchewan, George rose through the ranks of journalism and came to be known as the reporter who, as radio personality Rafe Mair recalled, "seemed to know details almost as soon as the police did" on such infamous stories as the Clifford Olson murders.

He was willing to take risks to get to the real story, which resulted in his being assaulted in the Rodney King riots in Los Angeles, among many other scrapes. In his memoir, Garrett shares the behind-the-scenes tales of his harrowing, humorous, and occasionally humiliating investigative tactics, from posing as an accident victim to uncovering the questionable practices of an insurance claim lawyer, to acting as a tow truck driver to expose a forgery scheme, and baring it all for the sake of an interview at a local nudist colony.

Garrett also delves into the personal details of his life, sharing the hardships and resilience that mark him as an empathetic storyteller. He reveals the heartbreaking loss of his son in a canoeing accident and his wife Joan's devastating diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease which inspired him to dedicate his time to supporting the Alzheimer Society.

Her Honour

The Honourable Janet Austin, 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

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Payment can be sent to the above address.

Thank you to those of you who, when sending in your Member dues or subscription renewals, add a donation to help cover production costs for the newsletter. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

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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.

From the Editor's Desk

In 1999, Gordon Wilson shocked many in his Progressive Democratic Alliance when he disbanded the fledgling party to join the governing NDP. Wilson brokered himself a prized seat in Premier Glen Clark's cabinet as Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Minister Responsible for BC Ferries.

The day it happened, George Orr was at the offices of CKNW shooting a short documentary titled "The Golden Age of Radio." It was celebrating George Garrett's last day at NW. Was he coasting into retirement? Hardly. He was breaking Wilson's breath-taking floor-crossing one hour before it would be announced by the premier, and it would be one of the biggest political stories of the year. Not bad for a swan song, eh?

I was long gone from the Press Gallery by '99, but I could feel the collective pain of my brothers and sisters at the Leg as the ever-annoying Garrett caught them napping as he so frequently did during his storied career. I remembered all the times I had been forced to chase a Garrett exclusive ... he was a major pain in the butt.

What great news that Garrett has accepted Jeff's invitation to speak at our Sept. 20th Government House banquet. Garrett has been all over the news lately with the publishing of his best-selling memoir, *George Garrett: Intrepid Reporter*. I spoke with George the other day, and he is stoked about being the AFMLABC's guest speaker and, I know, he will come equipped with tall tales from the glory days of radio news.

Rest assured tickets for the dinner will be in demand, so watch for the easy-to-clip ticket order form that will appear on the back page in the June, Summer and September issues of OOTD.

President's Report

Well, we have had an election in Alberta, and the winds of change have reverberated. Running for public office is a cornerstone of our parliamentary system of democracy and is also very hard work. So, I say hats off to all who put their names forward, congratulations to those who have won the right to serve; and thank you to all retiring Alberta MLAs for their service.

Here within the Association of Former MLAs, we are delighted to announce that legendary former CKNW reporter George Garrett will be our keynote speaker for our fall Gala Dinner at Government House. George has released his new book *George Garrett: Intrepid Reporter*, and he will share stories from his 40+ year career. Mark your calendars, and if needed, make travel plans to attend our annual dinner Friday, Sept. 20th. This is our most popular event, and tickets are limited. The Lieutenant Governor, our host, and the setting at Government House in the autumn cannot be beaten.

Our flagship publication, *Orders of the Day*, is funded primarily through our membership dues and subscriptions. If you have not had a chance to renew your membership/subscription, please take a moment to write a cheque to **The Association of Former MLAs of BC** at:

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As always, we love to hear from you, so drop us a line anytime. We also enjoy publishing stories and historical perspectives you may have to share.

Sincerely,
Jeff Bray, President



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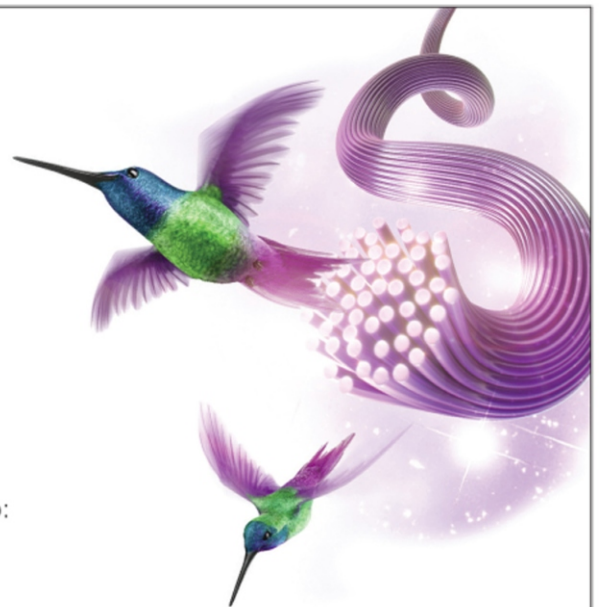
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George Garrett... praised by his peers

Through it all, George never lost the insatiable curiosity that, according to Mair, made him the "standard by which good reporting is judged."

Here are a few thumbnail reviews of George's best-selling *George Garrett: Intrepid Reporter*.

"A must-read for anyone interested in BC history. [George is] one of the most significant figures in the history of BC journalism."

- Harold Munro.

"Some reporters are excellent to deal with and over the years may form professional and personal relationships with officers. I know a well-respected reporter by the name of George Garrett who worked in the Vancouver area for many years. He was so well liked and respected by police officers that he is still invited to many police functions in spite of the fact he is retired. George Garrett always did his job and reported the good with the bad. If a police officer or department made a mistake, he reported it fairly and accurately without personal bias. I think that is what garnered him the respect. He was a professional and reported all of the facts and all of the story."

- Constable Wayne Ryan, author of *Souls Behind the Badge*.

"... a great reporter and a legend in our trade. He knew everyone, was on top of everything and was invariably first."

- Vaughn Palmer, *Vancouver Sun*.

"During my tenure with Vancouver's Major Crime Squad, the floor was strictly off-limits to civilian personnel. The only exception to the rule was a crime reporter named George Garrett who was given full access to the Homicide Unit. (Personally ... I think he had his own key.) Garrett reported with insight, colour and accuracy and could be trusted with information that was 'off the record.' He acted as an invaluable liaison between the police and the media."

- Wayne Cope, author of *Vancouver Blue*.

"George Garrett is the best investigative reporter Vancouver has ever known."

- Retired Deputy RCMP Commissioner Peter German.

"*George Garrett: Intrepid Reporter* is important reading for anyone interested in Vancouver politics and journalism in the last fifty years of the previous century. There is so much to learn from this autobiography. Read it."

- Mike Sasges, *The Ormsby Review*.

2019 Member Dues are 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).

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The pay gap: men, women back legislative action

As issues of gender balance and representation are tackled in boardrooms and senior finance offices in the public and private sectors, the gap between what men and women earn for doing the same work is never far from the conversation.

But is it a real problem? And if so, is there support for a fix?

The answer to the first question, according to a national survey of employed Canadians by the non-profit Angus Reid Institute, is “it depends.” The answer to the second is largely “yes.”

While four-in-five working women (79 per cent) say the gender pay gap is a “serious issue” in this country, only half of working men (51 per cent) say the same.

That said, seven-in-10 (including majorities among both genders) say an equal pay law that certifies companies with more than 25 employees are paying men and women close-to-equal wages for close-to-equal work is something they would support. Those workers who might consider the New Democratic or Liberal parties in the upcoming election are overwhelmingly in support of this type of legislation, while potential Conservatives are divided.

The proportion of employed Canadians who say they are paid too little is similar across age and gender groups, though men are more likely than women in each age category to say that they are paid more than their directly comparable peers.

Women between the ages of 35 and 54 are most likely to say that they are paid less for similar work, and young men are twice as likely as young women to say that they are paid more. With this in mind, working Canadians were asked about the concept of equal pay. That is, the fact that women, on average, make less money than men when doing comparable work, according to (among others) Glassdoor Economic research. It's an issue with which most are quite familiar.

But familiarity doesn't necessarily equal a consensus viewpoint. Responses depend much on gender.

Employed men are divided equally across generations, while at least three-quarters of working women say this is important across each of the age cohorts, with women under 35 most concerned.

Opinions about the gender pay gap also cut deeply along ideological lines: nearly six-in-10 workers who say they'd consider voting for the Conservative party in the next election say that this is not that serious, while more than four-in-five of those in the Liberal and NDP consideration spheres lean the other way.

Comparing responses by income level, at least six-in-10 workers within each income bracket say that this issue is quite or very serious. With two-thirds of working Canadians saying this is an issue they consider to be serious it is worth noting that far fewer view it being an issue in their place of work (18 per cent):

Working women are much more likely to perceive a gap within their workplace (21 per cent do) than working men (13

per cent). Conversely, men are much more likely to say outright that there is no gap where they work (74 per cent of men versus 56 per cent women). There are, notably, no significant differences by size of the company where a person is working.

Respondents who identified a gap in their place of work were asked who generally benefits from the gap. Nine-in-10 say it favours men. If there is indeed a gap in pay between genders, most employed Canadians both men and women equally who perceive a gap in their place of business say it is arbitrary, not based on skill or experience.

As noted previously, most Canadian workers do not believe there is a pay gap in the place where they work. That said, a recent study of more than 21,000 Canadian workers by Glassdoor Economic Research offers some illumination on just what the gender pay gap looks like in Canada. The study looked at the median wage of male and female workers, and how it can vary in this country.

The findings point to an initial gap of about 18 per cent when comparing men and women's total compensation, with men earning more on average. That said, many of these factors can be accounted for with further analysis. Glassdoor does this by adding in controls for the age, education and experience of workers, noting that the gap is then reduced by 2.5 percentage points.

Additional factors such as industry, firm size, and other more specific controls related to job-title and workplace can reduce the gap in compensation down to about six per cent. The rest of the gap appears to be unaccounted for, however, and is described as “due to differences in the way the labour market rewards men and women with the same characteristics.” This is what advocates describe as the gender pay gap.

Men and women hold distinct and competing views regarding some of the realities of the workplace. Working men, particularly those under the age of 35, are much more likely than working women to say that a gender pay gap is the product of the choices that women make, rather than discrimination. Just over one-quarter of respondents say this (28 per cent), overall, but the sentiment rises to 47 per cent among men 18 to 34 years of age.

Employed men and women also disagree overwhelmingly about what is expected of women in the workplace as it compares to the standards for men. Seven-in-10 women across all age groups say women are held to higher standards and have to do more to prove themselves at work, while just one-in-three men agree with them.

The majority of working Canadians say this country has been making good progress in recent decades in ensuring fair pay for work regardless of gender. Slightly more than half (53 per cent) say the gap between men and women is shrinking, compared to 13 per cent who believe it is growing.

BC Legislature bids farewell to its moral compass

By Vaughn Palmer,
Vancouver Sun

It was a sombre group of MLAs who filed into the legislature chamber April 1st, having just learned of the passing of Conflict of Interest Commissioner Paul Fraser.

Fraser died in hospital March 29th after a short illness and word was still spreading when the house convened.

Premier John Horgan led off the tributes “to a dedicated public servant,” then followed with an apt reminder of Fraser’s impish sense of humour.

“Paul gave me this tie and said I didn’t have to declare it (as a gift) because it was so ugly,” said Horgan, half defying the house rules against brandishing props, particularly hideous ones. “He had only one orange tie, and he couldn’t think of a better person to own it.”

Orange being the colour of the NDP and Horgan being colour blind.

Other tributes followed as Fraser’s shaken family looked on from the public gallery.

“There is a term in our world that has fallen into disuse,” said Opposition Leader Andrew Wilkinson. “It is a gentleman. Paul Fraser throughout his career and in his time here was a gentleman.”

Following him was the Green Party’s Andrew Weaver, who only learned of the 78-year-old commissioner’s death as the other two leaders were speaking.

“I’m devastated,” said Weaver. “He cared deeply about the ongoing workings in this place. He worked with each and every MLA to try to help them through what are often difficult and challenging issues that come to us as we try to serve our job here.”

Still, some of the most significant tributes were delivered while the commissioner was alive.

“I know you are a lawyer of great integrity and reputation,” wrote New Democrat David Eby back in 2016. He was asking Fraser to rule whether Premier Christy Clark was in a conflict over the BC Liberal Party’s big money fundraising.

At the time, Eby took it on himself to discount calls for Fraser to recuse himself because his son, John Paul Fraser, was a senior political appointee in the Clark government. He also accepted the verdict when Fraser ruled that party fundraising, being legal, was a matter best left to the voters.

On that score, Fraser’s decision was also a prophecy. The festering controversy over Liberal fundraising contributed to the party’s loss of its legislative majority in the 2017 election.



Paul Fraser

At about the same time as the Eby complaint, Alberta recruited Fraser to sort out conflict allegations against former Premier Alison Redford.

The province’s previous ethics commissioner had rendered a verdict of not guilty based on incomplete information. The successor commissioner recused herself because she was friends with two people involved in the case.

Enter Fraser, who concluded, after a proper investigation, that Redford was not guilty of violating Alberta’s conflict legislation.

Alberta’s apparent regard for Fraser was cited by an all-party committee of the BC Legislature last year in considering whether to appoint him to a third five-year term as commissioner.

The committee reported back to the legislature with a unanimous testimonial to Fraser’s “depth of experience and expertise ... Mr. Fraser’s demonstrated capacity for effectively overseeing members’ conflict of interest issues would provide continued strong and effective leadership for this position.”

The house, on a motion from Horgan, promptly approved Fraser for a third term. He was less than a year into it when he succumbed, leaving a large pair of shoes to fill.

In the event of a vacancy, the enabling legislation for the office provides for cabinet to fill the post on an interim basis pending a search for a permanent successor. Though the process is not specifically set out in legislation, the candidate search will be overseen by another all-party committee with a mandate to make a unanimous recommendation to the house.

The job pays almost \$300,000 a year, plus pension, so the posting should interest senior lawyers and retired judges from across the country.

The highest-profile part of the work is rendering judgment on whether MLAs have violated BC's conflict legislation, which uniquely includes a ban on being in an "apparent conflict."

Through 11 years, Fraser fielded four complaints against premier Christy Clark, two against premier Gordon Campbell, three against BC Liberal ministers and the most recent against New Democrat David Eby.

In none of those cases did he find real or apparent conflicts.

The busier part of the workload is overseeing MLA disclosures. Arguably, the most useful is advising MLAs on avoiding conflicts before they blunder into one. I was reminded of that April 1st when I spoke to the province's first conflict commissioner, the legendary Ted Hughes, now aged 91.

Hughes paid tribute to Fraser as "a very principled man" who did a good job of "keeping things quiet and under control," keeping MLAs out of the headlines being one of the unspoken duties of the commissioner.

"I was probably a little too tough," conceded Hughes, referring to his term as commissioner from 1990 to 1996. "But I was first, and there was no road map."

He then suggested that Fraser had landed on much the same balance point as the province's second conflict commissioner, the late H.A.D. Oliver. He famously characterized the job as "catching the shit before it hits the fan."

Not likely will that show up in the job posting for Fraser's successor. But, being able to catch the you-know-what before it hits the fan is surely one of the duties of a conflict commissioner.

(Editor's note: A celebration of Paul's life will take place Wednesday, May 15th from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at First Metropolitan United Church, 932 Balmoral Road, Victoria.)

The distinguished career of Paul Fraser, Q.C.

Paul Fraser had been the province's Conflict of Interest Commissioner since January 1, 2008. He was re-appointed to a second term as Commissioner in 2013 and a third term on May 31, 2018. All appointments were made with the unanimous approval of the Members of the Legislature.

He was a graduate of the University of Manitoba and the Law School at the University of British Columbia. The University of Winnipeg awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree.

Before his initial appointment as Conflict of Interest Commissioner, he practiced law in Vancouver for many years as litigation counsel in both civil and criminal matters. Laterally, he was a partner in the national law firm, Fraser, Milner, Casgrain LLP. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1982 and was selected as a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1991.

Fraser held various elected offices in the legal profession including National President of the Canadian Bar Association, President of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association, and President of the Canadian Section of the International Commission of Jurists.

His public law activities included chairing two Federal Commissions (the Fraser Commission in 1983-85) and an Industrial Inquiry in the wake of the 1995 National Railway strike. He was special counsel to the Minister of Foreign Affairs with respect to Canada/United States treaty matters. He was appointed as special prosecutor in BC for six different and significant investigations. He advised on parliamentary committees of the House of Commons and the Senate of Canada on various occasions and presented as an invited speaker at national and international legal events.

Fraser served as a senior adjudicator in the Indian Residential School ADR Process and acted as the Chair of the Tsawwassen First Nation Judicial Council.

His private career appointments have included serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, VIA Rail Inc., CUSO International, and the University of Winnipeg Foundation. He was also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Canadian Foundation for Legal Research.

(Source: Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner)

Barriers are real for Canadian women in politics

Barriers discouraging women from entering politics are layered and very real, says Equal Voice Executive Director Nancy Peckford.

“Research has given us tangible recommendations for change, indicating that initiatives such as mentorship programs for women, as well as educational programs for girls to better understand opportunities for political involvement, are considered highly useful,” Peckford said.

Peckford said that in fact, Equal Voice's groundbreaking Daughters of the Vote program is in line with the survey's recommendations.

The objectives of a recent Abacus Data study were to understand how women perceive the political landscape and political involvement, and what they believe are potential barriers to entering politics. It also aimed to identify tangible strategies Equal Voice could pursue to increase political participation amongst women.

“As a national, multi-partisan organization in existence for nearly 20 years, Equal Voice has ample anecdotal evidence pointing to the fact that female elected officials are treated differently than their male counterparts,” Peckford said.

“What's significant is that these results show that Canadians, both men and women, now understand this reality - arguably a first step in changing the gender imbalance in Canadian politics.”

Key findings of the Abacus Data research include:

Seventy-seven per cent of men and women agreed that politically involved women are treated differently than their male counterparts. Men 18-29 are much more likely than older men to say women are treated differently in politics (35 per cent vs 20 per cent respectively).

There is a clear gap in self-reported political knowledge among men and women and when asked how much they know about politics; women are 19 per cent less likely than men to say they know a lot or a fair amount about politics.

One in five women have considered getting involved in politics. However, consideration (whether involved currently or not) among younger men (18-29) is almost twice as high, compared to women in the same age group (43 per cent and 24 per cent, respectively).



Women surveyed did not see their traits aligning with those they used to describe politicians. Women were much more likely to ascribe the traits competitive, confident, thick-skinned, and risk-taker to politicians, rather than to themselves.

Family obligations, like child care and household responsibilities, were a very good or a good reason for 74 per cent of women not to be involved in politics.

In April, Daughters of the Vote once again provided an opportunity for 338 young women aged 18 to 23 one from each federal riding to take part in a once-in-a-lifetime multi-partisan political leadership program in Ottawa.

The Daughters of the Vote four-day program included a sitting in the House of Commons, an Indigenous forum, policy development workshops, leadership training sessions, and many engagement opportunities with elected officials and political experts of all stripes.

“The research that we're sharing will be extremely helpful in guiding Equal Voice's work moving forward,” Peckford said. “We're also hopeful it will be useful for the many like-minded organizations and actors, domestically and internationally, working hard to push for gender balance in politics alongside Equal Voice.”

(Source: Equal Voice is a national, bilingual, multi-partisan organization dedicated to electing more women to all levels of political office in Canada. It's objective for its Daughters of the Vote program is to ensure that 338 emerging young women leaders, among others, become familiar with Canada's political institutions.)

... and so are the pitfalls of discord in the ranks

Normally unfolding beneath the radar of major media, this year's Daughters of the Vote program made headlines as it fell prey to angst on "the Hill" and the gnashing of teeth over political fallout from the SNC-Lavalin affair.

On the second day of the four-day conference focused on female representation in politics, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expelled Jody Wilson-Raybould and Jane Philpott from the Liberal government caucus for their actions related to SNC-Lavalin.

A few dozen of the Daughters of the Vote delegates protested Trudeau's speech by turning their backs to him during his speech. One called him a "fake feminist."

The Daughters of the Vote annual visit to The Hill is usually a rewarding experience for young women with an interest in politics. Not this year. On the eve of her speech to a mock House of Commons sitting, Taqtu Sabrina Montague received an email saying there had been "a misunderstanding" and she was no longer invited to speak.



Daughters of the Vote delegates protested Prime Minister Trudeau's speech by turning their backs to him

Montague was on the roster of 30 young women scheduled to address the April 3 parliamentary session of Daughters of the Vote during which 338 women from across Canada, ages 18 to 23, would be sitting in their respective MP's seat in the Commons.

Montague was among six women who reached out to the *National Observer* to share stories suggesting that some Daughters of the Vote members were engaging in intimidation. The six women called from an Ottawa hotel room where they spent much of four days hiding, crying, and trying to deal with what they describe as "a constant feeling of hostility."

These six women received messages on the Daughters of the Vote Facebook page calling them "disgusting" for being among 40 or so delegates who turned their backs on Trudeau. They were also called "characterless" by their peers for walking out during Conservative leader Andrew Scheer's speech.

In a statement to *National Observer*, Equal Voice spokesperson Nasha Brownridge said: "(The organization is) aware that delegates had differences of opinion regarding the protest events on multiple speakers ... We do not condone bullying in any form, and took all possible steps to provide a safe environment for delegates. I am not aware of any Equal Voice representative telling delegates they should not protest."

Of the 338 young women who attended this year's event, 146 identified as a visible minority, 39 were Indigenous, 70 identified as LGBTQ and 16 identified as having a physical disability.



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Senate renewal: Progress, but changes necessary

Three years after the implementation of a new process for selecting senators, a just-released report by the Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP) assesses the changes and explores potential next steps.

In December 2015, the federal government announced a new, nonpartisan process to advise on Senate appointments. It established the Independent Advisory Board for Senate Appointments, which proposes candidates from pools of interested Canadians.

“While the new rules represent an improvement, further changes are needed to reflect the move towards a Senate organized much less according to party lines,” says IRPP President and CEO Graham Fox.

The report summarizes the round-table discussion on the effects of this move, organized by the IRPP and attended by academic experts, representatives from the Senate, and senior government officials.

At that round table, there was agreement that the Senate is performing its legislative review function more effectively than in the past and is respecting the principle of deference to the House of Commons. Participants also noted that the new open nomination process has helped to diversify the

second chamber's membership. At the time of the round table, 44 per cent of senators were women, and 11 per cent were Indigenous.

The purpose and constitutional status of the Senate of Canada were significant points of debate at the conferences that led to Confederation in 1867. It was agreed that a primary role of the Senate would be to review legislation adopted by the House of Commons - what John A. Macdonald referred to as “sober second thought.” To that end, the Senate was accorded legislative powers equal to those of the House of Commons, with one exception: Appropriation and tax bills must be introduced in the House of Commons. Those powers remain unchanged.

The Senate was also intended to counter representation based on population, the principle behind the distribution of seats in the House of Commons. Senate seats initially were allocated on the basis of three divisions - Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick - each with 24 seats. This allocation was particularly important to political leaders of Lower Canada (as it then was), and it has been described as the key that secured the Confederation bargain.

Over time, there was a growing sense that appointing senators was not in keeping with democratic values. This eventually led to considerable support for an elected Senate, but attempts at making this change through constitutional reform - on the last occasion in the 1992 Charlottetown Accord - have not borne fruit. A second criticism concerned partisanship: Although many well-qualified Canadians were appointed to the Senate and took their responsibilities seriously, a Senate seat was often used to reward people with strong loyalty to the party in government.

In 2015, when Trudeau announced “a new, nonpartisan, merit-based process,” the rationale was described as follows:

The Independent Advisory Board will be guided by public, merit-based criteria, in order to identify Canadians who would make a significant contribution to the work of the Senate. The criteria will help ensure a high standard of integrity, collaboration, and non-partisanship in the Senate.

An initial step toward a less partisan Senate had been made in January 2014, when Trudeau said Liberal senators would no longer be part of the Liberal parliamentary caucus.

Since March 2016, Senate appointments have been proposed by the advisory board, and all candidates have come from pools of interested Canadians who applied. Virtually all the senators appointed under this process have

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joined the newly created Independent Senators Group (ISG). As of the end of January 2019, the ISG held 54 of the Senate's 105 seats. Thirty-one senators were affiliated with the Conservative Party of Canada, forming the second-largest group.

Two and a half years after the first senators were appointed under the new process, IRPP considered it was time to take stock and explore possible next steps. To that end, it held a round table in Ottawa on the theme, "Senate Renewal: Where to from Here?" The event was attended by three senators and several academics, senior federal government officials and Senate staff.

The round table was conducted according to the Chatham House rule: participants' comments were not to be reported without their agreement. Although the IRPP round table did not specifically address the question of whether the current renewal of the Senate represents progress, the sense of the discussion was that the changes underway constitute a positive development. Although senators remain appointed legislators, the second chamber's membership has been enriched and diversified through the addition of leading Canadians selected through a merit-based process.

The Senate's legislative review function is being carried out even more seriously than in the past, with significant effects on when and how ministers and senior officials relate to members in the Independent Senators Group - both individually and in informal groups that have formed.

As the process of renewal of the Senate proceeds, many questions will arise, among them the following:

What further changes are needed to the Senate's rules and other provisions (such as the Parliament of Canada Act) in order to provide a stable and fair framework for the responsibilities and resourcing of the different groups in the Senate?

Now that the ISG has a majority of Senate seats, will it become more cohesive and, in its actions, begin to resemble a party caucus? Or will divisions emerge within an even larger and more diverse ISG?

Will legislative review remain the dominant objective of the renewed Senate? Or will independent senators also devote increased attention to carrying out public policy investigations, regional representation, and protection of the rights of minorities? What are the modalities that would allow senators to carry out such functions effectively in the context of a second chamber that, it is generally agreed, should be complementary to the House of Commons?

What steps can be taken by the Senate and others to increase public understanding of the purposes and achievements of the renewal and to stimulate debate on potential further improvements?

The renewal of the Senate that is now underway has occurred within the existing constitutional framework. It reflects a widely held view that, although fundamental reform under the amending formula is not in the cards for the foreseeable future, certain improvements are needed. The new process for selecting senators has no statutory basis and could be reversed by a future government. However, according to a senior Senate official present at the round table, if partisan appointments were resumed in the short term, it would probably take a decade or so before the ISG lost its majority position in the chamber, given the anticipated retirement dates of sitting senators.

In addition to the issues discussed at the IRPP round table, there are still many unanswered questions about the longer-term viability of the Senate changes. As the renewal continues, it is to be hoped that further research and critical commentary will assess what has been achieved over the past three years and thus encourage additional adjustments to the way the Senate carries out its important role within the federal legislative process.

Rocks have climate change ripple effect

WASHINGTON DC (USA Today) - A rolling stone may gather no moss, but if it tumbles into the ocean, the seas will rise.

That's the theory U.S. Representative Mo Brooks, (Republican, Alabama), shared during a hearing of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on how technology can be used to address climate change.

While questioning Philip Duffy, president of Woods Hole Research Center, about what, in addition to climate change, might be driving rising sea levels, Brooks suggested erosion might be a factor.



Brooks said: "Every time you have that soil or rock ... deposited into the seas, that forces the sea levels to rise. Because now you've got less space in those oceans because the bottom is moving up."

"I'm pretty sure that on human time scales, those are minuscule effects," Duffy answered.

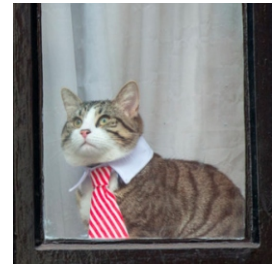
In fact, it would take the equivalent of the top five inches of land from the entire surface area of the United States to cause the oceans to rise three millimetres a year.

Julian's cat may have gone from asylum to shelter

Ecuadorian President Lenin Moreno made it clear that Julian Assange had worn out his welcome: "We've ended the asylum of this spoiled brat."

Apparently, Julian's cat may have suffered a similar fate at the hands of Ecuadorian Embassy staff in London.

The WikiLeaks founder was arrested in April after his seven-year asylum was suddenly terminated. While holed up, Assange acquired a cat named Michi, better known by its social media moniker, "Embassy Cat."



The *New Yorker* reported in 2017 that Assange's interest in the cat was less as an animal lover and more as a master of his own brand. However, the cat may have played a small role in Ecuador's decision to end Julian's asylum. Last year, the embassy imposed house rules on Assange, including a requirement that he be responsible for the "well-being, food, hygiene and proper care of your pet."

The embassy threatened to put the cat in a shelter, and that's where Michi may be in asylum right now.

Ukraine's 'Chocolate King' pasted

KIEV (Reuters) - During this spring's prolonged Ukrainian presidential election, two artists created an unflattering portrait of the losing incumbent Petro Poroshenko using sweet wrappers and bullet casings.

From Poroshenko's perspective, probably the best thing about the piece is that the artists had to use 20 kilograms (44 lb) of candies made by a confectionery firm that he owns.

Titled "Face of Corruption," the collage by Daria Marchenko and Daniel Green is full of hidden meanings.

Speaking to Reuters from Kiev, Marchenko explained that the candy wrappers symbolize empty promises made to Ukrainians since Poroshenko came to power following the ousting of pro-Russian president Viktor Yanukovich five years ago.

The portrait's background is made of bullet casings collected from Ukraine's volatile east and arranged in a pattern to resemble chocolate bars in a nod to Poroshenko's history in the confectionery business and his nickname "the Chocolate King."



Len Norris



May 30, 1973

"Rodney may lack first hand knowledge of American government scandals, but on the British one's ... he's your man."

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Where are they now?

Each issue we ask a former Member of the Legislative Assembly a series of questions. What drew them to public service; what lessons have they taken away; and, most important, what are they doing now.

This month we welcome Douglas Horne elected as a Liberal MLA in 2009 representing the riding of Coquitlam-Burke Mountain. He was the deputy speaker and served as the premier's parliamentary secretary, as well as deputy chair of the Committee of the Whole.



What prompted you to seek public office?

Like many who seek public office, I have been active in politics since my teens. I have always believed in the importance of public service and the ability to help my community. I worked in Ottawa in the 1980s in roles that included constituency work and truly got a firsthand understanding of how you can make a difference in someone's life. I remained active in politics both federally and provincially and in the 2005 provincial election, chaired Iain Black's nomination and campaign. When the riding was split in half for the 2009 election, and the search for a candidate began, it was suggested that I move from behind the scenes to being elected. I decided the opportunity and timing were right and ran unopposed for the nomination, was acclaimed, and was pleased to be the first MLA elected for Coquitlam - Burke Mountain.

Which political figure most influenced you?

In the 1980s in Ottawa, I worked for the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Honourable John Fraser. During my time in the Speaker's Office, I met with many notable leaders of the time. That said, it was Fraser who influenced me most. I was able to assist him in his efforts to protect our environment. It made my time in his office very fulfilling.

Was it hard making the transition from private life to public life?

No, support from my family and my business partners was incredible and made the transition easy. I furnished my campaign office with excess furniture from my company's office that one of my partners set up for me. My campaigns were family efforts, with huge support from both of my daughters and my wife, Larissa. Larissa even stepped in as my campaign manager for the second campaign after my original campaign manager fell ill just days after the writ was issued. It was so nice working together and spending more time together.

What was your biggest challenge returning to private life?

After losing the 2015 federal election, my transition back to private life was abrupt and unexpected. Regardless, it seemed so smooth and easy with the support of friends and family. Within weeks, I was back on track as if I had never left business and had some great opportunities in front of me.

What is the biggest lesson that has stuck with you since being an MLA?

Always remember who your true friends are.

Tell us a bit about your active or part-time professional interests.

The most exciting venture I am currently involved in is the launch of a compostable packaging material that I have financed and built a team to commercialize. It's exciting, and we are about to begin commercial production. I think it will make a real difference as it is cost-competitive with traditional materials like Styrofoam and is compostable and disposable in a green bin.

Finally ... pet projects? Hobbies? And, the value of remaining involved in the Association and OOTD.

As we all know, when you are an MLA, your colleagues quickly become like family. The association and OOTD is a great way to stay connected and up to date. In particular, I really enjoy attending the annual dinner when I can.

“The evening is very still as it should be ...”

By Jim Hume
The Old Islander

My cousin John Cook, always known as Jack, was killed a few miles out of Caen on August 26, 1944, a little more than two months after D-Day. He was 22, a year older than I and a great childhood friend. In late September 1976, I visited his grave in Normandy.

Every D-Day anniversary since, I have remembered Jack and the more than 400,000 other “Jacks” who died just to regain a beachhead in France and begin the long battle to give old Europe back its freedom.

I may be a few days or even weeks remembering this year, but I can never be too soon or too often recalling what I wrote in 1976 from his graveside. My dispatch was datelined: St. Desir, Normandy.

I remember the last time I stood this close to him.

I was 14 or 15 years old; he was a year and a bit older. We were cousins, lived a few blocks from each other, and got into more than our fair share of trouble.

They never did fully understand how the two of us could finish up fighting each other in the fifth fight of a five-round youth boxing contest. I had already won four fights on points. Jack, by luck of earlier draws, was fighting his first.

He knocked me down twice in the first round, and out in the fifth. Not just out, but out of the ring too. And then worried about me ... and solicitously walked me wavering home to sort of apologize to my mother, his mothers' sister.

On this bright Normandy day, four kilometres west of Lisieux on the road to Caen, it is all I can think about.

The birds are singing whatever it is French birds sing. A soft wind from the coast touches the low trees and shrubs. There are rows and rows of white crosses and red roses in full bloom.

One cross of the 598 in this cemetery reads “Sapper J. Cook, 5127714. Royal Engineers, Aug. 26, 1944. Age 22.”

The small grave marker carries the simple promise that his “mam and dad” and “his wife” will remember him. (Readers with ties in the English Midlands and northern counties will know that “mam” is not a typographical error.)

When I read that simple message, there's a flash of guilt because I never knew that Jack, boyhood friend, son of my Uncle Fletcher and Aunt Lucy Cook, had married. I felt I should have, that maybe I could have helped in some way ... that we should never have lost touch as we did when we left school.

I think it isn't much of a way to say “thank you” for old friendships spun apart by time and war just to place a simple spray of fresh flowers on his grave. But it is important that I do. Important, too, that I walk along these lonely rows of crosses to pay tribute to the comrades who lie with him.



St. Desir, Normandy

Young men from the Black Watch, the Seaforth Highlanders, the Royal Scots, the Fusiliers, the Royal Tank Regiment and 16 airmen from the Royal Canadian Air Force. I scribble the names of just a few: Warrant Officer Frank George Bell, New Westminster, air gunner, 22; Pilot Russ Ellesmere, North Bay, 22; John Harrison, Winnipeg, 28; Ernest Hayworth, Edmonton, navigator, 19; Norman Johnston, Vancouver, radio operator, with no age given but June 3, 1944, the day of his death, three days before D-Day.

The War Graves Cemetery at St. Desir is one of the small ones dotting Normandy's coast and plains. Just down the country lane, there's another, not much larger in acreage, but the final resting place of close to 4,000 German dead. The crosses there are of dull red sandstone; the message they carry as grim as the surroundings.

One gravestone records that beneath it lie 13 unknown German soldiers; another 10, another six, many five and none that I can see with less than four. Some carry names and ages and the ages run between 18 and 24.

The date on the vast majority - August 1944 - the other side of the Battle for Caen and the Plains of Normandy.

It had been part of my pilgrimage plan to visit cousin Jack and then continue on to the coast to stay the night at Pourville-sur-Mer, a bloody cock-stride from Dieppe. Instead, I drive a few kilometres to the tiny village of Beaumont-en-Auge.

It is quiet there, sleeping as it has slept since William the Conqueror's time. In the early afternoon, the sun has gone, and fields lie hung with mist. The evening is very still as it should be when a man needs to wander away from the battlefields of France.

A few words have been changed in this updated reprise of a 38-year old column. But not many, as I again remember D-Day and my teenage friend and cousin, whose longest day ended in some corner of a foreign field that will be forever England.

75 years ago

Operation Overlord came at a heavy cost

Germany invaded much of Western Europe in the spring of 1940 during the opening months of the Second World War. A narrow stretch of sea, the English Channel, was all that separated the surging enemy forces from Great Britain.

An Allied raid on the French coast at Dieppe in August 1942 would result in heavy losses, especially for Canadian troops, but the Allies would slowly turn the tide against the powerful enemy war machine in North Africa, Italy, on the Eastern Front, in the skies over Europe, and on the Atlantic Ocean. To win the war, however, Germany would have to be defeated on the ground in Western Europe and 1944 would be the year the Allies would strike back.

Operation Overlord began more than a year earlier. Land, sea and air forces trained extensively, and the necessary troops, ships, tanks, supplies and other equipment were steadily amassed. Misinformation was deliberately leaked to the Germans to confuse them over where the landings would actually take place.

Successfully establishing a beachhead in occupied France would be a huge challenge. The Germans had turned the coast of Europe from the Spanish border to Scandinavia into a daunting series of defensive positions studded with land mines, barbed wire, concrete bunkers, artillery batteries, machine-gun nests, anti-tank walls, and thousands of enemy troops.

Allied warplanes undertook countless missions attacking coastal defences. Despite questionable weather conditions, the Allied high command made the decision to attack on June 6, 1944, "D-Day." A massive Allied force headed for an 80-kilometre stretch of the Normandy coast. There were five landing zones assigned to the forces of different nations: Juno Beach (Canada); Gold Beach (United Kingdom); Sword Beach (United Kingdom and France); and Utah Beach and Omaha Beach (United States).

Some 7,000 naval vessels, including 284 major combat ships, took part. Destroyers and supporting craft of the Royal Canadian Navy shelled German positions and cleared sea mines in the approaches to the French beaches. Royal Canadian Air Force planes were among the 4,000 Allied bombers and 3,700 fighters and fighter bombers in action.

More than 450 members of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion jumped inland before dawn on June 6th and were the first to engage the enemy. A few hours later, 14,000 Canadian troops from the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division and



the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade would begin to come ashore at Juno Beach. Their mission was to establish a foothold along an eight-kilometre stretch of coastline fronting the villages of Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer, Bernières-sur-Mer, Courseulles-sur-Mer, and Graye-sur-Mer. Our soldiers would then push inland towards the city of Caen, an important communications and transport centre.

The Canadians successfully captured their shoreline positions at Juno Beach and penetrated the farthest inland of any of the 155,000 Allied troops who had landed. Clashes in the days that followed badly bloodied our soldiers and they repeatedly found themselves pitted against the elite 12th SS Panzer Division, manned by fanatical troops under the command of ruthless and experienced German officers.

With an American breakout against weakening German troops in western Normandy coming in early August, the stiff enemy defences in France finally began to collapse. On August 25, 1944, Paris was liberated by the Allies.

Victory in the Battle of Normandy came at a terrible cost. The Canadians suffered the highest casualties of any divisions in the British Army Group during the campaign. Some 359 Canadian soldiers were killed on D-Day alone, and a total of more than 5,000 of our men would die during the two-and-a-half-months of fighting in Normandy.

(Editor's note: The Canada Remembers Program of Veterans Affairs Canada encourages all Canadians to learn about the sacrifices and achievements made by those who have served and continue to serve during times of war and peace.)