

Oh, those hurdles in the run-up to Sept. 20

By Brian Kieran

With the Sept. 20th election looming, there was no shortage of federal political naval gazing in the days immediately following the Tories' stunning victory in the Nova Scotia provincial election in mid-August.

As we were going to press, two aspects of the East Coast vote intrigued me: Wonky polling projections and Nova Scotia voters' seeming indifference to their former Liberal government's laudatory pandemic-fighting performance. If polling on the eve of the vote had been even remotely accurate, there was no way the Progressive Conservatives could deny the Liberals a third majority.

I have always counted on 338Canada.com for its polling veracity. I appreciate that, with the decline of landlines and the proliferation of cell phones, the efficacy of traditional polling has been challenged. That said, 338Canada.com has been most reliable, basing its projections on sound statistical analysis of multiple opinion polls, electoral history and demographic data.

Hours before the Nova Scotia polls opened, 338Canada.com had the Libs dominating the PCs and NDP 39 per cent to 35 and 21 per cent respectively. Its seat projection was Libs, 29 (a majority), PCs 19, NDP seven – nowhere close to the outcome, PCs 31, Libs 17, NDP six and Independent one.

Like many of you, I find election period polling to be irresistible. However, this is not the first time the pollsters have failed miserably to get it right. Remember 2013? The unexpected Liberal victory here in BC left many pundits wondering how all the pollsters could have gotten it so wrong.

Former premier Christy Clark wasn't surprised: "The polls do not tell us how people are going to vote. Because voting day is the only day that they vote. You guys (the media) get this stuff for free, and you should take it for what it's worth ... elections are unpredictable things."



Left to right: Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau, Conservative Party of Canada Leader Erin O'Toole, NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh, Bloc Québécois Leader Yves-François Blanchet and Green Party Leader Annamie Paul.

But, this is the pandemic, and during it, every provincial election, including BC's last year, has returned the steady-as-it-goes incumbent government. Not so Aug. 17th. In his victory speech, Nova Scotia premier-elect Tim Houston said the public decided against simply rewarding the Liberals for competently handling the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Regardless of what the polls may say, what we know is that if you provide real solutions to real problems, then the voters will pay attention," Houston said.

Will the federal Liberals suffer a similar fate to the Nova Scotian Liberals? As you will read on Page 7, the broader, larger-than-COVID-19 issues of climate change and health care are top of mind in the federal election campaign. Nationally, COVID-19 is well down the list of voter priorities, in fifth place.

Could the larger issues of climate change and health care coupled with the fractious debate around mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations erase much of the banked pandemic-fighting currency the Liberals hope to cash in on in the run-up to Sept. 20?

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:

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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.

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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.

Thank You and Miscellany

Thank you to those of you who, when sending in your Member dues or subscription renewals, added a donation to help cover production costs for the newsletter.

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John Cashore, Coquitlam

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From the Editor's Desk

In this issue, we say farewell to two fine former MLAs, Allan Warnke and Gerry Strongman. Both served briefly in the Legislature, Allan from 1991 to 1996 and Gerry from 1975 to 1979. And, they both left lasting impressions on society in British Columbia ... Allan in academia at Vancouver Island University and Gerry in commerce and philanthropy in Greater Vancouver and across the country. Their tributes can be found on Pages 4 and 5.

It was great to hear from Tony Brummet, who has overcome significant health challenges to maintain his quality of life on the links; our just-retired AFMLABC president Dave Hayer, thankful for all the support he received on the board as he makes a bid to return to public service as a potential Conservative MP for Fleetwood-Port Kells; and MLA Lorne Doerkson (Cariboo-Chilcotin) who is so grateful that folks are supporting local business as we fight our way out of the pandemic. Their letters start on Page 10.

I also want to thank Legislature staffers David Nicholls, Karen Aitken and Matthew Creswick for keeping us updated on several parliamentary public outreach programs. Their news starts on Page 13.

Our association's new president, John Les, plans to chair his first AGM on Saturday, Oct. 2nd at 1 p.m. For one more year, this will have to be a virtual pandemic-proof gathering via Zoom. Before mid-September I will post the details for joining the AGM via Zoom on our website in the "News & Events" section. The web address is www.formerbcmla.com/.

Finally, our deadline for OOTD submissions and letters is usually the 20th of the month. In September, it will be extended to the 25th in case some readers want to weigh in on the results of the federal election on the 20th. Would be great to get your feedback.



*A great planning lunch in the Legislature Dining Room in August.
Left to right: OOTD layout and production master Rob Lee, editor Brian Kieran, AFMLABC President John Les and Past-President Jeff Bray.*

The President's Report

Hello everyone.

The summer of 2021 has indeed been an interesting time! Record heat, forest fires and the ongoing challenge of COVID-19 have certainly dominated the daily news. We think especially of the people of Lytton, Monte Creek and other places who have been so devastatingly impacted by wildfires.

After the untimely passing of President Ian Waddell, Dave Hayer took up the mantle of president of the AFMLABC. However, he has decided to once again scratch his political itch by running in the federal election! We wish him well in his latest endeavour.

As a result, Dave tendered his resignation to the board, which meant that I moved up from vice-president to assume the role of president. This all seems like a bit of a whirlwind to me, but with the help of fellow board members, our OOTD staff and members at large, I'm sure we can continue to build on the legacies of those who've guided the affairs of this Association to date.

As we look around, the world still seems to be in an unsettled state, what with COVID-19 taking us on for a

fourth round. Who would have thought, back in March of 2020, dealing with this challenge was going to be a marathon as opposed to a sprint? One shudders to think of the long-term fiscal and economic consequences.

As a British Columbian, I am particularly proud of the work done by Dr. Bonnie Henry in leading the BC response to the COVID-19 challenge. Her poise and professionalism have been outstanding. Our frontline medical personnel also have done outstanding work and deserve special recognition.

Let's all help the effort to combat COVID-19 by encouraging everyone we know to get vaccinated. The sooner we're all immune, the sooner we can all get back to normal routines and social interactions, even though we may have to live with COVID-19 for some time. Each of us has an opportunity to be part of the solution.

John Les
President, AFMLABC



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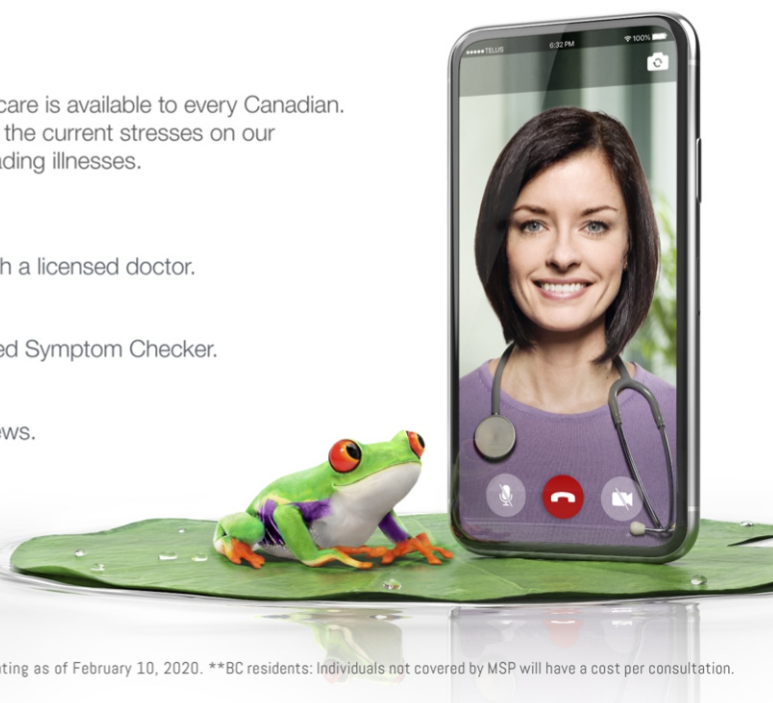
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Socred stalwart, philanthropist, fearless entrepreneur

Former Socred MLA Gerry Strongman (Vancouver South, 1975 – 1979) recently passed away peacefully at his North Vancouver home surrounded by his family.

Born and raised in Bloor West Village in Toronto, Gerry's early years were shaped by the experiences of growing up in a close-knit, hard-working family. An only child and direct descendant of the Strongman farming family who immigrated from England in 1865, Gerry's grandfather and great grandfather continued the farming tradition for generations.

In 1963, Gerry met Judy, and the two were married at St. Hillary's Anglican Church, Mississauga. The couple moved to Vancouver in 1967 with son Marc and daughters Seanna and Nicole soon coming along.

By 1970, his company, Tonecraft Paint and Varnish, had evolved into a national brand under the name Color Your World, with stores and associated real estate holdings in every major Canadian city. While the highly successful paint and wallpaper chain changed hands in the mid-1980s, Gerry's refined business acumen and seemingly tireless ability to reinvent himself eventually evolved into the Strongman Group Inc., led jointly by him and Marc.

Gerry never lost sight of what he cared about most or the trust he placed in his family and his closest and most valued advisors despite taxing demands associated with running a national real estate investment and management company.

A fearless pioneer and entrepreneur, Gerry remained humbly civic-minded. He cared deeply about the North Shore and earned the respect of colleagues and citizens alike through his ability to envision a strong community future and uncommon willingness to work harder than anyone else at the table to get there.

Gerry was elected to the Legislature for the riding of Vancouver South, where from 1975 – 1979, he held a prominent position with the Social Credit Party.

As Chairman of BC Financial and the World Business Council (BC Chapter), Director of the Whistler Land Corporation, Progressive Conservative Canada Fund, and BC Pavilion during Expo '86, Gerry's longstanding commitment to community ventures speaks for itself. This commitment was also realized by the establishment of the Seanna and Nicole Memorial Fund that provides financial awards to two students from each high school in North Vancouver. Seanna and Nicole died in 1982.



Over the past years, Gerry and Judy developed and sponsored numerous funds and charities benefiting health and education sectors on the North Shore and in their beloved second home in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Arguably one of the Lower Mainland's most committed and loyal philanthropists, Gerry insisted that all aspects of the Strongman Group would remain family-focused and that the beneficiaries of their efforts and successes would be those who earned and embodied family values of citizenship, leadership, and excellence in arts, culture, athletics and scholarship.

Gerry was a voracious reader, an avid golfer and supporter of the Vancouver Club, and a member of Capilano and Mississauga Golf Clubs. He loved skiing, basketball and running. A gracious host and generous mentor, Gerry's unassuming care and commitment to the needs of others was largely unspoken. He was action-oriented and undeniably intentional in all that he did, including saving his wisdom for those he cared for the most. He showed unfaltering love for and devotion to his family. His legacy, which is admittedly challenging to capture in mere words, is of a husband, father, grandfather, partner and friend who was the foundation of all things good, all things just, all things possible, and all things for which he would accept no credit.

Gerry is survived by his life-long love, partner and wife of 58 years, Judy, by his son, Marc (Kerry), and his three grandchildren, Alexandra, Bailey and Liam.

A political scientist in the classroom and on the street

Allan Warnke – political scientist, former Richmond-Steveston MLA and a member of Gordon Wilson's Liberal "Class of '91" – passed away earlier this summer.

Warnke represented the Richmond-Steveston riding for the BC Liberals from 1991 to 1996.

There were 17 Liberal MLAs elected in 1991 as the Social Credit Party unravelled and the NDP claimed a majority behind Mike Harcourt. In opposition, Warnke was the Official Opposition Critic for Aboriginal Affairs.

Warnke once told his Vancouver Island University (VIU) colleague Alexander Netherton that being an elected parliamentarian was the greatest honour of his life. "His second great honour was to carry the mace at the VIU graduation at the end of his final term," Netherton told OOTD.

Warnke's political science affiliation with VIU spanned two decades. Netherton, who is a Professor of Political Studies, worked with Allan.

"Allan Warnke was a popular and insightful instructor and colleague," Netherton says. "He undertook his graduate work at the University of Toronto, where he began a lifelong interest in international and domestic law."

In the political arena, Warnke was left-leaning. "When Gordon Campbell became the BC Liberal leader, and the party began its transition to the right, Warnke jumped ship and ran unsuccessfully for the anti-globalization Canadian Action Party (CAP) in the 2000 and 2004 elections. The CAP was not politically successful, and Allan then returned to academics, finding work in the Department of Political Studies at Vancouver Island University," Netherton says.

"It became clear that teaching politics was not simply a second path for Allan, but rather a calling. Allan was always well-read and continually participated in the Northwest Political Science Association conferences. His years of practical political experience, coupled with his academic talent and remarkable capacity for narration made him a hit lecturer. His commitment to students won him great respect.

"His students and colleagues will remember his patience, gentle wit, his non-judgemental Socratic style and generosity with his time, as well as his ability to tell a story."



Allan and Doug Symons catch up at a "Class of '91" reunion at Dario's at the Italian Cultural Centre in January 2020.

Warnke grew up as an only child with parents who had moved from Alberta to Hope. Allan and his wife, Geraldine, travelled extensively, making yearly trips to conferences from Dubai to Los Angeles. Geraldine predeceased Alan in 2018. Her favourite destination was southern California, especially the many times she and Allan stayed at the Beverly Hilton with a poolside suite and lunch nearby at the Polo Lounge.

Warnke recently told OOTD: "In 1989, a candidate search committee for the Liberals approached me at my home in Richmond and asked me to run in the next provincial election. I declined as I had just accepted a position as Department Chair at Vancouver Island University. I was approached again a year later and was acclaimed as the Liberal candidate for the 1991 election.

"I was interested in politics in my early years. I met Tommy Douglas in Langley, and he recognized my grandmother. He beamed and said: 'Agnes! How are you?' Until that moment, I never knew her first name. Later, in Toronto, I supported and got to know John Roberts and Bob Kaplan very well. My mentor was Brian Bailey of Thornhill (a former Reeve), the best campaigner anywhere, respected even by the Conservatives.

"Through the years, I learned that despite the adversarial nature of the legislature, those facing you are not enemies," Warnke said. "I loved campaigning but also understood government organization and legislative procedure. And I found the role of a policy advocate very rewarding."

Canada's economic future generates hope, anxiety

The coming years will present challenges and opportunities for whichever party forms government on Sept. 20th. After the largest financial crisis since the Great Depression, the nation's mood, with a fourth pandemic wave surging, is still largely apprehensive.

Three-in-five Canadians (58 per cent) tell Angus Reid Institute researchers they are more anxious than hopeful about what the next couple of years will bring, while two-in-five (42 per cent) are more upbeat.

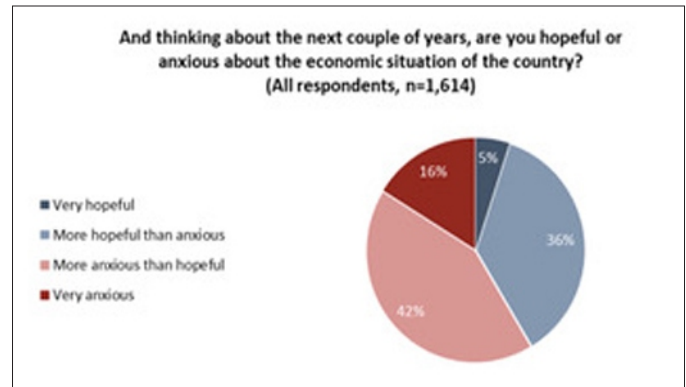
Notably, Canadians are remarkably consistent across age and gender demographics when considering the hope versus anxiety question. Those over the age of 54 show a slightly more optimistic lean, but all predominantly voice the same level of anxiety about their country's economic prospects.

Regionally, Ontario residents lead the nation in the hope for economic recovery, but not significantly. Just under half (46 per cent) in Canada's most populous province feel this way. Albertans are most anxious, though many would likely be buoyed by a Conservative victory on Sept. 20th.

Those who say they will support the incumbent Liberals are noticeably more buoyant about the nation's economic circumstances. This group is the only one for which hopefulness is the majority view.

If this were a campaign entirely centred on post-pandemic economic growth, Conservative leader Erin O'Toole would be in a relatively advantageous position. Two-in-five (41 per cent) believe he and his party would be best suited to help the economy rebound from its COVID-19-induced malaise, while Justin Trudeau and the Liberals are at 36 per cent.

The Conservatives have been more concrete about their economic plans than the Liberals in the campaign's early days. O'Toole's party has promised to recover the one million jobs lost since the beginning of the pandemic within one year. To do so, a Conservative government will pay half of new hires' salaries for six months after the end of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, as well as providing tax credits and loans to small- and medium-sized businesses. The Liberals have said they will continue current COVID-19 business supports until March 2022 while also promising to subsidize wages and rent in the tourism industry.



One-in-five say Jagmeet Singh and the NDP would be best to lead the country's rebuild over the coming years. Singh has most prominently announced a wealth tax of one per cent on Canadians whose worth exceeds \$10 million to help fund the recovery.

With the campaign well into Week Two (at OOTD presstime), the Angus Reid Institute found the Liberals in a statistical tie with the Conservatives (33 per cent versus 31 per cent respectively).

While CPC leader Erin O'Toole has been on the job for a full year, the campaign has been one of the first focused opportunities many voters have had to assess him, especially as the party released its platform on Aug. 16th. The result: a 13-point increase in the number of people who say their opinion of him improved compared to the first week of the campaign. The data also show, however, that O'Toole has a long way to go to win over the electorate. Despite recent improvement, more Canadians still view him unfavourably (59 per cent) than favourably (32 per cent).

By contrast, NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh had not only picked up momentum among voters with 22 per cent saying their opinion of him had improved, but he was also viewed favourably by more than half the electorate (54 per cent). The news was less encouraging for the man who triggered this election. Opinions of Trudeau had deteriorated far more than they had improved with more Canadians viewing him unfavourably (59 per cent) than favourably (32 per cent).

As the campaign progressed, the gap had been narrowing between the two parties most likely to win the most seats in the House of Commons, with a three-point decline for the Liberals and a meagre one-point increase for the CPC. The NDP picked up two points.

Top issues for voters mirror concerns back in 2019

Canada and the world have faced a year and a half of economic, social, and health challenges due to COVID-19. But, as Canadians prepare to go to the polls on Sept. 20th to decide who will lead them out of the pandemic and into a new, uncertain reality, many of their top priorities look staggeringly similar to those they identified in 2019.

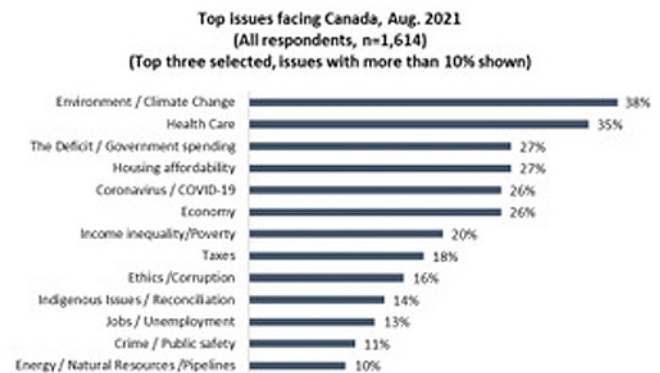
As the 2021 campaign kicked off, Canadians told Angus Reid Institute researchers that climate change and health care were the top two issues facing the country. These two issues were most galvanizing in 2019. A new pandemic addition, COVID-19 response, was chosen by 26 per cent of Canadians as their top national concern. Despite the pandemic, it is climate change that has intensified in the minds of voters over the last two years.

As COVID-19 concern has diminished compared to the beginning of the year, worry about climate change has risen in its wake. Summer wildfires across the country have elevated these levels of concern to their highest mark of the year. Meantime, while the priority for Indigenous issues rose precipitously after the confirmation of unmarked graves at former residential school sites early in summer, levels of concern have declined.

For most voters, climate change is paramount among those who currently say they will support the Liberal Party, the NDP or the Bloc Quebecois. That said, the federal deficit is now a top issue for both Conservative and BQ supporters as all parties lay out their plans for economic recovery.

Nationally, 38 per cent of voters place climate change at the top of their list of concerns; health care is next at 35 per cent. As you can see in the graph on this page, fifth down the list is the COVID-19 response at 26 per cent, behind managing the deficit (27 per cent) and housing affordability (27 per cent). Concern about COVID-19 is tied with concern about the economy.

Liberal supporters rank COVID-19 much higher as an issue than the prospective voters of other parties. A plurality of those personally concerned with getting sick with COVID-19 say they intend to vote Liberal in



an upcoming election (45 per cent). That's true of only one-quarter (26 per cent) of those who say they aren't worried about getting COVID-19. Inversely, a plurality of those who aren't worried about getting sick from COVID-19 intend to vote Conservative (39 per cent), compared to less than one-quarter (23 per cent) who are worried about COVID-19 infection who say the same.

The Green Party of Canada won three seats in the 2019 election — the party's most ever — while picking up their second-highest percentage (6.6 per cent) of the popular vote (they garnered 6.8 per cent of the popular vote in 2008 but won no seats). This year, however, has been defined by continuous internal upheaval between Elizabeth May-era party stalwarts and embattled leader Annamie Paul.

The Liberals appear to be the landing spot for Green Party refugees. Over two-in-five (43 per cent) people who said they voted Green in 2019 say they intend to vote Liberal in an upcoming election. Only one-in-five say they'll stick with the Greens despite their recent troubles. For the other major parties, at least three-quarters of leaning and decided voters say they're sticking with the party they voted for in 2019.

The above voter continuity lines up well with commitment. Over three-quarters (77 per cent) of leaning and decided voters say they are "very" or "fairly" committed to their party choice. Conservative voters are the most committed; nearly half (48 per cent) say they will definitely vote for Erin O'Toole and his party in the upcoming election.

Doctor Bonnie and Andrew Petter get the Order of BC

BC's top doc Bonnie Henry and former Simon Fraser University president and 1990s-era cabinet minister Andrew Petter were among 16 citizens appointed to the Order of British Columbia in August.

Lt. Gov. Janet Austin announced the latest recipients of the province's highest honour on BC Day.

"Their extraordinary leadership has been a source of strength for communities across the province," said Austin. "In difficult times, they have connected us through art, culture, public service and more. As we move with optimism toward the future, their achievements will be a foundation of success for future generations."



Sharing the Order of BC with Dr. Bonnie and Andrew were another 14 citizens:

- Chief Joe Alphonse, Tsilhqot'in Nation
- Joe Average, Vancouver, artist who has raised awareness about what it's like to live with HIV/AIDS
- Brenda Baptise, Osoyoos, co-ordinated opening of Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre; led cultural events programs for inmates
- Frances Belzberg, Vancouver, philanthropist, championed health care, medical research and education
- Dr. Debra Braithwaite, Victoria, community physician at Victoria Hospice, focused on caring for people at end of life
- Ajay Dilawri, Vancouver, entrepreneur, founder with brothers Kap and Tony of Dilawri Group, largest automotive group in Canada
- Debra Doucette, District of North Vancouver, president and CEO of investment firm Odium Brown; works to promote gender equality in the finance industry
- Carol A. Lee, Vancouver, chair of Vancouver Chinatown Foundation, which she founded; working to revitalize Vancouver's Chinatown
- Dr. James McEwen, Vancouver, biomedical engineer, inventor, entrepreneur, philanthropist; invented automatic surgical tourniquet
- Dr. Dolph Schluter, Vancouver, top authority on the role ecology plays in the origin and divergence of new species
- Dr. Paul Sorensen, Vancouver, professor of pathology at UBC, focused his work on understanding biologic underpinnings of childhood cancers
- Arran and Ratana Stephens, Vancouver, co-founders and co-owners of Nature's Path, a leader in organic food manufacturing and distribution
- Marvin Storrow, Vancouver, lawyer who has led several milestone cases, especially involving First Nations

"Each one of this year's Order of British Columbia recipients has made tremendous contributions to their communities," said Premier John Horgan in the statement. "I want to extend my congratulations and honour them for their leadership and dedication as community leaders."

A total of 257 British Columbians were nominated for the Order this year.

Since its inception, 475 British Columbians have been appointed to the Order. Members come from all regions of the province and are appointed roughly in proportion to each region's population.

Government taps Andrew Petter for Innovate BC

Earlier this year, Andrew Petter was tapped by government to take over as Chair of Innovate BC, the Crown agency responsible for shepherding growth in BC's tech sector.

The appointment sees Innovate BC maintaining continuity in terms of the board leadership's background. Petter takes over from Alan Shaver, who had previously served as president of Thompson Rivers University until taking on the role of chair at the Crown agency in 2018.

"Innovation is key to everything. It's not just a sector issue; it's an issue that cuts across the whole economy of the province. Innovate BC has several roles to play in supporting startups and supporting the tech sector, as well as helping to facilitate investment in advising governments and in supporting innovation," said Petter, a lawyer by trade who maintains a professorship at SFU's School of Public Policy.

He said some of the top priorities facing the province's tech sector include attracting talent, scaling startups into larger firms and then retaining those anchor companies so that "they can see a future in British Columbia and not simply be acquired and taken offshore."

"If we can knit together some of the capacities we have in our universities, in our business community and amongst the startup community ... we can make real headway."

While Petter said he appreciated having a six-month break after departing as SFU's president and vice-chancellor back in

September 2020, he felt a responsibility to contribute after the pandemic threw BC for a loop.

"We know that a lot of people have been displaced in terms of employment because of COVID-19, so there's a huge opportunity there through retraining and upskilling," he said.

Before his time at the University of Victoria and Simon Fraser University, Petter served as the province's Attorney General and Minister of Advanced Education, Training and Technology for the NDP government of the 1990s and early 2000s.

"That definitely helps him to be well-positioned to understand how government works, how our decision-making works. But his experiences over the last 15 years in academia and working with the business community well-position him for helping us in our future plans," Innovation Minister Ravi Kahlon said.

The chair is appointed at the discretion of the innovation minister, and Kahlon said he did not consider other candidates before reaching out to Petter.

"He is an innovator, he thinks out of the box, and he's built fantastic relationships in academia, the business community and the tech community," Kahlon said.

Innovate BC's last significant leadership change came in 2019 when former Accelerate Okanagan Technology Association CEO Raghwa Gopal took over as president and CEO.

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Letters

Tony still swinging from the seat of his Solorider

By Tony Brummet

I retired as MLA for North Peace River in 1991 and settled in Osoyoos, where I quickly became involved in several local organizations: The art gallery, the curling club, the golf club, the local hospice society, the museum society and the heritage committee. Over the years, I gradually reduced these involvements. Now I remain only a member of the Osoyoos Museum Society, in which I have been granted an honorary lifetime membership.

When I settled here in 1991, I took up golf as a member of the Osoyoos Golf Club and golfed every year until 2020, when I lost the use of my legs due to an incurable medical condition. I am confined to a wheelchair and a catheter, but I can live in my home thanks to my 83-year-old loving wife, Lois, a professional nurse who can look after all my needs.

Like Jim Hume, I have survived a couple of “best before dates” and reached my 90th birthday in March of this year.

With no ability to stand, I was not able to continue golfing. I had tried for many years to convince any golf club to provide a specialized golf cart that could accommodate a paraplegic golfer and allow access to the golf course. When no club was willing to do that, my family chipped in and bought me a Solorider electric cart that enables me to golf from a sitting position.

With my problem solved, I am now able to play a modified game of golf. It works for me, but I am continuing to lobby in hopes some golf club will act to enable any paraplegic golfer to access its course.

(Tony Brummet was the Social Credit MLA for North Peace River, 1979-1991.)



Letters

Dear directors, executive and committee members of AFMLABC:

It is with a sad heart that I announce my resignation as the President of the Association of Former MLAs of BC. I am running as a candidate in the next federal election. It was announced in the media on July 19th that I was acclaimed as the official candidate by the Conservative Party of Canada for the Fleetwood-Port Kells riding, the district where I served as the MLA from 2001 to 2013. Since 2015, Fleetwood-Port Kells was represented by Ken Hardie, the Liberal MP, and before 2015 it was represented by MP Neena Grewal of the Conservative Party of Canada for four terms.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all the directors, executive and committee members, Brian Kieran and Rob Lee, who have helped and supported me as the AFMLABC's Vice President since 2018 and President since March 16th, 2021. Without your help and support, I would not have been able to do that work. Without Brian's, Rob's and other volunteers' dedicated work, we would not have been able to publish the exceptional Orders of the Day magazine.

To make a smooth transfer of responsibility to a new AFMLABC president, I have asked John Les to serve as president from his vice-president's role and director Diane Thorne to become vice-president – subject to official approval from the board of directors.

On May 31st, the Honourable Raj Chouhan, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Chair of Legislative Assembly Management Committee, mailed us a letter informing us that LAMC had considered a request from former president Ian Waddell for office space in the Parliament Buildings as well as an annual operating budget. However, the subcommittee of LAMC decided neither request could be accommodated. The Speaker is willing to consider providing the AFMLABC with a one-time



grant funding of up to \$5,000 in the current fiscal year. John Les and Diane Thorpe will send a jointly-signed letter to the Speaker to request the grant funding of \$5,000 as the previous speakers have already approved \$5,000. I believe that in the long term, with a proper business case, we can get more funding from LAMC.

Again, thank you to all the Executives, Directors, Members, and a special thank you to Clerk Kate Ryan-Lloyd, Karen Armstrong, Hon. Raj Chouhan, Jeff Bray, Penny Priddy, John Les, Bruce Strachan, Patrick Wong, Harry Bloy, Dianne Thorpe, Tim Stevenson, Ken Jones, Ida Chong, Joan Barton, Ian Izard, Brian Kieran, Rob Lee, Irwin Henderson, John Reynolds and Donna Hains for their commitment to our association and work throughout the year.

Stay safe and stay healthy!
Sincerely,
Dave S. Hayer

Letters

Thanks everyone, for supporting local business

By MLA Lorne Doerkson

Canada Day this year was certainly placed in a different context following the discovery of unmarked graves at residential schools in BC and Saskatchewan.

I believe the public wants these sites fully investigated, but we must keep in mind that they may be just the beginning of the discovery of many more unmarked sites.

With respect to the pandemic, as we inevitably move toward public gatherings and see our restaurants and gyms get back to business, I want to thank everyone who has helped support our local business owners.

I have heard about generous tips floated across the counter for take-out, and I have watched our residents show the true colours of the Cariboo-Chilcotin as the businesses have done everything in their power to keep patrons safe.

I can tell you that business owners very much appreciate the customer support they are receiving, and they want to thank everyone for their patience in adapting to all the restrictions.

It's been a real struggle for business owners, and it's nice to see the light at the end of the tunnel finally.

As a matter of fact, economic recovery was the topic of a recent tailgate event hosted by the Williams Lake and District Chamber of Commerce.

Stampede Royalty and Williams Lake Willy were expected to be on hand with the Canadian Mental Health Association selling hot dogs and burgers for a fundraiser.

As we begin to emerge from the pandemic, many more events are going to pop up soon.

As near as we are to the restart of our local economy, it is important to note that restaurant and tourism operations that are used to receiving clientele from all over the world are having the toughest time of all.

So, please continue to do everything you to help support one another.

Cariboo-Chilcotin is known for this, and that's why it is the greatest place on earth to be, and these challenging times have brought out the best in all of us.



(Lorne Doerkson was first elected as MLA for Cariboo-Chilcotin in 2020. He currently serves as the Official Opposition Critic for Rural Development.)



BRITISH COLUMBIANS BENEFIT FROM PERSONAL SERVICE

As B.C. continues to grow, so does the demand for personalized service. That's why there are offices in virtually every community, with over 15,000 insurance brokers province-wide, ready to serve. Brokers provide families with advice and better coverage for their homes, vehicles and businesses.

Working together in the community, brokers help families by providing information about safety, emergency preparedness and other local issues.

For more on insurance brokers and the benefits they provide to B.C. families go to bcbroker.ca.

HELPING WHEN LIFE CHANGES



Discover Your Legislature: A public learning resource

By Matthew Creswick

Initially launched in 2002 as an interactive flash file containing detailed information on the Legislative Assembly and the Parliament Buildings, Discover Your Legislature has had all its former contents updated and transitioned to a new, mobile-friendly website.

This new website hosts an array of information designed to provide the public with a comprehensive overview of all things related to the Legislative Assembly.

Discover Your Legislature is divided into four sections that cover the main features of the Legislative Assembly and the Parliament Buildings. They are:

Purpose – Introduces BC's constitutional framework, summarizes the role of the Legislative Assembly as a democratic institution, and explains the complexities of parliamentary practices and procedures, all in simple language.

People – Provides an overview of the different responsibilities that MLAs have in the Assembly (whether they be in the government or opposition caucuses or sitting as a presiding officer) as well as the roles of the Lieutenant Governor, the Clerk, the Sergeant-at-Arms, and the province's statutory officers.

Place – Explores the construction of the Parliament Buildings and the unique architecture, artwork, and monuments that can be found both inside and outside the buildings, including areas rarely seen by the public.

History – Offers a historical timeline of the development of the Province of British Columbia in relation to the Legislative Assembly and our parliamentary democracy.

The objective of Discover Your Legislature is to serve as both a starting point and reference for those curious about the Legislative Assembly and its role in British Columbia's system of governance. By transitioning Discover Your Legislature to a more accessible web-based format and updating its contents to accurately reflect the times we live in, this website supports the public in learning about parliamentary democracy in British Columbia, whether at home or in the classroom.

The Legislative Assembly and its parliamentary practices are always evolving to better meet the needs of British Columbians. Likewise, Discover Your Legislature will continue to evolve, thus ensuring that educational information on the Legislative Assembly remains accessible and up to date for all.

To visit Discover Your Legislature, go to <https://www.leg.bc.ca/dyl>. Alternatively, Discover Your Legislature can be accessed, along with other learning resources, through the [Legislative Assembly website](#).



5,000 visitors tour the Legislature in first reopening month

The Parliament Buildings reopened for guided tours on Friday, July 2nd, after being closed for the past year and a half. Tour staff had been offering outdoor tours of the Legislative Grounds to start the summer but were happy to make the move back inside. Although group sizes have been limited to allow for proper social distancing, we did manage to get more than 5,000 visitors through the Parliament Buildings in July. Indoor tours are free and are being offered seven days a week until Labour Day. Please feel free to join us!

Relaunching Virtual Speaker in the Schools program

By Karen L. Aitken

Director of Parliamentary Education Office

In February 2021, the Honourable Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Raj Chouhan, relaunched the Speaker in the Schools program, but with a virtual twist. During the Spring 2021 session, students in four schools participated online with Mr. Speaker to learn about his role in parliamentary democracy in British Columbia. In preparation for the virtual visit, classes receive a formal invitation and a tip sheet on how to make the most out of this opportunity.

Grade 7/8 students in Ms. Cumberland's class at Holy Cross School in Penticton, along with Ms. Cacchioni's Grade 4 class as onlookers, met virtually with Mr. Speaker in late February and posed many great questions to learn more about his experience and observations of many years in the Speaker's Chair.

Although a new Speaker, officially as of September 7, 2020, Mr. Speaker previously held the roles of Deputy Speaker (2017-2020) and Assistant Deputy Speaker (2013-2017). After a short introduction to the Legislature, the students posed more than 10 questions to Mr. Speaker ranging from his favourite part of the job to why he wanted to become an MLA in the first place.

In early March, Mr. Speaker spent time with Ms. Barberis' Grade 12 law class at Walnut Grove Secondary School in Langley. These students also asked excellent questions

ranging from what it's like to be responsible for discipline in the Chamber to how has the work of the House changed with COVID-19?

In April, Mr. Boone and his Grade 10 social studies students at Bulkley Valley Christian School enjoyed asking 20 questions. Topics ranged from Mr. Speaker's immigration experience to if he ever worries about making the wrong call in the Chamber.

The final session was with Ms. Jones' Grade 9 social studies French immersion students at Reynolds Secondary School in Victoria. They were keen to learn who was the best MLA, what does Mr. Speaker do for coverage if he is off sick and what's with that tricorn hat anyways?

In each session, the students brought thoughtful questions to Mr. Speaker. He answered them with passion for his role as both the Speaker and an MLA representing his constituents of Burnaby-Edmonds.

Mr. Speaker encouraged the students to make the most out of their education and treasure opportunities to learn. And the students were pleased with comments such as: "I liked how he really thought about his answers; they weren't fabricated" and "His answers were easy to understand, like he was used to talking to teenagers."

All in all, a fabulous start to the relaunching of this valuable Speaker in the Schools program! We look forward to more virtual sessions this fall. For teachers wishing to request a booking, simply email PEO@leg.bc.ca.

Please donate to the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund

The Association of Former MLAs of BC looks forward to your donations to the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund to assist members of the Youth Parliament of BC. The fund is managed by the Victoria Foundation.

By phone: Call 250-381-5532 to make a donation by credit card directly.

By cheque: To the Victoria Foundation, #200 - 703 Broughton Street, Victoria, B.C., V8N 1E2. Cheque payable to The Victoria Foundation. Note the name of the fund in the memo line or in a cover letter.

Online: Go to www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca. Click on "Giving" in the navigation bar and then on "Make a Donation." After that just follow the prompts to find the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund.

If you have any questions about how to make a donation to the Victoria Foundation, please contact Sara Neely, Director of Philanthropic Services, at 250-381-5532 or sneely@victoriafoundation.bc.ca

Giuliani: From 9/11 hero to national disgrace

By Jim Hume
The Old Islander

In a few days, TV viewers will be reminded of America's great disaster, a day remembered best by two numbers, 9 and 11 – the 11th day of the 9th month – when 19 young jihadi warriors joined in rebellious suicidal cause hijacked four large commercial aircraft and ended the lives of 2,996 people in one cataclysmic New York air raid. They believed, as do most people fighting a war, their cause was just.

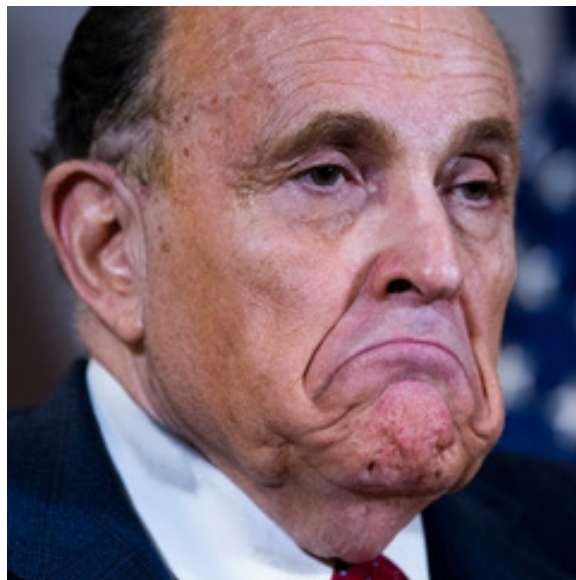
It was an event recorded on live television and viewed with hypnotic fascination by multi-millions as three huge jetliners held steady courses to their targets. One struck the heart of the USA military – the Pentagon – leaving 125 dead in the wreckage. The other two were locked firmly on course – one for the South Tower of the World Trade Centre, the other for the North Tower in the business heart of the city.

A fourth hijacked airliner, believed to be headed for the White House or the Presidential Retreat known as Camp David, crashed with the loss of seven crew and 33 passengers in a meadow near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. A group of passengers had fought the hijackers until final impact. The crash site is now a state memorial park – a place set aside for peaceful meditation.

All four aircraft had been carefully selected as routine transcontinental flights loaded with high octane aviation fuel ... in effect, huge flying bombs. Both towers were ablaze as they collapsed. Among the close to 3,000 dead were 343 firemen and paramedics, 23 New York City police officers and 37 NY Port Authority police and rescue workers.

Amid the more dramatic shots in the late afternoon was the moving image of New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, covered in thick dust from the still collapsing towers. He was walking through the wreckage, calm and confident, a reassuring example for the men and women putting their lives on the line in the ever-shifting mountain of concrete and twisted steel.

World leaders viewing the scene were as impressed by Mayor Giuliani's calm, with his head high in the face of disaster, as were his fellow countrymen. England's Queen Elizabeth II gave him an honorary knighthood.



On home soil, he was awarded the Ronald Reagan Freedom Award created by the former president and regarded by many as one of the highest awards the USA can offer a private citizen. Other countries offered similar tributes.

For a while, Mayor Giuliani stayed high profile until his term as mayor ended. He regained the spotlight briefly when he dabbled with the idea of running for president but discovered that 9/11 adulation did not extend to the White House.

So, he faded from high profile until the arrival of one Donald Trump, the man who would be king. Giuliani became a member of the Trump team of conspiracy freaks and an active participant in imaginary plots and fertile fabrications.

He was happy to be back on television again but had become as vain as the man whose banner he now carried, whose lies he endorsed. And those who had once admired watched in dismay as one of the greatest shames of the USA was on full display – an out-of-control mob storming the home of government with death threats and violence, and Giuliani, a slack-jawed caricature of a man once praised for his calm confidence, now urging the mob to carry on. If the government wanted a fight, "let's give them one."

As we remember 9/11, let us also remember we sometimes anoint our heroes too soon.

20 years ago

Not just another day at the office for the minister

By the Hon. David Collenette
Minister of Transport in 2001

I will never forget that day in September and, I'm sure, neither will you. It began routinely enough, just like it did for most of us.

I was at the Montreal Convention Centre, speaking to the opening of a huge international conference of airport CEOs and managers from around the world.

Just after 9 o'clock, someone came up to the podium with a handwritten note about an air accident or tragedy. I wrapped up, got off the stage and only then learned that a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center in New York.

I felt immediately that this was likely an act of terrorism. I've been around in transport long enough to know that large passenger planes just don't crash into tall buildings. Even in hopeless emergencies, every pilot's instinct is to save lives.

Once the terrorist attacks were confirmed, I knew I had to get back to Ottawa to be at the hub of our country's response to this unprecedented act of terrorism.

Even before I arrived back from Montreal to Transport Canada's headquarters at Place de Ville Tower C, our Situation Centre was making critical, unprecedented decisions. With my approval, we did something no Canadian government had ever done – we essentially shut down our country's entire airspace by ordering aircraft out of the skies and not allowing any to take off. The department instructed Nav Canada to order 270 flights over the Atlantic to turn around and go back to Europe. We had Nav Canada direct another 224 flights with more than 33,000 passengers to land at Canadian airports.

Over the four days when airspace was either entirely or partially closed, Transport Canada employees literally worked around the clock to rewrite and implement new safety and security regulations so that we could allow aircraft safely into the skies again.

Meanwhile, the diverted flights that landed in communities across Canada created an unprecedented influx of passengers, particularly in smaller communities like Gander, which had never seen so many people arriving at once. The people in these communities, including Transport Canada employees, worked tirelessly to welcome the unexpected guests. They opened their homes and their hearts in a show of hospitality that was recognized and lauded around the world.



Gander International Airport in Newfoundland played host to 38 airliners, 6,122 passengers and 473 crew, as part of Canada's "Operation Yellow Ribbon."

In the days, weeks and months that followed, we took a significant number of other major actions to enhance security, not only in the air transportation system but in every mode of transportation. We dealt with the financial viability of the airlines and other related issues. Of course, this was in addition to the ongoing work of the department, which by itself takes no small effort.

I can't remember any government department being called on to make so many enormous decisions in such a short period of time.

The job done by the men and women at Transport Canada was nothing short of incredible. Their remarkable dedication and commitment to public service came through time and again.

Transport Canada may have taken the lead, but we needed and got plenty of support. NAV CANADA, airports and air carriers played a key role, as did many federal government departments and agencies who supplied people and expertise to the Situation Centre – the RCMP, Canada Customs and Revenue, CSIS, National Defence, and Citizenship and Immigration, to name a few.

In a matter of hours, the aviation community rallied to successfully manage the most extensive grounding of aircraft in Canada's history. Civic and community organizations, businesses and individual Canadians also mobilized as never before to house, feed and provide moral support to our guests.

At the end of the day, we did our jobs. We opened our homes and our hearts to tens of thousands of perfect strangers. And we stood by our American friends.