

Pat Carney – ground-breaker, feminist, friend – gone at 88



Pat Carney speaks at the 2015 AFMLABC dinner at Government House

Pat Carney, who pioneered roles for women in Canadian politics and journalism, is being remembered as a problem-solver, a ground-breaker, a feminist, and a friend. The former MP and senator died in July at age 88.

In 2015, the AFMLABC was honoured to welcome Pat as its guest speaker at Government House. She puzzled: If politicians are held in such low esteem, "why aren't we allowed to retire, wrapped in our shredded dignity? Why is it that people still bring us their problems years after we have retired from public life?"

The Association's honoured guest speaker at the annual Government House dinner reflected that "the decision to devote many of our most productive years to public service ... also exposes us to years of public abuse. Politicians, according to many polls, are considered almost the lowest of the low, even lower than journalists."

It wasn't like Pat to shave the uncomfortable edges off an issue.

Carney's life included a long list of female firsts. She was the first woman Conservative member of Parliament elected in BC and the first woman from BC to be appointed to the Senate. She began her journalism career in the 1960s and was the first female business columnist to write for daily newspapers in BC, including the *Vancouver Sun* and *Vancouver Province*.

[continued on Page 4](#)

Last chance to buy tickets for the Sept. 15 AFMLABC dinner

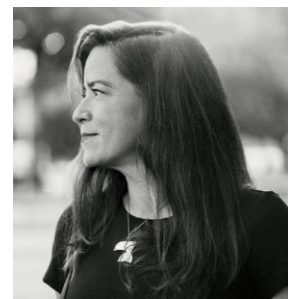
There are still tickets available for the first association dinner in three years at Government House, but as AFMLABC Dave Hayer advises on Page 3, you should book quickly.

On Pages 11 and 12 of this issue of OOTD, there's everything you need to know to be part of the Sept. 15th AFMLABC Annual General Meeting at the Legislature in the afternoon and the annual Government House dinner that evening.

AFMLABC members, family and friends attending from out of town, take note: The Grand Pacific Hotel, right next door to the Legislature, is offering a special "Government House Dinner Rate" of \$249 a night, for those of you coming from out of town. When you call to reserve, tell them you are part of the "Former MLA Government House Dinner Group." You can make a reservation, subject to availability, by calling 250-386-0450.

Jody Wilson-Raybould is our guest speaker this year. A constant theme in her recent public appearances has been her commitment to unequivocal participation in public discourse around issues of inclusion and consensus-based decision-making.

At a recent leadership conference for business students at Western University, she shared how her upbringing shaped her as a leader and taught her that everyone has a different but equally important role in ensuring communities function as they should.



As Canada's first Indigenous justice minister and later the first woman to be elected as an independent MP, Wilson-Raybould said she knows the experience of "invisibility," the feeling that your views and contributions are overlooked or devalued. But that experience only made her more determined to be seen, heard, and bold and to challenge the status quo.

"The calling for women – leaders of my generation and the generations to come – has been to be more visible, immovable, and ever-present. To be bold, heard, and seen and to directly challenge those who fail to see you in all sorts of ways and in different environments," she said.

Her Honour

The Honourable Janet Austin, OBC
Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia

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 30024
Reynolds P.O.
Victoria, B.C. V8X 1J0**

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

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

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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.

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From the Editor's Desk

Pat Carney was a hard act to follow. The last time Donna and I saw her was late in the evening of the 2015 AFMLABC bun toss at Government House where she was the very entertaining guest speaker. We were all overnighting at the Union Club and enjoyed a scotch-flavoured nightcap at the club's bar. Lord, the stories that woman could tell.

In her wake, I was leafing through some of her website columns and was delighted to find that she was a supporter and fan of Jody Wilson-Raybould who will be our guest speaker at Government House this month.

In one web entry from 2019, Pat recalled: "Ottawa insiders confided to the media that (Jody) the former minister was 'difficult' and 'very Jody-centered.' Translation: 'Not a team player.' Usually applied to women politicians. It was applied to me when I refused to drop theft charges against a staff member, a member of a prominent Quebec family."

Pat continued: "Reminds me of an assessment of me made by Conservative MP Erik Nielsen (Yukon), who served as Deputy Prime Minister in Brian Mulroney's government. He found me 'unsatisfactory' although I negotiated the historic Atlantic Accord that triggered the development of the Atlantic offshore oil and gas resources, signed the original Canada-US Free Trade Principles of Agreement, and served as first woman President of Treasury Board."

"Hang in there, Jody," Pat wrote.

Like Pat, Jody is a hard act to follow. "My litmus test is quite simple," she says. "When I look at myself in the mirror, can I still see myself – who I am, who I was raised to be? If the image is getting at all blurry, I know that I am not making the right choices. I focus on keeping the image clear and crisp."

I hope to see many of you at the Government House dinner for some long overdue face-to-face fellowship.

The President's Report

On behalf of all members of the Association of Former MLAs of BC, I want to extend our heartfelt condolences to BC's former Conservative MP and Senator Pat Carney's family and friends. Pat died on July 25th at the age of 88. She was well respected by everyone.

I remember meeting her with my late father, Tara Singh Hayer, then Editor and Publisher of *Indo-Canadian Times*, a weekly Punjabi newspaper. She spoke passionately about her work and was proud to be the first female business columnist at the Vancouver Sun and Province newspapers.

She was a pioneer for women in politics as she was the first woman elected as the Conservative Party's MP from BC and the first female senator appointed from BC. She was born in Shanghai, China, where her dad was a police officer. She left her mark in Canadian history by championing women's equality and being the trade minister during the historic Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement in 1987. I remember her as an honest, wise, caring, kind, and respectful person who could work and relate with anyone regardless of background or political views. We will all miss her wisdom and courage.

A reminder: AFMLABC members are asked to join us in Victoria on Friday, Sept. 15th at 1:30 p.m. for our annual AGM in the Hemlock Committee Room of the Parliament Buildings.

As you know, our Association's Annual Dinner will be held that evening at 6 p.m. at Government House. Our special guest speaker will be Jody Wilson-Raybould, former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada.

Please buy your dinner tickets before Sept. 2nd or as soon as possible, as seats are limited and selling fast. You can pay by a cheque mailed to the Association of Former MLAs of BC before Sept. 1st (address on Page 2) or by credit card by visiting our website: <https://www.formerbcmla.com/payments>. Dinner tickets are \$135 per person, which includes taxes and an open bar. I look forward to seeing you there.

If you are interested in serving as a member of the executive or being a director of the AFMLABC, please contact our nomination committee chair Vice-President Diane Thorne, as she is putting to gather a slate of nominees. Send your expression of interest to ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com, and it will be forwarded to Diane.

If you have any suggestions or advice or just want to talk, please feel free to contact me at Dave.S.Hayer@gmail.com.

Dave Hayer,
President



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Continued from Page 1

Pat Carney set the pace for women in political life

Pat Carney said she was the first woman in every government portfolio she held, serving as the minister of energy, minister of international trade and president of the Treasury Board in Brian Mulroney's cabinet.

Politicians and those she helped recalled her tenacity, leadership and contributions that left an indelible mark on Canada and, specifically, British Columbia.

Many sang Carney's praises on social media.

Senator Donna Dasko said Carney was a firm advocate of women's equality and one of the most forceful women she has ever met.

Former Liberal MP and justice minister Jody Wilson-Raybould said she was saddened to hear of Carney's death, calling her a "kind, generous and wise leader."

Green Party Leader Elizabeth May said she's heartbroken over the loss of the "extraordinary woman," mentor, friend, feminist and great Canadian. "Such an honour to know her. I will miss her so very much."

The Dr. Sun Yat Sen Chinese Garden posted that it mourns the loss of an exceptional leader while celebrating her contributions to the City of Vancouver. It noted that as the MP for Vancouver Centre, Carney was instrumental in getting federal funding for the initial phase of construction for the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Chinese Garden, at the time, the only classical Chinese garden outside China.

Patricia Carney was born on May 26, 1935, in Shanghai, where her father was a policeman. She was raised in the Kootenays and attended Nelson High School.

During her studies at the University of British Columbia, Carney worked as a news editor for the university's student newspaper, *The Ubysses*, from 1952 to 1955. Carney graduated with a degree in political science and economics and a master's in community and regional planning, also from UBC.

She was first elected to the House of Commons in 1980 in the riding of Vancouver Centre, serving two terms before retiring in 1988. Carney was appointed to the Senate in 1990 and retired in 2008. She was appointed to the Order of Canada in 2011.

In her political career, she also served as opposition critic on the mining and finance files before her turn in Mulroney's cabinet.

Carney was a mother of two and lived on Saturna Island.



Pat Carney stands with Governor General David Johnston after she was invested into the Order of Canada as a member during a ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa in 2011. (Photo by The Canadian Press)

Carney is well remembered for being the trade minister when Canada and the U.S. signed the historic Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement in 1987.

As a senator, she championed numerous causes, including those of women in politics and the preservation of BC's coastline. Her efforts led to the Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act in 2008, which resulted in the preservation of 106 coastal lighthouses as of December 2021.

Later in her life, she authored two books. The first, *Trade Secrets*, was a memoir published in 2000. *On Island: Life Among the Coast Dwellers*, on the other hand, was a short story collection released in 2017.

Former Conservative MP and BC MLA John Reynolds said Carney was highly intelligent and could work with people to accomplish many goals both in Parliament and the Senate. "She was a great lady, really was great for British Columbia. She always did a good job on things we needed to get done in our province."

Reynolds, 82, said Carney was exceptional when someone had a problem, and he often referred people to her if they needed help. "She would never be afraid to pick up the phone and say, 'Hey, let's get this done,'" he said. "She was very, very good. She always followed through."

Gerry St. Germain, a former Conservative colleague of Carney's who served in Parliament and the Senate with her, described her as a "brilliant woman" who delivered on multiple occasions. "I'm the father of two daughters," he said in an interview with CBC News. "I saw [Carney] leading a battle ... for women to be recognized in politics and the business world in general."

Trudeau's foes should not capitalize on his marital woes

By Stewart Prest
In *The Conversation*

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his wife, Sophie Grégoire Trudeau, have announced they're separating after 18 years of marriage. The surprise announcement has stunned Canadians who have watched the couple's three children grow up in the public eye and in a seemingly harmonious home environment.

"Sophie and I would like to share the fact that after many meaningful and difficult conversations, we have made the decision to separate," Trudeau wrote in a message posted to his Instagram account.

With an event like this, thoughts inevitably move along two tracks – personal and political. Separation is difficult for any family, and the humane among us wish the best for everyone involved.

Breakups are especially difficult for high-profile politicians when every aspect must be stage-managed. The temptation to use the split for political purposes might be tempting to Trudeau's political opponents, but any attacks risk sounding tone-deaf at best and cruel at worst.

Pierre Trudeau's adage that the state has no place in the bedrooms of the nation remains as true today for politicians as for any other citizen – including for his eldest son and the country's current prime minister.

Indeed, Pierre Trudeau's marriage to Justin Trudeau's mother, Margaret Trudeau, fell apart while he was serving as prime minister in his own high-profile breakup.

There is a longstanding tradition in Canada, still more often observed than not, that the private family lives of politicians are not subject to political scrutiny and criticism in the way they are in the United States – unless the personal becomes publicly scandalous.

Admittedly, the wall between public and private life has eroded somewhat during the Justin Trudeau era.

There are several reasons for this. First, the Trudeaus themselves have often chosen to involve the family in political imagery.

At the same time, the increasingly polarized political culture in Canada has left fewer topics off limits to criticism – particularly online and on the political margins.

It is quite likely, and unfortunate, that there will be unsavoury attacks from those online fringes, including some operating independently of any factual content. That's already apparent when reading the comments on Trudeau's



and Grégoire Trudeau's Instagram posts on the breakup and cutting remarks on other social media platforms.

What impact the separation will have on Trudeau's political career remains to be seen. It represents a challenge but also an opportunity for both the prime minister and his wife.

If cracks in the public image of a conscious and mutual uncoupling begin to show, it will inevitably affect perceptions of Trudeau, given how much he has invested in developing the appearance of a devoted husband and father.

At the same time, there is opportunity. Many of us, myself included, have had our marriages end in separation or divorce and are co-parenting our children with our former spouses.

As a result, many of us likely have a great deal of empathy for what the Trudeaus are going through right now – which is why opposition politicians would be unwise to make any political hay out of the breakup.

And while marital breakdowns are painful and difficult, they can lead to better things for everyone involved.

After nearly 10 years in office, some Canadians have tired of Trudeau's very carefully cultivated public persona. It's possible that the Trudeaus are just as tired of it. If they emerge from this moment better able to live authentic lives, it may prove the beginning of a new chapter, both publicly and personally, rather than the end of the story.

(Stewart Prest is a political science lecturer at SFU. *The Conversation* is an independent source of news and views from the academic and research community, delivered direct to the public.)

BC's Strengthening Democracy project fosters resilience

By Rakashdeep Singh Kainth
Project Facilitator

The contemporary global political landscape bears witness to an alarming recurrence of democratic fragility and erosion. This disconcerting phenomenon emphasizes the necessity for proactive measures to safeguard and strengthen democratic institutions.

The "Strengthening Democracy" initiative, a bold and timely effort based in British Columbia, spearheaded by former premier Mike Harcourt and former cabinet minister Graham Bruce, emerges as a beacon of hope in these uncertain times.

The Strengthening Democracy project brings together a coalition of stakeholders, including non-partisan parliamentary organizations, students, local government leaders, academics, and civil society advocates. At its heart is the aim to fortify democratic institutions, making them more resilient and adaptable in the face of evolving challenges. Acknowledging the tangible threats to democracy, both internal and external, the project seeks to facilitate a national dialogue critically assessing the strengths and weaknesses of Canada's democratic framework. Through rigorous discourse and public awareness efforts, the initiative aims to empower citizens to actively participate in safeguarding and enhancing democratic processes.

Graham Bruce's astute observation about the "fragility" of democratic institutions resonates deeply on the contemporary landscape. The convergence of factors, ranging from voter apathy and polarization to the influence of social media and external authoritarian forces, has culminated in a state of democratic vulnerability. The project's proponents, with diverse backgrounds and political affiliations, unite under a shared purpose to address these vulnerabilities. The establishment of a Steering Committee, composed of thought leaders from varied spheres, forms the foundation for devising a comprehensive strategy with concrete outcomes.

Nurturing intergenerational sustainability: Central to the project's vision is the recognition of the pivotal role young leaders play in shaping the trajectory of democracy. The initiative's approach is pragmatic and forward-looking, aiming to actively engage and empower the next generation. Through collaborations with youth organizations, targeted workshops, and initiatives like the BC Youth Parliament, the project seeks to instil a sense of ownership and responsibility among young Canadians towards democratic processes. By cultivating informed and engaged citizens, the initiative charts a path towards building a robust democratic ecosystem for the future.

Pathways to enhancing democracy: The project's aspirations materialize through a diverse array of deliverables, spanning civic workshops, retreats, the establishment of a speakers bureau, reports, policy recommendations, and legislative proposals. These deliverables embody a comprehensive approach to addressing the challenges facing Canadian democracy. The creation of a speakers bureau, the development of a multi-year engagement strategy, and the exploration of legislative proposals underscore the initiative's dedication to effecting substantive change in democratic processes.

Collaborative partnerships this September: Forthcoming events – notably presentations at the Union of BC Municipalities convention, networking at the annual AFMLABC gathering, a session with BC Youth Parliament leaders, and engagements with counterparts on national and international platforms – underscore the critical nature of the current juncture. By addressing an array of topics – from authoritarian acceptance and electoral manipulation to the role of elected officials in strengthening democracy – the project stands poised to navigate the intricate terrain of contemporary democratic challenges.

Conclusion: Opportunity and responsibility: The Strengthening Democracy project stands as a testament to the potential of collaborative endeavors in nurturing resilient democratic institutions. Through informed dialogue, proactive engagement, and a commitment to inclusivity, this initiative has the capacity to reshape the trajectory of Canadian democracy and inspire a broader movement for democratic revitalization on a global scale.

As we find ourselves at the crossroads of opportunity and responsibility, the significance of strengthening our democratic foundations cannot be overstated. The Strengthening Democracy project charts a course towards a future where democracy thrives amidst challenges, and citizens play an active role in ensuring its enduring vitality.

Rakashdeep Singh Kainth is a graduate student at UBC's School of Public Policy and Global Affairs and Vice President - External Affairs in the Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs Student Association.



Is Europe's democratic track record under threat?

By Filip Kostelka
Writing in *Public Seminar*

Voters have always overlooked breaches of democratic principle as long as they are getting what they want. This mattered less when politicians held each other in check. But with the tribalization of public debate, democratic gatekeeping breaks down.

In the mid-1970s, three eminent political scientists – Michel Crozier, Samuel Huntington, and Joji Watanuki – penned a famous report on the crisis of Western democracy, which they described as declining and overloaded with societal demands. Paradoxically, their report coincided with the start of a democratization wave that, in 15 years, swept away dictatorships across the globe, including those in Southern and Eastern Europe.

While roughly 57 per cent of European countries were democratic in 1975, their share reached 77 per cent by 1990. Today, the old continent is more democratic than it ever was in the 20th Century. No fewer than 85 per cent of European countries hold regular free and fair elections.

Democratic regimes do not massively break down as they did between the 1920s and 1940s when 12 out of 19 European democracies collapsed or fell prey to the expansion of totalitarian regimes. On the contrary, European democracy has proved resilient in the face of major threats such as the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's barbaric invasion of Ukraine. Democracy is currently not in crisis, and, in fact, we live in one of its best times.

These good times, however, cannot be taken for granted. A century ago, observers may have felt similarly optimistic when democracy emerged triumphant after the First World War and the ensuing flu pandemic. However, they would soon witness the rapid rise of authoritarianism and totalitarianism across the continent.

Such developments are unlikely to repeat themselves, but there are reasons for concern. Many European nations have experienced at least a glimpse of democratic erosion.

Populist politicians showing little respect for fundamental democratic principles have been increasingly successful at the ballot box. They scapegoat minorities, migrants, and Brussels for their countries' ills.

When in power, they attack key democratic institutions, such as free media and independent courts, to carve out an undue electoral advantage for themselves and eschew public and legal scrutiny of their acts. Especially in Central and Eastern Europe, the playing field is often tilted in favour of populist incumbents.



Fidesz – Hungarian Civic Alliance – is a right-wing populist and national-conservative political party in Hungary led by Viktor Orbán.

Extreme but still rare cases such as Hungary and Serbia have seen the emergence of hybrid regimes, which are more autocratic than democratic. Their ruling parties have captured state institutions, eliminated independent media, and bullied the opposition. Viktor Orbán's and Aleksandar Vučić's effective coups are the dream for many of their less successful but equally ambitious and unscrupulous friends both in the East and West.

The causes of the changing political climate are manifold. In Central and Eastern Europe, the accession to the European Union removed a powerful incentive for politicians' good behaviour, as the EU has so far struggled to bring its members into line. There is also an aspect of (bad) luck: Orbán would have barely been capable of building his dictatorship had not his party unexpectedly achieved a constitutional majority in the 2010 legislative election.

However, globally, the most critical cause arguably lies in technological change. In the pre-Web 2.0 era (before the proliferation of interactive websites), populist politicians and their inflammatory rhetoric were not given air time in established democracies. Elites had to respect the democratic rules of the game to avoid pariah status. Extremist and dissatisfied citizens lacked opportunities to flock together.

Web 2.0 and the rise of alternative and social media put an end to effective gatekeeping against the populist threat. Populists can gather significant followers and directly communicate through Facebook, Twitter, or TikTok. Their influence and early electoral success then open the doors to mainstream media outlets as well.

Technological change enables authoritarian powers to interfere effectively in democratic countries' political competitions. China, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Russia – until it concentrated most of its resources on the invasion of Ukraine – use social media to spread disinformation and support extremists in the hope that they will destabilize the democratic world.

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The success of populists reveals some of the limits of democratic electorates. Why have many Hungarian and Polish voters accepted their respective incumbents' illiberal reforms? It is because, like their counterparts elsewhere, many have a relatively biased understanding of democracy.

Social science research shows that voters typically perceive politics through partisan lenses and understand democracy as a vehicle for their preferred policy outcomes. They are thus frequently unwilling to sanction politicians for breaking abstract democratic principles. This is even less so when these politicians are from those voters' chosen political camp and simultaneously deliver desired public policies. Such limits have always existed and, probably, are hardwired into our nature.

Yet, they mattered less a few decades ago when gatekeeping worked better, and mainstream politicians held each other in check. Like their predecessors in the 1920s and 1930s, today's populists understand that by dividing society and denouncing their real or imagined adversaries, they can get away with blatant violations of democratic rules. They aim to fuel discontent and toxic polarization, transforming public debate into tribal wars.

Will the 2020s resemble the 1920s? Despite the recent worrisome trends, there is reason for moderate optimism. Fascism, violent coups, and outright authoritarianism are historically compromised as concepts. Even authoritarians like Orbán are at pains to preserve the veneer of procedural legality and subsequently turn their countries into autocracies by stealth.

They do so to please foreign stakeholders – including the EU, international bodies, and the markets – but also domestic audiences. Their popular support does not come from being authoritarian. Quite the opposite, their election victories are possible only because most of their voters do not understand that many of the adopted reforms, while legal on paper and potentially legitimate in isolation, are problematic in practice and undemocratic when combined.

While this process illustrates the danger of sneaky “autocratization” and partisan bias, it also demonstrates the prestige of democracy and its unrivalled popularity as a political system. There is still no credible alternative to the democratic ideal.

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While voters are susceptible to partisan bias and populist rhetoric, they tend to be put off by politicians' incompetence. Britain's poor economic performance after Brexit; Hungary's struggle with energy, living costs, and food shortages; China's mismanagement of the COVID-19 pandemic; and Russia's humiliating debacles on the battlefield do not make populist and autocratic solutions look particularly attractive.

Brexit and Russia's invasion of Ukraine have highlighted the otherwise diffuse benefits of EU and NATO membership, challenging populists who had often scapegoated these two organizations and, instead, preached closer cooperation with the Kremlin. Even though European democracies will face significant challenges in the coming months, ranging from the continuing energy crisis to migration, they are unlikely to fail this stress test.

Indeed, Europe's democratic future will also hinge on several critical events, the outcome of the war in Ukraine first and foremost. Should Russia prevail, this would not only be a disaster for millions of Ukrainians. It would also reduce the prestige of democracy and force Europeans to make ugly compromises, empowering cynical and populist politicians.

Similarly, Europe's democracy will always be sensitive to the outcomes of the U.S. and French presidential elections. If

another Trump-style politician occupied the Oval Office, or a "Lepeniste" candidate took over the Élysée Palace and commanded a majority in the National Assembly, European democrats would be in troubled waters.

Nevertheless, if technological change is the primary facilitator of the populist rise, democratic systems may gradually learn how to stand up to this challenge. It is crystal clear that the internet and social media need better regulation.

Democratic politicians must also become more effective at tackling today's major problems, including growing economic inequality and climate change. From this perspective, especially when it comes to inequality, a dose of populism may be healthy and help mainstream political forces adopt a more proactive approach.

European democrats have a lot on their plate, but their starting position is not at all bad. Overall, there are many reasons to view the democratic glass as nearly full rather than almost empty.

(Filip Kostelka is a professor and chair in Political and Social Change in the Department of Political and Social Sciences at the European University Institute in Florence. *Public Seminar* is a journal of ideas, politics, and culture published by the Public Seminar Publishing Initiative.)



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HELPING WHEN LIFE CHANGES



40 years ago

1983 – Solidarity, nightclub murder and the Squamish Five

(Editor's note: When I arrived at the *Vancouver Sun* in 1980, Chuck Davis was already a journalism legend, a chronicler of local history with a downhome folksy flair. Here's what turned his crank in 1983. His recount of the murder of Joe Philliponi brought back memories ... there I was working the newsroom phones tracking down Joe's pal Sammy Davis Jr. in Las Vegas for a comment.)

BC Federation of Labour announces formation of Operation Solidarity: Operation Solidarity was formed on July 15th. Following the defeat of the NDP government in 1975, Premier Bill Bennett's Social Credit government proposed laws that the Federation opposed. The bills would have cut social programs, doing away with the Rentalsman and Human Rights Commission and cutting the size of the provincial public service by 25 per cent. The legislation fuelled the long-held enmity the labour movement felt towards Social Credit. Federation President Art Kube promised a province-wide general strike, including school teachers, public servants and all other trade and craft unions in Federation jurisdiction, if Bennett did not back down. A Solidarity rally at Empire Stadium brought out more than 40,000 public and private sector workers on Aug. 10th to protest the government's restraint policies. The BC Government Employees Union contract expired, and the union's 35,000 members went on strike on Oct. 31st. They would be followed a week later by all but a few of the province's school teachers.

Nightclub owner Joe Phillipone murdered: Joe was shot to death on Sept. 18th. He was 70. His murder was linked to a robbery attempt. Some 800 people attended his funeral; a crowd described as including "Supreme Court justices, businessmen and dancers." Two men were convicted of the murder, Scott Ogilvie Forsyth and Sydney Vincent Morrisroe. Born in southern Italy, Phillipone came to Vancouver in the early 1930s and started Eagle-Time Delivery Systems, later acquiring taxi cabs. In 1945, he opened The Penthouse dinner club at 1019 Seymour, featuring big names like Sammy Davis Jr. and George Burns. In 1975, the club was closed by the vice squad. In 1977, Philliponi was charged with living off prostitution, but the conviction was quashed. His business licence was withdrawn but re-approved by city council in 1979.



Operation Solidarity took its fight to the Legislature's front door.

The Vancouver Art Gallery moved into the old courthouse: A hugely successful fund-raising campaign to "take the art gallery to court" raised \$8 million, twice the intended target and more than any other arts organization had ever raised in the city. The renewed gallery now found itself in immensely larger and more attractive surroundings. This was also the year the gallery finally bought an Emily Carr painting. They had declined an opportunity earlier. "It wasn't art as they understood art," arts reviewer Anthony Robertson wrote at the time. The gallery now holds the world's most extensive collection of paintings by Carr.

Red Hot Video stores firebombed: Firebombs went off at three Red Hot Video outlets on Nov. 22nd. A group calling itself the Wimmin's Fire Brigade claimed responsibility. Five people (the "Squamish Five") were arrested and, for this and other acts, were jailed for lengthy terms.

A TRIUMF first: A team at TRIUMF (the Tri-University Meson Facility) did its first scan with a PET camera on Feb. 24th. The team had been developing the chemistry and building the camera since 1980. PET stands for Positron Emission Tomography, an imaging technology that generates a computerized image of the body's functional systems.

The print media scene shifts: In New Westminster, *The Columbian*, BC's oldest newspaper, established in 1861, published its last edition on Nov. 15th. Growing costs and shrinking revenues forced it into bankruptcy after 122 years. Months earlier, *The Province* newspaper appeared in a tabloid format for the first time on Aug. 2nd. Before this, it had been a "broadsheet."



The Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia

*With thanks to Her Honour, Lieutenant-Governor Janet Austin,
you and your guests are invited to our 2023 Dinner.*

Association Annual Dinner

**Friday, September 15, 2023
Government House, Victoria**

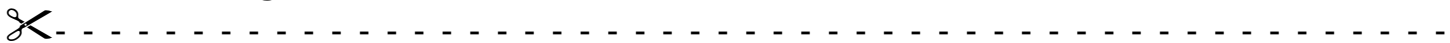
Time: 6 p.m. for 7 p.m.
Dress: Business attire please
Cost: \$135 per person, taxes included
Special Guest: **Jody Wilson-Raybould**
Former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

This event is open to all. You and your guests need not be former MLAs. Join us for dinner and enjoy! Please advise soonest.

Please make your cheque payable to the **Association of Former MLAs of BC** and mail it to the address below. (If you wish, you may post-date your cheque, but **no later** than September 2.) Sorry, no refunds after that date. If you have already reserved, thank you!

**Association of Former MLAs of BC
P.O. Box 30024, Reynolds P.O.
Victoria, B.C. V8X 1J0**

Dinner guests can also purchase tickets electronically by going to our website www.formerbcmla.com. Go to the Payments page in the navigation bar and follow the prompts. Be sure to let us know the names of all the persons attending by including them in the Comments section on the payments page and/or by email to ootd@shaw.ca.



Response Coupon - please detach and return with your payment

I/we plan on attending Dinner at Government House on Friday, September 15, 2023.

My cheque for _____ persons @ \$135 is enclosed. Total \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

(please list additional guest names on the reverse side of this coupon)

**Deadline for payment by mail or online is September 2
(no refunds after that date)**



The Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia

This is to notify all Members of our A.G.M.

Official Notice of 2023 Annual General Meeting **Friday, September 15, 2023**

Hemlock Committee Room
Parliament Buildings, Victoria
Commencing 1:30 p.m. sharp



Additional dinner guest names

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____