

AFMLABC guest speaker Jody Wilson-Raybould

## “We need to break down the silos that we have built up”



*Former Attorney General of Canada Jody Wilson-Raybould speaks at the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts recently, during a Canadian Mental Health Association 'Wake Up Speak Up' event in Windsor, Ontario.*

*(Photo by Dan Janisse /Windsor Star)*

“There is no reconciliation in the shadows.” These words from Jody Wilson-Raybould prompted a standing ovation recently at a Canadian Mental Health Association event back East.

“There is no reconciliation born out of ignorance. If there is to be reconciliation, first there must be truth,” Wilson-Raybould said. “We need to do better, you and me, us, together. What we need to do more of is break down the silos (between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities) that we have built up.”

***(On Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> Jody Wilson-Raybould is guest speaker at the AFMLABC's annual Government House dinner. Tickets for the first association dinner in three years are going fast. On Pages 15 and 16 of this issue of OOTD,***

***there's everything you need to know to start planning for the Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> AFMLABC Annual General Meeting at the Legislature in the afternoon and the annual Government House dinner that evening.)***

A descendant of the Musgamagw Tsawataineuk and Laich-Kwil-Tach peoples, Wilson-Raybould spoke about addressing cultural “invisibility,” an issue her grandmother dealt with as she “toiled in the shadows” to preserve culture. She said she focused on visibility during her time as regional chief of the BC Assembly of First Nations, as Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, and as an independent federal member of Parliament.

“I had the responsibility to point out what was being said or done in ways that did not account for the perspectives or experiences of so many people,” she said. “So many of us have rarely been in those spaces or around those tables.”

Wilson-Raybould was MP for the British Columbia riding of Vancouver Granville from 2015 to 2021. Under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, she served as justice minister and attorney general. She was the first Indigenous person and the third woman to hold that office. She resigned from the federal Liberal cabinet in 2019 amid the SNC-Lavalin affair, after which the parliamentary ethics commissioner found that Wilson-Raybould had been pressured to intervene in an ongoing case.

### Attending the dinner?

#### The Grand Pacific Hotel offers a government rate

Good news for travelling AFMLABC members, family and friends attending the Government House dinner Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>.

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 just 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.



Her Honour

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

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*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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*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

Few would argue with the observation that our democratic institutions are fragile. Attacks on democratic integrity around the globe are real, and we would be foolish to ignore the impact this can have on us here at home. I am pleased to report that the AFMLABC is joining a BC-inspired campaign to help make our democratic institutions more resilient.

At their most recent board meeting, the directors of the AFMLABC voted (six to one) in favour of the following motion: "Be it resolved, in keeping with the stated objectives of the AFMLABC, the Association hereby endorses the non-partisan 'Strengthening Democracy' initiative put forward and led by former premier Mike Harcourt and former cabinet minister Graham Bruce, and further, the Association supports the initial goals as stated in the May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 'Strengthening Democracy' letter."

One of those objectives is: "To serve the public interest by providing non-partisan support for the parliamentary system of government in British Columbia." Another legislated mandate calls on the Association to "put the knowledge and experience of its members at the service of parliamentary democracy in British Columbia and elsewhere."

Strengthening Democracy is an initiative to engage with non-partisan parliamentary organizations, pro-active students, local government leaders, academics and many other civil society stakeholders across Canada to reinforce and strengthen our democratic institutions and help them be more resilient and robust.

Initially, Strengthening Democracy will focus on: UBCM and regional municipal association workshops, BCYP mentorship, university and high school forums, supporting Elections BC – Democracy in a Box and developing a speakers bureau.

I'm doing my bit. In this issue, UBC professor Max Cameron, a key member of the Strengthening Democracy team, examines the erosion of democracy through electoral denialism (Pages 4 & 5) and the Samara Centre for Democracy reports on the extent to which abusive and toxic tweets tainted recent civic election campaigns in major cities across Canada (Pages 6 & 7).

# The President's Report

I hope everyone is enjoying our summer weather and will be able to spend quality time with family and friends.

Please join us in Victoria on Friday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. for the AFMLABC's Annual General Meeting in the Hemlock Committee Room at the Legislature.

Our 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 as soon as possible as they are limited and selling fast. You can pay by cheque or credit card. (Details on Pages 15 and 16). We also urge you to renew your membership if you have not already done so. We value your participation.

Dinner tickets are \$135 per person, and there is an open bar. I look forward to seeing you there.

Your Board of Directors has been working hard since 2021 to update the Association bylaws, and a full revised version is included in this issue starting on Page 12. I encourage you to review them.

The AFMLABC is a non-profit corporation under the Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia Act (SBC 1998). Objectives of the Association are: To put the knowledge and experience of its members at the service of parliamentary

democracy in British Columbia and elsewhere; to serve the public interest by providing non-partisan support for the parliamentary system of government in British Columbia; to foster a spirit of community among former MLA; to foster good relations between current and former MLAs; and, to protect and promote the interests of former MLAs.

Many former MLAs use their knowledge and experience from their time at the Legislature to make a difference in our province by visiting elementary and secondary students to talk about democracy and elections. This is a meaningful way of giving back and helping to strengthen democracy.

Elections BC has a free kit called "Democracy in a Box" that can be ordered at no cost and can be used on your next visit with BC students. Each kit includes supplies for up to 30 students to help them understand voting, provincial elections and democracy. The goal is to inform and inspire young people to participate in provincial elections and vote when they are eligible.

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



Dave Hayer,  
President

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# Electoral denialism: A New Threat to Democracy?

By Max Cameron  
In "Behind the Headlines,"  
Canadian International Council

The erosion of democratic norms, practices and institutions can take many forms. Electoral denialism is a form of fraud involving deception and manipulation in which a candidate for executive office, in collusion with radicalized members of society, seeks to overturn an election result based on unsubstantiated allegations of fraud. The goal is to prevent the normal alteration in public office, which is the cornerstone of any democratic regime.

There have been three notable cases of electoral denialism in recent years: Former US President Donald Trump's effort to "stop the steal" after the November 2020 election in the United States, which culminated in the storming of the Capitol on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021; Keiko Fujimori's efforts to prevent the winner of the Peruvian election of May 2021, Pedro Castillo, from taking office in July of that year; and, the storming of the three branches of government in Brasilia on Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, shortly after the inauguration of President Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva by supporters of former President Jair Bolsonaro.

President Trump anticipated fraud in the 2020 election, priming his supporters to expect the election to be stolen – a claim he knew would gain plausibility by the fact that an early Republican lead would be eroded as Democrats' mail-in votes were counted later. After election day, Trump declared that he had won, called for the voting to stop, pressured state officials to overturn election results, and launched scores of legal challenges.

He attempted to enlist the Department of Justice, developed theories on how the election could be overturned, and mobilized mobs of supporters to converge on Washington. Trump encouraged the mob to march on Congress to disrupt the transition and threatened Vice President Mike Pence, who had made it clear that his role was ceremonial. "If you don't fight like hell, you're not going to have a country anymore," Trump told the mob, including violent Proud Boys and Oath Keepers.

Trump lacked the support of the armed forces and key civilian allies. He also lacked the broad public support necessary to retrospectively legitimize overturning the election.

Although Trump failed to derail the transition, he was able to win 74 million votes and mobilize a violent mob. This reveals a deeper trend in US politics: The radicalization of the right and erosion of a democratic consensus. Factors



contributing to the radicalization of the right include a backlash against former President Barack Obama, fears of displacement through immigration, the spread of misinformation and conspiracies on social media, and a perception of threat triggered by the Black Lives Matter movement in the aftermath of protests in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014.

Similar polarization has occurred in Brazil. President Jair Bolsonaro, who was elected in 2018 and took office at the start of 2019, was strongly influenced by Trump. He downplayed the seriousness of COVID-19, calling it a "little flu" after meeting with Trump at Mar-a-Lago in March 2020. (Brazil is second only to the United States in total deaths due to COVID-19). Bolsonaro anticipated electoral fraud in the election of 2022, peddling conspiracies intended to promote doubt about his own country's electronic voting system. He accepted Trump's lie that the US presidential election was "stolen" and hinted that he would not accept the election result in 2022 if it did not favour him. Bolsonaro probably would have lost the 2018 election had his more popular opponent, former president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (who held office between 2002-2010), not been eliminated from contention due to corruption charges that were later dropped. Lula's comeback in 2022 made a Bolsonaro victory a long shot, but Bolsonaro lost by a closer margin than anticipated. Lula won 50.9 per cent of the vote in a runoff.

Although Bolsonaro refused to concede explicitly, he allowed the transition process to begin. However, he attempted through legal channels to partially annul electronic votes that lacked identification numbers. The court not only rejected the case but fined Bolsonaro's party for litigating in bad faith. When the day of the inauguration arrived, on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, Bolsonaro was in Orlando, Florida, undergoing undisclosed medical treatment. In his absence, Brasilia was the scene of a riot reminiscent of the storming of the US Capitol. Bolsonaro's supporters, organized on social networks like WhatsApp, had congregated in the Brazilian capital, many anticipating a military coup that never materialized.

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Peru's 2021 election was deeply polarized. Keiko Fujimori, the daughter of Alberto Fujimori, won only 11 per cent of the vote. Still, it was enough to place her in a runoff against the unexpected front-runner, Pedro Castillo, a former rural teacher and union activist who had never before held public office but who won 13 per cent of the vote by appealing to the frustrations of highland voters. Fujimori was able to improve her vote share but narrowly lost to Castillo, who captured 50.13 per cent.

Fujimori challenged the result, baselessly claiming fraud in polling stations across Peru, especially in the rural highlands where Castillo's vote was concentrated. Despite the absence of evidence and despite the validation of the results by local authorities and international observers, powerful economic groups, the traditional media, former military officers, and conservative political leaders repeated spurious allegations of fraud and used social media to mobilize efforts to annul the election result in the courts and in the streets.

Social media amplified racist assertions that voters in the highlands were ignorant and unpatriotic, while counter-protests by Castillo's supporters heightened the tension and suspense. One of the arguments made by Fujimori's legal team was that in some polling stations, the vote in favour of Castillo was suspiciously high. This ignored the fact that many villagers coordinate their votes to increase their collective power.

Castillo was sworn into office on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, but opposition was unrelenting. Congress attempted unsuccessfully to remove him in November 2021 and March 2022. With new allegations of corruption emerging, members of Congress hoped that they had enough votes to "vacate" the presidency on the grounds of "moral incapacity." A vote was scheduled, but Castillo announced that he was temporarily dissolving the Congress, creating an emergency government, and calling elections for a new Congress. What Castillo failed to appreciate is that such measures rarely succeed without broad public support and the backing of the armed forces. He had neither. Within hours Castillo was detained and charged, and Congress overwhelmingly voted to remove him from office.

Castillo's removal was angrily repudiated by his supporters. The betrayal they felt was intensified when Castillo's Vice President, Dina Boluarte, pivoted to the opposition in Congress. The protesters concentrated in the provinces demanded that Boluarte resign and new elections be held. The government responded with harsh repression, and more than 60 people died in street battles.

Electoral denialism weakens the core electoral components of democracy, creating the possibility of an interruption of the democratic order. It reflects polarization between those who espouse fundamentally different conceptions of the nation, authority, and citizenship. Those who stormed public buildings in Washington and Brasilia saw themselves as patriots, while their opponents saw them as vandals and delinquents.

Affluent Peruvians in Lima saw protesters in the provinces as terrorists and criminals linked to drug trafficking, while the protesters insisted that they were fighting for democracy and social justice. Both sides in these struggles see the other as fundamentally incompatible with the values and interests they associate with their way of life. Polarization driven by mutually incompatible forms of life is linked to the rise of social media and the breakdown of traditional structures of authority. In the face of the globalization of polarization, defending the moderate middle – that is, secular, democratic, and pluralistic politics – is a democratic imperative, but it is also a source of contention.

The spread of electoral denialism suggests the need to shore up the electoral components of democratic regimes. Free, fair, and decisive elections cannot be taken for granted. It also suggests the importance of the rights and freedoms associated with the proper functioning of any electoral regime. There is a high risk of backsliding that accompanies the erosion of these rights and freedoms, especially in political systems in which the constitutional order and the rule of law are precarious and unevenly applied. Shoring up these features of democratic regimes may, however, be insufficient as a bulwark against today's polarization and extremism. The breadth and extent of backsliding around the world suggests broader and deeper structural and historical forces are at work.

**(Professor Max Cameron specializes in comparative politics (Latin America), constitutionalism, democracy, and political ethics at the University of British Columbia. His books include *Strong Constitutions and Political Institutions* and *Practical Wisdom and Challenges to Democracy in the Andes*.)**



## The age of digital toxicity

# Samara finds 86,000+ abusive tweets in civic campaigns

In eight civic elections across Canada in 2022, the Samara Centre found more than 86,000 abusive tweets with high volumes of online toxicity, including during the campaigns in Vancouver and Surrey.

Across these elections, SAMbot – a multi-year machine learning initiative that measures abusive content received by Canadian political candidates online – evaluated over 465,000 tweets received by 524 Twitter accounts belonging to city council, school board, park board candidates, and political party accounts.

More than 86,000 abusive tweets were found. Over 6.5 million people live in these eight municipalities, approximately 17 per cent of the Canadian population. They also included: Ottawa, Brampton, Toronto, Winnipeg, Yellowknife and Charlottetown.

Previous SAMbot reports established that online abuse is a significant problem in federal and provincial elections. These new findings reveal that digital toxicity is also affecting our municipal elections.

Abuse category	Definition
Toxicity	A rude, disrespectful, or unreasonable comment that is likely to make people leave a discussion.
Insults	Insulting, inflammatory, or negative comment towards a person or a group of people.
Threats	Describes an intention to inflict pain, injury, or violence against an individual or group.
Identity attacks	Negative or hateful comments targeting someone because of their identity.
Sexually explicit	Contains references to sexual acts, body parts, or other lewd content.

Municipal elections in Canada are the bedrock of our democratic system – vibrant local governments contribute to a healthy political culture by encouraging civic engagement, fostering a sense of community and nurturing the values and practices of democratic governance.

Understanding the role that digital abuse is playing in our local democracies is critical for understanding the health of Canadian democracy writ large.

As expected, abusive tweets were common in mayoral races; however, school board trustee candidates also received some of the highest volumes of abusive tweets, many in the form of threats and identity attacks.

Identity attacks were, in fact, a significant form of abuse in a number of elections, with attacks concentrated on specific candidates. High levels of identity attacks particularly affected local online conversations in Ottawa and Brampton.

In the Charlottetown and Yellowknife elections, Samara found limited candidate presence on Twitter (and therefore limited abusive content), which suggests that the online political conversation in those locations is taking place on other platforms. This points to the need for more robust research into abuse across different social media platforms.

The volumes of abuse detected with SAMbot illuminate the challenging working conditions experienced by municipal candidates on the campaign trail. These working conditions, facilitated by digital technologies, threaten to reduce participation and representation in our democracies. Their effects are crucial to understand as we work to build a robust, responsive and inclusive democratic culture in Canada.

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HELPING WHEN LIFE CHANGES



As of 2022, Twitter is Canada's fifth most popular social media platform, with 40 per cent of online Canadian adults possessing a Twitter account. Among these users, demographics tend to skew younger, with higher household incomes and educational outcomes.

The SAMbot project uses AI for civic inquiry to better understand technology's influence on our democratic culture. As political discourse is generally at its most toxic during campaigns, SAMbot helps Samara gain critical insight into the current state of online Canadian political conversations. These municipal deployments allow Samara to measure the types and extent of online abuse in local elections.

SAMbot uses a machine learning model to assess abusive language. These models are ever-evolving, so each time SAMbot is deployed, it becomes more accurate and informed. In addition to measuring volume of abuse, SAMbot also provides insight into the type of abuse received by candidates.



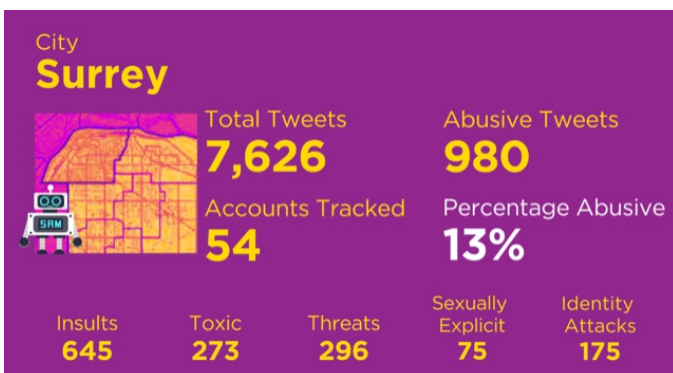
## Vancouver mayoral candidates received the most abuse

Incumbent mayoral candidate Kennedy Stewart received over 20 per cent of all abusive tweets (2,031). Stewart placed second in the mayoral race.

Colleen Hardwick placed third in the mayoral election and received the second highest volume of abusive tweets (599).

Ken Sim was elected mayor of Vancouver and received the third highest volume of abusive tweets (562)

Source: The Samara Centre for Democracy.



## Surrey's former MP and MLA, Jinny Sims, topped abuse list

Former MP and current British Columbia MLA Jinny Sims of the Surrey Forward party placed fourth in the mayoral election while receiving the highest volumes of total tweets (1,381) and abusive tweets (199).

Brenda Locke of the Surrey Connect party was elected mayor of Surrey in 2022 and received the second most abusive tweets (169) of any candidate in the election.

Incumbent mayoral candidate Doug McCallum of the Safe Surrey Coalition wasn't tracked by SAMbot, as he did not have a Twitter account. He placed second in the mayoral race, losing by less than one per cent.

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# Councillor Simon Gibson asks: Who are my constituents?

“Weeds are flowers once you get to know them.” This gentle phrase has been on my mind recently as I have been reflecting on the relationships we have with our constituents, whatever level of government we represent.

As readers with elected experience, you can, no doubt, immediately think of a myriad of constituents: Businesspeople, social advocates, company executives, community leaders, educators, and many others. These will generally be people with a following that gives them credibility in those communities you represent.

They are voters. You can count on them to be there for you at election time. Their network and standing will be helpful as you campaign and build support.

But what about those constituents who have little or no profile? They quietly fulfill their responsibilities even though it may be challenging at times. They work hard to earn enough to pay rent or a mortgage, and then there is the requisite budget for food and utilities.

Three constituents here in my city of Abbotsford come to mind.

The first, Aaron, can be seen collecting bottles and cans virtually every day on a “route” that takes in many convenience stores and community trash receptacles. He is methodical and has a good relationship with the local recycling depot.

Aaron and I talk frequently on my morning runs. Aaron has an unrevealed medical condition that precludes him from employment in a normal work setting, but he is capable and thoughtful. He has an abiding interest in politics and surprised me recently with informed questions regarding city council planning and development issues. He similarly had astute queries concerning provincial issues of the day when I was serving as a local MLA.

Aaron, I have learned, is financially secure and owns his own home and has a Toyota Corolla, which he rarely drives. He is a taxpayer and, no doubt contemplates the same issues as local businesspeople and public or private sector employees.

Second on the list is Martin. He always seems to welcome our conversations, but his favourite theme is a corny joke or two, which usually elicits a laugh: “Did you hear about the restaurant on the moon? It has a great view but no atmosphere.”

Martin is responsible for the maintenance of two strip malls. He usually arrives quite early – before many customers have parked – and sweeps the pavement, trims the bushes and picks up litter, especially near the large commercial dumpsters.

His personal vehicle, an aging Ford Taurus station wagon, is his workstation, crammed with brooms, mops, pails, electric saws and other small tools.

Martin can be philosophical and often shares his insights about contemporary issues such as homelessness and drug addiction. He occasionally has a cigarette and, like many smokers, regrets starting the habit when he was in his early teens.

The third constituent, Sanjay, is a South Asian friend who has been active locally in political circles. He even served as an assistant for a time to a Fraser Valley MLA.

Sanjay has a mild physical disability which causes him to move and walk with some difficulty, although he is fully independent and holds a media position here in the Abbotsford area.

In the recent local government elections in October, Sanjay was very encouraging and urged many of his relatives and friends to support me. As it turned out, I was re-elected for a four-year term, having been away for nine years.

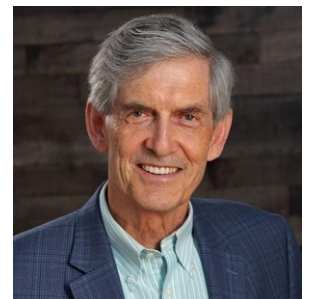
He arrived at the polling station – ready to cast his ballot – and was told by staffers (apparently by looking at him) that he could not vote “because he did not understand democracy.”

The matter was quickly resolved by a supervisor who assumed the responsibility. Sanjay was amused by the initial rejection because he holds a master's degree in political science.

These constituents are admittedly quite different; however, ironically, perhaps, they all have thoughtful views and can articulate them in conversation, yet none would likely receive attention from many residents – including political candidates.

Our constituents don't necessarily have a high profile or make headlines on social media, but everyone deserves recognition. I am now more sensitized to this reality as I have become acquainted with these three individuals – and others.

**(A frequent contributor to OOTD, Simon Gibson was elected in 2013 to represent Abbotsford-Mission for the BC Liberals. He served two terms. Before his election, Gibson was a member of Abbotsford City Council for more than 30 years. He has returned to his role as a councillor.)**





70 years ago this summer

## We remember the “Forgotten War” 1953 armistice

The Korean War started on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 1950, when North Korean troops invaded South Korea. United Nations forces soon joined the fighting, which would rage until an armistice was signed on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1953. More than 26,000 Canadians served on land, at sea and in the air during this bitter conflict. Sadly, 516 Canadians died. Long seen as a forgotten war, the Korean War is an important chapter in Canada's military history.

In July, a delegation of Canadian Veterans is returning to the Republic of Korea as part of the Revisit Korea program, which is run by the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs. They will participate in events to mark the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement. The Veterans will be accompanied by a Government of Canada delegation, including the Minister of Veterans Affairs.

Early in the war, in late April 1951, retreating Chinese and North Korean forces regrouped and counter-attacked in the western and west-central sectors of the front. The South Korean forces in one area were overwhelmed and hurriedly fell back, putting them in danger of being overrun and wiped out. The 27<sup>th</sup> British Commonwealth Infantry Brigade – along with its Canadian contingent – was called up from reserve to the Kapyong Valley to cover this desperate retreat.

Less than three kilometres across at its widest point, the Kapyong Valley was dominated by the surrounding hills. A defensive position was quickly established with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Royal Australian Regiment on Hill 504, the 2 PPCLI on Hill 677, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Middlesex Regiment (a British unit) south of the Canadians.

During the night of April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Australians came under heavy attack, holding out until the next day before being forced to withdraw. Their retreat left the Canadians exposed, and at 10 p.m. on April 24<sup>th</sup>, the communist assaults began.

It was a wild battle, and some of our positions were overrun; at one point, the Canadians even called in an artillery strike on their own location to hit the enemy soldiers amongst them. The Canadians took cover while



*Painted by Korean War Veteran Private James Keirstead, the image above shows Major George Flint of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (2PPCLI), leading his troops up a hill ahead of the Battle of Kapyong in April 1951.*



*“Holding at Kapyong” painted by Ted Zuber, Beaverbrook Collection of War Art, Canadian War Museum*

the attackers bore the brunt of the fire. The risky move worked, and the enemy was driven off. However, the danger was not yet over, and the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> saw an intermittent exchange of fire.

Canadian Veteran Gerald Gowing was there: “We were surrounded on the hills of Kapyong, and there was a lot of fire. We were pretty well out of ammunition and out of food too. We did get some air supplies dropped in, but we were actually surrounded.”

**Source: Veterans Affairs Canada**

# A letter from MacDuff, the Vice Regal Canine Consort

By MacDuff Austin-Chester  
Vice Regal Canine Consort

Dear readers:

Life has been gratifying since I assumed the role of Vice Regal Canine Consort. Thank you all for welcoming me so warmly to Government House, for encouraging me in my new position and for following along with my adventures on Instagram.

I am kept very busy with regular patrols of the grounds at Government House and with my ceremonial responsibilities of welcoming visitors and entertaining guests. My paw has been shaken by many diplomats and dignitaries. Her Honour says I am very good with people!

Some highlights of my time in the role include participation in Victoria's Pride Parade and the Vancouver Chinatown Parade, meeting the members of the Government House Foundation, visiting Salt Spring Island Seniors Housing and touring the Pender Islands Museum.

I especially enjoyed visiting the schools on Salt Spring and Pender Islands. With the assistance of Her Honour, I exchanged correspondence with the students from Pender Islands Elementary Secondary School. Her Honour says I have quite a knack for communicating with students. They are always keen to learn the best dog massage techniques, and I am happy to teach them.

I made many new friends at the public events we hosted at Government House, such as Christmas holiday choral singing and tree decorating, the New Year's Day Levee, and the Music on the Lawn free summer concert series. Halloween was especially fun for me. The House was spooky, with skeletons in coffins, ravens, owls and bats. There was a blazing fire and lots of treats for all the little goblins, witches and wizards who came by.

I also attended many award presentations and personally congratulated the recipients. These included the Provincial Long Service Awards, Police and Fire Service Honours, the Premier's Awards for Education, the BC Community Achievement Awards, the Order of BC and many others. I am usually piped into these ceremonies, along with Their Honours and other dignitaries such as ministers, mayors and even the Premier. There is nothing like the sound of the pipes to warm a Highland Terrier's heart. Our chefs, Aleks and Vince, always prepare a scrumptious feast at these events, and I never turn down the opportunity to share a bite with our guests.

It has been delightful meeting many of British Columbia's outstanding public servants; some of them are even highly



skilled tummy scratchers! In September, I was delighted to welcome all the Deputy Ministers to a special luncheon as thanks for their important work.

I've also had the privilege of welcoming members of the Vice Regal family to Government House. The Honorable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, paid a visit in the Fall. We welcomed our Governor General for a weekend filled with exciting activities, including a luncheon for women leaders in STEM. The Honourable Judith Guichon, 29<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor of BC, returned to Government House for a youth conference with the Trust for Sustainable Living.

Among my many new friends, I claim a special relationship with the members of the BC Youth Parliament, including Sheridan, Astra and Adriana; we are friends in person and on social media. They are providing important leadership on the Lieutenant Governor's Youth Council. If you know anyone between the ages of 17 and 24 who might be interested in membership in the BC Youth Parliament, please encourage them to apply. They might even get to meet me!

My most outstanding achievement this past year was my induction as Official Ambassador for the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program. I was a bit nervous because I had to take the Therapy Dog Evaluation, but I passed with a perfect score. It was thrilling! I'm looking forward to supporting the vital work of St. John Ambulance and visiting children and seniors.

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I had the pleasure of hosting my very own event – the Westies and Friends Community Dog Walk. Many dogs from the neighbourhood came by, and we welcomed Westies from around the Island and Greater Vancouver. It was a perfect opportunity to announce my focus on honouring the important work of service dogs.

Despite my demanding work and social schedule, I've had time to explore the many beautiful parks and natural areas in the Capital Region. Some of my favourites are Thetis Lake, PKOLS (Mount Douglas), Gonzales Hill, Elk and Beaver Lakes, Uplands Park, Cattle Point, and John Dean Park. I would really like to explore the Galloping Goose Trail by cycle. Perhaps you can help me to convince Her Honour to have her bike fitted with a comfortable wicker basket with a padded interior? What do you think?

All of this work is very much to my liking. However, one matter of concern has come to my attention. That is, considerable information has been collected on the role and history of the Lieutenant Governor in BC, but very little has been written on the history of the Canine Consort. A shocking oversight, don't you agree?

So, I'm pleased to announce that I have initiated a research project to correct this most serious omission and will be perusing the archives at Government House for historical records and photos. "Stay tuned" for further information on the canine history of Government House.

Finally, it must be acknowledged that there may well have been several cats in residence at Government House over the years. Cats are not my area of expertise or interest. They will have to write their own history.

Wuff, wuff,  
MacDuff



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# Please review updated bylaw before the AFMLABC AGM Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>

A special resolution will be presented to the Annual General Meeting of the AFMLABC to consider the adoption of a revision to the Association's bylaw, which includes a change to restate the quorum for a general meeting at five members, to accord with existing practice, to accommodate provision for electronic meetings, to restate membership categories as earlier adopted and to modernize language.

## BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER MLAs OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

### Part 1 – Interpretation

1. (1) In these bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires,
  - (a) "Act" means the Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia Act (SBC 1998 c.1);
  - (b) "Directors" means the board of directors of the Association;
  - (c) "Registered address" of a member means their address as recorded in the register of members;
  - (d) "Legislative Assembly" means the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.(2) The definitions in the Act apply to these bylaws.  
(3) In the case of an inconsistency between the provisions of the Act and these bylaws, the provisions of the Act shall apply.
2. Words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa, and words importing gender or neuter include all other persons.

### Part 2 – Membership

3. The members of the Association are the members of the Association of Ex-MLAs of British Columbia on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1998, and those persons who subsequently become members, in accordance with these bylaws.
4. (1) A person who was but is not currently a member of the Legislative Assembly may apply to the directors for membership in the Association and becomes a member upon entry of their name in the register of members and payment of current dues.  
(2) The directors may recognize persons by naming them as:
  - a) Honourary members;
  - b) Honourary life members, or
  - c) Life members;
  - d) Associate members.(3) Honourary members pay no dues, but are not entitled to notice of a general meeting or to vote.  
(4) Life members are entitled to vote, and pay no dues.  
(5) Associate members are not entitled to notice of a general meeting or to vote.
5. Every member shall uphold the Act and comply with these bylaws.
6. The amount of the annual membership dues shall be determined by the directors.
7. (1) A person shall cease to be a member of the Association,
  - (a) By delivering their resignation in writing to the secretary of the Association or by mailing or delivering it to the address of the Association,
  - (b) Upon their death,
  - (c) Upon non-payment of dues for 12 consecutive months,
  - (d) Upon a resolution being passed by a unanimous vote of the directors,
  - (e) Upon a resolution being passed by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote of the members present at a meeting of which notice specifying the resolution has been given, or
  - (f) Upon election to the Legislative Assembly.(2) A member who has failed to pay dues within three months after the due date as declared by the directors shall be deemed to be not in good standing.

### Part 3 – Meetings of Members

8. (1) General meetings of the Association shall be held at the time and place that the directors decide. Robert's Rules of Order shall apply to General meetings, unless otherwise ordered by the meeting.  
(2) Notice of all General meetings must be given by mail or email to all members 14 days prior to the date of the meeting. Notice given by email will be deemed to have been given on the day after it was sent. Failure of a member to receive notice of a meeting does not invalidate the proceedings at the meeting.  
(3) An Annual General Meeting shall be held once every calendar year and not more than 15 months after the holding of the preceding Annual General Meeting.  
(4) Where circumstances require, in the opinion of the directors, a general or other meeting may be held by telephone or by other electronic means.  
(5) With respect to any vote of the membership set out in these bylaws, the Board shall have power to establish voting methods to allow for telephone, email or any other electronic voting, so long as the notice of the meeting communicates to the membership the procedures for each voting method.  
(5) A vote conducted through electronic communications medium is deemed to be a ballot vote fulfilling any requirement in these bylaws that a vote be conducted by ballot. Proxy voting is not permitted.  
(6) The Board may make rules to govern a meeting held by electronic communications medium, which rules may include any reasonable limitations on, and requirements for, participation in the meeting.
9. Every Annual General Meeting is an extraordinary general meeting.
10. The directors may, when they think fit, convene a general meeting.
11. Notice of a general meeting shall specify the place, day and hour of meeting, and, in the case of special business, the general nature of that business.

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#### Part 4 – Proceedings at General Meetings

12. Special business is:
- (a) All business at an extraordinary general meeting except the adoption of rules of order.
  - (b) All business transacted at an Annual General meeting, except,
    - (i) The adoption of rules of order;
    - (ii) The consideration of the financial statements;
    - (iii) The report of the directors;
    - (iv) The report of the auditor, if any;
    - (v) The election of directors;
    - (vi) The appointment of the auditor, if required; and
    - (vii) The other business that, under these bylaws, ought to be transacted at an Annual General meeting, or business which is brought under consideration by the report of the directors issued with the notice convening the meeting.
13. (1) No business, other than the election of a chair and the adjournment or termination of the meeting, shall be conducted at a general meeting at a time when a quorum is not present  
(2) A quorum is 5 members present.
14. The president of the Association, the vice president or in the absence of both, one of the other directors present, shall preside as chair of a general meeting.
15. (1) A motion proposed at a meeting must be moved and seconded. The chair of a meeting may move or propose a resolution.  
(2) In case of an equality of votes the chair shall not have a casting or second vote in addition to the vote to which they may be entitled as a member, and the proposed resolution shall not pass.
16. (1) A member in good standing, present at a meeting of members is entitled to one vote.  
(2) Voting for directors is by secret ballot.  
(3) Voting on all other matters is by show of hands.  
(4) Voting by proxy is not permitted.

#### Part 5 – Directors and Officers

17. The affairs of the Association shall be conducted by the directors, who may exercise all of the powers and do all the acts and things that the Association may exercise and do, and which are not by these bylaws or by statute or otherwise lawfully directed or required to be exercised or done by the Association in a general meeting.
18. The president, vice president, immediate past president, secretary, treasurer, membership chair and six other members shall be the directors of the Association.
19. (1) The directors shall retire from office at each Annual General Meeting, when their successors shall be elected. A retiring director is eligible for re-election.  
(2) Separate elections shall be held for each office to be filled.  
(3) If no successor is elected, the person previously elected or appointed continues to hold office.
20. (1) The directors may at any time and from time to time appoint a member as a director to fill a vacancy in the directors.  
(2) A director so appointed holds office only until the conclusion of the next following Annual General Meeting of the Association, but is eligible for re-election at the meeting.
21. No act or proceeding of the directors is invalid only by reason of there being less than the prescribed number of directors in office.
22. The members may by special resolution remove a director before the expiration of their term of office, and may elect a successor to complete the term of office.
23. No director shall be remunerated for being or acting as a director but a director may be reimbursed for all expenses necessarily and reasonably incurred by them while engaged in the affairs of the Association.

#### Part 6 – Proceedings of Directors

24. (1) The directors may meet together or by electronic means at the places they think fit to dispatch business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings and proceedings. Electronic meetings shall be conducted pursuant to rules adopted by the Directors.  
(2) The directors may from time to time fix the quorum necessary to transact business, and unless so fixed the quorum shall be a majority of the directors then in office.  
(3) A director may at any time, and the secretary, on the request of a director, shall, convene a meeting of the directors.

#### Part 7 – Proceedings of Committees

25. (1) The directors may delegate any, but not all, of their powers to committees consisting of a director or directors, members in good standing and Honourary or life members.  
(2) A committee so formed in the exercise of the powers so delegated shall conform to any rules imposed on it by the directors, and shall report every act or thing done in exercise of those powers to the next meeting of the directors.

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26. A committee shall elect one of its members as chair of its meetings; if the chair is not present the members of the committee shall choose one of their number to be chair of the meeting.
27. The members of a committee may meet and adjourn as they think proper.
28. (1) Questions arising at a meeting of the directors and a committee of directors shall be decided by a majority of votes.  
(2) In case of an equality of votes, the chair does not have a casting or second vote in addition to the vote to which they may be entitled as a member, and the proposed resolution shall not pass.
29. No resolution proposed at a meeting of directors or committee of directors need be seconded. The chair of a meeting may move or propose a resolution.
30. A resolution in writing, signed by all the directors and placed with the minutes of the directors meeting is as valid and effective as if regularly passed at a meeting of directors.

#### Part 8 – Duties of Officers

31. The president shall preside at all meetings of the Association and of the directors.
32. The vice president shall carry out the duties of the president during the president's absence.
33. The secretary shall:  
(a) Conduct the correspondence of the Association;  
(b) Issue notices of meetings of the Association and directors;  
(c) Keep minutes of all meetings of the Association and directors;  
(d) Have custody of all records and documents of the Association;  
(e) Have custody of the common seal of the Association;
34. The treasurer shall:  
(a) Keep the financial records, including books of account of the Association; and  
(b) Render financial statements to the directors, members and others when required.
35. The membership chair shall maintain the register of members;
36. In the absence of the secretary from a meeting, the directors shall appoint another member to act as secretary at the meeting.

#### Part 9 – Seal

37. The directors may provide a common seal for the Association.
38. The common seal shall be affixed only when authorized by a resolution of the directors and then only in the presence of the persons prescribed in the resolution, or if no persons are prescribed, in the presence of the president and secretary.

#### Part 10 – Auditor

39. This part applies only where the Association is required or has resolved to have an auditor.
40. The first auditor shall be appointed by the directors who shall also fill all vacancies occurring in the office of the auditor.
42. At each Annual General Meeting the Association shall appoint an auditor to hold office until re-appointed or a successor is appointed at the next Annual General Meeting.
43. An auditor may be removed by ordinary resolution.
44. An auditor shall be promptly informed in writing of appointment or removal.
45. No director and no employee of the Association shall be auditor.
46. The auditor may attend general meetings.

#### Part 11 – Notices to Members

47. A notice may be given to a member, either personally, by mail or virtually, to them at their registered address, or if electronically, at their email address as shown in the register of members.
48. A notice sent by mail shall be deemed to have been given on the second day following that on which the notice is posted, and in proving that notice has been given it is sufficient to prove the notice was properly addressed and put in a Canadian post office receptacle.
49. Notice of a general meeting shall be given to:  
(1) Every member shown on the register of members on the day notice is given, and  
(2) The auditor, if Part 10 applies.

#### Part 12 – Bylaws

50. On being admitted to membership, each member is entitled to, and the Association shall give them upon request, without charge, a copy of the Act and Bylaws of the Association.
51. These Bylaws shall not be altered or added to except by special resolution.

DATED this      day of                      , 2023.



# 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**

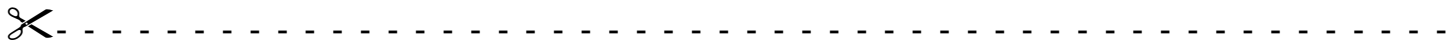
Time: 6 p.m. for 7 p.m.  
Dress: Business attire please  
Cost: \$135 per person, taxes included  
Special Guest: **Jody Wilson-Raybould**  
*Former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada*

**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 August 25, 2023). 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](http://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 August 25, 2023**  
**(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



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### **Additional dinner guest names**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____