

## A virtual AGM

# Waddell “Zooms” into the AFMLABC presidency

It was an annual general meeting for the history books. There was no rubbing of shoulders in a stuffy Legislature committee room. No hugs nor handshakes. No cold coffee nor warm water. The pandemic dictated that this AGM would be virtual, via Zoom.

Nevertheless, it went off without a hitch with association directors, members and staff beaming in from around BC. After taking care of association business, former MP and MLA Ian Waddell was unanimously elected 2020/21 President.

“Thank you ... I'm not sure what I'm getting into,” Waddell joked. “But, I want to thank (outgoing president) Jeff Bray and the previous executive for serving so admirably.”

Waddell said amongst his priorities are increased funding from both public and private sector supporters of the association's non-partisan mandate; new initiatives such as videoed interviews with former members to share their stories for broadcast on the Legislature channel; and, webinars featuring special guests like Tom Berger leading topical discussions.

“The thing I have learned from my travels across Canada is that we have to offer something to our members,” Waddell said.

Bray said: “Incoming President Waddell I want to thank you for agreeing to step up this year and for bringing some new energy and new ideas, and bringing what you are learning at the federal former parliamentary level into our association. I know the association will benefit from your energy and enthusiasm.”

The retiring president said the past year was a challenge. “We were looking to do our annual dinner in Vancouver as a change of venue to help increase participation from former MLAs, given how many live on



the Lower Mainland and also because Government House was unavailable due to renovations. And then, when COVID-19 hit the executive determined that trying to attempt any kind of function with the limitations on capacity, and (the necessity of) physical distancing, required us to postpone it until next year.”

The AFMLABC AGM welcomed its newest board member, Diane Thorne (NDP, Coquitlam-Maillardville, 2005 – 2013). She joins the 2020/21 AFMLABC board of directors that includes: President Ian Waddell, Vice-President Dave Hayer, Membership Chair Ken Jones, Treasurer Patrick Wong, Past President Jeff Bray and Directors Penny Priddy, Tim Stevenson, John Les and Harry Bloy.

The AGM bestowed a posthumous honorary membership on Bob McClelland (Social Credit, Langley, 1972 – 1986) who passed in 2015. Bob was one of the founders of the association that became the AFMLABC. The new executive is also sending a letter of heart felt appreciation to Jim Gorst (NDP, Esquimalt, 1969 – 1975) who has retired as a longstanding member of the AFMLABC executive.

**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:

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Payment can be sent to the above address.

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**(The late) Hugh Curtis**

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

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

# 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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## From the Editor's Desk

Every issue of Order of the Day seems like the first. Each has a thread – sometimes obvious, other times implied. Each one has a special moment. Each one is distinct from the one before. The next is always daunting until I get at it and just darn well do it.

When Gillian Trumper asked me to step into the rather enormous shoes vacated by Hugh Curtis, I knew his irrepressible determination and single-minded dedication to the Association would be impossible to replicate. Regardless, I jumped in. I made a home here. I walk the fence with both ears on the ground and embrace, with something just shy of religious fervour, the non-partisan goals of the X-MLAs I serve.

And, this month I serve a new executive and my fourth president, Ian Waddell. After Gillian came Penny Priddy whose ongoing campaign to engage members keeps me inspired. Jeff Bray was next. What can I say about this dedicated former MLA. In the midst of a pandemic he has been managing the wellbeing of the AFMLABC and at the same time, as CEO of the Downtown Victoria Business Association, he has been fighting for the economic survival of his members.

Ian inherits the top job not because he sought it, but because he was needed. His enthusiasm is infectious. He has lofty goals ... better financial stability for the association and better engagement with the public in the cause of advancing good governance. I look forward to his tenure.

This issue has a lot of input from members: My thanks to Honourary Lifetime Member Jim Hume, Past President Priddy, former Premier Mike Harcourt, Honourary Member Joan Barton and former MLA Gerard Janssen. I'd also like to thank BC Green Party co-founder Michael M'Gonigle for allowing us to share excerpts from his in-depth analysis of the future of the Green Party, both federally and provincially (Page 10). Please let us know what you think of M'Gonigle's analysis.

# The President's Report

I like to think I'm like my colleagues – former MLAs here in BC and in the other provinces, as well as former MPs and senators – being concerned about the erosion of democratic practices and threats to the rule of law. I believe, as a group, the AFMLABC has enormous experience regarding how government and politics actually work. And, we are expected to pass this knowledge to a younger generation.

Last year (remember when you could actually travel), I was fortunate to go coast to coast and meet former provincial members in my role as BC representative and President of the Former Canadian Parliamentarians Foundation. The main message I got is that former members will get involved in their associations if they are offered things to do. They still want to contribute. In this issue of Orders of the Day, you will see Editor Brian Kieran's Page 1 summary of our recent AGM (surely one like nothing from our past!) where he references some of my ideas picked up from those travels.

I want to thank Jeff Bray, now our past president, for his able leadership and Brian and Rob for producing the best provincial magazine in the country.

Finally, I want to emphasize that we will continue to embrace our non-partisan mandate and work to support good governance in BC. I don't know about you, but I'm sure proud of how all the MLAs in the last Legislature worked together in the face of a challenging pandemic. It was the kind of governance the public needs to see more of from our politicians. The AFMLABC is mandated to help support and advance this kind of collaboration and that is why our organization is so important right now.

So, let's get to work.

Ian Waddell QC  
President, AFMLABC



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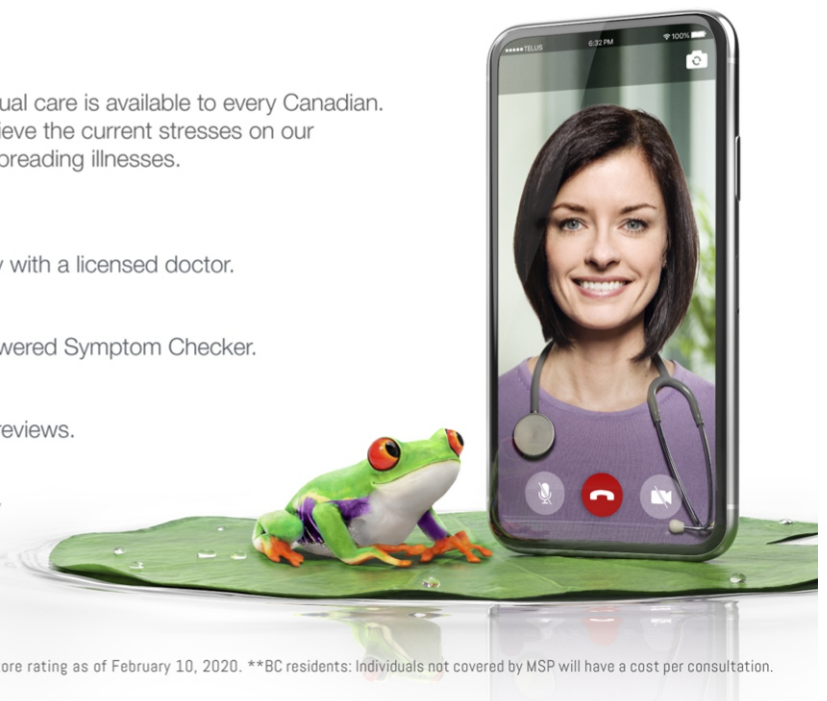
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# Letters

## Memorial fund to help BCYP is in need of your help

Dear Editor:



I am writing to make an urgent plea to members of the Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia (AFMLABC) and to all friends of the Association to donate generously to the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund, (the Fund).

I cannot emphasize strongly enough that the Hugh Curtis Fund is intended to honour the memory of Hugh Curtis, who was dedicated to the Association and to encouraging young people to participate in the democratic process. As President Jeff Bray remarked in his September message in Orders of the Day (OOTD), Hugh Curtis was “for many years the heart and soul of the Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia.”

When Hugh died of cancer on May 27, 2014, the Association was left without its driving force. Fortunately, the Association regrouped and evolved into what it is today. Under the leadership of former MLAs such as Anne Edwards and Gillian Trumper, the Association was invigorated and placed on a more secure financial footing. Everyone connected with OOTD was pleased to have the publication rejuvenated under a new editor, Brian Kieran, who replaced Hugh.

There was a great deal of enthusiasm when Penny Priddy presented a motion to members of AFMLABC to create the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund. Most importantly, the revenues generated by the Fund would grant the sum of \$1,000 annually to assist two members (one male and one female) of the BC Youth Parliament (BCYP), who live in hinterland communities where travel expenses are so much higher than they are in our urban centres like Greater Vancouver.

Grants from the Fund help the two young people defray their travel and accommodation expenses and participate in the annual December deliberations of the Youth Parliament in Victoria. This assistance encourages young people to participate in the BCYP's

governance mentorship programs across the breadth of the province.

Established in 2015, the Fund has successfully made the two grants of \$500 each to the BCYP. However, this year the Fund appears to have run into hard times. It now stands at only \$23,000 and contributions to the Fund have dried up. The last donation was made in December 2019. This year there is investment interest of only \$718 available for the two grants, well short of the required \$1000.

In this summer's issue of OOTD, Ranil Prasad, outgoing Premier of the Youth Parliament, wrote that BCYP is adapting to the COVID-19 crisis as best it can. The group has so far cancelled its regional activities and Camp Phoenix, (which helps disadvantaged youth attend summer camp). BCYP is still hoping that it will be able to hold an annual distanced session in Victoria from December 27<sup>th</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> this year. The alternative may be a virtual session via Zoom or another virtual platform. Their need for assistance during these difficult times appears greater than ever.

While the Youth Parliament examines its options for meetings and other activities, we are all encouraged to make a contribution to the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund on their behalf. A tax receipt will be sent promptly from the Victoria Foundation which manages the fund. All the details to make donating to the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund as easy as possible can be found in this issue of OOTD on Page 14.

More questions? Please phone Sara Neely, Director of Philanthropic Services at the Victoria Foundation at 250 381 5532 or by email: [sneely@victoriafoundation.bc.ca](mailto:sneely@victoriafoundation.bc.ca)

Best Regards,  
Joan A. Barton  
Victoria

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# Gordon's gentle presence and good cheer will be missed

By Mike Harcourt

When Gordon Hanson passed away August 30<sup>th</sup> BC lost a fine archeologist, MLA, and passionate advocate for aboriginal rights, culture and language.

My experience with Gord goes back to Vancouver high school basketball in 1959-60.

He was a star guard for the Gladstone Gladiators. I was a forward on the Sir Winston Churchill Bulldogs.

Then, at UBC in the early 1960s, we played basketball together on academic/athletic scholarships. We both discovered the Peter Principle – not being big or good enough to take on US college 6'8" husky forwards or slick, fast sharpshooting guards.

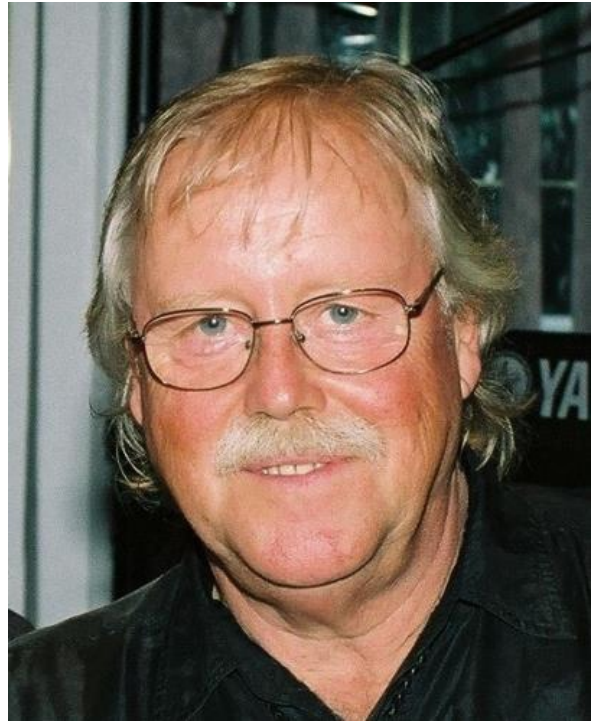
Gord was more than a high school and university athlete. His dad Byron, who was a musician for 25 years with Dal Richard's orchestra, passed on some of his musical talent to Gord. He played in the high school band and, at the age of 11, competed as a soprano at Christ Church Cathedral.

After graduating from UBC with a Masters in Archeology, Gord became the Director of the Katz Dig, a pre-historic site downstream from Hope. He also worked in the Archeology Division of the BC Provincial Museum. Later in the '70s he was Assistant Provincial Archaeologist for BC and worked with the negotiating team of BCGEU. Over the decades Gord consulted with many First Nation Councils developing lasting friendships in his role as a steadfast advocate.

In 1978-79, Gordon got the political bug. He ran and won as one of the two MLAs for the dual member Victoria riding. He won again in 1983 and 1986.

As an Opposition NDP MLA, Gord was a model of what an MLA should be: He relished and excelled at serving individual constituents, trying to solve their problems whether dealing with government bureaucracies, landlord and tenant disputes, or other constituent challenges that good MLAs and their constituent assistants try to resolve. He also relentlessly advocated for recognition of aboriginal rights, title, culture and language. He particularly pushed for a centre focussed on preserving the rich variety of aboriginal languages in BC.

Gord retired as MLA voluntarily in 1991 just when the NDP won a large majority and became government for the next 10 years. During the life of that government many of the aboriginal issues Gord had pioneered started to be dealt with.



He moved from Victoria to North Pender Island. He and I played golf many times on the Pender Island's challenging nine-hole course. Sometimes we played with Orders of the Day's splendid editor Brian Kieran who, at that time, was a Pender Island resident.

Gord continued to work with First Nations people and their leaders, like Chief Tom Sampson, particularly on behalf of the Coast Salish people around the Salish Sea.

Gordon's quiet, gentle presence and good cheer will be missed, particularly by his partner of 25 years, Mary Louise Martin, a talented Mic Mac artist. His love of family lives on in sister Marylou, nephew Todd (Christine) and niece Marle (Romy) and their families, and fellow fisherman and great nephew Jackson. He loved his step-son Sean (Laura Lee), his three grandchildren in Nova Scotia, and step-daughter Lesya in Victoria.

Gord's fine obituary in the Vancouver Sun reminds us that in these days of minimal gatherings, we should take a moment to honour Gord's memory "by thinking about your neighbour, your friend, about kindness and appreciation of your own life, and of those that are close to you, and about those who need a helping hand."

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Gordon's memory to the charity of your choice. I am told small celebrations of life will be announced at a later date.



# Think mid-November for a 'snail mail' election tally

By Brian Kieran  
OOTD editor

We don't often think 'snail mail' in the context of a provincial election. And, then there was COVID-19.

At OOTD press time it was much easier to speculate on the outcome of BC's provincial election than to guess when that outcome will be known. Some election watchers are saying it will be mid-November before the winner can pop the champagne corks.

Election BC CEO Anton Boegman says the agency does not know when final election results will be available after the Oct. 24 vote. "If there are 800,000 (mail-in ballots) it will take longer, I don't know how much longer, but it will take longer."

The final count of mail-in and other absentee ballots begins Nov. 6, two weeks after the vote to ensure that no one votes more than once. Normally there are not enough mail-in and absentee ballots to change the initial count on election day. Boegman says it is "conceivable" that BC could be without a result for some amount of time, "give or take" about three weeks. That's mid-November folks.

***(Read the full story on mail-in balloting and Elections BC preparations on Page 7.)***

In the early days of the campaign, according to Insights West pollsters, more than 50 per cent of voters disapproved of Premier John Horgan's decision to call an early election. In fact, that antipathy dominated debate in the early days of the campaign. When the writ was dropped 35 per cent of NDP supporters opposed the early vote. Not surprisingly 77 per cent of Liberals and 73 per cent of Green disapproved. Notwithstanding that early antipathy and worsening pandemic statistics, by the beginning of October the NDP remained the party of choice among British Columbians.

I've always been addicted to election polls knowing that it can be a mug's game. One of the most reliable is CBC's Poll Tracker, an aggregate of all publicly available polling data.

According to CBC's poll analyst Éric Grenier, the New Democrats were holding a commanding lead over the Liberals in Metro Vancouver. After a few disappointing poll results for the Greens on Vancouver Island, all of the party's seats were potentially in danger. The Liberals were doing better in the rest of the province, with polls suggesting a neck-and-neck race between them and the NDP. Outside of Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland, the Liberals were well-positioned to win more seats than the NDP.

If the election had been held Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> (as OOTD went to press), Grenier predicted the seat count would have been NDP 55, Liberals 32 and Greens 0.

A cakewalk? Not necessarily so. Issue analysis by the Angus Reid Institute reveals a few chinks in the NDP's armour.

The Institute says: "The NDP has five areas where its performance is relatively highly praised. A majority of residents say it has done a good job in these areas: COVID-19 response, health care, the economy, education, and handling unemployment.

But, this positivity may well be tested in the campaign, Angus Reid cautions. "While health care overall and economic stewardship are also areas identified as areas of strength for this government, there are also areas of weakness. The NDP's grading on housing affordability, for example, is the lowest in the nation.

"Another item over which the government is more dimly viewed is its handling of the opioid crisis. Deaths on the street related to drug use and overdoses have reached record levels and just 22 per cent of British Columbians say the government is doing a good job in response," Angus Reid says.

# 800,000 BC electors may cast their votes by mail

By Andrew Watson  
Communications Director  
Elections BC

Elections BC has worked with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and WorkSafe BC to plan measures designed to meet or exceed public health and worker protection guidance.

These measures will protect voter and worker safety while maintaining the integrity of the voting process. They will also help to accommodate expected changes in voter behaviour as a result of the pandemic, such as increased use of voting by mail.

Elections BC conducted surveys in May and August to assess how voters felt about voting during the pandemic. Approximately 40 per cent of voters said they would prefer to vote by mail. This would be as many as 800,000 voters voting by mail, dramatically more than past elections (typically around 6,500 voters vote by mail in a provincial election in BC).

It is important to note that if approximately 40 to 50 per cent of voters do in fact vote by mail, this will have significant procedural and timing consequences. A delay in results reporting would occur, with as many as 50 per cent of the votes not counted until the final count of absentee ballots, which itself would need to be delayed.

(The estimated number of vote-by-mail package requests received by Elections BC is being updated daily. As we went to press, almost 500,000 voters had submitted a request for a vote-by-mail package.)

All voters can vote by mail. You don't need a special reason.

Voting by mail is a great option for voters who are not comfortable voting in person because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Contact Elections BC to request a vote-by-mail package as soon as possible. Your package will be mailed to you. You can ask for one by:

- Requesting a vote-by-mail package online at: <https://eregister.electionsbc.gov.bc.ca/ovr/welcome.aspx#>;
- Or, calling Elections BC at 1-800-661-8683

If you would like to pick up your vote-by-mail package in person, contact the closest district electoral office.

**This is important: The completed vote-by-mail packages must be received by Elections BC before 8 p.m. on Saturday, October 24.**



Your vote-by-mail package will include instructions for filling it out. You can also go online for instructions at: <https://elections.bc.ca/docs/VoteByMailInstructions.pdf>.

You can return your vote-by-mail package in person at a district electoral office, voting place or participating Service BC locations. Packages cannot be dropped off at Service BC locations in Surrey, Vancouver, Burnaby or Masset. Voters in these areas wishing to return their package in person should return it at a district electoral office or voting place. You may also return your package by mail. A postage paid return envelope is provided for voters in Canada. If mailing from outside of Canada, you must provide the necessary postage.

Here are some other measures Elections BC is taking:

- Increased advance voting opportunities to help reduce crowds in voting places;
- Increased use of remote voting options (such as telephone voting) for voters who are at-risk, unable to attend a voting place, or concerned about voting in person;
- Safe voting practices within voting places, such as:
  - Maintaining two metres distance from other individuals and groups,
  - Capacity limits within voting places,
  - Increased cleaning of voting stations and provision of hand-sanitizer stations,
  - Use of PPEs such as masks, gloves and face-visors.

One measure not being considered at this time is online voting. An independent panel on Internet voting explored the possibility in BC in 2014 and found that the security risks are too great. Since then the situation hasn't changed: the technology isn't where it needs to be to ensure a secure election.

# Elections Canada: Changes in the context of a pandemic

In late September, NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh confirmed his party would support the Liberal government's Throne Speech as long as CERB-like benefits and expanded sick leave were implemented. He called it a "historic moment." This undertaking further dampened speculation about the possibility of a fall or winter election.



Regardless, Election Canada continues to model for an election in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Canada Elections Act contemplates elections offering a range of voting options, including voting on election day or at an advance poll and voting by mail or at an Elections Canada office. While these options will remain available, the pandemic will have an impact on how they can be delivered.

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Stéphane Perrault, and his team have approved a series of administrative changes including:

- Procuring masks and single-use pencils to be provided to electors should they be necessary. Electors will also have the option to bring their own mask or pen or pencil;
- Changing the agency's model of operations to reduce the number of workers needed and facilitate physical distancing;
- Increasing the capacity of the existing vote-by-mail system to meet a potential increase in demand for this service. An increased volume of mail-in ballots could delay the release of election results;
- Removing the Vote on Campus services, as most colleges and universities are primarily delivering programs online;
- Expanding virtual training for electoral workers in order to limit the number of in-person interactions.

In order to facilitate the conduct of an election and make voting more accessible in a pandemic, Perrault also plans to make recommendations to Parliament for a limited number of legislative measures that would

vary provisions of the Canada Elections Act. These could include:

- A two-day weekend polling period (Saturday and Sunday) instead of the usual single polling day (Monday). This would facilitate distancing of voters, give access to a range of polling locations such as schools that would otherwise be unavailable and help to recruit poll workers;
- Providing returning officers with greater flexibility to safely serve electors in long-term care facilities by increasing the number of voting days and working with each facility to tailor the approach to their situation;
- Mail-in ballots sent before the deadline could continue to be accepted until the day following the two-day week-end polling period.

Elections Canada is surveying Canadians and consulting external stakeholders on its plans to deliver an election during a pandemic and to assess the potential impact of these changes. These stakeholders include public health officials, other relevant government departments, the Advisory Committee of Political Parties, the Advisory Group on Disability Issues and stakeholders representing groups of electors who experience barriers to the electoral process or may be more impacted by the intended changes.

Elections Canada did not consider introducing Internet voting. Implementing such a change would require significant planning and testing in order to ensure that the agency preserves certain aspects of the vote, including confidentiality, secrecy, reliability and integrity. Given the current operational and time constraints, this option cannot be explored properly at this time.

The agency is currently assessing how much such pandemic-related changes would cost. A cost estimate will be released once that assessment has been completed.

If an election were to take place before all the measures outlined above are fully implemented or in the absence of legislative changes, Elections Canada would focus on implementing physical distancing and other public health guidelines at polling places and local Elections Canada offices, including providing protective equipment for poll workers and office workers.



# Governments in Canada expanding dramatically

by Alex Whalen and Steven Globerman

The size of government in Canada is an important matter of public policy. It directly influences the allocation of society's resources, with consequences for long-term economic growth and prosperity. While this Fraser Institute study is primarily focused on the size of government in Canada between 2007 and 2018, it provides important context for developments in the size of government in 2020.

The study uses three measures to examine the size of government over the past decade in Canada and the provinces. First, we examine the size of government as a share of the national and provincial economies. Second, we look at the patterns of government expenditure, that is, the items on which governments are spending their money. Finally, we look at public employment levels as a key driver of the size of government. Economists have studied the question of whether there is an optimal size of government for decades.

While there have been a variety of approaches to the question, with varying results, one comprehensive analysis of OECD countries between 1960 and 2011 found that the growth-maximizing government expenditure share was about 26 per cent of GDP. This provides context for discussing Canada's current size of government. In this study, we measure the size of government in Canada as a share of GDP, that is, government expenditure in relation to the size of the economy, so as to be able to compare levels of expenditure over time in a consistent manner.

Between 2007 and 2018, the share of government in Canada has been growing. In fact, our data reveal that it grew for Canada as a whole, as well as in eight of 10 provinces during this period. The share of the economy that government occupies varies widely across the country. For Canada as a whole (including the federal government and the provincial governments), the share of government was 40.3 per cent in 2018, up from 37.4 per cent in 2007. Among the provinces, in 2018 Alberta had the smallest government, 29.3 per cent of its economy, and Nova Scotia, the largest at 61.6 per cent.

Governments across the country have increased the share of spending in three of the four categories measured. Spending on goods and services increased from 60.5 per cent of total government spending to 61.5 per cent between 2007 and 2018. Transfer payments increased from 25.9 per cent to 27.4 per cent. Capital transfers and subsidies increased from 3.1 per cent to 3.8 per cent.



These increases are mirrored by the reduction in debt-servicing costs as a share of total spending, from 10.5 per cent to 7.2 per cent.

Government employment as a share of total employment in Canada has been increasing as well. While this measure peaked in the 1990–1994 period, it has been steadily increasing for the country as a whole over the past 20 years.

The COVID-19 outbreak and ensuing recession is contributing to a dramatic expansion in the size of government in Canada in 2020. Governments are spending more in all categories except debt servicing costs. This growth in the relative size of government is reason for concern given estimates indicating that the pre-COVID size of government in Canada was already well above the percentage associated with maximum economic growth.

Read the full study at:  
<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/studies/changing-size-of-government-in-canada-2007-2018>.

**(Alex Whalen is a Policy Analyst with the Fraser Institute and coordinator for many of the activities in the recently launched Atlantic Canada division. Steven Globerman is Resident Scholar and Addington Chair in Measurement at the Fraser Institute as well as Professor Emeritus at Western Washington University.)**

# “It's time for Greens to reinvent their politics”

**Editor's note:** In this article, BC Green co-founder Michael M'Gonigle presents his ideas on a new way of doing politics, a new way that might be considered by all those interested in a vibrant modern democracy.

In Canada over the past decade, being a Green has meant being a member of a parliamentary-style party. Over that time, the Greens held a single seat in the federal House of Commons as well as in the BC legislature. Today, it has three seats (out of 338) in Ottawa, and two (out of 87) in Victoria.

But BC Green Party co-founder Michael M'Gonigle says: “This is not a route that will save the planet.”

Writing in *The Tyee.ca*, M'Gonigle continues: “So how might the Greens work to achieve system change? Put simply, by returning to their roots by redirecting their ambitions from gaining power inside the legislature to enhancing collective action in the world outside it. This is the difference between political reform and social reformation.”

(Michael's full analysis of the future of Greens in Canada can be found here:

<https://thetyee.ca/Analysis/2020/08/31/Time-Greens-Reinvent-Themselves/>)

The former Greenpeace campaigner says the Greens must “empower place-based social ecosystems. In the terminology of constitutional law, the socio-ecosystem must again become a 'constituent' power – that is, a systemic power where grounded communities can reconstitute who they are and what their lifeworld will become.”

M'Gonigle writes: “To achieve this, the Greens would jettison their obsession with achieving formal political power, and work to develop a caucus of individuals whose day-to-day jobs would be as local facilitators of change at the level of each person's socio-ecosystem. Such a green “representative” would not be an indistinct politician in a distant institution, but an actual reformer of local practices and institutions. The Greens might even reconstitute their constituency (whether rural or urban) to map onto its physical bioregion.

“Linking local action to a global network, the Greens would create their path – and their movement – as they go. There are many prosaic details. For example, to support their work, facilitators could reinvent the old tactic of the in-person, door-to-door canvas. This would make possible the interpersonal (pre-Internet) community dialogue that is essential to building an activist movement. Today, party memberships are about the unending ask for money, not grounded engagement.



“Central to this incipient movement could be a new Green 'parlement' (that is, a place to speak) where local facilitators could exchange ideas and experiences, and co-ordinate their activities. In the language of Polanyi and Ostrom, this parlement would function as a true house of the commons.

“These facilitators could also put their names forward to win formal power in the provincial or federal assemblies. When they did, they would not be another anonymous name campaigning with vague promises designed to appeal to the lowest common denominator of the electorate. Rather, they would be real locals with experience and connections to putting green ideas into practice. This would reinvent the nature of political leadership as anyone elected to the big House would be accountable to those already co-ordinating their activities in their green house (pun intended).

“Overall, this work would lay the foundations for a reinvigorated democracy that reforms the sovereign state by placing real power in the community. This may seem all fanciful, but revolutions do happen, and re-evolution is now a planetary imperative.

“It's time for Greens to reinvent their politics and purpose. I have returned to the movement's roots to present a vision for the future. My intent is to spark an overdue and vital conversation among realos and fundis alike. The stakes could not be higher and time is short.”

**(Michael M'Gonigle was eco-research professor in the faculty of law and the school of environmental studies, University of Victoria (1995-2016). He was a Greenpeace campaigner in the 1970s and '80s and a co-founder of Greenpeace International in 1978-1979 as well as the BC Green Party in 1983.)**

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# The whispered stories of our women speak volumes

By Penny Priddy

October is Canadian Women's History Month. We read stories of well-known women and we celebrate them and their achievements. Yet there are thousands of other women in our history who are equally deserving of celebrating and honouring.

These are women whose names are not known and whose stories are not recorded. They are mothers, daughters, aunts, sisters and spouses. They have played a pivotal role in weaving the fabric of British Columbia. Long before these women arrived there were Indigenous women who lived here, raised families and nurtured and cared for this land for thousands of years before European contact. They are in some ways whispers of history. We know they were there but we know little about them.

Many of us have grown up in places where we have run on streets, played in parks and walked past buildings that were named after men. We have studied history books about the achievements of men. This is not to take away from the accomplishments of these men but, with few exceptions, women's history is not reflected in these experiences.

Women's contributions to history were often seen and valued differently. Adjectives such as brave, bold and strong were used to define men, while women were described as caring and nurturing. The repetition of such words helped to focus the lens through which we viewed our past. It is not that long ago that the term 'weaker sex' was used to describe women in general. We know now, of course, that this was not the case and that women played an equally strong – albeit sometimes different – role in building BC and Canada. However, in the meantime we have lost to history so many important voices. They are now only whispers.

In photographs available in museums and archives, we see such notations as 'Mr. Jensen and wife' or 'Mr. Chen and family.' The women often don't have a name, just a label. Again, a whisper of who they were.

Traditionally, but not always, it was men whose names were on homesteads and businesses. They were honoured with plaques and trophies and photographs.



Historically, women also had an important role in those achievements. They supported and guided their spouses, fathers and brothers. They also hunted, fished and preserved food in order to feed their families. They made clothes and quilts to keep families warm and protected so that men could pursue their activities. They literally kept the home fires burning.

There are early photos of women being honoured for their quilts and preserves at autumn fairs as they receive ribbons for their accomplishments. Most of these early photographs and writings are not reflective in any way of the contributions made by immigrant women to our economic, social and cultural heritage.

We have writings from women's personal diaries that describe the activities of daily life and often their personal goals and achievements. We have minutes of women's institutes and other organizations that tell us more about the collective goals of women. They do indeed add to our knowledge. These examples of writing have led to certain assumptions about these women: They were educated to write; they had time in their day to devote to writing and the ability to afford pen, ink and paper. There are few writings from women who did not have those privileges. They remain whispers in our history.

So, as we progress through this challenging October 2020, we need to find a quiet place, and for a few short minutes, if we listen very carefully, we might just hear the whispered stories of these women.

# Former Health Minister Terry Lake joins seniors care sector

The BC Care Providers Association (BCCPA), the organization representing the majority of the province's long-term care, assisted and independent living and home health operators, has named Terry Lake to lead the organization as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

"Following a rigorous search, the board of directors is proud to announce the appointment of Terry Lake as CEO of BC Care Providers Association and our operating arm EngAge BC," says board president Aly Devji.

"Through our process it became clear to the board that Terry's impressive combination of public and private sector accomplishments, leadership skills and strategic thinking make him an excellent fit and the right choice to lead BCCPA and EngAge BC at the most important time in our 43-year history."

"I am very excited to join BC Care Providers Association and EngAge BC as CEO," says Lake. "BCCPA is an organization that I have worked with before, and I have watched it grow into an important force



in BC and across Canada in the area of seniors health and housing. In particular during the pandemic, BCCPA has provided decisive leadership to help keep residents and staff in our care homes and independent living sites safe."

Lake will succeed Acting CEO Mike Klassen, who will support Terry with the transition and continue on in a senior management capacity.

Lake was a Liberal MLA representing Kamloops-North Thompson from 2009 to 2017 when he decided not to seek re-election. Former premier Gordon Campbell appointed Lake Parliamentary Secretary for the Ranching Task Force and, following that task force's work, Lake was appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Health Promotion. Lake also chaired the Sled Dog Task Force. In 2011, former premier Christy Clark appointed Lake Minister of Environment. In 2013, he became Health Minister.

Prior to being elected as a MLA, Lake served one term (2002–2005) as a Kamloops city councillor and one term (2005–2008) as mayor. In Kamloops, Lake made priorities of developing a convention centre and expanding the airport. He was also involved in passing citywide vicious dog bylaw and regulations on performances by exotic animals. He served on the executive of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities in 2005 and sat on the board of BC Transit from 2006 to 2008.

A veterinarian by training, he was an animal health technology instructor at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops from 1997 to 2005. He owned Coquitlam Animal Hospital from 1989 to 1996 before moving to Kamloops with his family. He is a past vice-president and treasurer for the World Small Animal Veterinary Association.



## 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](http://bcbroker.ca).

HELPING WHEN LIFE CHANGES



# Sometimes in the Chamber two swords are not enough

By Jim Hume  
The Old Islander

The summer of 1979 was not the happiest for the members of the BC Legislative Assembly, and it was made more acrimonious by the debate to establish the Municipality of Whistler. MLAs had argued their way through most of July and were now, reluctantly and acrimoniously, on the verge of violating the time-honoured adjournment of the House for the sacred holiday month of August.

Historically in the Legislative chamber, government and opposition MLAs sit two sword lengths apart to make sure attacks are verbal only. Debate rules are designed to confine discourse to courteous language, but that is a convention rarely enforced by the Speaker. Back in the 1970s, as I was relatively new to the House, Hansard – a verbatim record of everything spoken in the Chamber – had become a receptacle of many a spiteful phrase rather than a source of erudite English.

And so it is in 2020 – with a frightening pandemic tugging our souls; with daily newspapers reduced to a diet of news gruel so thin even *Oliver Twist* wouldn't ask for more; and with our ration of political pottage, sporadic and lacking in "coherent content" – I turn to an old 1975 Legislature Hansard for a look at MLAs embracing another day of debate.

Here I find Dave Barrett sticking needles into Alan Williams, then MLA for West Vancouver-Howe Sound and Minister of Labour in Bill Bennett's Social Credit government. He says: "My very long fellow member ... once a Liberal and now a Socred – politically re-born, having seen the light of A plus B and now Minister of Labour, sanctimonious to the nth degree – this secret closet Socred who nurtured his whole political career ... (while) waiting to burst forth as a butterfly in the Social Credit cabinet ..."

Earlier in his dissertation, Dave had referred to the member from Yale-Lillooet as a "commie pinko." No one knew what on earth was meant by the slur, but Minister of Forests Tom Waterland, a quiet-spoken chap, was chuffed enough, and unwise enough to ask the Speaker to request an apology and withdrawal because he found it "very offensive to be referred to as any kind of socialist."



And Dave, never one to miss a proffered target, found it hard to hold back a grin as he responded without hesitation: "On behalf of all socialists, I withdraw the remark."

Here are a few thoughts on the debate I cherry-picked as a change of pace from COVID-19 and life's other continuing disasters. The debate centred on the Resort Municipality of Whistler, a community that was an amazing BC story. Having been present on site as the first roads were being shaped and having been there for many events before it became a municipality moving towards international status, I'm an unabashed admirer of the jewelled community.

The debate recorded in Hansard that I have referred to was bad-tempered and ill-mannered. The "special resort municipality" legislation was debated and condemned by the NDP in every way, shape, and form. But, it was not originally a Social Credit government idea. That honour belongs to the NDP's former Minister of Municipal Affairs Jim Lorimer, who placed the idea on the table during Dave Barrett's tenure as premier. The NDP government lost power before it could be developed further. When the Socreds took over with Bill Bennett at the helm, the creation of a "special resort municipality" was dusted off. It was embellished, polished and brought back, centre stage, on the legislative agenda.

Hansard records that one of the first things Alan Williams did when the debate reached its most strident pitch was to congratulate Lorimer "for his earlier foresight."

# Member News

Please send news about your activities to [ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com](mailto:ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com) for the next newsletter.

## Port Alberni Toy Run is distanced in the shadow of COVID-19

Around the Alberni Valley former MLA Gerard Janssen's nickname is now "Grumpy Santa." This past month Grumpy participated, as he always does, in the Port Alberni Toy Run, or as he put it "the PA Toy non-Run" thanks to the pandemic.

He tells us: "As Santa, I encouraged everyone to stay distanced, wear masks and keep the groups small. We sold COVID Toy Run Bears; more than 300 bikes drove through and there were a lot of cars. They brought wrapped toys and cash donations. The Langley bikers came again and donated \$2,000. So, it looks like we will have enough money to keep at least the breakfast programs going. A lot better than anyone expected."



The Toy Run funds school breakfast programs to feed kids who might miss out on their breakfast at home. It has also funded Raise a Reader, and provided "Vanity Packs" (toothpaste, deodorant, sanitary napkins), free swimming and skating on holidays, First Night (New Year) celebrations, and Christmas skating at the rink with prizes for kids. The Toy Run has also funded the building of playgrounds and staged outdoor theatre movies.

"Our motto is 'it's for the kids,'" Gerard says. "Over 35 years we have raised almost \$2 million. This would have been our 36<sup>th</sup> year. We usually raise around \$50,000 over our three-day weekend. Our usual attendance is around 800 motorcycles. It is a great economic boost for Alberni with hotels and restaurants filling up. Bikers are no longer 'bikers.'"

## An invitation to donate to the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund

The Victoria Foundation looks forward to receiving donations to the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund from all of Hugh's well wishers and friends.

**By phone:** Call 250-381-5532 to make a donation by credit card directly via the Victoria Foundation.

**By cheque:** Send cheques to the Victoria Foundation at #200 - 703 Broughton Street, Victoria, B.C., V8N 1E2. Please ensure they are made out to The Victoria Foundation. Note the name of the fund in the memo line or in a cover letter.

**Online:** The Victoria Foundation's mechanism for online donations is [CanadaHelps](https://CanadaHelps.org) and the steps are:

- Go to [www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca](http://www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca)
- Click on the [Make a Donation](#) button and then on the "Online" link and then the [CanadaHelps](#) link which will take you to the Foundation's page on the CanadaHelps web site.
- Click to indicate whether you want to donate now or monthly and you will be taken through the steps to make your donation.
- In the section for designation of your gift, click on the drop down menu to select the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund.
- You may pay with VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Interac or through a PayPal account.
- After you pay for your gift, CanadaHelps.org will send you an online receipt.
- There are several privacy permissions available. If you choose to include your name and address in the information which is sent to the Victoria Foundation, the Association will be pleased to acknowledge your gift.

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](mailto:sneely@victoriafoundation.bc.ca)

50 years ago

## “Just watch me” characterized Trudeau's resolve to crush the FLQ

"Just watch me" is a phrase made famous by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau on October 13, 1970, during the October Crisis.

Trudeau, who had been a strong proponent of civil liberties, spoke of the need for drastic action to restore order in Quebec. When questioned by the CBC on how far he would go in the suspension of civil liberties to maintain order, Trudeau replied: "Well, just watch me."

Three days later, he invoked the War Measures Act, which led to police action against many Quebec dissidents and great public controversy.

On Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, armed FLQ gunmen had kidnapped a British diplomat named James Cross. And, on the 10<sup>th</sup>, several men from a second FLQ cell found Quebec cabinet minister Pierre Laporte throwing a football on his front lawn with his children. Armed with machine guns, they dragged him into a car and held him captive at a home in suburban Montreal. And yet, despite a decade of violence, the federal and Quebec governments were unprepared for this escalation.

The police organized one of the largest manhunts in Canadian history, carrying out nearly a thousand raids and arresting, questioning, and then releasing about 50 people. The provincial government balked at submitting to the terrorists' demands, which included releasing "political" prisoners and sending the kidnappers themselves to Cuba or Algeria with an armload of gold bullion.

Suddenly, the FLQ seemed capable of organized and coordinated action that threatened the government (in fact, the second kidnapping was not planned in advance, and each cell acted independently). On Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, the military began patrolling the streets of Ottawa.

A crisis atmosphere was palpable in Quebec and, through the media, across the country. While Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and his cabinet chafed at Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa's apparent intransigence, rumours spread that a group of prominent Quebecers was setting up a provisional government to replace Bourassa. The stories seemed to acquire some credibility when, on Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>, 16 "eminent personalities" – including leading figures in Quebec media, politics, academia, and the labour movement – called a press conference to demand that the government negotiate with the FLQ (René Lévesque began the conference by declaring that "Quebec no longer has a Government").



Peter C. Newman, who had broken the provisional government story in the *Toronto Star*, would later claim in his 2004 autobiography that Trudeau fabricated the rumour to help justify the use of emergency powers.

Meanwhile, federal Economic Expansion Minister Jean Marchand frantically warned his cabinet colleagues about potential rebellion and informers in the police. On Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, 3,000 people crowded into Paul-Sauvé arena in Montreal, chanting pro-FLQ slogans. At l'Université de Montréal, more than a thousand students attended a speech by Pierre Vallières and signed a petition in support of the FLQ Manifesto.

While the Quebec government negotiated with an FLQ lawyer, Robert Lemieux, military reinforcements poured into the province, and by the night of Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, 6,000 troops were stationed in Montreal. Soldiers lined the streets of the city and patrolled government buildings. The newly-opened Université de Québec à Montréal was shut down the next day in the midst of violent student protests.

Desperate to find a solution, Bourassa and Montreal Mayor Jean Drapeau wrote to Trudeau on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> insisting that an insurrection was under way and calling on Ottawa to intervene. The federal government responded with the imposition of the War Measures Act. The next day, Pierre Laporte was found in the trunk of a car, murdered by the FLQ. His kidnappers were captured and sentenced to prison terms ranging from 20 years to life.

Under the powers of the War Measures Act, the police conducted more than 3,000 searches and detained 497 people.

# Greetings retiring MLAs, thank you for your service

*An invitation to join AFMLABC from:  
Retiring president Jeff Bray, incoming president Ian Waddell, and membership chair Ken Jones*

Welcome to the Association of Former MLAs of BC. You have served long and well and richly deserve to kick back and let a new wave of politicians embrace the challenges and rewards of public service.

The thing is, once an MLA always an MLA. For years to come folks will stop you on the street and ask your help. Most of you will still try to be there for them.

Our members tell us that in retirement, they come to better appreciate that good governance trumps partisan divides. Old foes become friends. Issues that seemed black and white become more nuanced.

You will also want to stay connected. That's where the AFMLABC comes in.

The Association's goals are compelling in these troubling times. Its mandate is to:

- Put the knowledge and experience of its members at the service of parliamentary democracy in British Columbia and elsewhere;
- Serve the public interest by providing non-partisan support for the parliamentary system of government in British Columbia;
- Foster a spirit of community among former MLAs; and
- Build good relations between current and former MLAs.

Joining is simple. Go to: [www.formerbcmla.com/payments](http://www.formerbcmla.com/payments), and follow the prompts. For more information, email us at [ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com](mailto:ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com).



## ASSOCIATION OF FORMER MLAS OF BC – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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I wish to receive 'Orders of the Day' by:  Canada Post  email

**Payment can be made on-line at:** <https://www.formerbcmla.com/payments>

If by cheque, please make it payable to: **"The Association of Former MLAs of BC"**

and mail to: **PO Box 31009, University Heights PO, Victoria, BC, V8N 6J3**