



# THE TRUE WHIG

A Publication of the Kingston and the Islands Federal Liberal Association

June 2013

Volume 2 Number 2

## A NEW EXCITEMENT BUILDS

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Word From **2**  
Ted Hsu, MP

Voice of Youth **3**

President's **4**  
Message

Profile **5**

In My Opinion... **6**

Point/  
Counterpoint **7**

Publisher's **8**  
Desk

The last few months have brought a wonderful boost of enthusiasm to our Party. Kingston and the Islands has always been among the most active riding associations in the country, but the national leadership campaign and the infusion of new blood into the ranks of the local leadership has created a sense of hope and determination not experienced for some time. Our membership now stands near 900 and over 2000 others are in the new supporters category making this one of the

largest Federal ridings in Canada. And this group has been active too. Ron Hartling's column on page 4 recognizes some of the work our volunteers have been up to. We've



opened our doors wide and people are responding enthusiastically. And the best part is that so many of them are young! Five new Directors have joined the Executive and all are under 30 (see page 8) Young, bright, creative and dedicated people at all levels of our Party bodes well for the future of the Liberal Party of Canada as well as the entire nation.

### Photos this page

*Top: Our new red tent at the Pride Day in City Park*

*Middle: Our former and current MPs preparing and serving lunch at Martha's Table*

*Bottom: Ted Hsu and KIFLA volunteers at Pitch-In Kingston.*



## A WORD FROM TED HSU M.P.

Dear Liberal friends and supporters,

What a change just a few months can make in the national political landscape.

As the House adjourns for the summer and the smoke clears, if it is actually clearing, your Liberal Party is the only Party with a caucus that is united, working hard together, and in good spirits. I am very happy to report that to you.

As the RCMP investigates the Wright-Duffy affair, here is how you can help the Liberal cause: Remind your friends and neighbours that the most important issue is why Prime Minister Harper's Chief of Staff needed to write a \$90,000 cheque to Senator Mike Duffy. Don't let the other Parties change the channel and talk about Senate reform. Yes, some senators have behaved very badly, and the Liberal Party wants to reform the Senate, but since we want to make significant changes to the Senate, we have to wait for the Supreme Court to tell us the legal way to do that. One of the things the Liberal Party succeeded in doing this year was to get the Conservatives to finally refer the question to the Supreme Court to get the ball rolling. The Court will report back to Parliament later this year.

Even though there are criminal investigations at the highest levels of the Conservative government, mistakes have been made in all parties and it would be very easy for the

Conservatives, with their counter accusations, to simply turn off voters, to get voters to tell themselves that all politicians are alike, and that none of them can be trusted.

In response, Justin Trudeau has, very wisely I think, decided that we have to take a positive action to restore trust and to rise above simple mudslinging. To that end he has pledged that all Liberal MPs and Senators must report all travel and entertainment expenses beginning in September. He has apologized to us in advance for requiring us to sacrifice a significant amount of staff resources to file all the required information. It will be done.



Back home, I think that the Liberal Party has upped its presence in our community by organizing or participating in many events and activities. This can only be done with

the dedication of volunteers because my schedule is filled with events that I attend in a non-partisan function as a Member of Parliament. So I want to take this opportunity to say thank you for a job well done to all of our many volunteers. The need for volunteers will only increase as we approach 2015 and the next election. Indeed, nationally, the leader aims to be ready for an election as early as 2014 if necessary.

Thank you all for your continued support that enables me to work for the Kingston and the Islands and for Canada.

# THE TRUE WHIG

Mailing  
Box 22061  
Kingston, ON  
K7M 8S5

Web: [www.kingstonliberals.ca](http://www.kingstonliberals.ca)  
Twitter: #kingstonlibs  
Facebook: Kingston and the Islands  
Federal Liberal Association

Publisher/Editor: Hans Vorster  
Co-Editor: Raly Chakarova  
Photo Credits:

## THE VOICE OF YOUTH

### Looking for Principled Leadership

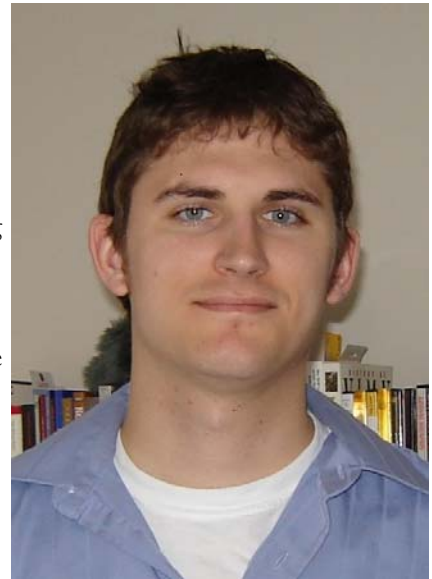
By Matthew Cain

The summer adjournment of Parliament cannot have come too quickly for Harper and the Conservatives, given the ongoing Senate expenses scandal involving, among others, Mike Duffy and Harper's former chief of staff Nigel Wright. While the Tories attempt to regroup, our news media will, however, continue well into the summer to besiege us daily with reports of criminal investigations at every level of government. Whatever emerges from the Rob Ford saga in Toronto, it is clear at least that he keeps less than desirable company; Montreal has seen two mayors resign in the past twelve months because of alleged corruption and fraud. The OPP are now investigating the deletion of emails connected to the gas plant cancellations here in Ontario. In the span of just a few months, Canadians have learned that naked self-interest, greed, fraud, and duplicity are weakening the heart of our democratic institutions. We are left to ask what happened to the men and women of strong principles who believe in the public good, put the concerns of the community ahead of individual interests, and who believe accountability is more important than power.

Yet business leaders are hardly blameless, either, given the growing wealth gap and wage inequality that exists today. While there are many reasons for the hollowing out of the middle class in the last three decades, I cannot help thinking that one is plainly greed. Any number of studies released in the last few years points, for instance, to the fact that in the early 1980s CEOs made on average 10-30 times more than an average employee, and today that disparity is ten times larger. Even when companies hit difficult times, forcing thousands of layoffs, fired CEOs nevertheless receive millions in bonuses and/or severance payouts. Moreover, corporations regularly move jobs around the world not to help struggling developing nations, but to decrease wage payouts and thus up their shares mere percentage points. They further find any and all means to avoid taxes. This is all in opposition to the business leaders of a generation ago who, perhaps because they came of age amid the devastation of the Depression and World War Two, felt a sense of

obligation to the community to ensure that as many citizens as possible could share in the profits, whether through well-paying jobs or government programs subsidized by taxes.

Of course, there are many men and women of very strong moral and ethical character in government and business, who are working hard and sacrificing much in their own lives for the sake of the public good. It is these people who are the real leaders, who set an example for us all to follow but who need to stand up and be heard in these troubling times. The Millennial generation is, above all, idealistic, craving to build a world that rewards honesty, integrity, self-sacrifice, and earnest, hard work. Not since the 1960s has a generation sensed that this is possible, and luckily, we have another Trudeau to guide us! Seeing to it that we, as Liberals, can usher in with Mr. Trudeau a new era of accountability, transparency, and, above all, integrity, will reward the hope and faith of tomorrow's future leaders. The more that young people see examples set by the likes of the Honourable Bob Rae, who put the good of the Liberal Party ahead of his personal ambition and whose commitment to public service has always been unquestioned, the more likely they are to trust and participate in our democratic institutions.



*Matthew Cain completed his Bachelor's and Masters degrees at Queen's University in English Literature. He is now a Ph.D. Candidate at Carleton in the Department of Canadian Studies.*



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Liberal Outreach in our Community

If you have been following our correspondence over the past several years, you will have noticed our increasing use of the term “outreach” in relation to our events and activities. That’s no accident. Community outreach has become fundamental not just to what we do but equally who we are as a Liberal riding association.

I define outreach as is any activity which we undertake to connect with and engage the larger community in our riding beyond known Liberal members and supporters. It’s all about going beyond words and slogans to put our Liberal values in action, not just saying who we are but living those values in what we do.

Most of us have chosen to be politically active because we want to contribute to securing a better future for our community, our nation and our planet, not only for ourselves, but for our children, our fellow citizens and, increasingly, for all life. We have chosen to be Liberals because we believe that our Liberal candidate will dedicate him/herself to advancing those goals in Parliament and that a Liberal-led federal government represents our best hope of Canada again championing our values nationally and globally.

Too many of our fellow Canadians have given up on politics, becoming profoundly cynical about the political system and believing that all politicians are in it for themselves. In the last election, almost 40% of eligible voters chose not to vote. Tragically, by that choice they brought about the Harper majority government which has proceeded to worsen the causes of their alienation.



As we learn more about who comprises that 40%, I believe we will find they are the ones whose life prospects and those of their children will be most negatively impacted by the narrow, corporatist and self-serving policies of this government.

How then do we reach those who no longer believe that the simple act of voting can make a meaningful difference in their lives and their future? We start by listening, by getting out into the community where they are and coming to understand their issues and situations.

We then act to create opportunities for their concerns to be heard within the community and, through our MP, all the way up to Parliament. We become known to them. We earn their trust. We serve as a visible example of citizen engagement and empowerment. We actively counter the negativity by exemplifying Canadian values in what we do.

Outreach is serving meals to the homeless at Martha’s Table. It’s cleaning up Shannon Park as part of Pitch-in Kingston. It’s sponsoring and organizing public town hall discussion on issues as diverse as climate change and prison overcrowding, then taking what is said to Parliament through petitions. It’s marching in the Canada Day parade and providing a water station for the Pride event. It’s protesting the destruction of the prison farm rehabilitation program. You can contribute through your ideas, with your donations, by joining our volunteer teams. You can also do outreach every day simply by speaking with your friends, family members and others in your respective circles on the issues affecting Kingston, Canada and the world and how a better government could make a positive difference.

For the latest in news, comments, events and activities, don't forget to check our website:

[www.kingstonliberals.ca](http://www.kingstonliberals.ca)

## YOUR EXECUTIVE

A profile of...

### Raly Chakarova, Outreach Director

Raly Chakarova had a few months between graduation from U of T and starting her post-graduate courses, and since she hated to sit still and there were few appropriate jobs available for a short stint, she decided to volunteer. Raly would have been a star in any organization she chose to associate with, but circumstance and good judgement (hers) led her to offer her talents to the Liberal Party in Kingston. It was a very fortunate decision for KIFLA. In a relatively short time she has become not only a creative and hardworking Outreach Director, but a resource who is both willing and capable to take on all manner of other projects in communications, event planning and policy matters. So who is this *wunderkind*?

Raly was born on the Black Sea coast in Varna, Bulgaria. Her parents, a software developer and a computer graphic designer, decided to leave Bulgaria during the chaos in Eastern Europe after the collapse of the Soviet Bloc, and they landed in Canada at the very beginning of the new Millennium. Raly grew up and went to school in Markham, Ontario, and after completing Markville Secondary School, she enrolled at University of Toronto where she took a degree in International Development. The five year program consisted of 4 years of course work to get an Honours BA plus an additional year of work placement in her field.

Raly had the opportunity to go to any number of Canadian supported projects around the world and chose to spend her time with the indigenous population of a small volcanic island in Lake Nicaragua called Isla De Ometepe. She arrived at a time when Daniel Ortega and his Sandinista government had just been elected, and

they were finding their feet after years of being the opposition. Despite the frustrations inevitable when faced with the dichotomy of what one person can accomplish compared with all that needs to be done, Raly declared this to be “The best experience I ever had in my life. It makes you see what’s important. It was transformational.” Raly also used this time to do the research for her undergraduate thesis which was entitled “State Feminism in Ortega’s Nicaragua.” She graduated in 2012.

The experience led her to want to achieve greater academic heights. She applied to London School of Economics, which, as she put it, is “the Golden Goose for International Development students, and a direct path to the UN, World Bank or the IMF”, and she was accepted. However, another opportunity was even more attractive, and Raly enrolled at Queen’s University to pursue a Masters in Public Administration. She starts in September. Her rejection of one of the finest academic institutions on the planet was not an idle decision. Not only does she believe Queen’s is a great school with renowned professors in her field, the university offered her “a full ride” meaning an Ontario Graduate Scholarship worth \$15,000. Her career rationalization is also sound. Raly wants to work in her field in Canada, focussing on gender issues possibly with aboriginal communities and studying at Queen’s with a reputation of supplying a disproportionate number of graduates to the public service is an incubator of contacts in her future endeavours. It also doesn’t hurt that her already long-time boyfriend Ben is a third year law student at Queen’s.

But whatever Raly eventually chooses to do with her life, those of us who have worked with her in the past few months are convinced she will make a difference. She already has at KIFLA.

HV.





## IN MY OPINION....

## Punishing Those with Mental Illness

By Craig Jones

If there is one criticism shared by expert observers of the Harper crime agenda, it is this: “ineffectiveness” – the proposed changes will not achieve their stated public safety objectives, will not prevent victimization or crime, or have been tried elsewhere and failed. So it is with Bill C-54, the Not Criminally Responsible Reform Act.



The act will create a new “High-Risk” category that will stigmatize someone who has committed one serious offence as liable, without evidence, to reoffend or to present a greater risk to society. Decades of scientific and practitioner experience with persons with mental illness argues that mainstreaming such persons into the prison system tends to make them more – rather than less – likely to reoffend.

Even Vic Toews, Minister of Public Safety, admits that too many people with mental illness are in “the wrong place” – so why does he endorse making this outcome more likely?

This likelihood has provoked a storm of opposition from the expert community, the very people who know most about how to contend with this population of offenders. The Canadian Psychiatric Association testified before Parliament that Bill C-54’s provisions would jam hospital beds and punish people whose only crime was to be sick. Justice Richard Schneider, chair of the Ontario Review

Board and a leading expert in mental illness and law, claims that scarce beds will be occupied by people who don’t need them if patients cannot be released at appropriate times – slowing down an already overtaxed and under-resourced system. Lawyers, acting in the best interests of their mentally ill clients, will advise them to take their chances on prison rather than risk being institutionalized indefinitely with a finding of not criminally responsible.

It’s these kind of systemic shocks – so often contradicted by evidence – that characterize much of the Harper crime agenda. Driven by expedience and the need to be seen to be doing something, this government enacts harsh, punitive and stigmatizing legislation that ignores evidence of what works to enhance public safety, is costly and resource intensive, and contradicts front line expert experience.

Putting more mentally ill people into prisons and jails has the potential to make our system much more dangerous than is necessary to preserve public safety.

As with the changes provoked by the Graham James case, the notorious child-abusing hockey coach, Bill C-54 is an alarmist over-reaction to outlier cases committed by offenders who had never even been in the forensic psychiatric system and therefore offered no early warning of their danger. Bill C-54 is a threat to the delicate balance between civil liberties and public safety – an over-reaction driven by reflex and emotion, consistent with a “tough on crime” approach but no more likely to work any better than such approaches have worked in the United States.

*Craig Jones holds a PhD in political economy from Queen's University. He is the former Executive Director of the John Howard Society of Canada. He researches drug and criminal justice policy and is a freelance writer.*

Visit our website [www.kingstonliberals.ca](http://www.kingstonliberals.ca)

"Like" our Facebook Page [www.facebook.ca/KingstonLiberals](http://www.facebook.ca/KingstonLiberals)

Follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/KingstonLibs>

## POINT/COUNTERPOINT

### Proposition: The Senate Should Be Abolished

**In Favour: Tyler Omichinski**

The Senate needs to be abolished. This spate of recent scandals has simply shown us what some people have said all along: the Senate is a relic from a bygone era. The public could accept the unelected body when Senators did not participate in extra-curricular partisan activities. When the Senate provided the “sober second thought” it was always supposed to. When we respected our Senators.

That's the main problem with the modern senate. Rather than being the venue for the intellectuals, the experts, and the other great people of our nation who want to give back without engaging in the rugby game that is politics, it has become a nepotistic award for supporting your party. In the modern world, business people, founders of NGO's, and journalists can already make significant and drastic waves in the social and political spheres of our country. They do not need the Senate to do so, and they aren't the ones filling it.

The Senate was intended to provide representation to the four original geographic divisions of the country, with changes as our country grew. There has never been a realization of this dream. Instead, we pay \$100-million a year, that's to the tune of one million dollars per Senator, to create a body which has become a mere rubber stamp for policy. A prime example of this lack of accountability is their failure to do anything to prevent the environmental destruction of the Atlantic fisheries despite it falling entirely within their *raison d'être*.

The Canadian people deserve better than a body that had only one discussion on Bill C-311 in December 2010 and it was notable solely for being informal, exemplifying the partisan rhetoric which is already too prevalent in our country, and unprofessional language. We deserve better.

**Opposed: Raly Chakarova**

Abolishing the Senate will eliminate a fundamental check on parliamentary power, leaving only the Supreme Court to uphold the constitutionality of public policy and safeguard Canadians. All federal nations including the U.S., Australia, Germany, Belgium, Argentina, and Brazil are bicameral (two-house) systems. It is essential for Canadian democracy to keep our red chamber of “sober second thought” to protect regional interests, while adopting and emphasizing a long-term policy foresight.

The Senate is meant to facilitate a comprehensive discussion on sensitive social problems and consider the big strategic policy questions. Most of what the Senate does is in-depth committee work that informs public debate. Senate Committees do much the same thing as royal commissions and task forces, only they cost Canadian taxpayers less and often finish their investigations quicker.

It was the Senate that rejected a bill passed by the Commons restricting abortion. It was the Senate who first recommended that marijuana be completely legalized. It was the Senate that prioritized mental health, directly leading to the creation of the Mental Health Commission of Canada. It is the Senate now questioning the government's union disclosure bill.

It is irresponsible to condemn the \$100 million spent on the Senate considering the \$113 million budgeted this year for the "Economic Action Plan" ads. Talk about abuse of privilege.

But the Senate is only as good as the quality of its Senators. The appointment process must be reformed for the institution to meaningfully carry out its mandate.

Senators should remain appointed in a transparent and accountable process by the regions they represent and by a committee comprised of members of the Order of Canada. Senators should sit as independents, stripped of all partisan affiliation and party discipline, and free to review policy with impartiality, expertise, and actual "sober second thought". Senators should remain appointed to avoid being tainted by election politics where personalities and fundraising skills prevail and constituents' demands distract from the long-term strategic vision for legislation. A 10 years appointment, once renewable, will provide secure of tenure without jeopardizing that long-term vision.



## FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

KIFLA held its Annual General Meeting at the end of April at the RCAF Club at Norman Rogers airport. As is the case at each of these events, a new Executive was announced—some hold-overs and some new faces. The incoming crowd is predominantly young and that is exciting news. They are:

**Kelly Donovan**      Membership and Data Management  
**Vincent Jiang**        Fund Raising Chair  
**Zorian Maksymic**    Volunteer Director  
**Maddy Ross**         Youth Director  
**Philippe Archambault** Director at Large

We welcome them all..

Remember that KIFLA Executive meetings are open to members and you too are welcome to attend. Our next scheduled meeting is for Tuesday, July 16 at 6:30 PM at the Seniors' Centre.

KIFLA is planning to hold its annual summer BBQ in August with exact date and location yet to be announced. Watch the website for details.

There are also plans afoot for a great social event with our MP, Ted Hsu. Those details too will be revealed on the website: [www.kingstonliberals.ca](http://www.kingstonliberals.ca).

The next issue of The True Whig is scheduled for late September and will focus on youth. Letters, emails and other comments are encouraged.



*Canada*

### Canada Day Parade

March with us in the Canada Day parade! Meet at 11:15am at the corner of Barrie & Princess. Parade starts at 11:30 am sharp Don't forget to wear your white or red Liberal shirt!



### New Liberal T-shirts!

Be a proud Liberal! Demonstrate that we are a positive presence in our community!

**Only \$15.**

Available sizes (unisex): S, M, L, XL

To place an order, please send an email specifying quantity and size to [rsvp@kingstonliberals.ca](mailto:rsvp@kingstonliberals.ca)

**Join the Kingston Liberals in our efforts  
to raise money and non-perishable food items  
for our local food banks that need it most!**

**Kingston Liberals'**

*community*  
**FOOD DRIVE**

**June 1st - June 30th**

**In Kingston:**

**>17,000 people live in poverty.**

**~35% more people use food banks now than in 2008.**

**986 meals served by food agencies on an average day in May.**

**The Good Neighbour Program.**

### Food Drive

You can donate a non-perishable food item at our drop off locations at **John's Deli** (507 Princess St.) and **Starbucks** (95 Princess St.). To arrange a pick-up, please e-mail [fooddrive@kingstonliberals.ca](mailto:fooddrive@kingstonliberals.ca). You can also donate securely online here:

[goo.gl/nfSEg](http://goo.gl/nfSEg)

All donations will go to Lunch by George

[\(http://www.osgk.org/\)](http://www.osgk.org/)!

A very special thank you to Floyd Rudmin for his generous donation!

**Thank you for being a Good Neighbour.**