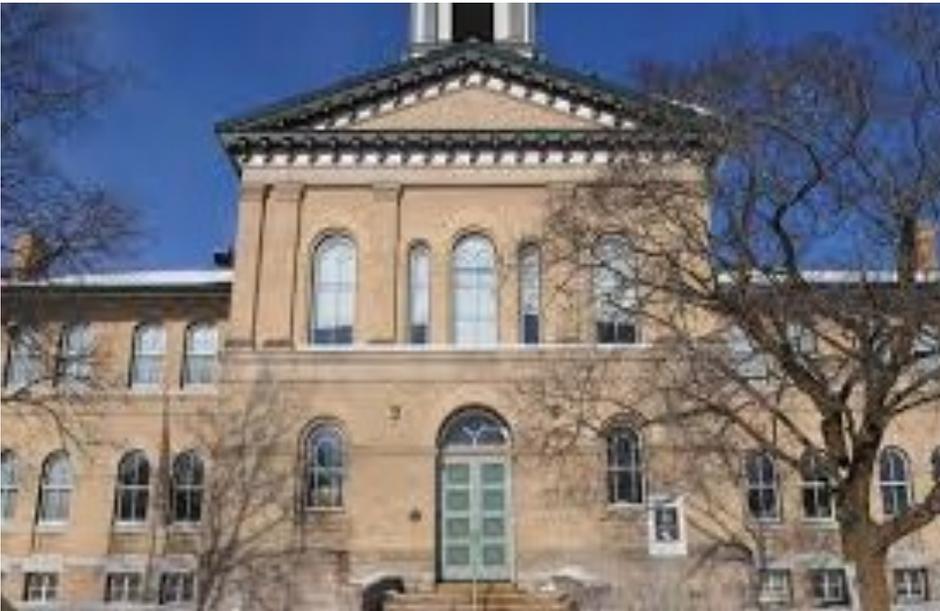


THE HKLB NEW DEMOCRAT

City of Kawartha Lakes Council rejects offer to discuss “Basic Income Guarantee”



A request from the City of Kingston asking every municipality in Ontario to consult with upper levels of government about a basic income guarantee to combat poverty was rejected by City of Kawartha Lakes council at its January 26 council meeting. The letter was sent after Kingston City council passed a motion last December endorsing that all Ontario municipalities meet with provincial and federal officials to consider, investigate and develop a coordinated Basic Income Guarantee for all Canadians.

A 2011 National Household Survey showed 14.9 per cent of the Canadian population are low-income.

The letter outlines several reasons for council's resolution, noting insufficient income, income insecurity and inequality are the root cause of social problems, from stress-related health issues to criminal activity.

Kingston council asked other municipalities to endorse approaching higher levels of government with the goal of ensuring everyone has a sufficient income to meet basic needs.

Despite the fact that the provincial government charged every municipality to come up with a Poverty Reduction Strategy five years ago, Kawartha Lakes council rejected the opportunity to coordinate its efforts with the upper levels of government.

Ward 10 Councillor Pat Dunn was against taking any action other than receiving the letter and called the letter's request “all fluff” without enough details.

However Ward 6 Councillor Doug Elsmilie disagreed saying the letter was simply asking for municipalities to discuss the issue with the provincial and the federal governments.

City of Peterborough Council however, appear to have a different perspective to that of Kawartha Lakes Councillors.

Peterborough Councillor Diane Therrien stated, “I think it's an idea that is long overdue.”

Peterborough council is likely to ratify its support in three to six weeks time.

There are many examples of poverty reduction initiatives around the world.

In fact, there are current pilot projects being set up in the Netherlands and in Finland. As well:

- In part of Namibia where an unconditional basic income grant was tried, child malnutrition dropped from 42 per cent to 10 per cent, with close to zero drop-outs from school.
- In a World Bank study, researchers gave cash transfers to families in Malawi and ended up increasing school attendance of females with the program because they could afford to go to school to better themselves and their families.
- In eight villages in India, economist Guy Standing reports there was improved housing, better nutrition, better health outcomes, improved school attendance, and more empowerment for those with disabilities.

Given the fact that all municipalities were directed to develop a strategy to reduce poverty five years ago, it only makes sense to consult with higher levels of government with those results.

Rona Ambrose vows to use the Conservative majority in the Senate to block legislation



Interim Conservative Party leader Rona Ambrose vows to use the Conservative majority in the Senate to block legislation.

It now appears that the Conservative Party of Canada has suddenly discovered democracy.

Interim leader Rona Ambrose says she is ready to use the CPC's majority in the Senate to block electoral reform unless Justin Trudeau and the Liberals submit their plan to revamp the electoral system to a national referendum.

Yes, the leader of the Opposition is prepared to thwart legislation using the unelected and now ethically compromised Senate — legislation passed by a majority in the elected House of Commons.

Ambrose claims she wants a referendum on electoral reform in the name of *true* democracy. As much as Ambrose and her media enablers may not like it, the results of the last election was decisive. As a result, Ambrose was left with a mandate to oppose — not to obstruct. The public will eventually judge the Liberals on their actions, just as they did the Conservatives.

Anyone who could use the Senate to threaten the legislative agenda of a duly elected majority government keeping a campaign promise is running a broad undemocratic streak up the flagpole.

In the case of Ambrose, it should probably come as no surprise. She is a product of the Alberta PC dynasties and served for years in the Harper govern-

ment without a twinge of conscience. Indeed, she was no different from the vast majority of her plum-seeking Conservative caucus colleagues who knew that only Harper gave out the loot bags. It would appear that this leopard hasn't changed her spots. She just doesn't like it when the shoe is on the other foot — the one that booted her and her pals from their comfy cabinet perches. Consider this: In 2006, according to Noah Richler, Stephen Harper vowed that if he got his hands on Canada no one would recognize the place by the time he was through. If that's true, it was the one promise he kept.

But here's the important part. In all the radical changes that he brought about — including many innovations that directly benefitted his own party, from changes to party financing to a new electoral law, he did not call a single referendum. Harper did not even bother with a referendum when he decided to take this country to war. Can you recall Ambrose clamouring for a referendum before the government started dropping bombs and killing people in the name of all Canadians?

The prime minister of the day did not consult the Canadian citizenry. Harper took his decision to Parliament. Neither the Liberals nor the NDP supported the bombing mission in Iraq. The PM used

his majority to govern — and the people subsequently judged him. Now they have handed power to a leader who has promised to stop bombing people. That's how our parliamentary democracy works.

Remember the Fair Elections Act — the one that made voting harder and cheating easier? The one that gelded Elections Canada — first by severing its investigative arm from the main institution, and then by denying powers of subpoena to EC investigators?

Where was Ambrose's vehement commitment to democracy when Pierre Poilievre was giving his partisan response to the Robocalls scandal? Where was Ambrose the Democrat when her leader was shutting down the House of Commons for partisan reasons, violating the parliamentary privilege of committees by withholding documents, and ultimately being found in contempt of Parliament? Oddly, there's no sign of her standing up for the people on any of those occasions.

Does Ambrose remember those days not so long ago when Conservative MPs could not even open their mouths without submitting "Message Event Proposals" to the prime minister's own department, the Privy Council Office? Was it 'democratic' for the PCO to put the exact words that could be used into the mouths of otherwise functioning human beings? Perhaps Ms. Ambrose simply hadn't yet discovered the charms of democracy. Perhaps the new Tory leader should be reminded of something Gunther Grass said: In a democracy, "the job of a citizen is to keep his mouth open."

Instead, this is what people should remember about the party that Ambrose now leads.

They will remember that her former boss treated press conferences like trips to a leper colony.

They will remember that the Harper government ran vicious, partisan and largely fictitious attack ads against its opponents well before any writ was dropped.

**See "Senate majority to be used..."
Page 3.....**

Ralph Klein policies hamstrung future governments



Ralph Klein - Premier of Alberta from 1992 to 2006.

Alberta's fiscal future is down the toilet! Leftist NDP! Bob Rae! Deficit! Debt! Doom! Pass the smelling salts! That's the chorus some people have been singing ever since Alberta's NDP government brought down its recent budget. Just who are these people who are complaining that Premier Rachel Notley's budget will be the ruination of Alberta? Are they the same ones who have spent the years since the Klein era lamenting equally loudly that services were cut, hospital beds eliminated, a hospital blown up, a cancer centre deferred ad infinitum, roads not built, nurses fired, teachers laid off, schools not repaired? Had Notley opted to cut services, these folks would be griping about that in-

stead. She can't win for losing. Most galling is the naysayers' attitude toward civil servants. Lay them off! Cut their salaries! Would those clamouring for salary cuts and layoffs volunteer to give up their own jobs and take pay cuts? Not likely. They'd rather insist that others lose their jobs, as if those other people, just because they work in the public service, aren't real people with families to support, mortgages to pay and food to put on the table.

There also appears to be zero recognition that the current public-sector salaries are the result of bargaining with previous Tory governments. You don't just go in and break legal contracts that were signed in good faith by both sides.

Notley inherited a huge mess and she could either perpetuate the mess or fix it. She has wisely opted to fix it.

Let's not forget that the new Tom Baker Centre was promised to Calgarians by successive Tory governments who dithered on it for a decade. Notley is going to build it.

Remember those heady days when Ralph Klein was crowing about slaying the debt? But at what cost? It was at the cost of schools, health care, infrastructure maintenance and construction, and services to the most vulnerable — children, the sick, the elderly, the disabled and the poor.

Let's drop the obsession with what future generations will think of us if we don't focus exclusively on the twin monsters of debt and deficit. Rather than worry about people who are not yet born, and who will anyway be subject to the unknown whims and policies of the government of their day, why don't we focus on providing services to people who are alive now?

We are the future generations for the folks who lived in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. When was the last time anyone grumbled about the fiscal state the generations of those times left us? Who's even aware of what those long-ago governments presented in their budgets?

All Klein did when he cut back spending and services to slay the debt was to lay the groundwork for the catch-up game the Notley government must now play. Klein wasn't leaving a debt-free paradise to future generations; he was leaving them a province in which deep cuts to services and spending were going to hamstring them in terms of education, timely health care and crumbling infrastructure.

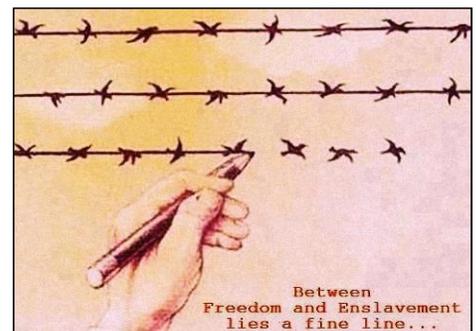
Senate majority threatened to be used to block legislation

Continued from Page 2.....

They will recall how the government of which Ambrose was a senior minister altered documents and choked off information in ways unseen in Canadian history.

Canada is now 150 years old and it has outgrown its dated first-past-the-post

electoral system. The issue of electoral reform is vitally important. Regardless of which form it takes, it should be debated in the House of Commons without the threat of the official opposition threatening the outcome to be thwarted by an unelected and currently ethically compromised Senate.





**Haliburton,
Kawartha Lakes, Brock
NDP Riding Association**

Email: hklb.ndp@gmail.com
Website: <http://hklbndp.weebly.com>

Executive Board Members

President

Don Abel - Provincial
Vacant - Federal

Vice President

James Mulhern - Provincial
Linda McLaughlin - Federal

Secretary

Linda McLaughlin - Provincial
Dana Bowman - Federal

Financial Officer

Margaret Milne - Provincial
Dick Foster - Federal

Membership Organizer

Jim Milne - Provincial
Don Abel - Federal

Fund-Raising Officer

James Mulhern - Provincial
Shannon Roszell - Federal

Election Readiness Officer

Helen Abrams - Provincial
Pam Molloy - Federal

Disability Representative

Mark Abel - Provincial
Mary Ann Fitzpatrick - Federal

Labour Representative

James Mulhern - Provincial
Scott Thomson - Federal

Women's Representative

Mary Ann Fitzpatrick - Prov.
Stacey Tomblin - Federal

Youth Representative

Derek Glass
Provincial & Federal

Provincial Council Delegates

Mike McNamee
Margaret Milne

Members at Large

Tim Brumwell - Provincial
Helen Abrams - Federal
Tim Brumwell - Federal

The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a disastrous deal for the middle-class



Trudeau's International Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland formally signs the TPP in New Zealand.

The Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a continuation of bad trade policies and is one of the many reasons why the working and middle class of this country is struggling so hard.

A recent study from the Massachusetts-based Tufts University estimates Canada could face a net-loss of 58,000 jobs as a result of the TPP.

The study observes that the TPP will have negative consequences for the economy, by shifting to less labour-intensive production for export and putting pressure on businesses to become more competitive by cutting labour costs, thereby seeking higher short-term profits while undermining efficiency and productivity in the long-term.

It concludes that the TPP would negatively affect income distribution, further weakening domestic demand and significantly undercutting gains from trade.

Trade with other countries can be a good thing only if it is fair. The TPP is a deal that will make it easier for corporations to outsource jobs overseas.

Former Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced Canada would join the trade deal, covering nearly 40% of the global economy, in the middle of last October's election campaign following years of negotiations held largely in secret.

At that time, Liberal leader Justin Trudeau criticized Harper for not being "open and honest" about the deal, adding that "the Harper Conservatives have failed to be transparent through the entirety of the negotiations – especially in regards to what Canada is conceding in order to be accepted into this partnership."

This follows months of confusing signals as to whether Canada will have a full and open debate on the merits of the TPP.

Freeland has pledged to hold consultations before the trade deal is ratified by Parliament, although now that the deal is signed, the minister has indicated it's now a take it or leave it decision of yes or no, even as Canada has moved to remove a controversial provision allowing corporations to sue governments from a similar trade deal with Europe that Canada is locked into under the TPP.

Getting social licence for the TPP could be a tough sell since a new poll suggests less than one-third of Canadians support the trade deal, and as many as half are uncertain about what's included in the small print.

The government has not yet undertaken an economic impact study of the TPP, though Freeland says the government plans to examine and study just what the deal's impact will have on the Canadian economy.

THE HKLB NEW DEMOCRAT