

The Press & Dakotan

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OPINION

A Change North Of The Border

While U.S. politics is gearing up for what threatens to be — and, indeed, has already become — another long, noisy presidential election cycle, a big change has occurred north of the border. This could impact America in some key ways.

Canada's national parliamentary elections were held Monday, and the 10-year reign of conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper came crashing to an end as Liberals swept to an outright majority, propelling charismatic Justin Trudeau, the 43-year-old son of former PM Pierre Trudeau, to the top post.

It's easy at this juncture to compare Trudeau's surprise victory to the rise of Barack Obama to the U.S. presidency in 2008.

Trudeau ran on a campaign of hope (and, by inference, change) against an entrenched conservative government that had warned of uncertainties and risks with the relatively inexperienced Trudeau. As the Liberals surged in recent weeks, "Trudeaumania" swept across Canada, and that tide became an electoral tsunami.

Not unlike Obama, Trudeau ran on a platform of middle-class tax cuts while raising taxes on the wealthiest 1 percent. He also promised to raise government deficits — yes, this is a different country completely — in order to stimulate a sluggish national economy and generate infrastructure repairs.

One area that must be watched — especially by the U.S. — is environmental policy.

Harper has been the bane of environmentalists for his aggressive pro-oil policies. He withdrew Canada from the Kyoto Protocol on climate change and has been accused of "muzzling" federal scientists who were at odds with his policies, according to Scientific American. Trudeau's triumph may indicate Canada will shift gears toward cleaner energy and more movement on climate change issues.

Paul Bledsoe, a former climate change official for President Bill Clinton, stated that Trudeau's win sends "a strong signal, ahead of (the upcoming United Nations climate change conference in Paris) and to Republicans in the U.S., that climate inaction is increasingly becoming a losing political strategy even in developed countries with large fossil fuel resources. A Trudeau government is also likely to push national carbon pricing, increasing both opportunities for U.S. states to combine carbon markets with Canada and the potential of a pan-North-American carbon market."

Nevertheless, the message moving forward remained unclear. Trudeau and the Liberals generally favor TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline, which has become such a contentious and hyperbolic issue in the U.S. Liberals, who do say they want more stringent standards for clean energy, blame Harper for pushing the Keystone pipeline so hard that it created a backlash among environmentalists that has damaged the project.

However, some environmentalists are skeptical that Monday's results will result in a wholesale change in policy. A scandal erupted in the waning days of the campaign when it was learned that top Liberal advisor (and Trudeau national co-chair) was on TransCanada's payroll providing advice to the company about another tar sands pipeline slated for eastern Canada. The advisor has since resigned. Also, a top environmental scientist Trudeau consulted about climate policy wound up dismissing the Liberal leader as a "twerp" and accusing the Liberals of being "all over the damn map" when it came to the Alberta tar sands.

So, this could be fun to watch. Finally, one issue that may impact Americans the most is America itself.

One of Trudeau's major talking points during the heated campaign was that Harper had allowed Canada's relationship with the U.S. to sour, and the new PM vows to change that.

"It'll be one of my most crucial priorities to begin once again having a productive and constructive relationship with our closest ally and neighbor," he declared.

Such an attitude — if it can be cultivated by both sides — could prove very productive, especially on issues, such as the climate, that are very important to both nations. This will be an interesting story to watch unfold.

kmh

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, October 21, the 294th day of 2015. There are 71 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On October 21, 1892, schoolchildren across the U.S. observed Columbus Day (according to the Gregorian calendar) by reciting, for the first time, the original version of "The Pledge of Allegiance," written by Francis Bellamy for The Youth's Companion. The pledge, which has been revised several times, originally went, "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the republic for which it stands, one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

On this date: In 1797, the U.S. Navy frigate Constitution, also known as "Old Ironsides," was christened in Boston's harbor.

In 1805, a British fleet commanded by Adm. Horatio Nelson defeated a French-Spanish fleet in the Battle of Trafalgar; Nelson, however, was killed.

In 1879, Thomas Edison perfected a workable electric light at his laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey.

In 1917, members of the 1st Division of the U.S. Army training in Lunenburg, France, became the first Americans to see action on the front lines of World War I.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. troops captured the German city of Aachen.

In 1945, women in France were allowed to vote in parliamentary elections for the first time.

In 1959, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, opened to the public in New York.

In 1960, Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon clashed in their fourth and final presidential debate in New York.

In 1967, the Israeli destroyer INS Eilat was sunk by Egyptian missile boats near Port Said; 47 Israeli crew members were lost.

In 1971, President Richard Nixon nominated Lewis F. Powell and William H. Rehnquist to the U.S. Supreme Court. (Both nominees were confirmed.)

In 1985, former San Francisco Supervisor Dan White — who'd served five years in prison for killing Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk, a gay-rights advocate — was found dead in a garage, a suicide.

In 1995, Maxene Andrews of the Andrews Sisters died in Hyannis, Massachusetts, at age 79.

Ten years ago: Hurricane Wilma tore into Mexico's Yucatan peninsula as a Category 4 storm, after killing 13 people in Haiti and Jamaica. The Kansas Supreme Court unanimously struck down

a state law that punished underage sex more severely if it involved homosexual acts, saying "moral disapproval" of such conduct was not enough to justify the different treatment.

Five years ago: Eight current and former officials pleaded not guilty to looting millions of dollars from California's modest blue-collar city of Bell. (Seven defendants ended up being convicted, and received sentences ranging from home confinement to 12 years in prison.) French police used tear gas and water cannon against rampaging youth in Lyon while the French government showed its muscle in parliament, short-circuiting tense Senate debate on a bill raising the retirement age from 60 to 62. James F. Neal, the attorney who prosecuted Jimmy Hoffa and key Watergate figures, and defended Elvis Presley's doctor and the Exxon Corp. after the Alaska oil spill, died in Nashville at age 81.

One year ago: In South Africa, Oscar Pistorius was sentenced to five years in prison for killing girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp; legal analysts said under the law, the man known as the "Blade Runner" because of his carbon-fiber running blades, would have to serve 10 months, or one-sixth of his sentence, in prison before he was eligible for house arrest. North Korea abruptly freed Jeffrey Fowle, an American, nearly six months after he was arrested for leaving a Bible in a nightclub. Former Washington Post executive editor Ben Bradlee, 93, died in Washington. The San Francisco Giants defeated the Kansas City Royals 7-1 in the first game of the World Series.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Joyce Randolph is 91. Author Ursula K. Le Guin is 86. Rock singer Manfred Mann is 75. Musician Steve Cropper (Booker T. & the MG's) is 74. Singer Elvin Bishop is 73. TV's Judge Judy Sheindlin is 73. Actor Everett McGill is 70. Musician Lee Loughnane (Chicago) is 69. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is 66. Actress LaTanya Richardson Jackson is 66. Musician Charlotte Caffey (The Go-Go's) is 62. Movie director Catherine Hardwicke is 60. Actress-author Carrie Fisher is 59. Singer Julian Cope is 58. Rock musician Steve Lukather (Toto) is 58. Actor Ken Watanabe is 56. Actress Melora Walters is 55. Rock musician Che (chay) Colovita Lemon is 45. Rock singer-musician Nick Oliveri (Mondo Generator) is 44. Christian rock musician Charlie Lowell (Jars of Clay) is 42. Actor Jeremy Miller is 39. Actor Will Estes is 37. Actor Michael McMillian is 37. Reality TV star Kim Kardashian is 35. Actor Matt Dallas is 33. Actress Charlotte Sullivan is 32. Actor Aaron Tveit is 32.

Thought for Today: "Silence is sometimes the severest criticism." — Charles Buxton, English writer (1823-1871).

FROM THE BIBLE

[Jesus] awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves ... and there was a calm. Luke 8:24. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



* THIS MESSAGE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PARTY OF YOUNG, DIVERSE, TECH-SAVVY PROGRESSIVES

Point Of View

Five Things About Public Notices In Newspapers

BY DAVID BORDEWYK

South Dakota Newspaper Association



Bordewyk

October is Public Notices Month in South Dakota. It's an opportunity to shine a light on why public notices published in your local newspaper matter in our lives and in our society.

Here are five things to know:

1) Public notices published in your local newspaper are a record of the official actions of government. There are many types of public notices: bid notices, election notices, proposed zoning regulations, proposed budgets and much more. Perhaps the most common and the best read public notices are the minutes of local government meetings. The boards, councils and commissions of all public school districts, cities, towns and counties in South Dakota are required by law to publish the minutes of all their public meetings.

2) Public notices published in your local newspaper are indeed read by citizens. South Dakota Newspaper Association has commissioned a half dozen statewide public notice readership surveys the past 20 years and consistently those surveys have shown people read public notices. In fact, about half of all those surveyed say they read public notices in their local newspaper at least sometimes or regularly.

Opponents of public notices published in the local newspaper argue that newspapers are dying and that no one reads them anymore. They argue that local governments should put their public notices online instead of having to pay to publish them in the local newspaper. SDNA's statewide surveys show that taxpayers overwhelmingly prefer to have the notices published in their newspaper instead of having them available only online. Plus, the cost to publish public notices in the local newspaper is small. In fact, it averages less than one-half of one percent of a local government body's annual budget.

Newspapers are not dying. Newspapers continue as the No. 1 source for local news and information in communities all across our state. South Dakotans rely on the local newspaper to

keep them informed about their community and help keep their community connected.

3) The 128 newspapers in South Dakota have cooperated to create a searchable online site for public notices. The website — www.sdpublicnotices.com — is a compilation of public notices that were first printed in the local newspaper. This service is provided free of charge.

Local governments are not charged a fee and the public is not charged a fee to use the site.

4) Public notices published in the local newspaper provide permanency and a bonafide authentication that the internet cannot match. Public notices on the internet can be manipulated, altered and subjected to cyber attacks. Public notices published the newspaper don't have those same vulnerabilities. Time and again public notices published in the local newspaper are used by those in the legal community and in government as legal records and research documents. Newspapers provide an independent, third-party check in the process of delivering public notices to the public. That is better than having government as the sole author and publisher of its own information.

5) Public notices published in the local newspaper are an essential building block for good, open government. Democracy works best when citizens are well informed and have the information they need to help them shape their decision-making. Public notices fulfill that essential role. Transparency and openness in government are vital and go hand in hand with public notices published in the local newspaper.

During this Public Notices Month, I encourage you to visit with your local newspaper staff to learn more about the public notices published in the newspaper. Plus, I encourage you to urge your local legislators to resist the ongoing efforts in Pierre to eliminate the publication of public notices in your newspaper. Good government depends on it.

Leonard Pitts Jr.

'If I Only Had A Gun ...'

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.

Tribune Content Agency

Of course. It makes perfect sense. Why couldn't I see it before?

There could never have been a Holocaust had the Jews been armed. Granted, the Nazis swept aside the armies of Poland and France like dandruff, and it took six years for Great Britain — later joined by Russia and the United States — to grind them down. But surely Jewish civilians with revolvers and hunting rifles would have made all the difference.

Much as I'd love to take credit for that insight, I can't. No, it comes from presidential candidate Dr. Ben Carson in a recent interview with CNN. "I think the likelihood of Hitler being able to accomplish his goals would have been greatly diminished if the people had been armed," Carson said.

This has become a recurrent theme on the political right, the idea that unarmed victims of violence are to blame for their own troubles. And not just in the Holocaust. Rush Limbaugh said two years ago that if African Americans had been armed, they wouldn't have needed a Civil Rights Movement. The founder of so-called "Gun Appreciation Day" said, also two years ago, that had the Africans been armed, there could have been no slavery.

There's more. When nine people recently died at a mass shooting in Oregon, Ted Nugent declared that any unarmed person thus killed is a spineless "loser." Carson seems to agree. "I would not just stand there and let him shoot me," he said. Or, as Clint Eastwood says in "Unforgiven" when Gene Hackman complains that he just shot an unarmed man: "Well, he should've armed himself ..."

It's so clear to me now. Guns don't take lives, they save them. Guns make everything better. Carson is a surgeon, not an optometrist, but golly gosh, he's sure opened my eyes.

As a friend recently observed, what if Trayvon Martin had had a gun? Then he could have killed the "creepy-a-cracker" who was stalking him. Surely, the court would have afforded him the same benefit of the doubt they gave George Zimmerman, right?

And what if the men on Titanic had been armed? That tragedy might have had a happier ending:

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RR Crossing Repairs

Frank Kloucek, Scotland

A letter to Derrick Knopp, roadmaster for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad: Please consider this a letter of support for the immediate repair and replacement of railroad ties at the Lesterville and Yankton crossings. They have deteriorated so badly that they are a public safety risk in my opinion. Thank you for the new ties and cement put

in at the two Kaylor crossings. We cannot wait until spring for repairs and replacement at the Lesterville and Yankton crossings. I am very concerned someone will be hurt or killed because BNSF has not repaired them in a timely fashion. The crossings are 1 mile west of Lesterville Dot Crossing number 382291V and 1 mile north of Marks Machinery in Yankton. DOT number 382211A.

Please consider repair of these crossings before there is a serious accident.

2015, The Miami Herald