

**Canadian Union of Postal Workers – Winnipeg Local 856**

# EYEOPENER



## **Election Issue**

## **CANADIAN UNION OF POSTAL WORKERS WINNIPEG LOCAL - 856**

### **Local Executive Board**

**President ...** Glenn Bennett

**Secretary Treasurer –...**Stacey Jackson

**Grievance Officer ...** Tim Kerr

**Health and Safety Officer ...** Dave Lambert

**Vice-President –** Basia Sokal

**Workload Structuring Officer ...** Brett Drabot

**Education Officer ...** Myron May

**Chief Steward – External ...** Candice Feilberg

**Chief Steward – Internal ...** Ben Magcawas

**Chief Steward – RSMC ...** Ken O'Connor

## **Four Ways TO Contact Your Union**

**By Phone ...**  
**204-942-6323**

**By E-mail ...**  
(Officer's name @cupwwpg.ca  
example :  
[glenbennett@cupwwpg.ca](mailto:glenbennett@cupwwpg.ca))

**By Mail ... PO Box 62**  
**Wpg. Man.**  
**R3C 2B2**

**In Person ...**  
**207- 83 Sherbrook St**

**By Fax ... 204-943-7942**

## **We're on The Web**

Keep up with the latest news, upcoming events and up to date information by visiting our website at [cupwwpg.ca](http://cupwwpg.ca)

For social media enthusiasts join our Facebook group by searching for CUPW Winnipeg Local #856

## **From the Editors**

This issue of the Update is a special edition focusing on the upcoming Federal Election being held on October 19, 2015.

To say that this is the most important election postal workers have ever faced is an enormous understatement.

What is at stake frankly are our futures, and the quality of our work life. Our wages and our benefits including our pension plan, is something that was handed to us not by a generous employer, but postal workers of the past. In many cases they went weeks and months without pay, while on strike, to ensure better wages, benefits and working conditions not only for themselves and their families, but also for future postal workers like ourselves.

It was an incredible gift born out of an equally incredible sacrifice that was generously given to us with only one condition: that we preserve and nurture and try to improve on what we were gifted.

Our pensions are now under attack. So are our wages, benefits, and working conditions. With 8,000 less workers as a result of the implementation of SSBs ( Self Serve Boxes) there will be 8,000 less contributors to our future pension plans and the employer and the government can make a valid argument that our pension plan cannot be sustainable in that state. But it is sustainable now, as is Canada Post. In fact, Canada Post is more than sustainable. It is making far more money than it is mandated to by law and that money was made by us, not the 22 vice-presidents huddled together trying to come up with better ways to cut costs so that they can ultimately privatize the post office. Many of those vice-presidents have less seniority than the average postal worker.

There are a small number of activists in every Local across the country that have been working tirelessly since December 2013, sacrificing weekends, delivering information in minus 35 degree weather, knocking on doors, organizing town hall meetings, brainstorming ideas to try and turn the tide. Our issues have remained alive in the public eye for almost two years which is an incredible feat considering any issue these days has a life span of about 48 hours according to media experts. They don't want your praise, and they don't want your thanks, they just want your help.

We recognize that many of you may be sick and tired of being bombarded with election news and information but we are going to risk providing you with a little more. It's too important for us not to and it is too important for you not to get involved.

**In Solidarity**

# From The President's Desk



Since being elected Local president in May, our local executive board and shop steward body has dealt with a seemingly endless number and variety of issues, none more serious than the three explosive devices that were sent through Canada Post. On behalf of all members of CUPW we expressed our thoughts and prayers for Maria Mitousis whose life was altered on July 3/15. We all can draw strength from her determination and willingness to move on. All of our members should be concerned with the manner in which Canada Post has handled this matter to date. It is the employer's responsibility to ensure a safe work place and if that requires new equipment to deal with this type of situation then so be it. It is important that anyone that sees a suspicious item immediately bring it to the attention of management.

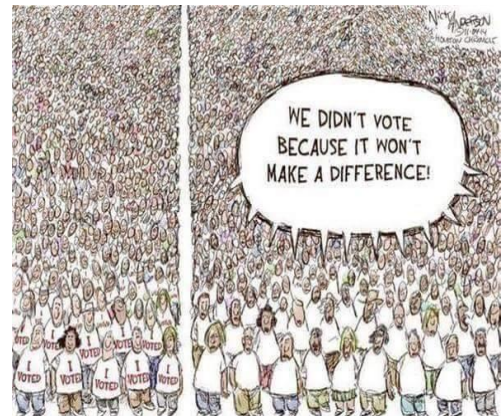
There was consultation for both groups 1 and 2 on the Employers eclipse phone system, for group 1 the employer expanded the number of call lists to 3 and for group 2 the employer created 2 lists. In both cases the Union disagreed with the number of lists and expressed several concerns over the administration of these lists. The local has filed grievances for both groups and if any of our temp members feel they may have missed an opportunity they should call the local.

October 19, 2015 is the Federal election; the Winnipeg local has been very active in the ridings of Elmwood/Transcona, Winnipeg Centre and Kildonan/St Paul. The local is encouraging our members not only to get out and VOTE but to assist candidates in defeating a Conservative. This is a pivotal time for CUPW members and it is vital that Stephen Harper is defeated.

On October 5<sup>th</sup> it was announced that the Trans Pacific Partnership was signed, this is the new trade deal that has language imbedded in it that allows for

privatization of state owned enterprises eg: Canada Post and the CBC. This deal was shrouded in secrecy and is just another reason why posties cannot trust Harper.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> the Winnipeg local held ratification votes for the program of demands. This was the end of a process that began almost a year ago, when the local held a meeting to formulate our local demands. The ones that passed were then forwarded to our Prairie Regional conference in June, and were debated and voted on by delegates from locals across Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories. The Prairie region demands were then sent to Ottawa along with demands from all other Regions, where they were debated and voted on by the National Executive Board. The final and official program of demands will be presented to the employer when we begin collective bargaining. The results of our vote have been sent to our National office and the results will be posted shortly.



In Solidarity,  
**Glenn Bennett,**  
President - Winnipeg Local 856

# From The Women's Committee

Under the Harper Conservatives, inequality is skyrocketing. Income for the wealthiest 5% has increased 12 times faster than for the rest of Canadians. For the rest of us it's cuts to benefits, cuts to pensions cuts to economic development, cuts to environmental protections, cuts to public services (including door-to-door mail delivery) and a 36 billion dollar cut to health care. More and more seniors are living in poverty and the over 1,200 Missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls are just "not on Harper's radar". With Harper's Conservatives, you and your family aren't in the picture.

It's time for a government that's there for us!



## Canada's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls – not on Harper's radar.

To date over 1,200 Indigenous women and girls have gone missing or were murdered, yet the Harper Conservatives continue to ignore calls for a national inquiry into the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

This is a Canadian issue, not an Indigenous issue. Each woman who went missing, each sister who is gone, each daughter who is murdered is somebody's friend, somebody's family and somebody's loved one. Sadly, Indigenous women are 4.5 times more likely to be murdered than other women in Canada.

Provincial and national associations, the federal NDP, Liberal and Green parties, all provincial governments, and numerous international organizations including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and the UN have joined together in the urgent call for a national inquiry into Canada's missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. But, as Steven Harper said in a CBC television interview last December, "this issue just isn't on his government's radar".



Shame on you Steven Harper! Our missing and murdered Indigenous women and Girls deserve better.

Canada deserves better.

**C. Saramaga-Marta**



# Arbitration News

After your grievance is filed with the local office, it goes through a system of checks and balances to ensure that the grievance is valid. Once it is considered a legitimate grievance, it is presented to a representative of the Corporation. The employer then decides whether they will sustain the grievance or deny it. If they deny it then the grievance gets referred to arbitration and gets put on a list. Every month there are lists of grievances that are then discussed by Union Representatives and Labour Relations officers from the Corporation in a last chance effort to resolve the grievance. If it cannot be resolved, it is then scheduled for arbitration. There are two types of arbitration. **Regular Arbitration** – is non - precedent setting and usually involves violations of the Collective Agreement that are not considered urgent but important none the less. A resulting decision cannot be used as a case law to be referred to in support of an argument.

**Formal Arbitration** – is precedent setting, meaning that a resulting decision can be used as a case law document to support an argument in an arbitration. Formal arbitrations involve severe cases of discipline such as discharge, or precedent setting interpretations of the Collective Agreement. Lawyers cannot be used in regular arbitration hearings but are permitted to argue formal cases. Below are some recent arbitration decisions resulting of hearings that were held and argued by Regional Office or Local worker advocates who are trained in formal arbitration.



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**730-10-01046** – Letter carrier received a 5 day suspension for non-delivery of 2 sets of unaddressed admail on one day, contrary to the colour of the day which required delivery that day. Penalty was reduced to a letter of warning as the circumstances that occurred resulting in the flyers being left behind did not warrant a wilful act but innocent error.

**730-12-00076** - Letter carrier received a 5 day suspension for misplacing his PDT and leaving mail behind due to his mind being on his father whom he found out that day was gravely ill in hospital and was not expected to recover. Penalty was reduced to 1 day suspension.

**730-12-00041** - Letter carrier received a 5 day suspension (4 waived) for PDT missing. Grievor was not able to report to his supervisor at the end of the day as no supervisors were around so he reported it in the morning. PDT was found in the plant, grievor was apologetic and understood responsibility of securing Corporate assets. Penalty was reduced to 1 day served suspension.

**730-12-00029** – Grievor received a 3 day suspension for not calling in prior to his shift informing supervisor he would not be in due to illness. He had a pinched nerve in his back and was lethargic, he did not set his alarm and slept through the day. He called into work the next day, grievor had no reporting issues prior to this occasion. Penalty was reduced to a 1 day suspension.

**856-12-00609** - Brother Ben Zorn argued a violation of 17.04 (a) coverage of uncovered letter carrier walks & 17.05 (f) coverage of an uncovered walk must be completed that day

Two Letter Carriers were off and returned the mail not delivered from the previous day. Both letter carriers had to deliver 2 days of mail upon their return.

Arbitrator Jolliffe agrees that the language in Article 17.04 (a) & 17.05 (f) is clear that the coverage of an uncovered walk must be completed that day. The language does not allow the Corporation to wait until the Letter Carrier returns to work to deliver the mail.

**856-10- 00829** - This grievance was for a 1 day suspension for inappropriate yelling, use of disrespectful words toward management and refusing a direct order. Grievor was engaged in his role as a union steward at this time and the Employer took the position that the grievor's conduct went well beyond the acceptable limit of a union steward's representation of duties. Evidence showed there was little or no insulting or vulgar language and no physical confrontation, aggravating factors. Insubordination was not established Arbitrator Ponak ruled a 1 day suspension was too harsh reducing penalty to a letter of warning.

**771 – 12- 00014** - The case involves the Corporation failing to fill a vacant Letter Carrier position due to an upcoming restructure with the anticipation of the loss of full time positions. Staffing of the vacant position was delayed for 5 months resulting in forced overtime. Arbitrator Norman sustained the grievance as for those 5 months the work was available and the Corporation's rationale that the work would cease at the end of the restructure was not a justification for burdening the rights of the Bargaining unit by purporting to cover the available work on the vacant route as if it were a long term absence and not as a vacancy.

## **THEY SAID IT.....**

Do I believe in arbitration? I do. But not in arbitration between the lion and the lamb, in which the lamb is in the morning found inside the lion. I believe in arbitration between two lions or two lambs. When a man puts a pistol to my head and tells me to deliver, there is no arbitration. There can be arbitration only between equals. Let us organize: then we will stand on an equal footing with the employers.—*Samuel Gompers*

I must tell you that the supply of words on the world market is plentiful, but the demand is falling. Deeds must follow words.—*Lech Walesa*

# What About The Economy

The economy is one of the major issues in the upcoming Federal Election, and the Conservative Party has identified the economy as one of the two major issues that they would be focusing on as part of their election platform. For decades the Conservatives have touted themselves as the only federal party that can legitimately provide a stable and healthy economy for Canadians. The NDP are simply socialists who love to tax and spend. Be very afraid of the NDP. The Liberals? Well they plan on running deficits for a few years so that's not the economic stewardship Canadians are looking for. The only party that can deliver economic stability and performance is the Conservative government. Responsible government. Well it turns out that their repetitive boasting isn't really supported by the facts. A recent study by two economists has revealed something completely different than what the Conservatives are claiming. The following review debunks the myth that the Conservative Party has a proven track record of economic excellence.

TORONTO, July 30, 2015 /CNW/ - With Canada possibly slipping into another recession, a new comprehensive review of the economic record of Stephen Harper's Conservative government paints a damning portrait of nearly a decade of economic failure.

["Rhetoric and Reality: Evaluating Canada's Economic Record Under the Harper Government,"](#) authored by Unifor Economists Jim Stanford and Jordan Brennan, tracks the performance of nine federal governments from 1946 through 2014.

"Canada's economy has never performed worse, since the end of World War II, than under the present Conservative government. The Harper government ranks last among the nine post-war governments, and by a wide margin – falling well behind the second worst government, which was the Mulroney government of 1984-93."

The report also shows that the poor economic results of the Stephen Harper Conservative government cannot be blamed on the 2008-09 recession – Canada experienced a total of 10 recessions since 1946, with some Prime Ministers contending with more than one during their tenures. The recovery from the 2008-09 downturn has been the weakest of any recovery since 1946.

Stanford and Brennan compare annual data from Statistics Canada and other publicly available sources regarding 16 key conventionally used indicators of economic progress and well-being. These indicators include:

- **Work:** Job-creation, employment rate, unemployment rate, labour force participation, youth employment, and job quality.
- **Production:** Real GDP growth (absolute and per capita), business investment, exports, and productivity growth.
- **Distribution and Debt:** Real personal incomes, inequality, federal public services, personal debt, and government debt.

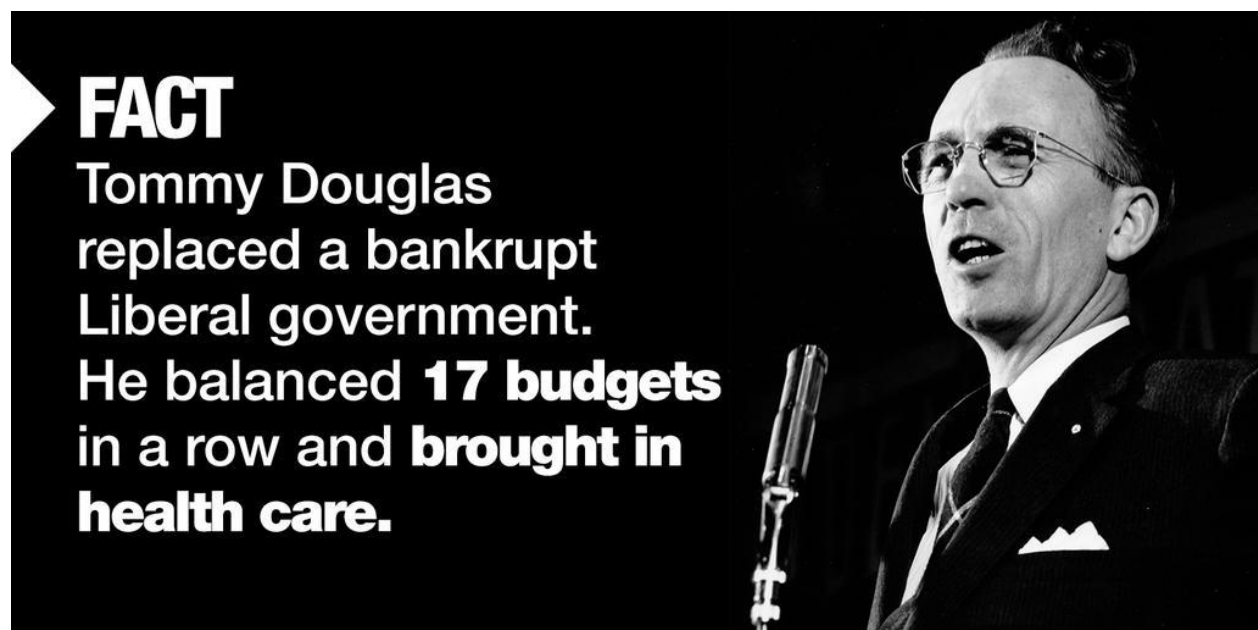


For 13 of the 16 indicators, the Stephen Harper Conservative government ranks last or second last among all postwar Prime Ministers. And its average ranking across all 16 indicators is by far the worst.

Even internationally, Canada ranks much more poorly than previously claimed. Canada's economy falls in the lower half of all OECD countries under the Harper government, according to population-adjusted indicators of job-creation and GDP growth.

"Given the negative growth data recorded so far for 2015, Canada's standing among industrial countries will slip further this year.

"Prime Minister Harper's claim that Canada's economy is 'the envy of the entire world' is sharply at odds with the international data."



## **NDP - The Economic Boogieman**

This is the message that Conservatives have been drumming into the heads of Canadians for decades now. The NDP tax and spend socialists will lead the country into bankruptcy or huge deficits. Beware of the "Economic Boogieman"!!

Meet Tommy Douglas, the boogieman socialist.

Douglas, as elected premier of Saskatchewan for 5 terms and was credited with being the godfather of universal public health care. He went on to become the first national leader of the New Democratic Party and led the party for 10 years until 1961.

Oh and by the way, he balanced 17 budgets in a row while he was the premier, while bringing in public health care to Saskatchewan.

Most political analysts will agree that the NDP of today is more fiscally centrist than left, so the conservative warnings of tax and spend socialists is just the same tired, old fear mongering.

# What's The Deal With Strategic Voting?

For many people, their vote may not make any difference on Oct. 19. Because of how our system works, there are many electoral districts where some candidates have no realistic chance of winning. Even worse, in many instances, vote splitting could occur that would allow one candidate to win despite there being a large majority of voters who favoured other candidates.

Situations also occur in which some voters would rather vote against one candidate rather than for another one. For instance, a recent [poll by Léger](#) found that as much as 31 per cent of voters were voting against a candidate. Specifically for this election, there are many voters who simply want to vote against Stephen Harper and the Conservatives (the so-called ABC movement) for all these reasons (and more), some people consider voting strategically. This means not voting for their top choice but for another candidate they consider more likely to win. (Huffington Post)

Vote splitting is a term we hear often and it is very much feared for those of us who desperately want to give Steven Harper the heave ho. As an example in Winnipeg's Kildonan St. Paul, the Conservative candidate Jim Bell is leading in the polls with 45% support followed by the Liberals at 28% and the NDP at 25%. According to these polls 55% of people polled in this riding do not want the conservative candidate elected, however these 55% will have their votes split between the Liberals, the NDP and other parties. Members may wish to consider the possibility of strategic voting if your desire to get rid of Harper and gang is stronger than your support for a particular Party. Below are the most up to date polling numbers as of October 12, 2015, one week to the election.

	Cons.	Lib.	NDP
<b>Charslewood/Assiniboia/St. James/Headingly</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Elmwood /Transcona</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Kildonan/St. Paul</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>St. Boniface/ St. Vital</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Winnipeg Centre</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Winnipeg North</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Winnipeg South</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Winnipeg South Centre</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>15</b>

**Strategic Voting** is an organization trying to pool progressive voters across Canada in a progressive voting bloc (PVB) to elect one candidate in each district. Doing so will increase the number of seats won by progressive parties (Liberals, NDP and Green) while keeping each party's total number of votes unchanged. Below are their recommendations for each riding in Manitoba, on who they believe stands the best chance of defeating the conservative candidate.

**Please Vote  
For** [\(Click for  
details\)](#)

Brandon--Souris	<a href="#">Green</a>
Charleswood--St. James--Assiniboia--Headingley*	<a href="#">Liberal</a>
Churchill--Keewatinook Aski*	<a href="#">Vote your preference<sup>2</sup></a>
Dauphin--Swan River--Neepawa*	<a href="#">Green</a>
Elmwood--Transcona	<a href="#">NDP</a>
Kildonan--St. Paul	<a href="#">NDP</a>
Portage--Lisgar	<a href="#">Green</a>
Provencher	<a href="#">Green</a>
Saint Boniface--Saint Vital*	<a href="#">Liberal</a>
Selkirk--Interlake--Eastman*	<a href="#">Green</a>
Winnipeg Centre	<a href="#">NDP</a>
Winnipeg North	<a href="#">Liberal</a>
Winnipeg South	<a href="#">Liberal</a>
Winnipeg South Centre	<a href="#">Liberal</a>



# Solidarity Is Our Greatest Weapon

'Solidarity' is a word we use to describe how we'd like to perceive our relationships with our co-workers. As a Union, solidarity is absolutely integral to getting together and making lasting changes to an otherwise unacceptable work life. It is a difficult place to reach at the best of times. Everyone is different, with different values and priorities. However, it is made all the more difficult when we as people cannot get along with one another.



Solidarity extends beyond the Union Local office. Whether we work in the plant, in a depot or at a retail outlet, being able to get along with our co-workers is the key to a happy work day. Remembering that we are all in the same boat when it comes to being treated unfairly by CPC is important, especially when we're pissed off and/or having a bad day. Being aware that even though we may see someone every day at work, we don't really know that person and they don't know us, is something to keep in mind especially if that person is actually making you mad. If it is a co-worker, deal with it as you would a sibling instead of an inmate. Find a shop steward before you end up screaming your lungs out.

Have you ever had a roommate? Living with someone who is not family is close to what it is like to work with the same people every day. But for those of you who know what it is like to have a roommate, you know that losing your mind over little things is a really poor way of handling problems that arise from differences in people. Not only does it cause rifts between people, but now you have to see that person every-day, knowing that you lost your mind over the milk being left out, or the garbage not being put out. It's the same on the work floor. One stray, crappy comment can lead to a huge fight. Things are said and voices are raised, and in the end no one feels good about their part in it. Not even the Local executives are immune. Miscommunication can be a powerful, defeating force. Healthy communication can be a powerful, uniting force. While an apology goes a long way, how much better off would we be if we could stop and think about the true reasons we are upset?

Stop and think about what we are ABOUT to say, and how we will sound saying it, to someone we barely know but see every day. Anger is a quick, lashing emotion. But directing it towards one another is truly damaging to solidarity.

We have to remember who the real 'enemy' is....who we have to band together to oppose. If we lose it on co-workers for leaving tags in trays, for grieving early starts or for any number of little everyday things, we are doing the employer's job for them...namely keeping us separate and angry at one another, as opposed to angry with them and how they try to screw us every day.

We call each other 'Brother' and 'Sister'. When Brothers and Sisters fight with one another,

remembering that they are family is what brings them back together. So the next time you're having a bad day on the street, or a rough time on the plant floor, or even are frustrated in the Local Office, remember...these are the people who are in it together with you, and not against you. Want to take out some anger on the company? Just make sure you're not just making one of your Brother's or Sister's day harder, because too often that is the only result. Throwing mail on the floor and throwing equipment around are just examples of how a fellow postie's day can be ruined by someone thinking they are retaliating against the company when in fact they are simply screwing over a co-worker.

So the next time you're upset at work, just try to take a minute to realize what it is that is actually making you so mad. If it is a co-worker, deal with it as you would a sibling instead of an inmate. Find a shop steward before you end up screaming your lungs out. Solidarity is our greatest weapon against the corporation's greed and unending changes in policy. Their greatest wish would see an end to us all working together to protect ourselves and our jobs. Let's not do this for them. I'm not saying that rounds of Kum Bai Ya should break out on the work floor, or that you need to like everyone.

I'm suggesting that the way we resolve conflicts, or indeed the way we think before we cause a conflict, should include some empathy for our fellow blue collars and some looking inward to our own motivations. This way, we can truly become like Brothers and Sisters.

### ***Anonymous***

**Any member wishing to submit  
an article or contribute to the  
Eycopener please contact the  
Local Office to make arrangements**

**My friends, it is solidarity of labor  
we want. We do not want to find  
fault with each other, but to solidify  
our forces and say to each other:  
“We must be together; our masters  
are joined together and we must do  
the same thing.”—Mother Jones,  
1902**

**We must indeed all hang together,  
or, most assuredly, we shall all hang  
separately.—Benjamin Franklin, July  
4, 1776**

**We must learn to live together as  
brothers or we are going to perish  
together as fools.--Martin Luther  
King, Jr.**



# **And They Call It Democracy**

## **(With Apologies To Bruce Cockburn)**

Democracy is a word we in the Western world hold dear to our hearts, it's what separates us from other nations where the right to vote, the right to freedom of political expression, and the right to an open and transparent government is suppressed, often in the most brutal ways. Many have died in the name of democracy, sent to war by various governments to preserve basic democratic principles. In Canada for many years our governments held free and open debates on issues politicians felt were important to their constituents. The last ten years of Conservative governance has witnessed the rapid decline of these same basic democratic principles we value so much. Election fraud, proroguing (shutting down ) of parliament, muzzling the press, bloated omni- bus bills ( in some cases over 300 pages), voter suppression, have all been a hall mark of Steven Harper and his paranoid and secretive government. Below is an article written by journalist Carol Goar that demonstrates how Harper's policies and decisions has changed the character of Canada as we once knew it.

### **How Steven Harper Changed the Character of Canada**

Canada has never had an election campaign like this. Not only its length is unprecedented and its cost record-breaking. For the first time in postwar history, one of the nation's major political parties has dispensed with the inconvenient tradition of meeting voters.

The Conservatives see no need to talk to Canadians who don't support them. Tory candidates seldom participate in town halls or [election debates](#). Party leader Stephen Harper, who has served as prime minister for nine years, allows only supporters into his campaign events.

How do we hold a governing party accountable for its actions when its members and candidates are inaccessible? How do we compare our electoral choices when one party speaks only to its own backers? The sad thing is that few voters seem to care. They are inured to Harper's divide-and-conquer tactics.

In their defense, this is a relatively small departure from Canada's democratic traditions, one that is more likely to hurt the Tories than their critics. But over the past decade, Harper's "small" changes have exacted a hefty toll. One by one, Canadians have lost the tools they need to understand what their government is doing and make informed choices about the future.

As Election Day approaches it's worth taking a moment to review what we've lost and ask how much more of our heritage we can afford to forfeit:

- A decade ago, it would have been unthinkable for members of Parliament to [spurn their constituents](#). Now, for half of parliamentarians, it is normal.

- When the Conservatives took power no one could have imagined the cancellation of the mandatory full-length [census](#), the single best source of information about how the nation is changing and how the government is meeting these challenges. Now it is gone.
- Before 2006 no Canadian prime minister — indeed no head of government in the Commonwealth — had ever been found in [contempt of Parliament](#). It has happened twice on Harper's watch. The Speaker of the House of Commons ruled that the government lied to Parliament and refused to release public documents. These actions contravene the principles on which responsible government is built.
- Never has a prime minister attacked the [chief justice](#) of the Supreme Court, the personification of Canada's strong, independent judiciary. Harper broke ranks, challenging Beverley McLachlin and by extension the rule of law.
- Every prime minister for the past century has broadened the right to vote — to women, ethnic minorities, First Nations, Canadians living abroad, individuals with disabilities and homeless people. Harper attempted — with partial success — to reverse the process, disenfranchising thousands of voters with his [Fair Elections Law](#).
- For 58 years, no prime minister caviled about providing life-saving medicine to refugee claimants awaiting their hearings. It was a mark of a decent nation. Harper slashed the Interim Federal Health Program "to defend the interests of Canadian taxpayers."
- Before Harper took power Canadians were not a fearful people. We did not obsess over criminals in our communities, terrorists infiltrating our borders, [bogus refugees](#) exploiting our generosity or foreign wars threatening our security. We took reasonable precautions and got on with life. We trusted our fellow-citizens and gave refugee claimants a fair hearing. Now all of that is gone — dismissed as hopelessly naïve and unworldly.
- Nor were we a xenophobic people. We weren't unnerved by kirpans or offended by niqabs. We didn't use terms such as "[barbaric cultural practices](#)." We didn't regard outsiders as a threat; immigrants and their families as a burden; or refugees as potential terrorists. We took pride in our reputation as one of the world's few successful pluralistic societies. The list goes on: No prime minister has treated Canada's [Charter of Rights](#) as an inconvenience he could ignore, challenge or test at taxpayers' expense. No prime minister has sicced federal [tax auditors](#) on charities that protect the environment, speak for the poor, or fight for freedom of expression. No prime minister has stripped judges of their discretion to sentence lawbreakers. No prime minister has treated Canadian citizenship as a benefit that can be [revoked](#) at will by the government. No prime minister has forbidden federal [scientists](#) to share their findings with their international peers or the public.

## **Criminals**



*Yes my party was convicted of election fraud in 2006. we paid over \$200,000 in fines.*

*Yes in 2008 we were also convicted of election fraud. Dean Del Maestro was charged and others resigned.*

*Yes in 2011 there was also Fraud convictions and allegations of the vote being a sham.*

*2015? No it'll be legit this time. **TRUST ME!***

"Small" changes add up. They transform the face of a nation and the character of its people. They prevent Canadians from finding out what is being done in their name, with their dollars. They erode empathy and trust.

Please don't shrug. This matters. Where the trajectory goes from here is up to us.



# The Niqab

## And The Election

**T**he issue that has dominated the 2015 election thus far has been the Niqab, a word that for most Canadians a month ago held little if any meaning. The impact it has had on the polls, and the consciousness of Canadians closely following the political events has been mind boggling. Heading into the campaign, issues such as the economy, health care, child care and foreign policy were anticipated to be among the issues that would be hotly debated, but the wearing of a religious veil during a ceremony has kicked those issues to the curb.

To say that Canadians made a decision to make the Niqab the hot button issue in this election would be grossly inaccurate.

The fact is that the decision to make the Niqab a political hot potato had its roots back in March. That's when a gentleman by the name of **Lynton Crosby** an Australian and election specialist was said to have been parachuted in as a consultant for the Conservative Party election campaign.

Crosby is considered the guru of "dog whistle" and wedge politics where he helped former Australian Prime Minister John Howard win 4 terms and also helped conservative Boris Johnson win two terms as mayor of predominantly left leaning London. During Howard's campaign he used phrases such as "unAustralian" and "illegals and reportedly urged Hoard to concentrate on traditional conservative voters and not those "f...ing Muslims"

Coincidentally, shortly after Crosbie's arrival, Steven Harper applied to the Treasury Board in April 2015 to conduct a survey on the issue of the Niqab, a survey that was paid for by Canadian tax payers.

Clearly, as early as spring, three months before the writ was dropped, the conservative party had planned to use the Niqab as an election strategy to polarize the electorate into engaging in a debate that really had little political importance to the election, but the effect was to polarize and draw out

nationalistic and racist sentiment. More importantly, the issue of the Niqab was used to direct attention away from the real issues such as a failing economy, Canada's role on the world stage, the environment, child care, treatment of veterans, and other important issues.

Steven Harper's reasoning for banning the Niqab for swearing in ceremonies, was to stand up for "Canadian values" and that the "Niqab is rooted in a culture that is anti-woman".

This must have been absurdly puzzling for the friends and families of the 1,200 murdered and missing aboriginal women in this country that Steven Harper continues to shrug off, or the continued wage inequalities in the work place and in society that women continue to face.

The fact that the number of women that CHOOSE to wear the Niqab in Canada, is about one hundred, and that there is no requirement to wear one under Islamic law has not prevented the Conservative government from pursuing this issue, and extending their provocative election strategy to include proposing a new "barbaric cultural practices" whistle blowing legislation, and vowing to take the Niqab issue to the supreme court.

This was not just a harmless political stunt however, and there have been incidents of racially motivated assaults including an assault on a pregnant woman in Quebec.

Closer to home, a lawyer born and raised in Canada was verbally assaulted and told to go "back to his country" by a total stranger in Winnipeg recently.

Steven Harper does not seem to mind the effect that his harmful political strategy may have on this country. Win at all costs seems to be the rallying cry within the conservative war rooms across the country.

To paraphrase a line from a popular television series "Steven Harper would let this country burn to the ground if he could be king of the ashes "



Hey, did you hear the one about the Australian who walked into an election campaign and threw a niqab on the table?

Canadians lost their minds. They forgot about:

Mike Duffy and the senate cover up scandal.

Cheating on elections—Del Mastro in jail.

Rampant corruption in the halls of power.

The worst economic performance since WWII.

The biggest federal debt in Canadian history.

The lies to Parliament about the cost of F35s.

Vets committing suicide for want of resources.

The missing and murdered aboriginal women.

The refugee crisis, and so, so much more...

While the polls shifted, Steve Harper & Lynton Crosby clapped each other on the back and laughed and laughed.

But, it's really no joke. Not even close. How could we let him do this? We need to remember what matters, before it's too late.

—Terry McTavish



# Winnipeg Documentary Features Local Letter Carrier

***The Mail Lady* By Kirby Hammond examines the unique relationship between a letter carrier and her customer that only postal workers would understand.**

A crowd of over 125 gathered on September 3, 2015 to view the premier of a short documentary film by Kirby Hammond titled "The Mail Lady", which featured Sister Susan Green a former Winnipeg letter carrier. The film examined the relationship between Sister Green and one of her customers, a single, elderly, and sick man living alone in the historic, working class neighborhood of Point Douglas. It was a powerful expose that demonstrated the unique role that letter carriers play in communities across the country and their connection to the people that inhabit them.

*It's hard to believe someone who spent the majority of her working life as a door-to-door mail carrier would make perhaps her most important delivery after she'd hung up her mailbag. But that's what Susan Green has done with the message in 'The Mail Lady', which premiered Thursday night at the Filipino Hall in North Point Douglas. It's a documentary short by Kirby Hammond that tells the touching story of mail carrier Green and Walter Rygiel, an elderly man on her route that she not only befriends but ultimately embraced as family. It also delivers, in 17 minutes, the important role mail carriers play in the lives of seniors and shut-ins. "This all happened before the shoe dropped for door-to-door mail delivery. It was sometime in the midst of editing this film that word came down that door-to-door deliver was going to be killed," Hammond said. "It went from being a very just beautiful story of friendship and compassion and this selflessness by this mail carrier to also become a political film that really exemplifies what we are going to lose with the end of door-to-door delivery." Hammond, an award-winning filmmaker, shot the documentary eight years ago. Green had gone from looking out for Walter on her daily route—something she did for many she delivered mail to in North Point Douglas—to caring for him in his home and eventually caring for him in a nursing home. Hammond filmed Green and Walter interacting over two years. ( Metro Winnipeg September 3, 2015)*



A terrific turnout and an amazing response from the audience. A must see for all postal workers and community activists.



# Upcoming Events

## Temp Rights Course

Are you a temporary employee?

Do you feel like you may be getting taken advantage of?

Trust us, this is one of the things our Employer is very good at.

Come out to our Temp Rights Course and get educated. Learn a few of the ins and outs that you'll need to know to ensure that you are not getting ripped off, or getting your rights trampled on.

**When: Saturday October 24**

**Where: WORC Centre – 432 Ellice, between Vaughn and Kennedy**

**Time: 9:00 – 5:00 pm**

Contact the Local Office at  
204-942- 6323 to register

## Children's Christmas Party

Don't forget to register for the children's Christmas party being held on:

**Sunday, December 6, 2015 at the Holy Eucharist Parish Centre  
460 Munroe ave.**

**From 1:00pm to 4:00 pm**

Registration is \$5.00 per child and includes snacks, desserts, gift, entertainment, and activities. Limited to children and grandchildren 12 years of age and under

Deadline for registration is:

**Friday, November 6, 2015**

Contact the Local Office at:

**204- 942-6323 or drop in at  
207-83 Sherbrook St.**



## **Have You Moved? Are you planning to move?**

Contact the Union Office @  
**(204) 942-6323** with your new  
address and phone number.

The Eyeopener is the official  
newspaper of the Winnipeg Local of  
the Canadian Union of Postal Workers.  
The opinions expressed in this  
newspaper belong to the writers and  
not CUPW.

Head to the website for information,  
updates, and contact info

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



QR Code Reader app can be downloaded on  
your Smart Phone

## **GET INVOLVED Be an active CUPW member**

The communication Bulletin boards in all  
work places need some TLC. Please  
contact The Local if you are willing to  
“adopt a board” in your workplace. It is  
an effective communication tool if we  
keep it organized and current.

Shop Stewards are needed in some work  
places and shifts. Please contact  
Candice Feilberg or Ben Magcawas if you  
are interested in assisting members / co-  
workers with concerns on the floor.

Have you got a comment or a question  
on this edition? Is there a topic you  
would like to see covered in a future  
edition of the Eyeopener? If so, contact  
**basiasokal@cupwwpg.ca**