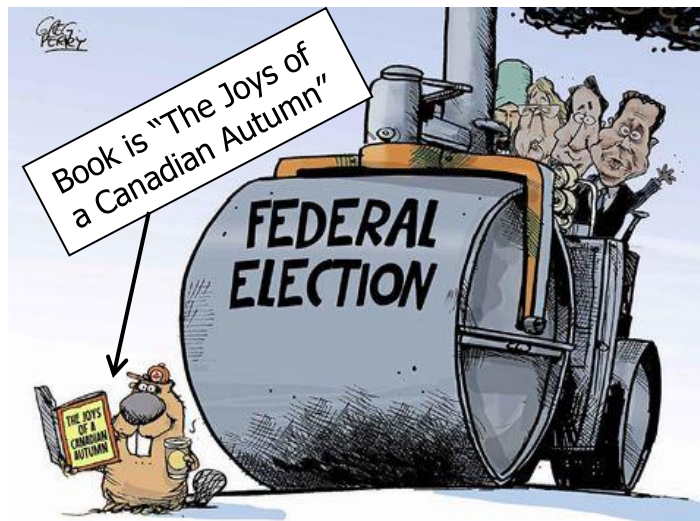




PARKSVILLE QUALICUM RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER # 27 – October, 2019

PRESIDENT'S GREETING from Cathy Van Herwaarden:



REMEMBER TO VOTE!





October 1st – International Day of Older Persons

SOURCE: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Day_of_Older_Persons

On December 14, 1990 the United Nations General Assembly voted to establish October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons.

The holiday was observed for the first time on October 1, 1991. At the launching ceremony, the World Health Organization (WHO) called upon policy-makers to recognise the importance of population ageing and put this recognition into action.

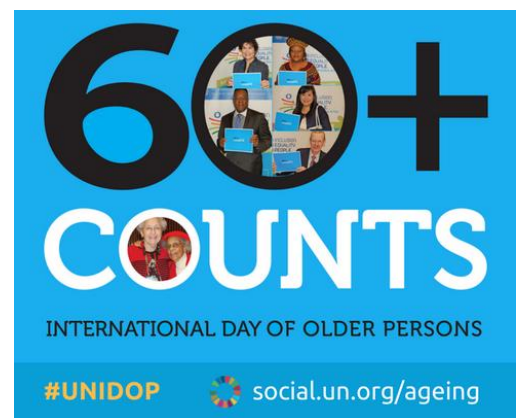
Almost 700 million people are now over the age of 60. By 2050, 2 billion people, over 20 per cent of the world's population, will be 60 or older. The increase in the number of older people will be the greatest and the most rapid in the developing world, with Asia as the region with the largest number of older persons, and Africa facing the largest proportionate growth. With this in mind, enhanced attention to the particular needs and challenges faced by many older people is clearly required. Just as important, however, is the essential contribution the majority of older men and women can make to the functioning of society if adequate guarantees are in place. Human rights lie at the core of all efforts in this regard.

This special day is celebrated by raising awareness about issues affecting the elderly, such as senescence and elder abuse. It is also a day to appreciate the contributions that older people make to society.

Theme for 2019: The Journey to Age Equality
Development will only be achievable, if it is inclusive of all ages. Empowering older persons in all dimensions of development, including promoting their active participation in social, economic and political life, is one way to ensure their inclusiveness and reduce inequalities.

The 2019 theme aims to:

- Draw attention to the existence of old age inequalities and how this often results from an accumulation of disadvantages throughout life, and highlight intergenerational risk of increased old age inequalities.
- Bring awareness to the urgency of coping with existing — and preventing future — old age inequalities.
- Explore societal and structural changes in view of life course policies: life-long learning, proactive and adaptive labour policies, social protection and universal health coverage.
- Reflect on best practices, lessons and progress on the journey to ending older age inequalities and changing negative narratives and stereotypes involving "old age."



Active Aging Week – October 1 to 7
Free Activities: Phone - 250.752.5014, or
<https://en.calameo.com/read/0048837090cac4b9b8139>

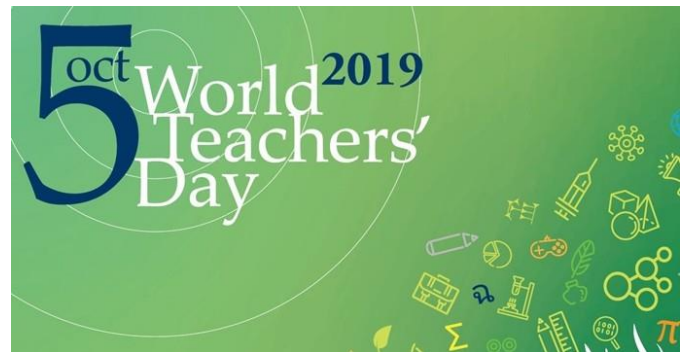
October 5th – World Teacher Day

<https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/worldteachersday>

Introduction

Held annually on 5 October since 1994, World Teachers' Day (WTD) commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers.

This Recommendation sets forth the rights and responsibilities of teachers and standards for their initial preparation and further education, recruitment, employment, and teaching and learning conditions.



This year, World Teachers' Day will celebrate teachers with the theme, "Young Teachers: The future of the Profession." The day provides the occasion to celebrate the teaching profession worldwide, to take stock of achievements, and to address some of the issues central for attracting and keeping the brightest minds and young talents in the profession.

The official event will take place on Monday, 7 October at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in collaboration with the convening partners, including UNICEF, UNDP, the International Labour Organization and Education International and will be celebrated globally with various events.

Rationale For The Choice Of The Theme

The early twenty-first century is not an easy time to be a teacher. While teachers were once highly respected professionals, valued, trusted and accepted as inspirational role models for young people, nowadays they too easily serve as scapegoats for the failures of education systems.

Indeed, in societies that tend to glorify celebrities, we are more likely to see praise heaped on performing artists, sports personalities and social media influencers than on outstanding teachers.

There are, without doubt, considerable challenges to the occupational, social and legal status of the teaching profession worldwide.

Certain western countries also report a decline in public perception and respect for teachers more generally, suggesting that families no longer automatically support teacher's authority over their students in the classroom.

Teachers and education staff can experience intimidation from their students and family members. In some countries, the public's negative perception of teachers is such that education staffs regularly face the threat of violence.

If this weren't enough, prominent academics are urging us to rethink the very notion of 'expertise,' proposing that technology, artificial intelligence and automation will soon make redundant many human tasks that were once the historic preserve of 'professions'. While teaching and learning will always offer the greatest rewards as a form of social interaction, it

is true that technology is significantly changing how we work and live, even as these technologies raise ethical questions about privacy and how humans connect with each other. Taken together, all of this, points to a profession under threat. With large percentages of teachers likely to retire from practice in the coming decade, a major concern is that not enough young candidates are coming in to the profession to replace them. Over 69 million teachers must be recruited by 2030 for primary and secondary education to meet the SDG 4 education targets. Of this number, 48.6 million new recruits will be needed to replace those who are to leave the profession either through retirement or voluntarily.

In South and West Asia and in sub-Saharan Africa in particular, acute shortages exist. These challenges and transformations in the 21st century are very real. As we commemorate World Teachers' Day 2019, we must take time to look at the future of the profession and the role of young teachers in it - taking onboard the changing climate of education and schooling, the need to draw in and retain a new generation of dedicated educators, and to prepare them for the 21st century challenges of 'teaching in diversity' and 'diversity in teaching.'

Governments also need to understand the types of incentives and rewards that motivate young teachers in their work and keep driving them forward to make a difference in the classroom

Many young teachers have so much more pressure and demands on them than before, especially in high-income countries. National education reforms increasingly focus on standards and learning outcomes and teachers are expected to keep up, sometimes at lightning speed. Meanwhile in low income countries, pupil/trained teacher ratios can be very high. Young teachers are often insufficiently prepared for the pedagogical challenges of teaching large class sizes with limited teaching-learning resources and facilities.

In rural, remote and crisis-affected areas, the goal of keeping teachers in the classroom has its own challenges. Displacements and migration caused by emergencies, as well as HIV/AIDS and other acute health concerns, impact heavily on teachers' day-to-day practice, their presence in the classroom, their effectiveness and motivation levels. Young newly qualified teachers are often faced with students and communities, who may have experienced trauma, are vulnerable migrants or displaced persons. Novice teachers, especially women, who are already facing considerable problems related to their housing, safety and work conditions, may worry about their isolation, lack of family connections, social ties and support frameworks. Not surprisingly, these are often the hardest posts to fill, with new teachers (both male and female) resisting deployment or leaving their post after a short time. So what keeps teaching professionally rewarding, aside from the light bulb moment when a teacher witnesses his/her student grasping a new concept or achieving a new level of awareness? Symbols and gestures matter. Job satisfaction may simply come from recognition by the school principal, the community and society-at-large of effort or exceptional results in the classroom, even in a low-key way. It also means school leaders checking in with teachers from time to time to understand how they are doing, and whether motivation and stress are at healthy levels.

And what mechanisms are there to provide support and encouragement to novice and young teachers in a more systematic way? The protection of decent employment and work conditions are the basis for any mechanisms in place. To this end, engaging teacher unions and governments in social dialogue is important to protect young teachers' working conditions and rights, and to communicate to government what young teachers need and how they can be supported. Perhaps most importantly, regular opportunities for young

teachers themselves to be involved in decision-making, both at school level and beyond, can help them to feel that their inputs are valuable.

Research further indicates that solid teacher education and induction practices are important for teacher motivation and satisfaction. In rural and hard-to-reach areas, alternative models may be needed to accompany young teachers, generate a sense of support from the teaching community and advance career progression. Here, education systems must explore the power of 'learning communities' and networked 'peer support and motivation frameworks' to assist novice and less experienced teachers in facing the daily challenges of teaching. Where education systems are filling the teacher gap with para-professionals and community volunteers, an extra effort is needed to ensure that learning environments in all settings, and at all education levels, are staffed with qualified, competent and properly remunerated teachers who are able to empower all learners towards their full human potential.

From the perspective of pedagogy, young teachers today need to know so much more than their subject areas. They are expected to be early adapters of new technologies and constantly innovating ways for their students to grasp information. Teacher surveys underline the importance of regular meetings with a teacher mentor or peer collaborator for educators to reflect on their practice. Access to relevant continuous professional development is another central pillar of pedagogical support. Since 'diversity in teaching' and blended learning are at the centre of next generation instructional models, education systems must also embrace low-cost technologies and the apps that young people already use to enable them to curate, manage and update their experience and teaching practice as they go along.

Finally, policy-makers need to give young teachers a louder voice in shaping education policy and classroom practice. Engaging in constructive dialogue with teacher organizations can ensure that reform initiatives are supported by the very people who have to implement them. It allows governments to draw on the knowledge and experience of thousands of teachers serving in every corner of a country, and devise smart policies that can motivate young achievers to join the profession.

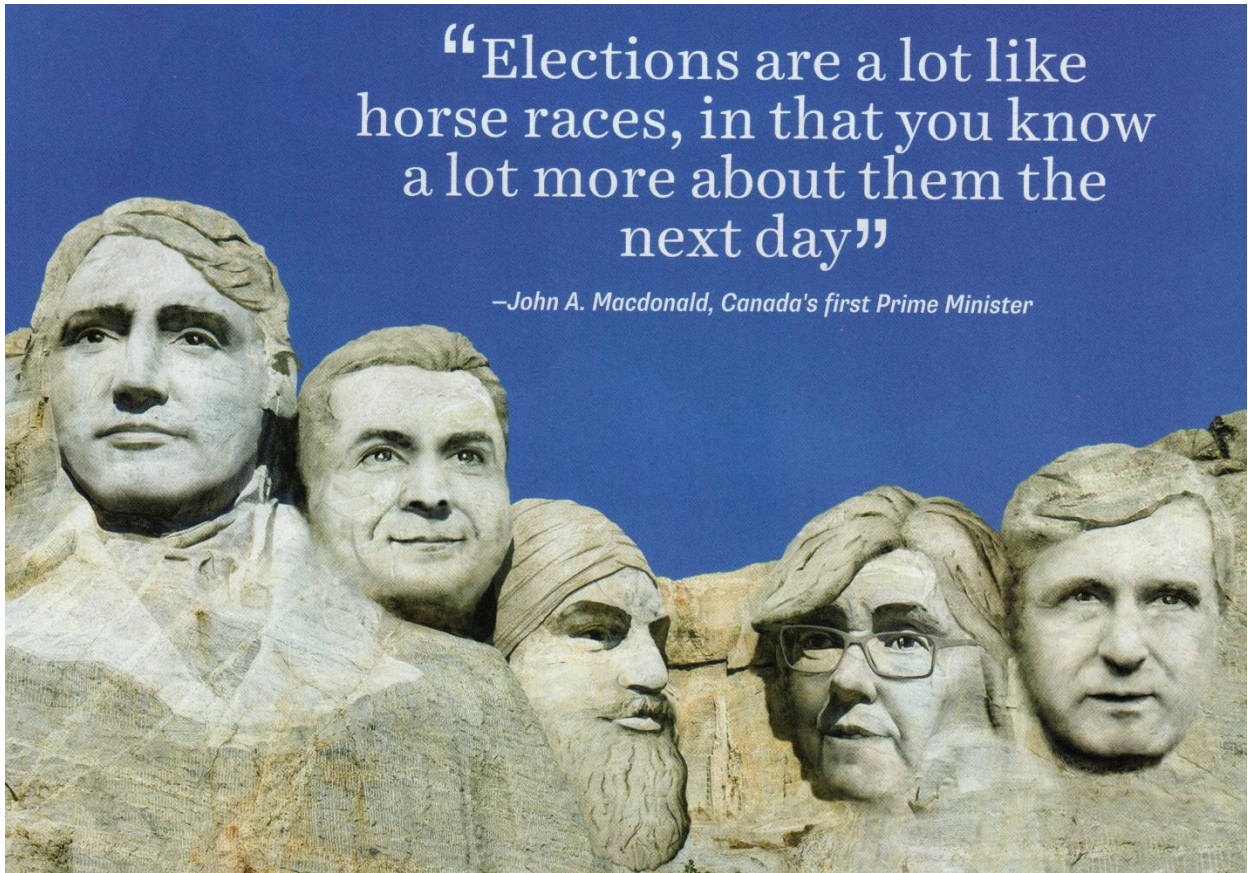
Without a new generation of motivated teachers wanting to make a difference, the global commitment to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" is clearly under threat

Education analysis highlights the difficulty of policy systems in grasping the complex interplay of factors impacting on the structure and health of the teaching profession and teacher motivation. But a better systemic response is now only one factor at play in response to the teacher gap and crisis in teaching. The world has rapidly changed over the past 30 years and qualified young people have more choice in their career pathways than ever before, diverse career interests and professional expectations.

It is for this reason that conversations around attracting and supporting young teachers must go beyond education ministries and international meeting halls to the staff room and social media and involve the next generation of graduates and potential teacher recruits. Teacher unions, Civil Society Organizations, Schools Principals, Parent/Teacher Associations, School Management Committees, Inspectors and teacher trainers will also be at the center of discussions to share their experiences in supporting young teachers and promoting the emergence of a vibrant teaching force.

What ultimately matters is the on-going validity of the teaching "mission" for young people and the flexibility to cope with changing socio-political and economic landscapes around the world in a way that restores the prestige of teaching to young and qualified recruits.

Monday, October 21st – Federal Election



SOURCE: Zoomer Magazine – Sept. Oct. 2019

Six historic elections that changed the course of Canadian political history:

1867

An unlikely Liberal-Conservative alliance forms a majority government and John A. Macdonald becomes Canada's first Prime Minister.

1935

Mired in the Great Depression, voters throw out the Conservatives and elect Liberal Mackenzie King, who goes on to become Canada's most elected PM.

1962

While Conservatives PM John Diefenbaker wins third consecutive election, the NDP breaks through on the national stage, capturing 19 seats.

1968

An era of cultural upheaval sees the dour Tory Robert Stanfield lose to Liberal Pierre Trudeau, marking the beginning of a political dynasty.

1993

Brian Mulroney resigns before election. Replacement Kim Campbell retains only two seats, creating a decade-long Liberal grip on power.

2015

Like his father, Justin Trudeau becomes a global star, ending nine years under Stephen Harper's Conservatives.

LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA



LEADER
JUSTIN TRUDEAU
FOUNDED
1867
SITTING MPS
177



Leading into the election, the Liberals will change tactics from their last run. With Trudeau's trust quotient at a low ebb, they'll shift focus away from his image and run largely on their legislative record of the last five years.

The Liberals won the last election, in large part, because of huge support from young and first-time voters – one study showed that 45 per cent of Canadians between the ages of 18 and 25 voted Liberal, compared to 25 per cent for the NDP and 20 per cent for the Conservatives. Seniors, many of them long-time Tory loyalists, jumped on board as well.

Much of the government's first-term legislative direction skewed toward millennials – middle-class tax cuts, legalized marijuana, carbon tax and realized a gender-balanced cabinet – all played well with young families and progressively minded supporters. They'll likely announce similar measures if they want to capture the fickle younger voter.

A big positive for Trudeau is that he has history on his side. Only twice in 42 federal elections have majority governments been voted out of office after serving only one term – in 1878, Liberal PM Alexander Mackenzie's majority government fell to John A. Macdonald's Conservatives and, in 1935, Conservative PM R.B. Bennett lost his majority to Liberal Mackenzie King.

THE ECONOMY

During their time in power, the Liberals have chosen to loosen the purse strings to support their costly spending programs. Trudeau has wildly overshot on campaign promises that his government would run short-term deficits of less than \$10 billion a year and eventually balance the budget by 2019. They missed by \$20 billion.

However, a strong economy and a historically robust job market will take some of the sting out of the fact that he's missing his fiscal targets. In June, Canada's jobless rate was around 5.5 per cent, the lowest in 40 years. ▶

Will the pipeline expansion lose him the support of environmentalists?

SENIORS PLATFORM

While the Liberals will hold their seniors platform until closer to the election, as the ruling party, they can be judged on their legislative record so far. Here are some of their senior-friendly accomplishments.

- Restored age of eligibility for Old Age Security (OAS) to 65
- Increased Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) by 10 per cent
- Increased allowable income recipients can earn before GIS is clawed back
- Worked with the provinces to expand CPP to increase standard of living for future retirees
- Started the ball rolling on National Seniors Strategy
- Secured \$50 million for National Dementia Strategy
- Appointed a Minister for Seniors
- Secured \$60 million in funding for New Horizons Senior Program, which provides grants to projects that empower seniors in their communities



Can Trudeau restore trust in his leadership credibility?

Can the Liberals solve the trade tensions with China?

Can Liberals repair their relationship with indigenous peoples?

Will Liberals follow through on a 2015 promise to create a Seniors' Price Index?

❑ Created the Canada Caregiver Credit, a non-refundable tax credit that applies to caregivers whether or not they live with their family member

❑ Instituted a new code of conduct for how financial institutions serve seniors

❑ Expanded EI so that it now includes support for those caring for critically ill loved ones, as well as those who are terminally ill

❑ Invested \$6 billion over 10 years to help provinces fund home care improvements

❑ Introduced pension and insolvency protection legislation to stop CEOs from taking benefits or divesting from bankrupt companies

❑ Created the Canadian Drug Agency to lay out plans for a national drug plan. The CDA reported back

with a plan that the Liberals may or may not adopt

❑ Instituted automatic enrolment for Canadians over the age of 70 who have not applied for the Canada Pension Plan

CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA

Will Scheer struggle to match the charisma of the other leaders?


LEADER
ANDREW SCHEER
FOUNDED
2003
SITTING MPS
96



When the Conservative Party held their leadership convention in 2017, Andrew Scheer was not the anointed leader. In fact, it took a whopping 13 ballots for him to finally emerge as the surprise choice to take over from Stephen Harper. At the time, he promised to unite all the bickering elements of the party – social, fiscal, progressives, libertarian and right-wing conservatives – into one team to face off against the Liberals.

His job was made easier when the libertarian element departed to follow Maxime Bernier and his People's Party. And Scheer has worked hard to dispel the notion that his party is full of right-wing extremists, saying in a speech that any member who supports discrimination based on race, religion, gender or sexual orientation, "There's the door. You are not welcome here." A practising Catholic, Scheer promises he will not bring his personal views to bear on women's and gay rights issues, something the other parties will try to catch him out on.

Benefiting from the SNC-Lavalin scandal, an Angus Reid poll in June suggested his Conservatives had 37 per cent of support from decided and leaning voters, an 11-point lead over the Liberals.

THE ECONOMY

Critics suggest that Scheer's economic policy mimics the laissez-faire style employed by Harper. Besides being an unabashed pipeline supporter, Scheer has repeatedly said he favours less government, lower taxes and wants to give the freedom to individuals and businesses to determine their own fate. ▶

SENIORS PLATFORM

At press time, the Conservatives hadn't released their full seniors platform but Scheer has given hints through a memo issued to *Zoomer* and speeches he gave at the 2019 ZoomerShow in Vancouver and at a CARP Town Hall in 2017.

- ❑ Scheer has repeatedly campaigned that "Job #1 is to repeal the federal carbon tax," to reduce the cost of gasoline, groceries and home heating
- ❑ To reduce costs for those seniors living on a fixed income, Scheer has promised to remove the GST from home heating and energy bills

- ❑ Make life more affordable for older Canadians by cutting taxes, not implementing expensive social programs
- ❑ While opposing a national pharmacare plan, Scheer is on record as saying he would address gaps in drug coverage by extending it to the "small percentage of

people" who aren't already covered

- ❑ The Conservatives will support and empower older Canadians to make their own financial choices
- ❑ An empowered Minister of Seniors will be at the Cabinet table from day one to ensure that seniors are listened to and



Will the Conservative message appeal to younger voters?

Can Scheer shake the "Harper 2.0" rap?

How will the Tories respond to critics who say they're too xenophobic or socially conservative?

that their concerns are top of mind when government decisions are being made

- ❑ Continue to explore new ways to give Canadians more flexibility for saving and retirement planning
- ❑ Incentivize Canadians to start building their retirement portfolio

at an earlier age, so we don't outlive our savings

- ❑ Look at ways to help seniors living on fixed incomes to cover out-of-pocket costs on medical supplies and specialized dietary needs not covered by provincial plans

- ❑ Make it easier for older Canadians to re-enter the workforce by exploring ways to remove barriers in how the CPP and EI premiums are structured
- ❑ Work with the provinces to improve access to palliative care for Canadians

❑ Monitor inflation so that it does not erode seniors' quality of living

- ❑ Set GIS and OAS increases to reflect the true cost of living for seniors

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY



**LEADER
JAGMEET
SINGH
FOUNDED
1961
SITTING MPS
41**



When the NDP chose Jagmeet Singh as their new leader in October 2017, they wanted to position themselves as a party that reflected all of Canada. The first non-white leader of a national party, he was supposed to represent the diversity of the country, appealing to immigrants who, as he said, “didn’t see themselves reflected in government.” A young, energetic leader who biked to work and competed in martial arts, he had the potential to be a charismatic breath of fresh air.

It’s been two years, and we’ve yet to see that kind of leader emerge. A big problem for Singh has been his near invisibility on the national scene. He didn’t win a seat in Parliament until late February, and his absence left the party without a voice in Ottawa. Even when he did speak on issues, he seemed unprepared, leaving many concerned that he lacked the experience and depth to be a national party leader.

Another challenge facing Singh is that his party is being squeezed on two sides, with both the Liberals and Greens cherry-picking NDP platforms. This has left the NDP boxed in and struggling to find a platform that stands out from the others.

As a result, in May, NDP support in many polls had bottomed out to 15 per cent, well behind the Conservatives and Liberals and only three points up on the Green Party.

The party’s main support base lies in Quebec, where it has 15 seats. To build or even hold this base, Singh will have to navigate the unique politics in that province where the government has recently passed legislation banning civil servants from wearing religious symbols and clothing. Banned symbols include religious head scarves, crosses, skullcaps – and turbans.

THE ECONOMY
The NDP shapes its economic philosophy to play to unions and lower-income or disenfranchised Canadians. To make the rich pay (what they deem) to be their fair share, the NDP would boost the top marginal tax rates and institute a new one per cent wealth tax on those worth more than \$20 million. ►

➔ SENIORS PLATFORM

In June, the NDP released its full seniors platform, *A New Deal for the People*.

- ❑ A National Seniors Strategy that will work with the provinces, territories, and Indigenous governments to make

- seniors health care a priority, reduce isolation and tackle seniors’ poverty

- ❑ A National Dementia Strategy and an elder abuse prevention plan developed with seniors to put an end to abuse and neglect in our communities

- ❑ A national, universal, public plan to provide prescription medicine to all seniors

- ❑ Make the Canada Caregiver Tax Credit refundable

- ❑ Tackle seniors’ isolation by working with cities to make transit more affordable and

- convenient, create more community recreation spaces and support innovative housing solutions like intergenerational co-housing

- ❑ Put pensioners at the front of the line when a company goes bankrupt, and make sure unfunded

Will Singh grow into his role as leader in time for the election?

Can the NDP create a platform that stands out from the Liberals and Greens?

How well will Singh handle the fierce debate over religious symbols going on in Quebec?

pension liabilities owed to workers and employees' severance pay are the top priority for repayment

❑ Create half a million affordable housing units that will include accessible housing that will increase choices for seniors

❑ Strengthen public health care - and expand it to make sure everyone is covered for the care they need to get and stay healthier longer

❑ Develop national care standards for home care and long-term care that will

be amended into the Canada Health Act


❑ Tackle wait times and improve access to primary care across the country


❑ Include dental care in the Canada Health Act. Make mental health care available

at no cost for people who need it, and everyone should be able to get regular eye care and hearing care

GREEN PARTY OF CANADA




LEADER
ELIZABETH
MAY
FOUNDED
1983
SITTING MPS
2



Elizabeth May is the longest serving of the national party leaders, having led the Greens since 2006. At age 65, she's also the oldest, which perhaps explains why one poll found that she's seen as the most ethical federal party leader.

As leader, May has been steadily building national support for her party. (According to the Green Party of Canada, membership has risen 15 per cent since December.)

While many think that Green support is comprised of wide-eyed young environmental enthusiasts, according to Valerie Powell, the party's ►

➔ SENIORS PLATFORM

While at press time, the Greens had not yet released their seniors' platform, the party's election promises will be guided by Vision Green.

Pension reforms must be built upon the system that will best create decent

pensions that will keep the elderly out of poverty, require minimum additional contributions, and have low administrative and investment costs

Enhance CPP so it replaces 50 per cent of income rather than the current 25 per cent. This would

reduce the reliance on GIS to keep the elderly out of poverty and reduce the cost of GIS to the federal government by billions annually

Ensure corporate pension plans protect employee benefits as secured creditors in bankruptcy proceedings

Require that all corporate pension plans be audited to ensure that they are adequately funded and properly managed, and set a policy directive to take corrective action if they are not

Resist the shift to voluntary defined contribution plans with inefficient and ►

seniors critic, their rallies and conventions draw a huge contingent of 50-somethings. “These people realize that they have to do something in order to protect the environment and give a better world to our children and grandchildren,” she says.

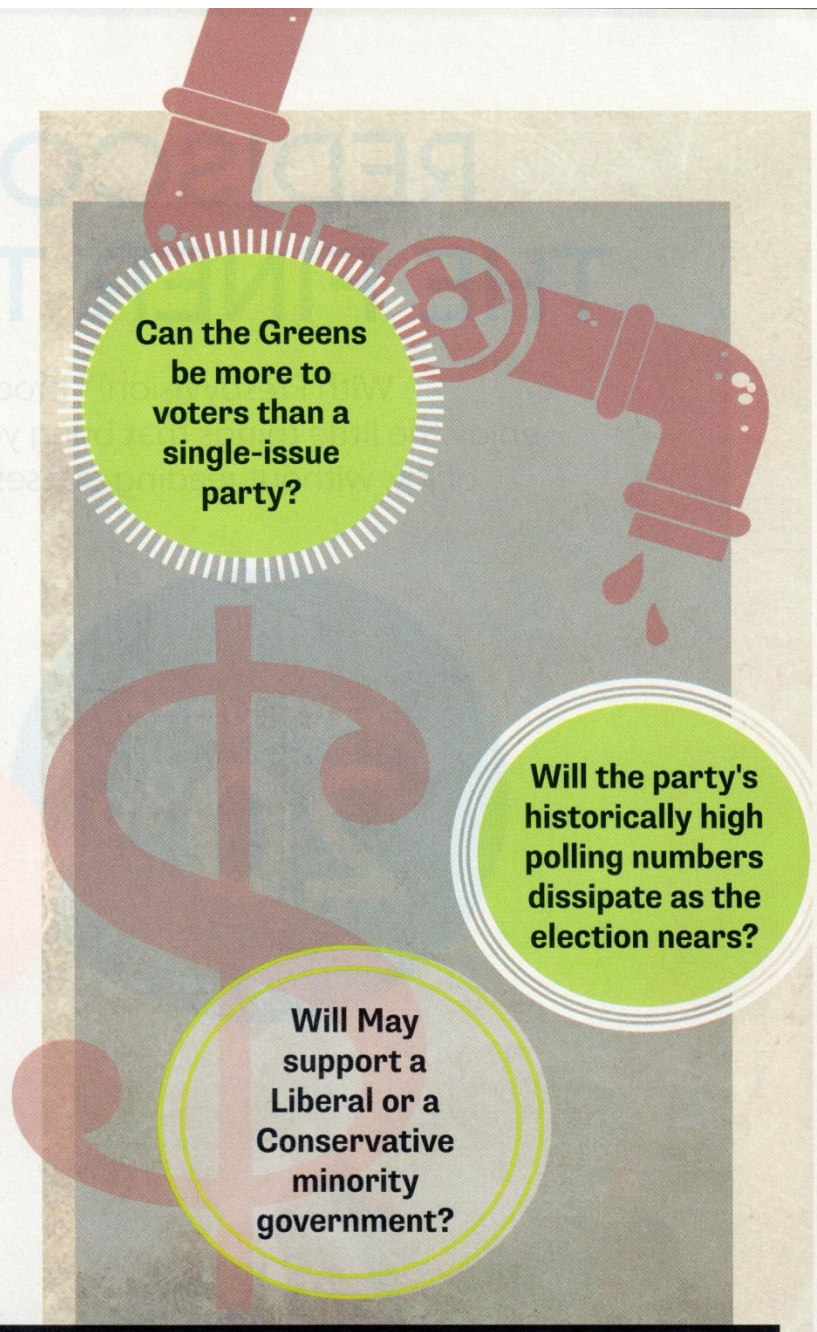
A May poll suggested that the Green Party had the support of 12 per cent of decided or leaning voters, the highest number it’s ever recorded and certainly a cause for optimism heading into the election. While 12 per cent is admirable for this party, it’s still well behind the Conservatives and Liberals and may only reflect the current disenchantment voters have toward the status quo parties.

There has been talk of a merger between the Greens and the (like-minded) NDP, but it hasn’t risen beyond social media speculation. Until that unlikely alliance happens, May’s best-case scenario is to hold the balance of power in a minority government.

THE ECONOMY

May has often said that we have to live within our means ecologically and economically. She is promising to kill pipelines and end Canada’s economic dependence on the fossil fuel sector, which won’t win her many votes in the oil patch.

While balancing the budget is a goal of the party, May says, “We’re not an austerity party. We’re the opposite. We need to have adequate revenues to cover the needs of Canadians.” These needs include pharmacare, a basic income for all and free tuition. ▶



expensive fees for a myriad of market driven plans

Improve support for mental health and palliative care, and the need to combat ageism, abuse and neglect

Create age-friendly communities, where housing and

transportation needs are met

Review workplace policies to end mandatory retirement and provide for flexible retirement benefits for those seniors who want to continue working

Develop a National Home Care Policy

that incorporates and improves upon existing policies affecting eldercare

Help develop national guidelines for care of the frail elderly who have special needs and require care by geriatric specialists

Ensure that citizens and law enforcement

officials recognize elder abuse, prevent it where possible, and proceed with appropriate charges and consequences when elder abuse has occurred

Establish a program to provide grants to non-profit societies setting up palliative care hospices ▶

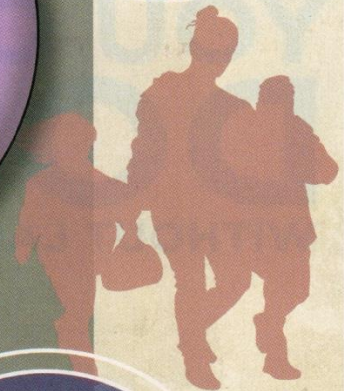
PEOPLE'S PARTY OF CANADA



**LEADER
MAXIME
BERNIER
FOUNDED
2018
SITTING MPS
1**



Will the People's Party garner sufficient support to play the spoiler role in closely fought contests?



Is Bernier's vision too radical to appeal to anyone but fringe voters?

After Maxime Bernier lost the Tory leadership race to Andrew Scheer, he ventured out on his own, forming the People's Party, a populist/libertarian movement informed by traditional conservative principles. His big goal is to shrink government, handing over more power to the provinces. His vision includes reducing the number of immigrants to Canada to 250,000 a year and recruiting those with skills needed in our economy. While the Party has come under heavy criticism for being racist and xenophobic, Bernier, like Scheer, has gone

on record saying, "They don't have a place in our party." The PPC is currently struggling at the polls, languishing at four per cent, below even the Bloc Québécois.

THE ECONOMY

Bernier has promised to balance the budget by taking a scythe to federal spending. This includes scrapping Canada Post and the CRTC, ending agricultural supply management, breaking the taboo on private health care and changing the formula through which Ottawa delivers health-care funding to the provinces.

SENIORS PLATFORM

While the People's Party has not published a specific seniors strategy, they do list some

- financial promises that would affect seniors' pocketbooks in various ways. These include:
 - Abolishing capital gains tax

- Abolishing federal tax on the first \$15,000 earned
- Cutting federal tax to 15 per cent on income

- between \$15,001 and \$100,000
- Imposing a 25 per cent tax rate on income above \$100,000

Where Do Each Of The Parties Stand? Sept. 27, 2019

SOURCE: <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/2019-federal-election-platform-tracker-where-the-major-parties-stand-so-far-1.1308714>

HOUSING:

LIBERAL

- Introduce federal speculation tax on non-residents and a higher cap on the First-Time Home Buyer Incentive, which was implemented in early September.
- Increased the amount first-time buyers can withdraw from their RRSPs to \$35,000 from \$25,000 in budget 2019.

CONSERVATIVE

- Propose changing mortgage stress tests for first-time homebuyers and reviewing the removal of the test from mortgage renewals
- Increase amortization periods on insured mortgages to 30 years for first-time buyers
- Launch an inquiry into money laundering in real estate
- Make federal real estate available for housing developments

NDP

- Create 500,000 affordable housing units
- Re-introduce 30-year terms for insured mortgages for first-time homebuyers
- Double the first-time homebuyers' tax credit to \$1,500
- Implement a 15 per cent foreign buyers' tax on purchases of residential property by foreign corporations or people who are not citizens or permanent residents
- Remove GST/HST on the construction of new rental units
- Work with provinces to create a public beneficial ownership registry to increase transparency about who owns properties in an effort to stop money laundering
- Offer up to \$5,000 in rental subsidies for nearly 500,000 families struggling to pay for housing

GREEN

- Legislate housing as a legally protected fundamental human right for all Canadians and permanent residents
- Appoint a Minister of Housing to strengthen the National Housing Strategy so it meets the needs of affordable housing in each province
- Eliminate the first-time home buyer incentive recently implemented by the Liberals
- Restore tax incentives for building purpose-built rental housing and provide tax credits for gifts of lands to community land trusts to provide affordable housing
- Refocus the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's mandate on supporting the development of affordable, non-market and cooperative housing, as opposed to one of its primary activities of providing mortgage loan insurance

PEOPLE'S PARTY OF CANADA

- No specific pledges, as of Sept. 27th



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT



LIBERAL

- Get Canada to net zero emissions by 2050
- Spend \$150 million by fiscal 2023-24 to give one-fourth of land and ocean waters protected status and expand the Learn to Camp program, which gives travel bursaries to lower-income families to spend up to four nights in one of Canada's national or provincial parks
- Cut taxes in half for companies that develop zero-emissions technology
- Give homeowners and landlords an interest-free loan of up to \$40,000 to help retrofit 1.5 million houses so they are more energy efficient
- Spend \$100 million in skills training for workers to conduct energy audits, retrofits and net-zero home construction
- Create a national flood insurance program and develop employment insurance benefits for those struck by natural disasters
- Ban single-use plastics by 2021
- Offer new incentives to buy electric cars, including up to \$5,000 on new vehicles under \$45,000 (as per budget 2019)
- Plant two billion trees over the next decade, which the Liberals say will create 3,500 seasonal jobs, as part of a \$3-billion plan to fight climate change

CONSERVATIVE

- Repeal Bill C-69, which overhauls the review process for resource projects in Canada
- End Bill C-48, which bans oil tankers that are carrying more than 12 500 metric tons of crude oil along northern British Columbia
- Enact legislation to clarify roles of proponents and governments in consultations
- End foreign-funded interference in regulatory hearings
- Provide certainty on approval timelines and schedules
- Eliminate the Trudeau government's carbon tax
- Introduce a 20 per cent refundable tax credit for anyone who spends between \$1,000 and \$20,000 on energy-saving home renovations

NDP

- Create a publicly-funded "climate bank" to increase clean energy investments
- Build an east-west corridor to carry clean energy across Canada
- Create a publicly-funded "climate bank" to increase clean energy investments
- Expand federal funding by \$2.5 billion for disaster relief and adapting infrastructure to withstand extreme weather events
- Introduce federal incentives for zero-emissions automobiles
- Electrify transit and other municipal fleets by 2030.
- Power Canada with net carbon-free electricity by 2030 and move to 100% non-emitting electricity by 2050
- Ban single-use plastics.
- Continue carbon pricing, including rebates to households that fall under the federal backstop plan; roll back the breaks to big polluters
- Create a \$40-million Coastal Protection Fund to defend wild salmon, remove derelict vessels, clean up the coast, and improve Coast Guard equipment and training

GREEN

- Upgrade Canada Post's fleet to electric vehicles
- Broaden postal carriers' mandate to check in on those who live alone or have mobility issues, particularly during extreme weather events
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60 per cent by 2030 and to zero by 2050
- Cancel the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion
- Make electric vehicles affordable, expand charging stations and ban the purchase of new internal combustion engine vehicles by 2030
- Mandate energy retrofits for all buildings by 2030
- Regulate the CPP Investment Board to require divestment of coal, oil and gas shares

PEOPLE'S PARTY OF CANADA

- Find a private buyer for the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project
- Repeal Bill C-48 and Bill C-69
- Scrap the federal carbon tax
- Withdraw from the Paris Accord, an international agreement to fight climate change signed in 2016
- Remove subsidies for green technology

TECHNOLOGY



LIBERAL

- Reduce cell phone bills by 25 per cent

CONSERVATIVE

- Establish a cabinet committee on cyber security and data privacy
- Create a "Canada Cyber Safe" brand to ensure consumers know when products have met certain security standards
- Ensure companies collecting electronic data receive informed consent from Canadians
- Greens
- Mandate more affordable cell phone and internet plans
- Implement corporate tax on e-commerce companies like Netflix
- Enact provisions to protect consumers and investors from fraud and theft in cryptocurrencies
- Strengthen digital privacy laws with measures such as prohibiting warrantless intrusions on Canadians' communications, banning cyber surveillance programs that use bulk data collection, requiring companies to respect the "right to be forgotten," and making data breach reporting mandatory for government departments, companies, banks and political parties

NDP

- Work with international allies to deal with threats to national security, including cyber crime
- Enforce a price cap to make sure that Canadians aren't paying more than the global average for their cell phone and internet bills
- Expand internet coverage to remote communities

GREEN

- Mandate more affordable cell phone and internet plans
- Implement corporate tax on e-commerce companies like Netflix
- Enact provisions to protect consumers and investors from fraud and theft in cryptocurrencies
- Strengthen digital privacy laws with measures such as prohibiting warrantless intrusions on Canadians' communications, banning cyber surveillance programs that use bulk data collection, requiring companies to respect the "right to be forgotten," and making data breach reporting mandatory for government departments, companies, banks and political parties

PEOPLE'S PARTY OF CANADA

- Phase out the CRTC, and allow more foreign competition in the telecom industry

PHARMACARE AND HEALTHCARE



LIBERAL

- Invest \$6 billion over the next four years to kickstart negotiations with the provinces aimed at improving a range of health-care services, including discussions on national Pharmacare
- The government introduced steps toward a national Pharmacare program, including the creation of a new Canadian Drug Agency to coordinate purchases of prescription drugs and make high-cost drugs for rare diseases more affordable (as per 2019 budget)

CONSERVATIVE

- Spend \$1.5 billion to buy new medical imaging equipment for facilities across Canada
- Maintain and increase the Canada Health Transfer, which provides long-term healthcare funding to the provinces and territories

NDP

- Spend to \$10 billion a year to create a national Pharmacare program that provides comprehensive coverage to everyone in Canada by 2020
- Extend public dental coverage for households making less than \$70,000 per year, beginning in 2020

GREEN

- Enact pharmacare for all by 2020
- Declare a national health emergency to address the opioid crisis

PEOPLE'S PARTY OF CANADA

- Replace the Canada Health Transfer cash payments with a permanent transfer of tax points of equivalent value to the provinces and territories, to give them a stable source of revenue

EDUCATION

LIBERAL

- No specific proposals, so of Sept. 27th

CONSERVATIVE

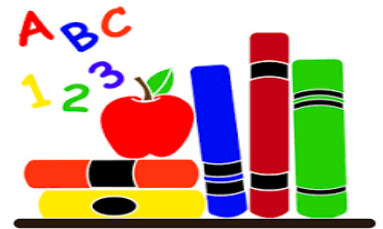
- Increase Ottawa's contribution to the registered education savings plan to 30 per cent from 20 per cent for every dollar added, up to \$2,500 per year

NDP

- Cancel interest on all existing and future student loans

GREEN

- Make college and university tuition free for all Canadian students
- Forgive the portion of existing student debt that is held by the federal government



PERSONAL TAXES

LIBERAL

- Cap employee stock option deductions for high-income earners in large and mature companies to \$200,000 annually (as per 2019 budget)
- Raise basic personal amount to \$15,000



CONSERVATIVE

- Gradually reduce taxes on the lowest income bracket to 13.75 per cent from 15 per cent
- Re-introduce the Children's Fitness Tax Credit and Children's Arts and Learning Tax Credit. The credits would allow parents to claim up to \$1,000 per child for expenses related to sports and fitness classes and up to \$5,000 per child for expenses related to arts and educational activities
- Re-introduce a 15-per-cent tax credit for public transit passes
- Remove federal income tax from Employment Insurance maternity and paternity benefits by providing a 15-per-cent tax credit for any income under the two programs
- Eliminate GST from home heating and energy bills
- Establish a single tax return for Quebec residents
- Introduce a 20 per cent refundable tax credit for anyone who spends between \$1,000 and \$20,000 on energy-saving home renovations

NDP

- Implement a "super-wealth tax" that applies a one-per-cent tax on fortunes above \$20 million
- Increase the amount of investment profits subject to capital gains taxation to 75 per cent, the rate that was in place in 2000, from 50 per cent
- For Canadians making over \$210,000, will increase the top marginal tax rate by two points to 35 per cent, raising over half a billion dollars annually.

GREEN

- Close tax loopholes that benefit the wealthy, such as ones on executive stock options and capital gains

PEOPLE'S PARTY OF CANADA

- Abolish the capital gains tax
- Cut the federal tax to 15 per cent on income between \$15,001 and \$100,000, and 25 per cent tax rate on income above \$100,000

CHILD CARE



LIBERAL

- Boost the **Canada Child Benefit** by 15 per cent for children under the age of one, and make maternity and parental leave benefits tax-free
- Create up to 250,000 more before and after school spaces for kids under the age of 10

CONSERVATIVE

- No specific proposals, as of Sept. 27th

NDP

- Invest \$1 billion in affordable childcare in 2020 with plans to grow that investment annually
- People's Party of Canada

GREEN

- Increase federal child care funding to at least one per cent of GDP annually, adding an additional \$1 billion each year until the benchmark is reached
- Eliminate all GST on all construction costs related to child-care spaces
- Liberals
- Boost the **Canada Child Benefit** by 15 per cent for children under the age of one, and make maternity and parental leave benefits tax-free
- Create up to 250,000 more before and after school spaces for kids under the age of 10

RETIREMENT AND SENIORS



LIBERAL

- Boost old age security by an extra 10 per cent once a person turns 75
- Increase the **Canada Pension Plan** survivor's benefit by 25%

CONSERVATIVE

- Offer incentives to Quebec retirees who want to go back to work
- Increase the **Age Tax Credit** to save seniors over the age of 65 up to \$150 and couples as much as \$300 per year

GREEN

- Over time, increase the **Canada Pension Plan's** target income replacement rate from 25 per cent to 50 per cent of income received during working years
- Protect private pensions by amending the **Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act** and **Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act** to establish the pre-eminence of pensioners during company insolvency proceedings

NDP

- Protect the pensions of workers/ retirees by cracking down on pension theft

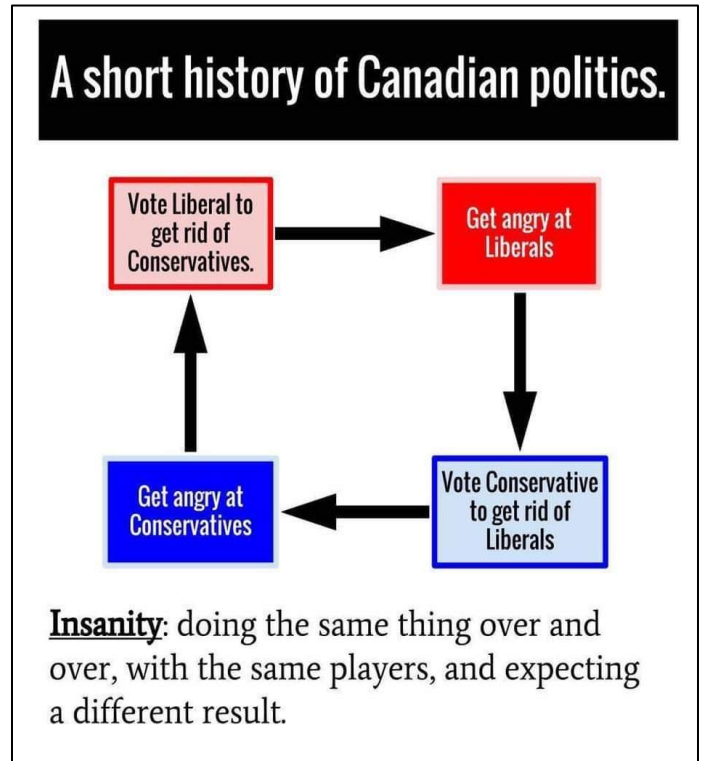
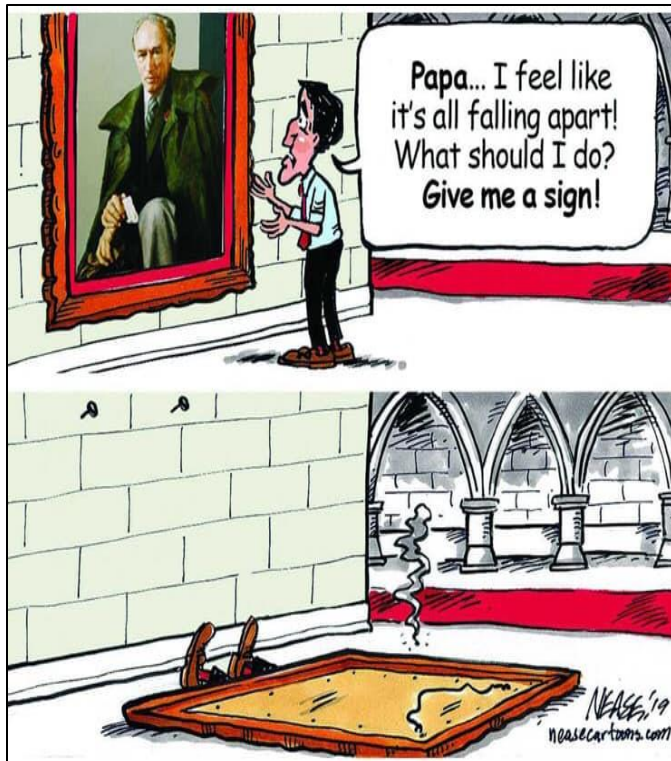
PEOPLE'S PARTY OF CANADA

- No specific pledges, as of Sept. 27th

FIND OUT MORE About Other Areas: Fiscal Plan, Trade, Immigration, Economy, etc.
<https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/2019-federal-election-platform-tracker-where-the-major-parties-stand-so-far-1.1308714>

Another Source of Party Platforms, as of Sept. 23, 2019

<https://www.macleans.ca/politics/2019-federal-election-platform-guide-where-the-parties-stand-on-everything/>



Voting for Scheer to punish Trudeau?

Please remember that Andrew Scheer:

- > Voted against women's fertility and abortion rights.
- > Voted twice against giving same-sex couples the right to marry.
- > Voted for the failed bill to restrict same-sex marriage after it was legalized.
- > Voted against the right to assisted death.
- > Denies climate change (and was the only national leader who didn't attend a Climate Strike event on Friday, Sept. 27th)

**Above list is verified via Parliamentary voting record, public statements, personal interviews, and audio/video recordings.

Also, look at what's happening in Ontario when people voted Conservative in reaction to the Liberal's imperfections. Nobody is going to have a perfect track record in politics, so do NOT vote reactively and consider the bigger, long term implications of our vote!!

VOTE COMPASS – TAKE THE TEST!

Compare your views to the party platforms!

<https://votecompass.cbc.ca/canada/>



BCTF News:



British Columbia
Teachers' Federation

BCTF Bargaining 2019:

OUR KIDS AND THEIR TEACHERS ARE WORTH INVESTING IN

In February 2019, the BC Teachers' Federation began bargaining with the provincial government and the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA), the group that represents school districts and the provincial government.

From the start, the BCTF's goal has been to negotiate a new collective agreement by June 30, 2019, the day the current agreement expires.

Teachers and kids need support from parents and the public to get a new collective agreement for better teaching and learning conditions.

WHAT ARE BC TEACHERS ASKING FOR? SALARY IMPROVEMENTS

Teachers work hard in busy, diverse, and complicated classrooms every single day to give all students the support they need. They deserve fair pay for their work. But over the past 16 years, teachers' salaries in BC have fallen behind other provinces.

BC needs to improve teachers' salaries and offer other recruitment and retention initiatives to ensure our schools and classrooms are properly staffed to support all students.

BC has a teacher shortage that is negatively impacting student learning. Our new teachers have the second lowest starting salaries and all of our members receive far less than our colleagues in Alberta or Ontario. With BC's high cost of living, it's no wonder BC is having a hard time recruiting teachers from other provinces.

TEACHER SALARIES ACROSS CANADA – How does BC compare?

The minimum salary for a BC teacher with Category 5 qualifications ranks 12th out of the 13 provinces and territories.

British Columbia* \$49,376 to \$78,757

Alberta (Edmonton public) \$62,757 to \$97,319 (Calgary Public) \$62,514 to \$97,372

Manitoba (Winnipeg) \$60,885 to \$92,581

Saskatchewan \$58,617 to \$90,076

Quebec \$44,985

Ontario* (Elementary) \$52,967 to \$91,315)

(London Catholic Elementary Secondary) \$50,804 to \$92,551

Newfoundland and Labrador \$53,754 to \$70,391

Nova Scotia \$52,228 to \$74,542

New Brunswick \$52,057 to \$80,271

Prince Edward Island \$53,363 to \$77,120

Yukon \$75,587 to \$109,192

Northwest Territories \$82,743 to \$121,732

Nunavut \$78,175 to \$112,430



*Weighted Average

SOURCE: salary data from collective agreements, as of April 2018

WILL THIS PAY GAP ATTRACT AND RETAIN NEW TEACHERS?

Parents, knowing this gap exists, would you encourage your children to spend five years in university to become teachers? According to labour market projections, BC is going to need 17,000 new teaching staff over the next decade due to retirement and enrolment growth, so improved teacher salaries are essential to attract the teachers BC desperately needs. There are already significant recruitment and retention problems in both urban and rural communities in BC.

The BCTF Bargaining Team has made creative proposals to begin addressing the problem, but the employer remains firm on their unacceptable offer that won't even help teachers keep up with the rate of inflation, and will further widen the gap between BC and other provinces.

HOW IS THE TEACHER SHORTAGE AFFECTING BC KIDS?

At the start of this school year, there were still more than 500 unfilled teaching positions in BC. That means BC kids are not receiving all of the supports they need. The shortage grows when you consider all the on-call teachers needed to fill in for sick days and the historic number of unqualified and uncertified individuals currently teaching in classrooms. There are more uncertified adults in schools today than even before.

Throughout this school year and the previous one, there were many instances when students with special needs had their specific programs or instruction cancelled because of the shortage. Too often, specialist teachers are being redeployed from their small group or one-on-one work to cover classroom vacancies.

According to labour market projection, BC is going to need 17,000 new teaching staff over the next decade due to retirement and enrolment growth, so inaction will only make the problem worse.

TEACHING AND LEARNING CONDITIONS IMPROVEMENTS

After a long legal battle against the former BC Liberal government, in 2016 the BCTF won a landmark victory at the Supreme Court of Canada that restored provisions related to class-size, class-composition, specialist teacher staffing ratios, and school-based team. They had been unconstitutionally stripped away by then Education Minister Christy Clark in 2002. That led to 15 years of teacher layoffs, cuts to specialist teachers, increased class sizes, and fewer supports for students with special needs.

In a few school districts, there are actually no standards for class-size in Grades 4–12; in many school districts, there are no reference to class composition, so no additional staffing is generated so that teachers can better address individual students' learning needs. And there are no class size standards for Distributed Learning or Adult Education programs around the province. Now that bargaining has started again, it's possible to make some improvements—by addressing gaps in protections across the 60 school districts, and trying to make improvements in some key areas.

The BCTF has proposed improved collective agreement language that ensures enough funding to generate teacher staffing that will effectively address the learning needs of individual students in all 60 school districts, without taking away services to students from any neighbouring districts.

Instead, the language that the employer has proposed moves inadequate funding around, which will result in teaching positions being lost in some districts and students losing direct services just after having them restored.

HOW DOES COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT LANGUAGE HELP KIDS AND TEACHERS?

Collective agreement language about class size, class composition, and staffing ratios drives increased supports into schools. The only way to make sure that BC students are getting the education they deserve is to bargain a new collective agreement that is fair for all teachers and students. Government can always fund beyond what is in collective agreement language. But as we've seen from 2002 until 2017 when the collective agreement protections were gone, government didn't fund public education adequately, and there were 3,700 fewer teachers working with students.

When the BCTF's stripped contract language was restored by the court, the BC government was required to create 3,700 new teaching positions. Class sizes got smaller and more specialists like school counsellors, teacher-librarians, and special education teachers started working with students. Without the collective agreement provisions, those improved services are threatened. In addition, the standards in the collective agreement are the "floor," not the "ceiling." With proper government funding, supports for students can always be enhanced.

The BC government is trying to roll back teachers' Supreme Court win by gutting collective agreement guarantees on class size, class composition, and the number of specialist teachers in our schools. The BC NDP government promised better, parents expected better, and kids deserve better

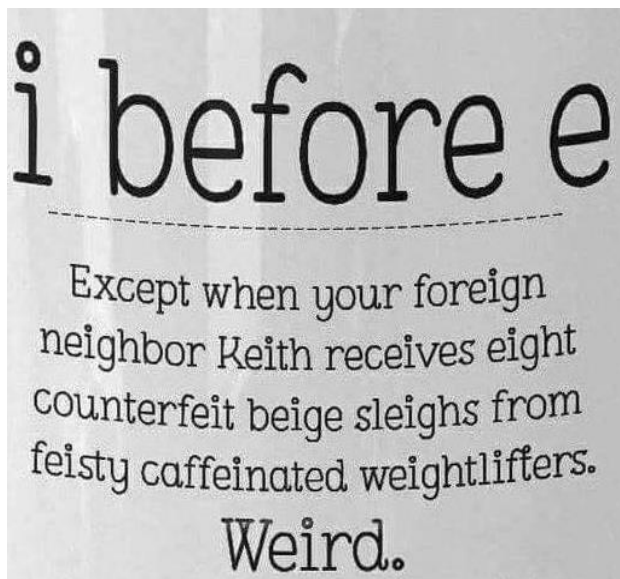
URGE YOUR MLAS TO ASK THE GOVERNMENT TO INVEST IN A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR ALL BC STUDENTS *(after the Federal Election?)*

Parents and concerned British Columbians please let the government know that our kids and their teachers are worth investing in with this message:

"Bring the necessary public education funding to the bargaining table! Every child has the right to a public education that meets their learning needs."

Parents and teachers know that educating British Columbia's children is an investment in the future for us all.

Find your MLA's email address here (maybe wait until after the Federal Election?):
www.leg.bc.ca/content-committees/Pages/MLA-ContactInformation.aspx



OUR CAMPAIGN OPPOSING BILL C-27

Since February, 2018, BCRTA's branches have been working on preparing petitions opposing Bill C-27 and seeking to have them presented in Parliament. C-27 is a bill which had first reading in the House of Commons in October, 2017 and was poised, if it became law, to weaken the security of defined benefit pension plans in Canada.

The campaign has been most successful. When Parliament recessed for the summer on June 21, 2019, thirty-six BCRTA branches had forwarded fifty-two written petitions to BC Members of Parliament requesting their presentation to the House of Commons. Over the months since February, 2018, forty-four BCRTA petitions were read out to the House by MPs.

Many branches had collected far more than twenty five signatures, sometimes more than a hundred. In those cases, for every twenty-five signatures, their MP could elect to rise in the House to present their petition again. Several MPs chose to do that when the petition was endorsed by more than fifty signatures.

In addition to the branches that had their petitions presented to the House, five branches submitted nine more petitions to their local MPs; these were not tabled. No petition was presented by BC MPs representing the Liberal party.

The BCRTA thanks MP Peter Julian, New Westminster-Burnaby, for his encouragement of our campaign and for his assistance in having our petitions presented to the House.

On June 29, 2019, Kendra Litke, past president of the South Okanagan Branch, sent us this comment, which attests to the success of the BCRTA written petition campaign: Just read the good news from MP Albas that Bill C-27 will not be moving forward due to it becoming "controversial".

Congratulations, BCRTA branches, on your advocacy work which led to Bill C-27 becoming controversial! Several times in the past few months the BCRTA has been congratulated in Parliament for its advocacy work on this bill.

Well done, one and all! JoAnn and Dale Lauber for
The BCRTA Pensions and Benefits Committee

Author, Author!!!

In the recent Post Script magazine for Fall 2019, did you notice an article entitled "Graduation Day" on pages 33 to 35? That article was submitted by PQRTA's very own Ralph Martin. Way to go, Ralph!!! For more about our author, check out: www.ralphsbooks.com



Parksville-Qualicum RTA Report to BCRTA - 2018/2019

This year, our membership increased by thirty-five people for a total of 260 members with anywhere from five to sixty people in attendance at the past year's monthly events:

September 4, 2018 – "To Hell with the Bell" Breakfast Buffet – Quality Resort Bayside
New retirees receive a FREE breakfast and wear Hawaiian leis, as their rite of passage

Sept. 27, 2018 – Gabriola Island – Tour of Ravenskill Apple Orchard – visited Malaspina Gallery rock formation and lunched at The Surf Lodge

October 18, 2018 – Victoria Royal Museum – IMAX "Mysteries of Egypt", tour Egypt display

November 9, 2018 – Speaker: Proportional Representation Presentation by FairVote BC

December 17, 2018 – Christmas Luncheon - Fairwinds restaurant - Nanoose Bay – half price for Life Members who receive a poinsettia - includes door prizes and carol singalong

January 8, 2019 – "Camino de Santiago" presentation by member at hall in Coombs

Feb. 14, 2019 – Fun & Games – Shoreline Clubhouse in Parksville - wear Valentine colours; bring a board game and a food item to share

March 23, 2019 – attended Medical Cannabis Conference in Nanaimo – full day event

April 29, 2019 – COSCO Workshop "Stay on the Road" in Qualicum Beach –77 participants (invitation to nearby RTA's and other senior groups from Parksville & Qualicum Beach)

May 14, 2019 – Mount Arrowsmith Brewery in Parksville – tour and sampling

June 2018 – Barbecue and AGM – Shoreline Clubhouse in Parksville - purchase ready-made salads, desserts, and cook up some burgers! Thanks to Lisa Hansen of Johnson Insurance for a wonderful door prize. Signing of National Pharmacare petition, too!

Bill C-27: collected 101 signatures onto paper petition – read into parliament in April

In March, PQRTA endorsed the Open Letter to Canada's Health Ministers for National Pharmacare, initiated by Ontario Health Coalition. PQRTA spread the word to others, too!

In May, I attended the local teacher union dinner to honour 19 retirees & promote PQRTA.

In June, I was honoured to attend the Golden Star presentation to a Qualicum Beach class.

Over the year, our Sunshine Chair sends cheer to those in need of "sunshine"; but she also sends cards to our life members (birthday, Happy Spring, and Christmas) to stay connected.

Through the ORES (Oceanside Retired Educators Scholarship) group, three scholarships were awarded: \$1000 for student into teaching, \$500 for student into trades and \$600 for a female Kenyan high school student through CHES (Canadian Harambee Education Society).

This coming year, our project will be to interview 13 life members, to preserve their history.

For more information about PQRTA, peruse our extensive monthly newsletters that are available on the BCRTA website: <https://bcrt.ca/parksville-qualicum-beach/>

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Van Herwaarden - PQRTA President

74th Annual BCRTA AGM and Conference – Oct. 3 to 5, 2019

On behalf of Parksville Qualicum Retired Teachers' Association, Local Branch President Cathy Van Herwaarden and Vice-President Stephanie Koropatnick will attend this event in Richmond.

BCRTA Summary of Reports for AGM:

https://bcрта.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/SummaryofReports_2019.pdf

ACER-CART (Canadian Assoc. of Retired Teachers) Seniors' Issues for the 2019 Federal Election

- **MAKING RETIREMENT INCOME MORE SECURE** - Canadians deserve a secure and dignified retirement, with a guaranteed and sufficient source of income.
- **NATIONAL PHARMACARE** - All Canadians should have access to the medications they need. A universal, public, comprehensive, accessible and portable national Pharmacare program would cut costs and lead to a healthier population.
- **OPPOSITION TO PRIVATIZATION OF MEDICAL SERVICES** – Access to medical support should not be dictated by an individual's means to pay. Medicare is based on the five principles contained in the Canada Health Act: public administration, universal access, comprehensive coverage, accessibility without extra charges or discrimination and portability across the provinces.
- **NATIONAL SENIORS' STRATEGY** – Canada needs a National Seniors' Strategy that optimizes health, financial security, affordable housing and social inclusion so all Canadians can age with dignity.

For more detailed information about these points (including questions to ask the candidates), see PostScript Fall 2019 pages 25 to 30

**If we make life good for older adults,
Life will be good for all Canadians!**





POINTS TO PONDER:

To read more about the article, place mouse cursor over the blue underlined link, press "ctrl" key (lower left keyboard) and click on the link.

VIDEO - How Trees Secretly Talk to Each Other

<https://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/decoder/00000165-61d1-d3b2-a17d-e9f9571f0000?linkId=71969253&fbclid=IwAR18KDMMx6QwYkBbOpwTKC0DSy9DDO-ChjPI9r0wWIIWsFOOzFMXZEBP2HvM>

Spill from Hell: Diluted Bitumen

Poisoned air. Sunken gunk. A clean-up nightmare. What we're learning from the oil sands 'DilBit' dump into the Kalamazoo River.

<https://theyee.ca/News/2012/03/05/Diluted-Bitumen/?fbclid=IwAR0Og2wIqv2d79iEmBhGb-6rpzw0sBTMK2j4rkyQA14TKSw9yfJE9dhaqmM>

Fracking – What are the consequences?

[https://davidsuzuki.org/story/as-fracking-booms-report-finds-we-know-little-about-impacts/?utm_campaign=scienceMatters-asFrackingBoomsReportFinds-en-05apr2019&utm_source=mkto-none-smSubscribers-link-readOnline&utm_medium=email&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTUDZeE4yUTNNekU0WXpnMSIsInQiOiJRS
EtVajc4bXdoUndpeUVHU3lmdmpGcHpRVGNiVmlXVHhwWU1lb0hLbkE5bnJJWXRRT250eE8xUkl
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nMzBCWWJ6ano3TEpnK3UyOXB2In0%3D](https://davidsuzuki.org/story/as-fracking-booms-report-finds-we-know-little-about-impacts/?utm_campaign=scienceMatters-asFrackingBoomsReportFinds-en-05apr2019&utm_source=mkto-none-smSubscribers-link-readOnline&utm_medium=email&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTUDZeE4yUTNNekU0WXpnMSIsInQiOiJRS
EtVajc4bXdoUndpeUVHU3lmdmpGcHpRVGNiVmlXVHhwWU1lb0hLbkE5bnJJWXRRT250eE8xUkl
KdE1nUmZhVFVuUWpNUWd6TE5NODBIXC9PenM0eE4wMHpcL0c4UXIVdEZOZzhld3A0Rjc5dFh
nMzBCWWJ6ano3TEpnK3UyOXB2In0%3D)

Fish in Danger of Losing Sense of Smell

<https://www.greenmatters.com/news/2018/07/27/11uMB8/fish-losing-smell-study?gm>

When does Plant and Animal Species Loss Become a Societal Crisis?

[https://davidsuzuki.org/story/when-does-plant-and-animal-species-loss-become-a-societal-crisis/?utm_campaign=scienceMatters-whenDoesPlantAndAnimalSpeciesLoss-en-19apr2019&utm_source=mkto-none-smSubscribers-link-readOnline&utm_medium=email&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWmpaa09HRmxZbVptTIRjNCIsInQiOiJLUV
REV09oWEsxUXJXcHhaSVpJRXVnd2Y1MGI6TFNCZkV4VmJsaWJMNXQ3c1FRWjFJQjRSY2RqbIF
QZ2U3WnNKsXRzUTRQQIFBWE1ienVQZDRISUJEMFFwNHFacG8rTG1DS25CQUtqdTFXTUZOb
HJVbkY3WHg0NENDZ1FFVZ4USJ9](https://davidsuzuki.org/story/when-does-plant-and-animal-species-loss-become-a-societal-crisis/?utm_campaign=scienceMatters-whenDoesPlantAndAnimalSpeciesLoss-en-19apr2019&utm_source=mkto-none-smSubscribers-link-readOnline&utm_medium=email&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWmpaa09HRmxZbVptTIRjNCIsInQiOiJLUV
REV09oWEsxUXJXcHhaSVpJRXVnd2Y1MGI6TFNCZkV4VmJsaWJMNXQ3c1FRWjFJQjRSY2RqbIF
QZ2U3WnNKsXRzUTRQQIFBWE1ienVQZDRISUJEMFFwNHFacG8rTG1DS25CQUtqdTFXTUZOb
HJVbkY3WHg0NENDZ1FFVZ4USJ9)

Canada Pension Plan invests in USA gun industry – WHAT!!!!

Canadians who want to steer clear of investing in gun companies are out of luck if they pay into the Canada Pension Plan. CPP's shares in American firearm manufacturers are highlighted in a Canadian magazine's new report focused on ethical investing and come after another bloody weekend in the U.S., where seven people were killed and 25 injured in a mass shooting in west Texas. While the magazine's publisher says CPP's holdings in firearms firms are small relative to the overall size of the plan, many other public pension funds have opted to bail out of the category.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/cpp-owns-gun-stocks-1.5264497?cmp=newsletter-Morning+Brief+September+4+2019>

Why Southeast Asia is Flooded with Plastic Trash from Wealthy Nations

https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/malaysia-plastic-recycling_n_5c7f64a9e4b020b54d7ffdee?guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAALoHr9gTyqBcwS89pDWBxhex9ihyCZTGQ_5Buhk7bRmOCOhcSUaXxZ2INo2GFGG9XoodGKIkrYZNdnRzLYsxZmfT60dKNzWfsDA3tdgAnDIYSIqJk2kzkjsO0e1LPLY-hk6C8v5DrNAFHREmoEpg0UArxHeyPVfdv2faqt5GGZe&guccounter=2

Childhood Trauma Leads to Brains Wired for Fear

https://www.sideeffectspublicmedia.org/post/childhood-trauma-leads-brains-wired-fear?fbclid=IwAR3CuDyFvePr82m5_Sys8kjiPtfh8bGp3ZoBw1U0TuexnmHdIu0HAc8eGio

Women Have More Active Brains Than Men – Science Says!

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/08/women-have-more-active-brains-than-men-according-to-science>

How You Talk to Children Changes Their Brain

A study has revealed that it's *how* you talk to your child that really matters for their brain growth. Rather than just spewing complex words at them, or showing flashcards in the hope of enriching their vocabulary, the key is to engage them in "conversational turns" – in other words, have a good old chat.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/02/how-you-talk-to-your-child-changes-their-brain>

WAYS OF SPOTTING 'FAKE NEWS' ONLINE

There's a lot of disinformation and other misleading content online, popularly known as "fake news." You're most likely to come across it on social media, especially Facebook and Twitter, but also on YouTube, Snapchat, Instagram and Reddit. It can be tricky to spot, and even harder to verify. But there are tools you can use to do it. Here are a few.

It's usually not easy to identify something as disinformation, because it is designed to appear true. But there are questions you can ask yourself that will help you determine if you're being duped. Does the story seem too good (or bad) to be true? Does it confirm stereotypes about certain people? Was it published recently or is it old? Is it clear who wrote or produced the story? Does it come from a recognized organization that can be contacted? Reputable news outlets have an interest in being reliable, reachable and transparent. If you can't figure out who runs a site or who writes for it, there's reason to be skeptical.

Check political stories for accuracy at FactsCan:

<http://factscan.ca/?cmp=newsletter-Morning+Brief+July+5+2019>

You can also take steps to avoid spreading misinformation. Don't just read headlines, which can be misleading. Read the whole story before sharing it, including the date it was published. If the story is old or the headline doesn't match the content, it may be a warning sign. Also, if only one news outlet is reporting the story, there's reason to be wary. Even when one organization has an exclusive, others will usually verify the story or get reaction to it. When in doubt, don't share it.

Spotted Fake News? Now what?

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/fake-news-disinformation-propaganda-internet-1.5196964?cmp=newsletter-Morning%20Brief%20July%205%202019>

MISH-MASH of MEDICAL NEWS:



Weight Loss: What's more important – Diet or Exercise?

<https://www.everythingzoo.com/health/2019/09/10/weight-loss-improving-diet/>

Vaping Illnesses and Why Doctors are Concerned

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/e-cigarette-vaping-illness-explainer-1.5280386?cmp=newsletter-Morning+Brief+September+12+2019>

Treatment for High Blood Pressure Slows Down Cognitive Decline

<https://www.everythingzoo.com/health/2019/09/09/study-treatment-for-high-blood-pressure-could-slow-down-cognitive-decline/>

Seasonal Allergies Getting Worse due to Climate Change

Experts in the allergy community believe climate change is largely to blame, with rising temperatures kicking pollen-producing plants into high gear. And in cities, tree-planting policies and large amounts of concrete are creating allergen traps — leading some researchers to warn urban Canadians they should be bracing for more airborne irritants in the years to come.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/cities-seasonal-allergies-symptoms-worsening-climate-change-1.5256496?cmp=newsletter-Morning+Brief+August+29+2019>

BC Man brought back from dead, after heart attack – Brain Bolt used

<https://www.vancouverislandfreedaily.com/news/b-c-man-brought-back-from-dead-at-vancouver-hospital/>

Pumpkin Seeds:

https://www.healthyandnaturalworld.com/pumpkin-seeds-health-benefits/?utm_source=getresponse&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=healthy_natural&utm_content=These+Seeds+Fight+Cancer%2C+Improve+Sleep%2C+Improve+Eyesight+and+More

PEA PROTEIN – Allergy Alert! If you have a peanut allergy, watch out for pea protein, doctors warn. The ingredient, found in a surprising number of products, is often used as a substitute for meat protein, and used in vegan cheeses, yogurts and milk substances. The protein is also being added to some meat and dairy products to boost protein levels. About five per cent of people with peanut allergies can't tolerate pea protein either, and it can be life threatening.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/food-allergy-pea-protein-1.5118978?cmp=newsletter-Morning+Brief+May+2+2019>

Latest in Allergy Advice:

<https://www.everythingzoo.com/health/2019/05/10/expert-allergy-advice/>

Low Cost Skin Cancer Detector developed by UBC researcher:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/low-cost-cancer-detector-melanoma-ubc-researchers-1.5046273>

WELCOME to NEW PQRTA MEMBERS!

- **Fiona Mathison**
- **Karen Frieson**
- **David Osborn**



ORES - OCEANSIDE RETIRED EDUCATORS' SCHOLARSHIP

Our PQRTA fees are only to be used to enhance activities for members, so we subsidize our monthly events. Previous years, our PQRTA fees were used to cover our scholarships (SD 69 and CHES); but we have to follow CRA rules and now depend on individual donations.

This year, we hope to give two scholarships through Oceanside Retired Educators.

- \$1,000 to a student from either Kwalikum or Ballenas Secondary who is training as an educator
- \$500 to a motivated student (mostly likely in trades training) from PASS (Parksville Alternate Secondary School).

Please make your cheque payable to School District 69 and send to the following:

Elaine Young
255 – 330 Dogwood St.
Parksville, BC
V9P 1P8

For pick-up of your donation, contact Elaine:

Phone: 250.927.0375
Email: reysis3@shaw.ca



You will receive your individual 2019 income tax receipt from Qualicum school district. Get it done soon and you will be sure to receive your receipt for this year's income tax report!

Thanks so much to all of you for your continued support of our local students.

CHES – Canadian Harambee Education Society

Each year, we send **\$600** to cover the fee for one female to attend boarding school in Kakamega, Kenya. Education helps to reduce poverty, so let's help these poor, young females to succeed. We need to collect your donations quickly, please, as the deadline is **December 1st** to pay for next year's school term. So far, I have only received 3 donations.

Send your cheque or money order,
payable to CHES, and mail to...

Cathy Van Herwaarden
Box 286
Coombs, BC
V0R 1M0

Or, send an eTransfer to
cathyvanh@gmail.com



Or, for pick-up of your donation:
Phone: 250.248.0412
Email: cathyvanh@gmail.com

Or drop off your donation to Cathy:
2061 Pierpont Road
Coombs, BC

Purple Caps for Newborns



Barb Brett (right) delivered 43 wee purple caps to Janice Perrino (left) to be given to new parents upon completion of the class about Shaken Baby Syndrome and Purple Crying in babies.

Thanks to Suzanne Rush, Jutta L'Hirondelle, Cathy Van Herwaarden and Barb Brett for knitting and crocheting up a storm!

Nanaimo and District Hospital Foundation is still in need of the small purple caps for newborn babies. After new parents learn about Shaken Baby Syndrome and why babies cry, they choose a purple cap for their baby.

Period of PURPLE Crying is an acronym that describes the characteristics of normal developmental crying in babies:

P = PEAK OF CRYING Your baby may cry more each week, the most in month 2, then less in months 3-5.

U = UNEXPECTED Crying can come and go and you don't know why.

R = RESISTS SOOTHING Your baby may not stop crying no matter what you try.

P = PAIN-LIKE FACE A crying baby may look like they are in pain, even when they are not.

L = LONG LASTING Crying can last as much as 5 hours a day, or more.

E = EVENING Your baby may cry more in the late afternoon and evening.

For more info, contact Barb Brett: 250.752.7029 or b462brett@telus.net

BEYOND CLIMATE – film narrated by David Suzuki

From burning forests and melting glaciers to acidic oceans, people across Canada's Pacific Coast are living with the realities of climate change and this film shows what's at stake if we fail to get BEYOND CLIMATE.

Presented by:

- Arrowsmith Naturalists
- PV and QB Canadian Federations of University Women
- Knox United Church Green Team

WHEN: Saturday, October 5th – 7:00pm

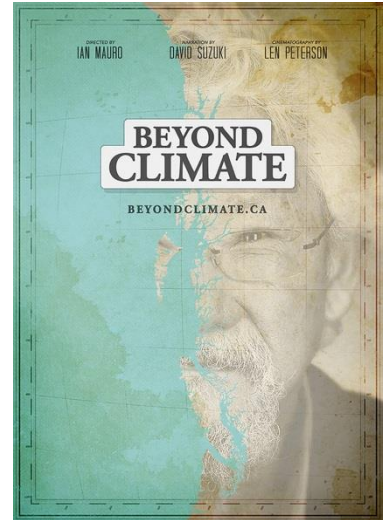
WHERE: Knox United Church - 345 Pym St, Parksville, BC

Moderated by Guy Dauncey – Author and Eco-Futurist

Film followed by:

- Voices from Neighbouring Communities
- Audience questions and discussion

Admission by donation. For more info: <https://www.beyondclimate.ca/>



Inspired by Nature, Seasoned by Life

PQRTA Member Julie Briese – A Writer's Journey in Poetry, Prose and Song

WHEN: Sun. Oct. 27, 2019 - 2:00 to 4:00pm

WHERE: McMillan Art Centre, 133 McMillan St, Parksville, BC

Tickets \$15 for Adult Performance
250-248-8185 www.mcmillanartscentre.com



Guest Harpist
Patt Scrivener



Julie Briese's unique musical performances are inspirational, reflective and entertaining.

Proceeds (after expenses) will be donated in support of Dying With Dignity Canada

Tumaini Fund Canada Bottle Drive /Yard Sale

Helping orphans and poor families in Kagera, Tanzania

Saturday, October 5th – 10:00 to 2:00

St. Mary's Church Parking Lot – 2600 Powder Point Rd. Nanose
Or, drop off empties to Tumaini account at Parksville Depot



Join the Stroller Brigade! Saturday, Oct. 5th – 12 noon



In Support of Early Learning and Day Care: <https://www.10aday.ca/>

The Parksville Event, as organized by Counsellor Adam Fras:

12 noon - meet at Parksville City Hall

12:30 sharp - Parade Begins. Walk down Craig St. to the Community Park

With or Without a Stroller - Signs are welcome!

For more info: <https://www.pqbnews.com/news/parksville-stroller-brigade-to-highlight-childcare-concerns/>

PQRTA PROGRAM – September 3, 2019

Smoke 'n Water – Pacific Shores, Nanoose



60 people in attendance for delicious Breakfast Buffet & Mimosa Toast



New member Julie Pearce with her brother and new School District 69 retiree Jim Pearce



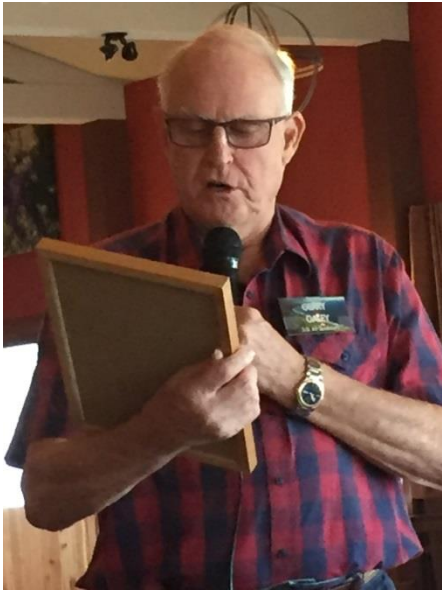
New School District 69 retirees: Linda Rockhill & Fiona Mathison

Elaine Young gave a report from ORES (Oceanside Retired Educators Scholarship) Remember to send your donation!



Barb Brett shared a wee newborn purple cap for the Nanaimo Hospital Foundation.





Warren Rongve, Josie Zbitnew, and Gerry Gale

Gerry Gale was pleased to introduce long-time friend Warren Rongve, who in 1970, was in charge of hiring for the North West Territories. Gerry displayed his framed copy of the telegram offering him Principalship of a 3-room school, with Mrs. Gale to accept the position in the Primary area. Gerry also acknowledged Josie Zbitnew (sitting at the same table) whose husband Joe had been Gerry's elementary school teacher back in Saskatchewan.



PQRTA Executive for 2019: (left to right) Barb Brett (Secretary), Cathy Van Herwaarden (President), Ellen Coates (Treasurer) & Suzanne Rush (Program)
MISSING: Kay Howard (Past President), Stephanie Koropatncik (Vice-President), Colleen Craig (Sunshine), Diane Williams (Membership), and Sharon Cox-Gustavson (Historian)

To Hell with the Bell



New Qualicum School District Retirees: Left to Right Fiona Mathison, Jim Pearce, Lynne Murray, Linda Rockhill and Bruce Richman





Have you moved or changed your contact information?
Remember to let us know!
Communication Chair: **Val Dyer**
tvdyer@shaw.ca or **250.752.8824**

Do you know of a PQRTA member who needs some sunshine in their life, due to illness or a loss in their family? Please, let us know!

Sunshine Chair: **Colleen Craig**
cocraig@shaw.ca or **250.752.3762**



October Events - Parksville and Qualicum Beach Area
<https://www.visitparksvillequalicumbeach.com/events-2019-10/>

What's On Digest – Events in Parksville Qualicum Beach & Area
<http://parksvillequalicum.whatsondigest.com/next-month>

Vancouver Island Free Daily News:
<http://live.vancouverislandfreedaily.com/>



UPCOMING EVENTS and REMINDERS:

For Programs, Contact Chair Suzanne Rush:
suzanne.c.rush@gmail.com or 250.468.5445

- October 1 – International Day of Older Persons
- October 5 – World Teacher Day, Tumaini Bottle Drive, Stroller Brigade & Beyond Climate Film
- October 14 - Thanksgiving
- October 21 – Federal Election
- October 27 – Julie Briese Performance
- October 29 – Teachers’ Pension Plan Deposit
- October 30 – Canada Pension Plan Deposit
- October 31 – Hallowe’en

PQRTA EXECUTIVE and CONTACTS for 2019/2020:

- President – Cathy Van Herwaarden
- Vice-President – Stephanie Koropatnick
- Past-President – Kay Howard
- Treasurer – Ellen Coates
- Secretary – Barb Brett
- Programs – Suzanne Rush
- Membership – Diane Williams
- Communication – **VACANT**
- Heritage – Sharon Cox-Gustavson
- Historian – **VACANT**
- Phoning Contacts – Jan Graham and Nancy Whelan
- Well Being Contact – Barb Brett



BCRTA Website - <https://bcrt.ca/>