Letters to the Editor

Canadians don’t want an election

Dear Editor,

It would be nice, even polite, for the opposition leaders to consult with ordinary Canadians (one of the main responsibilities of our elected officials) before rejecting the elected Conservative government’s budget so swiftly. This is not about an individual party and petty partisan politics. It is about respecting the taxpayer and their hard-earned dollars. I believe the people don’t want an election and I would think the opposition leaders feel the same way. Could someone remind me why the ‘free’ vote is not more common in the House of Commons?

Mark Paton

Electoral hoopla begins

Dear Editor,

So, we are in to another federal election hoopla once again.

On May 2 I will dutifully trudge to the poll, enter the polling booth and mark my ‘X’ for the candidate of my choice, as I have since I was old enough to vote. That was back in 1945 when the Liberals, led by Mackenzie King, were re-elected, defeating the newly renamed Progressive Conservative Party led by John Diefenbaker.

In school I had been taught that in Canada we have a democratic government ‘of the people, for the people, by the people.’

In recent years I’ve come to the realization that while some of the MPs we elect play a role in minor decisions made by government, it is the cabinet that plays a leading role in making major decisions.

Members of the cabinet are the targets of intense lobbying by the Canadian Council of Chief Executives (CCCE), a non-partisan organization made up of about 150 chief executive officers of leading Canadian enterprises. They maintain a force of several thousand lobbyists in Ottawa who meet with and entertain government representatives, their aids, senior civil servants and their advisers.

They represent the financial elite and their function is to influence government policy in favour of their clients and to maintain a constant vigil to ensure the power and interests of their clients are not infringed.

It’s my conviction that the major decisions in Ottawa originate in private corporate boardrooms. Parliament’s role is to merely rubber stamp them and create the illusion that power lies with the common people.

The reality is that if MPs did control parliament, Canada’s financial elite would not be able to use tax havens and loopholes to get away without paying their fair share of taxes; international petroleum corporations would not be getting away with scandalously low oil and gas royalties in Canada; social programs and infrastructure replacement would be adequately funded; foreign takeover of Canadian enterprises, land, and resources, would be banned; Canadian troops would not be playing a combat role in foreign countries; the export of military hardware would not be a major industry in Canada… and the list continues.

So, my trudge to the poll may very well be an exercise in futility.

William Dascavich

Politicians need to change focus

Dear Editor,

Since elections have begun for me, I am very tired of hearing every single politician promise to attack poverty and tax the wealthy and the companies that are wealthy and never seeing that promise come true. All of these politicians make all these wild promises just to get elected and then they find out that they cannot do it.

We have been hearing for the last 35 years that the politicians are going to eliminate poverty and one of the ways to do this is to eliminate some of the tax breaks that the wealthy have. I have never seen one single party cut taxes for the wealthy.

Most wealthy people and companies would like to keep their wealth. Wouldn’t you? There has to be something else to focus on in an election. I do not know what it is, do you?

Ron Horner

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Drug treatment court truly inspires

It’s not everyday one gets invited into a courtroom.

As journalists, court stories usually involve covering the sentencing of a criminal who has committed a heinous crime.

But the Durham Drug Treatment and Mental Health Court carries with it a different type of sentence – a different type of story.

It’s a story of hope. Determination. Rehabilitation.

Watching as one participant, Roxanne (not her real name), graduated from the program, the tears streaming down her face, one couldn’t help but be moved. It shows these programs really do work.

Basically, when a participant has been deemed eligible they plead guilty to their charges and are placed on a strict bail or recognizance as they enter the drug treatment court. If they stick with it, they must attend court every Monday, and take part in one-on-one meetings once a week with a treatment provider, group sessions and have regular urine tests.

It’s tough, but it’s fair and it seems to work.

The reason is because Oshawa is too close to Toronto and Ottawa.

But the Durham Drug Treatment and Mental Health Court could take on far more than community. If it had funding, drug treatment provides a service to a community – our needs. So why can’t Oshawa get some funded these courts in the past, with poverty and tax the wealthy and the companies that are wealthy and never seeing that promise come true.

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