



Bringing the voice to the table

Carl Nicholson joins Police Services Board



Carl Nicholson

Carl Nicholson took his seat on the Ottawa Police Services Board on November 1 following his gazetted appointment by the Province of Ontario. The official swearing-in ceremony was held in the Champlain Room of Ottawa City hall before a packed gallery which dispersed the moment he was seated on the Board, for they had come to see hope renewed.

"It is a significant appointment to have Carl as part of the Board," said India Hamoud, an officer at the Catholic Immigration Centre (CIC) where he is Executive Director, and who has worked on a number of studies on the multi-racial composition of the

city.

"It provides hope for he has been a leader who has worked long to promote better understanding among diverse police and diverse citizenry. We have made some progress, yes, but we have a long way to go yet, and Carl has a deep understanding and unwavering commitment not only to Visible Minorities but to the entire Ottawa community."

Spectrum Editor Ewart Walters also saw the appointment in a progressive light.

"Two of the responsibilities of the Board are to govern the police service and to consult with the community (in a way that would guide that governance). It would seem that the Board has tended to do the first part well but not necessarily the second, and that is where a Carl Nicholson should help big time. He has what it takes and we certainly look to see improvement."

Mr. Nicholson comes from a background shaped by a few years in the Jamaica judicial service where he worked as an assistant clerk of the courts, sixteen years as a stalwart on the CUSO Africa Desk between 1976 and 1989 including five consecutive years on the ground in Ghana, up to five

months in Nigeria, Gambia, and Mozambique, one year in Calabar and three months in Kano Nigeria.

For four years after graduating from Carleton University, he worked with the Federal Government at Statscan and Treasury Board four years. He also had stints driving taxi and working at Lapointe Fish Market.

But during most of this time he was doing voluntary after-five o'clock work with several organizations not least of which is the Community and Police Action Committee (COMPAC), the police-community group of which he is co-chair.

A top fund-raiser, he came to the CIC at a time it was deeply in debt and turned it around dramatically in three years. He is filling a vacancy created by the departure of Mr. Desmond Doran. In the meantime, the Board is seeking yet another member as an advertisement inside this issue proclaims.

The Police Services Board is an independent civilian body that is established by the Police Services Act, to govern the police service and consult with the community. It has responsibilities to hire and provide direction to the Police Chief



Carl Nicholson takes his seat on the Ottawa Police Services Board following his swearing-in on November 1. Beside him are the Board's Executive Director Wendy Fedec and the Chair Eli El-Chantiry.

and monitor her or his performance. It holds monthly meetings and members are also expected to sit on a committee.

As a longtime advocate of immigrant services Mr. Nicholson says he doesn't yet have any specific files or issues to address at the board level on behalf of the diverse community he has served for decades.

"We've got a lot of new voices in Ottawa," he said. "Our community is chang-

ing, shifting quite dramatically. Twenty-three per cent of us were born outside of Canada, and part of my job is to begin to bridge those divides, to make sure that that voice is at this table.

"That's the perspective that I'll be constantly bringing. That's the perspective that I am."

Mr. Nicholson, whose work has been recognized with multiple awards, has been executive director of the CIC 1994, and execu-

tive director of its foundation since 1996. He has been working in the not-for-profit sector for more than three decades, with a specific focus on services for immigrants.

He certainly has an idea of what needs to be done.

"Minority communities have high expectations of me, so that's going to be one of my problems, is adapting to those expectations," he said with a laugh.



Sugar Boy, the book about Cedric Titus and his valiant efforts for small cane-farmers in Jamaica in the middle of the last century, has been drawing levels of attention and excitement that no one foresaw. Here at the Jamaican Consulate-General in New York following a launch there on October 29 are Consul Tracy Blackwood, Editor Ewart Walters and Faye Titus Beaufort, daughter of Cedric.

Debtor's jail returns In for a penny

NEW YORK – ACLU - Poor defendants are being jailed at increasingly alarming rates for failing to pay legal debts they can never hope to afford, according to two new reports released by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Brennan Center for Justice.

The reports detail how states across the country, in the face of mounting budget deficits, are more aggressively going after poor people who have already served their criminal sentences, and in so doing undermining re-entry prospects, paving the way back to prison or jail and burdening the public with yet more costs.

"Incarcerating people simply because they cannot afford to pay their legal debts is not only unconstitutional but also has a devastating impact upon men and women, whose only crime is that they are poor," ACLU National Prison Project senior staff attorney Eric Balaban said.

The ACLU report, "In for a Penny: The Rise of America's New Debtors' Prisons," and the Brennan Center report, "The Hidden

Cost of Criminal Justice Debt," show how the resurgent phenomenon of imprisoning people who are unable to pay fines and court fees is in fact counterproductive. States and counties, hard pressed to find revenue to shore up failing budgets, see a ready source of funds in defendants who can be assessed financial penalties above and beyond their criminal sentences that must be repaid upon pain of imprisonment.

"We are undermining the integrity of our criminal justice system and creating a two-tiered system of justice in which the poorest among us are punished more harshly than those with means, at a great cost to taxpayers," said Vanita Gupta, Deputy Legal Director for the ACLU. "The rise of these debtors' prisons also has a disproportionate impact on people of color, who are overrepresented in the criminal justice system."

Kawana Young, a 25-year-old single mother of two in Michigan, accumulated a few minor traffic infractions for which she was given fines that she could not afford to pay. She

attempted to pay off her debt by doing community service, was told after the fact that her service at an elderly living center would not count because the center was not a non-profit and, as a result, has been jailed five times for failing to pay her debt.

"I just need a chance to do right," Young said. "It doesn't make sense to jail people when they can't pay because they definitely can't pay while they're in jail."

There is nothing to suggest that aggressively seeking to collect unpaid legal debt actually makes any money – incarcerating indigent defendants for failing to pay their legal debts in fact ends up costing states and counties much more than they can ever hope to recover. In one two-week period last May, for example, 16 men in New Orleans were sentenced to serve jail time for failing to pay legal debts. Their incarceration cost the city of New Orleans over \$1,000 more than their total unpaid debt. A man in Washington State

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COMMUNITY *Pulse*

Several small businesses have now begun turning their backs on the banks; they have rejected the facility of receiving payment by credit card. While this has created a bit of consternation for some customers, most seem resigned to paying cash when they learn that the banks have upped the service fee on a credit card transaction to 3%. So remember to smile at your community store attendant when they say "we no longer accept credit cards."

Charity Bernice Osome - July 21, 1968 to October 11, 2010, left us on Monday, October 11, 2010, at the age of 42, after a long and courageous struggle which she faced with extraordinary dignity and grace. She is the beloved daughter of Benson and Beatrice Osome, dear sister of Brodie Robert Osome and Burton Victor Osome. She is fondly remembered by many aunts, uncles, family members and friends. The family extends a special "thank you" to the staff of the Coswig Hospital, Germany, the Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto, the Ottawa General Hospital and the Elisabeth Bruyere Health Centre and to all of the friends and relatives who visited as well as to the Metropolitan Bible Church for their support. The funeral service was held at the Metropolitan Bible Church, 2176 Prince of Wales Drive, on Thursday, October 14. Interment followed at Pinecrest Cemetery. In Memoriam donations to the Bruyere Foundation are appreciated. Rest in peace, sister-friend. Your positive and profound impact on many of our lives and the many wonderful memories you leave us are far greater than the loss of your earthly presence...



Charity Osome

Maudrian Brown, Retired teacher Darcy McGee High School, Willis Business

College, graduate of McGill University; former Matron and Past Grand Worthy Matron of the Order of The Eastern Star, died peacefully on Sunday October 3 at the hospice at May Court. She was the widow of the late Alfred Llewellyn Brown, mother of Lincoln, Harvey, Victor (Viris) and Janet; grandmother to Adrian, Anthony Tamara, Summer, Derek and Kimberley. She also leaves great grandchildren; brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews in England and Boston Bay Jamaica. We wish to convey our deep sympathies to the Brown family.



Yvonne Foster

Yvonne Foster, former beloved Deputy High Commissioner in the Jamaica High Commission in Ottawa, died Sep 29, leaving son Gavin, daughter Sandra and five grandchildren. It was Mrs. Foster who began a trend of reaching out into the community from the mission - an initiative that has since become a treasured part and parcel of the Jamaica High Commission. Perhaps her greatest gift was her music, singing and recording as part of the Jamaica Folk Singers, and later leading the St. Margaret's Choir and giving solo performances including some at the Fourth Avenue Baptist Church in Ottawa. Yvonne, you have new choristers to sing with now. Rest in harmonious peace.

Christopher Harris has helped establish countless organizations committed to the equitable treatment of all members of Canadian society, including the Ottawa-Carleton Immigrant Services Organization, the Jamaican (Ottawa) Community Association, the National Council of Jamaicans and Supportive Organizations in Canada and the National Capital Alliance on Race Relations. He served as Chair of the City of Ottawa

Advisory Committee on Visible Minorities for six years and was the driving force in the establishment of Ottawa's Multicultural Centre which provided support to ethnic and new Canadians. Mr. Harris has earned several awards for his outstanding contributions including the Country's highest honour, the Order of Canada.

The Black Business and Professional Association (BBPA) is pleased to announce that the Call For Nominations for the 29th annual BBPA Harry Jerome Awards is now open. We warmly invite you or someone you know to submit nominations for outstanding African-Canadian individuals who have made a positive impact on our youth and community. For more information please visit our website or call (416) 504-4097.

The Yellow Cab by Chequer has been on the streets of New York City for so long it was a sort of moving landmark. A glance down any Manhattan thoroughfare and the streetscape would be all yellow. And so it was with absolute surprise that on my recent visit to that city I could not find a single Chequer Cab. Yellow Cabs, yes; but no Yellow Chequer Cabs. Instead taxis in Manhattan now are overwhelmingly Ford with a spattering of Nissans. I paused and thought. It had been 28 years since I had left Manhattan. Things change, don't they? The Checker cab was created by a Russian immigrant named Morris Markin who went to the United States in 1913 with two dollars to his name. The Checker Cab Manufacturing Company moved its headquarters from Chicago, Illinois to Kalamazoo in 1923. The Checker became an American Icon that represented the great cities of America - New York, Boston, Chicago. L.A. Production ended more than 20 years ago.

December 4 6:30pm (Doors open at 6:00) Ottawa Church of God, 1820 Carling Avenue, Ottawa - The Women And Youth Association presents: Food for Thought: Jamaica. Keynote speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey, Parkdale United Church. Guest Performers: Voices of Praise (VOP) aka "The Funky Disciples of Gospel", Prosper

& God's Plan Ministry (GPM) and more musical guests. TICKETS: \$10 in advance/\$15 @ the door. Children 5YRS & under free. Proceeds go towards feeding school children in Jamaica! Tickets available at: All Salem Storehouse Locations: Merivale 613.727.0203, East End 613.747.4452, Downtown 613.688.2761; Claudette's Coi!ure 613.596.2510; Savanna Groceries 613.731.7878. For more info: call 613.762.1265

December 4, Cash Bar: 6:30pm, Dinner: 7:00pm (Caribbean Cuisine), Ukrainian Hall - 1000 Byron Ave. Ottawa - The Black Canadian Scholarship Fund annual December Dinner Dance - a fundraiser for a worthy cause and also a great way to begin the festive season! Dress: Formal. Fabulous door prizes, 50/50 draw and many more surprises...Music by Ottawa's DJ: Dave SuperSounds. Tickets: \$55.00 per person or \$420.00 for a Table of 8. For ticket info. call: (613) 225-8018, 723-1980, 552-9647, 523-0541, 224-4457 or visit our website: www.bcsf.ca

Sunday, December 12, Doors open at 2:15 p.m - Show time at 3:00 p.m, Ukrainian Banquet Hall, 1000 Byron Ave, Ottawa - 3's Company - Parang/Soca Lime. Featuring: Los Pajaros - Toronto's #1 Parang Group. Added Attraction: •Direct from New York - Parang Soca Artiste - POSER "Take ah drink ah dis! Take ah drink ah dat" •From Ottawa: Venezuelan Dance Troupe "Aranguay". Delicious "Trini Style" refreshments on sale. Tickets: Adults - \$22, \$25 (at the door). Children under 12 - \$8.00. Information: Tel.: 613-834-1718; 613-834-4282; 613-726-1235. Part proceeds go to Local Youth Scholarship.

Friday, December 17 and Saturday, December 18, 8:00 pm, NAC Studio Hall, Ottawa - Ernie Cox in concert! Come celebrate Christmas with an unforgettable evening of joyous gospel music - sing the carols in true gospel style, led by the choir and soloists, along with Ernie and his band. For more information, and to hear Ernie and his band, visit his website at erniecox.com. Tickets are on sale now: \$36.59; Tickets sold out early last year! <http://www.nac-cna.ca/en/whatson/event.cfm>

Granddaddy of supermarket

tabloids

National Enquirer to file for bankruptcy

Publication also puts out Shape, Star magazines

The National Enquirer's publisher has announced intentions to file for bankruptcy.

American Media said it has a plan that will allow it to emerge from Chapter 11 less than 60 days after the filing. The company also said bondholders would forgive debt in exchange for ownership. It apparently has the support of 80 per cent of bondholders, but did not divulge how much debt it held.

American Media, based in Florida, also publishes Men's Fitness, Shape and Star magazines, and says all of its operations will continue as usual through the bankruptcy filing.

It also emphasizes that the reorganization will not

affect its business, with the Enquirer the biggest jewel in its crown.

Founded in 1926, it's a supermarket tabloid staple with its outrageous headlines focusing on politicians and celebrities.

Generally frowned upon by mainstream media, the Enquirer pays for tips. In recent years, its tone has been more serious and has been known to scoop other media on news stories.

One of its most significant coups concerned its coverage of former Democratic vice-presidential candidate John Edwards visiting his mistress, Rielle Hunter, and their baby at a hotel in Los Angeles in 2008.

At its height, the Enquirer's circulation hovered around six million. It's now below one million.

Gridlock is Good

America the Clueless

By Alexander Cockburn

The American people have spoken, but it's impossible to decode their incoherent message. Drunk with their capture of the House of Representatives, the Republicans thunder that the verdict of ballot boxes from Maine to Hawai'i is clarification: the ultimate evil in America is government, specifically government as led by President Barack Obama. But when exit pollsters questioned voters on their way to those same ballot boxes, as to who should take the blame for the country's economic problems, 35 per cent said Wall Street, 30 per cent said Bush and 23 per cent Obama. The American people want a government that mustn't govern, a budget that must simultaneously balance and create jobs, cut spending across the board and leave the Defense budget intact. Collectively, the election makes clear, they haven't a clue which way to march.

Has the Tea Party changed the political map? Scarcely so. In concrete terms, it ensured that a significant portion of the political map didn't change at all. Unlike the House, the U.S. Senate will stay in Democratic hands, albeit with only a tiny edge. As I wrote last week, purely on the basis of cui bono - who stands to gain - one could make a sound case that the Democrats invented the Tea Party out of whole cloth. If it wasn't for Tea Party lady, Christine O'Donnell, the Republicans would be counting victory in Delaware. But the sometime-Satanist ensured the surprise victory of a dreary Democratic unknown, Chris Coons.

No single Democrat was targeted more fiercely by Republicans than Harry Reid of Nevada, the Democratic senate majority leader. His was the symbolic scalp they craved. Right-wing millions poured into the state, backing Tea Party Republican Sharron Angle. Tuesday evening one could sense Republicans holding their breaths, ready to blare their joy at the victory

for Angle suggested by many polls.

Around midnight east coast time it became clear that Angle had gone down, victim of the political suicide she actually committed several days ago, dint of one of the most racist, anti-Hispanic campaign ads in many years. It had escaped the attention of that supposedly consummate Republican political strategist Karl Rove - born in Sparks, Nevada, -- that the Hispanic vote in Nevada is not insignificant. Hispanics went for Reid by a factor of about 75 per cent and he slid through to victory.

It should be added that the powerful corporate and labor interests in the state of Nevada, most notably in the gambling and entertainment and construction sector, were all aghast at the possibility that economically stricken Nevada might cease to have its cause promoted in Washington DC by the most powerful man in the U.S. Senate, and instead have as their tribune a racist dingbat with zero political clout. If ever there was a need for the fix to be in, and seasoned fixers available to face the task, it was surely in Nevada. But that said, Angle and the Tea Party may have engineered defeat all on their own.

Just over half of the 17,000 respondents to a national exit poll said that their votes in House races had nothing to do with the Tea Party, pro or con. The other half was split, pro and con. Over 60 per cent said the all-important issue is jobs; 87 per cent said they are worried about economic conditions. Between government laying out money to create jobs and government slashing expenditures to reduce the deficit there's also pretty much an even split.

Is there anything new in all this? Of course not. Republicans always campaign on homely pledges - economically illiterate - to balance the government's books the same way as their household

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NDP Kicks Off "Movember"

Peter Stoffer shaves his 'Mo' as part of campaign for prostate cancer research

Affecting one in six men, over 24,600 Canadians will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year alone. To help raise awareness and funds for this important men's health

issue, New Democrat MPs and staff will be taking part in the international campaign known as 'Movember'.

Nova Scotia New Democrat MP Peter Stoffer helped kick-off the campaign by shaving his trademark moustache. "It's been a long time since my upper lip has seen the light of day," he said. "But if shaving my moustache

takes us one dollar closer to finding a cure then it's more than worth it."

The Movember website explains that the campaign, "challenges men to change their appearance and the face of men's health by growing a moustache."

In 2009, global participation of both men and the women who support them climbed to 255,755, with over one million donors raising \$47 Million for Movember's global beneficiary partners. The Canadian campaign was the second largest in the world behind Australia, with 35,156 'Mo Bros' and

'Mo Sistas' coming together to raise \$7.8 million for Prostate Cancer Canada.

"Instead of running or walking for charity, Movember challenges men to start the month clean shaven and commit to growing a moustache for 30 days," said New Democrat Glenn Thibeault, who has led his party's participation in the campaign for the last two years. "The moustache becomes the awareness ribbon for men's health."

For more information, please contact:

George Soule, Caucus Press Secretary: 613-850-3448 or soule@parl.gc.ca

the Spectrum

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Immigration levels maintained

The Government of Canada plans to maintain high immigration levels to help sustain the economic recovery, Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney announced upon tabling the annual immigration plan in Parliament.

It is estimated that Canada will welcome between 240,000 and 265,000 new permanent residents in 2011. Sixty percent of these immigrants will come through economic streams.

"Canada's post-recession economy demands a high level of legal immigration to keep our work force strong," he said. "At the same time, we are maintaining our commitment to family reunification and refugees."

Like many other countries with aging populations and low birth rates, in the not too distant future Canada will not have enough people to keep our work force growing. While the majority of new entrants to our labour force will continue to come from within Canada, without immigration, the size of our work force will shrink. Within the next five years, all of our labour force growth will come from immigration.

Highlights of the 2011 immigration plan include a higher range of admissions for spouses and children in the family category.

In keeping with recent reforms to Canada's refugee system, the 2011 plan also includes an additional 1,125 refugees resettled

in Canada as part of the commitment to increase total refugee resettlement by 2,500 over three years. In 2008, the last year for which figures are available, Canada resettled more bona fide refugees than any country but the United States. Canada resettles over one in 10 of the world's refugees.

"These refugees are selected and screened by Canada, and come here legally," noted Minister Kenney. "We look forward to giving them a safe, new beginning."

Within the economic category, the 2011 plan balances projected admissions between federally and provincially selected workers to meet Canada's national and regional labour market needs. Provincial programs

help distribute the benefits of immigrants across the entire country. Twenty-five percent of economic immigrants are now destined for provinces other than Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec, compared to 11 percent in 1997.

The Federal Skilled Worker Program remains a significant portion of the economic category. The program admits a range of workers, including technicians, skilled tradespersons, managers and professionals, who help to supplement the Canadian-born work force.

The annual immigration plan is part of Citizenship and Immigration Canada's annual report tabled in Parliament by November 1 each year.

Suspended sentence for hijacker's dad

The father of CanJet hijacker Stephen Fray was given a suspended sentence for being negligent in causing loss or theft of his firearm, in the Montego Bay Resident Magistrate's Court. The sentence handed down to 51-year-old Earl Fray was suspended for two years, but his firearm licence was revoked permanently.

Resident Magistrate Vivienne Harris in October found Fray guilty of negligence.

"A sentence which would incarcerate you would not be helpful. You are not a threat to society," Harris declared, in handing down her ruling.

The elder Fray's licensed .38 Smith & Wesson revolver was used by his son, Stephen, to take 160 passengers and the crew of CanJet airline flight 918 hostage at Sangster International Airport on April 19 last year. The younger Fray was subsequently convicted for the crime.

During the sentencing hearing, attorney Martyn Thomas asked the judge not to impose a custodial sentence on the elder Fray.

"He has lost his son (Stephen), and it is taking its toll on him," the lawyer said of his client.

RM Harris told the elder Fray that, in her reading of his social enquiry report, she noted he had no previous convictions and was a man well up in age.

Stephen Fray was found guilty on eight of 10 gun-related charges in September 2009. He was sentenced to 83 years in prison and is currently serving a maximum of 20 years, as the sentences are running concurrently.

Keeping the best and the brightest in Ontario

McGuinty Government Supporting the Economy by Retaining International Students

Ontario is making it easier for international students graduating from Master's degree programs in the province to become permanent residents, while retaining knowledge here in Ontario.

Through the Opportunities Ontario: Provincial Nominee Program the province can attract and retain highly-skilled international students and workers to help Ontario's businesses compete in the global economy.

The province is expanding the program to allow international students graduating from Master's programs to apply for permanent residence without a job offer. This change will help make Ontario the destination of choice for the best and brightest international students.

As part of the Open Ontario Plan to create new opportunities for jobs and growth, the province is increasing the number of international students by 50 per cent while maintaining spaces for Ontario students.

"To thrive in a global economy, we need to attract top minds from around the world - and the Provincial

Nominee Program will help make Ontario the destination of choice for international students. These students are a vital asset and we want to help them put their outstanding knowledge, skills and experience to work in Ontario," Training, Colleges and Universities Minister John Milloy said.

QUICK FACTS

- There are 4,602 international students studying for their Master's degrees in Ontario.

- Ontario universities with the highest population of international students studying for their Master's degrees are: University of Toronto; University of Waterloo; University of Western Ontario; University of Ottawa; Queen's University; York University.

- The Opportunities Ontario: Provincial Nominee Program was established in 2007.

- Since April, international graduates from PhD programs at eligible Ontario universities have been able to apply for permanent residence without a job offer through the program.

Dewar to Government:

Kick your addiction to temps

New Democrat MP Paul Dewar (Ottawa Centre) has welcomed the findings of the Public Service Commission regarding the runaway cost of temporary help services and called on the government to address its long-term staffing needs by offering quality jobs with full benefits to aspiring public servants.

"This is about fairness to public servants and accountability to Canadian public" said Dewar who raised the issue in 2006 after discovering government's over-reliance on temp agencies to fill vacancies in the public service. "The cost has grown exponentially; temp agencies are profiting off the workers' pay packet; and the government abuses the system to undermine Treasury Board's own rules for improving diversity in public service".

Public Service Commission's study found "improper use of these services to address long-term staffing needs". It stated that the government's over-reliance on these services "bypasses the PSEA and has significant adverse effects on merit, fairness and access".

Dewar's research indicates that the cost of these services has grown three-folds since 2001, bringing the five-year cost to over \$1 billion. The problem is rooted in 1995 decision by federal government to cut 45,000 jobs in an attempt to balance the budget. Many of these jobs were replaced by temp workers who did the same or similar jobs for less pay, no pension benefits and no job security.

"The findings made by Ms. Barrados' study affirm the government's abuse of temporary help services" said Dewar. "It's time for government to kick this bad habit and ensure its staffing practices follow the laws adopted by Parliament".

Africentric School shines

Grade 3 class of new alternative school significantly outperformed board and province in EQAO tests

The most scrutinized school in the Toronto District School Board has a very public feather in its cap — thanks to those dastardly provincial EQAO tests, the Toronto Sun reports.

The inaugural Grade 3 class of the Africentric Alternative School significantly outperformed both the board and the province in this year's results.

The school's 16 Grade 3 students collectively had 69% of students reaching the provincial Level 3 standard in reading, 81% in writing and 81% in math. For the board, those scores sit at 60%, 70% and 71%. For all of Ontario, they're 62%, 70% and 71%.

Sure, it's only the first year — and educators always caution it's important to look at improvement over time. As well, the Africentric school's 2009-10 class was a small one where even a few high-performing — or low-performing — students could significantly skew results.

Still, it shows the Downsview-area school must be doing something right.

It also proves what the Black community already knows — Black students are capable of high levels of achievement.



Information
ottawa.ca
City services **3-1-1**
TTY 613-580-2401

City Seeking a Community Member for the Police Services Board

The City of Ottawa is looking for a local resident to serve, as a public member, on the Police Services Board.

For additional information on the qualifications and the application process visit ottawa.ca/residents/volunteerservices

The Ottawa Police Services Board is a provincially legislated body accountable to the Province. It is responsible for providing governance and oversight to the Ottawa Police Service and for ensuring the provision of adequate and effective police services in the City of Ottawa.

Who is eligible?

Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- resident of the City of Ottawa, or an owner or tenant of land in the City of Ottawa, or the spouse of such a person
- Canadian citizen at least 18 years of age
- not a member of the Legislative Assembly, the Senate or House of Commons, nor an elected official of municipal council
- not an employee of a municipality, a judge, a justice of the peace nor a police officer
- not otherwise disqualified from holding office or voting
- not a person who practices criminal law as a defence counsel
- must be willing to provide authorization for a background check.

Skills and abilities

A detailed member job description is available that includes a Statement of Qualifications. See below for information on how to obtain a copy.

What level of commitment is required?

The position requires a significant time commitment of between 10 and 38 hours a month (25 hours/month on average); and between 6 and 23 meetings/events per month (11 per month on average). Monthly Board meetings are held in the evening; in addition the Board has four sub-committees that meet during the day. Board members are expected to serve on at least one committee, attend monthly Board meetings, committee meetings and certain police functions, and are required to participate in ongoing training.

To apply

Applications can be submitted in one of four ways and must be received by 4 p.m. on Friday, November 26, 2010:

- Online
- By e-mail: committees@ottawa.ca
- By fax: 613-580-9609 (attention: Diane Blais)
- By mail: Clerk and Solicitor Department, Legislative Services

Attention: Diane Blais
110 Laurier Avenue West,
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1

For more information

• Visit the Police Services Board Open House/ Information Session on Monday, November 15, 2010, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 in the atrium at Ben Franklin Place, 101 Centrepointe Drive Or
• Contact Diane Blais at 613-580-2424, extension 28091 – diane.blais@ottawa.ca
Ad # 10-63036-10289

the Spectrum

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The Spectrum is published by Boyd McRubie Communications Inc.

Box 16130, Station F, Ottawa, Ontario K2C 3S9

The US elections

The American mid-term elections for congressional, state and local offices have been a triumph of fear-mongering propaganda and racial hatred over anything else. They were also a triumph of the billionaires who, buoyed by a recent Supreme Court decision on campaign financing, gave record support to extremists on the right. But there is also still a seething anger that the White House is occupied by a Black man.

The election ended up as a "shellacking" for the Democratic Party, as President Obama described it. But it was hardly an order from the American people to discard the progress of the last two years and start over again. Mr. Obama was on target when he said voters howled in frustration at the slow pace of job creation. To borrow his running automotive metaphor, voters threw the keys at the Republicans and told them to drive for a while, but gave no indication of what direction to drive in.

Republican leaders, who will take over the House and have a bigger minority in the Senate, say they heard the American people tell them to repeal the "monstrosity" of health care reform, in the words of likely House Speaker John Boehner. But the people said no such thing. In polls of election-day voters, only 18 percent said health care was the nation's top issue. While 48 percent said they wanted to repeal the health care law, 47 percent said they wanted to keep it the way it is or expand it - hardly a roaring consensus.

The "loud message" to cut spending cited by Mr. Boehner was actually far more muted. The polls of voters showed that 39 percent said cutting the deficit should be the highest priority of Congress, but a statistically equal 37 percent preferred spending money to create jobs. Fully a third of those who want to spend money to create jobs were Republicans. More voters (correctly) blamed President George W. Bush for the economic problems than President Obama, and even more (also correctly) blamed Wall Street.

The new Republican officeholders will have to quickly address the economic pain and fear expressed by the voters who flocked to them in frustration. But it does those voters no good to say the answer is as simple as cutting discretionary government spending. It is time to show how cuts would lead to jobs and to specify which ones should be made - and how they plan to reduce the deficit if they also preserve the Bush-era tax cuts.

The American voter appears unimpressed by what the Obama administration has been able to achieve in two years - US\$800 billion stimulus package, partial control of the auto industry, health-care reform, bank bail-outs and stringent regulation of financial institutions. It is difficult to explain the repudiation of a Congress that has accomplished so much in so short a time.

The Republican victory was constructed largely on the heavy turnout of older blue-collar white men, most in the South or the rusting Midwest. People in the Midwest and other industrial regions where the job loss is felt hardest have no interest in attempts to mend a broken financial system. The consensus is that when one in 10 persons is unemployed and millions are losing their homes in foreclosures, people become angry.

Many profitable American corporations are sitting on piles of money but will not expand to absorb the labour glut. Mr Obama must see clearly now that it is imperative that he pushes an aggressive job-creation agenda if he is to get people back to work. Mr. Obama offered some specific ideas: extending unemployment insurance; extending tax cuts for the middle class; providing tax breaks for companies that are investing in American research and development.

He proposed finding common ground on energy policy, developing domestic natural gas resources and encouraging electric cars. He took Republicans up on their offer to start banning earmarks, while urging greater investment in infrastructure. And he acknowledged that he could have done more to change Washington's messy and secretive ways, and to have been in closer touch with those suffering from the recession.

The question is how the Republicans will act. For two years, they have refused to cooperate on any of those ideas, simply to deny Mr. Obama a policy victory and try to reduce his re-election prospects. If they are serious about accepting this month's mantle, they will join in governing and not simply posturing.

And yet, the silver lining behind this dark cloud is that the Democratic Party will likely be more unified now that so many of the non-progressives were voted out. And therein lies the audacity of Hope.

- With files from the Daily Gleaner and the New York Times

The war over potash

Block this hostile takeover bid

Harper's handling of Nortel was a disgrace says the Hon. Sinclair Stephens

(Editor's Note: The Harper Government pulled back from the "potash war" after receiving a great deal of pressure for its position. One of the pressure groups was the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada. Here, former PC Cabinet member Sinclair Stephens sets out their case)

The Harper government has made a serious mistake by dithering on the question of whether the hostile takeover of Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc. would be a "net benefit" for Canada.

Foreign corporate investment in Canada has been debated for decades.

Liberal ideology, during the Trudeau era, resulted in the birth of the Foreign Investment Review Agency in 1974, which needlessly drove investment away from our shores.

This agency reviewed almost all foreign investments in Canada, right down to beauty parlors. This drove legitimate non-Canadian investment away, to the extent that in the 1980's a European Management Forum study ranked Canada 22 out of

22 with respect to our attitude and receptiveness to foreign investment.

That is why, during the Mulroney government, as Minister for Regional Industrial Expansion, I had the opportunity to introduce the Investment Canada Act in December 1984. It was designed to create jobs for Canadians by attracting investment from non-Canadian sources as long as there was a "net benefit" for Canada. That is still the law.

The pendulum has swung to the ultra-right now, with the present Harper government welcoming virtually all foreign investment.

Would there be a "net benefit" if Potash became 100% owned by BHP Billiton Ltd. of Australia?

Clearly it would not be a "net benefit" for Canada, the province of Saskatchewan, or the world at large.

Since taking power Prime Minister Harper has been blinded by his unquestioning acceptance that whatever business wants business gets. This has been shown during his four years in power. He has allowed Investment Canada to challenge only one reviewable business, namely the attempted US takeover in 2008 of

MacDonald Dettwiler's Satellite Aerospace Division. That decision was taken by the Harper government only after the public demanded it.

Mr. Harper's reluctance to blocking the Potash takeover was shown in his attempt to mislead the public when, on October 20 this year he said in the House of Commons "This is a proposal for an American-controlled company (Potash of Saskatchewan) to be taken over by an Australia-controlled company".

That is not true. The fact is the largest shareholder in Potash Corporation is an American investment fund but they only hold 7% of Potash's outstanding shares. The company has hundreds of other shareholders, some American, some Canadian, and some in other countries. The head office is in Saskatchewan, where the majority of its directors live.

While Potash today has multiple shareholders, if the merger was to go through they would be a wholly owned subsidiary of a very large Australian company that deals in products related to potash but not significantly in potash itself.

After the merger, Canada's main potash company would simply be a subsidiary of a much larger non-Canadian company.

Here would be one of the problems.

Canada, mainly Saskatchewan, has over 50% of the world's potash reserves. Canada's main corporate entity in that field is Potash of Saskatchewan, which represents over 30% of the world market in potash. If BHP were to win, it would shift the world market for potash to Australia where BHP could manipulate pricing for potash by adjusting the price of potash in relation to their extensive related products in the fertilizer field.

Canadian potash prices would fall and BHP would have a lever to earn bigger profits in other related products in the fertilizer field.

In short, Canada would experience a net loss rather than a "net gain".

As Premier Wall of Saskatchewan has pointed out, former BHP chairman Don Argus said in 2008 "If we fail to remain competitive Australia will incur a substantial oppor-

Continued on pg.5

Buck Up People... Progressives Won!

by Karen Dolan

The veil of a happy Democratic governing majority is finally lifted.

No, I am not playing the popular elementary school game of Opposites Day. It's true. Progressives won in the 2010 mid-term elections.

As touching as it was to see Rep. John Boehner (R-OH) choke up over the retelling of his hard-knock life story of having to be a waiter in his dad's bar, tears are not so attractive on the faces of Progressives this morning. Did we all miss the news flash? PROGRESSIVES WON! Two significant exceptions are of course the tragic defeat of Sen. Russ Feingold (D-WI) and the sad loss of principled

Rep. Alan Grayson (D-FL). But, the Congressional Progressive Caucus, the largest caucus in the House Democratic Caucus at over 80 members, emerged virtually unscathed, losing only three members.

By contrast, the conservative Blue Dog Democratic caucus was more than sliced in half from 54 members to only 26. Further, of the 34 conservative Dems who voted against Obama's Healthcare Reform, a mere 12 won re-election.

Dead weight gone. Good Riddance. The blame for the stalemate to come can now fall squarely where it belongs...on the anti-progressive, anti-democratic, anti-populist Republican members of Congress.

Our work is now finally

beginning. The veil of a happy Democratic governing majority is finally lifted. We didn't have it then; We don't have it now. But what we do have now is a more solidly progressive bunch of Dems in Congress and a president presumably less encumbered by the false illusion that playing nice will get him a date with the other team.

Let's thank Grayson, as well as Reps. John Hall (D-NY) Phil Hare (D-IL) for their principled time in office. Let's get Feingold on the ticket as Obama's runningmate in 2012. Let's throw our support unabashedly behind the Congressional Progressive Caucus and let's push Obama to finally do the right thing through as many Executive Orders as we can

present to him.

People...Progressives WON!!! Republicans are all over the map. They're a mess and won't be able to wreak the havoc they seek. We should be energized. We must be energized. Too much is at stake. The road ahead isn't so bad as long as we have the big picture and the fighting spirit spurring us on. Progressives will be the heroes in 2012. Let's make Obama one too.

Karen Dolan, a fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies, was a co-author of the IPS report Battered by the Storm: How the Safety Net Is Failing Americans and How to Fix It. Follow her on Twitter: www.twitter.com/karendolan

-Common Dreams

Harry Reid defies "Tea-Party"

In one of the toughest, most closely-watched US Senate races, majority leader Harry Reid defeated GOP challenger and tea party favorite Sharron Angle.

As with California's US Senate race, where Democratic incumbent Barbara Boxer defeated Carly Fiorina, Nevada's election bucked the GOP and the tea party-fueled trend against longtime politicians.

Neither Ms. Angle nor Senator Reid was a particularly attractive candidate or an especially articulate speaker, and each had personal quirks that seemed to be magnified in their single live debate.

Campaign mud flew from both quarters.

Reid painted Angle as an "extremist" and "crazy" for her statements about phasing out Social Security and her suggestion that continued Democratic control of Congress might have to be violently addressed by "Second Carly Fiorina, Nevada's election bucked the GOP and the tea party-fueled trend against longtime politicians.

Angle ads featuring dark-skinned men creeping along a chain link fence portrayed Reid as "The Best Friend an Illegal Alien Ever Had." This won her few friends among Latino voters, an important part of Nevada's voting population.

Out-of-state money flowed to both candidates, including support for Angle from the California-based Tea Party Express.

But Reid had a big advantage in the get-out-the-vote ground game with help from labor unions, including the Service Employees International Union (which represents many casino workers) and AFSCME, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees representing public employee and health care workers.

It was an uphill fight for Reid, especially since Nevada suffers from the nation's worst unemployment, home

foreclosure, and bankruptcy rates.

In the end, the former boxer whose father had been a hardrock miner in Searchlight, Nev., was able to hang onto his Senate seat for a fifth term in spite of a hard challenge from a newcomer to the national political stage who seemed to represent Americans' dissatisfaction with politics as usual.

In a night of bad news for the White House, it was also a bright spot for President Obama who returned the favor for Reid's support on controversial measures like health-care reform by actively campaigning on Reid's behalf.

Truthout

The Controlling Powers

When Corporations are the Government

by Ralph Nader

It was Bill Clinton's campaign strategist, James Carville, who in 1992 created the election slogan: "It's the Economy, Stupid." For the 2010 Congressional campaigns, the slogan should have been: "It's Corporate Crime and Control, Stupid."

But notwithstanding the latest corporate crime wave, the devastating fallout on workers, investors and taxpayers from the greed and corruption of Wall Street, and the abandonment of American workers by U.S. corporations in favor of repressive regimes abroad, the Democrats have failed to focus voter anger on the corporate supremacists.

The giant corporate control of our country is so vast that people who call themselves anything politically—liberal, conservative, progressive, libertarian, independents or anarchist—should be banding together against the reckless Big Business steamroller.

Conservatives need to remember the sharply critical cautions against misbehaving or over-reaching businesses and commercialism by Adam Smith, Frederic Bastiat, Friedrich Hayek and other famous conservative intellectuals. All knew that the com-

mercial instinct and drive know few boundaries to the relentless stomping or destruction of the basic civic values for any civilized society.

When eighty percent of the Americans polled believe 'America is in decline,' they are reflecting in part the decline of real household income and the shattered bargaining power of American workers up against global companies.

The U.S. won World War II. Germany lost and was devastated. Yet note this remarkable headline in the October 27th Washington Post: "A Bargain for BMW means jobs for 1,000 in S. Carolina: Workers line up for \$15 an hour—half of what German counterparts make."

The German plant is backed by South Carolina taxpayer subsidies and is not unionized. Newly hired workers at General Motors and Chrysler, recently bailed out by taxpayers, are paid \$14 an hour before deductions. The auto companies used to be in the upper tier of high paying manufacturing jobs. Now the U.S. is a low-wage country compared to some countries in Western Europe and the trend here is continuing downward.

Workers in their fifties at the BMW plant, subsidi-

dizing their lower wages with their tax dollars, aren't openly complaining, according to the Post. Not surprising, since the alternative in a falling economy is unemployment or a fast food job at \$8 per hour.

It is not as if we weren't forewarned by our illustrious political forebears: Fasten your seat belts; here are some examples:

Thomas Jefferson—"I hope that we shall crush in its birth the aristocracy of our monied corporations, which dare already to challenge our government to a trial of strength, and bid defiance to the laws of our country."

Abraham Lincoln in 1864—"I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. ...corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed." (1864)

Theodore Roosevelt—"The citizens of the United States must control the mighty commercial forces which they themselves call

into being."

Woodrow Wilson—"Big business is not dangerous because it is big, but because its bigness is an unwholesome inflation created by privileges and exemptions which it ought not to enjoy."

Franklin D. Roosevelt—"The first truth is that the liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerate the growth of private power to a point where it becomes stronger than their democratic state itself. That, in its essence, is Fascism—ownership of Government by an individual, by a group, or by any other controlling private power."

Dwight Eisenhower, farewell address—"In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex."

And, lastly, a literary insight:

Theodore Dreiser—"The government has ceased to function, the corporations are the government."

Are you, dear reader, the same now as you were when you began reading this column?

Ralph Nader is the author of *Only the Super-Rich Can Save Us!*, a novel.

- *Counterpunch*

America the Clueless - pg. 2

budgets. Pressed, as many triumphant Republicans were last night, as to exactly where they would start cutting the federal budget to achieve this end, they invariably slid into the programmatic shadows, with hoarse ranting about freezes and "across the board" budgetary carnage, except for military spending. As California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, now even more unpopular than the man he ousted, demonstrated, it's easier to terminate in a movie script than in a legislature. The incoming California governor, Jerry Brown, demonstrated, that even if you spend more of your money than any other candidate in US political history, around \$150 million (as did his opponent, Meg Whitman) you still need to treat your maid right if you want to win.

The second craziest victory speech of the evening came from a Tea Party man, Rand Paul, now the Republican senator from Kentucky. "We're enslaved by debt," he screamed at his cheering supporters and followed this by savage diatribes about any constructive role for government. Now it's possible that Paul, inflamed with libertarian principle, could actually try to filibuster the next vote in the US Senate to authorize an increase in the US national debt. As awed commentators swiftly noted, he could plunge the United States into default, bring economic devastation to the world.

On the other hand, the history of the Republican Party is supposed crazies, like Ronald Reagan who campaigned against the deficit in 1980, coming to heel and plunging the United States into a vast new ocean of red ink, courtesy of his tax cuts. It's what drives

the Tea Partiers crazy. They do know one basic truth - that to govern is to betray and they are in line for betrayal. The craziest speech? The visibly psychotic Republican gubernatorial candidate in New York, Carl Paladino, soundly thrashed by Andrew Cuomo, swinging a red baseball bat with the transparent desire to dashing it into Cuomo's skull.

The landscape has changed. The Republican swing in the House was as dramatic as in 1994, after two years of Bill Clinton. Democrats who entered Congress on Obama's coattails have now been ousted. What lies ahead is a war of maneuver, between the White House and the Republican leadership. Obama has been weakened -- deservedly so, because a large part of Tuesday's disaster for his party can be laid at his door. He laid down no convincing political theme, mounted no effective offense, relied on a team of advisors of dubious competence, which had run out of steam. He himself tried to run for and against an effective role for government, made the same childish equations of domestic and federal budgets, sent out mixed messages, lost the confidence of the young and of a vital slice of the independents.

All the same, after two years, the polls show Obama is no more unpopular than was Clinton in 1994. By 1996 Clinton had outmaneuvered the Republican leadership and won reelection in 1996. Today the economic situation is far worse than it was in 1994. No effective political and economic strategy for recovery is on the cards in the current atmosphere. As always, these days in America, our last best friend will be gridlock.

Block this hostile takeover bid - pg. 4

tunity cost, and, in the worst-case scenario, our resources will fall into overseas hands, and we will become a branch office just like Canada."

In a May 2009 edition of the Melbourne Herald Sun, Argus was quoted as saying Canada had forfeited its resources sector, much to the detriment of the country.

There are three good reasons for Mr. Harper to block the BHP takeover.

First, it is a hostile bid which is not acceptable to existing shareholders. Already the stock trades above the price offered by BHP, and analysts predict it will go much higher.

Second, the Province of Saskatchewan, who has the main jurisdiction over such resources, is opposed.

Third, there is no commitment by BHP to create more jobs in Saskatchewan or anywhere else in Canada.

The suggestion that the Harper government may approve the takeover subject to certain conditions or agreements with BHP is naïve. Such agreements are hard to enforce.

Speak to the laid off workers who were at Stelco in Hamilton when US Steel bought that company. Ottawa was assured jobs would be preserved but now Ottawa is suing US Steel for not living up to their commitment to keep the factory open.

Speak to workers at Inco in Sudbury who were laid

off by their new owners in Brazil while Ottawa said nothing.

It was not an Investment Canada matter but the Harper government's handling of Nortel's financial problems, when they were under pressure from US money lenders, was a disgrace. Nortel, who was listed as one of the ten leading innovative companies in the world by Fortune Magazine ten years ago, was allowed to dissolve due to the inept handling of the matter by Industry Minister Tony Clement.

Now Canada has sunk to a low level in world innovation.

Since we have some of the world's greatest treasures in natural resources it would be a tragedy to let an important part of that treasure, the world's largest reserve of potash, be ambushed by another country.

Letters to the EDITOR

Census decision erodes women's rights

Dear Editor:

The decision of the federal government to no longer do the long form of the census will erode women's rights. This survey was the sole avenue we had to tally unpaid work and was only reluctantly provided after a hard-fought battle across the country headed by homemaker Carol Lees of Saskatoon in 1993. The data from the long form was used by women's groups to let government see how much of the economy depends on free labor of women in the home, and gave legislators new perspective on career-family balance, gender equality and the third wave of women's rights. To substitute a new survey but not publish results risks silencing, yet again, the voices of women.

The contributions of homemakers can nor will not be fairly recognized by abandoning the collection of data on the roles they play.

Results must be published!

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Behind Less Than Meets the Eye?

The Rightwing Upsurge in the U.S.

By Mark Weisbrot

Is America in the grip of a right-wing backlash that will hit the November elections like a hurricane? This narrative is gathering steam. It is fed not only by the minority partisan right-wing media but also its majority "liberal" counterpart, which loves a horse race and is fascinated with the Tea Party, even if it isn't so eager for the Republicans to take Congress. Regardless of the outcome, 90-plus percent of the pundits and press will cheese up the same, tired, old cliché in their post-election analysis: The Democrats were punished (they will inevitably lose at least some seats in Congress) because they tried to go too far, too fast and too left for the inherently conservative American masses. And this junk will be consumed for years, adding another layer of fat to the lazy couch potato that is American journalism's "conventional wisdom."

How about another narrative that makes more sense? Let's start with the economic issues, since the economy was the number one issue for likely voters in the latest New York Times/CBS poll. Our worst and longest recession since the Great Depression was caused by a real estate bubble that accumulated and burst before Obama was elected.

The Democrats passed a stimulus package that was much too small to compen-

sate for the resulting loss of private spending. As my colleague Dean Baker has pointed out, the collapse of this bubble would be expected to knock about \$1.2 trillion annually off of private demand. This is about eight times the size of government stimulus spending when we subtract the budget cuts and tax increases of state and local governments (special thanks to the Republicans for cutting \$100 billion from the stimulus bill that would have gone straight to municipal governments to prevent some of this).

Now how does this get presented in the media? First, we have a debate about whether the stimulus helped or hurt the economy, or whether it created or saved any jobs at all. This is somewhat ridiculous, from the standpoint of national income accounting. It is reminiscent of the "debates" that carried on in the media for many years (they continue in some quarters), long after the question was settled in the scientific community, as to whether global warming was taking place.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that between 1.4 and 3.3 million more people were employed by mid-2010, as a result of the stimulus. There is a wide range of uncertainty about the size of the effect, but there's hardly any doubt that the stimulus helped save jobs and output.

Then the horror movie

scenes began about the dreaded budget deficit, which over the next decade is almost entirely attributable to two non-stimulus-related items: Iraq and Afghanistan war spending and the Bush tax cuts. In spite of this well-financed campaign against the scourge of red ink, only 3 percent of voters see the deficit as the most important issue facing the country, as compared with 32 percent who chose the economy and 28 percent for jobs. But somehow the deficit got to be so alarming to somebody that it became politically impossible for Congress to even talk about another stimulus for the economy. So very predictably, the recovery lost steam and the Democrats felt just "powerless" to do anything to boost the economy and employment before the election. This guaranteed big losses for their party in the election.

It didn't help that the Obama Administration failed to create a distinction for voters between the \$700 billion bailout for the banks, which was widely hated for obvious reasons, and their stimulus package. Most Americans still don't see a difference. This was a huge public relations failure.

But all this adds up to something different from a "right-wing backlash." Indeed, the New York Times/CBS poll shows a 20 percent approval rating for

Continued on pg.11

Jack Layton on Canada's failure to get seat on UN Security Council

"For the first time since the creation of the United Nations, Canada has failed in its bid to serve as a non-permanent member of the Security Council. The result of today's vote is deeply disappointing."

"Instead of trying to shift the blame, Stephen Harper's government must accept responsibility for the loss of Canada's reputation on the global stage. Every decade for the past 60 years, the world community trusted Canada with the grave responsibility of serving on the UN Security Council. Canada earned the confidence of the global community by conducting a respon-

sible foreign policy which reflected a Canadian consensus on commitments to peace, justice and sustainable development.

"The Conservative government's approach to foreign policy has isolated Canada. Mr. Harper has been on the wrong side of important global issues, from combating climate change to eradicating poverty. The world has watched as Mr. Harper has frozen our international assistance budget, failed to prioritize Africa, dismissed requests to assist with UN peace-keeping missions, refused to sign UN treaty on the rights of indigenous peoples and fought against the

recognition of access to safe drinking water as a human right.

"Today's results call for an overhaul of Conservative government's foreign policy. It is time for a new approach that recognizes the common challenges that threaten global peace and security."

"The world expects Canadian leadership on combating climate change, preventing conflicts, advancing nuclear disarmament, eradicating poverty and contributing to peace building. New Democrats are willing to work with the government to achieve these goals and repair our country's reputation."

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Ewart Walters receives honour



Photo: Daily Gleaner

What a year 2010 has been for Ewart Walters! The day before he retired after 26 years in the Federal Public Service, he was awarded the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King jr. Dreamkeepers Award for his contributions to the Ottawa community in a ceremony at City Hall. Since then, it has been one recognition after another.

In August he was awarded the Order of Distinction, Commander Class (CD) by the Government of Jamaica for his "promotion and

defence of Jamaicans and other Ethnic Minorities in Canada." And he went to Jamaica mid-October to be installed with the insignia of the award. While there he was feted by family, friends and colleagues from newspapers he had worked with in the sixties and seventies, and also by alumnae of his high school in Jamaica.

No sooner he returned to Ottawa than he learnt that a story he had written and published in *The Spectrum* in September 2009 on the awful treatment meted out to Canadian citizen Suaad

Mohamud by Canadian immigration authorities in Kenya had won the print media award of the Canadian Ethnic Media Association.

And just before he left for Toronto to attend that ceremony, he was informed that The Brothers of Alpha Delta Xi and Nu Gamma Gamma chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. an Ottawa group this time, has selected him as its Citizen of the Year.

Wow! And to think the year is not yet finished!

Spectrum Editor Ewart Walters receives the insignia of his Commander of the Order of Distinction from Jamaica Governor-General Sir Patrick Allen at Kings House, Kingston on October 18.

Rich Media, Poor Democracy

by Amy Goodman

As the 2010 elections come to a close, the biggest winner of all remains undeclared: the broadcasters. The biggest loser: democracy. These were the most expensive midterm elections in U.S.

history, costing close to \$4 billion, \$3 billion of which went to advertising. What if ad time were free? We hear no debate about this, because the media corporations are making such a killing by selling campaign ads. Yet the broadcasters are

using public airwaves. I am reminded of the 1999 book by media scholar Robert McChesney, "Rich Media, Poor Democracy." In it, he writes, "Broadcasters have little incentive to cover candidates, because it is in their

interest to force them to publicize their campaigns."

The Wesleyan Media Project, at Wesleyan University, tracks political advertising. Following the recent Supreme Court ruling, *Citizens United v. FEC*,

the project notes, "The airwaves are being saturated with more House and Senate advertising, up 20 percent and 79 percent respectively in total airings." Evan Tracey, the founder and president of Campaign Media Analysis Group, predicted in *USA Today* in July, "There is going to be more money than there is airtime to buy." John Nichols of *The Nation* commented that in the genteel, earlier days of television political advertising, the broadcasters would never juxtapose an ad for a candidate with an ad opposed to that candidate. But they are running out of broadcast real estate. Welcome to the brave, new world of the multibillion dollar campaigns.

There have been efforts in the past to regulate the airwaves to better serve the public during elections. The most ambitious in recent years was what became known as McCain-Feingold campaign-finance reform. During the debate on that landmark legislation, the problem of exorbitant television advertising rates was brought up, by Democrats and Republicans alike. Nevada Sen. John Ensign, a Republican, lamented: "The broadcasters used to dread campaigns because that was the time of year they made the least amount of money because of this lowest unit rate. Now it is one of their favorite times of the year because it is actually one of their highest profit-margin times of the year." Ultimately, to get the bill passed, the public airtime provisions were dropped.

The *Citizens United* ruling effectively neutralizes McCain-Feingold campaign-finance reform. One can only imagine what the cost of the 2012 presidential election will be. Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., lost his re-election bid to the largely self-financed multimillionaire Ron Johnson. The *Wall Street Journal* editorial page celebrated

Feingold's expected loss. The *Journal* is owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., which also owns the Fox television network and which gave close to \$2 million to Republican campaign efforts.

"The elections have become a commodity, a profit center for these radio and TV stations," Ralph Nader, consumer advocate and former presidential candidate, told me on Election Day. He went on: "The public airwaves, as we know, belong to the people, and they're the landlords, and the radio and TV stations are the licensees. They're the tenants, so to speak. They pay no money to the FCC for their annual license. And therefore, it's really quite persuasive, were we to have a public policy to condition modestly the license to this enormously lucrative control of the public airwaves 24 hours a day by these TV and radio stations and say, as part of the reciprocity for controlling this commons, so to speak, you have to allow a certain amount of time, free time, on radio and TV for ballot-qualified candidates." The place where we should debate this is in the major media, where most Americans get their news. But the television and radio broadcasters have a profound conflict of interest. Their profits take precedence over our democratic process. You very likely won't hear this discussed on the Sunday-morning talk shows.

Denis Moynihan contributed research to this column.

© 2010 Amy Goodman
Amy Goodman is the host of "Democracy Now!," a daily international TV/radio news hour airing on 800 stations in North America. She was awarded the 2008 Right Livelihood Award, dubbed the "Alternative Nobel" prize, and received the award in the Swedish Parliament in December.

- Common Dreams



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- Dr. Shaheen Azmi, A/Director - Policy, Education, Monitoring, Outreach - Ontario Human Rights Commission
- Chief Vern White, Ottawa Police Service

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THE GOOD WORD

by Pastor Jacob Afolabi



God has not given men dominion over other men, but He has given men dominion over other creations on the earth. (Genesis 1:28). When people seek to dominate other people, the attempt always falls flat eventually.

Nazi Germany attempted to dominate the world, but the world brought her down, and later stood her up again with economic support which made the following generations of Germans to become pacifists who hate war with a passion. So was Japan of the Nineteen Thirties, flexing her military muscles to suppress nations all around her, until she bit on an apple she couldn't swallow by attacking the United States of America at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Her defeat signaled a new direction for her national

pursuits, in the areas of economic excellence.

European Powers brought other nations around the world under their control in the late Eighteen Hundreds, but had to release them all, soon after the second world war by granting independence to their colonies. Even the white settlers in South Africa thought they had a perfect system of social, economic and political subjugation through apartheid, until the people's resilient determination to uproot the system succeeded as Nelson Mandela, and other patriots weathered the storms of oppression and gained freedom and national unity today.

For centuries, slavery prospered in Europe and the Americas, through the subjugation of Blacks and other cultures, but these too came to an end when the system lost its moral bearings. There is no morality in man seeking to subjugate other men, and whatever is not morally sustainable will soon become corrupt and decay away. It

is morality that gives every idea a longer shelf life.

It wasn't God's idea to make any man a slave of another. Man started it, and God ended it in due season. The Bible teaches ideals, not mere ideas. That is why Bible teachings will help all humanity if practiced with fervent devotions and reasonable interests.

1. "But you shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Leviticus 19:18). What amount of pains and anguish would have been avoided if these ideals have been applied to human relationship? Nations would have ceased to seek dominance over other nations, and human miseries occasioned by wars would have been avoided altogether.

2. "Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9). Social and economic inequalities have a way of subjugating other people and enabling selfish interests alone to dominate. The teachings of the Bible

would portray men holding hands with other men to till the ground together to produce common sustenance.

3. "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2). Many nations today are over-burdened with debts and economic insolvency. While some nations, especially in the Western world, chalk up economic surpluses year after year, many other nations, especially in the southern zones, are destitute and ready to become 'failed states.' Hand-outs are useless, but hand-ups are most relevant and useful, as the Bible says "Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees." (Isaiah 35:3).

These are some of the statutes in the Bible which, if practiced, would make human societies to breathe a little bit easy, instead of fearing the endless uncertainties that come with the pursuit of domination and consequent retaliation.

Bishop Jacob Afolabi
bishop@christschapel.com



Ask Lesline

by Lesline McEwan, B.A.
Psych., M.A. Counselling

Balancing shift work

Dear Lesline: I was unemployed for most of my 5 years in Canada. I went back to school and did some training. Now I have a job that pays a decent salary. I don't want to sound like I am complaining, because I am not and I love my work. However, it is shift work and I work mostly nights. My family and I are now on different schedules and I am beginning to feel like a visitor in my own home. This is causing me to wonder how my wife and children are feeling.
Thankfully employed and concerned.

Dear Thankfully employed and concerned: Shift work allows some degree of flexibility and independence, yet, there are some potential pitfalls. Your work-life balance can suffer if you do not pay special attention.

The key to balancing shift work and family time is discussion and planning. Call a family meeting and discuss your schedule and its effects on everyone. Inform them of your sleep schedule. Encourage family members to do quiet activities that do not require your assistance during those hours. If at all possible eat one meal a day with your family. Plan regular family time. Make dates to spend time alone with your spouse or partner.

The body's natural instinct to be awake in the day and sleep at night is compromised in night shift workers. Therefore, you need to give your internal clock consistent sleep and wake time signals such as a dark quiet bedroom and bright wake-up light.

Make your bedroom your sleep room. Your bedroom's primary function is to promote sleep. Do not read or watch TV there. Consider all aspects of your bedroom. Make sure your mattress is comfortable and a good fit for you. Use high quality bedding and shades and curtains that block out light. Keep a consistent routine on a particular shift and when you change shifts, adjust your routine to accommodate the new work hours. Try to maintain your workday routine even on days off and avoid stimulants like alcohol, caffeine, and nicotine, especially before bedtime.

Exercise and proper eating habits can help you adapt to shift work. Try to get at least 30 minutes of exercise daily, but not close to bedtime. Whatever you choose to do - run, walk, garden, swim, bike - staying fit is essential to staying healthy, particularly when you work the night shift. No matter what your work hours are, establish regular times to eat.

Studies have shown that night-shift workers have a higher rate of ulcers and gastrointestinal disorders than day workers. Judith Wurtman, MD, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology suggests shift workers pay special attention to their dietary habits. If you do the night shift, eat carbohydrates in the morning, they promote sleep; and eat proteins at night, they provide energy and stimulate alertness.

Speak with your work colleagues or others that do shift work; no doubt they have some tips to share with you. Stay happy and safe in your shift work. Be patient with yourself and your family. Keep the lines of communication open, put plans in place to help everyone adjust, and maintain healthy habits so that working non-traditional hours can work for you and your family.

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These responses are intended to provide general educational information to the readership of this column and not to be understood as specific advice intended for any particular individual. Where personal information is included with the question, this information will not be published with the response. Copyright © 2008. All rights reserved - Lesline McEwan leslinemcewan@yahoo.com

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Second Marion Dewar Legacy Scholarship

For the second year, the Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO) will award scholarships to qualifying high school immigrant and refugee youth - as a way to honour the legacy of former Ottawa Mayor Marion

Dewar and to help students realize their dreams of pursuing post-secondary education.

Two Marion Dewar Scholarships will be awarded at OCISO's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on November 24, 2010 at the RA Centre

Event and Conference Services, Canada Room from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

This year's scholarship recipients are Hanan Awneh from Lisgar Collegiate Institute, Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) and Brahim Jelassi

from 'Ecole Seondaire Publique Omer-Deslauriers, Conseil des 'ecoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario (CEPEO).

The Marion Dewar Scholarship Fund was launched by OCISO last June during the World Refugee Week to honour Marion's lifelong commitment to the cause of immigrant integration. The Marion Dewar Scholarship Fund permits us to celebrate this dream and carry on this work. Through the Fund, we will invest in the post-secondary education of young immigrants and refugees, enabling them to contribute their full potential and possibilities as citizens of Canada.

Marion Dewar championed the cause of refugees, new immigrants, and all those who struggle for better lives.

"The Marion Dewar Scholarship Fund is really a celebration of a new and creative way to invest in our future leaders and pay tribute to a dear friend and a mentor," OCISO Executive Director Hamdi Mohamed said. "It is a way for all of us to collectively make a tangible difference and a way for us all to be a part of a 'village' that helps immigrant and refugee youth succeed."

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In for a penny - pg. 1

was jailed for two weeks for owing \$60 in debt and an Ohio woman was jailed for a month because of an unpaid legal debt of just \$250.

Yet because so many court and criminal justice systems are inadequately funded, judges view the collection of legal debt as a critical revenue stream. In New Orleans, for example, legal fines and fees make up nearly two-thirds of the criminal court's general operating budget.

The imposition of court fines and fees also creates significant barriers for people seeking to rebuild their lives after a criminal conviction. Eight of the 15 states studied by the Brennan Center, for example, suspend driving privileges for missed debt payments, a practice that can make it impossible for people to work and that can lead to new convictions for driving with a suspended license. Seven states studied by the

Brennan Center require individuals to pay off criminal justice debt before they can regain their eligibility to vote after a conviction. And in all 15 states, criminal justice debt and associated collection practices can damage credit and interfere with other commitments, such as child support obligations.

"People are emerging from the criminal justice process with significant debts that they cannot hope to repay," said Rebekah Diller, Deputy Director of the Justice Program at the Brennan Center. "As a result, these fees are creating new paths back to prison for those unable to pay."

A copy of the ACLU report "In for a Penny: The Rise of America's New Debtors' Prisons," is available online at: www.aclu.org/prisoners-rights-racial-justice/penny-rise-america-new-debtors-prisons

The Venezuelan Economy

The Media Gets It Wrong ... Again

By Mark Weisbrot

The bulk of the media often gets pulled along for the ride when the United States government has a serious political and public relations campaign around foreign policy. But almost nowhere is it so monolithic as with Venezuela. Even in the run-up to the Iraq War, there were a significant number of reporters and editorial writers who didn't buy the official story. But on Venezuela the media is more like a jury that has twelve people but only one brain.

Since the Venezuelan opposition decided to campaign for the September elections on the issue of Venezuela's high homicide rate, the international press has been flooded with stories on this theme – some of them highly exaggerated. This is actually quite an amazing public relations achievement for the Venezuelan opposition. Although most of the Venezuelan media, as measured by audience, is still owned by the political opposition there, the international press is not.

Normally it takes some kind of news hook, even if only a milestone such as the 10,000th murder, or a political statement from the White House, for a media campaign of this magnitude to take off. But in this case all it took was a decision by the Venezuelan political opposition that homicide would be its main campaign issue, and the international press was all over it.

The "all bad news, all the time" theme was overwhelming dominant even during

Venezuela's record economic expansion, from 2003-2008. The economy grew as never before, poverty was cut by more than half, and there were large gains in employment. Real social spending per person more than tripled, and free health care was expanded to millions of people. You will have to search very hard to find these basic facts presented in a mainstream media article, although the numbers are hardly in dispute among economists in international organizations that deal with statistics.

For example, in May the UN Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) found that Venezuela had reduced inequality by more than any other country in Latin America from 2002-2008, ending up with the most equal income distribution in the region. This has yet to be mentioned by the major international press.

Venezuela went into recession in 2009, and you can imagine how much more press attention has since been paid to GDP growth there than when Venezuela was growing faster than any economy in the hemisphere. Then in January the government devalued its currency, and the press was forecasting a big upsurge in inflation, to as much as 60 percent for this year. "Stagflation" – recession plus rising inflation – became the new buzzword.

The "out-of-control" inflation didn't happen – in fact, inflation over the last three months, which is 21 percent at an annualized rate, is considerably lower than before the devaluation. This

is yet another indicator that the economists relied upon by major media as sources have limited understanding of the actual functioning of Venezuela's economy.

Now it looks like Venezuela may have emerged from its recession in the second quarter of this year. On a seasonally adjusted annualized basis, the economy grew by 5.2 percent in the second quarter. In June, Morgan Stanley projected that the economy would shrink by 6.2 percent this year and by 1.2 percent next year. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is projecting long-term gloom and doom for Venezuela: negative per capita GDP growth over the next five years. It is worth noting that the IMF gave the authors of "Dow 36,000" some competition for creative forecasting, with their repeated, wildly off-the-mark underestimates of the Venezuelan economy during the expansion.

All this may seem like par for the course if we compare with coverage of the world's largest economy – the United States – where the vast majority of the media somehow missed the two biggest asset bubbles in world history – the stock market and then the housing bubble. But there were important exceptions here, e.g. the New York Times in 2006. With Venezuela – well, you get the picture.

Of course Venezuela's continued growth is not assured – it will depend on the government making a commitment to maintaining high levels of aggregate demand, and keeping it. In that sense its immediate situation is similar to that of the United

States, the Eurozone, and many other more developed economies whose economic recovery is sluggish and uncertain right now.

Venezuela has adequate foreign exchange reserves, is running a trade and current account surplus, has low levels of foreign public debt and quite a bit of foreign borrowing capacity if needed. This was demonstrated most recently in April with a \$20 billion (about 6 percent of Venezuela's GDP) credit from China. As such, it is extremely unlikely to run up against a foreign exchange shortage.

It can therefore use public spending and investment as much as necessary to make sure that the economy grows sufficiently to increase employment and living standards, as it did before the 2009 recession. (Our government in the United States could do the same, even more easily – but that does not appear to be in the cards right now.) This can go on for many years.

Whatever happens, we can expect complete coverage of one side of the story from the media. So keep it in mind: when you are reading the New York Times or listening to NPR on Venezuela, you are getting Fox News. If you want something more balanced, you will have to look for it on the Internet.

Mark Weisbrot is an economist and co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research. He is co-author, with Dean Baker, of *Social Security: the Phony Crisis*.

- *Counterpunch* (This article was originally published in *The Guardian*)

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Towards Financial Independence

by Ivan Acorn

The dollar, the yen, potash and Sunday banking

Thoughts on the U.S. Dollar

It's down and continues to go down. Since August it has depreciated 8%. The Fed is now applying another massive dose of "quantitative easing" (otherwise known as printing money). It uses this money to buy government bonds from the banks so that the banks will have more cash to lend. The banks have had a fair amount of cash for some time now, but have not been lending it out; rather they have been hoarding it to beef up their reserves. What is missing in this picture is the consumer, although there are some signs of strengthening demand. Sales of cars seem to be strong, but with unemployment so widespread, many are "making do" and saving what cash they have.

Thoughts on the Yen

China is the king of the financial castle. It keeps its currency, the yen, artificially low, to induce others to buy from it. Nevertheless China raised its short-term interest rate by 25 bps recently to keep inflation in check. China buys our natural resources and we buy its finished goods. China holds much of the public debt of the U.S. One might wonder if the Chinese carry the asset at face value or at a discount.

Thoughts on the Canadian Dollar

Canada is doing well financially. We have not had the troubles that the U.S. has had. Although we have been affected by the U.S. recession, and we are recovering from having our own recession; western farmers had a wet spring and an early fall frost but on the whole, we have been fortunate. We have an abundance of natural resources and the 'world's' soundest banking system. What we have lost in trade with the U.S. we should be able to make up with other countries. Here are a few selected indices, as of November 02: (YTD and Y/Y). All are positive except Energy, YTD.

TSX Composite 8.0 and 16.6, Energy -2.0 and 3.9, Metals and Mines 24.8 and 41.0, Gold 20.4 and 26.3, Health care 39.2 and 45.7, Financials 1.3 and 7.0, Real Estate 24.9 and 27.2, Consumer Discretionary 17.4 and 27.6, Consumer Staples 8.2 and 18.6, Standard & Poor & 500 Composite 12.5 and 21.2, And don't forget, there are still 2 months left. Most of these indices should be well up for the year as a whole.

Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan

In the 1970's, Saskatchewan's NDP Government nationalized the best potash mines in the province to form the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan. When the Conservatives came to power, they privatized the company. Recently, an Australian mining company, BHP Billiton, made a hostile takeover bid for Potash Corporation. Residents of Saskatchewan as well as the Provincial and Federal governments vehemently opposed the bid, with the result that Potash is now immune to takeovers, but much less attractive to investors. It could be that the NDP Government will eventually revert Potash to a crown corporation.

Sunday Banking

Starting in February, you will be able to conduct in-person banking on Sunday afternoons, from noon to 4:00p.m., according to an announcement just made by TD Bank. It will come as a great relief to some church treasurers, although most have been using deposit drop-chutes for some time now. Next question will be: will interest be earned from Sunday afternoon or only from Monday morning?

Ivan Acorn is in Mutual Funds, with Professional Investments, Ottawa. He and his associates may invest in funds discussed in these articles. Nothing in this article constitutes an invitation or solicitation to buy any Mutual Fund. Fund returns are not guaranteed and past performance may not be repeated.

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National Award for Planet Africa's Moses Mawa

Ontario Lieutenant Governor David C. Onley presented Planet Africa Group Founder and Chairman Moses A. Mawa with the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada Award for "Professional Excellence in Media" on Monday, October 25. Presented with all the royal pomp and pageantry associated with the Crown, the award ceremony was conducted in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite in the Ontario Parliament, Queen's Park, Toronto.

A citation read by National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada President and CEO Thomas S. Saras, said in part "In appreciation of his outstanding achievements and distinguished contributions to cultural communities, community service and efforts in promoting tolerance along with the traditions and interests of African-Canadian communities. His leadership, courage and dedication to the causes of social justice, human rights and democracy have greatly contributed to the respect of cultural values and the pursuit of equality among all Canadians."

As Founder and Chairman of Planet Africa Group, a division of Silvertrust

Communications, which is a publishing, broadcast and multimedia company he established in 1996 in Ottawa, Mr. Mawa also serves as Publisher of Planet Africa Magazine and Executive Producer of the Planet Africa Television program. He is also the CEO & Executive Producer of Afroglobal Television, the upcoming African Canadian television station. His mandate as chief executive is to establish the Afroglobal channel as the premier platform for showcasing "The Best of Africa and The Diaspora."

It was triple honours that Mr. Mawa received as he was also appointed to the Honorary Board of Directors of the National Ethnic Press and Media Association, with a "Honoris Causa" award; and a special medal of honour reserved for those who are on the frontlines of advancing media, industry, community, humanities, science, letters and the arts.

In response, Mr. Mawa said, he was deeply humbled by this honour, which he shared with his "beautiful wife and associate, Patricia Bebia Mawa, and their children Anika and Amasi, who inspire me every day, not just to be a successful man, but a man of significance, by

making a lasting impact on society."

Under Mr. Mawa's distinguished leadership, Planet Africa Group was commissioned by the Government of Ontario to produce the Bicentenary Legacy Kit, which included a documentary film, a magazine, and a photo reel for commemorating the Bicentenary of the 1807 Abolition of the British Slave Trade Act. A total of 3,000 units of the multimedia kit were sent to city halls, libraries, educational institutions and many other avenues across Ontario. Mr. Mawa also currently produces three other television programs that are broadcast on OMNI Television, Vision TV, Grace TV, BEN TV across Europe, and the MBI Network in Africa. He is also Chairman of Radio Amani (Uganda) Limited, and Silvertrust (Nigeria) Limited.

Planet Africa Magazine is distributed via Chapters, Indigo, Wal-Mart, Gateway and Daisy stores in Canada, the USA and beyond. The Planet Africa Awards have been presented to William H. Osborne, CEO of Ford Motor Company; Nobel Laureate Professor Wole Soyinka; Ibrahim Dia, Senior Vice-President of Royal Bank of

Canada; Hollywood movie and television star Isaiah Washington; Nuclear Scientist, Dr. Sylvester Osamusali; and Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro, President of YWCA International and others. The Harmony tributes, which honour 'Champions of Diversity', have been presented to Mayor David Miller of Toronto; Hon. Lincoln Alexander, former Lieutenant Governor; Chief Armand La Barge of York Regional Police; Hon. Dora Akunyili, Minister of Information of Nigeria; Deputy Chief Keith Forde of Toronto Police Service; and Hon. John Tory, former Leader of the Ontario PC Party and past President and CEO of Rogers Media.

Moses A. Mawa holds a B.A. in Film Studies from Carleton University, and has undertaken television and multimedia training at the Canadian Screen Training Centre. He is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Leadership degree at Trinity Western University in Vancouver, BC. All initiatives he is involved with are aimed at developing the Crossover Mentorship Program into an international movement for 'Transforming Lives For Good™', especially regarding our youth.

Musician's group changes name to Canadian Federation of Musicians

AFM Canada announces the change of its corporate name to Canadian Federation of Musicians (CFM) effective immediately. While CFM remains a constituent body of Canadian Locals of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada, the new operating name offers a more precise recognition of the organization's distinctly Canadian mandate which assists musicians in maintaining professional standards across the board.

"This re-branding is simply a natural next step in our commitment to best represent the individual needs of our Canadian membership," explains Bill Skolnik, AFM Vice President from Canada & CFM Chief Executive Officer. "All services and resources continue to be offered in both official languages and are created in keeping with the laws and professional environment that our membership operates within."

CFM is committed to raising industry standards and placing the

professional musician in the foreground of the Canadian cultural landscape. As a complementary, yet distinctly Canadian division of the AFM, CFM is an international association that diligently works to protect ownership of recorded music; negotiates fair agreements and procures benefits, such as health care and pension, for its membership; and actively lobbies legislators on copyright reform and other matters of interest to all performing and recording musicians both at home and abroad.

One of the many industry-wide initiatives supported by CFM is the 2010 Canadian Conference of the Arts (CCA), a national forum for the arts and cultural community in Canada. Concluding today in Ottawa, this year's conference theme, Artists: Powering the Creative Economy?, seeks to investigate and spark debate on the shape of the evolving global economy and the role played by Canadian artists within this innovative ecology.

"As a leading voice in policy change, CFM looks to ensure that Canada will be at the forefront in this new economy," Skolnik says. "The CCA conference provides an excellent opportunity to explore the role we, as an industry, will have in helping Canadian artists reach their full potential."

CFM's most recent sponsorships also include a CIMA member showcase presented in partnership with ACTRA-RACS, as well as sponsorship of 2010 Atlantic Film Festival.

Building on AFM Canada's long and successful legacy, CFM will continue furthering the par-

ticular interests and needs of professional musicians who earn their living in this country. Everyday CFM helps thousands of musicians with any number of issues related to the recording and performing of their craft. AFM draws on the experience and strength of more than 90,000 musicians, with over 17,000 active members in Canada alone. Proudly celebrating 31 remarkable years of service, CFM is uniquely positioned to address Canadian issues, and provides vital resources for Canadian musicians, at any stage in their careers. For more information please visit us at www.cfmusicians.org! CFM on twitter! CFM on facebook.

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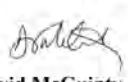


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Member of Parliament—Ottawa South Député—Ottawa-Sud

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David McGuinty, M.P.

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Buying your first home looks better than ever

A more moderate real estate market and interest rates that continue to hover at all time lows, make now a great time for people to buy their first home. The following information on buying your first home, courtesy of the Ontario Real Estate Association and your local Realtor, can help you prepare to make your dreams of home ownership a reality.

The first thing you need to do before you start searching for a home, is to determine how much you can afford to pay for a house. You may learn that the modest home you can afford is a far stretch from your "dream home," but it will be a start and will require far less cash as a down payment.

To determine how much you can afford as a first time buyer, enlist the services of a Realtor. A Realtor will help you identify what you want and take you to homes and neighborhoods that reflect your lifestyle,

needs and price range. This individual will also help you understand property financing, taxes, insurance and the steps you will have to take as a first-time buyer to complete a real estate transaction.

The vast majority of home buyers lack the funds required to buy a home without assistance from a bank or other lender. Most people buy a home will need to arrange a special type of loan, commonly known as a mortgage. Before a lender will give you a mortgage, they will need to determine how much you can afford to pay. A lender will look at how much you will need for the initial purchase of your home including your down payment and other costs such as legal fees, inspection fees and taxes. They will also look at the ongoing costs of paying back the mortgage along with monthly costs for utilities, maintenance, insurance and annual property taxes.

Most lenders will not permit a borrower to take on a debt load the borrower can't carry. That's why reputable lenders "qualify" potential borrowers before lending mortgages. Usually, lenders say that your monthly housing expenses (mortgage payment and taxes), plus condominium fee, if applicable, should not exceed 30% of your monthly gross family income. This is called your Gross Debt Service (GDS) ratio. Lenders also use a second calculation called Total Debt Service (TDS) ratio. Generally speaking, no more than 40% of your gross family income can be used when calculating the amount you can afford to pay for mortgage payments and taxes plus other fixed monthly expenses. These other fixed costs are your ongoing commitments and can include auto, student or personal loans as well as credit card payments.

Saving a down payment

The hardest part about buying a home for most first time buyers is saving the down payment. You may have the ability to keep up with the monthly financial obligation (mortgage payment, insurance, utilities, property taxes, maintenance), but finding the down payment may be a problem. Once you decide what you can afford and find the home you want in the right neighborhood at the right price, here are some of the sources you can tap into for a down payment.

Savings and investments; Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP); you can withdraw \$20,000 per individual (\$40,000 per couple) without any tax penalty as long as you pay the amount back within 15 years;

Loans or gifts from your family or relatives

Until recently, to qualify for a conventional mortgage, a buyer needed

to put down in cash at least 25 per cent of the purchase price. But a new law that came into effect last year lowered the level to 20 per cent. To put down less than 20 per cent, a buyer has to qualify for a high-ratio mortgage. By law, this type of mortgage must be insured against default in payment. The cost of this mortgage insurance depends on the value of the house and the size of the loan. While mortgage insurance doesn't help you come up with the downpayment, it can certainly help you get into your own home faster. Most mortgage insurance companies offer a five per cent down option. This program insures the mortgage on your home against default in payments for up to 95 per cent of the lending value.

This option especially benefits people who can afford the monthly payments involved in owning a home, but would

have trouble saving a large amount of cash as a down payment. The five per cent mortgage program charges an insurance premium which can be added to the mortgage or paid on a monthly basis. Talk to a Realtor for more information on how this program works.

Many people are often surprised to learn that the costs of owning a home can be substantially lower or comparable to those of renting. There are also many financing options and wide variety of housing choices that can make owning a home more affordable. A Realtor can help guide you through the entire home buying process and get you into your first home sooner.

This article is provided by local REALTORS® and the Ontario Real Estate Association for the benefit of consumers in the real estate market.

The Rightwing Upsurge in the U.S. - pg. 6

Congressional Republicans (the same as for the Tea Party) as opposed to 30 percent for Democrats.

But 55 percent of voters – a record for the past 20 years – say it is time to give a new person a chance to represent their district.

The conclusion is obvious: Voters are angry – not the anger of the rich who believe, as John D. Rockefeller famously said, that "God gave me my money." It is a populist rage that will drive some independent or swing voters to vote against incumbents and the incumbent party. Even if it means voting for people who they don't particularly like, trust, or agree with on the issues.

Republicans were able to keep this country mov-

ing to the right for nearly four decades – including through the Clinton years. For much of this time they used a fake populist appeal based on cultural issues, portraying a "liberal elite" who was contemptuous of the values of working-class white voters – who have generally been the biggest group of swing voters. The strategy succeeded because Democrats refused to make the obvious economic populist appeal to the real interests of these voters – who were getting hammered by the loss of manufacturing jobs, weakening of labor and redistribution of income that was engineered by the leadership of both parties. In 2004, non-college-educated whites with household income between \$30,000-\$50,000 voted for

Republicans for Congress by a 60-38 percent margin; in 2006 a switch to a 50-50 split (22 percentage points) contributed significantly to the Democrats' victory in Congress.

The Republicans' long-term strategy collapsed in 2008. The Democrats were lucky in that the peak of the financial crisis hit just before the elections that year. In October 2008 the number of Americans believing that the country was on the wrong track hit an all-time record of 89 percent. Most importantly, this situation focused the attention of swing voters on the economy, something that negates the potential appeal of "distraction" issues such as abortion, gay marriage, guns or even the thinly-veiled racism that had been

part of the Republicans' appeal since President Nixon's post-civil-rights-movement "southern strategy." Obama himself had eschewed economic populism in his campaign (making an exception in Midwestern primaries such as Wisconsin, where he needed more working-class support in order to win), in keeping with his carefully cultivated media image of post-partisan conciliator. But the economy did the job for him, and for the Democratic Party.

What does this mean for the elections of 2010? I would predict that Democrats – even in some not-so-Democratic districts – who appeal to the massive populist discontent among the voters will do better than those who follow the conventional wisdom and run to the right of Obama on such issues as health care reform or taxes. This applies especially to the swing voters but could also be significant in rallying the party's base, which is somewhat disillusioned and needs to be energized. Since this is a non-presidential-year election, voter turnout could easily swing the election.

It is not so hard to make this appeal: millions of people are losing their homes and their jobs, while the Wall Street gang who sank the economy are once again raking in billions – and only because they have been rescued and subsidized with hundreds of billions of our taxpayer dollars. If enough Democrats campaign on these kinds of themes and offer a populist alternative, they will keep both houses of Congress.

Mark Weisbrot is an economist and co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research. This article was originally published by The Guardian.

- Common Dreams

\$75 million for maternal, newborn and child health projects

CIDA calls for proposals

International Cooperation Minister Beverley J. Oda has launched the Muskoka Initiative Partnership Program to fund projects carried out by Canadian organizations and their counterparts in developing countries to help save lives and improve the health of mothers, newborns, and children.

The Minister also launched a call for proposals under the new program. The total funding available is \$75 million over five years and is part of the \$1.1 billion in new funding under the Muskoka Initiative for maternal, newborn and child health.

The launch wrapped up the first Canadian Muskoka Initiative Roundtable, which brought together leading Canadian health and international development experts to discuss how Canada can improve the health of mothers and children in developing countries.

"As part of our commitment to the Muskoka Initiative, this Government pledged to draw on Canadians' expertise and knowledge in maternal and child health," Minister Oda said. "Over the past two days, these top experts have been sharing the latest research, knowledge, and ideas to ensure that our programs deliver tangible results where they are most desperately needed. This roundtable will help inform the government's analysis

and decisions as we move forward. I thank all the participants for their contribution and commitment to this important process.

"I encourage all interested Canadian organizations who wish to contribute to Canada's efforts to submit a proposal. I am confident that our Canadian partners have the expertise, experience, and know-how to undertake initiatives that will result in sustainable, long-lasting results for mothers and children in developing countries. Canada has been a leader in drawing global attention to maternal, newborn, and child health issues, and now, with our partners here in Canada, we can mobilize Canadians and make a difference."


Canada's total investment in maternal, newborn, and child health between 2010 and 2015 is an estimated \$2.85 billion.

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The deadline for ticket sales is Wednesday November 24, 2010. Should you have any questions, please contact me at telephone (613) 769-5141 or 596-1059 or by email at oymcc@hotmail.com

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Hurricane Tomas dumps floods, destruction and death on St. Lucia and Haiti

Hurricane Tomas passed between Cuba and Haiti, unleashing floods that killed at least 20 Haitians, more than double the number initially reported, Haiti's civil protection department said. Seven others remain missing and dozens were injured. More than 30,000 people remain in shelters and Tomas left nearly 6,000 families homeless. Others, already homeless from the January 12 earthquake, lost their tents.

The hurricane struck Haiti's southern peninsula November 5 and traveled up the coast, triggering floods and landslides. But its strongest winds and rain stayed far to the west of the capital, sparing most of the encampments where an estimated 1.3 million people have been living for

nearly 10 months. Officials are now turning their attention back to a worsening cholera epidemic that has killed more than 500 people and hospitalized more than 7,300. Flooding is expected to spread the disease while damage to roads and buildings could make it harder for the stricken to get medical care.

The hurricane had earlier killed at least 14 people in the eastern Caribbean.

In St Lucia at least 12 people were confirmed dead and several communities across the island remained cut off following widespread destruction.

Government said that the damage caused by the storm could surpass US\$100 million. The southern town of Vieux-Fort was among the worst hit by the Category

One storm, while five bodies including those of the owners of a popular craft shop in Soufriere were recovered from the wreckage of their homes that were hit by landslides.

Prime Minister Stephenson King had earlier said that an American visitor whose name was not disclosed, drowned on a north east coast beach while a 31 year-old woman died after her vehicle ran off the road and fell down a precipice.

King said it was clear that there had been extensive damage.

"Soufriere is devastated, everyone is locked in and no one can leave or get in by road or by phone, so that there are persons who need help but cannot be reached," the Prime Minister noted.

"It's not just a question of clearing these roads because there are sections of the network that have completely disappeared so that we are just going to have to find another way in and out of the town," he said.

Tomas is the 19th named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 through Nov. 30. This year was the third-most active on record, tied with 1995 and 1887, according to a spokesman for the hurricane center. In 2005, a record 28 storms formed in the Atlantic.

Tomas swept through the Windward Islands as a hurricane Oct. 29 to Oct. 31, damaging 500 homes in Barbados and 1,200 in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and wiping out Saint Lucia's banana crop.

Patois Bible launched in Canada

The Bible Society of the West Indies has launched a Patois version of the Gospel of Luke, one of the books of the New Testament, in Toronto. Called "Jiizas - Di buk weh Luuk rait bout im", the launch took place recently at York University's Centre for Research on Latin America and

the Caribbean (CERLAC). Special guests, Jamaica's Consul-General to Toronto, Seth George Ramocan, and President of Arts and Culture Jamaica, Cherita Girvan-Campbell, were each presented with the book and compact disc (CD) versions by West Indies Bible Society General-

Secretary Rev. Courtney Stewart.

Translator Jodiann Scott said the complete New Testament Bible in Patois will be ready in 2012 to coincide with Jamaica's 50th Anniversary celebrations. Highlighting some of the problems encountered in translating the Bible, Scott said many people were opposed to the project because of their views and attitudes toward Patois.

"They see Patois as broken English or vulgar," she said. "Or it's seen as the language of the uneducated or the ignorant or the unintelligent. And, if you want to get anywhere in life you have to speak English. So, they thought we would detract from how holy the Bible was," said Scott.

She also said because Patois is used informally, there are some settings it is believed that it should never be used.

"Many believe that it's okay to use Creole in the home; it's okay to use it when you are interacting with your friends; if you're doing a play or a skit or singing a song. But if

you're going to be addressing the country or speaking at the university, you're supposed to speak in English," she added.

There are 1,300 Bible translation projects taking place and Scott said this is serious work on the part of the translating team. Three of the four members are graduates of the University of the West Indies' Linguistics Department.

Rev. Stewart said Jamaica is a country of two languages and the project, which began in 1993, is about making the Bible available in the heart language of the people. In 1996, a selection of readings from the gospels called, 'A Who Run Tings' was launched; and in 2006, "Di Krismos Story" was launched. The complete Bible in Patois is expected to be completed by 2020.

The Consul General admitted that at first he had reservations about the Bible being translated into Patois, because it might seem to be compromising the integrity of the Scriptures. But after attending the launch, he commended the group on their project.

Caribbean Runnings

Compiled by Karen Scantlebury

Cuba - All 40 Cubans and 28 foreigners aboard a state airliner filled with Cubans and travellers from Europe and Latin America crashed and burst into flames in a mountainous area after declaring an emergency and losing contact with air traffic on November 5. AeroCaribbean Flight 883 was en route from the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba to the capital when it reported an emergency, then lost contact with air traffic controllers. It went down near the village of Guasimal in Santi Spiritus province, carrying 61 passengers and a crew of seven. Cuba's Civil Aviation Authority issued a statement hours later saying there were no survivors. It released a list of passengers that included nine Argentines, seven Mexicans, three Dutch citizens, two Germans, two Austrians, a French citizen, an Italian, a Spaniard, a Venezuelan and a Japanese. The seven member crew were all Cuban, as were 33 passengers. AeroCaribbean is owned by Cuban state airline Cubana de Aviacion.

St. Lucia - At least 14 people are confirmed dead in St Lucia after Tropical Storm Tomas triggered landslides. Bridges were destroyed, and some of the worst-hit communities in the south could only be reached by boat. In St Lucia, Prime Minister Stephenson King declared a state of emergency and appealed for international assistance. Recovery efforts are very slow. "Our efforts to get help to the ravished community have been weakened as a string of fires in homes brings us to our knees" as reported by fire fighters. The storm also battered the island of St Vincent.

Barbados - Barbados Prime Minister David Thompson died early on Saturday, October 23 of pancreatic cancer at his private residence in St. Philip. He was 48. Mr. Thompson, who became the youngest ever elected prime minister of the Caribbean nation of 270,000 people in January 2008, had been ill since March and traveled to New York several times for treatment. Trained as a lawyer, Mr. Thompson led his Democratic Labor Party to victory in 2008 elections, defeating an effort by the Barbados Labor Party to win a fourth consecutive term. The party holds 21 of the 30 seats in the Parliament of Barbados, the easternmost Caribbean island. Mr. Thompson is survived by his wife, Marie-Josephine Mara, and their three daughters.

Out of almost two million children from around the world, 15-year-old Crystal Hippolyte of the Garrison Secondary School has placed third in the 39th International Letter Writing Competition for Young People. According to the jury, she wrote a "clear and concise letter" under the theme Write a Letter to Someone to Explain Why It Is Important to Talk about AIDS and to Protect Yourself against It. During a prize-giving ceremony at the General Post Office on World Post Day, Hippolyte was presented with her bronze medallion and a framed certificate from the Universal Postal Union and other gifts from the Barbados Postal Services. She was first in the national competition in March, while schoolmates Shanice Seale and Ashley Phillips placed second and third.

Guyana - President Bharrat Jagdeo has enlightened laid-off Barama Company workers about several of Government's support services which they can explore in their bid to find alternatives since the company retrenched 274 of them in October. Speaking to the workers at the Guyana International Conference Centre (GICC), the President made reference to Government's single parent assistance programme which provides loans of as much as \$250,000 for single parents to start up a small business. Among the other facilities mentioned were services such as school uniform distribution under the difficult circumstances Unit of the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security with which the Education Ministry is now integrally involved.

Jamaica - Jamaican reggae singer Buju Banton walked out Wednesday November 10 from the Pinellas County Jail in the United States after a judge ordered his release under strict conditions. His release on bail comes more than a month after a federal jury was deadlocked in his cocaine-trafficking trial. Buju whose real name is Mark Myrie, reportedly declined comment and covered his face as he left jail and headed home to South Florida. He had been behind bars since his arrest last December. A federal judge declared a mistrial on September 27 after jurors failed to agree on a verdict. Buju is scheduled to be tried again in February. As a condition of Buju's release, his friend Stephen Marley, a musician and son of reggae King Bob Marley, posted US\$ 300,000 worth of equity in his South Florida home. Under the terms of the bond, he must pay a private security detail to guard him so he doesn't flee. He was also required to sign an extradition waiver, ensuring his return if he does flee the country, and will have to wear an electronic monitoring device.

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