



# Policy

Canadian Politics and Public Policy

## Happy 150, Canada

*Welcome to Policy's special issue marking our national sesquicentennial. Bilingual, multicultural, inclusive, forward-looking, hockey-loving, conflict-resolving, liberal world order-defending Canada...we think our favourite perpetual work-in-progress looks pretty good for 150. And we think you'll agree our contributors have risen to the occasion with a patriotic mix of affection, insight and celebration.*

### In this Issue:

- Pollster [Frank Graves](#) of EKOS Research shares new numbers comparing the mood of Canada now with how Canadians were feeling at the turn of the millennium as well as on our 100th anniversary in 1967.
- In the first of our pieces on the evolution of Canada's three major political parties by their most senior brain trust veterans, long-time strategist [Geoff Norquay](#) assesses the legacies of Conservative leaders, from John A. Macdonald to Robert Borden, from John Diefenbaker to Brian Mulroney.
- Professor, author and principal secretary to the late Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, [Tom Axworthy](#) writes of the dynastic Liberals as the enduring party of the centre, where elections are usually won in this country. "In the 150 years since Confederation," he writes, "the Liberal Party has been in office for 89. In 24 of the 42 general elections since 1867, the Liberal Party has captured more votes than any other."
- Legendary *eminence grise* [Robin Sears](#) looks at the NDP's defining drama as a party torn between its progressive conscience and the constant temptation to water its wine for a shot at governing. Principle or power? The NDP's eternal struggle.
- University of Ottawa's [Carissima Mathen](#) looks at the evolution of Canada's constitutional framework, from the division of powers in the British North America Act to the individual rights enshrined in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982. Her U of O legal colleague [Adam Dodek](#) appraises the Supreme Court of Canada, from 1875 to the present.
- Earncliffe's [Velma McColl](#) and [Kathleen Monk](#) assess the epic political journey of women in Canada, from the suffragettes to the fight for gender parity: "We are not afraid to speak passionately – regardless of where we stand on the political spectrum; to solve problems collectively, in community; to act from a place that considers our children's future or for our Indigenous sisters, that considers the next seven generations."
- Innovation Minister [Navdeep Bains](#) writes from his own experience growing up as a Sikh Canadian with a particular appreciation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- University of Regina's [Vianne Timmons](#) and [Stephen King](#) tell an important success story of indigenous post-secondary education.
- Former Official Languages Commissioner [Graham Fraser](#) considers the dynamic of Canada as an officially bilingual country, regarded as a given today after decades of official bilingualism.
- Long-time senior federal bureaucrat [Richard Dicerni](#) sends a birthday card to Canada from its public service, saying it's been "quite a journey we have travelled together over the past 150 years."
- [Helaina Gaspard](#) and [Sahir Kahn](#) of the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Democracy offer a ranking of governments' fiscal frameworks since Confederation.
- [Jeremy Kinsman](#), our veteran foreign affairs hand, looks at Canada's diplomatic identity and finds a Canadian balance of reason and passion.
- As a case study of Canadian success in the Middle East, *Policy* Associate Editor [Lisa Van Dusen](#) reports on the work of McGill University's International Community Action Network in bringing Israelis and Palestinians together in classrooms in Montreal and in the region.
- [Derek Burney](#) and [Fen Hampson](#) write of Canada as a trading nation, and the challenges of renegotiating NAFTA.
- *Historica Canada's* [Anthony Wilson-Smith](#) looks at history by the minutes, Heritage Minutes.
- In the 100th year of the Railway Association of Canada, its president, [Michael Bourque](#), offers a short history of Canadian railways, a story of nation-building.
- CPAC President [Catherine Cano](#) marks the 25th anniversary of the public affairs channel of record.
- And columnist [Don Newman](#) weighs in on the sesquicentennial.
- Finally, we offer a summer reading list. [James Baxter](#) looks at Terry Mosher's latest Aislin collection of political cartoons, *Trudeau to Trudeau: Aislin 50 Years of Cartooning*. [Jaime Watt](#) reviews Jim Prentice's memoir, *Triple Crown*. [Anthony Wilson-Smith](#) has a positive take on Laurence B. Mussio's *A Vision Greater than Themselves: The Making of the Bank of Montreal, 1817-2017*. And [I offer a review](#) of Alvin Cramer Segal's memoir, *My Peerless Story*, about how he built a Canadian world champion in men's clothing.

*Enjoy the issue!*