

Energy policy briefing

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News Conservative leadership race

Deadline looms for low-profile CPC candidates, who say party needs more fresh faces, ideas

The 'traditional playbooks of smaller government, lower taxes, tough on crime,' won't work to widen the blue tent, says one candidate. 'We need to break the ceiling and win the support of more Canadians.'



There are five lesser-knowns running to be Conservative Party leader, including, from left, Jim Karahalios, Derek Sloan, Rick Peterson, Rudy Husny, and Leslyn Lewis. Photographs courtesy of Jim Karahalios, Rick Peterson, Rudy Husny, Twitter, and Facebook

BY SAMANTHA WRIGHT ALLEN

The Conservative Party needs a new face, fresh ideas, and to stop rehashing old feuds, according

to some of the lesser-known leadership candidates who say the front-runners, former cabinet ministers Peter MacKay and Erin O'Toole, are operating by the old playbook.

Beyond Mr. MacKay, Mr. O'Toole (Durham, Ont.), and two-term Conservative MP Marilyn Gladu (Sarnia—Lambton, Ont.), five other declared candidates

have struggled to get much air time in a race that was ramping up even before the federal elec-

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News Phoenix pay system

'Everything we didn't do with Phoenix': feds tap SAP for work on long-awaited Phoenix replacement pilot project

BY MIKE LAPOINTE

In the wake of the fourth anniversary of the problem-plagued

Phoenix pay system, the federal government has reached a long-awaited milestone in the years-long saga that has left thousands

of public sector workers overpaid, underpaid, or not paid at all. On March 6, the Treasury Board announced that software

company SAP Canada had been chosen to work on a new human

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News House committees

No committee or caucus roles, longtime Tory MP Scott Reid still sidelined after breaking rank

BY LAURA RYCKEWAERT

After being stripped of his critic duties during the last Parliament for voting against the party line, longtime Conservative MP Scott Reid has been entirely left off of House committee membership lists this time around.

Up until this Parliament, Mr. Reid had spent 15 years as a member of the Procedure and House Affairs Committee (PROC).

"I did not request to be free from a committee assignment," Mr. Reid (Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston, Ont.) said in an email response to questions from *The Hill Times*.

Mr. Reid declined an interview by phone during the break week last week on the subject, and did not respond when asked whether he believed his lack of committee assignments this Parliament was down to continued punishment for his having previously voted against the party line and for speaking out about it.

"Unfortunately, responding to these questions would involve a breach of the conventional practice of caucus confidentiality," he wrote.

As caucus whip, Conservative MP Mark Strahl (Chilliwack-Hope, B.C.) oversees the committee assignment process. Asked about Mr. Reid's lack of assignments, and whether it was part of continued punishment, in an email, Mr. Strahl said "Mr. Reid is a valuable member of the Conservative caucus and will continue to play an important role in it."

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ENERGY



O'Regan putting nuclear
'front and centre'
raises eyebrows,
industry hopes

— by Aidan Chamandy p. 18, 20

Time to move away from
business-as-usual
approach to climate,
resource development policies

— by NDP MP Richard Cannings p. 20

The race to net-zero:
grounded in reality
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— by Jade McLean & Marla Orenstein p. 24

Policymakers should
worry less about energy
self-sufficiency
and more about
decarbonization

— by Jessica Green p. 22

Low carbon resilience is Canada's safe green path in a changing climate

Adaptation and mitigation are already becoming business as usual for local governments and professional practitioners, but widespread collaboration on integrated adaptation and mitigation isn't underway.



Deborah Harford

Opinion

As providers of traditional and new energy resources and residents of a large country with complex energy and infrastructure needs, Canadians face unique pressure to plan strategically for

the coming decades as we work to reduce emissions in a changing climate.

Canada is warming twice as fast as the rest of the world and will continue to warm at some level due to greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, whether or not we succeed in reducing emissions at the hoped-for rate. Larger emissions reductions are crucial to reduce the impacts, but either way, we will see—in fact, are seeing, and paying for—bigger heatwaves, longer droughts, more intense rainstorms, and rising sea levels.

The consequences of these changes are familiar—wildfires, floods, melting glaciers, disappearing snowpack, and shifting species ranges. Along with them come new or aggravated health risks, supply chain and business interruptions, impacts on vulnerable communities and populations, water, food, and energy insecurity, and challenges for species survival.

Planning for these consequences is known as “adaptation”—efforts to build community, ecosystem, and economic resilience to climate risks as an additional, necessary layer on top of traditional disaster risk reduction. Because we have locked in some level of climate change, we will be continually adapting from here on in, while we work to bring our emissions down—known as “mitigation.”

Adaptation and mitigation are already becoming business as usual for Canadian local governments and professional practitioners, and are beginning to hit the ground for the private sector. However,

widespread collaboration on integrated adaptation and mitigation—what we are calling “low carbon resilience” (LCR)—is not yet underway.

Advancing this integrated approach is due diligence, given the magnitude of investment Canadians make in new business opportunities and infrastructure expected to be in operation over the next few decades.

The need to cool buildings will continually increase, requiring new levels of planning and design, given that buildings are one of the biggest sources of municipal emissions.

The energy profile of critical infrastructure, such as hospitals, will shift over the lifespan of new and retrofitted buildings, requiring strategic planning to ensure temperature control and energy supply for life-support systems while managing energy demand during extreme events that will drive surges in patient visits and add pressure on healthcare systems.

Likewise, the significant investments we make in clean energy, such as charging networks, district energy systems, new transmission lines, and smart grids, must be designed for shifting conditions including more intense storms, heatwaves, expanding floodplains, and coastal inundation.

Some adaptation approaches can be emissions intensive, especially those focused on stormwater control—a major concern given that floods are emerging as the biggest national source of insured losses.

The good news is that we get a bigger bang for our buck if we consider LCR.

For instance, transitioning to electric vehicles removes tailpipe emissions that, combined with extreme heat, produce ground-level ozone, which can be highly damaging to respiratory systems. District energy systems and other small-scale renewable power projects are not only emissions friendly, but also ensure access to power during extreme weather events that may knock out large centralized grids. Reducing energy demand through the use of nature-based solutions to reduce urban heat, cool buildings, and process stormwater naturally has multiple co-benefits: for human health, through shading and access to green space; for biodiversity, which is increasingly crucial in today's world of the sixth mass extinction; and for municipal budgets, due to lower installation, operation, and replacement costs than grey infrastructure and reduced pressure on ageing drainage systems.

Climate impacts combined with the biodiversity crisis, the global shifts to decarbonization and automation, and other priorities and values, pose a set of interconnected challenges and opportunities that require responses designed to achieve the most effective outcomes.

The World Economic Forum ranks the failure of both adaptation and mitigation among the top global risks; the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2018 report notes that integrating them has the potential to lead to transformative responses.

It's time to evolve our energy narrative to include low carbon resilience, for the benefit of our economy, communities, ecosystems, and grandchildren.

Deborah Harford is the executive director of ACT (the Adaptation to Climate Change Team) at Simon Fraser University.

The Hill Times

A new source of energy

Hydrogen from oil = zero emissions

We get more efficient all the time at using our oil resources, but we still rely on extraction and combustion to produce energy. What if we tried something completely different?

UCalgary researchers, led by Dr. Ian Gates, have developed a way to turn oil reservoirs into clean, economical hydrogen without releasing carbon.

Working with startup Proton Technologies to pilot the method, we could soon see hydrogen heating our buildings and powering our trains, buses and heavy transport.

Thanks to researchers and industry working together, we're pioneering a clean and sustainable energy future for all Canadians.

research.ucalgary.ca/energy



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