



What a week! The Liberals proved themselves so relentlessly determined to keep Canadians in the dark that they threatened to call a snap election if the NDP didn't get in line and vote against a Conservative motion to create a new Committee. The NDP - terrified of an election they can't afford to run - did as expected and voted "no". So no election. But what is going on here?

Recall that back in the spring, the Opposition were on the trail of some really poor Liberal decisions favouring Liberal insiders. Some would say "corrupt". The untendered contract to WE Charity received widespread attention and there's still more to learn. But that wasn't the only problem. Liberal insiders were busy lobbying unlawfully on behalf of their own interests without registering as lobbyists. Procurement contracts were awarded to Liberal insider companies, sometimes in contravention of recognized good practices. There's more to learn. Standing Committees were working hard and uncovering truths.

So the Liberals prorogued Parliament for six weeks. This shut down all of the Committees and ended the daily headlines. The Liberals said they needed time to plan for an economic recovery. All while Parliament has been "virtually" sidelined for months. Democracy was barely functioning; yet, we were using the tools we had to expose the Government's insider deals.

Parliament came back in September, but there was no new plan. The "new" COVID aid programs are almost as clumsy as the original ones. Despite six weeks to "plan", there were long gaps between the expiry of the old program and the introduction of the new - causing Canadian individuals and businesses to wait in limbo.

As for the Committees - first, the Liberals threatened to use procedural work-arounds to delay the re-establishment of the Committees. When that didn't work, Liberal MPs on the Committees filibustered - talking for hours about nonsense to prevent votes and decisions that would provide information to the Opposition MPs. Remember - it is the job of Opposition MPs to investigate. And remember the almost completely blacked-out version of documents initially provided in response to our requests for information.

So Erin O'Toole and the Conservatives decided to use a rare Opposition Day to present a motion to create a new Committee specifically mandated to investigate these outstanding questions. This committee would be chaired by an Opposition MP so that the endless filibustering would end.

And that is the motion that the Liberals and NDP combined to defeat on Wednesday.

What is going on here? The only possible conclusion is that whatever the Liberals are afraid the Committees will discover is so damaging, so indefensible, so glaringly unjustifiable that they are willing to do anything to prevent Canadians from learning of it.

Anything at all - including the threat of an election during a pandemic to stop the creation of a Committee. Let's be clear. There is something to find. And we will keep looking.



Government Determined to Block Alberta's Aspirations

I suppose it isn't news, but the Liberals have an uncanny instinct to block any aspiration Alberta has to improve its economic fortunes.

A2A Rail: Most recently, the US President signed a permit allowing for further work on an Alberta to Alaska rail line worth \$22 Billion that would carry bitumen, potash, sulfur and grains. The sponsoring company, A2A Rail, is bullish on the plan's viability because the world is hungry for Canada's resources, but ports and rail lines are often choked.

One obstacle: Canada's Prime Minister, who quickly remarked that the company shouldn't invest too much "in something that is unlikely to pass" (direct quote). The project must be reviewed under the *Impact Assessment Act* (the creature of Bill C-69) which, among other provisions, gives the final word on any project to politicians. It looks like even before the review of A2A has begun, the politician has spoken.

Diversification in Plastics: Another example. The Province of Alberta announced a major petrochemical diversification strategy in early October, focusing on the full life cycle of plastics from production to recycling. The very next day, Ottawa announced, quite unexpectedly, that plastic would be branded as "toxic waste" as a precursor to its ban on single use plastics. The plastics and chemicals industry immediately responded that this would deter investment in Alberta's new strategy.

The federal plan will hurt Alberta's ambitions to become a top 10 petrochemical and plastics producer, said Bob Masterson, president and CEO of the Chemistry Industry Association of Canada. The provincial government is hoping that the petrochemical sector would generate more than \$30 billion by 2030, create more than 90,000 direct and indirect jobs, generate more than \$10 billion in revenue for the province in corporate and personal income taxes, and would include a world-leading plastics recycling strategy.

Not if the federal government can stop it, it would seem.

I spoke on this issue in the House of Commons. [Watch it on YouTube here.](#)



Video on Oil and Gas Policy

With some help from the Leader's Office communications team, we produced this video about natural resource policy for distribution coast-to-coast-to-coast.

[Take a look on YouTube.](#)



Coming Up

There are two upcoming events that might interest you:

[Next Facebook Live Event](#)

I have held two successful Facebook Live events. My next online Town Hall event on Facebook is scheduled for **November 18 from 6 PM to 7 PM**. To participate, just go to my Facebook Page (@GregMcLeanYYC). At 6 PM you will see me on live video, and can type in your question or comment.

[Inglewood/Ramsay Meet and Greet](#)

I will be doing a COVID-safe in-person Meet and Greet for the Inglewood and Ramsay neighbourhoods on **Saturday November 21 from 1 PM to 4 PM** at the Inglewood Community Hall, 1740 24 Ave SE. To manage numbers safely, we will have an RSVP on my website closer to the date, but there's no charge to attend.

Supporting Sexual Assault Education for Judges

I was pleased to speak in favour of the Government's Bill C-3, a bill that was originally introduced by the Hon. Rona Ambrose, the former Leader of the Conservative Party. The legislation will require judges to participate in continuing legal education with regards to sexual assault law. The Canadian judiciary must be held accountable and ensure that judges have the updated training Canadians expect them to have. That is why we are committed to

ensuring that all judicial appointees take sexual assault sensitivity training prior to taking the bench.

[See my speech on YouTube here.](#)



Please get in touch if there's anything my office can do for you.

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