

Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada Mandate Letter

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/minister-justice-and-attorney-general-canada-mandate-letter>

Dear Ms. Wilson-Raybould:

I am honoured that you have agreed to serve Canadians as Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada.

We have promised Canadians a government that will bring real change – in both what we do and how we do it. Canadians sent a clear message in this election, and our platform offered a new, ambitious plan for a strong and growing middle class. Canadians expect us to fulfill our commitments, and it is my expectation that you will do your part in delivering on those promises to Canadians.

We made a commitment to invest in growing our economy, strengthening the middle class, and helping those working hard to join it. We committed to provide more direct help to those who need it by giving less to those who do not. We committed to public investment as the best way to spur economic growth, job creation, and broad-based prosperity. We committed to a responsible, transparent fiscal plan for challenging economic times. I expect Canadians to hold us accountable for delivering these commitments, and I expect all ministers to do their part – individually and collectively – to improve economic opportunity and security for Canadians.

It is my expectation that we will deliver real results and professional government to Canadians. To ensure that we have a strong focus on results, I will expect Cabinet committees and individual ministers to: track and report on the progress of our commitments; assess the effectiveness of our work; and align our resources with priorities, in order to get the results we want and Canadians deserve.

If we are to tackle the real challenges we face as a country – from a struggling middle class to the threat of climate change – Canadians need to have faith in their government’s honesty and willingness to listen. I expect that our work will be informed by performance measurement, evidence, and feedback from Canadians. We will direct our resources to those initiatives that are having the greatest, positive impact on the lives of Canadians, and that will allow us to meet our commitments to them. I expect you to report regularly on

Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

your progress toward fulfilling our commitments and to help develop effective measures that assess the impact of the organizations for which you are answerable.

I made a personal commitment to bring new leadership and a new tone to Ottawa. We made a commitment to Canadians to pursue our goals with a renewed sense of collaboration. Improved partnerships with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments are essential to deliver the real, positive change that we promised Canadians.

No relationship is more important to me and to Canada than the one with Indigenous Peoples. It is time for a renewed, nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership.

We have also committed to set a higher bar for openness and transparency in government. It is time to shine more light on government to ensure it remains focused on the people it serves. Government and its information should be open by default. If we want Canadians to trust their government, we need a government that trusts Canadians. It is important that we acknowledge mistakes when we make them. Canadians do not expect us to be perfect – they expect us to be honest, open, and sincere in our efforts to serve the public interest.

Our platform guides our government. Over the course of our four-year mandate, I expect us to deliver on all of our commitments. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that we fulfill our promises, while living within our fiscal plan. Other issues will arise or will be brought to our attention by Canadians, stakeholders, and the public service. It is my expectation that you will engage constructively and thoughtfully and add priorities to your agenda when appropriate.

As Minister, you will be held accountable for our commitment to bring a different style of leadership to government. This will include: close collaboration with your colleagues; meaningful engagement with Opposition Members of Parliament, Parliamentary Committees and the public service; constructive dialogue with Canadians, civil society, and stakeholders, including business, organized labour, the broader public sector, and the not-for-profit and charitable sectors; and identifying ways to find solutions and avoid escalating conflicts unnecessarily. As well, members of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, indeed all journalists in Canada and abroad, are professionals who, by asking necessary questions, contribute in an important way to the democratic process. Your professionalism and engagement with them is essential.

Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

Canadians expect us, in our work, to reflect the values we all embrace: inclusion, honesty, hard work, fiscal prudence, and generosity of spirit. We will be a government that governs for all Canadians, and I expect you, in your work, to bring Canadians together.

You are expected to do your part to fulfill our government's commitment to transparent, merit-based appointments, to help ensure gender parity and that Indigenous Canadians and minority groups are better reflected in positions of leadership.

You have a double role as both Minister of Justice and the Attorney General of Canada. As Minister of Justice, you are the legal advisor to Cabinet. In this capacity you are responsible with the administration of justice, including policy in such areas as criminal law, family law, human rights law, public law and private international law, constitutional law and Aboriginal justice. As the Attorney General of Canada, you are the chief law officer of the Crown, responsible for conducting all litigation for the federal government and for upholding the Constitution, the rule of law, and respect for the independence of the courts.

As Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, your overarching goal will be to ensure our legislation meets the highest standards of equity, fairness and respect for the rule of law. I expect you to ensure that our initiatives respect the Constitution of Canada, court decisions, and are in keeping with our proudest legal traditions. You are expected to ensure that the rights of Canadians are protected, that our work demonstrates the greatest possible commitment to respecting the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and that our government seeks to fulfill our policy goals with the least interference with the rights and privacy of Canadians as possible.

In particular, I will expect you to work with your colleagues and through established legislative, regulatory, and Cabinet processes to deliver on your top priorities:

- Lead a process, supported by the Minister of Health, to work with provinces and territories to respond to the Supreme Court of Canada decision regarding physician-assisted death.
- Develop, in collaboration with the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, and supported by the Minister of Status of Women, an approach to, and a mandate for, an inquiry into murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls in Canada, including the identification of a lead Minister.
- Review our litigation strategy. This should include early decisions to end appeals or positions that are not consistent with our commitments, the Charter or our values.
- You should conduct a review of the changes in our criminal justice system and sentencing reforms over the past decade with a mandate to assess the changes, ensure that we are increasing the safety of our communities, getting value for money, addressing gaps and ensuring that current provisions are aligned with the objectives of the criminal justice



Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

system. Outcomes of this process should include increased use of restorative justice processes and other initiatives to reduce the rate of incarceration amongst Indigenous Canadians, and implementation of recommendations from the inquest into the death of Ashley Smith regarding the restriction of the use of solitary confinement and the treatment of those with mental illness.

- Work with the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs to address gaps in services to Aboriginal people and those with mental illness throughout the criminal justice system.
- Working with the Ministers of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and Health, create a federal-provincial-territorial process that will lead to the legalization and regulation of marijuana.
- Undertake modernization efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system, in cooperation with provinces and territories. This should include improved use of information technology to make the system more efficient and timely, exploration of sentencing alternatives and bail reform, and the creation of a unified family court.
- Support the Minister of Canadian Heritage to restore a modern Court Challenges Program.
- Work with the Ministers of Finance and National Revenue to develop a modernized regulatory and legal framework governing the Charitable and Not-for-Profit sectors.
- Engage all parties in the House of Commons to ensure that the process of appointing Supreme Court Justices is transparent, inclusive and accountable to Canadians. Consultations should be undertaken with all relevant stakeholders and those appointed to the Supreme Court should be functionally bilingual.
- Support the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness in his efforts to repeal key elements of Bill C-51, and introduce new legislation that strengthens accountability with respect to national security and better balances collective security with rights and freedoms.
- Support the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness in his efforts to repeal key elements of Bill C-42 and implement our commitment to reduce the number of handguns and assault weapons on our streets.
- Implement our platform commitments to toughen criminal laws and bail conditions in cases of domestic assault, in consultation with stakeholders and with the goal of keeping survivors and children safe. You should undertake this work in consultation with the Minister of Status of Women and the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness.
- Work with the President of the Treasury Board to enhance the openness of government, including supporting his review of the *Access to Information Act* to ensure that Canadians have easier access to their own personal information, that the Information Commissioner is empowered to order government information to be released and that the Act applies

Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

appropriately to the Prime Minister's and Ministers' Offices, as well as administrative institutions that support Parliament and the courts.

- Introduce government legislation to add gender identity as a prohibited ground for discrimination under the *Canadian Human Rights Act*, and to the list of distinguishing characteristics of "identifiable group" protected by the hate speech provisions of the *Criminal Code*.

These priorities draw heavily from our election platform commitments. The government's agenda will be further articulated through Cabinet discussions and in the Speech from the Throne when Parliament opens.

I expect you to work closely with your Deputy Minister and his or her senior officials to ensure that the ongoing work of your department is undertaken in a professional manner and that decisions are made in the public interest. Your Deputy Minister will brief you on issues your department may be facing that may require decisions to be made quickly. It is my expectation that you will apply our values and principles to these decisions, so that issues facing your department are dealt with in a timely and responsible manner, and in a way that is consistent with the overall direction of our government.

Our ability, as a government, to successfully implement our platform depends on our ability to thoughtfully consider the professional, non-partisan advice of public servants. Each and every time a government employee comes to work, they do so in service to Canada, with a goal of improving our country and the lives of all Canadians. I expect you to establish a collaborative working relationship with your Deputy Minister, whose role, and the role of public servants under his or her direction, is to support you in the performance of your responsibilities.

In the coming weeks, the Privy Council Office (PCO) will be contacting you to set up a meeting with PCO officials, your Deputy Minister and the Prime Minister's Office to further discuss your plans, commitments and priorities.

We have committed to an open, honest government that is accountable to Canadians, lives up to the highest ethical standards, and applies the utmost care and prudence in the handling of public funds. I expect you to embody these values in your work and observe the highest ethical standards in everything you do. When dealing with our Cabinet colleagues, Parliament, stakeholders, or the public, it is important that your behaviour and decisions meet Canadians' well-founded expectations of our government. I want Canadians to look on their own government with pride and trust.



AJC-AJJ
ASSOCIATION OF JUSTICE COUNSEL
ASSOCIATION DES JURISTES DE JUSTICE

Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

As Minister, you must ensure that you are aware of and fully compliant with the *Conflict of Interest Act* and Treasury Board policies and guidelines. You will be provided with a copy of *Open and Accountable Government* to assist you as you undertake your responsibilities. I ask that you carefully read it and ensure that your staff does so as well. I draw your attention in particular to the Ethical Guidelines set out in Annex A of that document, which apply to you and your staff. As noted in the Guidelines, you must uphold the highest standards of honesty and impartiality, and both the performance of your official duties and the arrangement of your private affairs should bear the closest public scrutiny. This is an obligation that is not fully discharged by simply acting within the law. Please also review the areas of *Open and Accountable Government* that we have expanded or strengthened, including the guidance on non-partisan use of departmental communications resources and the new code of conduct for exempt staff.

I know I can count on you to fulfill the important responsibilities entrusted in you. In turn, please know that you can count on me to support you every day in your role as Minister. I am deeply grateful to have this opportunity to serve with you as we build an even greater country.

Together, we will work tirelessly to honour the trust Canadians have given us.

Yours sincerely,

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada

Lettre de mandat du ministre de la Justice et procureure générale du Canada

Premier Ministre Justin Trudeau, <http://pm.gc.ca/fra/lettre-de-mandat-du-ministre-de-la-justice-et-procureure-generale-du-canada>

Madame la ministre,

Je suis honoré que vous ayez accepté de servir les Canadiens et les Canadiennes à titre de ministre de la Justice et procureure générale du Canada.

Nous avons promis aux Canadiens un gouvernement qui amènera de réels changements, tant en ce qui a trait à nos actions qu'à la manière dont nous les accomplirons. Lors de l'élection, la population canadienne nous a envoyé un message clair en choisissant notre plateforme qui offrait un plan nouveau et ambitieux pour une classe moyenne plus forte et



Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

à laquelle plus de gens ont accès. Les Canadiens et les Canadiennes s'attendent à ce que nous tenions nos engagements et je m'attends à ce que vous fassiez votre part pour assurer que nous réalisons nos promesses.

Nous avons pris l'engagement d'investir dans notre économie, de renforcer la classe moyenne et d'aider ceux qui travaillent fort pour en faire partie. Nous nous sommes engagés à fournir une aide plus directe aux personnes dans le besoin en donnant moins aux plus riches. Nous nous sommes engagés à investir pour faire croître l'économie et créer des emplois et de la prospérité. Nous nous sommes engagés à mettre de l'avant un plan financier responsable et transparent en cette période de difficultés économiques. Je m'attends à ce que les Canadiens et les Canadiennes exigent notre imputabilité quant à la réalisation de nos engagements et c'est pourquoi je demande à tous les ministres de faire leur part, individuellement et collectivement, pour améliorer les perspectives et la sécurité économiques des Canadiens.

Je m'attends à ce que nous offrions des résultats concrets et un gouvernement professionnel aux Canadiens et aux Canadiennes. Pour être sûr que la plus grande importance soit accordée aux résultats, je demanderai aux comités du Cabinet et à chaque ministre d'assurer un suivi et de communiquer les progrès réalisés entourant nos engagements, d'évaluer l'efficacité du travail et d'harmoniser nos ressources et nos priorités, afin d'obtenir les résultats que nous souhaitons et que la population mérite.

Pour nous attaquer aux problèmes auxquels nous faisons face en tant que pays - des difficultés éprouvées par la classe moyenne aux changements climatiques - il faut que les Canadiens et les Canadiennes aient confiance que leur gouvernement est honnête et disposé à les écouter. Je m'attends à ce que les mesures de rendement, la présentation de preuves et la rétroaction des Canadiens soient la pierre angulaire de notre travail. Nous dirigerons nos ressources vers les initiatives qui ont le plus d'incidences positives sur la vie des Canadiens et qui nous permettront de respecter nos engagements envers eux. Je m'attends à ce que vous produisiez régulièrement des rapports sur vos progrès dans la réalisation de nos engagements et que vous développiez des mesures efficaces qui permettront d'évaluer l'impact des travaux de votre portefeuille.

Je me suis personnellement engagé à changer l'approche d'Ottawa et à amener un vent de changement. Nous nous sommes engagés à poursuivre nos objectifs avec un esprit de collaboration renouvelé. Il est essentiel d'améliorer nos relations avec les gouvernements provinciaux, territoriaux et municipaux, afin d'apporter le changement positif et concret que nous avons promis aux Canadiens. Aucune relation n'est plus importante pour moi et pour le Canada que la relation avec les peuples autochtones. Il est temps de renouveler la



Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

relation de nation à nation avec les peuples autochtones pour qu'elle soit fondée sur la reconnaissance des droits, le respect, la collaboration et le partenariat.

Nous nous sommes également engagés à relever la barre en matière d'ouverture et de transparence au sein du gouvernement. Il est temps de sortir le gouvernement de l'ombre pour que celui-ci soit réellement au service de la population. Le gouvernement et les renseignements du gouvernement devraient être ouverts par défaut. Si nous voulons que les Canadiens et les Canadiennes aient confiance en leur gouvernement, nous avons besoin d'un gouvernement qui fait confiance aux Canadiens. Si nous faisons des erreurs, nous devons les reconnaître sur-le-champ. Les Canadiens et les Canadiennes n'exigent pas de nous que nous soyons parfaits, mais ils s'attendent à ce que nous soyons honnêtes, ouverts et sincères dans nos efforts pour servir l'intérêt public.

Notre plateforme guidera notre gouvernement. Au cours de notre mandat de quatre ans, nous devons réaliser tous nos engagements. Ce sera notre responsabilité collective de s'assurer que nous tenons nos promesses, tout en respectant notre plan financier. D'autres questions seront soulevées et seront portées à notre attention par les Canadiens et les Canadiennes, les partenaires et la fonction publique. Je m'attends à ce que vous vous engagiez de manière constructive et réfléchie et que vous inscriviez au besoin à votre ordre du jour les questions prioritaires qui pourraient se présenter.

À titre de ministre, vous avez la responsabilité de respecter notre engagement d'instaurer un nouveau style de leadership au sein du gouvernement. Cela comprend : une collaboration étroite avec vos collègues, un engagement significatif envers les députés de l'opposition, les comités parlementaires et la fonction publique; un dialogue constructif avec les Canadiens et les Canadiennes, la société civile et les partenaires, y compris les représentants des milieux d'affaires, du monde syndical et du secteur public élargi, ainsi que les organisations sans but lucratif et les organismes de bienfaisance; et la quête de solutions afin d'éviter les tensions en n'aggravant pas les conflits. De plus, les membres de la Tribune de la presse parlementaire - et tous les journalistes canadiens et étrangers - sont des professionnels qui, en posant des questions pertinentes, contribuent grandement au processus démocratique. Il est essentiel d'agir et de collaborer de manière professionnelle avec eux.

Dans notre travail, la population canadienne s'attend à ce que nous agissions selon les valeurs qui nous caractérisent : l'inclusion, l'honnêteté, le travail acharné, la générosité et la saine gestion financière. Notre gouvernement sera au service de tous les Canadiens et les Canadiennes, et je m'attends à ce que vous soyez, dans votre travail, une force rassembleuse pour la population.



Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

Vous devrez faire votre part pour respecter l'engagement du gouvernement à faire des nominations transparentes et fondées sur le mérite, à favoriser l'égalité entre les sexes et à veiller à ce que les Canadiens et les Canadiennes autochtones et les minorités soient mieux représentés dans les postes de direction.

Le rôle que vous avez à jouer comporte deux volets, soit celui de ministre de la Justice et celui de procureure générale du Canada. En votre qualité de ministre de la Justice, vous êtes la conseillère juridique du Cabinet. De ce fait, vous êtes responsable de l'administration de la justice, notamment des politiques dans des domaines comme le droit criminel, le droit de la famille, la législation en matière de droit de la personne, le droit international public et privé, le droit constitutionnel et la justice dans le contexte des Autochtones. En votre qualité de procureure générale du Canada, vous êtes la première conseillère juridique de l'État et, à ce titre, vous avez la responsabilité de diriger tous les procès au nom du gouvernement fédéral et de préserver la Constitution, la primauté du droit ainsi que le respect de l'indépendance des tribunaux.

En votre qualité de ministre de la Justice et de procureure générale du Canada, votre objectif primordial consistera à veiller à ce que notre législation respecte les normes les plus élevées en matière d'équité, d'impartialité et de respect de la primauté du droit. Je m'attends à ce que vous preniez les dispositions nécessaires pour vous assurer que nos initiatives sont conformes à la Constitution du Canada et aux décisions des tribunaux, et qu'elles s'inscrivent dans les traditions juridiques qui font toute notre fierté. Vous devrez veiller à la protection des droits des Canadiens et des Canadiennes, faire en sorte que nos travaux respectent le plus possible la *Charte canadienne des droits et libertés* et veiller à ce que notre gouvernement tente d'atteindre ses objectifs stratégiques d'une manière qui, dans la mesure du possible, ne porte pas atteinte aux droits des Canadiens et des Canadiennes, ni à leur vie privée.

Plus particulièrement, je m'attends à ce que vous travailliez avec vos collègues et dans le respect des lois, règlements et processus du Cabinet établis pour mener à bien vos grandes priorités :

- Diriger un processus, de concert avec la ministre de la Santé, visant à collaborer avec les provinces et les territoires dans le but de donner suite à la décision de la Cour suprême du Canada au sujet de l'aide médicale à mourir.
- En collaboration avec la ministre des Affaires autochtones et du Nord, et avec l'appui de la ministre de la Condition féminine, élaborer un processus et un mandat en vue d'une

Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

enquête sur le meurtre et la disparition de femmes et de filles autochtones au Canada, notamment nommer un ministre responsable.

- Revoir notre stratégie en matière de litiges. Cela devrait comprendre la prise rapide de décisions quant à la conclusion des appels ou aux prises de position qui ne cadrent pas avec nos engagements, avec la *Charte* ou avec nos valeurs.
- Réviser les changements apportés depuis dix ans à notre système de justice pénale ainsi que les réformes de la détermination des peines apportées au cours de la dernière décennie, avec le mandat d'évaluer ces changements et de veiller à ce que nous accroissions la sécurité de nos collectivités, que nous utilisions au mieux l'argent des contribuables, que nous comblions les lacunes et que nous nous assurions que les dispositions actuelles cadrent avec les objectifs du système de justice pénale. Ce processus devrait notamment permettre d'accroître le recours à la justice réparatrice et à d'autres initiatives visant la réduction du taux d'incarcération chez les Autochtones du Canada. De ce processus devrait par ailleurs découler la mise en œuvre des recommandations formulées à l'issue de l'enquête sur la mort d'Ashley Smith quant à la restriction du recours à l'isolement cellulaire et quant au traitement des personnes souffrant de problèmes de santé mentale.
- Collaborer avec le ministre de la Sécurité publique et de la Protection civile ainsi qu'avec la ministre des Affaires autochtones et du Nord afin de combler les lacunes associées aux services offerts aux Autochtones et aux personnes souffrant de problèmes de santé mentale qui naviguent dans le système de justice pénale.
- Travailler avec le ministre de la Sécurité publique et de la Protection civile ainsi qu'avec la ministre de la Santé pour créer un processus fédéral-provincial-territorial qui mènera à la légalisation et à la réglementation de la marijuana.
- Déployer des efforts de modernisation afin d'accroître l'efficacité du système de justice pénale en collaboration avec les provinces et les territoires. Cela devrait comprendre le recours accru aux technologies de l'information de manière à augmenter l'efficacité et la rapidité du système, l'exploration de solutions de rechange aux peines traditionnelles et de la réforme du cautionnement, ainsi que la mise sur pied d'un tribunal unifié de la famille.
- Appuyer la ministre du Patrimoine canadien dans le rétablissement d'un programme modernisé de contestation judiciaire.
- Travailler avec le ministre des Finances et la ministre du Revenu national afin d'élaborer un cadre législatif et réglementaire modernisé pour régir le secteur des organismes de bienfaisance et celui des organismes sans but lucratif.
- Mobiliser toutes les parties à la Chambre des communes afin de veiller à ce que le processus de nomination des juges à la Cour suprême soit transparent, inclusif et imputable envers la population canadienne. Des consultations devraient être menées auprès de tous les intervenants concernés et les personnes nommées à la Cour suprême devraient être effectivement bilingues.

Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

- Appuyer le ministre de la Sécurité publique et de la Protection civile dans ses efforts visant à abroger des éléments clés du projet de loi C-51, et à introduire une nouvelle législation qui permettra d'accroître l'imputabilité entourant la sécurité nationale et d'atteindre un meilleur équilibre entre la sécurité collective et les droits et libertés.
- Appuyer le ministre de la Sécurité publique et de la Protection civile dans ses efforts visant à abroger des éléments clés du projet de loi C-42 et à donner suite à notre engagement à réduire le nombre d'armes de poing et d'armes d'assaut qui circulent dans nos rues.
- Donner suite à nos engagements électoraux entourant le raffermissement des lois criminelles et des conditions de mise en liberté dans les cas de violence familiale, en consultation avec les intervenants et dans l'objectif de veiller à la sécurité des personnes survivantes et des enfants. Ce travail devrait être amorcé en consultation avec la ministre de la Condition féminine et le ministre de la Sécurité publique et de la Protection civile.
- Travailler avec le président du Conseil du Trésor afin d'accroître l'ouverture du gouvernement, notamment en prêtant votre concours au président du Conseil du Trésor dans le cadre la révision de la *Loi sur l'accès à l'information* de manière à ce que les Canadiens et les Canadiennes puissent accéder plus facilement à leurs renseignements personnels, à ce que la commissaire à l'information soit autorisée à ordonner la divulgation des renseignements du gouvernement et à ce que la *Loi* s'applique de manière adéquate au Cabinet du Premier ministre, aux cabinets des ministres ainsi qu'aux organismes administratifs qui sont au service du Parlement et des tribunaux.
- Mettre en œuvre des dispositions législatives gouvernementales pour ajouter l'identité de genre au nombre des motifs de distinction illicites en vertu de la *Loi canadienne sur les droits de la personne*, ainsi que pour intégrer cet élément à la liste des traits distinctifs des « groupes identifiables » protégés en vertu des dispositions du *Code criminel* portant sur la propagande haineuse.

Ces priorités sont largement tirées des engagements pris dans notre plateforme électorale. Le programme du gouvernement sera étoffé lors des discussions du Cabinet et dans le discours du Trône qui sera prononcé lorsque les travaux reprendront à la Chambre des communes.

Je m'attends à ce que vous travailliez en étroite collaboration avec votre sous-ministre et ses cadres supérieurs, pour vous assurer que les travaux en cours dans votre ministère soient effectués de manière professionnelle et que les décisions soient prises dans l'intérêt du public. Votre sous-ministre vous parlera des enjeux sur lesquels travaille actuellement votre ministère et qui pourraient dans certains cas nécessiter une prise de décision rapide. Je m'attends à ce que vous vous appliquiez et que vous mettiez nos valeurs et nos principes en pratique dans la prise de décisions, de manière à ce que les problèmes auxquels fait face



Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

vos ministères actuellement soient réglés en temps opportun et de manière responsable, en suivant l'orientation globale de notre plateforme.

En tant que gouvernement, notre capacité à mettre en œuvre notre plateforme de manière efficace dépend de notre capacité à examiner attentivement les conseils professionnels et non partisans des fonctionnaires. Chaque fois qu'un employé du gouvernement se présente au travail, il le fait au service du Canada, dans le but commun d'améliorer notre pays et la vie de tous les Canadiens et les Canadiennes. Je m'attends à ce que vous établissiez une relation de travail basée sur la collaboration avec votre sous-ministre, dont le rôle, tout comme celui des fonctionnaires sous sa direction, est de vous appuyer dans la réalisation de vos responsabilités ministérielles.

Au cours des prochaines semaines, le Bureau du Conseil privé (BCP) communiquera avec vous afin d'organiser une rencontre avec ses représentants, votre sous-ministre et le Cabinet du Premier ministre pour discuter de vos plans, de vos engagements et de vos priorités.

Nous voulons être un gouvernement transparent, honnête et redevable envers les Canadiens et les Canadiennes; un gouvernement qui respecte les normes d'éthique les plus rigoureuses, qui porte une attention soutenue à la gestion des fonds publics et observe la plus grande prudence dans ce domaine. Je m'attends à ce que vous incarniez ces valeurs dans votre travail et que vous ayez une conduite éthique irréprochable dans tout ce que vous faites. Dans vos échanges avec vos collègues du Cabinet, le Parlement, les partenaires ou le public, il est important que votre comportement et vos décisions soient à l'image des attentes bien fondées que les Canadiens et les Canadiennes ont vis-à-vis de notre gouvernement. Je veux que les Canadiens et les Canadiennes regardent leur gouvernement avec fierté et confiance.

À titre de ministre, vous devez vous assurer que vous connaissez bien la *Loi sur les conflits d'intérêt* et les politiques et lignes directrices du Conseil du Trésor, et que vous les respectez à la lettre. Nous vous remettons un exemplaire du document intitulé *Pour un gouvernement ouvert et responsable* qui vous aidera à bien assumer vos responsabilités. Je vous demande de le lire attentivement et de vous assurer que les membres de votre personnel en prennent connaissance également.

De plus, j'attire votre attention sur le code d'éthique qui figure à l'annexe A de ce document. Ce code d'éthique s'applique à vous et à vos employés. Tel qu'indiqué dans le code, vous devez observer les normes les plus élevées en matière d'honnêteté et d'impartialité, et l'accomplissement de vos tâches dans le cadre de vos fonctions officielles de même que l'organisation de vos affaires privées devraient pouvoir faire l'objet d'un



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Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

examen scrupuleux du public. On ne s'acquitte pas de cette obligation simplement en se contentant de respecter la loi. Veuillez également examiner les passages du document *Pour un gouvernement ouvert et responsable* que nous avons ajoutés ou renforcés pour notre mandat, incluant les conseils sur l'utilisation non partisane des ressources des ministères en matière de communications et le nouveau code de conduite des employés exonérés.

Je sais que je peux compter sur vous pour exercer ces importantes responsabilités. En retour, sachez que vous pouvez compter sur moi pour vous appuyer quotidiennement dans votre rôle à titre de ministre.

Je suis très heureux de travailler avec vous à bâtir le pays encore meilleur auquel nous aspirons. Ensemble, nous travaillerons avec acharnement pour honorer la confiance que nous témoignent les Canadiens et les Canadiennes.

Veuillez agréer, Madame la ministre, l'expression de mes sentiments distingués.

Le très hon. Justin Trudeau, c.p., député
Premier ministre du Canada

*Cette lettre de mandat a été signée par le Premier ministre dans la première langue officielle de la Ministre.

- See more at: <http://pm.gc.ca/fra/lettre-de-mandat-du-ministre-de-la-justice-et-procureure-generale-du-canada#sthash.aJY4iLSg.dpuf>

Les «travaux» du cabinet Trudeau dévoilés

Paul Gaboury, Le Droit, le 14 novembre 2015

Le premier ministre Justin Trudeau n'a pas mis de temps à réaliser une de ses promesses en divulguant, vendredi, les lettres de mandat des 30 ministres formant son cabinet.

Les lettres reprennent essentiellement les engagements de la plate-forme électorale du Parti libéral. Certaines sont précises, d'autres moins, peut-on constater à la lecture des documents mis en ligne sur Internet vendredi.

Le président du Conseil du Trésor, Scott Brison, a eu le mandat de «négocier de bonne foi avec les syndicats de la fonction publique du Canada».

Il devra aussi «prendre des mesures pour faire de la fonction publique un milieu de travail où le harcèlement et la violence sexuelle n'ont pas leur place». Il veillera enfin à ce que «tous les services fédéraux soient offerts en parfaite conformité avec la Loi sur les langues officielles».

Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

C'est la ministre des Services publics et Approvisionnements (anciennement Travaux publics et Services gouvernementaux), Judy Foote, qui s'occupera du dossier de Postes Canada. Sa lettre de mandat stipule qu'elle devra «effectuer un examen de la Société canadienne des postes pour veiller à ce qu'elle offre le service de grande qualité auquel s'attendent les Canadiens, et ce, à un prix raisonnable», sans indiquer avec plus de détails le sort qui sera réservé au service de courrier à domicile.

Longue liste pour McKenna

Pour sa part, la ministre de l'Environnement et des Changements climatiques, Catherine McKenna, en aura plein les bras dans son nouveau rôle.

Après la Conférence de Paris, elle devra «passer immédiatement en revue» les processus canadiens d'évaluation environnementale et veillera «à ce que les décisions se fondent sur la science, les faits et les preuves, et servent l'intérêt du public».

Elle devra aussi fournir aux Canadiens des moyens pour exprimer leurs points de vue, et aux experts «la possibilité d'y contribuer réellement». Elle travaillera à élargir le réseau de parcs nationaux du Canada, et les programmes et les services de Parcs Canada.

Dans la lettre de la ministre du Patrimoine canadien, Mélanie Joly, on évoque les célébrations du 150^e anniversaire, dont elle devra «revoir les plans actuels prévus pour appuyer les efforts pangouvernementaux pour promouvoir cette importante célébration».

Le mandat de la ministre Joly

Par ailleurs, la ministre Joly a eu le mandat d'élaborer un nouveau plan pluriannuel en matière de langues officielles. Sa lettre précise aussi, à l'instar du ministre Brison, qu'elle devra s'assurer que «tous les services fédéraux soient dispensés en conformité totale avec la Loi sur les langues officielles».

Elle devra collaborer avec la ministre de la Justice pour moderniser et rétablir le Programme de contestation judiciaire. Elle devra aussi rétablir et augmenter le financement annuel de CBC/Radio-Canada, après consultation avec le radiodiffuseur et la communauté culturelle du Canada, et revoir le processus de nomination au conseil d'administration de la société.

Radio Interview: Public servants, meet your new boss

**We sit down with new Treasury Board President Scott Brison.
Robyn Bresnahan, CBC Radio – Ottawa Morning, November 10 2015**



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Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

Listen at <http://www.cbc.ca/player/AudioMobile/Ottawa%2BMorning/ID/2678598183/>

Scott Brison says government's brand is Canada, not Trudeau

Kathryn May, Ottawa Citizen, November 12 2015

The Government of Canada is back.

Canada's public servants will no longer have to "brand" all government communications by using the prime minister's name, said Treasury Board President Scott Brison.

Brison said all government communications will return to the traditional use of "Government of Canada," and won't refer to the "Trudeau government" as the Conservatives branded departmental new releases and backgrounders with the "Harper government."

"We are committed to this being the government of Canada," said Brison in an interview. "We are not going from one leader's brand to the next leader's brand in terms of naming of our government. We are the government of Canada and it should always have been the government of Canada."

Treasury Board is responsible for making and enforcing the rules, including the government's communications policy and Federal Identity Program.

Many public servants bristled at the previous Conservative government's various directives on government communication. At first, they were instructed to use "Canada's New Government" instead of Government of Canada to distinguish it from the previous Liberal regime. That was later changed to "Harper government" on all press releases and backgrounders.

The name change provoked an outcry from various public management experts who felt it opened the door to politicizing the public service. They argued that branding the government with the leader of the governing political party was partisan and wrongly used the public service communications machine to promote the party and its leader.

This new communications style and approach is all part of Brison's marching orders from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to create a "culture of respect for and within the public service." By restoring respect and "civility" to labour relations, he is hopeful the stage is set for a new "golden age" for the public service.

Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

But first Brison said he has to repair the damage of the Conservative government.

He said the Tories “took potshots” at public servants, refused evidence-based decision-making, attacked their science, muzzled scientists, punished them for giving fearless advice and “pitted Canadians against the public service for partisan gain.”

“Basically they (the Tories) checked off every box of how not to manage the public service in a way that’s in the interest of Canadians, and we are changing the approach in tone and in substance,” said Brison.

“We will not get to the future of building a golden age for the public service if we don’t take action on these issues and we are seized with this.”

The Liberals have already reinstated the mandatory long-form census and unmuzzled scientists.

Change-weary public servants have heard such promises before, but after a decade under the Conservatives who didn’t want their advice, optimism is running high that they will be part of the policy and decision-making process again.

He said the government will give public servants the “respect they deserve” so they can give “fearless advice, make responsible decisions and take intelligent risks.”

But Brison said there is a very practical reason to rely on the public service again, because the Liberals can’t deliver an ambitious activist agenda without them.

Sick leave and collective bargaining with 18 unions are big issues facing Brison. He said the government will repeal the Conservative legislation that allows the government to impose whatever sick leave deal it wants.

Earlier in the day, Brison told reporters the government inherited a “bare cupboard” from the Conservatives. This could have a significant impact on bargaining if the government needs savings to balance its books by 2019-20.

“There will be issues in collective bargaining on which we disagree but we can disagree without being disagreeable ... and disrespectful. It’s in our interests to return to a level of civility in labour relations.”

Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

OPINION: Public servants rise to the occasion: Goar

Almost overnight Ottawa's dispirited public service has become brisk, cheerful and co-operative.

Carol Goar, Toronto Star, November 13 2015

In nine days the Liberals have mobilized the public service in a way Canadians haven't seen in years.

Government employees are pulling out the stops to meet Immigration Minister John McCallum's target of bringing 25,000 [Syrian refugees](#) to Canada in 45 days; to ensure that Environment Minister Catherine McKenna arrives at the United Nations [conference on climate change](#) in 14 days well-briefed to signal a change in direction; to lay the groundwork for Ottawa's long-awaited inquiry on missing and murdered [aboriginal women](#); and to bring rookie cabinet ministers — some of whom know little about their portfolio — up to speed.

Every transition between governments is well-organized and well-executed. Senior mandarins know how to do it. They've had plenty of practice.

But they couldn't be sure the 250,000-member federal workforce — demoralized by years of job cuts, spending freezes and jibes about tax-sucking bureaucrats — would rise to the occasion. Nor could they be sure government employees, whose policy advice hadn't been sought in years, would be able to think on their feet.

Canada's tradition of proud, professional, non-partisan public service had been sorely tested in the last decade. Stephen Harper and his colleagues didn't want informed counsel; they wanted loyal spear-carriers to implement their policies regardless of the drawbacks. They didn't want policy-makers; they wanted red-tape cutters, downsizers and cheerleaders.

Those who could move found jobs in the private sector or the provincial bureaucracy. Those who remained grew sullen, resentful and scared.

On his final day as prime minister, Harper released a [farewell letter](#) to Canada's "first-class public service" thanking its members for working closely with his team to improve the "prosperity, security and well-being of Canadians."

The response from Ottawa's two big federal public sector unions amounted to bitter laughter.

"It is unfortunate that the Conservative government was not able to recognize the important contribution of public service workers during their mandate," said Robyn Benson, president of the [Public Service Alliance](#) of Canada. "We look forward to building a positive and constructive relationship with the new Liberal government where trust and respect for public service is restored."

Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

Those sentiments were echoed by the president of the [Professional Institution](#) of the Public Service of Canada. “We are of course very glad the prime minister has at least recognized the true value of the public service,” said Daviau. It’s unfortunate it took this long.”

Given all that — plus the fact that thousands of civil servants are locked in tense contract negotiations with the federal treasury board — it wouldn’t have been surprising if federal employees had grumbled about the heavy workload the Liberals brought with them.

But that didn’t happen. They leapt into action. They welcomed the opportunity to serve the new government.

Part of the reason is that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his ministers sent the right signals.

A month before the election, Trudeau sent an [open letter](#) to public servants, promising to respect their labour rights and treat them as partners. “If real change is to occur after Oct. 19, a valued, independent, and professional public service will be needed to implement it,” the Liberal leader said. “I believe it is time to restore trust in — and respect for — our public servants.”

On election night, Environment Minister [Catherine McKenna](#) who on the riding of Ottawa Centre, said her party welcomed “frank and fearless advice.”

After being sworn in, Economic Development Minister [Navdeep Bains](#) reinstated Canada’s mandatory census. “We need good reliable data,” he said, affirming the value of Statistics Canada.

International Trade Minister [Chrystia Freeland](#) said her first priority was to huddle with her departmental team to get up to speed on the issues she will face, particularly the massive Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact.

Science Minister [Kirsty Duncan](#) told federal scientists they were free to discuss their work with journalists, the public and their international peers.

But one side can’t mend a broken relationship. Public servants responded with cheerful alacrity.

That is not to say the way ahead will be easy. Reaching a contract settlement with unions determined to protect their members’ [sick leave](#) and pension benefits will be a challenge. So will shifting public employees from departments beefed up by the Tories to ministries aligned with Liberal priorities.

For the moment, however, the Liberals have hit the ground running and public servants have a spring in their step.

Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

Liberals will need to manage great expectations for bargaining

Kathryn May, Ottawa Citizen, November 9 2015

The latest round of collective bargaining for Canada's public service is on hold until January as the new Liberal government reviews the entire mandate for the controversial negotiations before going back to the table.

Treasury Board President Scott Brison was barely sworn-in when he called the three union leaders who make up the executive of the National Joint Council to assure them he wanted to restore respect in the public service and labour peace.

He called Robyn Benson, president of the giant Public Service Alliance of Canada, Debi Daviau, who was re-elected last weekend as president of the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, and Ron Cochrane, the NJC's co-chair. He plans to eventually meet with all the 18 unions.

Brison has already made it clear that he intends to have a very different approach in managing the public service than his predecessor Tony Clement, who suggested that public servants abused their sick leave. Brison promises a "culture of respect."

"Over the past two years, Tony Clement couldn't be bothered to pick up the phone and discuss issues with me. But... I got a call from Scott Brison the day after he was appointed. I look forward to working with him in the future," said Daviau.

Benson said Brison "set a positive tone" so far and she looks forward to working with him "on a new era of open communications within the public service."

But it's unclear what treating public servants with "respect" means financially, especially when the Liberals are inheriting bigger deficits than expected and are facing a worsening economy.

A new economic update by the Parliamentary Budget Officer suggests the Liberals could face a hard time living up to its election fiscal plan to balance the books in 2019-20.

The public service's \$45-billion-a-year wage bill is the single largest operating cost in government and was a key piece of the Conservatives' restraint strategy. The government froze operating budgets, whacked severance pay, health benefits and pensions, and targeted sick leave for savings.

Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

About one-third of the \$15 billion of the savings the Conservatives had booked for 2015-16 is coming from public service compensation – \$3 billion in ongoing savings by forcing departments to eat any wage increases; \$1 billion making public servants and retirees pay a bigger share of their health benefits, and \$900 million by abolishing unused sick leave.

Brison is left with a difficult challenge.

The NJC's Ron Cochrane said the Liberals' promise to negotiate a sick leave deal, bargain in "good faith" and "finalize financial plans upon completion of negotiations, not at the beginning" created high expectations that will have to be managed.

"There have been so many promises made and expectations created ... that if this new relationship is going to work, we all have to manage expectations. These guys aren't magicians," said Cochrane.

The Liberals' fiscal plan, however, is banking on the \$900 million the Conservatives booked in savings for 2015-16 by eliminating sick-leave banks. If the Liberals don't proceed with these reforms, the savings will have to be rolled back and added to the deficits the new government plans to run.

The Conservatives also projected their sick leave reforms would save \$200 million next year and the year after, and \$100 million in each of the following two years. The Liberal fiscal plan currently includes these sick-leave savings.

Treasury Board will also have to find money for any wage settlements negotiated in bargaining. The Conservatives imposed five years of freezes on operating budgets, which meant departments swallowed any wage increases and inflation costs.

Treasury Board typically funds departments to compensate for the extra costs of any wage settlements but that stopped when the freeze was imposed.

When the latest freeze is lifted, Treasury Board will be on the hook for all wage increases starting in 2016-17. Most of the contracts expired in 2014 and any settlements will be retroactive till then.

Unions have typically settled on raises worth at least the cost of living, which was running about 1.2 per cent in 2015. Every one per cent increase in wages would cost about \$450 million a year.

Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

The current round of bargaining had barely addressed wage proposals by time they were postponed. The Conservatives tabled an opening proposal that would give employees a 0.5-per-cent-a-year raise for each of the next three years.

Liberals Are Starting to Dismantle the Conservatives' Legal Legacy in Canada

Lauren Heuser, Vice News, November 9 2015

Justin Trudeau rode to power in Canada on a promise of change — and there are already signs his Liberal government intends to dismantle aspects of the legal legacy of his Conservative predecessor.

Under Stephen Harper, refugee benefits were slashed, voting rights were curtailed, and new tough-on-crime legislation sailed through the House of Commons.

Just this weekend, newly sworn-in Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould said in a televised interview that her ministry will review the use of mandatory minimum sentences brought in under the Conservatives. She noted her desire to look more broadly at the criminal justice system in terms of rehabilitation, "not just simply being tough on crime."

Prior to Wilson-Raybould's appointment, the Justice department had requested an indefinite adjournment of legal actions challenging controversial Conservative legislation that made it possible for the government to strip the citizenship of foreign-born convicted terrorists. The department noted that it was seeking direction from Trudeau, who has promised to scrap the law, Maclean's magazine [reported](#).

And before that, a court adjourned a case challenging a different lightning-rod policy — the Tories' 2012 decision to scale back healthcare benefits for failed refugee claimants and refugees from countries that the government deems to be safe. The previous government maintained basic care, but eliminated supplementary benefits such as dental and vision coverage. Those cuts are unconstitutional, according to a court ruling last year that found them to be discriminatory and to constitute "cruel and unusual punishment".

Ottawa's appeal of that decision was scheduled just after the October 19 election, but federal lawyers obtained a deferral and a new date for the hearing has not been set.

Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

Janet Dench, executive director of the Canadian Council for Refugees, expects the new government to drop the appeal, since the Liberals have committed to restoring healthcare benefits for refugees. Indeed, the new immigration minister, John McCallum, went on television and [the radio](#) this weekend to say that the decision to fully restore healthcare to refugee claimants was a "no brainer" and promised swift action on the file.

Dench is also hopeful that the Liberals will dismantle "the huge number of changes" made in the refugee area in the past five years. But the council is "aware that it's not something that can be undone in a short period of time, even if the will is there."

The Tories were also criticized in liberal circles for their tough-on-crime agenda. Between 2005 and 2015, the federal prison population increased by 14 percent, even though crime rates have declined each year for the previous 11 years, says a Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives report.

Some of the 60-odd pieces of criminal legislation brought in by the Conservatives since 2006 were struck down by the courts during their tenure. And others may see the same fate.

The Supreme Court of Canada, for example, is already scheduled to hear a challenge to a law that removes judges' ability to grant convicted individuals extra credit for time spent in custody. And in January, the court will hear a challenge to a law which imposes mandatory minimum sentences for individuals who have a prior record for drug offenses, and who are convicted of trafficking in a number of listed drugs, including cocaine, meth or marijuana.

But if the Liberals are to make broader changes in the justice area, they can't rely only on the courts.

The Tories did not just implement mandatory and harsher sentences, observes Christine Latimer, executive director of the John Howard Society of Canada, a prison reform advocacy organization. It also introduced a "slew of legislative amendments and policy changes that made prisons more punitive and moved away from correctional objectives."

The criminal system is "now dysfunctional," she says, due to factors such as overcrowding, a failure to meet the health needs of prisoners, and a lack of rehabilitative efforts. Her group believes that comprehensive prison reform will be required to ensure that rights are respected and that prisoners are afforded opportunities to transform their behavior and safely reintegrate into the community.

In a Sunday interview with CTV News, Wilson-Raybould, the justice minister, did not specify how the Liberals might change the mandatory minimum legislation.

Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

"I recognize the need to empower judges and to uphold the discretion that judges have in particular circumstances, and (will be) looking more fundamentally or broadly at the criminal justice system in terms of restorative justice and rehabilitation," she said. "Not just simply being tough on crime."

The Liberals haven't always been on the opposing side of Conservative legislation, though. They backed Bill C-51, the controversial anti-terrorism law that many saw as infringing on civil liberties. During the election campaign, they promised to amend it, if elected, but didn't provide details on how, exactly.

Tom Henheffer, executive director of Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, one of the parties challenging the new law, says his organization is "attempting to enter talks" with the new government about repealing the act or amending specific provisions of it. Henheffer said that if the party doesn't seem prepared to carry through on its promise, the court challenge provides them with "grounds to fight this battle."

Right-To-Die Law: Provinces Prepare For Possible Extension On Federal Response

Kristy Kirkup, The Canadian Press, November 11 2015

Ontario and British Columbia appear prepared for the federal government to request more time to respond to the Supreme Court of Canada's landmark decision on doctor-assisted death.

The new Liberal government has not said it will need an extension to address the court's ruling but Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould has publicly acknowledged this is a possibility.

B.C. Health Minister Terry Lake says his province would be open to working with the federal Liberals over an extended period to ensure they give the matter the thought it deserves.

"I think that it is a very short time frame without an extension," Lake said in an interview. "It is the federal government's decision to make, but I think certainly ... a framework needs to be worked out with a lot of thoughtfulness, so I think the more time to be able to do that, the better.

"We would certainly be amenable to working with the federal government over a longer time period."



Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

Last February, the Supreme Court recognized the right of clearly consenting adults who endure intolerable physical or mental suffering to end their lives with a physician's help.

It also gave Parliament a year to craft a set of laws to govern assisted suicide, though former justice minister Peter MacKay indicated in June the government — Conservative or otherwise — would likely need more time.

Ontario Health Minister Eric Hoskins said his province would understand if the federal government seeks an extension.

"I think that, given the electoral process and the change in government as well, I think that Ontario would be very understanding if the federal government were to ask for an extension," Hoskins said. "It's really up to them to be sure that they can implement any changes required prior to the deadline."

Ontario is leading a provincial and territorial advisory group on the future of physician-assisted death in Canada.

"They're going to be reporting shortly," Hoskins said. "That's important and helpful information to the feds, but it speaks to the need for ... especially on this issue, close collaboration.

"If the federal government asks for an extension and are granted that extension, obviously we will work within those parameters."

Discussions are also underway at the federal level.

A three-member panel appointed by the previous government has conducted research tours in Europe and Portland, Ore.

The panel is lead by psychiatry professor Harvey Max Chochinov, the Canada research chair in palliative care at the University of Manitoba.

Chochinov's co-panellists are University of Ottawa law professor Benoit Pelletier, a former Quebec cabinet minister and a constitutional expert, and Catherine Frazee, former co-director of Ryerson University's institute for disability research and education.

Both Chochinov and Frazee argued against doctor-assisted dying before the Supreme Court, but the chairman maintains the panel is committed to carrying out its mandate in a careful and independent fashion.

Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

The group will eventually present its findings to the ministers of justice and health, although the election delayed the release of its work.

Two advocacy groups — Dying with Dignity Canada and the B.C. Civil Liberties Association — say the panel should be disbanded.

Justin Trudeau's government expected to drop niqab appeal today

Facing filing deadline, Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould promises decision
Alison Crawford, CBC News, November 12 2015

Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould is expected to formally withdraw the federal government's request for an appeal of a court decision that had a huge impact on the recent federal election campaign.

The Conservative Party decided in mid-campaign [to fight a Federal Court of Appeal decision](#) allowing women to wear face veils such as the niqab at citizenship ceremonies.

It sought leave to appeal at the Supreme Court of Canada. The Conservative Party's former leader Stephen Harper also said his government would consider banning public servants from wearing face veils at work.

Former citizenship and immigration minister Chris Alexander filed the notice of application for leave to appeal on September 21, 2015.

The federal government has, under the Supreme Court Act, 60 days from the day of the judgment to file all supporting materials. That's tomorrow.

Speaking to reporters Thursday, Wilson-Raybould said it's on her radar: "I will update in the next day or two."

Case became election wedge issue

Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

Few believed the Supreme Court would agree to hear the case as the Federal Court of Appeal was unanimous in upholding the earlier Federal Court Justice Keith Boswell's ruling that declared the niqab ban unlawful.

The case started with a lawsuit from Zunera Ishaq, a devout Muslim who moved to Ontario from Pakistan in 2008 to join her husband. Ishaq agreed to remove her niqab for an official before writing and passing her citizenship test two years ago, but she objected to unveiling in public at the oath-taking ceremony.

In his ruling, Boswell said the government policy, introduced in 2011, violates the Citizenship Act, which states citizenship judges must allow the greatest possible religious freedom when administering the oath. Boswell asked how that would be possible, "if the policy requires candidates to violate or renounce a basic tenet of their religion."

The niqab issue became a huge issue in the election campaign as the Conservatives used it as a wedge issue that didn't help them outside of Quebec. In Quebec, the issue is widely seen to have harmed New Democrats after Leader Tom Mulcair made it clear that he supported the courts' decisions to allow women to wear the niqab at citizenship ceremonies.

As for Ishaq, she is now a Canadian citizen.

Justin Trudeau Meets Privately With 'Very Tough' Canadian Labour Congress

Althia Raj, Huffington Post, November 11 2015

Marking what both hope is a new turn in Ottawa's relationship with organized labour, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Canadian Labour Congress met on Tuesday — the first time in more than 50 years a sitting prime minister had spoken to the union group's leaders.

The meeting, held six days after Trudeau was sworn in as Canada's 23rd prime minister, took place behind closed doors at the request of his office. CLC president Hassan Yussuff explained that some of his colleagues "can be very tough at times."

The event was private so that a "full and frank discussion" could be had, Trudeau spokeswoman Kate Purchase said. Reporters were asked to leave and escorted out. Purchase said that over the course of his mandate, Trudeau would meet with a variety of stakeholders and that "not all" would be open to media.

Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

The CLC, which counts 3.3 million members, is closely tied with the New Democrats. During the election, CLC economist Angella MacEwen served as an external evaluator for the fiscal costing of the party's campaign promises. Thousands of union members volunteered on NDP candidates' campaigns.

"There is no question that a lot of our members and some in the leadership support the NDP ... that's the reality of who we are," Yussuff told The Huffington Post Canada. "But equally so, elections come and go, and the broader question is now that the election is over, how do we work with this government and have a respectful relationship?"

One reason no prime minister had addressed the group in decades, Yussuff suggested, was that few, if any, had been invited. Progressive Conservative John Diefenbaker was the last prime minister to address the CLC's convention — in 1958.

After 10 years of "complete hostility" from Stephen Harper's Conservative government, Yussuff said he was determined to establish a more constructive relationship with Trudeau.

He told the prime minister that while many of the approximately 100 CLC leaders in the room at the Shaw Centre hadn't voted for him, many hadn't voted for Yussuff either. "So don't feel bad," the CLC president told Trudeau. "He had a laugh."

During the 40-minute chat, Yussuff said union leaders peppered the prime minister with questions about the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement (TPP) and veterans issues. They also reiterated their desire to see an inquiry called into the country's indigenous women and girls who have vanished or been killed.

Repeated TPP promise

Many union members are concerned about the TPP's potential effect on the Canadian auto sector, intellectual property rules that could stifle domestic firms' growth and the price of pharmaceuticals.

Over the weekend, BlackBerry co-founder Jim Balsillie warned that signing the TPP could cost the Canadian economy billions of dollars.

"I think [our trade negotiators have profoundly failed Canadians](#) and our future innovators. I really lament it," he told The Canadian Press.

Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

Trudeau did not make any commitment to renegotiate the deal, but he repeated a promise to give the TPP a full debate in Parliament, a study in committee, and a vote in the House of Commons, Yussuff said.

During the election campaign, the Liberals said there would [not be a free vote on the trade deal](#) — so if Trudeau’s cabinet decides the TPP is on the whole advantageous for Canada, its passage is essentially assured.

Trudeau was also asked whether his government would follow Quebec’s example and provide Bombardier with \$1-billion (U.S.) in funding to help the company get its troubled C Series jets off the ground.

According to remarks released by the Prime Minister’s Office, Trudeau said the federal government would make a decision based on the “best interest of Canadians, writ large.”

“[There has to be a strong business case](#),” Trudeau told the group, adding pure “emotion, or politics, or symbols” would not guide the outcome.

Unifor, which represents 4,721 Bombardier employees, has been making the case that Ottawa needs to support the Quebec company’s effort to enter the commercial jet market in order [to save local jobs](#).

Finance Minister Bill Morneau told reporters Tuesday afternoon that the cabinet has not yet discussed investing in Bombardier’s C Series. He was unable to give a timeline for a potential decision.

Yussuff said he was encouraged by the meeting with Trudeau.

“Everybody who left the room was delighted that he came, and there was a strong sense that he was sincere in the things that he was talking about.”

Harper never met with Yussuff, who was elected in May 2014. “I think the [former] prime minister was more interested in how much more damage he could do to the labour movement, or how much he could do to ensure the labour movement wouldn’t exist in this country,” Yussuff told HuffPost about his relationship with the Tories. “It was absolute hostility.”

“It’s early days. Strong commitments are made, and time will tell,” he said about CLC’s new relationship with Trudeau’s government. There are several challenging issues on the horizon, not the least of which is collective bargaining with the public sector, he added.

Press Clippings for the period of November 10th to 16th 2015 / Revue de presse pour la période du 10 au 16 novembre, 2015

“People are waiting to see how they are going to deal with those issues.”

For now, both groups are supporting each other. Trudeau reiterated his [election promise to repeal anti-labour laws](#), bills known as C-377, which places onerous financial reporting requirements on unions, and C-525, which makes it harder to form a union and easier to decertify one.

And the CLC pledged that its members would help with the resettling of 25,000 Syrian refugee before year’s end — another Liberal campaign promise. The CLC donated \$200,000 to the Canadian Council for Refugees on Tuesday to help with refugee settlement.