



VIBRANT, RESILIENT, SHARE-ABLE... RED?

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Our newly elected NDP government puts forth a radical agenda

By: Travis Rhee
Reporter

During the French Revolution, socialists adopted a red flag to signify their struggle against the ruling class. Originally used in the Middle Ages, a red flag signalled a fight to the death. Red, being the colour of blood, symbolized that blood will be spilt and surrendering was not an option. Widely used in communism, it embodies a sense of left-wing policies and revolution.

The colour orange, on the other hand, located on the red spectrum, is used by the Canadian New Democrats to represent their party. It will be interesting as well as concerning, to hear what the newly chosen NDP government will bring to the table. Earlier this month, the NDP faced a close competition against the Liberal Party as well as the Bloc Québécois – both whom associate themselves with left wing politics – to win the most number of seats in the House of Commons.

The NDP motto – Vibrant. Resilient. Share-Able. Tangy – brings up many similarities to the rhetoric used under the red. Vibrantly, many left wing groups are known to be extremely vocal whether it is for welfare or social justice. Prime Minister Savage similarly stands out amongst the leaders with the help of his orange hair, calm demeanour, and generally relaxed attitude. Along with the support from a very vocal party, the NDP will be heard no matter what this year.

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Photo: The newly elected NDP executive government “tangin” out

THE SYRIAN CRISIS: HOW WILL QMP REACT?

QMP delegates on Canada and the civil war in Syria

By: Idrees Ali
Reporter

The Syrian civil war, which has led to over 40,000 civilian casualties and could see the number of refugees rise to over 700,000, is a pressing international crisis. Like many revolutions in the Middle East, it began as a peaceful protest against a ruler who had ruled for far too long. However, Syria followed a very different path from the ones chosen by Egypt and Tunisia.

Bashar Al-Assad, the President of Syria since 2000, took a page out of Moammar Gadhafi's book and suppressed the protests violently. From Aleppo to Hama and from Homs to Damascus, Syrian troops have bombarded pro-rebel neighborhoods with armored tanks and fighter jets. Hardly a day goes by without Syrians being woken up by the reverberations of explosions nearby and the images of the destruction caused by these explosions being transmitted throughout the world.

Previous Canadian Governments have put in place certain measures to deal with the Syrian crisis. On July 6, 2012, Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird announced that Canada would impose further sanctions

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MORE FROM MODEL PARLIAMENT

QMP provides a more powerful way to experience the parliamentary process

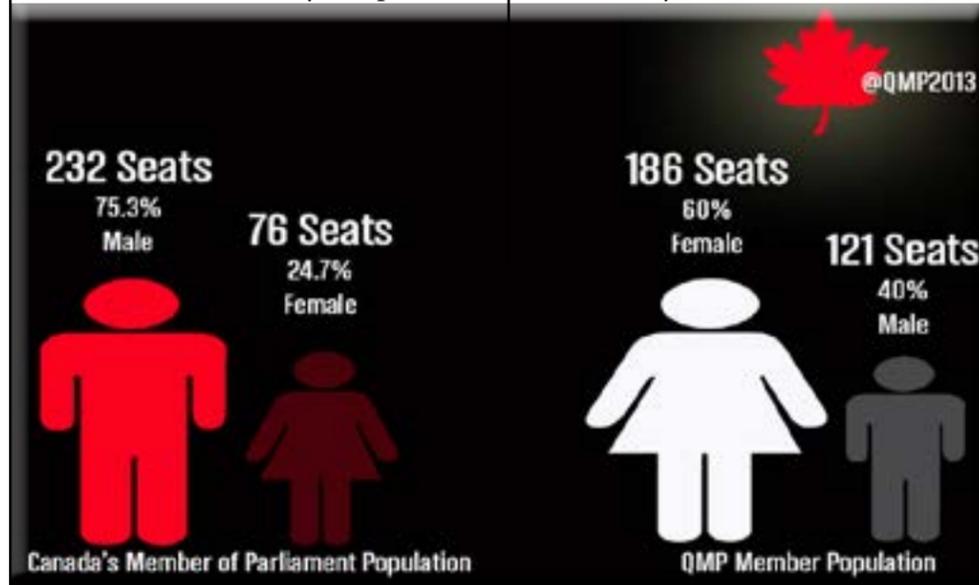
By: Diana Holloway
Reporter

QMP is always a special time, and this year's delegates are as keen as ever.

307 delegates and a small team of journalists will stay at the Chateau Laurier hotel in Ottawa from January 15-18. After months of preparation, the delegates will present and debate their bills in the House of Commons, each delegate acting as the Member of Parliament for an existing Canadian riding. All the while, the QMP Journalism Team will provide on-going coverage of these events. QMP is now in its 66th year, and is considered one of Queen's University's most prestigious annual conferences. It is open to all members of the Alma Mater Society and consistently attracts students from a wide range of undergraduate faculties. Christopher Fee, one of the co-chairs of QMP 2013, says, "I have never met more passionate people with such creative minds as those who attend QMP. Last year was my first year as a delegate and I met many new people with differing opinions and stances that broadened my political knowledge and helped to shape who I am as an individual." It is hard to imagine a more powerful way for students to experience the parliamentary process. Queen's students were the first students in Canada afforded full access to the House of Commons for such an occasion. Additionally, the

delegates have the opportunity at the conference to meet and engage with notable politicians and journalists on Parliament Hill. Scott Mason, a third-year student who will be attending QMP for the second time this year says, "QMP is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students to both see how our democratic institutions work and to make meaningful speeches to one another. I think it is the very best experience available to students at Queen's." Mason is not alone. Time and time again, delegates have described attending QMP as eye-opening and inspiring. QMP truly is a unique learning opportunity. Delegates will dress formally, act professionally, and carry out their 'work' in the actual House of Commons. Students will also be expected to engage with Canadian politicians at social functions. All of this makes the simulation feel very real. Moreover, students join political

parties – which may or may not reflect their true political affinities – and are able to explore the ideologies of those parties. Delegates will acquire an appreciation for the challenges of building party consensus, negotiating with other parties in the House and debating bills effectively. All of these skills are easily transferable into the real world. Indeed, former Prime Minister John Diefenbaker participated in QMP when he was a student at Queen's! The journalism program not only gives students a taste of the parliamentary process, but it also gives them the chance to explore politics from the perspective of a journalist. The QMP Journalism Team works together to provide print and online coverage of QMP. To help them hone their interviewing, research and writing skills, they have the privilege of attending workshops with notable Canadian journalists.



AMERICAN ELECTION RESULTS: PRIME MINISTER SAVAGE'S THOUGHTS

Though not as left-wing as he might like, PM approves Obama win

By: Emily Miller
Reporter

"The election results were certainly in our favour," Gareth Savage, leader of QMP's New Democratic Party and Prime Minister of this year's model parliament remarked on the U.S. presidential election, following last week's caucus meeting. Savage sees Obama's win as a wonderful advantage for Canada. "I think it's important for two countries that are such close allies to have similar-minded leaders who can work bilaterally," he said. While Savage admitted President Obama's platform is not nearly as left-wing as the Canadian NDP's, he argued that Obama's economic and social stances complement those of Queen's Model Parliament's NDP.

Two common goals for President Obama's second term in office and the QMP NDP are uniting citizens and pushing equal rights. President Obama accepted his re-election with a heart-felt victory speech that radiated a vision of unity for the United States. According to Savage, his NDP is currently working on two bills, both which aim to improve social welfare and equalize citizenship for all Canadians. "We're aiming not just for equal citizenship, but for equal quality of citizenship for all," said Savage, "We're looking to provide the quality of unity that Canadians deserve."

Equality for delegates is also a major concern for the conference's newly elected Prime Minister. He said, "I want everyone to play an equal part and for everyone's ideas to not only be tolerated but embraced."

While deciding on what his party's third bill will be, Savage, true to his philosophy, will leave the fate of the issue to a majority vote



Photo: President Obama and Prime Minister Savage

within his party. "We want everyone to play an equal part, and everything to be a democratic process," he said. Although the hype surrounding American presidential politics may be exponentially greater than that surrounding QMP – after all, Obama's victory tweet was the most re-tweeted item of all time, Savage nevertheless hopes to inject the House of Commons with plenty of charisma this January. "I think the delegates have done a great job electing me as their Prime Minister," he laughed, "by addressing substantive content in a way that delegates relate to, we'll be able to have a fun, lighthearted experience in Ottawa."

QMP TALKING HEADS

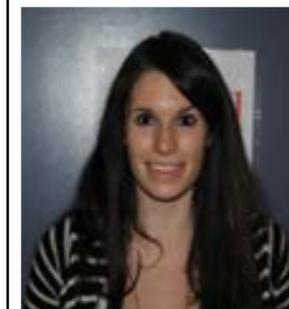
Why did you pick this Party?



"I WAS INITIALLY ASSIGNED TO THIS PARTY AND STAYED WITH IT"
Conservatives:
John Cullen-
1st time delegate



"FELL IN LOVE WITH IRFAN'S CHARMS DURING HIS FIRST QMP YEAR"
Bloc:
Rico Garcia-
4th time delegate



"BROWNIE POINTS IF JUSTIN TRUDEAU IS A GUEST SPEAKER"
Liberals:
Reagan Patrick-
2nd time delegate



"I BELIEVE IN THE IDEA OF CENTRALIZING GOVERNMENT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE"
NDP:
William Simmonds-
2nd time delegate



"THE PARTY'S INITIATIVES ARE BOLD AND THE PARTY LEADER IS PASSIONATE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT"
Green:
Alexandra Wilkes-
4th time delegate

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Resilience brings back the original idea of never giving up associated with the red flag. It seems the NDP party will put up a tough fight against any opposition and will refuse to back down. Savage has said he will use “social democracy” to put his policies in place. The NDP is discussing of dyeing the North orange, which will most likely bring disdain from the militant leader of the Green Party, Stuart Clark.

Share-able. The association with communist policies is quite clear. Communists like sharing. Will

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against Syria under the Special Economic Measures Act. Shortly after, Syrian diplomats were expelled from the country. However, the situation in Syria is worsening by the day. The threat of biological and chemical weapons by Al-Assad has grown and civilian casualties are mounting as refugees continue to pour into neighboring countries. Canada must respond to the changing situation.

QMP's Bloc Québécois House Leader Digvijay Mehra commented that his party would follow the position of the French Government. He stated that the Bloc was ready and willing to work with the French Government in bringing an end to the crisis. Mehra was also under the impression that France would notify and work with the Bloc before taking any decision regarding the Syrian crisis.

The QMP Liberal Party had yet to come up with a policy on the Syrian crisis. They did however allude to the fact that they would work with Canada's allies and be willing to support a multilateral operation in Syria.

The Canadian Government was a strong proponent of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and in the past has been a model for international responsibility. The Turkish Prime Minister referred to the international community's role in Syria

personal freedom in Canada be jeopardized under this NDP government's reign? With talks of a strong debate on environmental issues, talks about creating ties with Florida and making “Movember” an official holiday, one must wonder if the NDP will enforce a mandatory uniform for citizens, complete with tie-die shirts, ripped jeans, headbands and peace symbol necklaces.

Finally, Tangy is a distinctive quality that adds piquancy, implying that the NDP brings a sharp contrast to the world of politics in North America. The orange is a more liberal fruit than the apple, which is associated with apple pie and our neighbours to the south. This is a clearly metaphor for opposing capitalism, which suggests that the NDP is looking to bring a communist agenda to Parliament.



by saying that, “The world cannot be left to what the five permanent members have to say. If we leave it to the five permanent members, humanity will continue to bleed.” This is Canada's chance to be on the right side of history and promote democracy in the Middle East. Given the enormous challenges in front of them, how will the delegates and political parties of QMP react to the Syrian crisis?

The NDP, Green Party and Conservative Party were unavailable for comments.

EDITOR:

Sarah Jung

EDITOR IN CHIEF:

Caitlin Choi

LAYOUT/DESIGN:

Lorenzo Colocado

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Tuba Chishti

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