

February 2017

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THERE'S A NEW SHERRIFF IN TOWN

The Legislature's new Sergeant-at-Arms is Jaqueline Gordon. She is the province's 10th Sergeant-at-Arms and first female to hold the position. Gordon spent 34 years with the Halton Regional Police Service and retired as an Inspector. She succeeds Dennis Clark who recently retired after 19 years as Sergeant at Arms.

BATTLE OF THE SOCONS IN NIAGARA WEST

You will recall that 19 year old social conservative Sam Oosterhoff was elected as the Tory MPP for the riding of Niagara West Glanbrook in a by election in November. Oosterhoff had faced off against several more experience party insiders to win the right to carry the PC banner into the by election. One of those more experienced insiders was Niagara Regional Councillor and Ontario PC Party Vice President, Tony Quirk. After losing to the nomination fight to Oosterhoff, Quirk co-chaired Oosterhoff's by election campaign.

Now Quirk, also a social conservative, has announced that he will challenge Oosterhoff again for the nomination in the new riding of Niagara West. Rumour has it that it's gotten very personal.

FORUM POLL SHOWS TORIES AND GRITS IN DEAD HEAT IN TO

A random sampling of public opinion conducted by Forum Research and published on February 10, 2017 among 1,090 Toronto voters revealed the following:

- support amongst decided and leaning shows the PCs at 35%, the Liberals at 34%, the NDP at 22%, Green 7% and Other 2%
- 41% of respondents aged 45-54, 43% of those aged 55-64 and 40% from those over 65 supported the Tories
- Also favouring the Tories were 43% of respondents earning \$60,000 - \$80,000, 36% of those in the \$80,000 - \$100,000 earnings bracket and 42% of those earning \$100,000 - \$250,000
- 38% of respondents who had completed college or university also preferred the PCs
- Supporting the Liberals were 34% of respondents aged 18- 34, 48% of those earning less than \$20,000, 41% of those earning \$20,000 - \$40,000, 40% or respondents with a post graduate degree and 39% of transit riders.

FFPA FINED \$87,000 FOR WORKPLACE VIOLENCE AND HARRASSMENT VIOLATIONS

In October 2014, a Ministry of Labour (“MOL”) inspector attended at Oshawa City Hall where an employee of Federal Force Protection Agency (FFPA) had suffered a workplace injury. The inspector issued 10 orders – seven related to workplace violence and harassment. The inspector followed up with three phone calls to the employer as the orders became past due.

Then in March 2015 the inspector returned to the workplace to verify compliance and determined that the employer had not complied with the seven orders relating to workplace violence and harassment employer obligations.

The employer was prosecuted and on February 6, 2017 was found guilty and fined \$10,000 for each count of non-compliance plus a 25% victim surcharge totalling \$87,500. This is the first case that we’re aware of dealing with prosecution on the workplace violence and harassment provisions of OHS.

The lesson from this case is that the Ministry of Labour is taking the enforcement of workplace violence and harassment provisions seriously and is enforcing them strictly.

RECENT APPOINTMENTS

Ehren Cory was appointed CEO of the Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation for a three-year term, effective February 2, 2017. Here’s Cory’s bio as it appears on the IO website,

“Ehren Cory oversees Major Projects, Commercial Projects and Land Development. Ehren joined Infrastructure Ontario in 2012 to lead the Transaction Structuring Division, including Project Finance, Procurement, and Program Management. In this role he worked closely with all parts of the organization to support on-time, on-budget project delivery. Prior to joining IO, Ehren worked for 15 years as a management consultant. As a partner at McKinsey & Company, he was a leader in the Infrastructure and Public Sector practices, and worked closely with clients in the energy, mining and public sectors to effectively structure and execute on their capital investment programs and overall strategies. Mr. Cory holds an MBA from INSEAD and an honours BA in business administration from the University of Western Ontario.”

Former WSIB President & CEO **David Marshall** was re-appointed as the ministry of finance’s Advisor on Auto Insurance and Pensions for a one-year term, effective February 1, 2017.

The term of the Premier’s Business Adviser, Ed Clark has been extended by one year until March 31, 2018. He was originally appointed to the position on April 15, 2015.