

**THE PEP**

# **GAZETTE**

**NOVEMBER 2022**

## FOREWORD

I wanted to start the Gazette because I believe young political voices are valuable. I felt apathetic towards advocacy and sharing my opinion. As a student, I am taught to listen, read, and write. I felt I could only use my voice if I knew the answer or had something “good” to say. The Gazette is a resource to explore our thoughts, unease, and hopes for the future without fear of falling short. Everyone has something to add to the conversation.

This is our sixth edition of the Gazette! I would not be possible without Scott agreeing to start this with me. Thank you to everyone who has submitted work so far. **Over 30 people are reading our Gazette every month.** Thank you to our readers who listen to our voices,

*Natalie Locke, Vice President of MSVU PEPS*

## THE AVERAGE POLITICAL LEADER: ANALYZING BREAKFAST WITH JUSTIN

*Natalie Locke*

During Pierre Poilievre's leadership campaign, he released "Breakfast with Justin," in which he pretends to have a conversation with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau over breakfast in a restaurant. Poilievre's video is serious, informative, and part of his recent campaign strategy. The video expresses Poilievre's idea he, and the Conservatives, are different from the Liberal Party. Poilievre believes he is set apart as he represents the idea of the "average Canadian." The average Canadian is hard-working, negatively affected by Liberal policies, and deserve better. Poilievre is suggesting "better" through him, his party, and ideology.

The one-on-one setting mimics a welcoming environment where the Liberals listen to Conservatives. However, there is no collaboration of ideas. The conversation is one-sided. Poilievre is not interested in dialogue, or he would have had a debate with Trudeau. He is interested in governing the country and framing himself in a commanding position. Additionally, the video is indented to feel like an intimate conversation between the two private parties, specifically two leaders. Yet, viewers are in place of Trudeau, indicating watchers must "listen up" as well. For Poilievre, Canadians will suffer without the implementation of his ideas, and he wants the average Canadian to understand this.

In "Breakfast with Justin," Poilievre is trying to embody the "average Canadian." He is more dressed down than usual, wearing a button-up shirt instead of a suit jacket (Poilievre, 00:00:14). Due to the lack of modern décor, he appears to be in a local restaurant, as opposed to a chain (Poilievre, 00:00:14). Poilievre's image as a leader but also the average Canadian is represented through space and appearance. Dressing casually and eating in a low-scale restaurant could make him appear inadequate. However, as a future leader, he is "marked as respectable" in the space because of his current and future status (Smith and Thobani, 10). Eating local makes him relatable, in support of local economies. The space he has chosen to film in is deliberate.

While talking with "Justin," Poilievre pushes the narrative the average person in Canada is hardworking and therefore, does not deserve to struggle economically. In other words, everyday Canadians deserve more than a Liberal government: "The average Canadian can't dream of going on vacation... they're dreaming about affording food" (Poilievre 00:49-57). One of the purposes of "Breakfast with Justin" is to hold the Liberals responsible, such is evident through Poilievre's language. From 00:00:24-49, the future leader comments on the increased prices of coffee, bacon, milk, bread, butter, and eggs (Poilievre). His tone indicates Trudeau is unaware of these increases. How Poilievre speaks and what he says helps further the narrative Trudeau and the Liberals are out of touch. In reality, Poilievre does not understand "taking out a loan so that you can eat" (00:01:13) in these current economic circumstances because he is not currently lower class himself. Through his video, he is claiming to be different, but he is like any other politician or Liberal. This fall, the House of Commons has not been sitting long and Poilievre

already has a scandal. For years, Poilievre's videos have had the publicly hidden hashtag "MGTOW" (The Canadian Press). MGTOW stands for Men Going Their Own Way, linked to an "anti-feminist movement" (The Canadian Press). "Breakfast with Justin" has almost half a million views. Poilievre's narrative did speak to some Canadians but now his image is becoming clearer as the "average political leader."

Throughout the conversation, Poilievre is speaking between bites (00:01:26). The behaviour speaks to the casual setting but also is a way to convince the audience the future leader of the Conservative party really would have breakfast with Justin. The possibility of such an interaction is key because the next election is not upcoming soon. Conservatives must be an effective opposition to help create their ideal government. Governing requires collaboration and the setting makes it seem plausible. Nevertheless, Poilievre does not appear happy about working together. As opposition, he will hold the Liberals accountable.

Pierre Poilievre's "Breakfast with Justin" engages in the narrative that politicians, particularly the Liberals, are untrustworthy. He is representing himself as different from the rest while simultaneously defining himself as average. Poilievre attempts to solidify his character as authentically Canadian by dressing casually, speaking one-on-one, and eating and supporting locals. However, Poilievre is focused on campaign strategy, only willing to sit down with Justin to debate if he gets to direct the conversation. He resembles the Liberals by way of scandal, furthering himself from being an average Canadian.

#### Works Cited

Poilievre, Pierre, actor. "Breakfast with Justin." *YouTube*, YouTube, 21 Aug. 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAanh0rXPPY>. Accessed 21 Oct. 2022.

Smith, Malinda, and Sunera Thobani. "When Place Becomes Race." *Race, Space, and the Law: Unmapping a White Settler Society*, edited by Sherene H Razack, Between the Lines, Toronto, ON, 2004, pp. 1–17, [https://books.google.ca/books?id=FWs2TYWS8cMC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs\\_ge\\_summary\\_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.ca/books?id=FWs2TYWS8cMC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false). Accessed 1 Nov. 2022.

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## OPINION – NOLONGERSTANDING FOR THE NOTWITHSTANDING CLAUSE

*Scott Ripley*

“33 (1) Parliament or the legislature of a province may expressly declare in an Act of Parliament or of the legislature, as the case may be, that the Act or a provision thereof shall operate notwithstanding a provision included in section 2 or sections 7 to 15 of this Charter.”

Constitution Act, 1982 Part I – Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Commonly referred to as the notwithstanding clause, Section 33 of the Charter allows for the federal and provincial governments in this country to pass laws that violate ten sections of Canadians’ rights. These are our fundamental freedoms (section 2), our right to life, liberty, and security of our person (section 7), our right to be secure against unreasonable search or seizure (section 8), our right not to be arbitrarily detained or imprisoned (section 9), our rights to be informed of the reasons of arrest, to retain and instruct counsel upon arrest, and to be released from unlawful detention (section 10), our rights concerning proceedings in criminal and penal matters (section 11), our right not to be subjected to any cruel and unusual treatment or punishment (section 12), our right to not incriminate ourselves (section 13), our right to have access to an interpreter in criminal proceedings (section 14), and our right to equality before and under law and equal protection and benefit of law (section 15). This Section of the Charter is in the news this month because of its use by [Ontario Premier Doug Ford's government](#) in back-to-work legislation to make the strike actions of CUPE education workers illegal. The details of this specific use will not be the focus of this article, in fact just moments after writing that previous sentence the Ford Government has [promised to repeal that legislation](#), however it still serves as a useful jumping-off point to discuss the notwithstanding clause in general.

Laws containing the clause have been enacted six times since 1998. In the same period the clause was originally in four other bills, though it was either removed or the bill never became law. In eight of those ten instances the rights circumvented were all the rights the clause is allowed to circumvent. This is historically unusual, except for Quebec’s use of the clause as a blanket application in the first three years of its existence which is often attributed to be an act of protest against the 1982 Constitution Act. All other times it was used or proposed to be used the rights it was meant to circumvent were specific to the intent of the law. Section 15 equality rights being the most common, as it was the target in all but one use. All other sections were various subsections of Section 2 fundamental rights.

While I do not agree with the use of the Notwithstanding Clause, I understand the logic involved in circumventing only the rights specifically relevant to whatever it is that particular government is trying to do. What worries me is the habit being formed of using the clause to side-step the full suite of rights regardless of the nature of the law. Ford’s most recent use of Section 33 (at the time of writing) had no justifiable reason to strip citizens of their legal rights. What possible reason could the Premier give to say that what the government was trying to do necessitated the

possibility of infringing on protections against cruel and unusual punishment or arbitrary imprisonment? Section 33 enables governments to do what would otherwise only be done in times of war or insurrection. The norm against using the clause is eroding quickly, and although I do not want to suggest that this will lead us down a slippery slope, I do think the ground being tread is beginning to soften.

## **ALUMNUS LETTER**

*William (Will) Brewer*

MountAbility Program

Dear students of MSVU,

If you have heard the fork in the road story you would know what this is, however, there is a twist to it.

A student walks through the mountains until they get to a fork in the road where there's a professor, an alumnus, and the president of the Mount.

So the student asks "How can I achieve success in my education?"

The **professor replies** "Well, with great success comes great responsibility to study and work hard."

The **president replies** "Well, if you want to achieve success, you need to learn and to familiarize yourself with the surroundings at the school so you can achieve necessary skills so you can be a part of the Mount Mystic family."

The **alumnus replies** "You see that mountain up there if you climb that mountain, you will become me, however, you will meet people along the way that could help you not just the professor or the president however the people you connect with will be along that path going up to the mountain."

The student thinks and ponders about their decision to walk the path of the professor, the president, or the alumnus.

They sit down and say "I'm gonna meditate on this if you don't mind."

While the student meditates, they meet four people in their thoughts. They are the professor, the president, and the alumnus, as well as their self as they see themselves as someone who achieved beyond their inner person and achieved all that they wanted in life while at school.

The student wakes up from their meditation and has chosen they all ask, “What have you decided?”

“I have decided the alumnus. I’m going to climb that mountain to achieve success in my own way. Thank you so much, and you’re all invited.”

The moral of this was the professor, the president, and the alumnus were actually themselves because that’s how they achieved success is what the answer the student wanted.

Before all this the student actually got elected to be on student council then went on to be a member of a SU society while being a student and worked with everyone to achieve what the student wanted.

As alumni myself you will achieve all what you will learn I wish you all the best at your studies learn hard, get your grades up and of course Merry Christmas and have a warm and safe holiday hope to see you at the next graduation.



## NOVEMBER ELECTIONS REVIEW

*Scott Ripley*

### *United States – Midterms*

The 2022 US Midterm elections were held on the 8<sup>th</sup> this month, though it has taken most of November to know the results. Much of this came from the time required to tabulate ranked choice ballots in places like Maine and Alaska, however most of it was from very close House races in California. With how close the House of Representatives was, those few tight races were what ultimately decided control of that chamber.

### *House*

With just one seat yet to be called, California's 13<sup>th</sup>, it is 221 seats for the Republicans and 213 for the Democrats, ending the Democrats' four-year majority. The conventional wisdom is that the party of the President often does poorly in the election after the President's victory. This has been the case since 1994 with the exception of 2002, which is attributed to the "rally around the flag" effect caused by 9/11. While the pattern held, it was not anything close to what politicians and commentators were predicting. The "Red Wave", as it were, was little more than a splash. However, a majority is still a majority, no matter how slim, and this will likely put a damper on Biden's legislative agenda in the run-up to 2024.

### *Senate*

One place the Red Splash was entirely absent was the Senate. At 50-49, the Democrats will maintain their majority. The state of Georgia is going to a run-off in December because no candidate got over 50% of the vote. Incumbent Senator Raphael Warnock was just shy of half a percent away from winning in the first round. If he does win in the December run-off the Democrats will have not only maintained their numbers but gained a seat, outperforming expectations significantly. Part of that victory comes from the unexpectedly strong showing by Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman in that Commonwealth's race. Fetterman beat out celebrity doctor and snake oil salesman Dr. Oz by 5 points, which is impressive considering Oz was favoured to win by pollsters.

### *Governors*

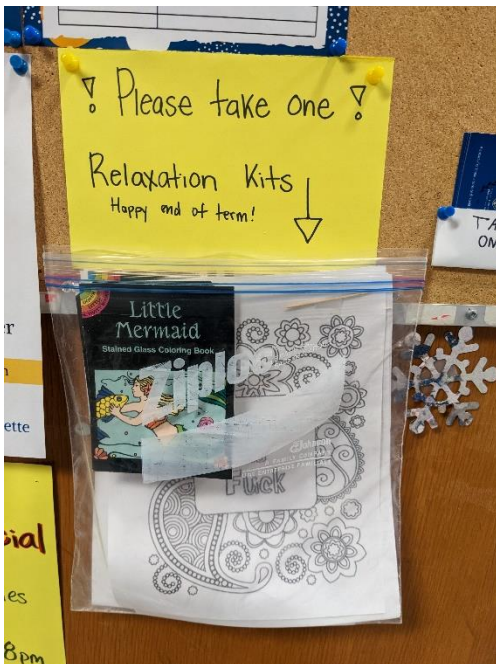
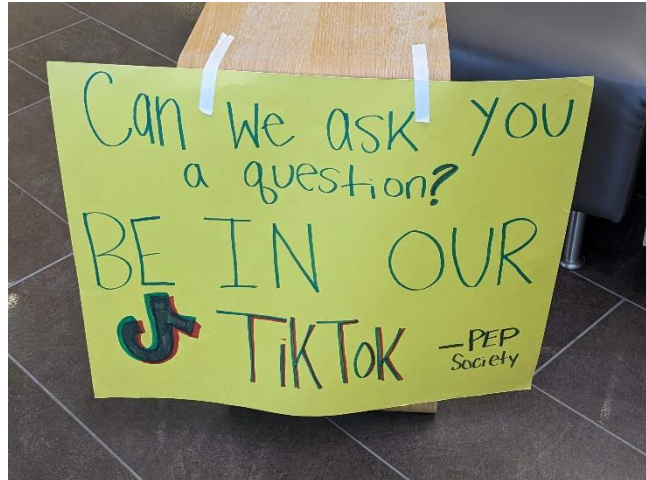
Thirty six of the fifty Governorships were up for election this year. With victories in Wisconsin and Arizona, the Democrats outperformed in these races too, however a clear example of a Republican doing better than predicted was in the reelection of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. Though always predicted to win, DeSantis carried the state by 19 points, about 6 points higher than expected. The Governor also carried Miami-Dade County, a typically Democrat-leaning county, with 55% of the vote, a marked increase from the 39% he got there in 2018. DeSantis' victory has people talking about how he might be able to challenge Donald Trump for the 2024 Republican nomination for President. Most of Trump's endorsees lost their challenges, so it is now being asked if he'll remain the party favourite.

## THE NOVEMBER RECAP

We set up at the society fair.



A few members started a TikTok account which asks students political questions. (@msvupeptalk)



Some relaxation kits are currently posted outside our door (Seton 504). Good luck on exams!