

# Michael Chong has bizarre couple weeks on campaign trail

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The campaign trail can be a strange road at times, but the last couple of weeks have been downright bizarre for Wellington-Halton Hills MP and Conservative Party leadership candidate Michael Chong.

Chong, who has served as MP for Wellington-Halton Hills since 2004, is one of 14 candidates currently campaigning to replace former Prime Minister Stephen Harper as party leader in May.

Along with what can only be described as a bizarre political climate south of the border, the introduction of reality TV-starring businessman and populist, Kevin O Leary, to the race has already made this one of the more interesting federal party leadership races in recent memory.

Not to be outdone, Chong has had a couple of, let's just say colourful stories come to light in the last couple of weeks.

On March 16, a woman vacationing in Guatemala named Bailey Greenspon tweeted a photo of her standing next to a poster in the Central American country featuring Chong's smiling face promoting sanitary men's washrooms.

Greenspon's tweet read: Having a small stroke. @MichaelChongMP, your stock photo is reassuring public washrooms users in Guatemala.

Translated, the poster reads: Special service for men: sanitary and hygienic bathroom facilities.

Having a little fun with it, Chong retweeted the image saying, My to do list today: a) winning the CPC leadership

b) ensuring clean public washrooms in Guatemala #cpcldr.

Less than two weeks after that story gained national headlines, Chong was once again in the news yesterday (March 27), once again the focus of another unusual story.

Social media came alive Sunday as an archived version of a column originally published online by *Globe and Mail* columnist Leah McLaren on March 22 came to light in which she claimed she had once tried to breastfeed Chong's infant son.

According to a report yesterday by *The Toronto Star*, McLaren claimed the incident happened at a house party in Toronto when she was 25.

She wrote she went into a room with coats piled high on the bed and noticed that in the corner, sitting wide awake in a little portable car seat, was the cutest baby I'd ever seen.

Somehow, my pinky finger ended up in his mouth and I was astonished at strength of his sucking reflex. C'mon lady, said his eyes, she wrote.

And I suddenly knew what he wanted. And I of course wanted to give him what he wanted. The only problem was, I had no milk. But would it be so bad, I wondered, if I just tried it out just for a minute just to see what it felt like? she added in her long-since pulled piece.

McLaren added she began to unbutton her blouse before Chong walked in, grabbed his son and left without any knowledge of what was about to transpire.

According to *The Star* report, the column was about co-feeding.

In any case, this is all to say that breastfeeding is a lovely and marvellous thing, as is co-feeding and everyone should



Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong speaks at a Conservative leadership event in Burlington earlier this month.

Photo by Graeme Frisque

do it. Just don't try it with a stranger's baby in a bedroom at a party if you are 25 and stupid, she wrote. Apologies to Mr. and Mrs. Chong.

Chong's Twitter reply to this story wasn't as lighthearted as his reaction to finding out he was the face of sanitary washroom in Guatemala.

Incident happened over 10 years ago. It was no doubt odd, but of no real consequence. Let's focus on the important challenges facing Canada, tweeted Chong in response yesterday.

With files from *The Toronto Star*



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