

ONE NEW TORY MP DOESN'T MAKE A GOVERNMENT

If you're waiting for the trickle of one Liberal MP abandoning her party to turn into a raging flood of defectors, don't hold your breath.

It won't happen.

Leona Alleslev's decision to cross over to the Conservatives the day Parliament resumed last week was perfectly timed to stir up the most political drama, grab the most attention and cause maximum embarrassment to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

And judging by the ecstatic welcome she received from Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer, you'd think Moses had just led the Children of Israel out of the wilderness and to the edge of the Promised Land. Except this prophet was completely on her own.

She's the perfect poster girl for what Scheer calls Canadians' "misplaced trust" in the Liberals. Just as Alleslev woke up to the unpleasant reality of her one-time party, so, too, will other Liberal supporters - or so Scheer hopes. Because the Liberals still lead in the polls.

Playing up Alleslev's defection may appeal to the Tories even more because they've just lost a high-profile MP of their own - Maxime Bernier. He stormed out of their ranks to start a whole new conservative political movement that could make life tricky for Scheer in the next election.

But for anyone wondering if Ottawa's tectonic plates just lurched to the right, there's less here than meets the eye.

Allleslev may not have been following an unerring political compass as much as sniffing which way the wind's blowing in her own Toronto-area riding of Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill.

The provincial version of that riding voted solidly Progressive Conservative in June's Ontario election and is now a happy part of Ford Nation.

Allleslev knows she won her riding by a fairly narrow margin in the 2015 federal election. If she values the life of an MP, her chances of keeping it might be better if she's a Conservative, too.

Other questions about her motives will arise, given her accolades for Trudeau and the Liberals just weeks before she turned around and trashed them.

How strange, then, that just a few weeks later she met with Scheer to discuss the terms of her defection. And how odd that she left the Liberals denouncing their failures in foreign, defence and fiscal policies - none of which had changed much since she waved the Liberal banner in the 2015 election.

Perhaps Alleslev's choice of a new political dancing partner merely shows the difference between being Liberal and Conservative is less than voters generally think and that pragmatism trumps party lines.

What's certain is that Scheer's biggest challenge today isn't persuading more Liberals to cross the floor but keeping any restive Conservative MPs and voters from cosying up to Maxime Bernier and his new party.

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LETTERS & COMMENTARY

A FAIR TO REMEMBER

As another successful Acton Fall Fair comes to a close I would like to take a moment to say thank you.

Yes, you, the first-time attendee and also those who have been coming for generations. Yes, you, the first-time volunteers and those who commit countless hours to helping us run the "Best Little Fair in Ontario."

Yes, you, the longtime supporter and the first-time donor.

Showing appreciation for all our supporters is one of the most powerful things we can do to strengthen our community and ensure our Agricultural Society's long-term success.

Thank you.

I would also like to thank those that did not come out to the fair, but accommodated the increased traffic and noise, and out-of-towners that may get a little turned around.

Thank you to the families of the volunteers who keep things running on the home base. And the local

businesses that take in patrons and exhibitors that come for a few or days.

Without the support of this town we wouldn't be able to host such a diverse event.

On behalf of the Acton Agricultural Society, thank you.

DOMINIQUE ZELDIN,
ACTON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
PRESIDENT

HONOURING TERRY'S COURAGE AND SELFLESSNESS

When Terry Fox ran through Georgetown in July 1980, he was hoping to raise \$1 for every Canadian. Raising \$24 million for cancer research was then considered an ambitious goal. By February 1981, he had met and surpassed it.

We supported him then, and 38 years later, we continue to run the Marathon of Hope in his name.

The 2018 Georgetown Terry Fox Run raised more than \$14,000 for the fight against cancer. This puts the total amount raised in Georgetown

since 1981 at \$407,000, or \$9.70 for every resident. Nationally, the Terry Fox Foundation has raised close to \$800 million.

We were joined at the Gellert Community Centre on Sept. 16 by perennial contributors, first-time attendees, those who had seen Terry run along Highway 7 and some who had just recently learned about him in school.

Together, as we do each year in Georgetown, we honoured the courage and selflessness of Terry Fox, while doing our small part to fulfil his ultimate goal: finding a cure for cancer in our lifetime.

Thank you, sincerely, to everyone who participated, donated and helped organize this year's Terry Fox Run.

STEPHEN DAME,
GEORGETOWN TERRY FOX RUN LEAD
ORGANIZER

YOUR OPINIONS

SIGN UP FOR
OUR WEEKLY
NEWSLETTER AT
THEIFP.CA

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