

OPINION

Flawed resolution game of political one-upmanship

As the former information officer for the National Hockey League Players Association and (until Monday) the federal Minister of Sport, Michael Chong isn't unaccustomed to playing games.

And the Wellington-Halton Hills MP, after a few days of soul-searching, decided the issue of having the "House recognize that the Québécois form a nation within a united Canada" was a game he wanted no part in.

To his credit, Chong stepped down from Prime Minister Stephen Harper's cabinet Monday before the vote on the motion — a resolution that carries no legal weight and is astounding only in its ambiguity.

Make no mistake, this flawed resolution was nothing more than a game of political one-upmanship.

The matter was raised by Liberal leadership hopeful Michael Ignatieff (for political advantage) and was advanced by Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe (for political advantage) and then hijacked from Duceppe by Harper (for political advantage).

Chong simply refused to play the game.

Displaying a sense of conviction rarely seen on Parliament Hill, and carrying his principles high, Chong said, "I believe in one nation, undivided, called Canada. I believe that recognizing the Québécois as a nation, even within a united Canada is nothing else than the recognition of an ethnic nationalism and that I cannot support."

Bravo!

Sadly the issue isn't likely to disappear anytime soon as Liberal leadership hopefuls Ken Dryden and Gerard Kennedy also chose not to support the resolution.

Undoubtedly Quebec will be on the front burner at this week's Liberal leadership convention.

While Harper, who felt he had to bring forward the resolution to prevent Duceppe from having the Commons vote on whether Quebec is a nation, called Monday a "historic night" it was nothing of the sort.

It was really just another night at the rink and the Tories were forced to play shorthanded when one of their rising stars decided this "exhibition" match wasn't worthy of playing in.



Readers Write

Send your letters to miltoned@haltonsearch.com or drop them off at 875 Main St. E.

Power plant fears shouldn't be eased

DEAR EDITOR:

The recent Champion article headlined 'Town says good riddance to Pristine Power's proposal' says residents and politicians are rejoicing now that the Ontario Power Authority has turned down Pristine Power's proposal.

It quotes Halton MP Garth Turner as saying this is a shining example of community democracy at work and a victory for the people. It quotes area resident Marilyn Willis as saying, "We're very pleased Pristine Power is gone." It quotes Mayor Gord Krantz as saying

this is good news.

What a bunch of hot air.

Have any of you people looked at a map? The approved TransCanada power plant location, which is basically the same size, is just over a kilometre from the proposed Pristine Power location.

Sure, it is on the other side of a political boundary, in Halton Hills rather than Milton. Does that change any of the concerns or issues? I don't think so.

GORDON MCAULL
SIXTH LINE

Editor'sdesk

If only we could collect an extra \$3,582 this year

Even adults have Christmas wishes.

Mine isn't for myself. It's for one of the greatest humanitarian organizations I know — the Salvation Army — and the people who rely on its services.

As usual at this time of year, The Champion's Salvation Army Christmas Bureau Fund is underway.

The fund collects donations for the Salvation Army, which operates a food bank in town for those less unfortunate. At Christmas time, the organization makes sure all families have a proper turkey dinner and toys for the kids.

We don't just collect money from other people for the fund. We contribute ourselves. Numerous times throughout the year, our staff members hold office barbecues and pizza lunches — organized by photographer Graham Paine — as well as dress down days

to raise money.

If your group or organization has raised some money and you're trying to decide which worthy cause to donate it to, please choose The Champion's Salvation Army Christmas Bureau Fund.

While we know there are so many needy charities out there, what's more important than making sure people have enough food to feed their families after paying the rent and other household expenses?

Unfortunately, with the lack of affordable housing in Milton, many families spend most of their income on rent and utilities and don't have much left over for other necessities — like even food.

That's the reality.

So they turn to the Salvation Army Food Bank. What would happen if it wasn't there?

Last year, The Champion's Salvation Army Christmas Bureau Fund raised \$21,418. That's an amazing amount, but we fell short of our \$25,000 goal by \$3,582.

We don't want to fall short again this year, which brings me to my wish — that we reach this year's goal, which has again been set at \$25,000.

Donations can be dropped off at The Champion office, 875 Main St. E., between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays. They will be collected until December 21. Dollar amounts of any size are appreciated, and charitable receipts are issued.

Could you please help us out?



Karen Miceli

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