

**Sun-Tribune**

905-640-2612  
Fax: 905-640-8778

EDITORIAL  
ADVERTISING  
905-640-2612  
Classified: 1-800-743-3353  
Fax: 905-640-8778

DISTRIBUTION  
905-640-2612

EDITORIAL  
Editor  
Jim Mason  
jmason@yrmg.com

ADVERTISING  
Advertising Manager  
Stephen Mathieu  
smathieu@yrmg.com

Marketing Manager  
Mike Barville  
mbarville@yrmg.com

DISTRIBUTION  
Circulation Manager  
Carrie MacFarlane  
cmacfarlane@yrmg.com

York Region Media  
Group community  
newspapers

The Sun-Tribune, published every Thursday and Saturday, is a division of the Metroland Media Group Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Torstar Corporation. The Metroland family of newspapers is comprised of more than 100 community publications across Ontario. The York Region Media Group includes The Liberal, serving Richmond Hill and Thornhill, Newmarket Era, Aurora Banner, Vaughan Citizen, Markham Economist & Sun, Stouffville Sun-Tribune, Georgina Advocate, Bradford West Gwillimbury Topic, Beingswell and yorkregion.com.

## LETTERS POLICY

The Sun-Tribune welcomes your letters. All submissions must be less than 400 words and must include a daytime telephone number, name and address. The Sun-Tribune reserves the right to publish or not publish and to edit for clarity and space.

Letters to the Editor,  
The Sun-Tribune  
6290 Main St.  
Stouffville, ON  
L4A 1G7  
jmason@yrmg.com

# OPINION

Stouffville  
**Sun-Tribune**

6290 Main St.  
Stouffville, ON, L4A 1G7  
www.yorkregion.com

PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot

EDITOR IN CHIEF  
Debra Kelly

BUSINESS  
MANAGER  
Robert Lazaruko

DIRECTOR,  
PRODUCTION  
Jackie Smart

DIRECTOR,  
OPERATIONS  
Barry Black

DIRECTOR,  
ADVERTISING,  
DISTRIBUTION  
Nicole Fletcher

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Where do candidates stand on rape?

*An open letter to those running in the federal election.*

Recently I read a newspaper article about a 17-year-old girl who was gang raped. This article finally moved me to write a letter I have been meaning to write for years.

I do not believe our justice system takes sexual assault (or rape, whatever you call it), seriously. To refer to this single example, this 17-year-old girl will have a lifetime of trauma. If the perpetrators are caught, I doubt they will receive even five years in prison.

Our system needs to automatically designate certain types of rapists as dangerous offenders. At a minimum, this includes anyone who molests a child, and anyone who takes part in violent assaults whether as part of a gang or as an individual. This designation should be applied on the very first conviction.

I realize these types of offenders are not going to be deterred by the dangerous offender label (and the consequent indefinite jail term); I propose this for the protection of women.

Additionally, to bring justice to the victims, we need research leading to policy to define what healing really means to a person who has been the victim of this crime. Simply locking up the perpetrators won't completely help the victim. It is a first step, but it is not the last step.

Finally, research leading to policy needs to be done on how to prevent sexual assault and to determine whether rehabilitation is possible for the offenders.

To those running in the election, I would like to know where you stand on this issue.

And let me know what I, as an ordinary citizen, can do to help.

JIM PRIEBE  
STOUFFVILLE

### Many real issues to discuss during election

*Re: 'Re-elect' signs irk MP, voters, March 31.*

I noticed two recent letters in your paper attacking Liberal candidate and former



MP Lui Temelkovski for recycling his former election signs which include the words "re-elect".

As a 17 year old who is just under a year away from being able to vote, I am surprised anyone would want to make such a trivial matter as recycled election signs an issue when there are so many real and important issues to be discussed.

In particular, I am absolutely surprised how Canada's current record-high budget deficit of \$56 billion is not really being addressed in this election.

As a young Canadian whose generation will have to pay back this money as well as the interest on it each and every year until it is repaid, I am alarmed all of the election promises being made, including Mr. Harper's tax cuts for corporations (which the Globe and Mail said are flush with surplus cash), are essentially being paid for with borrowed money!

If the politicians and parties would spend more time debating the real and significant issues facing our country, rather than making up trivial or wedge issues that really mean little at the end of the day, our country would be

better off.

And who knows, we might even have more young people interested in politics.

JOHN PEHAR  
STOUFFVILLE

### How aware are voters?

*Re: 'Re-elect' signs irk MP, voters, March 31.*

First, the prefix re- means "again" and both are trying to be elected again. The re- doesn't mean last election, or 10 elections ago.

Secondly, if voters aren't aware of who the incumbent is, I suggest perhaps they shouldn't be voting because it is quite possible they aren't aware of the issues either.

ROCKY SANKOFF  
STOUFFVILLE

### Honourable thing to do

*Re: 'Re-elect' signs irk MP, voters, March 31.*

Lui Temelkovski purported to be saving on paper by using his old signs.

His opponent, the incumbent Paul Calandra, did the same thing and added a sticker saying "re-elect".

A simple red sticker over the "re-" will make his signs usable - and honourable.

And you wonder why people are so cynical about politicians. Lui was trying to put one over on the voters. Shame on him.

BLAIR TULLIS  
STOUFFVILLE

### Conservatives to blame

*Re: 'Re-elect' signs irk MP, voters, March 31.*

Perhaps those who are concerned about Lui Temelkovski's re-use of election signs should consider praising him for fiscal responsibility.

Attempting to save \$20,000 indicates more concern about expenditures than the Conservative Party demonstrated with their engineering of yet another \$280-million election.

MARGARET  
BROWNSBERGER  
STOUFFVILLE

### Vote for Liberals and you support coalition

The re-elect Lui Temelkovski signs stand for themselves.

In my opinion and many others it just goes to show you how low the losing Liberal Lui Temelkovski will stoop.

The whole Liberal Party has

already proven how low they'll go to get elected. Michael Ignatieff said he wouldn't vote for the budget no matter what was in it and he also said that he was ready to form a coalition government with the NDP and BQ, and now he's going wishy washy on us saying he won't.

I would trust the Liberals as far as I could throw the whole lot of them.

Mr. Temelkovski is a prime example saying he is using his old signs to save money.

Yes and the Liberals under Prime Minister Chretien didn't ship our soldiers off to Afghanistan.

Paul Martin, the Liberal finance minister, didn't sign any cheques for the \$350-million ad scam.

Mr. Ignatieff didn't say he was going to form a coalition government, did he.

Then tell me why Prime Minister Stephen Harper Prorogued Parliament to stop his coalition.

A vote for the Liberals is a vote for a coalition government, whether you believe it or not. Wake up, people, and smell the coffee.

MP Paul Calandra has done a great job so far in the Oak Ridges-Markham riding to be shackled with the dirty low-down tricks the Liberals want to play.

CHARLES ALDRED  
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

### Sad time for politics

*Re: Harper just wants his majority, editorial, March 31.*

Thank you for your very good opinion piece.

I hope everybody read it and thought about it.

Mr. Harper has said that no one cares about truth, ethics and democracy.

No one cares? I think Canadians do care.

If those who plan to vote Conservative run their lives and businesses the way government does, who are we to trust in our everyday dealings?

It is very sad.

ANNA IVES  
STOUFFVILLE

## HAVE YOUR SAY, STOUFFVILLE

► E-mail your letter to the editor to jmason@yrmg.com