



Prof. A. K. Dewdney

## Eaten up by the child within

Biologists call it "neoteny": a tendency in some animals (not many) for the adult to take on the characteristics of a juvenile. The term comes in handy when I think about some of the changes that have taken place over the last three decades. We have become neotenic, adults increasingly arrested in their development. I don't mean physical development. Humans still mature physically. I mean mental and emotional development. For example, do you, or does anyone you know display one or more of the following symptoms:

1. running around in short pants and a tee-shirt
2. frequently suffering from tantrums (e.g., road rage)
3. obsessing on food, especially fast food (which brings us to)
4. feeling impatient and angry when made to wait for anything
5. being frightened of exertion (but see 1.)
6. being unable to see situations from others' points of view.
7. watching over three hours of TV a day

The list goes on. (I forgot to add 8: unwilling to accept responsibility.) Of course, these are all symptoms of similar disease called childhood. We all catch it shortly after birth and remain in that state until cured by the evidence of maturity around us, not to mention frequent warnings about our behaviour. Having become mature, at least the way we used to, we wore "adult" clothing, held our temper when annoyed, ate sensibly, and so on. Not all of us all the time, to be sure, but most of us most of the time. Well, many of us much of the time.

Signs of neoteny were on the horizon back in the sixties and seventies. Various movements swept across the country in waves, accompanied by frightening changes in the educational system, The Inner Child, the ME Generation, Primal Scream Therapy, Feeling Good About Yourself, and so on, may well have influenced sweeping changes in the curriculum: the New (non-) Math, Child-centred Learning, Independent Exploration, Computer Games (excuse me: Computer Literacy), Group Learning, and, of course, Learning How to Learn. My theory is that teachers, themselves increasingly afflicted by the disease, saw less and less point in actually teaching anything. (See symptom 5.) How much easier it would be to let

Continued on page 3

# Albilad

Volume 5 - Issue No. 50 - February 2006

## ISLAMIC CONGRESS: THANKS CANADIANS

The Canadian Islamic Congress issued a statement today thanking Canadian media for their collective restraint in not re-publishing cartoons mocking the Prophet Muhammad that first appeared last year in a major Danish newspaper. CIC also praised the Canadian government for supporting its ongoing stand against the dissemination of hate literature, whether in picture or print. The supportive work of Canadian public, academics, faith groups and other social justice organizations was also acknowledged.

"We have seen through this incident what

terrible damage -- including losses of life, property and livelihood -- can happen when so-called 'freedom of the press' is exercised without regard to cultural sensitivities or social consequences," the statement said.

"Through the restraint and ethics shown by this country's most influential and respected professional journalists, Canada has shown the world that true freedom is also about taking responsibility and exercising understanding. Let us hope that others will follow Canada's example, should such a disgraceful incident ever happen again."

## The Question of Cartoons

It has been impossible these last few weeks to avoid seeing very painful images in the media, whether on the television or in the news paper. Images of The Prophet, images of people in great anguish, destruction of property and, even death. Everywhere people of many faiths have been left asking the question, "Why do those people do such things?" I have listened to the pained discussions taking place in the Muslim community as



By Father Mark Sargent

they try to understand why a cartoonist in Denmark would ridicule The Prophet. At the same time the non-Muslim community is trying to understand how a cartoon could cause people to riot, destroy property and even, cause death. These are difficult times and in the midst of all the emotion and suffering I believe people of faith are being called to search for the truth.

Continued on page 6

## Canada Can Be an Honest Broker In The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

The recent Palestinian legislature elections have stimulated much hand-wringing and worry among international donors. This is not because the elections were a failure -- in fact, they are seen as a great success as they were free and fair -- but rather because the outcome of these democratic elections has resulted in Hamas (the Islamic Resistance Movement) securing a majority of the seats. This has left countries like Canada, having contributed financially to the election and having deployed election monitors, in a



By Hussein Amery

real dilemma. Canada wants to promote democracy, but does that mean we have to accept the democratic outcome?

In a region already fraught with religious tension, the victory of the religious-based slate running under the banner of "Change and Reform" was a shock for the Fatah hierarchy which has guided the Palestinian liberation movement since its inception. They had been expecting a slim victory, but instead have been moved to the opposition.

Continued on page 6

## FEDERAL ELECTIONS 2006

As the smoke cleared from the election held on January 23, 2006 Paul Martin's Liberal minority government had been defeated by Stephen Harper's Conservatives. Martin announced his resignation as Prime Minister and as leader of the Liberal Party. There will be a race to choose a new leader for the Liberal Party. The Liberals hammered by the Sponsorship Scandal, the Gomery Inquiry and a series of campaign gaffs and blunders still managed to elect 103 Members of Parliament (MPs) down 30 seats from the 2004 federal election.

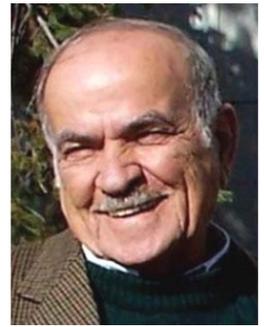


By Ed Corrigan

Stephen Harper's victorious Conservatives elected 124 MPs., enough to form a Minority government up from 98. The Bloc Québécois elected 51 MPs down from 54 in the 2004 election. The New Democratic Party led by Jack Layton increased their number to 29 MPs from 19 including a breakthrough victory in London-Fanshawe for Irene Mathysen. One independent, Andre Arthur, a popular shock radio show host in Quebec City was elected in Portneuf-Jacques-Cartier riding.

Continued on page 5

## The Harvest Corner



Mohamed Amery

## WILL THE GOP BE GOVERNING CANADA NOW?

It could have been much worse. Stephen Harper could have won a parliamentary majority! The outcome was the culmination of a political campaign that saw Harper's Reform party -- misnamed Conservative -- play the tune of political corruption to its fullest effect for a rudely manipulated and enraged Canadian electorate. The corruption charge was the only weapon Mr. Harper had, and should he carry out his threats and promises this would indeed change the normally gentle-faced Canada. But before going any further let me state for the record that the Conservatives did not win the January 23 election. The Liberals lost it! It was the worst election campaign waged by the Liberals in more than fifty years. Nevertheless, we can all be happy that, since Mr. Harper can form only a minority government, his penchant for cut and slash will be curtailed by his dependence on opposition parties to pass legislation.

Consider if you will that Harper plans to scrap the National Day Care program, an action which falls just a little short of being calamitous for hundreds of thousands of Canadian households. Consider the great disparity between an unavoidably shrinking federal revenue forecast (due to Harper's generous largesse with taxpayers' money) and what he promises to spend and dish out. Imagine the tarnish our reputation will suffer, and the betrayal of trust, if Harper cancels our support for the Kyoto global treaty. Read between the lines and you will undoubtedly decipher Harper's hidden agenda of planning to use the "notwithstanding" clause in the

Continued on page 3

## FEDERAL ELECTIONS 2006

**Continued from page 1**

In terms of popular vote the Conservatives won 36.3%, the Liberals 30.2%, the NDP 17.5%, and the Bloc 10.5%. In total 14,815,680 voted in the election out of a total eligible electors of 22,812,683 for a turnout of 64.9%.

The Green Party won 4.5% up 0.2% from their showing in 2004. The number of votes the Greens received was 665,940. They ran candidates in all 308 ridings but did not elect an MP. The first past the post system does not favour smaller parties unless the vote is concentrated like the Bloc's vote in Quebec. The Green Party easily passed the 2-per-cent threshold to be eligible for federal election financing of \$1.79 per vote. This voter indicates that environmental issues are important to many Canadians.

While Harper's Conservatives only won the support of 36.3% of Canadian voters the election result ordains that a new government is formed. Expect a strong shift to the right and policies more in line with George W. Bush's policies in Washington. The Conservatives in the election were shut out of Canada's major urban centres, Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. However, they managed to make a surprising breakthrough in Quebec winning 10 seats at the expense of the Bloc. The Bloc picked up seats from the discredited Liberals in Quebec.

Harper's Cabinet was announced on February 6, 2006 and includes three Ministers who served in Mike Harris's Conservative government. Former Progressive Conservative Leader Peter MacKay received the post of Foreign Affairs. Monte Solberg is Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, and Stockwell Day received the post of Public Safety. David Emerson who was elected as a Liberal in Vancouver, in a very controversial move, crossed the floor to become Minister of International Trade in Harper's new cabinet. As the Jerusalem Post article on January 25, 2006 declared A Jews look for pro-Israel turn as Conservatives win Canadian vote. @ Foreign Affairs Minister MacKay's views on the Middle East are largely unknown. However, Stockwell Day who will be in charge of the Canadian border and public safety is a strong supporter of Israel.

Calgary Conservative MP Diane Ablonczy who has shown some understanding of the Arab viewpoint was surprisingly shut out of Cabinet. She was, however, the Parliamentary Secretary to Jim Flaherty Minister of Finance. Jason Kenny, a strong supporter of Is-

rael's right wing, was made Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister for Multiculturalism. Deepak Obhrai is a Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs as is Peter Van Loan M.P. for York-Simcoe. Ed Kormarnicki is the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Oxford MP Dave McKenzie is the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety.

There are no Muslims or Arabs holding positions in Cabinet or as Parliamentary Secretaries. However, Japanese Canadian Bev Oda is Minister of Canadian Heritage and Status of Women and Michael Chong, of Chinese descent, is President of the Queens Privy Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Sport providing representation from Canada's visible minorities in Harper's Cabinet. Bill Casey Conservative MP for Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley was re-elected in Nova Scotia. Casey has been active on the Palestinian issue in Ottawa.

Only two Arab Canadian Members of Parliament were elected; Paul Zed, Canadian born but of Lebanese Arab descent, was re-elected in Saint John New Brunswick and Omar Alghabra was elected in the Mississauga-Erindale. Both were elected as Liberals. To this writer's knowledge only four Muslims were elected in the 2006 Canadian election. Omar Alghabra in Mississauga-Erindale, Wajid Khan in Mississauga-Streetsville, Yasmin Ratansi in Don Valley East, all elected as Liberals. Rahim Jaffer in Edmonton-Strathcona was elected as a Conservative.

Omar Alghabra, a past-president of the Canadian Arab Federation, overcame many obstacles to become one of the few Canadians born in the Arab World to be elected to Canada's Parliament. He is Syrian and was born in Saudi Arabia. Senator Pierre Debane who as a Quebec MP served as a Minister in Pierre Trudeau's government was born in Haifa Palestine in 1938. Mac Harb born in Lebanon was elected as a Liberal MP in Ottawa and was appointed to the Senate of Canada in 2004.

Alghabra won the seat formerly held by Carolyn Parrish, the outspoken MP, who was kicked out of the Liberal Caucus for her attacks on Paul Martin, her strong opposition to George Bush's war on Iraq and for her support for the Palestinians. Alghabra won a hotly contested nomination over Charles Sousa, a prominent banker and close friend of Paul Martin.

As the Liberal Party candidate Alghabra was the target of a vicious anti-Muslim smear campaign. However, he was also attacked by left-wing Muslims and also by right-wing Muslims for his moderate views on Islam. Alghabra, however, prevailed and was elected with a 3,400 vote margin over his Conservative challenger. However, Alghabra is the lone Arab born Canadian voice in the House of Commons and one of only four Muslims.

Other Liberal ridings of interest to the Canadian Arab Community and the Canadian Muslim Community include the re-election of Colleen Beaumier in Brampton-West. She serves as head of the Canada Arab World Parliamentary Association. Joe Fontana, a strong supporter of the Palestinians and Arab community was re-elected in London-North-Centre. Andrew Telegdi was re-elected in Kitchener-Waterloo. He has worked closely with the Canadian Islamic Congress (CIC) and has spoken out against the Security Certificates. Former Foreign Affairs Minister and Defense Minister Bill Graham was re-elected in Toronto-Centre. He is a former professor of International Relations.

The defeat of Liberal Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew in Papineau riding in Montreal may have been due to the displeasure of Montreal Arabs and Muslims over changes in Canada's policy on the Palestinian issue. In Pettigrew's riding there were 3,464 Arabs and 9,635 Muslim voters. He won the 2004 election by only 468 votes. He was targeted by a group of Montreal Arab activists who opposed the Martin government's recent tilt in policy towards Israel. Pettigrew lost by 1,153 votes to the Bloc. In Brossard-La Prairie Jacques Saada, who also earned the ire of pro-Palestinian activists for his pro-Israeli views had 1,860 Arabs in his riding and 3,830 Muslims. Saada lost by 2,077 votes to the Bloc. Liz Frulla, a member of Liberal Parliamentarians for Israel lost in the Quebec Jeanne Le Ber riding by 3,188 votes to the Bloc. She had 2,000 Arabs and 4,020 Muslims in her riding. Liberal Eleni Bakopanos also lost her seat in Ahuntsic riding by 662 votes. She had a large Arab population of 6,550 and a Muslim population of 5,725.

In the NDP Alexa McDonough was re-elected in Halifax, Joe Comartin was re-elected in Windsor-Tecumseh and Libby Davies was re-elected in Vancouver East. Svend Robinson, a strong supporter of the Palestinians but who had resigned in disgrace after a shoplifting scandal was de-

feated in his bid to return to the House of Commons losing to Liberal Hedy Fry in Vancouver Centre. NDP candidate Ian Waddell also lost to David Emerson who was elected as a Liberal but defected to the Conservatives to take a position in Harper's Cabinet. The Conservatives placed a poor third in Vancouver Kingsway in the January 23, 2006 election and there has been a major uproar in the riding over Emerson's defection to the Conservatives.

In the 2004 Federal election the Canadian Islamic Congress (CIC) strongly urged Muslims to 'hold their noses' and vote Liberal to stop the Conservatives. This call certainly helped the Liberals win a few seats and to form a Minority government. In the 2006 election the CIC told Muslims that 'vote you must' but for the best local candidate on the Muslim community issues. Disenchanted with the Liberals they did not endorse a political party.

The CIC Political Action Committee claimed that their 'Election Report Card' was a success and that they had an impact on the election outcome. The CICPAC campaign to "vote candidates not parties" reportedly helped MPs from all parties get elected in 2006. According to the CICs, their election exit polls show that more than 70% of eligible Canadian Muslims cast ballots. Among candidates who received a positive "A" or "B" grading by CICPAC, 73% were elected. Candidates who received an unsatisfactory "F" grade, 33% were defeated. CICPAC's report card is posted at: [http://www.canadianislamiccongress.com/election2006/election\\_results.php](http://www.canadianislamiccongress.com/election2006/election_results.php). Members of Parliament who received a grade of F on the CIC Report Card and were defeated included Liberals Liza Frulla, Jacques Saada and Sarmite Bulte in Parkdale-High Park. Bulte lost to the NDP's Peggy Nash who was endorsed by the CIC.

It is clear that the Canadian Arab community and the Canadian Muslim community are getting more involved in the political process and becoming more effective but most would agree that much work needs to be done to get the concerns of the Arab and Muslim community in Canada addressed by Canada's political institutions.

*Ed Corrigan is an Immigration lawyer with offices located in London Ontario at 171 Queens Ave Suite 420, tel 519-439-4015 and at 3195 Erindale Station, Rd in Mississauga, tel: 905-290-9018. He can be reached at [ecorrigan@linkd.net](mailto:ecorrigan@linkd.net)*

## CAF condemns hateful depiction of Islam

Toronto - The Canadian Arab Federation (CAF) condemned the hateful depiction of Islam and the Prophet Mohammed. A caricature published by the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten and reprinted by other European newspapers promotes disturbing hateful anti-Muslim images. "We respect freedom of expression; however, these caricatures constitute hate mongering and can only perpetuate hate and violence against Muslims. We condemn Islamophobia as much as we and the world condemn antisemitism. This kind of hateful propaganda does nothing to bridge the widening gap between Muslims and Western Nations." Said Faraj Nakhleh, acting president of CAF.

Newspapers and magazines need to play a more productive role to promote integration and harmony among all people and religions. They need to stop vilifying the religion of 1.4 billion people around the world.

As always, CAF opposes violence and calls on all parties to establish an open dialogue and address these issues.

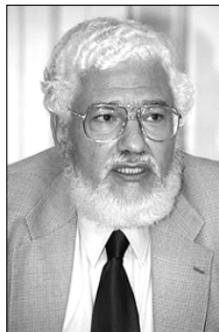
## CANADIAN ISLAMIC CONGRESS

### URGES NEW PM TO RESPECT DEMOCRATIC RESULTS IN PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS

#### HAMAS VICTORY A NEW PHASE IN MIDDLE EAST HISTORY

"Palestinians are to be congratulated for holding their recent elections in a free, fair, and democratic manner," the Canadian Islamic Congress said in a short statement issued today.

CIC noted that more than 77 % percent of eligible Palestinian voters cast ballots in this week's elections, which saw a surprise upset in favour of Hamas party. CIC is urging the new government of Canadian PM-elect Stephen Harper to respect the results of a vote that could soon see Hamas in political control of Gaza and the West Bank.



Dr. Mohamed Elmasry

"Canada should adopt a balanced policy in the region in order to work towards, and ultimately achieve, peace with justice," the CIC statement continued. "Not to deal with the new Palestinian government will be a

serious setback to the peace movement and serve only to escalate the violence. The Irish Republican Army's political wing proved itself competent to govern without continuing armed violence; likewise, several former Israeli prime ministers were once labelled terrorists. Hamas should be given the same chance to establish itself in this new phase of Middle East history. We believe that bringing Hamas into the legitimate political process and opening constructive dialogue will help to moderate its policies."

The ad serves your business

Tel: (519) 777-1391

ziyad@albilad.net