

→ CONVERGENCE ←

INTERNATIONAL SECTION:

G R E E C E

WHAT'S NEXT?

WILL THE COALITION OF THE RADICAL LEFT BRING MUCH-NEEDED RADICAL CHANGE TO GREECE? IN AN INTERVIEW WITH CONVERGENCE, MR. PASCHALIDIS UNVEILS THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECENT ELECTION RESULTS.

PAGE 4 - GRAEME JOEL



PHOTO CREDIT: RAJBIR AHLUWALIA

WINTER SPORTS RECAP



BASKETBALL

ZACHARY QUIVIGER
STAFF REPORTER

It has been a great year for UCC basketball. To start, the U14 squad had a terrific season, finishing tied for second place with Sterling Hall in their division. The team won eight of their twelve games. However, playoffs dreams were cut short in a 33-31 defeat to Hillfield Strathallan College in the quarterfinals. The U16 teams were also dominant, both obtaining an identical 10-1 record in their respective leagues. The B squad was beat by Holy Trinity in the semifinals in a close match by a score of 34 to 27, and the A team was able to hold off the previously undefeated St. John's-Kilmarnock in the finals to capture the CISAA championship. The final score was 63 to 48. Finally, the varsity team represented the college proudly throughout the winter, earning five wins in regular season play. In the playoffs, the team lost to Crescent by the score of 49-40 in the quarterfinals. On March 3rd, the team redeemed itself by routing the Father John Redmond School by a score of 75-34 in its OFSAA qualifier. The Blues will play their first game of the tournament in Windsor on Monday.



HOCKEY

KARMAN CHEEMA
STAFF REPORTER

Hockey season at UCC is almost over.

Though better results could have been attained, it should not detract from the fact that everyone gave it their all this year, and they'll only come back stronger and better next year. The U14 team heartbreakingly lost to St. Mike's in a semi-final thriller, which would end a captivating season in which the team only lost 3 games. Both the U16A and B teams lost to SAC in their semi-finals, ending campaigns that showed a lot of promise and good play. On the other hand, the JV team triumphed over SAC and Villanova, and will go to Buffalo to play Nichols in the finals later this week. Finally, in an injury-riddled season, the Varsity team failed to qualify for the playoffs. Needless to say, they exhibited resilience in a time of adversity. All in all, the boys definitely will look forward to next year, having gained insightful experiences from this season.



SWIMMING

KOMAHAN PARAMAANANTHAM
STAFF REPORTER

UCC's swimming program has had yet another championship-winning season, and is looking forward to a promising OFSAA Championship. Out of 16 possible qualification spots for OFSAA entries in the senior division, an impressive 14 UCC swimmer qualified, while the junior swimmers were able to capture 7 spots. Highlights among many accomplishments at the CISAA championships include Andrew Sun's incredible 7 second improvement in the 100m Breaststroke; Jake Gray's triple gold in the 50m Free, 50m Breaststroke and Freestyle Relay; and Jonathan Chu's gold

in the 100m Breaststroke, 50m Breaststroke, and a third place finish in the 100m Individual Medley. A notable mention to Matt Newland, who had an outstanding performance as he won silver with the Medley Relay, and helped the team come close to breaking the school record despite a cast on his broken right arm. With an extremely successful season behind them, the Blues have once again established themselves as one of the foremost swimming programs in Ontario.



SQUASH

ANDY COXORD, WILL FRANCIS, DR. MORRIS
STAFF REPORTER, FREELANCE WRITERS

This year's U14 squash team introduced a lot of new players to the sport. Many improved significantly over the course of the season, often holding their own against more experienced opponents. Look for them on the U16 and Varsity teams in the future! The U16 squash team ended strong this year. Several experienced players such as team captain Todd Joy helped to introduce a large group of new athletes into the sport. The group really came together in the end, finishing third place overall. The varsity squash team had an amazing season, going undefeated in the regular season except for their final match, which they lost to Crescent. Seeded 1st overall going into CISAA championships, they got a bye through the quarters to the semi finals where they beat Ridley 9-0 and advanced to the finals. In the finals against SAC, it was very close until Teddy Littler won the fifth match, clinching a UCC CISAA squash title for the first time since 1995.

CORRECTION FROM ISSUE IV: "Western Media: What Do We Report?" was written by Ernest Leung, not Logan Ye.

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3 MICS SPORTS TALK: AN IBI PODCAST UNDERTAKING

PAUL WEISER

SPORTS EDITOR

Jay and Dan. Tony Kornheiser and Mike Wilbon. Stephen A. Smith and Skip Bayless. Andrew Kozicic, Aidan Power, and Patrick Stevenson? Yes, indeed. You see, the world of sports journalism is a competitive one, but Andrew, Aidan, and Patrick (all IB1) have started something exceedingly admirable: that is, the 3 Mics Sports Talk Podcast. On a weekly show lasting half-an-hour, these guys talk about college basketball, pro football, major league baseball, and much more. With 7 episodes already out there, the boys have gained a steady following and are looking to build their listenership through interviewing high profile athletes such as baseball player Josh Naylor, a Canadian power hitter who is expected to go in the early rounds of this year's MLB draft. The 3 Mics have already confirmed an interview with Naylor, and hope that he is only the first of many high-profile athletes that they can have on their show.

When I was able to get a few questions in with these guys about why they wanted to



take this initiative, their answer was simple: they love sports and they love talking about it. They all watch a considerable amount and variety of sports, so when the three get together, they combine to form an extremely knowledgeable and opinionated group. With Kozicic hosting and Power and Stevenson being the main analysts, they have created a well-oiled machine that churns through up to four different sports in approximately 30 minutes. Recently, the 3 Mics have brought some guests analysts on the show, including basketball aficionado Jeff Vandenberg (IB1) and sports enthusiast James Dorgan (IB1).



There are a wide variety of sports podcasts out there already, especially in the US. The boys enjoy a plethora of prominent shows and personalities, such as Colin Cowherd's The Thundering Herd Podcast, Buster Olney on Baseball Tonight, and ESPN college football analyst Kirk Herbstreit on College Gameday. With March Madness and the MLB season on the horizon, these sports gurus are sure to have exceptional analysis, opinions, and predictions for you. You can tune in weekly on iTunes or SoundCloud to find out more, or find them on Twitter (@3MicsSports).

CLAYTON JEFFREY: RECORD-BREAKING PENTATHLETE

JUSTIN LU

STAFF REPORTER

Clayton Jeffrey (IB1) participated in a national pentathlon competition this past month. A pentathlon is the indoor version of a decathlon consisting of 5 track and field events. It is the epitome of athletic competitions due to the tough physical and mental nature of the sport. To start the day off, Jeffrey completed the hurdles portion, followed by long jump, shot put, high jump and finally the 1000m race. The end goal is to amass as many points (which are dependent on your placing within each mini-competition) as you can. The 1000m was one of Jeffrey's most difficult obstacles, as he

was "solely relying on cross-country experience from elementary school to pull [him] through the race". Nevertheless, our UCC Blues athlete prevailed to set a new national record, beating the previous record by a total of 111 points! This incredible feat is a culmination of Clayton's impeccable work ethic, as he trains four days a week with the UofT Track club and works out two days a week. The reason he decided to compete in such an incredible competition is because of his experiences in track at UCC. "Over the last couple years, I've experienced more success in track than I have in any other athletic field." In the future, he hopes to continue multi-event competitions and qualify for the World Youth Championships this summer in California.



PHOTO CREDIT: RUNNERSPACE.COM

A SISYPHEAN ECONOMIC JOURNEY? GREECE, SYRIZA AND AUSTERITY



GRAEME JOEL & MR. PASCHALIDIS
STAFF REPORTER & INTERVIEWEE

GRAEME JOEL (CONVERGENCE): What do you feel was the reason for Greece's parliament to be unable to elect a new president before December 29th, 2014?

MR. PASCHALIDIS: The Greek parliament, Vouli, and society for that matter, has been deeply divided between the pro-austerity and anti-austerity parties since the onset of the Greek and European economic and debt crises in 2010.

The anti-austerity parties, led by the radical left and anti-systemic party, S.Y.R.I.Z.A. (Synaspismos tis Rizospastikis Aristeras = Coalition of the Radical Left), have compared austerity to an economic and fiscal waterboarding! According to S.Y.R.I.Z.A., austerity is responsible for causing a severe economic depression in Greece where the G.D.P. has been reduced by one quarter, unemployment has exceeded the 25% mark, youth unemployment reaching almost 60%, and a colossal brain drain of 300 000 individuals emigrating out of the country. Further, the radical left argues that austerity has placed Greece in a Sisyphean economic position in a never-ending self-perpetuating cycle of recession and debt. Also, S.Y.R.I.Z.A. blames the austerity policies of the past 5 years for the unprecedented humanitarian crisis engulfing Greek society and thus it has been advocating for its immediate end.

On the other hand, the pro-austerity parties led by the established, systemic parties of the

centre-left, P.A.S.O.K. (Panellinio Socialistiko Kinima = Panhellenic Socialist Movement), and the centre-right, N.D. (Nea Dimokratia = New Democracy), that have been governing Greece in the last few decades, have argued that austerity is an one-way street for Greece in order to: cut government waste, modernize the Greek state and bureaucracy, enhance the competitiveness of the Greek labour market, prevalence of the rule of law over patron-client relationships,

and ultimately rooting out endemic corruption and nepotism.

As a result of the above described schism the, Vouli, failed to reach the required 3/5 threshold to elect a president and thus according to the Greek constitution a national election was declared for 25 January 2015 where SYRIZA and the other main anti-austerity party, Anexartiti Ellines = Independent Greeks, were able to secure a majority of 162 seats in the 300 member parliament.

C: Do you feel that the new Hellenic Parliament will cause a break in the sort of political deadlock that lead to this snap election?

P: Using Modern Greek history as our guide the answer, unfortunately, can not be an affirmative one. Greek history is full of examples of missed opportunities where the political elites and the civic society have failed to reach compromise and consensus and peacefully resolve contentious and divisive issues. In short, and unlike Canada, where consensus and compromise are part and parcel of the Canadian democratic and parliamentary tradition the two aforementioned words-principles tantamount to treachery and betrayal in the Modern Greek polity.

For example, following the end of the Second World War Greece became one of the first battlefields of the Cold War experiencing the

traumatic haemorrhage of the Greek Civil War, 1945-1949. In sharp contrast, most other Western states were able to peacefully resolve the communist vs. non-communist conflict using their respective democratic and parliamentary processes and institutions.

Alexis Tsipras has pledged to improve the "humanitarian crisis" in Greece, negotiations with the EU and the International Monetary Fund regarding the restructuring of Greece's debt, and the implementation of many promises such as the privatization policies currently in place. Do you believe he can achieve these goals, and if so, how will he do this?

The Greek Prime Minister is certainly facing a heraclean task in terms of cleaning the Augean Stables of the Greek state: corruption, patron-client relationships, sclerotic and inefficient bureaucracy, and nepotism. Additionally, he must cut off the hydra's heads of parasitical relationships between the powerful Greek oligarchs in the private sector and corrupt elements of the Greek state and government. The fact that S.Y.R.I.Z.A. has not been part of the (capitalist) establishment nor it has any (economic) links to the plutocrats is an advantage which could prove to be a catalyst in its fight against the status-quo and its drive towards reform and change in terms of equitable distribution of wealth.

APPLYING A STRICTLY ECONOMIC LENSE GIVES US A FLAWED ANSWER: THAT A GREEK EXIT FROM THE EURO IS INEVITABLE.

It is important to underline here that the Greek economic crisis is part of the larger European economic crisis. Certainly the European Commission and many national governments in the European Union, EU, are recognizing the German inspired framework of economic austerity has run its course and rather a growth oriented economic and fiscal policies are needed in order for Europe in general, and Greece specifically, to extricate themselves out of the crisis. There is also recognition that there were structural and systemic issues in the architecture of the Euro, which heavily favoured the export-oriented economies of the north rather than the import-reliant economies of the periphery. Thus, the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker has recently developed an investment package of €315 million to stimulate the European economies. Similarly, the chief of the European Central Bank, Mario Draghi, has recently announced €1 trillion quantitative easing package to bolster European economic growth belatedly following

in essence the (effective) Keynesian examples of the USA and other Western states using spending to promote economic growth.

C: What is your opinion on the possibility of Greece leaving the Eurozone? What would this mean for Greece, and what would this mean for the rest of the Eurozone?

P: Applying strictly an economic lense to this question, as many (Western) experts in the mainstream media do, gives us a flawed answer, namely a Greek exit from the Euro is inevitable. Rather, examining the genesis of the common European currency, the Euro in 2002, as a key and integral component of a political project, namely the creation of the EU 1957 is more apt and certainly the microscope of history is better suited in providing answers. The establishment of the European Economic Community, as the EU was known back then, was directly linked to the cataclysmic and catastrophic consequences of the First World War, 1914-1918, and the Second World War, 1939-45. The hope was to forever throw nationalism in the abyss inaugurating instead an era of compromise and consensus replacing war with political vehicles and diplomatic tools. With the above in mind a Greek exit from the Eurozone is not on the table. It is not accidental that the architects of

the Euro did not include an exit clause to the creation of common currency ... The new Greek Finance Minister, Yanis Varoufakis, jokingly reminded the international press the lyrics from the classic Eagles' song, "Hotel California", "... You can check out anytime you like but you can never leave..."

C: What do you believe are the major factors that caused SYRIZA's increase from 71 seats to 149 seats in the Hellenic Parliament?

Certainly the application of austerity in Greece reminds one of the adage, "the operation (austerity) was successful but the patient (Greece) died" and is directly connected to the rise of S.Y.R.I.Z.A. Similar to events in Weimar Germany during the interwar period and especially following the onset of the Great Depression in 1929 where the radical right, the Nazi Party, and the radical left, the Communists, significantly enhanced their electoral base, the failure of austerity in Greece bolstered the parliamentary power of the radical left, S.Y.R.I.Z.A. and the radical right, The Independent Greeks Party. Additionally, the voters punished the systemic centrist parties of P.A.S.O.K. and N.D. for systematically mismanaging and misruling the country since the collapse of the extreme right military junta 1967-1974.

P: Do you support SYRIZA and why?

I support a European oriented Greece in the inner core of Europe's political, economic, cultural, and social developments. The Greek myth of the abduction of the princess Europa by Zeus, Europa gave her name to the continent, is a forerunner to the creation of a distinct European and Western identity. The former French president, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing 1974-81 vividly captured the relationship of Greece with the rest of Europe stating, "Europe without Greece is like a child without a birth certificate". To reverse the axiom Greece without Europe is like a bereaved parent...

One could argue that the current economic crisis in Europe and Greece are part of the larger European project towards political, economic and military integration that has been traditionally referred to as European Federalism. Indeed an effective and successful European Federalism could become an important counter weight to the American, Chinese and Russian poles of economic, political and military power. The above is a must in terms promoting and achieving a viable balance of power in the international geo-political architecture and the geo-strategic arena(s) of the 21st century.

THE WORLD THIS MONTH

KARMAN RAMJI - STAFF REPORTER

YEMEN: SAUDI ARABIAN EMBASSY STAFF

EVACUATED

Saudi Arabia was the first Arab country to evacuate its embassy staff from Yemen after late January's Houthi coup. The kingdom was a supporter of the collapsed Sunni regime, donating \$1.4 billion in aid last summer – payments have now been suspended. The Houthis belong to the Zaidi sect of Shia Islam, which constitutes 35% of Yemen's Muslims.

SAO PAULO: WATER LEVELS HIT ALL-TIME LOW

Sao Paulo state's residents have taken drastic conservatory measures with the state's main reservoir at record low water levels, hitting 4% after record high temperatures last October. They currently stand at 6% after the much-anticipated rainy season. Sao Paulo is Brazil's largest state, and is home to 44 million residents, 70 cities, and a local economy worth \$300 billion.



CHAD: BOKO HARAM MOUNTS FIRST ATTACK

Boko Haram has launched its first attack on Chadian soil, torching homes and killing one Chadian soldier in a village on Lake Chad. Chad is reputed to have the most effective military in the coalition against Boko Haram, which includes Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon. The Chadian military led airstrikes against the militants' vessels in response

ARGENTINA: POTENTIAL COVER-UP OF JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER BOMBING



The Argentinian prosecutor Gerardo Pollicita has reaffirmed his intentions to go forward with his case against President Cristina Fernandez and foreign minister Hector Timerman over their alleged roles in making cover-up deals with Iran after the 1994 bombing of a Jewish community center. Mr. Pollicita took office after the former prosecutor, Alberto Nisman, was found dead on January 18. Iran denies involvement in the attack.

TEMPEST: THE CREW

ERNEST LEUNG
STAFF REPORTER

Recently, I had the privilege of working on the UCC/BSS Senior Classical Production of *The Tempest*, which was performed in the David Chu theatre from the 18th to the 21st of February. Under the direction of Ms. Macdonell and Mrs. Crawford, the show had everything: love, magic, and comedy. Throughout my time at UCC, I've been involved in many theatrical productions, working behind the scenes in the technical setting. Being part of the crew is entirely different than being a cast member (though equally important!). Right from the start, we have to worry about different problems that will allow us to put on the best production possible. The cast worries about memorizing their lines, line cues from other actors, stage movement, etc. The crew on the other hand has to plan out the entire lighting and sound design. While this may not sound like much work at all, finding the perfect way to complement each scene in mood and aesthetics truly comes down to a science. Crewmembers have to explore a variety of creative ways we can make a particular scene look cool. Then comes the more scrupulous work, which involves things like hanging and orienting lights – stuff that isn't really all that difficult, but achieving perfection in this regard is incredibly time-consuming. For some things, the cast and crew struggle through together, like cue to cue, where it's basically a Saturday when you spend the full day running the entire show and stopping at points where there

needs to be a tech cue, then programming it into the board. But that's at the final point of the production.

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gled with finding alternatives. Tech-wise, my favourite scene in *The Tempest* was the “circle scene”. For those of you who didn't watch the show, near the end of the play, Prospero uses his magic staff to trace a circle around him on the stage. For me, seeing each portion of the circle light up as he traced his way around was really awesome because it truly appeared magical – a fitting culmination for my hard work!

In any production, a lot of hard work is required. Both cast and crew work effortlessly to create a well-executed, enjoyable production. Behind the scenes work may not seem as glamorous as being front and center on stage as an actor, but what we do not only reflects (quite literally) well upon the actors but also makes their performance that much more entertaining. I would highly encourage anyone who's interested to take part in a theatre production to do so – it certainly is an enlightening experience!

A&E BLURBS – BMUN

GABRIEL BIRMAN | A&E EDITOR



From February 26th to March 2nd, the Model UN team travelled to Berkeley, California for the 63rd BMUN (Berkeley Model United Nations) conference in history, which makes it the oldest such conference for high school students in the world. They competed against approximately 3000 students in various committees, ranging from UNEP (United Nations Environmental Program) to the Security Council. The students displayed an aptitude for political and social awareness as they debated and resolved issues relevant to their respective committees. The Model UN team came 1st place in its club division, making this the final win in their triple crown – the three major conferences that UCC sends its students to each year, namely SSUNS (at McGill), CMUNCE (at Columbia), and BMUN. Also, this victory marked the second consecutive triple crown, only further securing UCC's de facto position as the top MUN school in North America. 14 out of 18 team members placed top 3 in their committees, with Michael Pusic and Aleksei Wan winning best delegates. Here's to another successful season!



PHOTO CREDIT: RAJBIR AHLUWALIA



PHOTO CREDIT: RAJBIR AHLUWALIA

RUM & RAILROADS 2



PHOTO CREDIT: HUFFINGTON POST

KAMRAN RAMJI
STAFF REPORTER

Today, Canada is a relatively wealthy and developed country that would make any of the Founding Fathers proud. But to what extent is John A. MacDonald, Canada's first Prime Minister, responsible? He had his faults; he was an alcoholic, and turned to the bottle at times when, more often than not, his country needed him the most. He suffered from an unstable childhood, and we must face the reality that our national hero was a ruthless racist who was not afraid to abuse and insult communities that did not match his vision for Canada's ethnic and cultural future.

John A. MacDonald was an alcoholic. He once went to an official luncheon with Queen Victoria's son (Prince Arthur) in 1868 so drunk he couldn't stand. He is known to have turned up to Parliamentary debates so drunk that he vomited on the floor, and in some versions of the story, he responds to an opponent with regards to his drunkenness by saying; "I would rather have a drunk Conservative than a sober

Liberal." Three years into the union, he is believed to have been close to death's door with severe acute pancreatitis, which is a result of alcohol abuse. MacDonald's drinking even turned into a matter of national security during the Fenian raids of 1866. As the invaders seized land in the Niagara Peninsula John A. MacDonald was so drunk he couldn't read the telegrams streaming into his office. Even the British noticed the lack of sobriety: Lord Carnarvon (the colonial secretary that would present MacDonald's bill to the British Parliament) said MacDonald was plagued by a "notorious vice".

While debating the Electoral Franchise Act of 1865 MacDonald went on record saying; "the Aryan races will not wholesomely amalgamate with the Africans or the Asiatics". He went on to say; "the cross of those races, like the cross of the dog and the fox, is not successful", and used this as the basis of his decision to exclude "a person of Mongolian or Chinese race" from those enfranchised. MacDonald's argument for

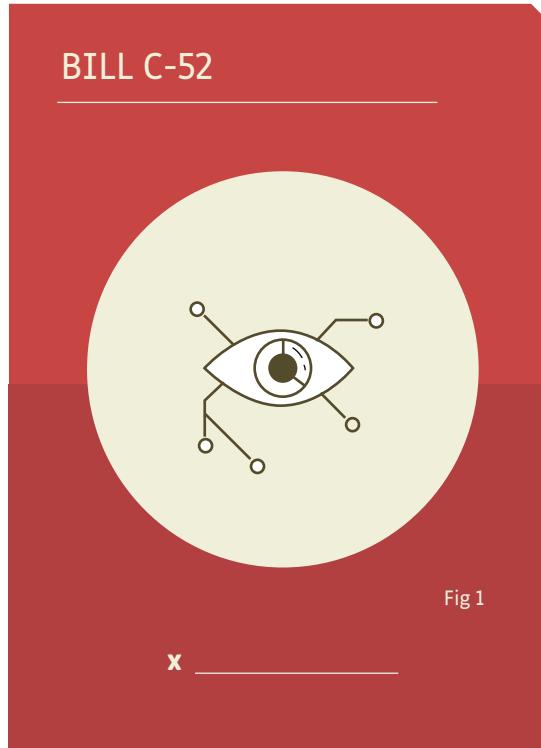
imposing a head tax on further Chinese immigrants after the construction of the CPR in 1885 was to preserve "the Aryan character of the future of British America". MacDonald ordered the Department of Indian Affairs to withhold food from the Plain and Wood Cree and Assiniboine aborigines who were facing a famine from the loss of bison until they moved off of the land that MacDonald needed to build the CPR; this ran contrary to their 1876 treaty with Ottawa that guaranteed government support for these groups in times of need. He played a critical role

**HE TURNED TO THE
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in passing the Gradual Civilization Act of 1857 and The Dominion Lands Act of 1872 which forced all French or English speaking aborigines to be 'enfranchised' and gave away Indian land to white settlers.

In conclusion, John A. MacDonald is a man that, despite his achievements, deserves a spot in history no better than those reserved for hypocritical, racist, inebriated, ruthless and brutal leaders.

THE DANGERS OF OVERLY GENERAL LAW



LUCAS CUSIMANO
NATIONAL EDITOR

Bill C-51—the “Anti-Terrorism” bill—is currently on the path to becoming a law. This bill has some major implications that you should know about in the spirit of liberty, democracy, and accountability.

From both the Liberals and Conservatives, there is virtually no opposition to this bill. The government wants to expand its powers in order to “combat terrorism.” I have been looking through the bill itself, to present to you some of the most important points. Firstly, “interfering” with critical infrastructure will be a crime. In the bill, neither one of the terms is well defined. “Interference” is considered any activity that could be hindering any number of government activities, even “the economic or financial stability of Canada.”

While “lawful advocacy, protest, dissent, and artistic expression” are explicitly allowed in relation to “interference,” the government still gets to decide what is considered lawful. However, I will point out that the reporting on this subject has often ignored the “lawful advocacy” clause, but it is an important point. The government recognizes the potential threat to freedom of speech with this new bill.

The bill also allows sharing of information among government agencies to facilitate surveillance on Canadian citizens. It reduces the checks and balances by reducing warrant requirements for collecting and sharing information on citizens. Furthermore, it prohibits “civil proceedings” against “any person” for the disclosure of

information on Canadian citizens “in good faith.”

THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THE POTENTIAL THREAT TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH

The powers granted to the government by Bill C-51 are overly general, with worrisome implications for Canada’s future as a free and democratic society. Democracy is predicated upon the protection of free speech and privacy for all citizens, and this potential law can be interpreted broadly enough to implicate almost anybody. Do you support raising taxes on high-income earners or perhaps a more open trade policy? Well, you may be threatening Canada’s economic stability. The current government will likely not use these powers in the rather embellished manner described above. But the power is there, and power can be abused.