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## GTA MAYORALTY RACE WINNERS



**TORONTO**

AL-Mersal Toronto:- Amongst the hottest municipal elections races for the mayoralty seats in the province of Ontario this year, are the City of Toronto and the City of Mississauga.

In Toronto there are 3 major contenders for the Mayor's chair, Doug Ford, Olivia Chow and John Tory. While in Mississauga there are 2 major rival candidates; Steve Mahoney and Bonnie Crombie.

The Arab Community in the GTA seems to lean toward supporting John Tory in Toronto, especially after the unexpected illness of their beloved current Mayor Rob Ford, who was running for re-election and suddenly dropped off due to

an unexpected illness, handing the torch to his unpopular hot tempered brother Doug Ford.

While Olivia Chow socialist ideology seems not to set very well with most Torontonians, which leaves John Tory as the best choice to be the next Mayor of Toronto.

In Mississauga, Bonnie Crombie, the cheerful, attractive and energetic candidate seems to be the best choice among most of the Arab community for the mayor's seat, especially after the Arab's favourite outgoing Mayor Hazel McCallion, publicly endorsed her candidacy.

Many Arab and Muslim Canadian communities publicly endorsed

John Tory and Bonnie Crombie, and they held several debates, and fundraising events in support of their election campaigns, headed by several distinguished Arab and Muslim Canadian figures, such as Mr. Mohammed Fakeh 9th owner of Paramount Fine Food chain of restaurants), Canadian Arab Network, and the Muslim association of Greater Toronto.

The former liberal MPP; Linda Jeffrey, is also favourite among some of the Arab community in Brampton, and seems to be the best choice after the big spending scandal of the current incumbent mayor Suzan Funnel, which seems to derail her campaign.

As for the sixty year old Rob Burton, the current Mayor of Oakville, his seat seems to be safe and most of the Arab community members in Oakville seem to support him and in favour of his bid for re-election.

Mr. Malawi, President of the Canadian Arab Network, called upon all his Arab/Canadian colleagues in the province of Ontario to participate in the General Municipal Elections and vote with their community interest at heart rather than to vote emotionally.

On October 27th, AL-Mersal predicts that the four above candidates will be declared winners.

## Will The Ebola Outbreak Become a Worldwide Epidemic?



By: Ziad Malawi

The first reported case in the Ebola outbreak ravaging West Africa dates back to December 2013, in Guékédou, a forested area of Guinea near the border with Liberia and Sierra Leone. Travellers took it across the border: by late March, Liberia had reported eight suspected cases and Sierra Leone six. By the end of June 759 people had been infected and 467 people had died from the disease, making this the worst ever Ebola outbreak. The numbers are accelerating. As of October 8th, this year 8,399 cases and 4,033 deaths had been reported worldwide, the vast majority of them in these same three countries.

Ebola still barely rates among the continent's big killers. Far more deaths are attributable every day in West Africa to malaria, diarrhea and HIV/AIDS.

But the spread of infections means that death rates are raising fast. There are no licensed treatments or vaccines. The assumption that an Ebola outbreak could always be managed—the disease is hard to catch and people are only contagious when they are showing symptoms—is under strain.

The inadequacies of the health-care systems in the three most-affected countries help to explain how the Ebola outbreak got this far. Spain, whose first locally transmitted case was confirmed on October 6th, spends over \$3,000 per person at purchasing-power parity on health care; for Sierra Leone, the figure is just under \$300. The World Health Organization estimates that Liberia needs just fewer than 3,000 treatment beds for Ebola; its current capacity is 620. The United States, which suffered its first two cases thus far has 245 doctors per 100,000 people; and Guinea has one. Canada, has not had any cases yet, but the health minister assured Canadians, that Canada health providers are ready to handle any cases that may come to Canada, since they have the experience from the SARS illness. Hospitals in major cities in Canada are training their healthcare providers on how to guard against infections, while

treating any possible cases. Canada has also donated over 36 million dollars to Sierra Leone to fight the Ebola epidemic. While the science laboratories in Manitoba have expedited their promising vaccine which could put an end to the virus. Canadian Health Minister Rona Ambrose announced doctors can start human clinical trials of an experimental Ebola vaccine, developed at the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg.

"The Canadian vaccine provides great hope and promise, because it is shown to be 100 per cent effective in preventing the spread of the Ebola virus when tested on animals," Ambrose told reporters on Monday.

The particular vulnerability of health-care workers to Ebola is doubly tragic: as of October 5th there had been 390 cases among medical staff in the three West African countries and 227 deaths, with 3 cases in Spain, 4 in Germany, 1 in Great Britain and 4 in the United States resulting in 2 deaths so far.

Ebola is not just a medical emergency it's an economic one. Sick people cannot work; fear of sickness keeps others from coming to work. Transportation and travel is disrupted. An impact assessment by the World Bank, released on October 8th, estimated the short-term impact of the outbreak on the economies of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone in terms of forgone GDP at \$359m. Depending on whether the outbreak is contained quickly or slowly, the damage will continue into next year; under the Bank's gloomier "High Ebola" scenario, the economic loss to Liberia in 2015 would be the equivalent of 12% of GDP.

Unless the world gets together, and pools their resources to fight Ebola, this virus could become a world wide epidemic and could be the worst virus since the Nubonic Plague and HIV/AIDS.

The way I see it and may God help us all.

## 360 CANADIAN BOOTS ON IRAQI SOIL...?

AL-Mersal Toronto:- The Prime Minister of Canada, the Honourable Stephen Harper announced last week that Canada will send 36 soldiers; members of the elite Armed Forces Unit to Iraq to train Iraqi soldiers in fighting ISIS, but AL-Mersal learned that there are over 360 soldiers currently in Iraq and Kurdistan.

The contingent of special operations forces will work closely with U.S. forces but remain under full command of Canada's Chief of Defence Staff.

The forces will come from the Special Operations Regiment. No specifics were available on what type of work they'd be doing, but Mr. Harper said that the Canadian Forces deployed to Iraq would not be involved in combat.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Harper described the broader Canadian mission as one



that provides "strategic and tactical counsel to Iraqi forces before they start tactical operations" against the what-so-called Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

"This is an advise and assist role, not one in which Canadian Forces will be accompanying Iraqi forces on missions or a tactical operations. They are there to provide advice that will help the government of Iraq and its security forces to be more effective against ISIS. A release

from the Canadian government said Canada's contribution is to help prevent any escalation of the humanitarian crisis. Speaking to reporters at the NATO summit last week, Mr. Harper condemned the "barbaric acts" of ISIS, the jihadist group behind recent beheadings of American journalists and other mass killings of civilians. "There can be no doubt that the establishment and expansion of ISIS's terrorist caliphate is

not only a threat to millions of innocent people, it has become a grave danger to the security of the region," Harper said. "If left unchecked, this lawless area will become a training ground for international terrorist and will be an even greater threat to the security of Canada and its allies."

The soldiers which have been sent to Iraq via Kuwait and Jordan will be joined by more Canadian soldiers for a total of about 500 Canadian soldiers that will be deployed within the next three months. Mr. Harper also announced that the U.S. President Barack Obama had requested a commitment of military advisers based on the Americans' assessment of the needs on the ground.

Mr. Harper added that the initial deployment will be for a period of up to 6 months, but it will be reassessed after that time.

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# KLM 95th Anniversary Celebrations



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On Tuesday, Oct. 7th 2014, KLM celebrated their 95th anniversary in their head-offices in Amsterdam

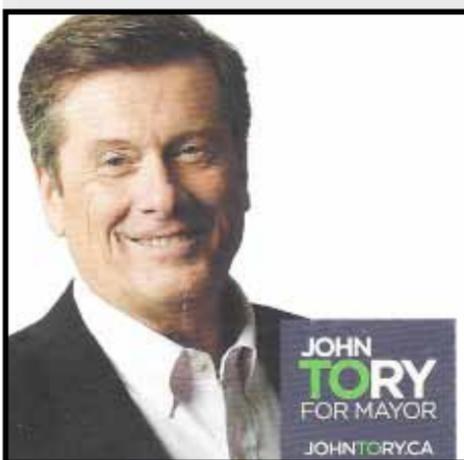
and in all their offices all over the World.

Mr. Karan Deswal, Director for Toronto and Western Canada, held one of the most successful and unique celebration party, at YYZ Toronto Pearson Airport, Pyramid room T-3. The Guests' list included several VIPs and dignitaries, and managers from other airlines with guest speaker being the Hon. Tony Ruprchet, former Ontario Minister of Citizenship who presented Mr. Deswal with a

congratulate letter from Premier Kathleen Wynne.

CDC Group of Companies' President and his staff and AL-Mersal Newspaper, were also among the invited guests. CDC- Crew Transport and CDC-Hospitality, who has been serving KLM for almost 25 years is very proud and honored to be of service for KLM. On this happy and commemorative occasion, CDC would like to Congratulate KLM especially Mr. Karan Deswal and all his colleagues

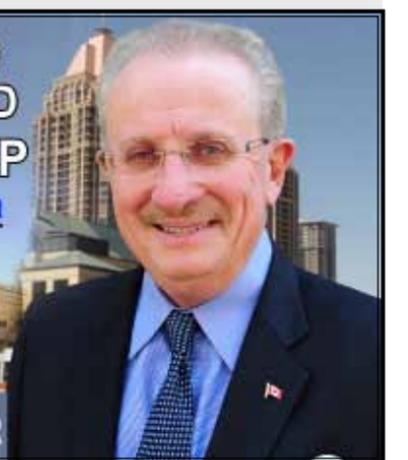
and staff at Toronto Airport on their esteemed company's 95th Anniversary. Thank you KLM for allowing us to serve you throughout all those years and for your excellent cooperation and mutually beneficial business relationship. On behalf CDC management and staff and myself, I would like to wish KLM the best of Luck for a continuous success for another 95 years and beyond . May God Bless you all...!

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## TOUGH SELL FOR MITZIE HUNTER-CANADA'S PENSION PLAN

Mitzie Hunter the rookie MPP was handed the daunting challenge for implementing the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan by 2017.

According to Minister Hunter, people are not saving enough today. Even though Canada's pension system does a good job at providing adequate retirement income, by combining public pension plan and individuals' saving.

"The saving rate today is about 5.5 per cent of income and that is simply not enough for people to live on in retirement. The CPP (Canada Pension Plan) is inadequate, at \$12,500 a year, for people to be able to live on in retirement," she said..

And believes that people are not taking advantage of retirement savings opportunities. As the coverage for pension is low. As two-thirds of Ontario workers do not have a workplace-based pension plan.

At the same time people are living longer, and the risk is not just to individuals but to business and the economy as well. Noting Ontarians had \$280 billion in unused contributions in Registered Retirement Savings Plans in 2012.

The province would prefer to see the federal government expand the Canadian Pension Plan, she said. But Ottawa has rejected that option, saying now is not the time while the economy is still recovering from the

global recession. PRPPs, which pool savings from more than one employer, are seen as a more cost-effective way to offer retirement schemes to small- and medium-sized businesses.

But participation by employers is voluntary. This plan applies only to federally-regulated companies, such as telecommunications firms, banks and airlines.

Four provinces have adopted their own version of the PRPP, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Quebec. Quebec plan is mandatory.

Public pensions, such as the CPP and OAS, provide low-income Canadians with a reasonable retirement income, while personal RRSPs savings cushions high-income excess income.

The 2017 start date was chosen to coincide with a reduction in Employment Insurance premiums, she added. To minimize the impact on business, the province has said its plan would be introduced gradually, starting with larger businesses.

Contributions would be phased in over a two-year period. The plan would cover the 3 million Ontarians not currently enrolled in

a comparable workplace pension plan. Employees would be required to pay 1.9 per cent of their annual earnings up to a maximum income of \$90,000, matched by their employer.

A \$90,000 earner will pay about \$137 a month, while at \$50,000 that drops to \$79.

There are still lots of details to be worked out, including who should be exempt from the plan, how to define "comparable" plans and who should run the system.

At stake is \$3.5 billion a year in payroll deductions that would be channeled into investments.

The private sector fears those funds will disappear from their coffers, as consumers shift their RRSP savings into publicly managed workplace plans.

The mandatory ORPP — will deduct 1.9 per cent of the pay of Ontarians who do not have a workplace pension plan. Their employers will be forced to match that contribution.

For someone earning \$45,000 a year, that will mean an additional \$788 deduction annually. Future retirees will eventually receive up to \$25,000 in benefits.

"Those with a comparable plan will be exempt. But first they have to define 'comparable' for employees and employers. In order to have a strong retirement system in Ontario that covers all Ontarians.



## GENETIC: Non-Discrimination Act

Senator James Cowan, Leader of the Opposition, re-tabled his private member's bill, the Genetic Non-Discrimination Act (Bill S-201). Genetic testing holds the promise of tremendous health benefits for Canadians. Yet fear of being uninsurable or passed over for a promotion is holding many Canadians back from genetic testing that may be medically beneficial.

"In Canada, unlike in many other countries around the world, once a person has a genetic test there is no specific law, at either the federal or provincial level, to protect against genetic discrimination. This bill would change that," said Senator Cowan.

"There are many personal reasons why someone may decide not to have genetic testing, but concern about genetic discrimination should not be an issue."

In Canada, unlike most other western countries, there is no protection at either the federal or the provincial level. That is the problem that Bill S201 is designed to address.

Right now, there is nothing to prevent an insurance company or a potential or current employer from demanding the results of any genetic testing one may have had, and then using that information to one's detriment.

There are many personal reasons why someone may choose not

to have genetic testing, including exercising the simple right of "I don't want to know." But concern about genetic discrimination should not be a factor in that decision. No Canadian should have to make the choice between a medical test that could point the way to a healthier life, being able to get insurance or finding and keeping a job. Countries around the world have passed laws against this and, in my view, it's time that Canada did as well.

Indeed, some countries are now debating whether to make certain genetic tests universally available to their citizens. That is how powerfully some view

don't know. But here in Canada even such a debate is very problematic because without clear, strong protection against genetic discrimination any universal program would be more than irresponsible.

Bill S201 is my proposal to fix this gap. The bill is in three parts: first, it would introduce a new genetic nondiscrimination act; second, it would amend the Canada Labour Code; and, finally, it would amend the Canadian Human Rights Act. I would like to briefly take you through each of those parts.

Bill S-201 is now before the Senate

the potential health benefits. There is now a vigorous debate in the U.S. on the merits and perils of such universal genetic testing. There is a similar debate going on in Israel. They can have the debate there because Israel has a strong law prohibiting genetic discrimination, with penalties for contravention including fines and imprisonment.

Should there be universal testing? I

Standing Committee on Human Rights. On October 2, 2014, the Committee heard compelling testimony from Dr. Ronald Cohn with the Hospital for Sick Kids and Dr. Yvonne Bombard from St. Michael's Hospital. Both witnesses described the human costs associated with delaying genetic testing out of fear, and the potential impact on one's family and future.

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powerfully some view



## Think Tank : Is democracy overblown today?

Al Mersal Toronto: The coming year will be full of elections. The world's most populous democracy, India, heads to the polls, and many other big emerging markets—including Indonesia, Brazil and Turkey—will elect presidents. Add to that mid-term elections in America, voting across all 28 countries of the EU for the European Parliament and many other polls, from Afghanistan to South Africa, and 2014 will see a great global exercise in democracy. Yet many people fret that, despite

all this voting, democracy is in poor shape. Turnout in elections in the rich world has been dropping since the 1970s, from more than 80% to less than 70% (in the case of European Parliament elections, turnout has fallen every time since voting began in 1979, to just 43% in 2009). Voters in many countries are rejecting mainstream parties and turning to fringe groups. In America, politics too often look dysfunctional and gridlocked. Elsewhere, from Brazil to Thailand to Ukraine, people have taken

to the streets in protest. Is all this evidence that representative democracy is failing to adjust to the age of the internet and social

media? Or is democracy working more or less as it should, giving opportunities to citizens to express dissatisfaction with their leaders?



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# CANADA'S RUGBY TEAM OPENS THE 2014 IRB AMERICAS CHAMPIONSHIP

Canada's 20-6 victory over Uruguay on to open the 2014 IRB Americas Rugby Championship in Langford, BC. Canada's Dan Moor, right, tries to escape the clutches of Uruguay's Frederico Favaro during Americas Rugby Championship game at Westhills Stadium on Saturday.



Photograph By ALIRIAN LAM

## TRAVEL

### Ivvavik National Park of Canada

Ivvavik, is one of Canada's newest most stunning – and least visited – national parks. Located more than 200km above the Arctic Circle on the northern-most stretches of the Canadian mainland, it's a place that basks in the light of the midnight sun all summer, a difficult place to access and many of its beautiful peaks remain unnamed. Visited by only 75 people per year, but those who come here are richly rewarded. Ivvavik means "a place for giving birth, a nursery, in Inuvialuktun, the language of the Inuvialuit, is the first national park in Canada to be created as a result of an aboriginal land claim agreement. The park protects a portion of the calving grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd and represents the Northern Yukon and Mackenzie Delta natural regions.



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## WATCH OUT FOR HACKERS HAND OVER YOUR DATA



Lana Richards.

How much of ourselves are we willing to give away? Every time we purchase and add a new device, we give away a piece of ourselves. And no doubt these devices are designed to make our lives easier. We like to try new products and new applications. Often doing this with little knowledge about who receives this information, much less about our privacy or ethics and the vast array of details that define us. What are these new digital services and hardware devices doing to us? Or the notion that these devices which are widely distributed can track our health, what we read, where we're going and what we watch, are fundamentally unstoppable questions. And we now have reasons to call into question companies' judgment in using the data.

the information, security and competition. With comfort and ease we hand over information to our face book and Twitter and accounts. Having somewhat of an understanding or knowledge of these companies, but behind and beyond the marketing and advertising, who are these nameless people, which we know little about? But they sure know a lot about us. Have we given considerable thought to the fact that we are selling our life and privacy to these faceless organizations for the price of hardware?

The lines between health-care, business and technology have now become blurred. A generation ago, health-care data were always considered private, so that patients would be open and honest with health-care professionals. Today some manufactures want their products to be considered medical devices in-order to save data.

Privacy is part of a larger discussion on who owns our data, the monopoly on



we are given considerable thought to the fact that we are selling our life and privacy to these faceless organizations for the price of hardware?

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## TOO EXPENSIVE TO LIVE IN TORONTO



According to a new poll conducted by Ipsos Reid four in ten Torontonians are thinking about leaving Toronto because it's too expensive. Interestingly, Toronto, being a cosmopolitan and dynamic city, has a lot to offer those who are willing to pay more to live there. More specifically, the arts, the culture, food, restaurants maybe your job are some aspects associated with living in Toronto. But the diversity of Toronto is the most loved aspect in every region of the city although in old Toronto it is tied with love of their neighborhood.

## FALL REPORT CANADA'S ENVIRONMENT:

According to the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development Julie Gelfand, the government of Canada does not have the answers to many questions that impact the future of sustainable development.

She said, when they last looked at climate change commitments in 2012, they concluded that the government's approach to introducing regulations sector by sector was unlikely to reduce emissions enough to meet the Copenhagen target. Under the Copenhagen Accord, Canada committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020.

The most recent audit of climate change showed that little has changed over the last two years. They found that federal measures currently in place will have little effect on emissions by 2020. The government has introduced regulations in the transportation and electricity generation sectors. However, regulations in the oil and gas sector—where emissions are growing the fastest—are still not in place 8 years after the government first indicated it would regulate this area.

There is strong evidence that Canada will not meet its international 2020 greenhouse gas emission reduction target. The federal government does not have an overall plan that maps out how Canada will achieve this target. Canadians have not been given the details about which regulations will be developed, when, nor what greenhouse gas reductions will be expected. Finally, the federal government has not provided the necessary coordination so that all levels of government, working together, can achieve the national target by 2020.

Regarding oil sands monitoring, the federal government is working with the province of Alberta to lay the groundwork for more comprehensive monitoring of the environmental effects of oil sands development. The audit examined Environment Canada's performance under the Joint Canada-Alberta

Implementation Plan for Oil Sands. And found that overall, Environment Canada implemented the monitoring projects that we examined on time and on budget.

Nonetheless, there remains work to be done. The monitoring information resulting from the projects that are looking at air, water and biodiversity needs to be better integrated to understand the long term environmental effects of

from the shipping industry for new or modified aids to navigation, such as beacons and shore lights. Furthermore, the Coast Guard has not assessed the risks associated with decreasing icebreaking presence in the Arctic.

There are concerns, about the overall vision of what the federal government intends to provide in this vast new frontier, in terms of modern charts,



oils sands development, including cumulative impacts. Environment Canada needs to do a better job of integrating traditional ecological knowledge and engaging First Nations, Metis, and other groups. As well as stakeholders, who need to understand Environment Canada's role in oil sands monitoring beyond March 2015.

The next audit focused on the services that Environment Canada, Transport Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada provide to support marine navigation in the Arctic. They found that weather and ice information has improved, but noted gaps and emerging risks that, if left unaddressed, will only grow as marine traffic increases in the Arctic.

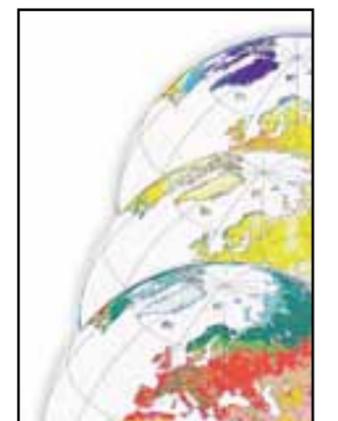
For example, many higher-risk areas in the Canadian Arctic are inadequately surveyed and charted. Some of the maps and charts for the Arctic are over 40 years old, and less than a quarter are rated as being "good" by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

In addition, the Canadian Coast Guard is having difficulty responding to requests

aids to navigation and icebreaker services, given the anticipated increase in vessel traffic.

Whether, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, the National Energy Board, and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission are taking steps to implement the new 2012 Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

An objective of the new Act was to increase Aboriginal engagement. Many groups, including Aboriginal peoples, are concerned that they do not have the capacity to participate meaningfully. This reduces the contribution these groups can make and may diminish public confidence in environmental assessments.



**Advance Polls are open from  
September 29 to October 11.**



### Are you ready to vote?

If you are 18 or older on Election Day, you can vote.  
If you need information to help you vote in Mississauga, like:

- Where and when you can vote
- What ward you live in
- Who the candidates are and
- Types of ID you can use

You can call the City's Election Office at 905 615-VOTE (8683) or visit [mississaugavotes.ca](http://mississaugavotes.ca). Election Day is Monday, October 27, 2014.

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**MISSISSAUGA**

# The Ethics of Ebola Outbreak

Al Mersal Toronto— As the Ebola virus grips an unprecedentedly wide swath of Africa, many are asking whether it is time to begin administering untested drugs and vaccines. Given that the disease can kill up to 90% of its victims – higher than the mortality rate from the bubonic plague – there seems to be little to lose from relaxing clinical norms. But the suggestion raises difficult ethical questions – and the urgency of the situation does not leave much time for deliberation.

One reason that there is no proven cure or vaccine for Ebola hemorrhagic fever is the wiliness of crossover diseases. These viruses are transmitted from animal populations, which can act as reservoirs where the pathogens can develop and mutate, making it difficult for researchers to keep pace with the diseases' variations.

But another reason is pharmaceutical companies' declining interest in manufacturing vaccines. Indeed, only four companies today make vaccines, compared to 26 companies 50 years ago. These firms know that the return on their investment will be relatively low, owing to the long lead-in time that results from slow manufacturing processes (though new, faster



methods offer some hope).

Public distrust of vaccines has also played a major role in this decline. In the late 1990s, anti-vaccine sentiment manifested itself in a backlash against the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine. Similarly, a 2004 New York Academy of Medicine survey indicated that twice as many people were worried about the side effects of the well-established smallpox vaccine as were concerned about the disease itself.

The comparative docility of infectious diseases like smallpox has contributed to a degree of complacency about the magnitude of the risks of refusing vaccination. When an epidemic actually begins, people quickly change their minds, and demand the rapid production and distribution of vaccines. That is probably a good thing, but it is also un-

realistic.

The British pharmaceutical company Glaxo-SmithKline recently announced that, together with the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, it is developing an experimental vaccine for Ebo-

la. But it is just entering phase I clinical trials to test toxicity. With two more trial stages to go, the vaccine would not be ready for deployment before 2015.

***One reason that there is no proven cure or vaccine for Ebola hemorrhagic fever is the wiliness of crossover diseases.***

The duration of the trial process has provoked complaints of excessive red tape. But such criticism is unfounded, given the potential of proposed drugs to cause serious illness or even death.

Indeed, phase I trials – also called “first-in-man studies” – are extremely risky and ethically knotty, meaning that they must be handled with the utmost care.

But what happens when the population is already ill? In 1996,

from untreated meningitis, bolstering the case for administering untested Ebola drugs today. It is important to note that even pragmatic arguments about rationing scarce medical resources can be highly controversial. During World War II, when army doctors were forced to ration doses of penicillin, they decided to give first priority to men with sexually transmitted diseases, who would be ready to return to the battlefield more quickly. But many contended that men who had been wounded in battle

during a major meningitis epidemic in northern Nigeria, the drug company Pfizer supplied doctors with the oral antibiotic Trovan, which was being tested against another drug, Ceftriaxone. Eleven children died during the Trovan trial, and others were left permanently disabled. Still, the death rate in the Trovan trial was much lower than the rate

were more deserving.

Putting such a moral spin on the allocation of Ebola treatments, it could be argued that Africans should be selected over Westerners, because Africa's health-care systems are less able to combat the disease. But one might also contend that Western medical workers deserve higher priority because they volunteered to expose themselves to the disease, in order to help those who had no choice.

Such arguments make reaching agreement virtually impossible. Worse, using social, rather than medical, criteria for rationing treatments is a slippery slope. One need only recall Seattle's notorious “God” committee, which in the early 1960s allocated then-scarce kidney dialysis on the basis of criteria like earnings, church involvement, and even Scout membership. The use of social criteria for treatment allocation has had a bad name ever since – and rightly so.

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## The Long Way Ahead For Hong Kong

AL MERSAL TORONTO – It is not wholly true to say that the eyes of the entire world are on Hong Kong. They would be, of course, if people in mainland China were allowed to know what is happening in their country's most successful city. But China's government has tried to block any news about the Hong Kong democracy demonstrations from reaching the rest of the country – not exactly a sign of confidence on the part of China's rulers in their system of authoritarian government.

Before suggesting a way forward for Hong Kong's ham-fisted authorities, three things need to be made clear. First, it is a slur on the integrity and principles of Hong Kong's citizens to assert, as the Chinese government's propaganda machine does, that they are being manipulated by outside forces. What motivates Hong Kong's tens of thousands of

demonstrators is a passionate belief that they should be able to run their affairs as they were promised, choosing those who govern them in free and fair elections.

Second, others outside of Hong Kong have a legitimate interest in what happens in the city. Hong Kong is a great international center, whose freedoms and autonomy were guaranteed in a treaty registered at the United Nations. In particular, the United Kingdom, the other party to this Sino-British Joint Declaration, sought and received guarantees that the survival of Hong Kong's autonomy and liberties would be guaranteed for 50 years.

So it is ridiculous to suggest that British ministers and parliamentarians should keep their noses out of Hong Kong's affairs. In fact, they have a right and a moral obligation to continue to check on whether China is keeping its side of the bargain – as, to be fair, it has



mostly done so far.

But, third, the biggest problems have arisen because of a dispute about where Hong Kong's promised path to democracy should take it, and when. No one told Hong Kongers when they were assured of universal suffrage that it would not mean being able to choose for whom they could vote. No one said that Iran was the democratic model that China's Communist bureaucracy had in mind, with the Chinese government authorized to exercise an effective veto over candidates.

In fact, that is not what China had in mind. As early as 1993, China's

chief negotiator on Hong Kong, Lu Ping, told the newspaper People's Daily, “The [method of universal suffrage] should be reported to [China's Parliament] for the record, whereas the central government's agreement is not necessary. How Hong Kong develops its democracy in the future is completely within the sphere of the autonomy of Hong Kong. The central government will not interfere.” The following year, China's foreign ministry confirmed this.

The British Parliament summarized what had been said and promised in a report on Hong Kong in 2000. “The Chinese government has therefore formally accepted that it is for the Hong Kong government to determine the extent and nature of democracy in Hong Kong.”

So, what next? The peaceful demonstrators in Hong Kong, with their umbrellas and refuse-collection bags, will not themselves be swept off the streets like garbage or bullied into submission by tear gas and pepper spray. Any attempt to do so would present a terrible and damaging picture of Hong Kong and China to the world, and would be an affront to all that China should aspire to be.

The Hong Kong authorities have gravely miscalculated the views of their citizens. Like the bad courtiers against whom Confucius warned, they went to Beijing and told the emperor what they thought he wanted to hear, not what the situation really was in the city. They must think again.

Under the existing plans, there is supposed to be a second phase of consultations on democratic development to follow what turned out to be a counterfeit start to the process. Hong Kong's government should now offer its people a proper second round of consultation, one that is open and honest. Dialogue is the only sensible way forward. Hong Kong's citizens are not irresponsible or unreasonable. A decent compromise that allows for elections that people can recognize as fair, not fixed, is surely available.

The demonstrators in Hong Kong, young and old, represent the city's future. Their hopes are for a peaceful and prosperous life in which they can enjoy the freedoms and rule of law that they were promised. That is not only in the interest of their city; it is in China's interest, too. Hong Kong's future is the main issue; but so, too, are China's honor and its standing in the world.

# The Intellectual Battle against ISIS

DUBAI - The global financial crisis taught the world how profoundly interdependent our economies have become. In today's crisis of extremism, we must recognize that we are just as interdependent for our security, as is clear in the current struggle to defeat ISIS.

If we are to prevent ISIS from teaching us this lesson the hard way, we must acknowledge that we cannot extinguish the fires of fanaticism by force alone. The world must unite behind a holistic drive to discredit the ideology that gives extremists their power, and to restore hope and dignity to those whom they would recruit.

ISIS certainly can - and will - be defeated militarily by the international coalition that is now assembling and which the UAE is actively supporting. But military containment is only a partial solution. Lasting peace requires three other ingredients: winning the battle of ideas; upgrading weak governance; and supporting grassroots human development.

Such a solution must begin with concerted international political will. Not a single politician in North America, Europe, Africa, or Asia can afford to ignore events in the Middle East. A globalized threat requires a globalized response. Everyone will feel the heat, because such flames know no borders; indeed, ISIS has recruited members of at least 80 nationalities.

ISIS is a barbaric and brutal organization. It represents neither Islam nor humanity's most basic values. Nonetheless, it has emerged, spread, and resisted those who oppose it. What we are fighting is not just a terrorist organization, but the embodiment of a malicious ideology that must be defeated intellectually.

I consider this ideology to be the greatest danger that the world will face in the next decade. Its seeds are growing in Europe,

the United States, Asia, and elsewhere. With its twisted religious overtones, this pre-packaged franchise of hate is available for any terrorist group to adopt. It carries the power to mobilize thousands of desperate, vindictive, or angry young people and use them to strike at the foundations of civilization.

The ideology fueling ISIS has much in common with that of Al Qaeda and its affiliates in Nigeria, Pakistan,



Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai.

Afghanistan, Somalia, Yemen, North Africa, and the Arabian Peninsula. What most worries me is that a decade ago, such an ideology was all that Al Qaeda needed to destabilize the world, even from a primitive base in the caves of Afghanistan. Today, under ISIS, adherents have access to technology, finance, a huge land base, and an international jihadist network. Far from being defeated, their ideology of rage and hate has become stricter, more pernicious, and more widespread.

The destruction of terrorist groups is not enough to bring lasting peace. We must also strike at the root to deprive their dangerous ideology of the power to rise again among people left vulnerable by an environment of hopelessness and desperation. And, on this note, let us be positive.

The solution has three components. The first is to counter malignant ideas with enlightened thinking, open minds, and an attitude of tolerance and acceptance. This approach arises from

our Islamic religion, which calls for peace, honors life, values dignity, promotes human development, and directs us to do good to others.

Only one thing can stop a suicidal youth who is ready to die for ISIS: a stronger ideology that guides him onto the right path and convinces him that God created us to improve our world, not to destroy it. We can look to our neighbors in Saudi Arabia for their great successes in de-radicalizing many young people through counseling centers and programs. In this battle of minds, it is thinkers and scientists of spiritual and intellectual stature among Muslims who are best placed to lead the charge.

The second component is support for governments' efforts to create stable institutions that can deliver real services to their people. It should be clear to everyone that the rapid growth of ISIS was fueled by the Syrian and Iraqi



governments' failings: the former made war on its own people, and the latter promoted sectarian division. When governments fail to address instability, legitimate grievances, and persistent serious challenges, they create an ideal environment for hateful ideologies to incubate - and for terrorist organizations to fill the vacuum of legitimacy.

The final component is to address urgently the black holes in human development that afflict many areas of the Middle East. This is not only an

Arab responsibility, but also an international responsibility, because providing grassroots opportunity and a better quality of life for the people of this region is guaranteed to ameliorate our shared problems of instability and conflict. We have a critical need for long-term projects and initiatives to eliminate poverty, improve education and health, build infrastructure, and create economic opportunities. Sustainable development is the most sustainable answer to terrorism.

Our region is home to more than 200 million young people. We have the opportunity to inspire them with hope and to direct their energies toward improving their lives and the lives of those around them. If we fail, we will abandon them to emptiness, unemployment, and the malicious ideologies of terrorism.

Every day that we take a step toward delivering economic

development, creating jobs, and raising standards of living, we undermine the ideologies of fear and hate that feed on hopelessness. We starve terrorist organizations of their reason to exist.

I am optimistic, because I know that the people of the Middle East possess a power of hope and a desire for stability and prosperity that are stronger and more enduring than opportunistic and destructive ideas. There is no power stronger than that of hope for a better life.

# WHO NEEDS A SAUNA WHEN YOU CAN SOAK IN Saharan Sands?



As the morning sun rises over the golden dunes of Erg Chebbi in the Sahara, men and women dig holes for tourists who want to bury themselves in the sand.

Decades ago, tribal nomads settled here, living a traditional desert existence, now they're turning the sands themselves to attract visitors.

The former nomadic tribesmen for many years have been running hotels and restaurants in Merzouga, a key stop on the Moroccan tourist trail on the edge of a sea of sand dunes.

For around 10 minutes visitors are buried neck-

deep in the hot sand for therapy said to cure those who suffer from rheumatism, lumbago, arthritis and other skin disorders. A sand bath at Merzouga can cost up



to 10 Euros (\$13). After the soak the patients are then wrapped in hot towels to avoid the shock of a sudden cooling of the body. The therapy is said to have the same effect as a sauna; helping to purge the body of poisonous toxins.

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# Hipster- hijabi

## FASHION WITH FAITH

Fashion-conscious Muslim women who wear the Islamic headscarf, known as the hijab, have had to get creative. By fusing both their sense of fashion with their faith, this growing group is reinterpreting traditional notions of what it means to dress conservatively. They're spawning a new market for niche fashion brands and finding unexpected supporters among some mainstream brands, as well as from



4,000 pieces since its launch three months ago. Muhammad, a professional athlete and member of the United States fencing team, said she struggled trying to find long-sleeved, floor-length dresses to wear when she traveled on speaking tours on behalf of Team USA and the State Department.



conservative Christian and Orthodox Jewish women who also dress modestly.

Louella the Los Angeles-based brand has sold nearly

Though there are countless Muslim-owned companies around the world making clothes that cater to women who wear the hijab, many are selling traditional black-flowing robes known as abayas.

Some mainstream designers have started

to cater to this growing demand for stylish modest wear. This summer, DKNY released a collection during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan that sold exclusively in the Arabian Gulf. Karl Lagerfeld also brought his Chanel Cruise Collection this year to Dubai, unveiling designs inspired by the rich culture and patterns of the Middle East. Still, the market is ripe for more investment said Albert Momdijan, founder and CEO of Dubai based Sokotra Capital.

"The Muslim population is the second largest population in the world with roughly 1.8 billion people so it's a large population that you definitely cannot ignore. And 50 percent are below the age of 25." The hipster hijabi movement is the byproduct of a young generation of Muslim women coming of age. It grew organically and continues to take on new meaning by the women who embrace it.

# EGYPTIAN STAR

## Khaled Saleh: Dead At Age 50



One of Egypt's most respected actors, Saleh was born in Cairo Jan. 23, 1964, and studied law, participating in several theatrical performances during his time at university. A regular performer at the Hanager Theater at the Cairo Opera House, Saleh began his career as a screen actor in 1999 and quickly became known for portraying villains.

His performance as a corrupt police officer in Tarek Al Eryan's 2004 film "Tito," alongside lead actor Ahmed El-Sakka,

marked the launching point of his silver screen career. One of the highest grossing films in Egyptian cinema history, "Tito" won Saleh the best supporting actor award at the Egyptian National Theater Festival in 2005.



# WESTERN HARAM

## Facebook Account For "Rich Kids of Tehran" Shutdown

The "Rich Kids of Tehran," an Instagram account created one month ago, with the intention to show the world what they don't see on newspapers and TV, basically the lavish and fun side of Tehran's rich and famous. The site was shut down after it was quickly growing a fan base of over 98,000 followers. As such a public display seems to have unsettled Iran's conservative Internet monitors.

Last month, an Iranian court sentenced seven young Iranians arrested in May for making a Pharrell Williams' "Happy" fan video. The seven were given suspended sentences of prison time and 91 lashes.



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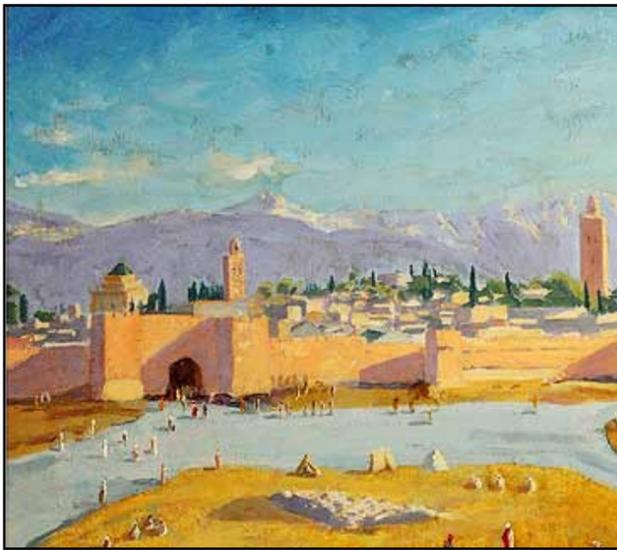


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# The Art Of POWER

"YOU have a medium at your disposal which offers real power," wrote Winston Churchill in his essay "Painting as a Pastime", "if you can find out how to use it." Britain's wartime leader came late to the hobby he used to relax, first picking up a brush in 1915 to distract himself after the disasters of Gallipoli. Over the next half-century he painted more than 500 daubs, as he called them, giving a few to lucky friends such as Presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Dwight Eisenhower.



Now the largest exhibition of them in America since 1965, according to Churchill's great-grandson, Duncan Sandys, has opened at the Millennium Gate Museum in Atlanta. Thirty-three pictures appear on the walls of the building, itself lavishly designed to resemble Rome's Arch of Titus, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the statesman's death in January 2015. Their appearance in Georgia is linked both to Mr Sandys's current residence in the state and the family's past there. James Oglethorpe, Georgia's founder, learned military tactics from John Churchill, eventually the 1st Duke of Marlborough, in the 18th century. Churchill himself visited the state several times, delighting in what he saw. "What lovely country surrounds the city of Atlanta! Its rich red soils, the cotton-quilted hills and uplands, the rushing, turgid rivers, all are alive with tragic memories of

the Civil War," he enthused in "Land of Corn and Lobsters".

One painting on display, "Lake Geneva, Switzerland," has been loaned by Chequers, the country retreat of British prime ministers; another arrived from the home of Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie. Their work, "The Tower of the Katoubia Mosque" (pictured), is the only one Churchill completed during the second world war. It was painted on a trip to Marrakech with Roosevelt, the British leader having persuaded his American counterpart to visit after a summit meeting in 1943. The burned orange of the mosque's exterior warms the wall on which it hangs; blurred streakings of colour suggest the haze and the heat of North Africa—Mr Sandys recalls his grandfather explaining that Churchill often "splashed on the paint."

The year Churchill was born, the first

Impressionist exhibition took place in Paris. The leader's landscapes in particular flirt with the colourful legacy of that movement, allowing a sense of place but little concept of time. The most striking work on display, however, proves an exception. "The Beach at Walmer", painted in 1938 as Europe rolled towards war, shows a coastal scene in which a hard, shelf-like beach runs into water composed of teal and navy. Three bathers in a row, all wearing caps, and two in the distance, frolic in the sea. None seem to mind the huge, black, Napoleonic-era cannon dominating the work's foreground. General Hastings Ismay, Churchill's chief of staff during the war, asked for the painting when his prime minister offered him a reward for his services. He felt it best represented Churchill as a leader—a constant, looming guard over Britain's shores.

## 2014 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

### WHAT TO EXPECT

The 2014 Municipal Election is October 27. Make a plan and ensure that you know what to expect when you go to cast your vote. If it is your first time voting in a Municipal Election, here is what you can expect on voting day.

When you go to your polling location on Election Day, take your Voter Notification Card and acceptable Identification (ID) with you. When you get there, you will be given a ballot with three offices on it. You will have the option to vote for:

- the local Councillor in your ward,
- the local School Board Trustee of the School Board that you support (Public or Catholic), and
- the Mayor.

Every elector in the City will have the same options for Mayor, but only electors living in a ward will see the Councillor choices and Trustee choices for their ward.

Voting is easy when you get to the polling location:

- Give your identification (ID) and Voter Notification Card to an election official who will cross your name off the Voters' List and give you a ballot and a secrecy folder.
- Go behind a voting screen.
- Mark your ballot by connecting the head and tail of the arrow pointing to the candidate of your choice.
- Place your marked ballot in the secrecy folder, and
- Go the election official who will insert your ballot into the vote tabulator (vote counting equipment).

Your vote is then recorded

and counted. All vote totals are stored in the tabulator until the voting location closes. At this time a results tape will be produced by the vote tabulator.

Voting in Canada is a safe and easy process. No one will know who you voted for. Who you vote for is up to you. We encourage citizens to be actively engaged in their local government elections. They determine the members of City Council and local school boards who make important decisions including how tax dollars are spent in our community.



About the Municipal Elections The 2014 Municipal Election is October 27. If you are a qualified elector on Election Day, you can vote. For more information about the 2014 Municipal Election, visit [mississaugavotes.ca](http://mississaugavotes.ca) or call 905-615-VOTE. If you need information in an alternate format, please call 3-1-1. Vote! You decide what the future of your City and schools look like.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The 2014 Municipal Election is October 27 - Make sure that you know what your local government does so you can make an informed decision when you cast your vote.

The City has launched a local government website that contains information for

citizens on how to actively engage in local government. Visit our local government website at [mississauga.ca/localgov](http://mississauga.ca/localgov) to learn more about your city government.

The Community is directly impacted by the elected municipal and school board representatives who make vital decisions for the City. Local governments deliver programs that enhance the quality of life for citizens and sustain the systems that make our communities possible.

Services that your local government are responsible for are part of your everyday life. They include:

- affordable housing,
- fire, police and ambulances,
- city parks,
- roads and bridges,
- water supply and transit, and
- Libraries.

Local Government Awareness Week Local Government Awareness Week will take place from October 19 - 25, it aims to generate awareness and educate the public on the important roles and responsibilities of local governments in the province.

As citizens we all have a stake in what happens in our city: how it's run, how we live and work together and what the future will look like.

About the Municipal Elections The 2014 Municipal Election is October 27. If you are a qualified elector on Election Day, you can vote. For more information about the 2014 Municipal Election, visit [mississaugavotes.ca](http://mississaugavotes.ca) or call 905-615-VOTE. If you need information in an alternate format, please call 3-1-1. Vote! You decide what the future of your City and schools look like.



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## BUDGET CUTS TO FIRE SERVICE

TORONTO (October 8, 2014) — Torontonians are in strong disagreement with the Rob Ford administration's cuts to Toronto Fire Services in the 2014 City Budget, which removed four fire trucks and 84 firefighters from service.

Toronto Fire Chief Jim Sales presented a substantial amount of misinformation to council in order to help



achieve cuts to fire services in Toronto, despite the fact that the fire chief's job is to protect the city. The cuts instituted resulted in a loss of services to the citizens of Toronto.

A new poll conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner conclusively shows that voters were not in support of cuts to fire service, and in fact the majority of them were

never made aware of these cuts until after the fact.

According to the poll, an overwhelming amount of voters support restoring Toronto Fire Services back to the 2013 levels, by adding funding for four additional trucks and eight-four firefighters.

"The Ford cuts to fire-fighting were a bad step in the wrong direction," said Ed Kennedy, President of

the Toronto Professional Fire Fighters' Association. "We are weeks away from a municipal election, and the new Mayor and council have the chance to make

things right by restoring the cut funding and getting the fire-fighting budget back on track in 2015."

Torontonians agree, and have indicated that they feel Toronto Fire Services are an important use of tax dollars.

In 2007, Toronto City Council made a commitment to meet the National Fire Protection Association's international standards for fire protection

(NFPA 1710), but they have yet to do so, and instead have cut budgets back. Furthermore, residents are more than twice as likely to support an automatic increase of resources for Toronto Fire Services to match population growth, regardless of budget impact. An believe that these standards should be met by the next City Council

"It's hard to imagine a public service that enjoys stronger, more emotional support than fire-fighting," Don Guy, Managing Director of GQR Canada said. "Candidates for council in the October 27th election are well-advised to pledge themselves to restore the Ford firefighting cuts."

The poll also indicated that only one-third of Torontonians want to cut programs to save taxes: voters want to maintain investing in firefighting programs and services, even if it means a tax increase.

"The newly elected Toronto City Council will have the power to listen to our residents, and we are asking candidates to show their support for Toronto Fire Services by pledging to reverse the Ford-era firefighting cuts," said Kennedy.

## GENDER AND GEOGRAPHICAL BIAS

Just five per cent of almost 900 Nobel Prizes distributed to the most brilliant minds in peace, literature, science and economics over the past century have been awarded to women.

Of 867 prestigious awards distributed since 1901, just 46 have been awarded to women, starting with Marie Curie who won the prize for physics alongside her husband Pierre in 1903 and again for chemistry in 1911.

Since then, 15 women have also been awarded the Nobel Prize for scientific pursuits - compared to more than 500 men. A dozen have received the award for literature, 14 for peace and one for economics.

Geographical analysis shows western countries having received a disproportionately high number of awards throughout the Nobel's history.

The United States, produced 323 award winners, and the United Kingdom has 113, are by far the most regular recipients of the prize.

In third place is Germany, which has produced 87

Nobel winners, with the majority in physics, chemistry and medicine. Just 17 awards have been given to men or women from Africa and 10 to those from South America.

handed out for medicine have gone to female health-workers.

The findings come as the Nobel Institute prepares to announce the 2014 winner of the peace prize,



The breakdown of male and female winners of the award in each discipline shows women in peace and literature are more likely to win the award than those in scientific pursuits.

Given the huge political and social power held by western men over the last century, low representation for women may be expected. However the findings in certain disciplines are striking.

For Physics, less than one per cent of the award winners have been women. Similarly, just under a dozen of the 200 prizes

with Pope Francis tipped by bookmakers as the favourite.

Since being elected in March last year after the resignation of Benedict XVI, the Pontiff has repeatedly called for peace in conflict zones such as Ukraine, Syria and Iraq.

If he was to win this week, he would become the 83rd man to be awarded the peace prize, compared to 24 organisations and 14 women. As he did not, the price was awarded to the young Pakistani activist Malala Yousufzai.

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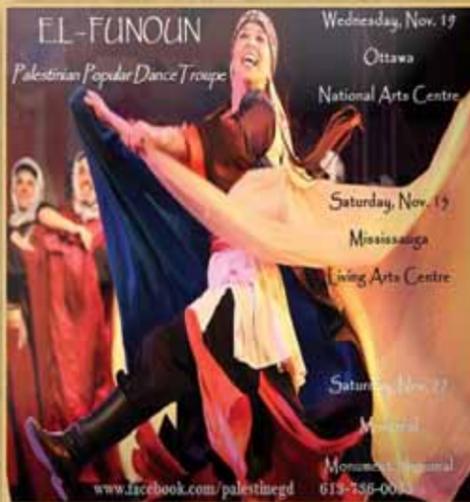


Dear Friends,

The Palestinian General Delegation is pleased to announce the first-ever Canadian Tour of the El-Funoun Palestinian Popular Dance Troupe, who be performing in Mississauga, Ottawa and Montreal this November 2014.

The Leading Palestinian Dance Company, "El-Funoun" الفنون was established in 1979 and has staged more than 1,000 performances to international acclaim. The troupe expresses Arab-Palestinian folklore and contemporary culture through unique combinations of traditional and stylized music and dance. Their tour-de-force performances are vibrant vignettes of Palestinian life told through dance theatre.

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