

Megan Leslie voted “Rookie MP of the Year” at Magazine Awards

OTTAWA – As part of the Maclean’s magazine t h i r d - a n n u a l “Parliamentarian of the Year” awards announced May 14th, New Democrat Megan Leslie (Halifax) was honoured as Best Rookie Member of Parliament. Leslie was joined by Peter Stoffer “Most Collegial” and Joe

Democrats are hard working, effective and respected parliamentarians who put the working families they represent first,” said New Democrat Leader Jack Layton.

“I’m honoured and humbled to be recognised by my peers in this way. I am very fortunate to be

evaluate their colleagues from all parties based on their performance in the House of Commons and in fulfilling their other duties as Members of Parliament. The awards are distributed by Maclean’s in association with The

Dominion Institute and L’actualité.

Elected to represent the riding of Halifax in October 2008, Leslie has worked hard to fill Alexa McDonough’s shoes. Seeing her position in Ottawa as an extension of

her work as a Community Legal Worker helping communities in need across Halifax, Leslie has proven herself to be a strong advocate for her riding and for all Canadians who have been left behind by callous

Liberal and Conservative government policies.

“After only six months, Megan Leslie is already a superb example of not only our current caucus but also of our party’s strong future,” concluded Layton.

New Democrats push for National Poverty Plan

Halifax, Moncton first stops on Parliamentary hearings on poverty plan

OTTAWA – One year after New Democrat Human Resources and Skills Development Critic Tony Martin (Sault Ste. Marie) moved to hold hearings on a national poverty reduction strategy, opposition MPs are again following Martin’s lead and taking their consultations out of Ottawa and setting up meetings in Atlantic Canada.

The Parliamentary Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities will hold their first hearings on a national poverty plan in the Maritimes starting next week.

“The challenge that I brought to the committee was for us to develop a comprehensive national plan to reduce poverty,” said Martin. “So far, the hearings have been useful but we really need to get out of Ottawa and meet with people where they live and deal with poverty.”

Martin first proposed these hearings to lay the groundwork for a truly national poverty reduction plan that would establish firm targets, create timelines, and report annually. Atlantic Canada is the first of the regions to be visited since the committee started its hearings in Ottawa last year.



(L-R) Halifax West MP Mike Savage, Turning Point Director Michael Poworoznyk and Sault Ste. Marie MP Tony Martin, panel members at the Halifax Parliamentary Committee hearings. J. Bayers photo

Hearings were held in Halifax on Monday and Moncton on Tuesday, May 10th & 11th, respectively. On Sunday, Martin joined a public forum hosted by the Halifax Make Poverty History Campaign allowing more people in the Halifax community to share their own stories, ideas, efforts and input in advance of the formal presentations.



Halifax MP Megan Leslie and Street Feat vendor and editorial contributor Judy Deal at the Halifax Farmers Market. Bazza photo

Comartin “Most Knowledgeable” as New Democrats took three of the seven awards.

“The recognition confirms what Canadians from coast to coast to coast already know: New

here and I feel obligated to use this privilege to speak out, and work for the people of Halifax and all those who are otherwise not heard,” added Leslie.

The survey asks MPs to

Meltdown! [manufacturing poverty]

water and all ecological processes consolidated into a moral system that encouraged an environmental ethics.

Anthropologist Ruth Benedict attended these conferences. Her student, Abraham Maslow discovered the importance of the definition of wealth in these traditional societies. It was all about sharing, not scamming. In this unintentional socially cognitive cybernetic world, private possessions were gathered with only the thought in mind of giving away these possessions to others in the community. Benedict and Maslow found out something else as well. These were called high synergy societies, and that in these kinds of realities, there was focus away from aggression as a method of relating to others, or in circumstances of conflict

resolution.

High synergy societies are usually indicated by the fact that wealth in this kind of social organization is continually channeled away from any single one point or any single individual or family and spread throughout the community. Greed and scamming are totally contrary to the principles of organization in this world, and totally contrary to the behaviour of the members of the community. The individual at once in the same time, serves his or her own needs and the needs of the group. If a particular family, for

example, experiences great abundance, this gives the family no importance or status whatsoever. Except as this wealth passes through the family’s hands to the rest of the community at large.

So, all this high synergy cross enhances the spirit of avoiding aggression with the spirit of sharing with each other. They are cross reinforcing. Now Benedict and Maslow found out something else as well. This was not a Walt Disney cartoon. Nor was it some pie in the sky New Age kind of configuration. Nor a fantasy trip. People

organized societies in this way not because they were incapable of greedy feelings or impulses. No way. It’s not because people were unselfish. in such a community. The reason for this kind of arrangement was because the societies were organized this way such that personal desires were subservient to this environmental ethic.

Another consequence concerns nonaggression when dealing with a neighbour, like a village which was at odds with the people in the home community. Conflict was usually avoided when

goods were exchanged and sometimes a festival took place to emphasize this peaceful overture. It worked. Hot and violent feelings between peoples in differing villages required skill at detente especially when violent feelings were boiling over and getting worse. Sharing trumped conflict in these kinds of situations. And above and beyond this, a perpetual state of affluence was continually experienced by one and all in these kinds of high synergy societies. Thus, there was no need for violent nor for greedy behaviour.

In these kinds of traditional societies, the definition of affluence was all about the fact that all the peoples’ wants and needs were easily, and readily, satisfied. All the daily grunt labour totalled no more than a few hours a day, and people shared in these less than favourable tasks, as well as equally sharing in the prized work assignments. There was no distinction between leisure and life. Life was lived by all like the privileged aristocrats in today’s present industrial world.

Are there any lessons here? Think about it!

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Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team (MHMCT)

Focus Group

Over the past year, have you used any of the crisis services of the MHMCT for yourself or someone you know? If so, we would like to talk to you!

We will be bringing together several groups of 8-10 people to provide feedback about their experiences with the MHMCT. If you participate you will receive \$25 as compensation for your time.

If you have any questions or wish to participate, please contact Sarah Peddle, the Research Coordinator, at (902) 494-8058.

Space is limited!

