



Feature

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A FEW THOUGHTS ON THE 2025 FEDERAL ELECTION RESULTS SHOW A TWO-PARTY RACE ONLY

This week I have decided to offer my readers some insights as to the 2025 federal election results. My regular City Hall column will return next week.

EARLY ON IN THE FEDERAL ELECTION I attended the campaign launch for one of only two Green Party members of parliament, and the event was truly unforgettable.

With well over 400 people in attendance and standing room only, various speakers described their vision of a country very much different than the one we know today. As a political observer, I haven't seen a better organized and colourful campaign event in decades. The crowd cheered as well over \$50,000 was raised through a sort of 'donation rally' conducted by their co-leader Elizabeth May, a genuinely hard-working person and one whom I enjoyed chatting with afterwards.

Fast forward to last Monday's election night and the scene in that same space, according to the next day's newspaper, was one of disbelief as supporters slowly watched the Conservative candidate take the lead and eventually win the riding.

As it happens, the district is also represented by a member of the provincial Green Party, and therein lies the great mystery of politics, that being how to capture the mood of the electorate at any one time. Nevertheless, the losing candidate was thoughtful as he offered his supporters these closing remarks, "I'm glad to have had the opportunity to do this work. I'm not sure how to describe that feeling when people put their lives on the line because they believe in the things we're pushing for and the way we're pushing for them." As it happens, the only Green member of Canada's next parliament will be Elizabeth May herself.

In the process of recovery from such a defeat, a period of political reorganization will inevitably take place, and this involves acknowledging the loss and finding ways to regain a sense of purpose. To that end, it must be said the Green Party no longer exists.

I suggested in a previous column that, given the chance, I would offer up a story to every eligible voter, one that I would find necessary in the telling. They would be made to understand the realities associated with casting, what I may reasonably describe as a 'protest vote'. The cross-country turnout for this election reached 67% overall, and in most electoral districts, Conservative and Liberal candidates captured the majority of votes, while Greens, New Democrats, and Independents trailed as distant contenders.

NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTY RESULTS:

Liberals won in 168 ridings with 8,566,674 votes, or 43.7%
 Conservatives won in 144 ridings with 8,089,959 votes, or 41.3%
 The NDP won in 7 ridings with 1,237,541 votes, or 6.3%
 The Green Party won in 1 riding with 244,992 votes, or 1.3%
 The People's Party of Canada won no ridings with 141,187 votes, or 0.7%

QUEBEC AND INDEPENDENT RESULTS

The Bloc Québécois won in 23 ridings with 1,233,231 votes, or 6.3%
 Independent candidates won no ridings with 36,319 votes, or 0.2%
 Any Canadian who believes greater things might be obtained by casting a vote for one of the smaller parties or an independent candidate will be overlooking the stinging reality that comes from a conscious decision to stay out of high-level decision making. The national results clearly demonstrate that fact.

LOCAL RESULTS

In Oshawa riding, the results are as follows:
 CONSERVATIVE Rhonda Kirkland elected with 32,185 votes, or 48.4%
 LIBERAL Isaac Ransom 2ND with 28,453 votes, or 42.8%
 NDP Sara Labelle 3rd with 5,112 votes, or 7.7%
 GREEN Katherine Mathewson 4th with 804 votes, or 1.2%
 It is interesting to note the NDP loss in Oshawa riding, as their provincial candidate won with 46% of the vote only two months earlier. There again one can see the difficulty in assessing the mood of the electorate at any one time.

VOLUNTEER FOR A LOCAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN

I encourage anyone with an interest in politics or a desire to help make their community a better place to step up and join a local campaign as a volunteer. The bulk of my own experience goes back a number of years, however on a cold day in early March I received a knock at my door from someone looking for signatures as part of her nomination package. That moment gave rise to six weeks of active participation on my part in what would become a successful campaign. The team of volunteers I worked with developed a certain fellowship during that time, as we canvassed door-to-door and by telephone, assembled and distributed signs, and gathered together each week for a meal at the campaign office. It must be said that not every moment during the election was easy as a volunteer, and there will always be personality differences among people thrown together in such a short time. On the flipside, one does get to meet a great many people in the community and the conversations are often quite enjoyable, even among supporters of another political party.

THE FUTURE OF CANADA

Over the course of the last 10 years, our country has changed, and not for the better. Inflation and the cost of housing have caused many Canadians to lose hope for the future. For the first time in generations, young people will have a lower standard of living than their parents, and that is unacceptable. Too many are now unable to buy their first home, and big-government programs haven't actually added to our housing stock, but rather have succeeded only in enlarging a federal bureaucracy.

Canada's national debt has risen from \$600 billion in 2015 to well over a trillion dollars, and Canadians are currently paying over \$50 billion every year in debt servicing charges, something that is not sustainable. In fact, the costs to service the debt are more than our federal government spends every year on healthcare.

The world in which we live is certainly more unstable now than in decades past, and the need to increase our military capabilities is paramount. Canada will eventually have to deal with new threats in the Arctic, so it makes sense to put more resources into ship building and into our Navy, with Canadian manufacturers and technology.

Lastly, on the issue of carbon taxes, this columnist's view is that the entire so-called 'climate change' narrative is false, and that the only real purpose of such an agenda is to see global wealth-redistribution on a massive scale. Canada's carbon tax was recently suspended during the election under the guise of having been 'cancelled' and in my view, Canadians from coast to coast deserve a rebate of the taxes that were paid for no rational purpose whatsoever.

Only time will show whether we can climb out of the mess we find ourselves in after 10 very dark years.



Lisa Robinson

PICKERING CITY COUNCILLOR

This Isn't Hockey It's the Future of Our Country

By Councillor Lisa Robinson

Tuesday night's Council meeting was a disgrace. Not just in how it looked, but in what it revealed. Council passed a motion titled: "Affirming Support for

Canadian Businesses and Workers Amidst Cross-Border Trade Disputes." But behind the patriotic title was a power grab, plain and simple. The motion gives staff emergency purchasing powers to: - Bypass competitive bidding. - Extend contracts and approve over-budget purchases — without ever coming back to Council. - Do it all in the name of "supporting Canadian businesses," even if it costs taxpayers more — and even though no emergency directive has been issued by the federal or provincial governments with no expiration date. And who helped craft this motion? City staff. Working hand-in-hand with Councillors Butt and Brenner. Of course they support it — because it gives them unchecked power to spend money without oversight. A couple of months ago, Councillor Brenner told us in chambers that he planned to bring this motion forward. I said it then, and I'll say it again now - it was petty, and it made us look retaliatory. I said it would send the wrong message: that we're playing politics instead of leading with principle. But they pushed ahead anyway, because that's how this Council works. They don't lead, they provoke. And sometimes, frankly, their actions remind me of children. It's disturbing.

Let's be clear: I asked if any financial impact analysis had been done. The answer? No. I asked what protections were in place to stop sweetheart deals. None. I asked who would monitor this spending. No one. And when I asked about precautions about favoritism, the Mayor said my questions were "not appropriate." When I asked if a project goes over budget — whether a dollar or \$4,000, would staff come back to council for approval? The Mayor shrugged and said he'd "hope the Treasurer wouldn't come to Council for \$4,000." But let's not pretend that's the issue. It's \$4,000 here, \$15,000 there, or even \$100,000 on so called public art projects. You've see the kind of wasteful spending I've been exposing: taxpayer dollars being poured into redoing artwork, that wasn't done right the first time. Or the spending of your tax dollars to honour someone who had no connection to Pickering whatsoever. No roots here, no history, no ties to our community. Just plain old fashion wasteful spending. . And what did they do in response when I brought that up? They quietly passed a policy change that spending \$100,000 or under on artwork no longer needs Council approval. That's not the only one. There are now multiple new policies in place that let staff approve spending and contracts without ever coming before the elected body of this city. And you wonder why your taxes keep going up and up, higher and higher - while the public gets fewer services, answers, and less say. And then came the mockery.

While voting on this dangerous motion, the Mayor and several councillors threw their elbows up, laughing like it was some kind of inside joke. "Elbows up" is embarrassing. This isn't a hockey game — it's the future of our country. We're dealing with serious issues like sovereignty, trade, and economic independence — not throwing body checks on the global stage. It's reckless rhetoric, and it only exposes how unserious some of our so-called leaders really are. Councillor Nagy followed the vote with a smug jab, saying she "hopes the people of Pickering see who supports Canada and who doesn't." And the Mayor — instead of stopping that slander — leaned in and said: "I think your vote shows exactly how you feel about Canada." The same Mayor and Council who blocked my motion for seven months to play the national anthem before meetings only to hijack the idea when Trump's tariffs hit, bury it in a pile of procedural garbage they knew I couldn't support, and then accuse me of voting against the anthem, when they gave me no choice. It's always the same pattern. They bury the truth. They twist the facts. And they spread lies to tear down anyone who won't fall in line. So let me be crystal clear: I support Canadian businesses. I support Pickering jobs. But I will not support giving staff the power to spend your money in the dark, with no oversight, no competition, and no accountability. This wasn't about patriotism.

It was about protecting their power, silencing opposition, and retaliating against anyone who dares expose the truth. If standing up to that makes me the only "no" vote in the room, 6 to 1 - then good. Because I'd rather stand alone with the people, than sit in silence with the corrupt. This isn't hockey. This is your money. This is your democracy. And I will fight like hell to protect both.

I am Councillor Lisa Robinson, The People's Councillor



What Employees Must Never Do: Lessons from a Legal Cautionary Tale

By Tahir Khorasane, LL.M.
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As an employment lawyer, I've seen workplace disputes of all kinds—but the conduct of one former employee of CleanMark, an individual referred to as Jamil Manji, serves as a textbook example of what employees must never do after a termination. Jamil Manji was entrusted with sensitive company information and supported a senior executive. Following his termination in April 2024—despite being offered severance and a favourable reference letter—Manji chose to respond not with professionalism, but with a prolonged campaign of harassment and defamation.

What followed was unconscionable: hundreds of anonymous calls, emails, and text messages targeting CleanMark's Vice President. While initially disguised as flattery, Jamil's behaviour escalated into malicious online attacks and defamatory posts under aliases—many designed to inflict emotional harm by referencing private aspects of the VP's life. Worse, Jamil ignored direct warnings from Toronto Police and began anonymously contacting CleanMark's clients.

This type of behaviour is not only unethical—it's illegal. In response, CleanMark pursued urgent legal action. Justice Merritt of the Ontario Superior Court granted a broad injunction, including an civil search warrant, an order requiring Jamil Manji to return and delete confidential company data and cease his defamatory and harassing conduct. Jamil, who had earlier failed in defending a half a million dollar defamation and harassment claim from CleanMark, owes the company an additional \$34,570.15 for legal costs.

He now faces the threat of civil contempt proceedings and potential fine and imprisonment for any further violations.

Employees must understand:

Respect boundaries after employment ends. Severance does not entitle you to retaliate.

Never misuse confidential information or attempt to harm reputations out of spite.

Do not engage in anonymous or harassing conduct, online or offline. It is traceable, and it is punishable.

Failure to comply with court orders can lead to serious consequences, including jail time.

Let this be a clear warning: no matter how you feel about your termination, harassment, defamation, and breaches of confidentiality will only deepen the legal consequences you face. CleanMark's legal victory is more than just a company protecting its people—it's a message that toxic behaviour has no place in the professional world, and it will be met with the full force of the law. (I was counsel to CleanMark.)