

ELECTION 2015

BOOKS

Seventeen political books to read this fall

A book about aboriginal treaties could inspire some bigger thinking on the campaign trail, while Kevin Page will provide some uncomfortable questions for the Conservatives. Plus, cooking with Sir John A.

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Sir John's Table: The Culinary Life and Times of Canada's First Prime Minister
By Linda Mechefske
Goose Lane
Sept. 1
\$19.95
232 pp.

For true blue Tories who confront every dinner hour by asking themselves "What would Sir John A. MacDonald have made?" there's now a book of answers. And it's funny, which separates this short, illustrated book by Linda Mechefske—a food columnist who lives in Sir John A.'s hometown of Kingston, Ont.—from most of the other fare served up in this bicentennial year of the first prime minister's birth. The book is a biography told through recipes, and it even includes some home remedies: for frostbite, gravel or sand in urine, and "to expel nameless intruders from children's heads." Really the chapter titles say it all. A few favourites: "Boyhood: A Fish Tale 1820-25"; "Rebellion, Courtroom Drama, and a Full English Breakfast 1837-42"; and "A Roast Duck Dinner Saves the Dominion 1867-68."

Coming soon:



You Will Wear a White Shirt: From the Northern Bush to the Halls of Power
By Nick Sibbeston, Douglas and McIntyre
Sept. 19
\$32.95
336 pp.

Liberal Northwest Territories Senator Nick Sibbeston was taken from his family when he was five years old and placed in a residential school. His autobiography tells the story of how he emerged from that trauma and abuse, as well as struggles with anxiety, depression and addiction, to become one of the country's first aboriginal lawyers, the premier of the Northwest Territories, and eventually a Senator.



Conservative Confidential: Inside the Fabulous Blue Tent
By Fred Litwin
NorthernBlues Books
Sept. 21
\$17.99
220 pp.

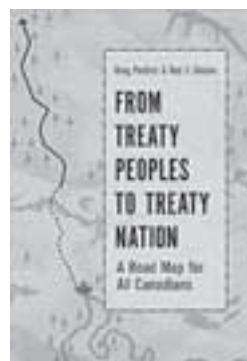
A former marketer for Intel, Fred Litwin describes his journey from a left-wing activist to a Conservative campaigner. His memoir and coming-out story takes a critical look at Canada's gay establishment and describes the interaction between the gay community and the conservative movement.



Unaccountable: Truth and Lies on Parliament Hill
By Kevin Page with Vern Stenlund
Viking Canada
Sept. 29
\$32.00
224 pp.

Canada's first Parliamentary Budget Officer, Kevin Page, made a name for himself by challenging the Conservative government that appointed him on a number of issues, most famously the cost of the F-35 fighter jets, saying the government was misleading him. He even took the government to court in 2012 when it refused to provide information to his office about public service

cuts. Mr. Page's term as PBO was not renewed and he left the bureaucracy, taking up residence at the University of Ottawa as the Jean Luc Pepin Research Chair. *Unaccountable* looks at the costs of Canada's war in Afghanistan, tough-on-crime legislation, Old Age Security and other programs, arguing that MPs don't have the information needed to make policy decisions and that "an increasingly autocratic" government is undermining Canadian democracy by ignoring facts that run counter to its political agenda.



From Treaty Peoples to Treaty Nation: A Road Map for All Canadians
By Greg Poelzer and Ken S. Coates
University of British Columbia Press
Oct. 1
\$34.95
366 pp.

While aboriginal issues may or may not register on the campaign trail, authors Ken Coates and Greg Poelzer, both from the University of Regina's Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, say the typical arguments are blocking out something more essential: the cooperative spirit of the treaties upon which Canada was founded.

"Canadians as a whole must take ownership of the challenges facing Aboriginal communities: substance abuse and suicide, poverty and deplorable housing and living conditions, high drop-out rates and unemployment," they write. "But we as a people, or peoples, need to stop looking for a single, sweeping solution, whether it be constitutional change, a government program, or a radical overhaul of Aboriginal governance. Meaningful change will require not just policy makers but millions of Canadians to step forward to create the Canada they want."



Framed: Media and the Coverage of Race in Canadian Politics
By Erin Tolley
University of British Columbia Press
Nov. 20
\$95.00
256 pp.



John Ibbitson, pictured on budget day in April. 'He is a lion in autumn, weaker than in his prime, but still a force of nature,' he writes in the opening line of his new biography of the PM, Stephen Harper. *The Hill Times*
photo by Andrew Meade

University of Toronto political science professor Erin Tolley's book is being billed as "wake-up call" about how race matters in Canadian politics. Through her empirical analysis of print media, combined with interviews with politicians, staffers and journalists, Prof. Tolley argues that while there are few examples of overt racism, racial assumptions frame news stories, affecting politics and Canada's democracy.

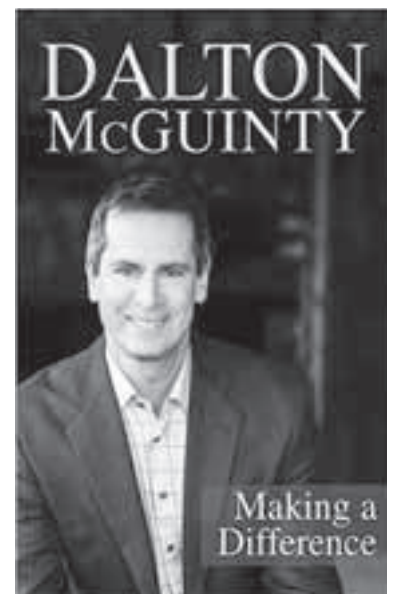


Red, White, and Kind of Blue?: The Conservatives and the Americanization of Canadian Constitutional Culture
By David Schneiderman
University of Toronto Press
Oct. 7
\$32.95
320 pp.

University of Toronto law professor David Schneiderman warns that Canada's constitutional culture, which had maintained a third way between the United Kingdom and the United States, is becoming Americanized. Stephen Harper's Conservatives have been pushing it that way, the author argues, with the prorogation crisis in 2008, the Supreme Court appointment process, and proposals for Senate reform.



The Big Blue Machine: How Tory Campaign Backrooms Changed Canadian Politics Forever
By J. Patrick Boyer
Dundurn
Oct. 10
\$35.00
528 pp.



Making a Difference
By Dalton McGuinty
Dundurn
Nov. 21
\$35.00
284 pp.

Dalton McGuinty's decade as premier of Ontario didn't exactly have a graceful end, mired in a gas plant scandal and clinging to power in a prorogued, minority legislature. This memoir from the "Premier Dad" will look to recast the Liberal record under his rule, covering challenges including Sharia law, eHealth, full-day kindergarten and the controversial gas plant cancellations.
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