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WELCOME SCOTT BOOTH

Please join me in welcoming Scott Booth to the COCA family. Scott was recently appointed as Executive Director of the Sault Ste Marie Construction Association succeeding Adam Pinder. Scott comes with loads of good management experience and an impressive background having served 23 years with Brinks Canada, the last six as regional manager. I have spoken with Scott and was genuinely impressed. He has a lot to share with us and I'm sure we can help him adjust to his new leadership position. Please join me in welcoming Scott.

PREMIER FORD REVERSES COURSE ON VACCINE PASSPORT

It's been reported so widely in all mainstream media that it must be true. Premier Ford has fought off the contrarians in the PC caucus and arrived at the place that he previously vowed never to be. It looks like Ontario will get the vaccine passport or certificate that, according to polling, the vast majority of Ontarian want. The freedom fighters in the Tory coalition have lost their battle against the collective good.

The structure of the passport is not yet known but it could take several forms. One proposed system includes a QR code on your phone showing the last few digits of your OHIP number card and then you would show your OHIP card to match the QR code as proof that it's you and you have been fully vaccinated.

When the Province will actually rollout the passport is not known and some critics say it will be too late to have any positive impact on the fourth wave of the pandemic. It's also not known if the government will prescribe the types of facilities and events that will require proof of vaccine to be shown.

TD PREDICTS SLOWER GROWTH FOR PROVINCES WITHOUT VAX PASSPORT

Here's a link to a Bloomberg article citing a recent TD Economics report predicting that provinces that don't implement a vaccine passport will be forced to take more extreme measure and likely impose further lockdowns to combat the fourth wave.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-08-26/td-sees-weaker-growth-in-provinces-that-shun-vaccine-passports?sref=7iNjhqyV>

VAX TASK FORCE WOUND DOWN

Ontario's Vaccination Task Force that has been advising the provincial government on the distribution of anti-COVID19 vaccines has been wound down. The Task Force was originally chaired by retired general Rick Hillier who was succeeded by Dr. Homer Tien last April. According to an August 21 report from Public Ontario, 66.2% of Ontarians aged 12 and above are fully vaccinated and another 6.5% partially vaccinated so there is still some work to be done before the uptake needed to bring the Delta variant to its knees is achieved.

INDUSTRY MOURNS PASSING OF ALEX MUZZO

I won't pretend to have known Alex Muzzo at all well but through his role at the Interior Systems Contractors Association, I had the pleasure of his company on about half a dozen occasions. Through those times I was able to experience his wonderful sense of humour, to see the hard driving and demanding business leader that he was and to enjoy his deep generosity. Our industry has lost one of its giants. On behalf of COCA, I extend our deepest sympathies to his family and our friends at ISCA for their loss.

THE COCA ANTI-RACISM TOOLKIT



- 1 Why We Need to Take Action Against Racism
- 2 Your Legal Rights and Responsibilities
- 3 Writing an Anti-Racism Statement
- 4 Sample Policies and Practices
- 5 Recommended Reading and Viewing

LET'S CONFRONT THIS TOGETHER

#COCASstandingTogether

INTERESTING RIDINGS TO WATCH IN THE 2022 ONTARIO GENERAL ELECTION

Simcoe—Grey

The tale in Simcoe-Grey also involves an Independent and former Tory MPP, Jim Wilson, but has a different twist that involves some party infighting. Wilson, also a former political staffer on the provincial and federal stages, was first elected in the electoral district called Simcoe West in 1990 and was re-elected in the riding with the same name in 1995 when Tory blue wave washed over the Province and again in 1999 in the newly formed riding of Simcoe-Grey. Wilson held senior cabinet positions in the governments of former Premiers Mike Harris and Ernie Eves.

He was re-elected to the Opposition benches when the Common Sense ran out in 2003, 2007, 2011, 2014 and then back to the Government side in the June 2018 contest that disposed of Kathleen Wynne and her Liberals. He resigned from the PC caucus less than six months later to seek treatment for substance addiction and currently sits in the Legislature as an Independent. After serving for 32 years, Wilson announced that he will not be seeking re-election in June 2022.

So the PCs appointed the Mayor of Collingwood, Brian Saunderson, a former two-time Canadian Olympian and lawyer, to be their standard bearer in the next Ontario general election. Saunderson is the son of former Mike Harris era cabinet minister Bill Saunderson (Eglinton 1995-1999).

It's been reported in the media that disappointed hopeful, former Conservative MP (Mississauga South 2011-2015) and friend of COCA from her Earnscliffe election presentations to the joint Board and COO, Stella Ambler, who moved into the riding and was waiting patiently in the weeds. She unsuccessfully challenged the appointment with the Party and subsequently appealed to the courts to compel the

party to have a local candidacy vote.

Another interesting political squabble.

Lanark-Frontenac-Kington

Randy Hillier was first elected to the Ontario Legislature in 2007 as the MPP for the electoral district of Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington. Although elected as a Progressive Conservative, Hillier was always an independent thinker and a contrarian whose views quite often didn't line up with his Party's.

He was re-elected in 2011, 2014 in the same electoral district and in the newly formed Lanark-Frontenac-Kington in 2018. Other than in his first election, when he was up against a long serving, well-known and highly capable local politician and enjoyed a very narrow victory, Hillier won with significant margins. However, always the maverick, Hillier was kicked out of the Tory caucus in 2019 because of comments he made about the parents of children with autism and he currently sits as an Independent.

In the June 2022 Ontario general election, Hillier will be seeking re-election as an Independent and will face off against the PC candidate John Jordan. Jordan is the son of the late Leo Jordan who sat in the Ontario Legislature from 1990 to 1999. Worth noting is the fact that Jordan defeated former Mike Harris political staffer and staffer to federal ministers in the cabinet of former Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Bill King. Jordan is the CEO of an agency that provides a wide range of primary health care, community development initiatives and health promotion programs.

These appear to be two very different candidates who will be engaged in a fight that could define the future of the riding.

Chatham-Kent

Rick Nicholls, the MPP for the riding of Chatham-Kent was recently booted out of the PC caucus for refusing to get vaccinated against COVID19. A social conservative, Nicholls was first elected in 2011 and re-elected in 2014 and 2018. Nicholls has said he will not run for re-election as an Independent and seems to be saying all the right things and making nice, perhaps in hopes of reinstatement with the Tories in time for the next campaign.

Thornhill

PC MPP Gila Martow will not be seeking re-election in Thornhill. Martow first won election to the Ontario Legislature in a by-election February 2014 succeeding Peter Shurman, also a Tory, who had resigned. She won re-election in the general election later that same year and again in 2018. Martow fell out of favour with the Premier when she sought but failed to win the CPC nomination for her Thornhill riding for the now ongoing federal campaign. She lost that contest to close Ford associate Melissa Lantsman. While the provincial seat has been in Conservative hands since 2007, this 905 seat has at times gone Red and margins of victory have usually been narrow.

Windsor-Tecumseh

The likeable MPP for Windsor-Tecumseh, Percy Hatfield, announced earlier this summer that he will not be seeking re-election in June 2022. First elected in a by-election in 2013 succeeding Liberal Dwight Duncan who had resigned, Hatfield was re-elected in 2014 and 2018 with huge majorities. The Legislature needs more good guys like Percy Hatfield, he will be missed.

Depending on the candidates and the campaign, the riding is expected to go Red or Orange.

Kitchener South-Hespler

The Tory MPP for Kitchener South-Hespler, Amy Fee, has announced that she will not seek re-election in June 2022. The mother of four including two with autism is retiring in order to attend to her family duties. She was first elected in this newly formed riding in 2018 narrowly besting her NDP rival.

Don Valley West

Former Premier Kathleen Wynne has also announced that she will not be seeking re-election in June 2018 Ontario general election. As the first female Premier of Ontario and first openly gay Premier in Canada, Wynne was also a policy ground breaker with progressive ideas. She was first elected to the provincial legislature in 2003, then bested then PC leader and current Mayor of The 6ix, John Tory in 2007, won again with big margins in 2011 and 2014 and eked out a squeaker in the 2018 Liberal disaster. Kathleen Wynne was a rare politician with both serious policy chops and well-tuned retail politics instincts. This blend of skills is unusual in today's breed of elected officials who tend to be only skilled at retail politics and delivering their party's talking points.

Don Valley West

Michael Coteau represented the provincial riding of Don Valley West for the Grits since 2011 was nominated as the Liberal candidate in the ongoing federal campaign in the same electoral district and resigned his seat. The riding was represented before him by the late David Caplan, also a Liberal. It's thought to be a safe Liberal seat.