

guardian.co.uk

Shafting democracy in Canada

The prime minister's suspension of parliament has created angry voiceless citizens whose votes have become meaningless



Heather Malick
guardian.co.uk, Friday 1 January 2010 17:00 GMT

If there was a gold medal for shafting democracy at the Winter Olympics, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper would win it. Just before the games open in Vancouver, he has halted parliament in its tracks, suspending it for the second time in little more than a year.

Canada will not have a House of Commons until March 3. Instantly, we are a part-time democracy, a shabby diminished place packed with angry voiceless citizens whose votes have been rendered meaningless. Harper didn't even visit the governor-general of Canada for the formality of asking permission as he did last Christmas. Instead, he phoned her and got his PR man to send out an announcement to the nation.

Rage and shame are flowing on the internet because there is nowhere else for voters to turn. Even The Globe and Mail, Canada's national and excessively staid newspaper, had a front-page editorial steaming with reproach. The Globe often leaves me frustrated, but I was moved when I read it and ... did what exactly? I took a stand. I joined a Facebook group called Canadians Against Proroguing Parliament, an earnestly pathetic act that may be part of the reason our nation is so lessened on the first day of 2010.

Look, I can't even call my federal MP, a Liberal member of the opposition, because

she's effectively out of commission for the next two months. All that's left to me is to tell you what it's like here and why you should care.

Harper, that strange vengeful man you will see in February clapping awkwardly as Olympians leap off mountains and shoot past in the luge, has been on a mission since his youth to turn Canada into a pale, watery version of the United States of America. Even then, the US was well into its identity-switch into the undereducated, paranoid, self-destructively aggressive overspent mess we watch now with grim fascination.

Why follow failure? His reasons elude me, but he has only just begun his mission of the extreme right. His method: absolute personal control of everything. Unfortunately, he has a free pass – there is nobody of any stature in his cabinet, and no opposition to speak of. Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff cannot seem to find his place.

The specific intent of proroguing parliament was to smother a scandal, to halt a highly embarrassing and public inquiry into the Canadian military – eight years into its weird little war in Afghanistan – handing over prisoners to the Afghan "government" while knowing they would be tortured. Another reason was to stack the unelected second house, the senate, with five more Conservatives, reshuffle crucial committees and take the country one step closer to complete hard-right majority government.

Harper, frustrated by his repeated failure to achieve more than minority rule, nurses a venom not before seen in Canadian politics. Bush and Blair hired people for this purpose; with Harper it is self-contained. He torments whistleblowers even as they win public acclaim, scorns climate change evidence and makes an international fool of us in Copenhagen, is bent on dismantling the national gun registry set up after the 1989 Montreal massacre, plans the same anti-drug mandatory-sentencing laws that bloated and blocked the US jail system, and fires federal watchdogs who disagree with him.

Obama's failures have complicated roots but Canada's failures have been deliberately engineered. The Conservatives are mean people. The Conservative Party was not always like this and Canadians are unaccustomed to this level of cruelty and proud ignorance in public life.

I am fed up. Powered only by the stoicism on which this winter-bound nation was built – we aren't even frozen any more, thanks to climate change, we are merely damp – I went out last night to see in the New Year with two friends who are government scientists (shan't name them, Harper hates civil servants even more than he hates science). One of them, an American, campaigned for Obama in 2008, the same year she took Canadian citizenship.

We drank a Sandbanks Estates wine – tough little Ontario grape – and toasted a country for which we still have such hopes. I avoided her kind but sceptical eye.

Ads by Google

Quebec, A Nation:

Yes or No? Tell Angus Reid Your Opinion Now

www.AngusReidForum.com

What to do in Ottawa

Looking for tourist activities? Plan with VIA's events calendar.

viarail.ca

Ancestry co uk

Search immigration, census, and other records to find your roots.

www.ancestry.ca

Comments in chronological order (Total 170 comments)

Post a comment

 Staff

 Contributor

Showing first 50 comments | [Go to all comments](#) | [Go to latest comment](#)



veragottlieb

1 Jan 2010, 5:22PM

I wonder what role Canada's Governor General is playing in this. The first time she allowed Harper to prorogue Parliament she might not have had enough experience

and knowledge. What is her excuse this time? I would say "guilty by association'. And voters' apathy is contributing too.

[Recommend?](#) (55)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



[VancouverRam](#)

1 Jan 2010, 5:25PM

Harper's actions are shameful but the lack of anger from Opposition leaders is equally shameful.

If they were really opposed to this they have the power to force an election, but their spinelessness means that they won't.

[Recommend?](#) (54)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



[Breaking3](#)

1 Jan 2010, 5:29PM

IMO - Canada is the best Country in the world to live - shame I haven't got a Canadian passport I'd be on a plane out of the UK for good.

[Recommend?](#) (46)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



[ambivabloke](#)

1 Jan 2010, 5:33PM

"undereducated and paranoid"

How very liberal and progressive of you to lump 300 million of your neighbors into such category. Unfortunately your vastly more educated countrymen pay more attention to American celebrity culture than they do Canadian politics, as Statistics Canada has revealed in regard to Canadians knowledge of their own country. Oh, and Canadians are paranoid and undereducated about climate change (take a look and Globe and Mail comments). First Nations peoples populate your prisons to a shocking degree and line the back alleys of Vancouver's Olympic city.

All in all you succeed at both hypocrisy and a quite heroic capacity to stereotype the yanks. Oh Canada.

[Recommend?](#) (57)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



LittleBoyandFatMan

1 Jan 2010, 5:33PM

Without wishing in any way to diminish the feeling and correctness of the article, it is astonishing how this seems to be just a replica of Britain.

The only thing we have to look forward to is Gordon Brown finding some clumsy excuse to deny us an election.

The Globe often leaves me frustrated, but I was moved when I read it and ? did what exactly? I took a stand. I joined a Facebook group called Canadians Against Proroguing Parliament, an earnestly pathetic act that may be part of the reason our nation is so lessened on the first day of 2010.

Yeah, much like people in Britain turn to *The Guardian*, only to find that Twitter has more political clout and capability and likelihood of generating change.

Could we, perhaps, swap *samizdats* from prorogued and infinitely corrupted and blemished nations and send out pleas to the free world to witness the desolation of democracy in both Canada and Britain, as our Dear Leaders try to ape America?

[Recommend?](#) (28)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)**Randywade**

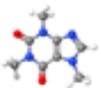
1 Jan 2010, 5:37PM

"Angry voiceless citizens whose votes have become meaningless" is pretty much a generic term you could paste onto many countries, including the US & UK.

[Recommend?](#) (76)[Report abuse](#)[Clip](#) |[Link](#)**VancouverRam**

1 Jan 2010, 5:37PM

@ambivabloke- well said- I don't see the point in attacking America in an article such as this.It's irrelevant. But I suspect that for some writers that is the default position.

[Recommend?](#) (34)[Report abuse](#)[Clip](#) |[Link](#)**chemicalscum**

1 Jan 2010, 5:40PM

This comment has been removed by a moderator. Replies may also be deleted.

**contrarian2**

1 Jan 2010, 5:44PM

This comment has been removed by a moderator. Replies may also be deleted.



moralwreck

1 Jan 2010, 5:46PM

" . . . votes have become meaningless"

We beat you to it I'm afraid.

[Recommend?](#) (33)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



north

1 Jan 2010, 5:51PM

This comment has been removed by a moderator. Replies may also be deleted.



CanadianDreamer

1 Jan 2010, 5:54PM

Go Heather go!!!

The man is a megalomaniac with a hidden agenda.

Unfortunately there are plenty of Canadians who fall into the same category and are happy to watch Harper play his game of subverting democracy, trashing the environment and advancing corporate agendas.

Layton runs the NDP like it is supposed to be the 'Jack Layton fan Club' with all the hypocrisy that brings along. Ignatieff is a bit shy of the multi-million dollar conservative character assassination machine and doesn't know how to run his own party. The Greens have the only clear and progressive policies among them but get no respect from the Tim-Horton swilling masses.

When election time comes around most Canadians seem to vote for the party that will put an extra \$10 in their pocket. What a sad state of affairs.

Come on CANADA! Wake up! Pull your heads out of the tar sands! Stand up! Take action!!!!

[Recommend?](#) (67)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



[NeverMindTheBollocks](#)

1 Jan 2010, 6:01PM

This comment has been removed by a moderator. Replies may also be deleted.



[hoover2001](#)

1 Jan 2010, 6:06PM

This is what passes for controversy in Canada? You guys are so cute.

[Recommend?](#) (28)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



[V4Fan](#)

1 Jan 2010, 6:08PM

This comment has been removed by a moderator. Replies may also be deleted.



[captcanada](#)

1 Jan 2010, 6:16PM

<big>The Country and the Leader are one. Harper has done a great job and the sensationalism that the press is trying to create with the attempt at riling up the so called outraged Canadian is simply not accurate and hyperbole. The press is not running the Country and they are mostly partisan. Get over it, and if it really bothers someone vote for tax increases, socialism and reduced productivity in the coming election.

Harper is not the only leader to have shutdown parliament and this time it was for a very good reason. The last time he did it was to save the country from the separatists. Look at Harper's accomplishments, he has united the right, he took on the press and won, he took on Newfoundland's Leader and won, he cleaned up the public service, he restored Canada's military after years of socialist neglect, he thrilled all with his singing, he restored National pride, he brought in law and order, he showed the left to be what it is, in the eyes of Canadians, he supported the National sport, he saved the Canadian economy and most of all he demonstrated his great leadership abilities through the tough decisions and consistent performance even in the face of negative comments from some in the press and on the left.

We should all be thanking him big time and hopefully there will be a law soon to stop outspoken journalism which does not support the leader. No one reads the silliness anyway, with any seriousness. Harper almost has complete control of the Country and that's a very good thing for us all.

[Recommend?](#) (41)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



[Nacon](#)

1 Jan 2010, 6:22PM

The reasons the polls put Harper ahead is that they are all run by Conservative skills...and back by Conservative papers....There is not one Liberal pollster in Canada if there is ..Come out Come out wherever you are. I understand he is rehearsing for another piano recital and that will surely get him a majority.

[Recommend?](#) (26)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



[Softech](#)

1 Jan 2010, 6:23PM

Heather Malick speaks for me in this. Thank you, Heather!

As a Canadian Brit, I have the shame of both British and Canadian "leaders" to cope with. In sheer hatefulness, Harper exceeds Brown by a great margin.

In dishonesty and destructiveness, I suspect Blair would win by a large margin, and yet Harper has done his best to match him. As leader of the opposition he staked out his position, trying to incite Canada to join the invasion of Iraq with a speech full of lies, either plagiarised from Australia's Howard, or verbatim from a speech provided to both fools from the White house. As PM, he has been worse, abandoning Canadians abroad because they were the wrong ethnicity, refusing entry to speakers opposed to his viewpoint, welcoming the confessed war criminal GWBush, against Canadian law, and the list becomes a litany. Is this dishonesty, or stupidity?

In intelligence, I suspect that Harper is struggling to match Bush.

What upsets me is not that we are so pathetic, but rather that it is becoming harder and harder to find signs of hope for any future for our children under these so-called leaders. Speaking as a convinced pacifist, I understand the violence of those without other means, because one could be easily tempted to throw a brick if one could be convinced it could do more good than harm. In my old age, I am finding fewer and fewer non-violent means of expressing my outrage and contempt for those who rob future generations of hope. No, I am not so stupid as to adopt the bullying violent cruel means of our Haters-in-Chief. Just give me cause to hope that a generation will someday come who will see falsehood and violence as the contemptible morass that it is.

[Recommend?](#) (72)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



DrJohnZoidberg

1 Jan 2010, 6:24PM

canadiandreamer-

The Greens have the only clear and progressive policies among them but get no

respect from the Tim-Horton swilling masses.

good to see that you don't have a patronising attitude towards your fellow countrymen/women.

and the last time i looked, in a democracy, 'the masses' were the group that counted, not the vocal minority.

mmmmm....timmie's.....

[Recommend?](#) (26)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



[beancounter](#)

1 Jan 2010, 6:28PM

This comment has been removed by a moderator. Replies may also be deleted.



[cbillard](#)

1 Jan 2010, 6:31PM

I find it interesting that Ms. Malick is writing in the Guardian about Canada. Is this due to the CBC having to issue a written appology for some of her libelous rants. Will no one publish your rubbish in Canada anymore?

This has been one of the most productive governements in recent history, despite childish tactics from the Liberals and NDP. Mr Harper has done something that is almost unheard of in politics anywhere. He keeps the promises he made during the election.

Mr Harper is not the fisrt PM to prorogue parliment and he certinaly wont be the last. Also Ms Malick if you are unable to contact your MP untill March you need to make sure you get a new MP at election time. If your MP squanders this gift of a prorogued parliment on a holiday he is a fool. He should be in his riding listening to his constituents. I know my Conservative Member will be in his riding working with his constituents to make our democracy work.

[Recommend?](#) (48)

[Report abuse](#)[Clip](#) |[Link](#)**Briar**

1 Jan 2010, 6:34PM

Ignatieff is a disgrace who supported the Iraq war and makes excuses for torture. No wonder the Liberals are ineffective and unattractive.

[Recommend?](#) (39)[Report abuse](#)[Clip](#) |[Link](#)**[captcanada](#)**

1 Jan 2010, 6:39PM

And further the writer should qualify these outrageous statements with proof what Country are you referring to?

"a shabby diminished place packed with angry voiceless citizens whose votes have been rendered meaningless"

Huh????, So what

"Harper didn't even visit the governor-general of Canada for the formality of asking permission as he did last Christmas."

Comedy, perhaps they are just surfing

"Rage and shame are flowing on the internet because there is nowhere else for voters to turn."

Science Fiction

"Harper, that strange vengeful man you will see in February clapping awkwardly as Olympians leap off mountains and shoot past in the luge, has been on a mission since his youth to turn Canada into a pale, watery version of the United States of America"

I hope you are not serious, get someone else to make the phonecall if you can't do it, outrageous and not accurate, shame, shame, shame

"Look, I can't even call my federal MP, a Liberal member of the opposition, because she's effectively out of commission for the next two months"

Prove this, do you remember the mess that Trudeau left?, bleeding hearts, fuddle duddle and the like,

"Harper, frustrated by his repeated failure to achieve more than minority rule, nurses a venom not before seen in Canadian politics"

Shame, Shame, Shame

"Harper hates civil servants even more than he hates science"

Column filler , hyperbole

"bent on dismantling the national gun registry set up after the 1989 Montreal massacre, plans the same anti-drug mandatory-sentencing laws that bloated and blocked the US jail system, and fires federal watchdogs who disagree with him."

[Recommend?](#) (11)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



[nastyboy](#)

1 Jan 2010, 6:47PM

This comment has been removed by a moderator. Replies may also be deleted.



[ChristopherWhite](#)

1 Jan 2010, 6:54PM

Heather,

I share your frustration, but not your pessimism. Try contacting your MP on Monday. If that doesn't work, then try Tuesday. Then Wednesday. Get a couple friends together and go to their office. Tell them to show up for work on January 25th. Harper is banking on the fact that Canadians have a short attention span, and we'll forget about all this like we did last year. He'll bask in the glow of the Olympics and flirt with his long lusted 40% + in the polls.

We`ve got to keep the pressure on him. It might not work, but we won`t know till we

try.

[Recommend?](#) (33)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



[DBmtl](#)

1 Jan 2010, 7:02PM

@ captcanada

"We should all be thanking him big time and hopefully there will be a law soon to stop outspoken journalism which does not support the leader. "

So, basically you want Canada to become China. Nice. Maybe Harper learned something when he visited.

[Recommend?](#) (49)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



[GlenG](#)

1 Jan 2010, 7:20PM

Canadian dreamer that \$10 in my pocket is mine, what makes you think you have a right to it?

[Recommend?](#) (8)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



[CanadianDreamer](#)

1 Jan 2010, 7:23PM

GlenG. Not interested in your \$10. I would much rather give up \$100 for the sake of

good governance. Unlikely to get the chance since there are so many of you.

[Recommend?](#) (16)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



[NeverMindTheBollocks](#)

1 Jan 2010, 7:30PM

No fair!

The author vehemently makes unsubstantiated claims about the Canadian Prime Minister and the Guardian publishes it.

I make one largely valid polite comment about the "quality" of Canadian so-called wine (clearly connecting it with a comment from the author herself) and my comment gets deleted.

[Recommend?](#) (15)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



[CanadianDreamer](#)

1 Jan 2010, 7:35PM

Dr. John: I will continue to patronise until the day this country is not governed by greed and dillusion. Frankly, I've given up on the masses. 10% are progressive, 25% are way off to the right and the rest sit in the middle. In this day of mass market messaging with money from the right is it any wonder the group in the middle is confused?

[Recommend?](#) (14)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



Guardianlover

1 Jan 2010, 7:39PM

This comment has been removed by a moderator. Replies may also be deleted.



bluevisitor

1 Jan 2010, 7:43PM

Canadians should withhold their taxes, and get their queen to sack him.

Recommend? (16)

Report abuse

Clip |

Link



robsgotit

1 Jan 2010, 7:45PM

For CaptCanada and Cbillard

CaptCanada - your comment is outrageous. Did you really write this without trying to make yourself look ironic? "hopefully there will be a law soon to stop outspoken journalism which does not support the leader"

You gotta be kidding!?! Go live in China if that's what you want. This week they imprisoned a man for 15 years who dared to suggest a better political system.

As for Cbillard. You say Harper keeps is the rare politician who keeps his promises. What? Where? When? How and why?

Isn't your Harper the man who signed a law binding government's to have an election every 4 years, and oh yes, then he breaks the law by calling one early?

This is only one example. Harper keeps promises like any other politician, when it's politically expedient.

And finally. I don't know anyone at my work, or in my life that likes Harper. Everyone agrees he is destroying our country.

Point in case, he would have thrust us into Iraq had he been the prime minister. What

a lovely gift that would have been.

I say, trust none of them. Iggy would have done exactly the same.

[Recommend?](#) (39)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



[Ronfromcanada](#)

1 Jan 2010, 7:46PM

Another biased article of drivel from Heather Malick. It appears as with many left leaning editorialist's, it is quite alright and the proper thing to do when a Liberal Prime Minister prorogue's Parliament, (as Jean Chretien did 4 times during his terms in office) and it is for the betterment of democracy. Yet when a Conservative Prime Minister does it, it is an affront to democracy. Editorials such as this one, written by hypocritical authors such as HM are the main reason that the left leaning media no longer has any sway with those of us on the middle ground in Canada.

[Recommend?](#) (37)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



[Ronfromcanada](#)

1 Jan 2010, 7:51PM

robsgotit says *"And finally. I don't know anyone at my work, or in my life that likes Harper. Everyone agrees he is destroying our country."*

Thats funny....because where I work people are split between all three parties. I think you are speaking for yourself and no one else.

"Point in case, he would have thrust us into Iraq had he been the prime minister.

What a lovely gift that would have been."

Another loose assumption on your part I think! There is a difference between supporting and committing to a course of action. Thank god Chretien/Martin

committed us to Afghanistan...it is such a peaceful place where our soldiers are basking in the sun on beautiful beaches.....only in your twisted world robsgotit!

[Recommend?](#) (12)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



[Nacon](#)

1 Jan 2010, 7:52PM

We will see whether Michael'e'Jean gets an extension of her job in the near future and then we will know why Harper got away with phoning her nibs.

[Recommend?](#) (5)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



[albertaclipper](#)

1 Jan 2010, 7:52PM

This comment has been removed by a moderator. Replies may also be deleted.



[robsgotit](#)

1 Jan 2010, 7:58PM

Ha ha Guardianlover.

Canada needs Jesus like a hole in the head.

Insane statement after the decade we just left where religion did so much damage to the world.

If anything, Canadians and people all over the world need to stop looking for someone to save them, for something external to whip them in shape.

People need to take responsibility, look deep within and end their violent aggressive behaviour. I don't see your Jesus doing that for anyone.

To steer this back to the article, the criticism offered of the US, is correct in my eyes. The US cut off it's nose to spite its face over the last decade. I mean totally did itself in. In so many stupid and silly ways that her criticism is right on the mark. And yes, I know she paints with a wide brush. Not all 300 million Americans are as she describes, but come on, what a giant screw up 8 years of Bush were. It took Rome centuries to decline. The US will achieve there decline in less than 3 decades tops. And I might add Guardianlover, a born again Jesus loving Bush.

[Recommend?](#) (22)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



robsgotit

1 Jan 2010, 8:02PM

RonfromCanada

Hey, I don't support any of those bums on the hill. And you are right, Afgh is a total screw up.

I could level the same criticism of you just as easily here on the web.

Your twisted world and I also believe you only speak for yourself, as we all do.

[Recommend?](#) (4)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



CanadianDreamer

1 Jan 2010, 8:04PM

robsgotit: not. How about a bit more detail on Jean Cretien's prorogues; *"not one of those times was this done to avoid a no-confidence motion or to restructure senate committees."*

It is a different thing for a minority government which does not have the confidence of the house to be allowed to suspend democracy while spending their way out of a

recession that HARPER categorically denied would happen; at its cusp. If Canada's banking intelligence is so great then that just makes him either stupid or a liar.

[Recommend?](#) (12)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



[PatriziaNorth](#)

1 Jan 2010, 8:23PM

Heather, you are absolutely right. I only hope we Canadians wake up to Harper's fascist tendencies before it's too late. At least, however pathetic, we're seeing the beginning of action with rallies planned across the country on Jan 23 thanks to the organizers of that Facebook page.

However, slamming the US is not only unnecessary but, under the circumstances, rather like the pot calling the kettle black. Aren't we Canadians being just as supine as we all thought Americans were under Bush? At least they managed to turf the Republicans -- who, by the way, seem at least as "mean" as Conservatives, for whom they are heroes. Canadians slumber on in their smug superiority, quite convinced that "it could never happen here." And all this with a minority government! God help us if Harper ever gets a majority. Fortunately it will no doubt be Quebec who once again saves the day.

Oh Canada!

[Recommend?](#) (34)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



[OurPlanet](#)

1 Jan 2010, 8:35PM

Being a Brit, now living in Alberta, it is sad to see a lot of the commentary above. Since living here I have virtually a good hearty connection to the people who live

here. True there are some hard hearted people , possible example captcanada, sorry sir but your comments "we should all be thanking him and I hope there is a law to stop outspoken journalism" a truely scary statement . Do you really realise sir what you just said, a statement I would expect from the BNP from my own country, it is a hard right party (Fascistic) We can hope that meanness of heart and spirit is not contagious in this beautiful country of yours.

[Recommend?](#) (28)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



[HaroldM](#)

1 Jan 2010, 8:35PM

The Liberals suspended parliament 4 times their last go, Harper does it twice and that somehow makes him evil. In Heathers alternate world it sounds as if Harper is holding Canadians hostage, when in reality his party is gaining support as fast as the Liberals are losing it. MPs will use this time to speak with constituents and hear their concerns so that they can properly represent the people when parliament resumes after the Olympics. If Heather's Liberal MP is not answering the phone maybe she should consider voting for a Conservative representative as I assure you they are very much still in contact with their constituents. Oh and it's -35 C here this morning, cold but not quite cold enough to ease Heather's hallucinations.

[Recommend?](#) (21)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



[CanadianDreamer](#)

1 Jan 2010, 8:41PM

I give robsgotit 10 points and a 10 point deduction to both albertaclipper and Ronfromcanada.

Heather is obviously very frustrated, like many of us. I share her scorn of the person solely responsible for the 'Colossal Fossil'; literally from recent events and figuratively from nearly all that he does.

Just follow the dirty oil link below for more of Steven's games. I wonder where the gov't portion of the Alberta CSS projects will come from.

[Recommend?](#) (11)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



canadiancat

1 Jan 2010, 8:57PM

Frankly, I'm getting quite sick of the pseudo-power Harper wields from Sussex Drive. He is a bitter, twisted individual who can't grasp a majority and stops progress in its tracks (while the oil sands tracks roll on merrily!)

It's at times like these that I'm quite happy at living in the UK -- at least there I can vote in, or out, my preferred candidate...I still have a voice.

Dear Canada:

Please let me know when you decide to ACTUALLY have a VOTE that matters. I'm beginning to lose interest in voting.

[Recommend?](#) (18)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



GlenG

1 Jan 2010, 9:04PM

CanadianDreamer I can do more good with \$10 of my money than the government can do with \$100 of everyone's money. You really think the government has the best interests of you and your family? No government, NDP, Liberal, Conservative has that as a goal. Politicians are interested in spending our money to get re-elected. That is

why all government needs to be minimal. Government taxes, people produce. If you don't understand this then you need to educate yourself on the history of the world and tyranny of dominating governments.

[Recommend?](#) (6)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



albertaclipper

1 Jan 2010, 9:11PM

I give robsgotit 10 points and a **10 point deduction to both albertaclipper** and Ronfromcanada.

Heather is obviously very frustrated, like many of us. I share her scorn of the person solely responsible for the 'Colossal Fossil'; literally from recent events and figuratively from nearly all that he does.

Just follow the dirty oil link below for more of Steven's games. I wonder where the gov't portion of the Alberta CSS projects will come from.

And I suppose I must give CanadianDreamer 10 points because he/she does not use fossil fuels to keep warm in the winter, cool in the summer and travel from one province of Canada to another. Would you please tell me how you're doing this? If you are using fossil fuels I'll be forced to remove your 10 points and deduct another 10 points. Plus another 5 point deduction for spelling errors.

[Recommend?](#) (6)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



sdgreen

1 Jan 2010, 9:18PM

Quite frankly, Heather Malick and the rest of the complainers are dead wrong. Harper

has prorogued Parliament in order to set forth a new agenda to respond to the economic issues over the last several months. Policies established in the last Throne Speech and Budget need complete change. The rapid changes to the economic status not only in Canada, but a large number of other nations demands such. This can only be done through a new Throne speech and new budget.

Further, and as a result of a number of international deliberations, it is likely critical change to policy are required.

The Liberals, and obviously Heather Malick, the NDP, and the others seem to like the status quo.

A shift in Government policy IS accomplished by way of a renewed parliamentary agenda. Kudos to the Conservatives.

[Recommend?](#) (24)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



TerryGM

1 Jan 2010, 9:33PM

Whinny Liberals, off their meds again.

Jean Chretien prorogued Parliament four times during his time as Prime Minister: February 5, 1996; September 18, 1999; September 16, 2002; and November 12, 2003.

* **On each occasion, the Liberals killed their own legislation.** Several bills ended up dying over and over again due to Liberals proroguing Parliament or calling early elections.

* September 16, 2002 ? After a summer of Liberal in-fighting and Jean Chretien being forced to announce his planned retirement date in August, Chretien prorogued Parliament, killing legislation so that he could unveil his legacy agenda.

* According [to] Eddie Goldenberg, Chretien decided to have a Throne Speech just to test the will of the Martinite forces who were trying to push him out early: Chretien was happy. ?I like that. It is exactly what we just discussed. Prepare me a statement. But just one more thing,? said the old fox. ?I want a Throne Speech in the fall. The government will stand or fall on it. If they want to vote against me on it, then it is the

one case in which I will run again.? (Eddie Goldenberg, The Way it Works, p. 380)
* November 12, 2003 ? Jean Chretien announced that Parliament was prorogued on the eve of the Liberal leadership convention (**so Chretien and Martin didn't have to sit together in the House of Commons** and face a dispute over who was Prime Minister). Martin did not become Prime Minister until December 12, 2003 and Parliament did not resume until February 2, 2004 ? almost four months later
Get real.

[Recommend?](#) (20)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)



[robsgotit](#)

1 Jan 2010, 9:41PM

Get real with this.

Does it really matter who prorogues parliament or who didn't?
It shouldn't be done. Period.

We pay our taxes, they work for us. Period.

It is nonsense to whine on about the left and right, the so called 'biased' media and this and that.

I want less games from our politicians. I can't skip out of my work for a few months, why should they? Can't they multitask? I have to.

[Recommend?](#) (21)

[Report abuse](#)

[Clip](#) |

[Link](#)

[Showing first 50 comments](#) | [Go to all comments](#) | [Go to latest comment](#)

[Post a comment](#)

In order to post a comment you need to be registered and signed in.

[Register](#) | [Sign in](#)

