

Separatists could back bid to topple government

OTTAWA (Reuters)—The Bloc Quebecois, which holds the balance of power in Parliament, indicated on Wednesday it could back a bid to bring down the minority Conservative government.

The main opposition Liberal Party says it is ready to introduce a non-confidence motion late next month on the grounds that the government is not doing enough to help those who have lost their jobs in the economic crisis.

All three opposition parties would have to vote for the motion to topple the Conservatives.

Polls show neither the Conservatives under Prime Minister Stephen Harper nor the Liberals, led by Michael Ignatieff, are guaranteed of victory in an election at this time.

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Bloc leader Gilles Duceppe accused Harper of ignoring the plight of the homeless and also attacked Ignatieff, who has backed Harper on key votes this year.

"If Stephen Harper refuses to change his policies to help people who are losing their jobs, and if Michael Ignatieff stops bending before Stephen Harper and assumes his responsibilities, a federal election could be triggered as soon as the start of October," Duceppe said in a statement.

The left-leaning New Democrats have already made it clear they would support a non-confidence motion.

Ignatieff threatened to try to bring down the government in June over the issue of extending jobless benefits. He then backed down, agreeing instead to the creation of a bilateral panel to examine how to change the Unemployment Insurance system.

So far, the two sides on the panel have done little but snipe at each other. The panel is due to release a report at the end of September and the Liberals will then get a chance to introduce a non-confidence motion if they want.

PUZZLES⁴ PEACE

Guess the hidden saying, phrase or word(s) suggested by the graphic below



Presented By



SYMBOLIC MARCH: At the opening of the 2009 World Acadian Congress, more than 3,000 people joined a march across the Miscou bridge connecting Miscou Island and Lamèque Island in northeastern New Brunswick. In the middle of the bridge they were met by visitors from Loudon, France, who gave them some earth from the Loudon region where many of the Acadians' ancestors came from.. PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Acadians commemorate history, celebrate culture

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On Friday the GG will be in Moncton at the raising of the Acadian flag on the eve of National Acadian Day, and to host a youth dialogue on arts as a tool to promote peace and solidarity.

"It's mainly celebration, family gatherings, and reflective moments," said Jean-Marie Nadeau, president of the Moncton-based Acadian Society of New Brunswick, who came up with the idea of the congress 21 years ago.

Back in 1988, Mr. Nadeau was secretary general of the National Society of Acadians.

At the time he thought, "why don't we do like the Armenian people, or the Palestinian or the Jewish people, and launch an international call saying 'let's get together and decide together what we want to do to assure our perennity.' That's how it came about," he said.

A TRAGIC STORY OF EXPULSION

A much-anticipated moment for reflection will take place Aug. 16 at an event featuring award-winning author and Yale University historian John Mack Faragher.

Mr. Faragher will discuss the subject of his book published in 2005, "A Great and Noble Scheme: The Tragic Story of the Expulsion of the French Acadians from their American Homeland."

It is a dark episode that Acadians call le Grand Dérangement, or the great upheaval.

'We are champions of resilience and resistance, but . . . we are a happy people and we hope to be contagious.'

The tragedy occurred 150 years after their ancestors from France settled on the North American Atlantic coast where Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island now reside, in a region that became known as Acadia.

In 1755, at the start of the Seven Years' War between Britain and France, Acadia was under British rule and British authorities demanded that the Acadians swear an oath of allegiance to the British Crown that would require them to fight against their own French countrymen.

Most of the Acadians refused, and more than 10,000 were forcibly deported.

Many were sent to English-speaking colonies to the south, while others

were expelled to France. Thousands were killed, some from drowning when their boats sank. Families were torn apart, and homes and property were burned and confiscated.

Mr. Faragher's book highlighted the horrific and planned nature of the deportation and its parallels with modern-day ethnic cleansings that have occurred in places like Rwanda and Yugoslavia.

After the war ended in 1763, some of the Acadians returned to Atlantic Canada, while others established new homes across North America, Europe, and elsewhere.

"We are about 3 million Acadians spread all over the world after the expulsion," Mr. Nadeau said, noting that celebrating diversity is important to the Acadian people.

'TENACITY AND COURAGE'

More than 300,000 Acadians live in the Acadia region, mostly in New Brunswick, where they have built a strong francophone community.

Acadians comprise about 33 percent of the 750,000 residents of New Brunswick. The province is Canada's only officially bilingual province.

Mr. Nadeau spoke of his pride at being Acadian as well as the challenges facing his people.

"The Acadian people are a friendly people, a peaceful people. One of the reasons I am proud to be Acadian is that we will never

be imperialistic, we will never be invaders," he said.

While Mr. Moore's speech at the opening ceremony highlighted the "tenacity and courage [that] have allowed the Acadians to preserve their language, culture, and heritage," Mr. Nadeau said Acadians "are still living lots of difficulties."

"Our main challenge today for Acadians in New Brunswick is to pass from legislations to reality in terms of recognition of our status as an equal, egalitarian linguistic community with the Anglophones."

The National Society of Acadians, which organizes the World Acadian Congress, held the first congress in 1994 in southeast New Brunswick, the second in southern Louisiana in 1999, and the third in Nova Scotia in 2004. The Nova Scotia event commemorated the 400th anniversary of the founding of Acadia in 1604.

The fifth congress, in 2014, will be held in a region called the Acadia of Lands and Forests, encompassing the communities of Madawaska in northwestern New Brunswick, Temiscouata County in Quebec, and the state of Maine, where many Acadians live.

It expects to host more than 50,000 new visitors in the region.

"We are champions of resilience and resistance, but . . . we are a happy people and we hope to be contagious," Mr. Nadeau said.

Nation Briefs

Tories in a dead heat with Liberals: poll

TORONTO (Reuters)—Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives remain locked in a statistical tie with the Liberals for support across the country, said the Globe and Mail on Tuesday, citing a new poll.

The nationwide survey conducted by the Strategic Counsel for The Globe and Mail and CTV News found 34 per cent would support the Conservatives and 32 per cent would vote for Michael Ignatieff's Liberals. The New Democratic Party was the choice of 15 percent, with 8 percent backing the Green Party.

The two biggest parties have been locked in a tight race for months, but support for the Tories has drifted higher to overtake the Liberals since Parliament broke for the summer in June.

However, another recent survey conducted by Nanos Research predicted that the opposition Liberals were still ahead in public opinion, but their lead over the Conservatives has shrunk since June.

The Liberals are threatening to present a non-confidence motion in the minority Conservative government when the House of Commons reconvenes next month. The Liberals say the Harper government is not doing enough to help the jobless.

Canada seals trade deal with Panama, wants more

PANAMA CITY (Reuters)—Canada signed a free trade deal with Panama Tuesday and said it wanted to conclude more such agreements, given that talks to open up the global trading system were going nowhere.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper signed the agreement with Panamanian President Ricardo Martinelli during an official visit to the Latin American country. Harper said the Panama deal was Canada's eighth such agreement since he took office in early 2006.

Last year, talks on the Doha round of trade liberalization at the World Trade Organization collapsed.

"We've all recognized for some time that the future of the Doha round is uncertain—we've been operating on that assumption almost from the beginning," Harper said.

"We want to make sure, while world trade talks are stalled, that Canada is not falling behind. We are very determined . . . to promote trade liberalization and this is an example of us doing it," he told a news conference.

The deal will eliminate tariffs on most agriculture goods and machinery exported to Panama. Martinelli said the agreement will help Panama's agricultural sector. Panama has also agreed to lift a ban on Canadian beef.

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