Provost resigns over dismissal decision

Campus community questions senior leadership

Shannon Boklaschuk

Editor’s note: This issue of On Campus News went to press on May 21. We recognize that the article below represents an evolving situation, and we are committed to providing the campus community with more information as it emerges. Please visit our news site at news.usask.ca for continued updates.

The University of Saskatchewan has been a focal point in the local, national and international media after Robert Buckingham, the executive director of the School of Public Health, was terminated from his position on May 14.

Students, faculty, staff, alumni and other members of the public have raised concerns—through letters, emails and phone calls, and on social media sites—about tenure and the role of academic freedom at the U of S. Others have questioned the university’s leadership, vision and values.

Though the university has received some pointed criticism, the outpouring of concern demonstrates how important the university is to the community, said U of S President Ilene Busch-Vishniac.

"It has been a very difficult time for the entire university community. We acknowledge the concern at home in Saskatoon, throughout the province of Saskatchewan and across the country," she said.

"It is unfortunate that these recent issues have overshadowed the excellent work that is undertaken every day by our faculty, students and staff. Their ongoing dedication is paramount to the continued success of the university," explained Busch-Vishniac.

"I want to again reiterate that academic freedom and tenure are sacrosanct at the University of Saskatchewan. We have a culture of respecting diverse opinions and encouraging vigorous debate."

Buckingham, who provided a document to the media that he entitled “The Silence of the Deans”, was terminated on May 14 from his executive director position for acting contrary to the expectations of his leadership role. On May 15, the decision to revoke Buckingham’s tenure was reversed and his tenured position with the School of Public Health was reinstated.

Busch-Vishniac said Buckingham’s tenure should not have been put in jeopardy.

"Frankly, we blundered. I am sincerely sorry for that. We quickly recognized that our university has been, is and always will be committed to providing a positive and safe campus while maintaining our academic values of open, unencumbered discussion."

Buckingham’s letter of dismissal was signed by Brett Fairbairn, as provost and vice-president academic, who resigned from his position on May 19. Fairbairn, a tenured history professor and Rhodes Scholar, had served in that administrative role since 2008.

In his letter of resignation, Fairbairn stated that he was resigning due to his “genuine interest in the well-being of the University of Saskatchewan. I believe the work I have done as a student, faculty member and provost has contributed to the growth of our university’s reputation. The same interests lead me to offer stepping aside from the provost role as the best contribution I can now offer under present circumstances."

Busch-Vishniac accepted Fairbairn’s resignation and thanked him for his years of dedication and service to the university. “I have a great deal of respect and admiration for Brett. It has been difficult to absorb, but I do appreciate and respect his reasons for taking this course of action,” said Busch-Vishniac, adding that an interim provost has not yet been appointed.

Fairbairn’s resignation occurred before an emergency meeting of the university’s Board of Governors, who met for hours late into the evening on the Victoria Day holiday. During the meeting, the board had “a thorough discussion of the issues” taking place at the university, said board chair Susan...
Students reach for STARS with sustainability projects

MEAGAN HINTHER

The professors for a new undergraduate course offered through the School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS) said student projects are having direct impacts on the university’s commitment to becoming a more environmentally sustainable campus.

Colin Laroque, professor in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources and SENS, co-taught ENVS 401 Sustainability in Action this winter with assistant professor Philip Loring, also from SENS. The final requirement for the course involved teams working on projects that could help the U of S move up in its official sustainability rating—the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). The STARS rating is administered through the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education and is a self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure sustainability performance. The U of S currently has a bronze rating and has identified silver as its short-term goal.

“Our students set out to take actions,” explained Laroque. “We taught them [core sustainability concepts], guided them and expected them to take dramatic action with their projects. A few projects included identifying initiatives that would take the U of S STARS rating from a bronze to a silver.”

Loring added that the students picked the topics themselves and worked in class to identify possible areas of interest. They also reviewed the STARS ratings online to look for ideas. The Office of Sustainability developed the initial concept of student-led campus sustainability projects and helped connect students with the appropriate campus contacts.

“Each group worked with people from campus, whether in facilities or grounds management or department offices, and were very well at identifying and outlining sustainability strategies, the biggest challenge that many groups faced was getting buy-in from senior leaders, said Laroque. “Once Laura Kennedy, associate vice-president financial services and controller, heard about [our students], she came looking for their final report near the end of term. Armed with their report on sustainable investing, she recently went to a U15 meeting with other financial services leaders to discuss this subject. The recycled photocopier paper team received buy-in from Mary Buhr, dean of Agriculture and Bioresources, who plans to start a pilot project next year.”

Although the students did well at identifying and outlining sustainability strategies, the projects were not without challenges.

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A new study of Saskatchewan attitudes towards all things nuclear has revealed a varied and nuanced picture of an issue that has often been polarized on the public stage.

“One of the things that really came across is that there is a great diversity of opinion in the province,” said Loleen Berdahl, an associate professor in the Department of Political Studies and one of the principal investigators on the Saskatchewan Nuclear Attitudes Study.

“Quite often we tend to hear about more vocal positions on issues,” she said. “What we found with nuclear issues is that there’s a range of opinions and the opinions really vary, depending on which aspect of the nuclear fuel cycle or nuclear activity is being considered.”

The findings are based on a survey of 1,355 residents from across Saskatchewan conducted last fall by the Nuclear Policy Research Initiative (NPRI) that included Bourassa from the Edwards School of Business, Scott Bell from the Department of Geography and Planning, and Jana Fried, a post-doctoral fellow at the Social Sciences Research Lab.

Funded by the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation, the survey looked at attitudes on a number of issues, including nuclear medicine, nuclear energy, uranium mining and nuclear waste management. Survey respondents also answered questions on related issues of values, ethics, policymaking, trust and knowledge of the nuclear sector. One discovery is how little people think they know about nuclear issues.

“One of the more interesting findings was that 57 per cent of survey respondents felt … that they had poor or very poor levels of knowledge about this topic,” Bourassa said.

As for trusted sources of information, university scientists came on top, with 74 per cent of respondents giving them a high level of trust. Nuclear regulators came in second at 39 per cent. Trust of environmental groups was polarized, according to the findings, with one third of respondents reporting high trust and one third reporting low trust.

“This one-third, one third, one third distribution was a recurring theme with much of the survey,” Berdahl said.

Certain groups also had views markedly different from average respondents. For example, women and First Nations respondents were more likely to trust environmental groups but less likely to trust nuclear regulators.

In terms of emotions, the surveyors asked respondents whether they were excited, angered or frightened by the idea of nuclear power generation in Saskatchewan. Over half—60 per cent—reported they were not frightened by the prospect, and about half agreed they were excited by the idea of nuclear power. Nearly a quarter of respondents were angered by the idea.

“I think the best thing about our study is the results will be used to engage debate and dialogue in the province,” said Bell. “All stakeholders will find the results useful or interesting.”

These results are available at ssrl.usask.ca/npri.
Corey Tomczak is driven by the twin passions of doing something new to benefit cardiac patients, and passing on his enthusiasm to his students.

"Universities often talk about having a balanced scholar-teaching model or something that reflects an emphasis on teaching," he said. "But my experience (at the U of S) is that it is not only encouraged but supported. It’s evaluated and taken seriously."

Tomczak joined the College of Kinesiology as an assistant professor in January 2014. He completed his bachelor’s degree in psychology and master’s degree in exercise physiology at the University of Regina before moving to Edmonton to pursue his doctorate and complete a postdoctoral fellowship in rehabilitation medicine at the University of Alberta.

As a cardiovascular physiologist, Tomczak is interested in how the heart functions in healthy individuals, as well as what happens when things go awry. He explained it as a continuum—from fully healthy, to conditions such as high blood pressure, to heart attack, enlarged heart and, ultimately, heart transplant.

"I work with people with chronic health conditions, heart disease in particular, and individuals that develop something called heart failure, or an enlarged heart," he said, explaining such conditions aren’t simply “fixed” with medical treatment alone; they are chronic conditions that require interventions from lifestyle and nutrition, to behavioural medicine, and exercise rehabilitation.

Tomczak is now setting up his research program and is encouraged by the strong health sciences capacity at the U of S and the integration with the Saskatoon Health Region. Of particular interest is the cardiac rehabilitation program, with which he hopes to collaborate and contribute. He is also getting ready for teaching the upcoming fall semester.

“The biggest thing I try to instill in my lectures is a desire or curiosity for the student that becomes internally driven,” he said. "I hope to reach a stage where they get excited enough to be motivated to challenge themselves and learn on their own as much as they can. I try to show them how easily they can make it in their own and how easy it is to get excited.”

Engine enigma

The Orenda jet engine in the Engineering Building hallway is a marvel, its outer casing cut away in places to reveal a precision machine. It is also a bit of a mystery that three aviation buffs are attempting to solve.

David Sumner and Rick Retzlaff, from the College of Engineering, and Russell Isinger, the university registrar, want to learn more about the Orenda, in particular "how it got here, when it got here and who gave it to us,” said Sumner.

The Orenda was manufactured by Avro Canada in the 1950s and was used in CF-100 and Sabre jets. The U of S engine has an Avro nameplate but its serial and model number plate is missing, explained Isinger. It may well have been a training tool for mechanics or engineers, he said, adding that it may have been donated by either Avro or the Royal Canadian Air Force, but no one knows for sure.

There is no information about the Orenda in the University Archives but Retzlaff has found college photos taken in the early 1960s that show the engine in the Engineering Building. The photos appear to confirm the cut away was done after it arrived on campus, Retzlaff explained.

The Orenda continues to serve as a teaching tool—Sumner uses it to show the components of a turbo jet engine to students in his thermodynamics class—but the college would like to provide more detail about the engine in the form of a plaque. Isinger, Retzlaff and Sumner will continue their quest for answers and encourage anyone who has information about the history of the U of S Orenda to get in touch.
Danielle Rudulier’s favourite part of the University of Saskatchewan’s convocation ceremonies is seeing the students’ smiling faces as they walk on stage to receive their degrees.

This year, she will be one of those smiling students.

Rudulier, the co-ordinator of registration and convocation in Student and Enrolment Services Division (SESD), has completed the requirements to obtain a Master of Educational Administration degree from the University of Saskatchewan College of Education. On June 5, she will officially receive her parchment during one of the seven spring convocation ceremonies to be held at TCU Place from June 3 to June 6.

For her, the convocation ceremonies symbolize a time to come together as a community to celebrate students’ academic achievements.

“I find convocation is all about the atmosphere,” she said. “Yes, it is a long ceremony with lots of students crossing the stage, but I think it is definitely worth attending for those two minutes that you get to be on stage, be hooded with your degree colours and shake a hand while receiving that valuable degree.”

As the adrenaline get pumping, some, Rudulier thrives on them.

“Some may find it stressful, and some may find it exciting, but I like it all the little details and the need to be precise, especially in convocation planning.”

Danielle Rudulier

Rudulier, who currently co-ordinates the registration and convocation in Student and Enrolment Services Division (SESD), has worked in the role for nearly five years, and this year’s spring ceremony will mark the 10th convocation cycle she has organized. It will also be the last one that she will do for a while, in the fall, she will welcome her first child with her husband, Adrien, so she will be on leave from her job for a year.

Rudulier will miss co-ordinating all of the convocation details while she is away, but she knows she is leaving the ceremonies in good hands. Her co-workers, who pitch in to make the ceremonies a success each year, will pick up the torch. Like Rudulier, those co-workers will continue to work to enhance the student experience.

“I want family and friends to have the chance to celebrate their graduates, and I also want graduates to feel a sense of accomplishment as they hear their name and cross the stage,” she said. “A university degree is no small feat. It is about celebration of years of hard work.”

Shannon Boklaschuk is a communications co-ordinator in Student and Enrolment Services Division. She will be attending a convocation ceremony on June 4 to receive her Master of Public Administration degree from the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy at the U of S.

Call me crazy, but I love all the little details and the need to be precise, especially in convocation planning.

Danielle Rudulier
The word “convocation” arises from the Latin “con” meaning “together” and “vocare” meaning “to call.” The convocation ceremony is a calling together of new graduates.

The University of Saskatchewan’s Spring Convocation will take place June 3-6. In addition to awarding thousands of degrees to students, a number of honorary degrees and awards will be presented to very deserving individuals. To read the full citations, visit awards.usask.ca.

JOHN H. WEDGE
Honorary Doctor of Laws
Dr. John Wedge graduated from the U of S College of Medicine in 1960. After completion of his surgical education in Saskatoon, Montreal, Toronto and Oxford, U.K., he held many senior positions, including the head of the Department of Surgery, Royal University Hospital (Saskatoon), Head, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, as well as surgeon-in-chief at the Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto) and associate vice-provost, University of Toronto until 2007. In 2006 Dr. Wedge became an Officer of the Order of Canada for his outstanding contributions to paediatric orthopaedic surgery in Canada.

DON BATEMAN
Honorary Doctor of Science
Don Bateman is a corporate fellow and chief engineer-technologist for Flight Safety Systems and Technology in Advanced Technology Engineering for Honeywell in Washington State. A graduate of the U of S with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering, Bateman’s interest in aviation began at the age of five when his father took him to an air show in 1971. Bateman has developed and championed critical flight-safety sensors used by aircrafts worldwide. He holds more than 50 U.S. patents in the field of flight safety and was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2005.

LORNE BABIUK
Honorary Doctor of Science
Lorne Babik is an internationally recognized Canadian research who has devoted his career to Canadian-based research aimed at safeguarding the health of people and animals at home and abroad. The vaccines that he was involved in developing have had a significant impact on the economy as well as reduced mortality and morbidity caused by infectious diseases. He has published over 380 manuscripts, holds over 100 PhD and post-doctoral fellowships. He received the 2013 Canada Gardner Wightman Award and, in 2013, the Killam Prize in health sciences.

ROSS KING
Honorary Doctor of Letters
Ross King was born in Stetson, Saskatchewan, and raised in the nearby village of Headingley. Ross is the author of six books on Italian, French and Canadian art and history. He has also published two historical novels, Domino (1995) and Ex-Libris (1998), and edited a collection of Leonardo da Vinci’s fables, jokes and riddles. Translated into more than a dozen languages, his books have been nominated for a National Books Critics’ Circle Award, the Charles Taylor Prize, and the National Book Award for Writing. His latest book, Leonardo and the Last Supper, was awarded the 2012 Governor General’s Award for Non-Fiction.

KENNETH (KEN) ROSAASEN
Award for Distinction in Outreach and Public Service
Kenneth (Ken) Rosasen, professor in the Department of Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics, has earned the reputation of a well-respected educator, analyst, presenter and leader on agricultural economic issues affecting Western Canada, particularly Saskatchewan. In his 34 years at the university, Rosasen has put on thousands of miles travelling throughout the province to speak about agricultural economic issues to a seemingly endless number of communities—large and small. Rosasen not only explains agricultural economics and policy to farmers, he is also able to bring together ideas, innovations and concerns back to the academic world, ensuring that their interests and expertise are understood and incorporated into research, teaching and policy formation.

GRAHAM GEORGE
Distinguished Researcher Award
Graham George, professor in the Department of Geologic Sciences and Canada Research Chair in X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy, is an internationally recognized researcher who has made significant contributions to instrumentation and synchrotron science over the past three decades. Since joining the U of S in 2004, George’s work has enhanced the global reputation of the Canadian Light Source (CLS) synchrotron. He is the principal investigator on the CLS’s Buckyball project, a dataset that has attracted more than $20 million in funding since 2006 and has proven to be a tremendously important resource for both the Canadian and international scientific communities.

R lâu Drucker-Colin
Earned Doctor of Science
René Drucker-Colín was born in Mexico City in 1937 and obtained his BSc from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, his MSc from Northern Illinois University, and his PhD from the U of S in 1971. Druck- er-Colín is best known for his life-long interest in the brain mechanisms regulating the sleep-wake cycle and in employing the technique of implanting stem cells into brain tissue to restore lost function in neurode- generative diseases. Drucker-Colín demonstrated that peptides were involved in the regulation of sleep, a revolutionary finding since the emphasis had been exclusively on classical neurotransmitters. His work in transplanting fetal cells led to clinical investigations in which he transplanted dopamine-producing fetal cells into Parkinson’s patients.

CHELSEA WILLNESS
Award for Distinction in Community-Engaged Teaching and Scholarship
Chelsea Willness, assistant professor and Grandy Scholar in Sustainable Leadership at the Edwards School of Business, and associate faculty at the School of Environment and Sustainability, is a passionate champion of community-engaged scholarship. Willness has successfully developed and implemented dozens of innovative, in-depth applied projects and courses for students via partnerships that she has developed between the university and numerous community organizations. Willness provides ongoing mentor- ship to other educators, both internal and external through of presentations, seminars, and workshops.

IZZEJDIN ABUALEISH
Honorary Doctor of Laws
Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish is a Palestinian physician and an internationally recognized human rights and inspi- rational peace activist. He is devoted to advancing health and education opportunities for women and girls in the Middle East through his research and his charitable organization, The Daughters of Life Foundation. His autobiography, I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor’s Journey, is an inter- national best-seller published in 20 languages.

RONALD C.C. CUMING
Master Teacher Award
Ronald C.C. Cuming joined the U of S College of Law in 1966, has become an internationally recognized expert in the area of corporate law, insolvency law, and has shared this expertise with countless law students as well as many national and interna- tional organizations. His reputation as a teacher and scholar has been described as “legendary,” and he has received numerous awards for both teaching and research. A leading expert in commercial law, he has played a key role in the development and analysis of the areas of law that he teaches. Students in his classes know that they have the great fortune of learning from a true master of the subjects.

MARLENE FEHR
President’s Service Award
Over her 39-year career with the dairy research, teaching and outreach programs in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science, Marlene Fehr held a number of positions, all of which involved primary respon- sibility for the dairy herd. She is known to be uncompromising in ensuring the animals receive expert care, knowing as she does that dairy research requires cows that are performing at the top industry standard. Managing a dairy research herd requires in-depth knowledge of biology, animal health, biostatis- tics, economics, pharmacology and nutrition and it is a testament to Fehr that the university’s Greenbrae herd is consistently ranked among the best in the province by the Canadian Dairy Herd Improvement Program.
Continuing Education for Nurses
For more information visit usask.ca/management
• May 20-27, Physical Assessment, Biggar
• May 31, Suturing and Surgical Skills

Centre for Continuing and Distance Education
For more information, visit www.ccde.usask.ca or call 306-966-3204.

Campus Changes
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Edwards School of Business, Executive Education
For information call 306-966-8866, email execed@edwards.usask.ca or visit edwards.usask.ca/execed
• May 26-27, Analyzing and Improving Office and Service Operations (Lean Office Course)
• May 28-29, Process Metrics, Manage ment and Controls Course
• May 30-June 4, The Effective Executive Leadership Program – Workplace Leadership

The Arts
STM Gallery
The gallery is currently featuring Shon Gitch-Goosn and Reflections, photographs taken with film and manual cameras that allow the artist to present a diverse range of warmth and tone in her work. Until June 27.

Sitar Concert
The Division of Humanities and Fine Arts is one of the sponsors of a sitar concert of North Indian classical instrumental music by Vilas Gupta May 30 starting at 7 pm at the Broadway Theatre. Tickets are available at McNally Robinson Bookellers, The Baum and at the event.

A Queen and Her Country
The Diefenbaker Canada Centre is hosting A Queen and Her Country, a travelling exhibit from the Canadian Museum of History, until June 8. The exhibition marks the diamond jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II using artifacts and images to recall her many visits to Canada and highlights the major events in her country’s history.

Kendere Art Gallery
The exhibition in the gallery is Gus: The Archive of Kendere, which opens June 5 and will continue until Aug. 1.

College Art Galleries
Opening May 23 in the College Art Galleries is Patrick Tierney’s Survey, curated by Kent Archibald, director of the university art collection. There will be an artist talk/ tour May 23 at 7:30 pm followed by a public reception. Trina is a graduate of and a former teacher at the U of S known for his large format drawings, embroidered textile works and upholstered sculptures.

Miscellany
U of S Retirement Banquet
The university will honour its retiring employees at a banquet May 28 in Marquis Hall. The reception begins at 5:30 pm with the dinner and program starting at 6:30 pm. Tickets are available online at usask.ca/retirementbanquet.

U of S CSA Reunion
The U of S CSA Reunion 2014 will be held Aug. 2-4 at various venues around Saskatchewan. Activities include a come and go tea, golf, dinner in the Upper MUB, campus tours and a banquet and dance. For information go to http://sites.google.com/site/usask CSAreunion2014/

CLS Tours
The Canadian Light Source is offering free public tours of the facility most Thursdays at 3:00 pm. Reservations are required. An online form is available on the CLS website under the education tab, or email outreach@lightsource.ca, or call 306-657-3644.

SUBMIT Coming Events
Next OCC: Friday, Aug 29 Deadline: Thursday, Aug 21 Email occ@usask.ca

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On campus events

Courses/Workshops

Continuing Education for Nurses
For more information visit usask.ca/management
• May 20-27, Physical Assessment, Biggar
• May 31, Suturing and Surgical Skills

Cent re for Continuing and Distance Education
For more information, visit www.ccde.usask.ca or call 306-966-3204.

Business and Leadership Programs
• Technical Writing, June 24

Community Music Education
Registration is open for fall classes. For information, call Nicole Wilton at 306-966-5623 or visit www.ccde.usask.ca/communitymusic

U of S Language Centre
• One-week intensive French Immersion Program: Speaker of all levels, Aug. 11 to 16, Monday to Friday, 8:30 am-4 pm and Saturday 8:30-11 am. Cost: $540.00 (materials and GST included). Register at ccde.usask.ca/learnlanguages/frenchimmersion or call 306-966-4551
• The French Voyager for Beginners: for zero to low level beginners, Aug. 8-10, Friday 6:00 am-5 pm, Saturday and Sunday 9 am-5 pm. Cost: $257.00 (materials and GST included). Register at ccde.usask.ca/learnlanguages/frenchvoyager or call 306-966-4551
• Cree Immersion for Beginners, Aug. 21-23, 10 am-4 pm and Saturday 8 am-5 pm. Cost: $175.00 (materials and GST included). Register at ccde.usask.ca/learnlanguages/creeimmersion or call 306-966-4551
• From Machine to Word: the former involving a machine or a Gestetner to make copies, the former involving a machine or a Gestetner to make copies, the latter will use it.

Days of Paws and online registration for students. “The students would line up outside of the office in rows and cows wanting to register or change classes and all that had to be done manually. They would be lined up in the morning when you arrived for work, I would see them and think ... oh gosh!”

There have been seven different university presidents since Swann started working on campus. She said none had a significant impact on her daily work but she fondly remembers Dr. John W.T. Spinks, her first president. She often saw him walking on campus and he would take time to chat with her and ask about her day.

The administration structure changes in the past year are the most significant Swann has experienced in her 45 years on campus, she said. As the assistant by clerical assistant for her department, Swann used to do many different types of tasks, from finance and budget monitoring to assisting and advising students. Now in the division’s administrative commons, her specialized role focused on class build and collegial processes. It’s different, “but I’m enjoying my new role and the shared work environment.”

Faye Anderson is a donor relations co-ordinator in the College of Arts and Science.
Due north

When Michael Robin, research communications specialist, got the news he was moving back to campus from Innovation Place earlier this year, the first thing he looked for in the new space was a window.

“While there are nice big skylights in our work space that provide wonderful natural light, there was only one workstation with direct access to a window,” said Robin. “I immediately claimed it.”

The claimed window, in keeping with the Thorvaldson Building’s Collegiate Gothic architecture, is tall with narrow dimensions framed in Tyndall stone. “It reminds me of the slits used by archers on a medieval castle,” said Robin with a laugh.

Robin gets a bird’s eye view of the changing seasons and the to-and-fro of people on their way to the Education Building and other points north on campus. His window also overlooks Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Canada flag blowing high above the treeline.

“Early this year, I took a quick glance over my shoulder and noticed the Maple Leaf over the building was flying at half-mast. It was my first indication that Jim Flaherty, our former federal minister of finance, had passed away.”