Accessibility/Mobile Features

Skip Navigation
Skip to Content

Advertisement

Winnipeg Free Press News Alert Services

The Free Press is now offering free subscriptions to RSS feeds and News Alert e-mails.



Advertisement



- Last updated: 8:32 AM
- Home
- Subscribe to the Print Edition
- PressCard
- Customer Service
- Contact Us

•

• Winnipeg Free Press

Weather

Winnipeg, MB

»Weather Forecast

12°CSunny with Cloudy Periods

Searc	h —	-				
1.						
2.	Go					

Editorial News

News |

- Breaking News |
- Local News |
- National News |
- International News

Entertainment |

• TV Listings |

1 of 7

- Movie Listings |
- Movie Reviews |
- Restaurant Reviews |
- Food & Drink
- Books
- Puzzles |
- Comics

Business |

- National Breaking News |
- Stock Quotes |
- Personal Finance
- Columns

Sports |

- Breaking News |
- Hockey
- Football |
- Basketball
- Curling

Life & Style

- Fashion |
- Faith
- Your Health

Opinions

- Editorials |
- Commentary
- Letters to the Editor
- Columnists |
- Blogs

Feature Sections |

- Automotive Showcase |
- Detour
- Green Page |
- Homes
- Neighbours |
- Philanthropy |
- Travel

Advertising/Promotional Content

Classifieds

- Obituaries |
- Announcements
- Careers & Jobs |
- Auto Picture Listings |
- Coupons & Flyers |
- Classified Ads |
- Place a Classified Ad

Publications |

- Golf Guide |
- Parade of Homes
- Connoisseur Magazine |
- Health Magazine
- Festival du Voyageur

Advertising | Contests





Poll

Are Mayor Sam Katz's plans to hold the line on property taxes and focus on crime fighting in line with your priorities?

• Yes

O No

Cast Vote

View Results

Blog Central



John White

Shedding our skin; a rebirth

Paul Williamson Lindor Reynolds Brian Huycke Rochelle Squires More Blogs



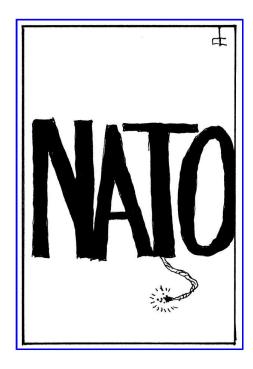


Editorials

View seven day Editorial Archive for previous Winnipeg Free Press stories.

Armistice, Mr. Harper

Sat Feb 9 2008



PRIME Minister Stephen Harper is anxious to introduce a motion of confidence in the House of Commons in regards to the war in Afghanistan that could force an election if it is defeated. He should not be in such a hurry. There may come a time when such a motion is needed, but that proposal today is not only premature, it risks everything that this country has invested in the Afghan war so far.

Mr. Harper says he wants the House of Commons to vote on extending the military mission in Afghanistan beyond the present expiry date of 2009 under the terms recommended in John Manley's recent report. That supposes that Canada's NATO allies should commit an additional 1,000 troops to the war zone in southern Afghanistan and provide at least eight medium-lift helicopters in support of Canadian troops. Failing that, Mr. Manley argues that Canada should quit its combat role in the war. If NATO comes through, however, Ottawa should extend the mission.

It is understandable that Mr. Harper wants a strong mandate so as to be able to negotiate with confidence, something he cannot do in the present circumstance. But a motion to extend the mission could be defeated in the present climate where Liberal Leader Stephane Dion is more resolutely opposed to any extension than his caucus, the Bloc insists on ending the combat role on schedule in 2009, and the New Democrats want to surrender today.

If such a motion were put to the House and defeated, it would almost certainly mean a confused and premature end to Canada's role in Afghanistan, an abandonment of all the good work that Canadian soldiers have accomplished there and a betrayal of the sacrifices they have made. Every political indicator says that the election that would result from the motion's defeat would produce another minority government, perhaps Conservative, perhaps Liberal, but with the Tories unable to pursue the war and Liberals set on running away from it.

There is a more useful option for Mr. Harper. Since the government adopted the Manley recommendations, it has dogged its NATO allies to come up with the soldiers and equipment that Canada needs to continue its combat role There are signs now that NATO is beginning to get the message. At the alliance's defence ministers' meeting in Lithuania this week, France, which so far has declined to actually fight in Afghanistan but could single-handedly meet all of Canada's requirements, strongly indicated that it was reconsidering: "I said that we would help the Canadians," said French Defence Minister Herve Morin. "Give it a few more days and it necessarily wouldn't be a bad thing."

Mr. Morin was advising Canada to wait until after the NATO summit in Romania in April, and that is good advice for Mr. Harper. If in April NATO does not meet the Manley demands, the issue is moot --- Canada will leave Afghanistan. If it does, that is the moment to ask the House of Commons for a vote of confidence in the pursuit of the war.





Digg

submit

Return to Top

Return to Editorial Index

View seven day Editorial Archive for previous Winnipeg Free Press stories.

Angus Reid Wants To Know:

Stephane Dion: The next Canadian Winnipeg Home Finder emailed Prime Minister - Yes or No? AngusReidForum.com

Buying a Home Made Easy

New Listings asap andykloppenborg.com

10 Tips To Lose Belly Fat

Lose 9 lbs every 11 Days with these 10 Idiot Proof Rules of Fat

www.FatLoss4Idiots.com

Winnipeg Jobs
The Most Jobs of Any Major Job Site Search Careers & Apply Online Today www.CareerBuilder.ca



PressCard Cord # 123456 Exp 12/30/04

10-02-2008 09:00 6 of 7





General:

Contact Us

History

Advertising

Privacy Policy

PressCard

On-line:

RSS & Email Alerts

fpNews (Electronic Edition)

Newspaper:

Subscribe

Related:

Newspapers in Education

Winnipeg Free Press Extra

Winnipeg Free Press Kid's Club

FP Newspapers Income Fund

Manitoba Press Council

Winnipeg Free Press

• © 2008 Winnipeg Free Press. All Rights Reserved.

Powered by McClatchy Interactive

7 of 7