

We write right good.

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Prince Edward Island's
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The Cadre

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liamentary democracy, call elections when you know that you can win them. Things are good here on the Island, as they should be. The economy has been booming for awhile now and its no surprise considering what is going on in the rest of this continent. The Tories, however, will have you believe that it was all their doing. They can take some credit for it but here is the real newflash as to why: The government has been able to maintain expenditures and cut taxes because of one thing- more money from Ottawa. They'll have people believe otherwise but numbers don't lie...unless Pat Mella is producing

them (maybe I'll even get another reply to this opinion Pat, not onion!). This being said, there is no evidence that the Liberals could have done any better.

So what are the issues? Health care is the big one. On the Island, and in some provincial capitals across Canada, the solution is simple- forget asking but demand more money from Ottawa. What they get is not enough yet they feel they can cut taxes? Further, the dichotomy on the one hand of asking for more money but then jumping up and down when the feds spend in other jurisdictions. Which leads me to another conclusion I have felt for a long time, Provincial Premiers are the equivalent of Presidents in Banana Republics (and I ain't talking about

the clothesline... which would be a step up). They can't look beyond their own peel (or is that pee?).

Education is another election hot button. All parties promise to spend more money as well as implement a public kindergarten. They wave that flag around like they discovered penicillin. But PEI is the last province in Canada to do this so I don't know why they brag about it. Frankly, they should be embarrassed about it. What is needed are things like meal programs because nobody learns when they are hungry. The blank stares/ faces walking around campus reaf-

firms this. Finally, if they are serious about education, dump a whack of money at UPEI to get it into the top 10 schools in Canada. Then they can sit back and enjoy the benefits of being respected.

So where do I stand on the election? Impressed about the traditionally high voter turnout, which is good. Bored by the alternatives. The reality is that the Tories should win it. Four sitting Grit MLAs walked away from politics for different reasons. My best guess is that they could smell it in the wind... and it wasn't grits cooking but bacon burning.

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