

Canada



New Democrat MP Nycole Turmel speaks to reporters Thursday in Ottawa after being chosen interim party leader.

NDP rookies forced to grow quickly into new role

Andy BLATCHFORD
The Canadian Press

MONTREAL — The NDP says its bumper crop of youngsters is prepared to step out of the shadows and take on a more prominent role during the absence of party leader Jack Layton.

While many never bothered to campaign during the election because they never expected to win, the rookies have spent the post-election period playing catch-up – going to door-to-door and studying local issues.

One of the party’s more experienced MPs, Megan Leslie, describes the process as a “baptism by fire” – one that has helped prepare the youngsters for the daunting task ahead.

Layton’s medical leave, while he fights cancer, may pose a particular challenge for the party’s nearly six-dozen rookie MPs, 18 of whom are under the age of 30.

His absence not only deprives the youngsters of a political role model but also means they may absorb some of the public scrutiny that would normally have fallen on Layton.

But Leslie, who is mentoring five of the party’s new Quebec MPs, says the busy months that followed the May 2 federal election have

forced the party’s newcomers to learn quickly.

“I can’t imagine what it’s been like for them to go through this series of really intense events so quickly after they’ve been elected,” said Leslie, who was first elected in Halifax in 2008.

“So, I know [Layton’s absence] is going to be hard for a lot of them in particular because they maybe owe their involvement to Jack, or maybe some of the electorate voted for Jack and not for them?”

“If what the new MPs have achieved so far is any indication of the future, we’re going to be fine.”

— Megan Leslie, MP

Even before the NDP leader’s stunning announcement earlier this week, she suggested the rookies had already faced an unusually intense introduction to elected life.

First the newbies walked into the House of Commons without aides, offices or virtually any orientation and have struggled to fill a historic number of vacant political staff positions.

Then, Leslie noted, came the

NDP’s marathon, 58-hour filibuster to delay back-to-work legislation for Canada Post.

Now, they’re dealing with the absence of their popular boss, who was replaced Thursday by interim leader Nycole Turmel.

Leslie learned about Layton’s latest battle with cancer from his news conference, which she watched from her riding office with one of her apprentices: 22-year-old MP Mylene Freeman. She had invited the McGill University student to Halifax to learn the ropes of being an MP.

Leslie said Layton’s news hit hard.

“Mylene and I, we kept looking at each other, ‘Oh my God, what are we going to do? How are we supposed to react?’ ” Leslie said, recalling the moments following the announcement.

“It was really wonderful that we were there for each other as a political family, but at the same time we were all at such loose ends.”

However, Leslie says Layton’s health has brought the party closer together and predicts it will have a positive effect.

Leslie added that Layton’s time away will also give young MPs an opportunity to step out of their popular leader’s shadow.

“If what the new MPs have achieved so far is any indication of the future, we’re going to be fine,” she said.

Fifth suspect nabbed by border agents was member of Congolese security forces

Jennifer DITCHBURN
The Canadian Press

OTTAWA — A Congolese man arrested this week after his face was seen on an online government “wanted” list had been deemed by immigration officials to be a member of the brutal security forces of his home country’s former regimes.

Members of the Congolese community in Montreal and family members of Abraham Bahaty Bayavuge have said he was only a low-level employee in the government of dictator Laurent-Desire Kabila.

But the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) dismissed Bayavuge’s application for refugee status in 2004, saying it found he was a member of Kabila’s security forces and those of the previous Mobutu regime.

A removal order was eventually issued against him, and Bayavuge lost an appeal of that decision in 2006 in Federal Court when he failed to produce any evidence of the risks he would face should he return to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Then he disappeared. On Wednesday, Canadian Border Services agents tracked him down in Ottawa.

Bayavuge is the fifth alleged war criminal to be caught following the Conservative government’s posting of 30 faces on the Canadian Border Services Agency’s website.

“I think this reassures new Canadians as well as all Canadians that we take the issue of citizenship and the appropriateness of behaviour on an international level very seriously,” said Public Safety Minister Vic Toews on Thursday in announcing Bayavuge’s arrest.

But what happens to the alleged war criminals once they are deported had not been assessed by the government.

Amnesty International had criticized the government for not taking action on its own to prosecute alleged war criminals. Although Canada has Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act, only two people have ever been tried under the legislation.

“Our obligation is to enforce Canada’s laws and protect the security of Canadians. Other countries have laws to deal with crimes that have been committed in their jurisdictions,” said Immigration Minister Jason Kenney on Thursday.

“We would expect that any responsible sovereign state will do its utmost to ensure there are sanctions for those who are culpable of crimes against humanity or crimes of this nature...”

Interior Workplace Compliance Testing

“Keeping Your Workplace Safe”

Testing Services Provided For...

- RANDOM TESTING
- PRE-EMPLOYMENT
- COURT ORDERED
- RETURN TO DUTY
- REASONABLE SUSPICION
- POST-ACCIDENT

Interior Workplace Compliance Testing

I.W.C.T
Drug and Alcohol Testing Services
Serving Prince George and the Central Interior
www.iwct-testing.com

For complete details of our services call 250.561.(PASS)7277
Toll Free: 1.877.764.6829 | Fax: 250.561.7297 | Email: iwct01@telus.net

Time... to think about your dream home.

There’s never been a better time to turn your dream into reality. We look at your whole financial picture and design a mortgage to suit your goals and objectives – for you, your family, your future and your lifestyle. Call us to find out how an expert Investors Group mortgage planning specialist and The Plan can help you prosper now... and over time.

The Plan by

Investors Group

Investors Group Financial Services Inc.

Suite 900, 299 Victoria St., Prince George, BC Phone: 250-564-2310
100 1811 Victoria St., Prince George, BC Phone: 250-649-0744

Mortgages are offered through I.G. Investment Management, Ltd., Investors Group Trust Co. Ltd. is licensed to lend in all jurisdictions in Canada. Inquiries will be referred to a Mortgage Planning (Agent) Specialist. In the Province of Ontario, Mortgage Brokerage Licence #10809, Mortgage Administrator Licence #11256.
TM Trademarks owned by IGM Financial Inc. and licensed to its subsidiary corporations.

Safe injections sites needed across Canada

The Canadian Press

VANCOUVER — A group advocating for a more aggressive fight against hepatitis B and C says safe-injection sites are needed across Canada.

The Canadian Coalition of Organizations Responding to Hepatitis B and C says the sites, as well as methadone clinics and needle exchanges, must be available in all regions to decrease the spread of the diseases.

The group has released a report card that found co-ordination is lacking across the country and resources appear particularly poor

in Prince Edward Island, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.

Vancouver hosts North America’s only safe-injection site, and the Supreme Court of Canada is currently weighing whether the federal Conservative government should have the power to shut it down.

The coalition found governments across the country are especially failing to keep the disease from spreading in the prison population, and screening for the disease is inconsistent.

Hepatitis B and C are infectious diseases of the liver, which can lead to serious liver damage requiring transplants and cause cancer.

Your One Stop Hitch Shop!

Class III for Most Full Size Domestic Pickups **\$225 Installed**
Class III for Most domestic Vans & SUV's **\$250 Installed**

Complete Selection of Hitches
Complete Selection of Brake Controllers
Complete Selection of Trailer Plugs
We can wire any towing vehicle to tow any trailer

See us first for all your towing needs

INLAND
SPRING and AXLE
HITCHES, SPRING REBUILDING
AXLES, WELDING

250-562-9090
Out of town customers call no charge
1-800-663-3228
Open Mon. - Fri.: 8am - 5pm
Open Saturdays: 8:00am - 4:30 during the Summer

1936 QUINN ST., PRINCE GEORGE

We give you peace of mind.

PORTER AND McMILLAN INSURANCE
www.porterandmcmillan.com

Three Convenient locations to serve you better.
Downtown | 901 Victoria St. 250-563-9217
College Heights | 150-5212 Domano Blvd. 250-964-4400
Hart Highway | 3839 West Austin Rd. 250-962-9217

24 Hour Claims 250-612-5177

LIFESTYLE programs on TV tonight 7/29/11								
	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
HGTV	American Pickers "Super Scooter" Vespa Ape scooter, buses, tractors	House Hunters	House Hunters International	Turf War "Taking The Inside Out" Backyard court and deck gets makeover	American Pickers "Super Scooter" Vespa Ape scooter, buses, tractors			
FOOD	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives	Restaurant Makeover "Phil's BBQ" "Phil's Original BBQ"	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives	Un-wrapped "Rainbow Foods"	Throw-down, Bobby Flay	Throw-down, Bobby Flay	
W	Murder She Solved "Severed" A severed arm and fires are connected	Cold Case "Almost Paradise" Investigating the death of a prom queen.	** Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason '04 Renée Zellweger. An attractive lawyer and Bridget's former boss threaten her newfound happiness with Mark Darcy.					
TLC	Say Yes: Bridesmaids	Say Yes: Bridesmaids	Say Yes to the Dress: Atlanta	Say Yes to the Dress: Atlanta	Say Yes: Bridesmaids	Say Yes: Bridesmaids	Say Yes: Bridesmaids	Say Yes: Bridesmaids
OUTDOOR	Storage Wars All Guns to Port	Operation Repo	Man v. Food "Pittsburgh"	The Dudesons	Legend Quest The search for the Talking Cross	Storage Wars All Guns to Port	Operation Repo	
MUCH MUSIC	*** 8 Mile (02, Drama) Eminem, Kim Basinger Living with his destitute mother, a young man in Detroit tries to overcome obstacles and achieve success as a rapper.				So You Think You Can Dance Canada			
MMM	Late Night With Jimmy Fallon Brian Williams, Rashad Evans, Big Sean. (N)	Don't Forget the Lyrics!	Don't Forget the Lyrics!	Buffy the Vampire Slayer "Beer Bad" Buffy goes drinking with upperclassmen.	Saturday Night Live Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen, J-Kwon.			

Prince George's Only Locally Owned & Operated

Prince George Funeral Service (2008) Ltd.
1014 Douglas Street **250-564-3880** • 1-866-604-3880

