

# WHAT ARE YOUR POLITICS ?

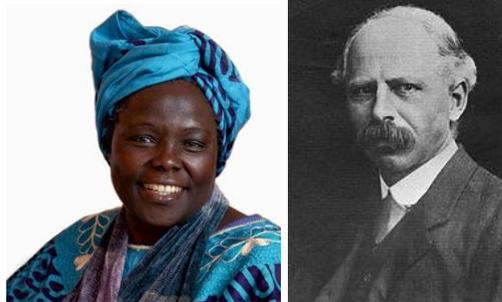
**“ A conservative is a liberal who has been mugged”**

**CURRIULUM EXPECTATION B1 : POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES AND THEIR RELEVANCE TO CANADIAN POLITICS**

## **INSTRUCTIONS :**

- 1) **TAKE THE ONLINE SURVEYS AT [VOTECOMPASS.CBC.CA](http://VOTECOMPASS.CBC.CA) AND [POLITICAL COMPASS.ORG](http://POLITICALCOMPASS.ORG) – WHICH PARTY OR POSITION DO YOU IDENTIFY WITH ?**
- 2) **CONSIDER THE POLITICAL COMPARISONS OF LEFT AND RIGHT WING AT [DIFFEN.COM](http://DIFFEN.COM) ( HANDOUT )**
- 3) **NOTE DOWN YOUR OWN POSITIONS ON THE MAJOR ISSUES AND DETERMINE YOUR POLITICAL LEANING AND WHY.**
- 4) **PRESENT TO CLASS IN A FORMAT OF YOUR CHOICE ( HANDOUT, PPT, OTHER )**

## **EXAMPLE ( MR BURKE )**



**BRIEF POLITICAL HISTORY :** Raised in a military family in 1980's Britain ( Margaret Thatcher Prime Minister). Parents working class, poorly educated by modern standards. Not religious. Father joined Airforce and eventually became an officer. Myself and sister, with many of the current generation were the first in family to go to University.

**Education :** Attended State school and then Durham University, UK, with many wealthy private school peers. Voted Conservative in 1996. Political views shifted left after reading 'Guns, Germs and Steel' by Jared Diamond and saw public services suffering, disasters with privatisation in UK ( eg. Hatfield train disaster). **Personal Influences :** Gran got seriously ill and I appreciated the work done by National Health Service and Social Benefits in times of illness.

Iraq War 2003 raised interest in politics and antipathy towards Republicans in the USA and conservatives in general. Friends violently mugged in London as street crime surged. 2004 – 2006 volunteered in Africa. Returned somewhat disillusioned with corruption, Aid Industry and Cultural Relativism but impressed by personal activism of HIV support groups.

Canada 2009 – Present : Antipathy towards Harper and Conservatives, as viewed them making the same mistakes as Thatcher ( degradation of public services, dogmatic ideology about profit at the expense of social costs such as crime ). Volunteered with the NDP in the lead-up to the 2015 election, but left after NDP attack ads on Trudeau and NDP pledge to balance budget. Voted Liberal mainly for strategic reasons.

### **Position on some major issues and Reasons**

	<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Reason</u></b>
<b><u>ECONOMY</u></b>	Moderate left ;	Studied Great Depression and the New Deal.
<b><u>PUBLIC SERVICES</u></b>	Supportive	Economy of scale, role of government in coordination and regulation.
<b><u>ETHICS ( Abortion, Euthanasia, gay rights)</u></b>	Moderately supportive	Belief in individual rights Generally pro-abortion and euthanasia under certain conditions.
<b><u>CRIME</u></b>	Centre left	Believes in environmental factors more but slightly sceptical about rehab of violent offenders.
<b><u>ENVIRONMENT</u></b>	Strong left	<i>Strong trust of scientific consensus and suspicions of 'doubt industry'</i>
<b><u>FOREIGN POLICY</u></b>	Centre left	Supportive of UN. Sees unilateralism as dangerous. Accepts need for interventionism such as Rwandan genocide, but with local and international support

**Conclusion** : Overall I would say I am centre left and largely due to considerations of the economy and government need for coordination and regulation, but supportive of individual freedoms in personal life. Positions may change depending on circumstance, e.g public spending during recession. Strongly atheist and views right wing as generally disregarding evidence w.r.t science and research. Sympathetic to some aspects of socialism but wary of dogma on the left too. Position mostly summed up as 'Social Liberal' as formulated by Lord Hobbes and the New Liberals in 1930's England.