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GUEST SHOT

If politics was hockey

If the election was a pick-up hockey game, it may come down to next goal wins.

Since confederation, the Liberals, Conservatives and NDP are called every four years to the rink to battle against each other in a game of "winner keeps going."

For the last 13, the Liberals managed to remain on the ice. Sometimes dominating and at other times faltering and barely holding on.

Suddenly their finesse game, or low-keyed approach hit a major glitch, the Gomery Commission and the teams were brought back to Canada's political rink once again. They were guilty of resting on their laurels, perhaps getting too fat.

As much as Canadians are passive in nature, we couldn't, or shall I say, weren't allowed to forgive and forget.

This time the final outcome of the game is up in the air.

Actually, it really is just the Liberals or Conservatives, however, the NDP can make inroads and the Bloc has an opportunity to rev up the separation bandwagon.

PERIOD 1

Conservatives throw a fierce elbow by challenging same-sex unions. We start to believe the radical right-wing mentality of their leader hasn't changed and that they want to act as our moral barometers.

Big mistake; yet to be determined---it was early in the game.

Liberals a bit slow to take the ice. They've been trying to figure out what happened.

How could we balance the budget and still be asked to participate?

Cliché answers wear thin. "We'll give 110 per cent" no longer cuts it. We want more.

NDP grind away like a third or fourth line displaying little flash. But, with determination they net a few goals. Not enough but nevertheless, they make an impact.

Bloc do nothing more than show how fragile our great nation is. I'm surprised Alberta hasn't joined the push for separation.

The Zamboni breaks down.

PERIOD 2

The pace picks up - the Liberals fire shots at childcare; the Conservatives up the ante; the NDP muck in the corners

People get shot. Screams go out for gun controls. Each party shoots. Goals are scored for both sides.

Healthcare, immigration, abortion, Christmas, public transport, fuel prices and who's more patriotic; confuses some voters.

PERIOD 3

With all of the mucking and mudslinging the ice is starting to get choppy. The parties are starting to hit harder. The refs are letting them play. It may be with our money and for the right to spend it, but, they are fighting hard.

The game is starting to wind down. It may be changing from last goal wins to last shot wins.
Can you forget the first elbow?

Frankly, it scares me. I hope the Liberals take the last shot.

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