

2013 Teddy Waste Award Nominee Background Information

Federal Nominees

Chief Redman Hood (Winner)

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Standing Buffalo First Nation's Chief Roger Redman

Nominated for: Worst performance by a reserve politician

Production cost: \$317,583

In a modern twist on the classic tale of Robin Hood, Chief Roger Redman of the Standing Buffalo First Nation has refused to give up his office and his \$194,737 tax-free salary as [angry band members attempt to impeach him](#). The small community is located near Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan.

While Robin Hood remains famous for his heroic efforts to steal from abusive tax collectors on behalf of local citizens, Chief Redman collects from taxpayers and keeps the money for himself.

If you plug Redman's salary into the Ernst & Young personal tax calculator, you'll find that he makes the equivalent of \$317,583 for someone living off-reserve and paying taxes. By comparison, Premier Brad Wall pocketed [\\$158,556](#) and Prime Minister Stephen Harper earned [\\$315,452](#) in 2012. The band's full-time councillors also all [make more than Premier Wall](#).

If the chief of a community of fewer than 500 people earning more than Canada's prime minister isn't outrageous enough, Redman is also preventing the irate members of his community from impeaching him and five of his six band council members. The impeachment call came after the sixth councillor, Stella Isnana, lodged a complaint about questionable spending practices.

After Redman rejected calls for an impeachment vote, the band's senate – a group of elected elders – called for new elections. But when they showed up to a band building for nominations, they [found it padlocked](#).

Links:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/story/2013/01/20/sk-standing-buffalo-impeachment-group.html>

<http://www.leaderpost.com/news/Senate+calls+Standing+Buffalo+First+Nation+election/8015290/story.html>

<http://www.taxpayer.com/media/StandingBuffaloAudit.pdf>

Protecting Taxpayers – from Exploding Sausages (nominee)

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Nominated For: Worst performance by a nanny-statist government department

Production Cost: \$826,000

Page | 2 Canadians have become used to governments trying to keep us safe from ourselves. Whether it be [sending bureaucrats to patrol neighbourhood garage sales](#), [regulating trans fats](#) or criminalizing the [breeding of pit bulls](#), governments never hesitate given the chance to police our behaviour. Heck, [Dalton “Premier Dad” McGuinty](#) even made a career out of it.

But Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada reached a whole new level of nanny state nonsense when they commissioned Brampton based Cardinal Meat Specialists to develop an explosion free sausage. Apparently, exploding sausages have reached such endemic proportions that the government was forced to step in and protect backyard barbecuers from bratwurst.

The contract, which made news [south of the border](#), commissions the food processing company to develop a safer sausage. The government [news release](#) brags that “the company, to its knowledge, will be the first to apply the technology in Canada.” Another prime example of government innovation. What’s next, a million dollar contract to develop splatter-free bacon that can be cooked shirtless?

Links:

<http://ca.news.yahoo.com/blogs/dailybrew/ottawa-invests-tax-dollars-keep-canadians-safe-exploding-181111102.html>

http://www.agr.gc.ca/cb/index_e.php?s1=n&s2=2012&page=n120814

Tax Dollars up in Smoke (nominee)

Western Economic Diversification Canada

Nominated For: Worst performance by a corporate welfare provider

Production Cost: \$5 million

In a move that would make [Cheech and Chong](#) proud, the Canadian government “invested” \$5 million dollars in a hemp processing company Genesis in Waskada, Manitoba. But less than a year after doling out the money under the guise of Canada’s Economic Action Plan, the 25,000-square-foot processing plant is empty and hasn’t been used once.

Hemp, which is another name for a variety of cannabis plants, can be processed into food, fuel and clothing. Typically, provincial governments kick-in a significant sum for these projects. But the Manitoba government decided to opt-out of the hemp business, sinking only \$75,000 into Genesis.

Not surprisingly, local hemp growers who remain profitable without government funding are [ticked off](#) at the government for trying to pick winners and losers in their industry.

Links:

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/5-million-loan-plant-never-used-183746621.html>

Canada's Most Exclusive Club (nominee)

The Senate

Nominated For: Worst performance by an out-of-date institution

Production Cost: \$106 million (annually)

Page | 3 How could any waste awards be complete without mentioning the Canadian Senate? The gift that keeps on giving for political reporters, Canada's unelected upper house has dominated headlines lately over a Senator Patrick Brazeau's [legal problems](#) and some [questionable housing and expense claims](#).

The Senate – which cost taxpayers \$106 million in 2012 – is full of dozens of distinguished Canadians from a variety of fields. But the institution, which [still refuses to publish Senator expenses](#), is in dire need of reform or abolition.

While spurning the Auditor General request to audit their books, the senate did [commission a private, internal audit](#) that uncovered potential misuse of housing allowances by Brazeau and Senators' Mac Harb and Mike Duffy. The senators have come under fire for claiming a \$22,000 housing allowance despite being long-time residents of Ottawa.

Auditors are also looking into the [\\$321,000 in travel expenses](#) incurred by Senator Pamela Wallin since September 2010.

Links:

http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2013/02/26/sen_patrick_brazeau_pleads_not_guilty_plea_to_assault_sexual_assault_charges.html

<http://www2.macleans.ca/2013/02/08/housing-flap-plaguing-duffy-wallin-raises-questions-about-senate-eligibility/>

<http://m.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/mps-refuse-to-let-auditor-general-review-their-expenses/article1568131/?service=mobile>

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2013/02/28/as-four-senators-face-expense-audit-senate-residency-rules-questioned/>

Provincial Nominees

And the Gold Medal for Waste Goes to... (Winner)

Alberta MLA Christine Cusanelli

Nominated for: Worst performance by a high-flying politician

Production cost: \$10,600

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Alberta MLA and former Tourism Minister Christine Cusanelli garners the provincial Teddy for her taxpayer funded junket to the 2012 London Olympics. While an argument could be made for the tourism minister attending such a high profile event, Cusanelli saw fit to [bring her mother and daughter along](#), all on the taxpayers' dime.

The expense came to light after CTF Alberta Director Derek Fildebrandt released the finding of a Freedom of Information request. Months after Fildebrandt released the expenses it became mandatory for all cabinet ministers and MLAs to post their expenses online.

She also paid back money she charged to her ministerial expense account for hotel stays in Edmonton after she was elected while also collecting her MLA housing allowance. MLAs are entitled to a housing allowance if they live outside Edmonton, but must charge the expense to their MLA expense account.

Cusanelli was also left to defend the government after a bungled attempt at belt tightening by reducing the government entourage flying to London led to a [\\$113,000 bill for unused hotel rooms](#). The rookie minister repaid the expenses for her family members' trip but was still [turfed from cabinet](#) in February.

Link:

<http://www.calgarysun.com/2012/10/01/alberta-governments-attempt-to-save-money-costs-taxpayers-113k>

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/entertainment/Calgary+Christine+Cusanelli+repays+taxpayers+after+flying/7658409/story.html>

<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/national/alberta-premier-shuffles-out-two-ministers-reduces-cabinet-by-one-1.66350>

<http://www.taxpayer.com/news-releases/ab--ctf-posts-expenses-of-alberta-ministers-online>

Gold-plated Pensions a Human Right? (nominee)

Former New Brunswick Cabinet Ministers Jeannot Volpe and Roly MacIntyre

Nominated for: Worst performance by a retired politician

Production cost: Countless wasted hours by government bureaucrats

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Are the gold-plated pensions of provincial politicians a human right? At least two former New Brunswick cabinet ministers certainly [think so](#). Jeannot Volpe, a Progressive Conservative, and Roly MacIntyre, a Liberal, filed a complaint to the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission after their pensions were clawed back retroactively. Volpe, who was elected in 1995 and retired in 2010, says he was [expecting a pension of \\$54,000](#). His pension accrued at an incredible 4.5 per cent annually. By contrast, the federal employee pension plan – considered the most generous non-politician plan in the country – accrues at 2 per cent per year.

The New Brunswick Human Rights Commission was created with the intention of [fighting discrimination and promoting equality](#). But chances are that golden parachute pension plans for politicians are not what they had in mind. Even Volpe recognizes how ridiculous his own sense of entitlement appears. “I don't think we're going to get any support from people,” he told the New Brunswick Telegraph-Journal.

Indeed.

Links:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/story/2011/03/15/nb-mla-pension-report-1254.html>

<http://www2.canada.com/edmontonjournal/news/story.html?id=fa1bd172-8612-448a-8ff2-8dabfcc5519c>

The Government that Passed Gas (nominee)

Dalton McGuinty's Government of Ontario

Nominated for: Worst performance by government trying to get re-elected

Production cost: \$230 million (and counting)

In a move that reeks of political expediency, Dalton McGuinty's campaign team – not his cabinet – decided in the final days of the 2011 provincial election to cancel the building of gas-fired generating stations in Mississauga. Then Finance Minister Dwight Duncan admitted that the cancellation was as a move to [save Liberal seats](#). The government also bowed to NIMBYism and moved an Oakville plant in 2010.

The Liberals instead [passed the gas-plants](#) to the less politically influential regions of Sarnia and Bath, in Eastern Ontario.

The issue hasn't died yet as it was revealed that then Energy Minister Chris Bentley hid documents surrounding the cancellation from the legislature. Facing [contempt of parliament charges](#), Bentley has since resigned. Some estimates put the cost of the cancellation at [over \\$1 billion](#).

Then cabinet minister and MPP for the riding of Mississauga-South, Charles Sousa, was widely credited with [successfully lobbying](#) for the Mississauga plant's cancellation to save his own seat. He was rewarded with a promotion to finance minister after he dropped out of the Liberal leadership race and backed eventual winner Kathleen Wynne.

Page | 6 Links:

<http://www.680news.com/2013/01/22/profile-charles-sousa-vows-to-be-the-jobs-premier-2/>

http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2012/09/13/ontario_energy_minister_chris_bentley_found_in_breach_of_parliamentary_privilege.html

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/duncan-admits-liberals-cancelled-ontario-gas-plant-when-behind-in-polls/article4427491/>

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/10/31/terence-corcoran-mcguintys-dark-secrets-revealed/>

<http://www.globaltoronto.com/a+timeline+of+the+cancelled+mississauga+and+oakville+power+plants/6442734189/story.html>

**This Coffee Brought to you by the Canadian Auto Workers Union (nominee)
The Queen Elizabeth Health Sciences Centre (Nova Scotia), Newfoundland's Health Sciences Centre
and the Windsor Regional Hospital
Nominated for: Worst performance by government's trying to run a business
Production cost: \$1.9 million (annually)**

Tim Hortons is the quintessential Canadian brand. And for good reason; go to one at almost any hour of the day and there is usually a long lineup of cars snaking through the drive-thru parking lot as people wait for their double-doubles.

This is why the case of three hospital-run Tim Hortons' bleeding money is so outrageous. The Queen Elizabeth Health Sciences Centre ([four Tim's locations at losses of \\$1.4 million annually](#)), Newfoundland's Health Sciences Centre ([\\$260,000 losses annually](#)) and the Windsor Regional Hospital ([three locations at losses of \\$265,000 annually](#)) have all got into the coffee business with dismal results. The Windsor Regional Hospital estimates that losses from their cafeteria services could cover the cost of five full-time registered nurses.

Yahoo News' Canadian politics correspondent Andy Radia [put it best](#): "Question: How do you lose money operating a Tim Hortons franchise," posed Radia. "Answer: Let the government operate it." While most Tim Hortons start employees with minimum wage positions, the hospitals use highly paid, unionized staff including members of the Canadian Auto Workers union to pour coffee at rates of between \$20 and \$28 an hour. With [auto manufacturing in the decline in Canada](#), this could be a profitable sideline for the embattled union.

Coffee lovers might love the idea of having nurses mainline an IV of Tim's into their veins, but we're pretty sure that's not happening in these hospitals.

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2012/05/31/taxpayers-picking-up-the-tab-as-windsor-tim-hortons-drains-hospital-of-265k-a-year/>

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2012/05/30/money-losing-tim-hortons-in-st-johns-hospital-a-cautionary-tale-critics/>

<http://ca.news.yahoo.com/blogs/canada-politics/nova-scotia-taxpayers-forced-subsidize-tim-hortons-losses-213617381.html>

Bureaucratic Book Club (nominee)

The Government of Manitoba

Nominated for: Worst performance by a government misusing a skilled employee

Production cost: \$360,000

Page | 7 Would you like to be paid around \$90,000 a year to read books and only work ten days a year. That is [exactly what happened](#) to Government of Manitoba accountant Jack Dalgiesh for four years. But make no mistake; he is not the villain here. In fact, he wanted to work.

Dalgiesh was an accountant with 20 years experience working on the Crocus Investment Fund. The fund had 34,000 shareholders who invested a total of \$150 million. But Dalgiesh saw the fund as a house of cards bound to fail. In 2000, he [advised then Finance Minister, now Premier Greg Selinger about his concerns](#) but nothing was done for four years. Finally in 2004, Crocus stopped trading and in 2005, it was revealed that its value had dropped by two-thirds.

Dalgiesh says he was shunted into purgatory with the Auditor General, in a scathing report on the handling of the Crocus fund, uncovered his memo which proved that government officials had been warned. He was given a do-nothing job and was asked to quit by his superiors. For four years until he retired in 2009, he started his own bureaucratic book club. He kept a detailed list of books that he read while on the clock – 156 in total – which he then released to the CTF's [Prairies Director, Colin Craig](#). Among them are such [literary classics](#) as *The Great Gatsby* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Links:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/story/2012/12/04/mb-crocus-fund-bureaucrat-warning-manitoba.html>

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2012/12/18/manitoba-whistleblower-put-under-house-arrest-after-warning-of-government-fraud-read-156-books-while-collecting-his-pay/>

<http://www.taxpayer.com/blog/mb--crocus-bureaucrat-and-the-156-novels>

Municipal Nominees

The \$143 Pencil Sharpener Installation (winner)

The Maintenance and Skilled Trades Council

Nominated for: Worst performance by a union monopoly

Production cost: \$158 million

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As part of a long-standing contract with the Maintenance and Skilled Trades Council (MSTC), the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is paying through the nose for school maintenance projects. Over a two-year period, the board made [293,000 work orders valued at \\$158 million](#) – or \$539 a piece – for such [routine tasks](#) as installing pencil sharpeners (\$143 a pop), hanging three pictures (\$266) or installing an electrical outlet (\$3,000). In the case of the outlet, the job took four hours but taxpayers were billed for 76, as revealed in an investigation by the *Toronto Star*.

The contract differs from that of other school boards who typically use janitors for regular maintenance projects and contract out skilled jobs to the lowest bidder. The MSTC on the other hand [holds a monopoly on all maintenance projects](#). And with an estimated \$3 billion in needed upgrades to board schools, taxpayers can expect to continue footing a massive bill.

“We don’t need to f----- prove anything to anybody about costs,” [union boss Jimmy Hazel told the Star](#).

Links:

http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2012/06/21/toronto_schools_pay_high_prices_for_small_jobs.html

http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2013/01/04/province_renews_tdsb_contract_with_expensive_maintenance_and_trades_workers.html

http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2012/12/06/tdsbs_143_school_pencil_sharpener_just_the_beginning.html

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/tdsb-too-early-to-cut-ties-with-union-despite-alleged-overpricing/article4405283/>

Mr. GST (nominee)

Gilles Suprenant and the City of Montreal

Nominated for: Worst performance by a corrupt city official

Production cost: \$706,000

The Charbonneau Commission was launched to shed light on the seedy world of Montreal public construction contracts. Stories of [corrupt politicians](#), [bribery](#) and [Mafia intimidation](#) have been a daily affair at the commission, which has captivated disgusted Quebecers.

One of the most outrageous stories is that of retired city engineer Gilles Suprenant, who admitted to [taking up to \\$706,000 in bribes](#). Suprenant, who was in charge of estimating the cost of government contracts, would inflate the price and pocket a 1 per cent commission, earning him the nickname [“Mr. GST.”](#) The commission has heard that the Mafia would collect 2.5 per cent of the contract while the ruling Union Montreal Party pocketed 3 per cent.

The inquiry has led to the resignation of long-time Mayor Gerald Tremblay and the [arrest of Frank Zampino](#), the former head of the city’s Executive Committee and the second most powerful man in the Tremblay administration.

Links:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/story/2012/10/29/charbonneau-commission-union-montreal.html>

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/story/2012/05/17/frank-zampino-arrest-upac-corruption-squad.html>

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<http://montreal.ctvnews.ca/tile-installer-recounts-mafia-intimidation-1.1040495>

<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/archives/sunnews/politics/2012/10/20121018-175324.html>

<http://www.lapresse.ca/actualites/dossiers/commission-charbonneau/201210/24/01-4586492-gilles-surprenant-a-recu-706-000.php>

Hamilton's Do-Nothing Road Crews (nominee)

Fired Hamilton Public Works Employees

Nominated for: Worst performance by a city road crew

Production cost: Unknown

Most Canadians have seen it. Driving past a municipal road crew working on a pothole, one or two employees may be working while the rest look on “supervising.” Some even [nap on the job](#). But the City of Hamilton decided to do something about it. Fed up with reports of missing asphalt and lazy workers, the city hired a team of private investigators to monitor 16 road crews in the city’s Public Works Department.

Unfortunately, the results of the investigation were not surprising. Investigators found that workers would run [personal errands, nap, go to coffee shops and bars, or just relax at home](#). Some crews would even spend the entire day doing literally minutes of work.

[29 workers were eventually fired with another two suspended for a month without pay](#). The city is also investigating the theft of tonnes of asphalt. The CTF commends the City of Hamilton for investigating their workers and ensuring that local taxpayers are getting value for their money. We also salute the city employees who work hard and respect the trust placed in them.

Links:

<http://www.cbc.ca/hamilton/news/story/2013/01/28/hamilton-public-workers-fired.html>

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2013/01/28/hamilton-fires-29-city-road-workers-who-allegedly-ran-personal-errands-when-they-should-have-been-patching-potholes/>

<http://www.ottawasun.com/2012/07/04/sleeping-on-the-job-unacceptable-city>

Bomb on a Plane (nominee)

The South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority (TransLink) Police Service

Nominated for: Worst performance by a police force

Production cost: Countless man hours by cops making \$100,000 a year

Page | 10 Remember Samuel L. Jackson's 2006 movie [Snakes on a Plane](#)? The movie garnered significant attention for its funny, over the top title. Now B.C.'s TransLink police force has served up their much less funny but equally explosive incarnation: *Bomb on a Plane*.

TransLink police officers – who have full police powers – are responsible for policing the regional transportation network of Metro Vancouver. During a training exercise for bomb sniffing dogs on a commercial airplane, an officer forgot an explosive on the plane. No one was alerted until two days later when the Air Canada plane had already landed in Toronto. It was thoroughly searched 14 times but the explosive was nowhere to be found. Transit Police interviewed dozens of airport staff, and dragged in Transport Canada, the Vancouver Airport Authority, two RCMP detachments and the Coast Guard as they searched for the explosive. At one point, transit cops – who on average make \$98,000 a year – were staking out a garbage dumpster. The explosive was never found.

The story [was broken by the CTF's B.C. Director, Jordan Bateman](#), after documents he obtained through a Freedom of Information request revealed the bomb mishap.

“Why on earth were Transit Police – responsible for SkyTrain lines – planting explosives on a commercial airplane as a dog-training exercise?” asked Bateman.

Links:

<http://www.theprovince.com/life/Transit+police+left+bomb+plane+days+after+training+their/7849410/story.html>

<http://www.taxpayer.com/british-columbia/bc-transit-police-left-explosive-device-plane>

<http://www.taxpayer.com/news-releases/bc--explosive-on-a-plane-not-transit-police-officer-s-only-blunder---canine-neglect%2C-deceit-and-corrupt-practice>

Lifetime Achievement Award

Smoking at the Savoy (winner)

Former federal cabinet minister Bev Oda

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Bev Oda, the former Conservative MP for Durham and minister for international development, is the poster child for entitled politicians. During her six year career in cabinet, Oda racked up a laundry list of outrageous expenses.

Oda wasted little time in cashing in on her ministerial perks, getting caught for billing taxpayers [\\$5,500 for limo rides](#) at the Juno awards in Halifax, just three months after she was sworn into cabinet. She paid back \$2,200. In 2008, the NDP accused Oda of spending \$17,000 on limos in her first 15 months as a minister.

But her biggest claim to fame is her infamous trip to a London conference on immunization for children in the developing world. Oda refused to stay at the Grange St. Paul's Hotel where the conference was located and opted for \$665 a night room at the [five-star Savoy, a luxury hotel favoured by royalty](#) in downtown London. While staying at the Savoy, Oda enjoyed a glass of \$16 dollar orange juice and was shuttled around town with a chauffeur and limousine to the tune of \$3,000. According to [UNICEF](#), the \$3,000 could have covered the immunization – at only \$1.50 each – of 2,000 children. Oda [repaid the questionable expenses](#) shortly after they were revealed by *The Canadian Press*.

Oda also charged taxpayers for a [\\$250 fine she incurred for smoking in her hotel room](#) at a maternal health conference in Washington, D.C. This wasn't the only time Oda billed taxpayers for her bad habit of lighting up indoors. She also used government funds [to purchase an air filtration unit](#) to mask the smell of cigarette smoke in her office.

She resigned from cabinet and as the MP for Durham in 2012. But Oda gets the last laugh. In a final salute to taxpayers, she will still [collect an annual pension of \\$52,183](#).

Links:

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2012/08/01/scandal-prone-bev-oda-to-collect-700k-in-benefits-over-next-15-years-on-130k-contribution/>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ottawa-notebook/opposition-heaps-scorn-on-bev-odas-five-star-plus-spending-habits/article2411198/>

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/ndp-says-conservative-mp-hid-limo-expenses-1.294192>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/bev-oda-repays-taxpayers-after-opting-for-swanky-hotel-favoured-by-royalty/article2410745/>

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/bev-oda-repays-3-000-for-london-limousine-rides-1.801658>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/bev-oda-charged-taxpayers-250-us-for-smoking-penalty/article4529267/>