

# 2011 Teddy Waste Award Nominee Background Information

## Federal

### Road Trip (winner)

#### G8/G20 costs

**Nominated for: “Best picture of waste”**

**Production Cost: \$1.24 billion**

This year’s hands-down winner has it all: fight scenes on the streets, drama in crafting the generic communiqué and special effects that waste at a world-class calibre. With a total bill estimated to come in at approximately \$1.24 billion, Canada’s hosting of the G8/G20 summits was the runaway favourite with the Teddy Judges since word of the “fake lake” emerged. Several items already reported include:

- \$930 million for security
- \$80 million for food & accommodation
- \$85,000 for snacks
- \$14,000 for glow sticks
- \$300,000 for sunscreen and bug spray
- \$68,000 for Nikon cameras
- \$45,000 for binoculars

Additionally, CTF researchers used Access to Information (ATI) requests to find \$103,000 worth of promotional items, including:

- \$84,000 for lapel pins
- \$40,000 for engraved, bamboo and eco pens
- \$14,000 for zipper pulls
- \$29,000 for water pitchers and custom bottles
- \$4,000 for coffee mugs
- \$17,000 for golf shirts
- \$22,000 for day bags

With files from the [Canadian Taxpayers Federation](#) & the [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation](#)

### Space (Meat) Balls

#### CanCon Space Food

**Nominated for: “Best science fiction”**

**Production Cost: \$400,000**

Agriculture Canada and the Canadian Space Agency boldly went where no bureaucrat has gone before in their quest to explore strange new foods and to seek out new, authentically Canadian forms of space cuisine. Among the project criteria was that the food had to contain as many Canadian ingredients as possible, yet after spending nearly \$400,000 on the project, only cookies made it past NASA’s tests. Despite the Canadian government’s expensive efforts to inject “CanCon” into NASA’s menu, the space agency decided to go with the latest in cosmic culinary technology: Alberta beef jerky. The project was jettisoned after two years of exploration.

With files from [The Canadian Press](#)

## Hard at Work

### Bureaucrat Porn Surfing

**Nominated for: "Best love scene"**

**Production Cost: Priceless**

What's harder than firing a unionized government worker? As it turns out, some of those workers. One Canadian Border Services Agency employee was caught spending as much as five hours a day viewing pornographic personal advertisements while on the job, using his government computer. When looking wasn't enough, the star of this love/waste story sent naked pictures of male genitalia using a government email address.

After an undisclosed "disciplining," this model(ing) employee was allowed to keep his job.

With files from [Postmedia News](#)

## A Few Good Dollars

### Defence Security Failure

**Nominated for: "Best failed action scene"**

**Production Cost: \$515,000**

This is an action packed story about the Department of National Defence (DND) saving a few good dollars by not conducting basic security background checks. Unfortunately, those not checked happened to be constructing a key NORAD defence facility. As a result, taxpayers had to pony-up an extra \$515,000 to install additional security systems, all because DND didn't know who exactly was working for it.

What's the truth behind this wasteful spending? You can't handle with truth!

With files from the [National Post](#)

## High Maintenance Woman

### Public Works Maintenance Costs

**Nominated for: "Best lighting"**

**Production Cost: \$550 million**

Public Works and Government Services (PWGS) paid Montreal-based SNC Lavalin \$550 million-a-year to manage 320 federal buildings. SNC Lavalin submitted some rather curious invoices, including:

- \$1,000 to remove a light switch
- \$5,000 to install six recessed lighting pots
- \$2,000 for two potted plants
- \$19,000 to clean two offices over two months

This tale of waste has the prized distinction of being the first ever nominee to be nominated *during* the Teddies, submitted by David Akin during last year's ceremony.

With files from [Canwest News Service](#)

## Ferris Lavigne's Year Off

### Suspended Senator Expenses

**Nominated for: "Best recurring role"**

**Production Cost: \$30,000**

Suspended Liberal Senator Raymond Lavigne returns for a shocking sequel to an already impressively morbid political career. Even after being barred from the Senate in 2007 when charged with fraud and breach of trust, this Senator managed to rack up \$30,000 in expenses. That is, expenses related to carrying out his duties as a Senator, even though he

had no duties to carry out on account of being suspended.

Between September and November 2010, the good Senator managed to bill taxpayers \$17,700 in office expenses, \$8,500 in travel expenses and \$4,500 in capital living expenses. This makes an excellent sequel to the Senator's alleged criminal activity for misappropriating thousands of dollars and misusing government staff for personal use.

With files from [Postmedia News](#)

## Provincial

### The Office (winner)

**Severance for Keeping Jobs**

**Nominated for: "Best cast"**

**Production Cost: \$56 million (maximum)**

You know you've got it good when you get paid \$45,000 in severance without losing your job. 1,250 Ontario tax collectors will be paid up to a maximum \$45,000 each for changing their business cards from "Ontario PST Collector" to "Canada Revenue Agency HST Collector." Without missing a single day of work or having to move, these bureaucrats will receive what adds up to a maximum payout of \$56 million, for being transferred from the provincial government to the federal government.

While Ontario nominees flooded the Teddy submissions for this year's nominees, this brazen act of waste and public sector entitlement, coupled with the unapologetic reaction from the McGuinty government makes 'The Office' the deserving winner of the 2011 Provincial Teddy.

With files from [The Canadian Press](#)

### E-Health: Part 2

**Abused Sole-Sourced Contracts**

**Nominated for: "Best sequel"**

**Production Cost: \$224 million**

This year's nominees are heavy on sequels and Dalton McGuinty's Liberal government was happy to oblige. After wasting \$1 billion on the "E-Health" scandal involving untendered sole-sourced contracts to Liberal friends, this government came back for seconds with the smash hit, "E-Health 2." In Part 2, the Ontario government continued to indulge in sole-source contracts, including one for \$700,000 without even considering lower bids and another where a consultant paid \$275,000 a year billed taxpayers \$7,000 for a Christmas lunch, foreign exchange fees and a salary bonus. Another consultant was hired at \$240,000 a year, one month after leaving his job. His return netted him a \$100,000 pay increase.

According to the Ontario's auditor general, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has spent \$223.7 million on consultants since 2007. Unfortunately, this sequel is too similar to the original and last year's nominee "E-Health: Part 1" to take the top prize this year.

With files from [CTV and The Canadian Press](#)

### Fall Street: Crats Never Sleep

**Niagara Parks Commission Expenses**

**Nominated for: "Best accounting"**

**Production Cost: \$400,000**

Gordon Gekko would be proud of Joel Noden, the state-owned Niagara Parks Commission's top bureaucrat responsible for revenue. Mr. Noden charged nearly \$400,000 to his corporate MasterCard between 2006 and 2009 for flights, luxury

hotels and restaurants. Before stepping down from the job over an untendered publishing contract – he charged for a \$1,800 nightclub tab, a \$199 liquor store purchase and a \$10,729 hotel bill in London, England. Mr. Noden was even reimbursed \$23,950 for out-of-pocket expenses including roller-coaster rides in Las Vegas, health supplements in Korea and a pound of Starbucks coffee which he, of course, claimed as a meal.

Greed is good, especially when taxpayers pick up the tab.

With files from [The Globe and Mail](#)

## Legally Bombed

**Premier Dexter Bar Membership Dues**

**Nominated for: “Best logical contortion”**

**Production Cost: \$10,600**

This is the story of a come-from-behind kid who rises all the way to the top to become the Premier of Nova Scotia despite his unconventional background for politics: law. Even though he is busy running a province with ruinous finances, he manages to find the time to stick to his roots and remain a lawyer, billing taxpayers \$3,800 a year to pay his full bar dues. After charging \$10,642 since 2006, the Premier finally bowed to pressure and agreed to pay his own dues.

The theme of this waste story focuses on the Premier’s decision to pay the full \$3,800 fee for “practicing” status while taxpayers picked up the tab, while he opted for the \$250 a year “non-practicing” status once he had to pick up the bill.

In the wake of Nova Scotia winning last year’s Provincial Teddy for outrageous MLA expenses, Premier Dexter came close to getting the hat trick for 2011.

With files from [The Canadian Press](#)

## Pay it Backward

**Taxpayers Fundraise, Bureaucrats Don’t**

**Nominated for: “Best heart-warming story”**

**Production Cost: \$38,000**

While most nominations this year have fallen into the romance, comedy, sci-fi and horror genres, this Manitoba nominee rivals Forest Gump for both stupidity and the triumph of good conscience.

Bureaucrats at the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) administration building agonized for years without a rooftop patio. In desperate need, the WRHA charged taxpayers \$37,700 to build a “rooftop oasis” for its poor inhabitants. Meanwhile, down the road, volunteers for the Misericordia Hospital fundraised in the freezing cold to build a rooftop patio for its long-term patients.

With files from the [Canadian Taxpayers Federation](#)

## Municipal

### The Jester’s Speech (winner)

**Edmonton Haiku Contest**

**Nominated for: “Best abstract representation of waste”**

**Production Cost: \$5,000**

This year’s winner of the Municipal Teddy beat out some of the flashier contenders with its artful mastery of poetry. The City of Edmonton held a contest for the best haiku poem on the most important of topics: riding the bus. Despite already paying an official city poet laureate \$5,000 a year to create poetry for the city, outside help was clearly needed.

To portray the Teddy Judges' appreciation of this most worthy of nominees, we have prepared a haiku of our own.

*Strange city,  
Waste cash on poems,  
Paying a man, write haiku for gold.*

With files from the [Edmonton Sun](#)

## Smooth Criminal

**Michael Jackson Tribute Concert Fraud**

**Nominated for: "Best Thriller"**

**Production Cost: \$1.3 million**

Even after taxpayers paid more than \$1 million to bring Regis and Kelly to Prince Edward Island, the City of Summerside just couldn't get its fill of celebrities. In this *Thriller*, Summerside taxpayers were scammed into paying \$1.3 million for a fraudulent contract to kickoff the world Michael Jackson tribute tour, which would allegedly feature Beyonce, Justin Timberlake, Rihanna and Usher.

After wiring \$650,000 to the promoter, the City wired a second, equal payment, even after red flags signalled that they had better *Beat It*. This *Bad* use of taxpayers money and MJ puns has earned Prince Edward Island its very first nominee in modern Teddy history.

With files from the [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation](#)

## Thank You for Lobbying

**Regina Sponsorships**

**Nominated for: "Best PR campaign"**

**Production Cost: \$3,100** The City of Regina spent to impress this year with a host of sponsorships discovered by Freedom of Information requests by the CTF. Among the most impressive scenes were:

- \$2,000 for a PR/Lobbyists convention;
- \$500 for the local feminist society;
- \$450 for a "pickleball" tournament; and
- \$150 for a union golf tournament.

CTF judges were particularly impressed by the ability of the PR/Lobbying convention organizers to lobby for taxpayer funding, a feat that would make the producers of *Thank You For Smoking* proud.

With files from the [Canadian Taxpayers Federation](#)

## Trading Spaces

**Richmond Property Flip (Flop)**

**Nominated for: "Best unreality series"**

**Production Cost: \$59 million**

This home-reno series broke the traditional moulds of its genre by showing its audience what *not* to do when buying property. The City of Richmond did this perfectly when it purchased a property from a native band and federal Crown corporation for more than \$59 million, or five-times its assessed value of \$13 million.

Justifying the actual purchase as a way to prevent high-density development and preserve it as an area for berry picking, the quintupled price was justified as a way of being "as fair as possible" with the Musqueam First Nation. One Councillor called the quintupled price "a fair deal."

With files from [The Globe and Mail](#)

## Spadina Nights: The Ballad of Adam Giambrone

**Public Transit Boss Takes Taxes**

**Nominated for: "Best chase scene"**

**Production Cost: \$2,400**

No Teddies ceremony is complete without at least one nomination from serial heavy-weight contender, Toronto. Now disgraced Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) chairman and City Councillor Adam Giambrone has been an outspoken advocate of taxpayer subsidies to public transit, at least for everyone else. In 2009, the man in charge of Toronto's public transit system billed taxpayers \$2,400 for cab rides. Seemingly, everything is public transit so long as the public pays for it.

With files from the [National Post](#)

## Lifetime Achievement

### Gravy Train to Yuma (winner)

**David Miller**

**Nominated for: "Best closing scene"**

**Production Cost: \$2.8 billion**

Every year the Teddies honour an individual or organization that has towered above rest and is deserving of recognition for their outstanding contribution to waste. Words cannot begin to describe the wasteful achievement of this year's winner, former Toronto mayor David Miller.

Since 2003, Miller grew the city's operating budget by 44% or \$2.8 billion, increased the city's net debt by more than \$1 billion and increased property taxes year-over-year, well beyond the rate of inflation. But Miller was not contented to be an old fashioned tax and spend cowboy, he was determined to break the mould in *Gravy Train to Yuma*. In doing so, he introduced a host of new taxes including: a plastic bag tax, garbage tax, car tax, billboard tax and land transfer tax.

After catering to the every whim of the unions that elected him, the 2009 garbage strike was a bridge too far for ordinary Torontonians. Yet the tale of David Miller is a tragic one, but one with a happy ending as Miller leaves the city on the Gravy Train to Yuma.