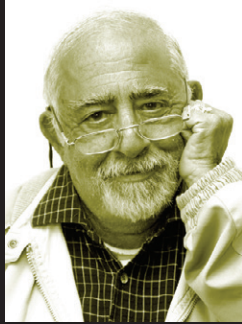




## Parlez-moi D'HUMOUR

Alcide Borik



### L'accent sire qu'on flexe

Eh oui! les membres de l'Académie française viennent de révolutionner le paysage orthographique en supprimant certains accents circonflexes qui s'avèrent inutiles quand ils ne changent pas le sens des mots. Ça a déclenché dans les chaumières des puristes un véritable feu d'artifice qui s'est transformé en une véritable histoire de gram-maire!

Écrivant à sa belle, un auteur anonyme en fit donc cette épître, ma foi un peu coquine, tentant, comme Ronsard, de vaincre les pudeurs d'icelle.

*Encore eût-il phallus, Madame que j'écrivisse  
Les pensées qui me viennent à défaut d'être sage,  
À suivre les leçons que Monsieur de Grevisse  
Donne dans son précis nommé : le bon usage.*

*Parti à la recherche d'une syntaxe affective,  
Voilà qu'un imparfait d'un accent circonflexe  
Aimerait faire une préposition copulative.  
Voilà, pour le présent, un mot qui me suffixe.*

*Abandonnant alors la science de Vaugelas,  
Je me retrouve avec des trémas dans la voix,  
Et prêt à formuler une hardie préposition  
Pourvu qu'il n'en dérive aucune élision.*

*Afin de conjuguer ce verbe circonstanciel,  
Je propose cette liaison qui n'est qu'un trait d'union  
Radical préfixe que l'on met au pluriel  
Et qui ne peut souffrir la moindre négation.*

*Voilà, en quelques mots, Madame sans abréviation  
Ce que veut dire mon verbe... et ma proposition,  
Je n'utilise donc pas un langage indirect,  
Car c'est une apostrophe relative au présent.*

*Je suis votre sujet, soyez mon complément,  
Car vous avez déjà ma subordination.  
Point d'onomatopées ou d'autres interjections,  
Point d'accents graves, d'aigus ou d'autre accent.*

*Prenez, cet attribut, cette cédille minuscule,  
Il est plus que parfait, mais reste conditionnel,  
À cet "h" aspiré qui le rend majuscule,  
Faites-en le complément de vos zobjets directs.*

*Laissez-moi l'analyse de votre sémantique  
Sujette à la syntaxe de ma linguistique.  
Trêve de vos consonnes et surtout des voyelles,  
Croyez-en mon accord, ne soyez pas Beshereille!*

## The first 100 days: An assessment of the Trudeau government

'Make no small dreams – they have not the power to move the soul,' Justin Trudeau said in October 2012 when he announced at a community centre in his home riding of Papineau in Montreal's Park Extension district that he would be running for the leadership of the federal Liberal Party.

A hundred days is not a long period of time from which to judge the performance of a political leader, but it's enough to get some idea. "When we were elected, we promised real change to improve the lives of Canadians," the Prime Minister said in a statement issued last week on the anniversary.

Prime Minister Trudeau may not have a huge number of original ideas, but the few he's got are solid and serve as fundamental guiding principles for whatever may follow. One of his more noted phrases – alluding to Sir Wilfrid Laurier's "sunny ways" – is a good beginning that in a certain manner is reminiscent of the words of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

"Let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself," the former U.S. president said in his first inaugural address which was delivered as the Great Depression was setting in. Keeping hearts and minds focused on the positive is something Laurier and Roosevelt understood. Justin Trudeau tends to share it with them as an overall outlook.

Regarding his first 100 days, the Prime Minister has had a good start. His cabinet is said to be the most diverse in Canadian history and strikes a good balance between progressive and conservative forces. The Prime Minister has pledged to honor electoral commitments to be more open in his government, while respecting a diversity of opinions and collaborating pro-actively with the opposition parties.

Prime Minister Trudeau has also committed the Liberal government to seeking a new and respectful rapport with Canada's Indigenous peoples, while attempting to do away with overbearing and patronizing attitudes from the past that are being replaced with a new relationship between Canada and the First Nations in which they are viewed as two equal peoples.

Trudeau has also met with the provincial premiers and pledged to work with other countries to obtain progress on climate change. In addition, he is the first Prime Minister in 50 years to meet with Canada's leading labour leaders – something that has especially pleased the nation's unions.

But then there is a darker side to the Trudeau régime. The Liberal government's decision to follow through on a \$15 billion military arms sale to Saudi Arabia (something that was started by the former Conservative administration) has left some wondering if Justin Trudeau's claim to being guided by higher principles has any real merit.

As well, the Liberal government's plan for medically assisted suicide legislation is hardly in keeping with the supposedly optimistic principles that animate "sunny ways" – unless someone can put a positive spin on terminating a human life when essentially we the living are unable to provide a quality of existence sufficient to motivate a suicidal individual to want to continue being among us.

And then there is the question of decriminalizing marijuana use and possession, while creating the means to facilitate its sale and distribution. This is an idea that the current Prime Minister began talking about in earnest four years ago when he was campaigning for the Liberal leadership.

There are those who now doubt the Liberal government will proceed hastily with marijuana decriminalization – or even that it will do it at all – given other more pressing concerns such as the deteriorating state of the Canadian economy. Also, since decriminalization is not a politically volatile issue, it can easily be pushed aside almost indefinitely.

If there is one thing Canada's current Prime Minister has demonstrated during his relatively brief political career it's that he has a great capacity to surprise when many of those watching think he is faltering. For this reason, it's realistically fair to assume this pattern will continue and that Prime Minister Trudeau and his government will meet overall expectations over the more than 1,000 days left in their first mandate.

– Martin C. Barry –

The opinions on THIS PAGE reflect the consensus of Editorial Board.

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