

COURTS

**DRIVER ALLEGEDLY
RUNS DOWN DOG
ON PURPOSE**

A Mississauga motorist has been charged with deliberately running down a dog in a crosswalk. The bizarre incident occurred at an intersection of a residential area in Mississauga at 12:50 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12. Police say the woman was stopped at a stop sign on Duford Drive, a street that borders a high school with ample green space, perfect for a dog. She gestured to a pedestrian and his dog, who were waiting to cross the street, to go ahead. And so they did, at which time she allegedly stepped on her accelerator and aimed her vehicle

straight at the man and his pet. The man managed to avoid being struck. The dog was pronounced dead at the scene. "I don't think I have ever come across something as specific as someone waving someone else across the road and then accelerating toward them and trying to hit them," said Const. Paolo Carretta. Maryam Atia, 38, is accused of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, the killing of an animal and assault with a weapon. Police are unaware of any relationship between Atia and the man, or with the dog. *Joe O'Connor, National Post*

**Donations don't
jibe with Leitch
anti-elite stand**

**Large-dollar
donors make up
10% of funding**

ZANE SCHWARTZ

Kellie Leitch says she's running against elites, but significantly more of the Conservative leadership candidate's funding comes from large-dollar donors, compared with that of her chief financial rival, Maxime Bernier.

Ten per cent of Leitch's money comes from donors giving \$1,525, the legal maximum. A total of 4.5 per cent of Bernier's donors gave \$1,525.

Leitch, a former cabinet minister and pediatric orthopedic surgeon, is making anti-elitism a centrepiece of her campaign for the federal party leadership. After Donald Trump won the U.S. election, she sent out a fundraising email saying: "Tonight, our American cousins threw out the elites and elected Donald Trump as their next president. It's

an exciting message and one that we need delivered in Canada as well."

By almost any financial metric however, Bernier has more populist support. Based on money raised by the candidates between May and September, he has nearly twice the number of donors, an average donation about half of Leitch's, and, critically, he's attracting four times the number

that, with \$208,913.72 from 384 donors. Fourth-place Tony Clement, who got into the race late and who has now withdrawn, was at \$20,080 from 26 donors.

Candidates are required to release their fundraising totals every quarter. The next release will cover October-December.

The contrast between Leitch and Bernier becomes clearer looking at the candidates' average donations. During the Democratic primary in the U.S., Bernie Sanders said the average donation to his campaign was just US\$27. Sanders touted the \$27 as an indication that he wasn't getting money from a small group of wealthy people and so could be relied on to fight elite interests. Donald Trump made a similar argument, saying that the self-funding of his campaign combined with small-dollar donations



Kellie Leitch

slightly more, with 27.3 per cent and Sanders doubled that with 59 per cent.

Leitch has a healthy number of sub-\$200 donors, with 54.3 per cent. Seventy-seven per cent of Bernier's donors gave under \$200.

The Americans consider donations under \$200 small because federal law requires campaigns to collect personal details on anyone giving \$200 or more. Canadian law requires leadership candidates to disclose information about any contributor. When examining even smaller donations, those giving less than \$50, the distinction between Leitch and Bernier is more lopsided.

Seventeen per cent of Leitch's donors (195 people) gave under \$50 while 39.5 per cent of Bernier's donors (812 people) gave under \$50.

The National Post revealed that on Monday, Leitch held a \$500-a-plate fundraiser organized by lawyers in downtown Toronto.

National Post with files from Ottawa Citizen

**Liberals, PCs easily
keep byelection seats**

OTTAWA, NIAGARA

The Liberals and Progressive Conservatives hung on to their seats Thursday night in two Ontario byelections.

Nathalie Des Rosiers was declared the winner in the Liberal stronghold of Ottawa-Vanier.

With 42 per cent of polls reporting, Des Rosiers had more than 52 per cent of the vote, compared with 26 per cent for PC challenger André Morin.

In Niagara West-Glanbrook, a riding that had been held by former Progressive Conservative leader Tim Hudak since 1995, 19-year-old Sam Oosterhoff was declared the winner. Oosterhoff, a social conservative who lives with his parents, easily held on to the riding for the PCs.

Oosterhoff led from the start, and with 40 per cent of polls reporting had more than 50 per cent of the vote, compared with 27 per cent for New Democrat Mike Thomas.

In the Ottawa-Vanier race, PC Leader Patrick Brown had hoped to embarrass the Liberal government by recruiting a high-profile candidate in Morin, a former ombudsman.

Brown called Ottawa-Vanier the safest Liberal

seat in Ontario, and said if the Tories even came close it would show just how angry voters were over soaring electricity prices.

Des Rosiers, a civil liberties lawyer, acknowledged that hydro prices were a hurdle for her in the campaign.

"It's normal at mid-man-date that one issue becomes a catalyst for disappointment on a variety of points of view, so in a byelection that usually is the case — there's one issue that becomes the symbol of discontent," she said.

The Liberal government announced an eight-per-cent rebate on electricity bills will come into effect Jan. 1, but it remains to be seen whether it is enough to satisfy the 94 per cent of Ontarians that government-commissioned polling shows are eager for hydro price relief.

Oosterhoff, who becomes the youngest ever member of the Ontario legislature, said people were upset about industrial wind turbines in the riding, as well as high hydro bills.

But Liberal candidate Vicki Ringuette insisted she wasn't hearing complaints from voters about electricity rates, and mocked Oosterhoff by saying she at least has paid a hydro bill.

The Canadian Press

**OUR AMERICAN COUSINS
THREW OUT THE ELITES.**

of small-dollar donations. A total of 812 people donated less than \$50 to Bernier. Only 195 donated under \$50 to Leitch.

Bernier and Leitch are well ahead of other Conservative leadership candidates when it comes to fundraising. Bernier raised \$427,508.72 from 2,056 donors between May and September. Leitch raised \$450,421.56 from 1,145 donors. Third-place Michael Chong raised about half

meant he would take on the establishment.

While neither Bernier nor Leitch come close to Sanders' average donation, there is a stark contrast between them. Bernier's average donation is \$207.93. Leitch's is nearly double, at \$393.38.

Another metric used to assess the popular support of a candidate is their proportion of small donors. For example, 18.4 per cent of Hillary Clinton's donors gave under US\$200. Trump had

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