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Trudeau, Liberals out of touch

ustin Trudeau could be the closest thing Canadian politics has to a celebrity, so when he says something, people notice. Normally for a politician, this is a good thing, but when you have the habit of firmly shoving your foot in your mouth as Trudeau often does, it can be a tad inconve-

This week, Trudeau caused fervor by professing that if Canada went in a direction he didn't like, he would consider supporting Quebec independence. With that separatist statement, you can almost hear the tires of his future Liberal party leadership bus screeching to a halt.

Trudeau's plummeting leadership potential and impaired political judgment aside, the Dauphin's comments (as some media have aptly dubbed him) are actually quite fascinating.

The old Liberal line, which Trudeau's father famously stood for, used to be 'my Canada includes Quebec.' The young Trudeau goes one step further he implies that Quebec is the true bastion of Canadian values, and if the rest of the country (i.e. the West) keeps supporting those nasty, mean Conservatives who try to change those values, he would think about making Quebec a country.

Trudeau has his wires crossed. Quebec separatism. his father's greatest political battle, was about differences in language, culture and law. But for the young Trudeau, it's about values - liberal values that Trudeau, it seems, believes the rest of Canada doesn't hold as closely as Quebec. Values that he claims Harper, who Canadians elected with a majority government, is eroding.

Here's a question for the Dauphin: if Quebecers hold these so-called Canadian liberal values so tightly, why haven't they voted Liberal in almost 30 years?

Trudeau's petulant, childish comments reveal a lot about his political maturity, but more importantly, they show the Liberals have learned nothing since Canadians slapped them with an eviction notice last

The Liberal party is still crippled by the same arrogance as they were when governing, only now they are a caved-in third party with gaffe-prone Trudeau at their helm.

It's time they learned that you can be a good Canadian without being a Liberal.

Harper won a majority - even picking up seats in liberal Toronto - because Canadians are beginning to identify more with conservative values. A recent poll by Angus Reid found that a third of Canadians perceive the country is moving to the right.

Until the Liberals figure out that they don't have a patent on what Canadian values are, they'll never be in power again.

Kathryn Marshall is a commentator on Canadian politics and current affairs and spokeswoman for ethicaloil.org. Follow her on Twitter @KVMarshall and read her blog at www.kathrynmarshall.ca.



Seeking Bachelor fame

SARAH ROWLAND

Have you ever watched a contestant break down on The Bachelor and thought to yourself, "Wow, that is one hot mess! Where do they find these chicks?"

Well, they find them at cattle call auditions like the one held yesterday at Vancouver's Loden Hotel

That's where The Bachelor Canada - our version of the famous dating show in which a few dozen women compete for the love of one lucky hunk - kicked off its cross-country casting tour.

Auditions started at 11 a.m., but more than a few reality TV hopefuls started jockeying for a position as early as 9 a.m.

And with nothing but a spray-on tan to cover their legs, some of these scantily clad early birds endured a long chilly wait outside before getting called into the first of three indoor holding pens.



Sarah Rowland is interviewed during The Bachelor Canada auditions in Vancouver Sunday. CARMINE MARINELLI, 24 HOURS

However, for busty blond portunity." Hayley Jesson, who flew over from Nanaimo for a shot at true love, it was worth it.

"It's not every day that you get a chance to meet someone who's looking for the exact same things as you are," says Jesson, referring to the show's mystery hunk whose identity remains a secret.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime op-

It's also a great chance to play 'spot the train wreck.'

After all, every season there's a token catty wench, chronic crier and a raunchy hoochie.

Who would it be this year? I was on a mission to find out,

so I got all gussied up and posed as an aspiring TV star still saving up for her requisite boob job.

During the registration process, I scanned the room for potential drama queens, but all I came across were nerved-up PYTs making friendly small talk

Then, when we were wrangled into another room to pose for photos, everybody started quieting down a bit (it was almost make-it-or-break-it time).

Finally, we were escorted in small groups to the audition floor of the hotel.

It was there, outside of the producer's private suite, that I realized these girls were supersweet and seemingly normal.

Not only that, but they genuinely thought a majority of the bachelors from seasons past were "hot".

To which I say, "Ladies, he's all yours. I'm outty."

See the video of The Bachelor Canada audition at

vancouver 24hrs ca/hachelor

🔘 sarah.rowland@sunmedia.ca

Four dead in Seattle area avalanches

ERICA BULMAN 24 hours

Three skiers and a snowboarder were killed Sunday in two avalanches near

Around noon, an avalanche killed three skiers at Stevens Pass in the Cascade Mountains, about 130 kilometres northeast of Seattle, said King County Sher-

iff's Office Sgt. Cindi West. Up to 12 others were swept down the mountain but survived.

"Unfortunately, three people didn't make it," West said, adding skiers probably triggered the avalanche.

About 30 minutes earlier an avalanche on Summit at Snoqualmie, about 80 kilometres southeast of Seattle, killed a 41-

vear-old snowboarder in an out-ofbounds area.

Friends with him called 911 but rescuers couldn't revive him, West said.

"It looked like he caused the avalanche, just by merely going down on his board, which swept him down a chute and then over about a 500-foot (150-metre) drop, a cliff." West said.