

Canada not credible in infant mortality says Martin

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FROM
THE EDITOR'S
DESK



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Harper making an argument for viability of G8

Saturday morning, Jan. 30, Paul Martin was interviewed on the CBC radio program 'The House.' The following is what I heard.

Former Prime Minister Paul Martin says Prime Minister Stephen Harper

is making an argument for the viability of the G8 with his pitch to focus the G8 in Huntsville on infant mortality and maternal care.

Martin said he applauds the Harper effort on infant and maternal care – only wishes it be brought to the table at the G20 as the G8 does not include China, India or Brazil – the problem of poverty cannot be solved without these countries being at the table.

Paul Martin chaired the G20 for the first two years of its existence. It is only 6 years old.

The G20 focus is on economic issues; climate change and child poverty are economic issues.

Martin says the Canadian government has no credibility on infant mortality and the death of mothers since it walked away from childcare, and the Kelowna Accord. He said Canada is 24th or 25th in world because of aboriginal infant mortality. We are not facing up to aboriginal tragedy. Global problems have to be solved with China and India at the table.

The Harper vehicle to redefine the G8 if successful will cause the G8 to become a lobby group and undermine the G20. The G20 is about coming together to deal with problems face to face – not cliques and special interest groups battling one and other.

Martin said bank regulations, climate change and poverty must be dealt with at the G20 (in Toronto this June). The G20 is the table that really counts.

Martin also said the G7 meeting of finance ministers will continue as they represent comparable economies.

Today staffer Linda Martin is sorely missed at the office, but we are glad to report that Linda had successful hip replacement surgery on January 19.

Linda expects to arrive home on Saturday, Feb. 6 and continue therapy several times a week in Orillia.

Linda is a jack of many trades at the office - taking care of the subscriptions, mailings, accounting and all those other details that come with publishing. So my lap has been overflowing with doing the many things I do and picking up her jobs as well.

It will be good to hear her voice again, even if it is over the phone. Linda is not one to dally, so I expect she will begin doing small tasks within a couple of weeks.

It will be even grander when she reclaims all her jobs.



On Sat., Feb. 13 a Support Your Troops Valentine Dance will be held at Legion Branch 302, in Gravenhurst.

Doors open at 8 p.m. and DJ Scott Dunlop will have you up and dancing. A light buffet is included and everyone is welcome.

This day has been declared Support Our Troops Day. Event proceeds will go to the Royal Canadian Legion Troop Morale Fund. This is a Legion initiative to buy each soldier posted in Afghanistan a Tim Hortons doughnut and coffee at least once every two weeks.

Tickets are on sale in the downstairs lounge and the cost is \$10 per person.



Huntsville legion president Bob Locke, left, and past president Gord Millburn present Huntsville Fire Chief Steve Hernen and Lake of Bays firefighter Andrew West with \$7,500 for a heat-imaging camera to detect fire victims in homes and autos.