



Presidential fascination

HOWARD BOKSER, MBA 85

Toronto Star columnist and CBC political commentator Chantal Hébert, LL.D. 14, spoke at Concordia in March for the Reader's Digest Annual Lecture Series in Journalism, part of the university's Thinking Out Loud conversation series. By then, Donald Trump had already solidified his lead in the primaries on the way to his eventual nomination as the Republican Party's presidential candidate in the November 2016 United States election.

Hébert's topic was "The post-election landscape — can Quebec and Canada really get along?" While her focus was Canadian politics, an audience member asked, "How scared should we be with the possibility of Trump as U.S. president?" Hébert put a positive spin on it: "I don't think any issue would unify Canada so much as a Trump presidency."

Canadians' interest in the upcoming U.S. election is not just a case of rubbernecking — although the race between Trump and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton does seem like a car wreck. No matter one's leanings, it's undeniable that the arrival of a President Trump would have an impact on the world's financial and political stability, as the Concordia experts in history, finance, journalism and political science discuss in the story "A presidential view from the north" on page 30. Canadians, specifically, will wait anxiously to see if Trump follows through on his promise to revisit the North American Free Trade Agreement.



When we first thought of including a story on the U.S. elections — well before the unlikely emergence of Trump — for the fall 2016 *Concordia University Magazine* issue, we planned to ask our experts about the interminably long process for selecting a president. Canadian campaigns are a fraction of the duration of our southern neighbours'. For instance, the 2015 Canadian federal election campaign was 78 days, the longest since 1872 and about a month longer than average. In contrast, the 2016 Democratic National Convention wrapped up about 100 days ahead of the November 8 election date — and that was after months and months of primary madness.

There may be at least one benefit to the endless campaigning, though. By the time the election rolls around, Americans will have a pretty clear picture of their candidates. If they indeed choose Trump over Clinton, they couldn't claim they didn't know what they were getting — unlike what some critics say of British voters who chose to leave the European Union in the Brexit vote in June.

While the appeal of reactionary politicians seems to be spreading around the world like cancer, real cancer remains a scourge. Fortunately, as this issue's cover story examines, Vladimir Titorenko, Concordia professor of biology, and his team are performing groundbreaking research on a natural cure for cancer (page 36).

This issue also covers a diverse range of lively features, including fond memories of Henry F. Hall on the 50th anniversary of Concordia's iconic Hall Building (page 42), profiles of six impressive alumni at the top of their companies (page 18), and a visit to Milieux: Concordia's new, interdisciplinary institute of digital arts, culture and technology (page 50). ■

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