

Jagmeet Rallies Troops As NDP Struggles For Traction

OTTAWA _ NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh says many Canadians have told him they are struggling with uncertain employment, a lack of housing and expensive medication _ problems he told the party's most faithful Tuesday he believes his party can fix, despite depressed support in recent polls.

Singh spoke to NDP staffers who gathered in Ottawa from across the country for the federal party's annual staff forum.

The NDP leader delivered a campaign-style speech, aimed at rallying the troops in the midst of the party's ongoing struggle to gain traction.

A recent Nanos survey suggested the NDP is at 14-per-cent support and that Singh is the preferred federal leader of only 5.7 per cent of voters surveyed. An Abacus survey released last month was not much rosier, placing the party at 16 per cent and



NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh gets ready to address his NDP staff as they gather for their annual Staff Forum in Ottawa on Tuesday, December 4, 2018. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Sean Kilpatrick

Singh the choice for prime minister of 11 per cent of respondents.

But Singh was upbeat in Ottawa Tuesday, saying he believes Canadians are in "a tough spot"

and need New Democrats to step up for them.

"Many Canadians feel like they voted for something and they didn't get what they voted for,"

he said. "I'm serving notice that good enough is not good enough. We deserve better, we need better and we're going to achieve that together."

Singh asked the audience of mainly young adult staffers to work harder in their regions to help build party support. They reacted with polite applause.

Trudeau Assailed For Tweet To Noah Pledging \$50M Gift

OTTAWA: Canada will contribute \$50 million to a global charity for children's education, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tweeted to comedian Trevor Noah, a pledge that quickly drew criticism both for its content and its form.

Celebrities gathered in Johannesburg, South Africa on Sunday for the Global Citizen Festival: Mandela 100, a charity concert honouring Nelson Mandela a century after he was born.

Trudeau tweeted to Noah,

who is hosting the festival, that Canada would give the money to Education Cannot Wait, an organization that funds education for children affected by conflicts, natural disasters and other crises.

Global Citizen is an organization that wants to end extreme poverty by 2030. Its Mandela 100 campaign sought to bring in US\$1 billion in donations, and Global Citizen tweeted that the campaign surpassed that goal, bringing in over \$7 billion.

"Hey ?Trevornoah - thanks for

everything you're doing to celebrate Nelson Mandela's legacy at the ?GblCtzn festival. Sorry I can't be with you - but how about Canada pledges \$50M to ?EduCannotWait to support education for women & girls around the world? Work for you? Let's do it," Trudeau tweeted to the South African comedian and "The Daily Show" host.

Noah said "This is amazing!" as Trudeau's tweet was shown on a big screen at the concert.

But back in Canada critics

were less enthusiastic. Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer accused Trudeau of pledging \$50 million in a tweet to impress a TV personality.

"A lot of politicians like to be liked. He likes to have his tweets liked and he likes to have his messages retweeted and shared and it seems to be singularly focused on adulation from celebrities, whereas our party and our caucus is focused on doing what's right by Canadian taxpayers," Scheer said at an appearance in Winni-

peg. Similarly, Conservative MP Michelle Rempel tweeted that Trudeau's message was "tone deaf" and also accused him of trying to get noticed by a TV star.

Louis Belanger, director of communications for International Development Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau, said the organization operates in Jordan, Lebanon and South Sudan and in camps where people have been displaced by terrorism. "We think it's important for girls to continue their education."

IBC Supports Review of Auto Insurance Rate Regulation

TORONTO: The Insurance Bureau has said it supports the Ontario Government's Review of Auto Insurance Rate Regulation announced in the Fall Economic Statement. The government said it was committed to cut red tape in the auto insurance system to benefit consumers.

"We congratulate the government on working to create the type of insurance system that is long overdue," said Kim Donaldson, Vice-President, Ontario, Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC). "Consumers are looking for more common-sense innovations such as usage-based insurance and the ability to show electronic copies of their insurance documents. Insurers applaud the objective of the Ontario government to modernize the rate regulation process."

The Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario will review and examine how other jurisdictions set insurance rates

and to identify greater efficiencies and to enable more competition in the auto insurance system. Also encouraging was the government's observation that recent innovations in the insurance sector require an equally innovative response from regulators. The government wants a new regulatory framework that supports the modernization of the sector as well as providing innovative insurance products with the tools it needs to deter fraud.

"Consumers today demand flexibility and ease of use of products and services," added Donaldson. "The electronic availability of insurance documents is the logical next step. Today's announcement will improve the consumer experience."

Home, auto and business insurers look forward to continuing to work with the government to make the auto insurance system more affordable and stable for all drivers in Ontario, he said.

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