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Female politicians should not be judged on feminine traits



Amy Smith
OPINION WRITER

Kathleen Wynne won the Ontario Liberal Convention this past Saturday, and the victory makes her Ontario's first woman premier and the first ever openly gay premier. Wynne is now the sixth female Premier in our country, and her ability to confidently run as an openly gay woman represents the changing mentality of Canadians. The sudden rise of female politicians in Canada is a great feat in a field traditionally dominated by men. Yet women are subjected to unfair, trivial criticism based off their feminine appearance and their domestic role as mothers. Instead of being admired for their political success, they are scrutinized simply based on their looks and family life. Even though women are now holding the same prominent positions as men, they are not being viewed in the same light.

The patriarchal mentality of past generations is slowly fading as women with ambition and

perseverance challenge the status quo. Yet their political success isn't what's necessarily getting the attention.

Female politicians need to be cut some slack in the beauty department. They are either criticized for being too feminine or not feminine enough. Their hair is too long, their pantsuit too manly or they're wearing too much makeup. These women aren't looking for your vote in the Miss Universe pageant. They've worked long and hard for respect, and should be critiqued on their merit and qualifications. Last year I heard friends saying they only voted for Danielle Smith because she was 'hotter' than Alison Redford. Let's dig a little deeper next time and maybe research their party's platform and political goals before voting. Women are initially judged on their appearance no matter what occupation they hold. Yet you need to take into account all qualities of a female politician and not just focus on her physical qualities.

Women politicians are often portrayed as having great family values. Being a mother who multi-tasks automatically makes you a better candidate because you are more 'relatable.' Apparently, this makes people sympathize with

you. The juggling act of keeping a firm grip on both career and family is a challenge for any woman, not just a female politician. People need to stop focusing on the role of motherhood as a distinct attribute, because every woman, not just those who are politicians, can birth babies.

We must continue to embrace new realities and look past the once strong distinctions that polarized our nation. Sexual orientation has nothing to do with Wynne's capability to lead her province, and neither do the clothes she chooses to wear nor the way she decides to raise her family. Women politicians need to stop being portrayed based on their personal characteristics and physical attributes and instead be assessed on their political careers.

If we can accept the sexual orientation of politicians such as Kathleen Wynne, we are moving in the right direction. We must not base our opinion of political leaders, especially women, on their physical attributes, domestic roles or sexual orientations. Canadians will continue to be open-minded and embrace diversity at all levels. We recognize women as men's equals; it's time to start proving it.

Nobody wants to read about your snow sorrow



Alexander Sorochan
OPINION WRITER

When the snow starts falling and the few brave souls journey out into the sub-zero conditions to get an early start on shoveling, many others decide to take a different approach to dealing with the harsh weather outside. A blizzard is raging, but it isn't a result of Mother Nature. On Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram the flurry of complaints about the weather overshadows the thought-provoking cat pictures and hashtags, and people seem shocked that the world could do something as inconsiderate as snowing on them. Please, for the love of all that is good and righteous on this planet, stop complaining about the snow.

We're a hearty breed of people, who drink our maple syrup straight from the trees and live in a constant snow covered wasteland. Just suck it up.

It's like people don't actually expect Canada to be cold. It's not like Canada is sunshine, rainbows and margaritas on the beach, it's pretty cold here most of the time. Canada is famous for its unrelenting winters that last a good nine months of the year. If you've lived in Alberta for most of your life then you know a little bit of snow is really nothing. There have been weeks that get as cold as -40 with a wind chill that would freeze balls off a polar bear, snow blowing around making it impossible to see three feet in front of you, and we still walk to school with our heads held high.

So please shut the hell up,



SHUT UP I don't want to hear your complaining. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: GRIFF CORNWALL

everyone. Your barrage of Facebook statuses complaining about how much snow has fallen is redundant. You're not saying anything anyone hasn't already realized. All you have to do is open your eyes and look out your window: we don't need you and every other single person in the country to go and say it's snowing on Facebook. No matter how much you complain, it isn't going to make it stop. Sure, the snow may suck and make the roads unbearable to drive or force you to go shovel the sidewalk when you get home and make you have to put on an extra four or five sweaters for that three minute walk to the bus stop, but that's part of being Canadian. We're a hearty breed of people, who drink our maple syrup straight from the trees and live in

a constant snow covered wasteland. Just suck it up. You're clogging up my newsfeed with all this crap.

The next time it starts snowing and you feel that irresistible urge to go update your social media pages about the weather, do us all a favour and don't. None of us care. We're all too busy shovelling the snow and curling up under feather quilts trying to stay warm. The snow is part of our Canadian blood — it's who we are. And if it does get to be too much for you to handle, pour yourself a cup of warm coffee or hot chocolate, add a shot of Bailey's or whiskey and dream of some warm beach far away from this godforsaken icy wilderness. You'll feel better than if you'd chosen to spread your inane opinions all over my social media.

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