

Atlantic Alert - Quick 5 Political Musings

1. Congratulations to New Brunswick Liberal leader Brian Gallant who easily won the Kent by-election formerly held by former Premier Shawn Graham. While not guaranteed a win, the Kent riding has long been a Liberal stronghold for over 45 years. It also ensures Gallant, the new Liberal leader, a seat in the legislature from which to more effectively lead his party.

2. Still on the NB Kent by-election: What ever happened to Premier Alward's pledge not to run a Conservative candidate in the by-election to aid the Liberal leader's chances of being elected? Instead, Alward called the by-election a referendum on Graham's Atcon scandal and Jimmy Bourque ran for the Conservatives. Bourque and the Conservatives should have stayed home losing to Gallant by a margin of 4.5 to 1 and finishing behind the NDP. If that was a referendum, the people of Kent have sent a strong message to the Alward Conservatives.

3. The pulp and paper mills in Nova Scotia should be looking to their cousins on the Rock for how to wrangle money out of their provincial

governments. The Dunderdale Conservatives in Newfoundland announced a "loan" of \$90 million dollars for Corner Brook Pulp & Paper to preserve the approximately 350 jobs at the mill for another few years. Is this what the Conservatives mean by their free market ideology, or should that be, free *government* market ideology? And yet the Dunderdale Conservatives cut 1200 government jobs in their budget this spring. Wonder how those folks feel about this "loan"?

4. Nova Scotians were among the first to send aid to help Bostonians after the recent Boston Marathon bombings. It also builds on the ties between the two that date back to the 1917 Halifax explosion for which New Englanders provided much help (and why Nova Scotia sends them a large Christmas tree every year as a sign of thanks and remembrance).

5. Should the Dexter NDP call a June election or wait until Fall 2013? A June election would almost certainly end badly for the NDP while a Fall election is potentially promising especially if the economy picks up. But will people forget the government's track record?