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Liberal ads say Harper has 'something to hide'

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CTV.ca News Staff
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New Liberal Party radio and print ads say Prime Minister Stephen Harper has "something to hide" and that's why he decided to shut down Parliament until March.

The radio and TV ads call the PM's decision a "holiday gift to himself."

The Liberal Party launched the ads hoping to capitalize on some of the growing opposition to Harper's Dec. 30 decision to prorogue Parliament until after the Olympics conclude in Vancouver.

Harper's decision has been the subject of a Facebook group now totaling more than 135,000 people who oppose the move.

The group was launched on Facebook by Christopher White, an anthropology student at the University of Alberta.

"Our default emotion in Canada regarding politics seems to be apathy," White told CTV's *Question Period*.

White said that "something about what's going on right now" seems to have jolted Canadians into action on his group.

"Maybe it's an accumulation of things we've been seeing over years and years," he said.

"Not even just under Harper, but prime ministers before him -- I think certainly Canadians are starting to stand up and take notice and feel like there is something we can do."

Still, pollster Nick Nanos told CTV News Channel that recent polling numbers show that 43 per cent of Canadians are either indifferent or not opposed to prorogation, meaning Harper is still within his statistical comfort zone on the decision.

"He needs over 40 percent agreement, and it looks like on this particular issue at this time, there isn't enough opposition ... for the Conservatives to worry."

Nanos added that the new Liberal ads are significant because they could mark a shift in party strategy: attacking on the government on transparency.

However, Nanos said the plan could also pose a problem for the Liberals, who are still haunted by the ghosts of the Gomery Inquiry.

"You can imagine that the Conservatives are going to throw that back in the Liberals' face," he suggested.

Party lines are drawn

Harper's decision even drew fire from the *Economist*, which accused the PM of rewriting the rules of Canadian politics to "weaken legislative scrutiny."

While the party has not launched ads of its own, the NDP is also outraged by the decision to prorogue parliament.

Photos



Liberals have no money for TV ads but have issued some video ads online: 'On December 30th, Stephen Harper shut down Parliament'

[View Larger Image](#)

CTV News Video

CTV National News: Roger Smith from Ottawa

The Liberal party has launched a series of ads attacking Stephen Harper on his decision to shut down parliament until March, claiming Harper has something to hide.

CTV News Channel: Nik Nanos, pollster

According to the president of Nanos Research, the new Liberal ads trying to attach the motive of a cover-up to Stephen Harper's decision to prorogue Parliament will likely draw a retaliation from the Tories on Liberal accountability.

CTV News Channel: Christopher White on the ads

The creator of the Facebook group 'Canadians Against Proroguing Parliament' talks about how he doesn't want the rally against the proroguing of Parliament to become a movement in support of a particular political party.

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