

NEWS

Evolution of the dirty-double floor-crosser

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John Stewart My Back Pages

Churchill's floor-crossing lasted 20 years. It feels as if Adams' lasted about 20 minutes.

On Sunday, she lost her bid for the federal Liberal nomination in Eglinton-Lawrence to Marco Mendicino, who actually had some roots in the riding.

There's been a lot of the publicity, not to mention political cartoons, over the past months about the futile efforts by Adams and fiancé Dimitri Soudas to strong-arm a Tory nomination in Halton — which essentially got them both kicked out of the Conservative Party. That was followed by the morally and politically irrational decision by federal Liberal leader Justin Trudeau to welcome her into his party with open arms.

Amid all the kerfuffle, it's easy to forget the fact that Adams is still the MP for the riding of Mississauga-

Brampton South.

She may go into the record books as the only MP who's managed the impressive trick of being rejected by not one, but two, parties while still in office.

In case you've missed some backstory, here are a few highlights of Adams' electoral adventures:

- in 2006, the former Ward 5 councillor violates conflict of interest guidelines by having her office staff campaign for her re-election on City time, a charge she denies despite sworn statements from her staff.
- after saying she has no plans for higher office, Adams becomes an MP in 2011, sticking the City with a \$458,439 by-election bill.
- her political assistant Michael Sona resigns from Adams' office just before charges surface about the "robocall" scandal after the 2011 federal election. Sona is later sentenced to nine months in jail.
- her 2011 elections expenses include charges for trips to nail and hair salons, hairbrushes, cleansers,

face creams and whitening toothpaste.

• she is fined \$155 for distracted driving on Parliament Hill in 2013 after she drives through an RCMP checkpoint while talking on her cell phone.

• In Dec. 2013, Adams has a run-in with an Ottawa service station owner, blocking other cars because she's upset about the quality of a \$6 wash. She refuses to move her car or explain why she is dissatisfied, until he pays the refund.

If there's any progress being made in this latest example of the despicable art of floor-crossing, it's that Adams was not guaranteed a nomination by the party to which she defected.

You'll remember that when Mississauga-Streetsville MP Wajid Khan crossed the floor in 2007 (launching Bonnie Crombie's political career in the vacuum it created) and Mississauga South MP Tim Peterson switched to the Tories the same year (launching Charles Sousa's career) Khan and Peterson

were handed the nominations.

That's even though there were already three very credible candidates for the South provincial nomination (Brad Butt, Zoran Churchin and Effie Triantafilopoulos.)

There's a delicious irony in the fact that Triantafilopoulos recently won the Oakville-North Burlington nomination that Adams was so desperately seeking.

Is Adams destined to join the political oblivion that normally awaits floor-crossers?

The answer isn't as obvious as it might seem.

She toyed with the idea of running for mayor in the municipal election and for councillor in the Ward 5 by-election.

Numerous senior level politicians have run locally and become councillors or mayors, trading on their name recognition, if not their records.

She could be a council candidate in 2018, by which time her concussion should be better, but ours will be worse.

Floor-crossing is generally not good for your long-term political career.

It usually ends short-term pain within the political party you are leaving but hardly ever leads to long-term gain in the one you are joining.

Unless you are Winston Churchill, of course.

No one is going to confuse Eve Adams with Winston Churchill.

(Although it is believed Adams did once say that, "We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight in the fields and we shall fight at the car washes.")

Churchill spent four years in British Parliament as a Conservative, before crossing the floor in 1904 to join the Liberals. Twenty years later he re-joined the Conservatives. That's when he issued one of his many famous quotes: "Anyone can rat, but it takes a certain ingenuity to re-rat."

It doesn't look like Eve Adams has the skill or the ingenuity to re-rat. For which we should all be very thankful.