

PARRISH, Carolyn March 20th, 1994 MN

Hail to the gamer

Miss News March 20, 1994
Mississauga is hearing something it hasn't heard from Ottawa in a long time.

A voice of its own.

In the few months since she rode the Liberal wave of popularity into power, Carolyn Parrish has already snared as many headlines as most MPs manage in an entire term of office.

And it's just the beginning for the representative from Mississauga West.

Under John Chrétien's call for openness in his government, Parrish has taken the Prime Minister's invitation to heart and has been speaking her mind and raising questions about everything from the airport and riding distribution to the extravagant spending of her colleagues.

In fact, if we didn't know better, we might not be sure what side of the house she really sits on.

Take the travel costs issue she recently brought up in the house. Parrish pointed out the government has been missing out on huge savings, as much as \$6 million annually, by not booking air flights a few days in advance.

Her suggestion brought applause from opposition Reform Party members.

While such an approach may earn her a few enemies in the Liberal party ranks, especially among the more experienced political players, that doesn't appear to be much of a concern for the rookie MP, who says her job in Ottawa is simply to do what she thinks is right.

Parrish may seem headstrong and almost reckless at times as she charges full steam ahead. But would we rather see her sitting idly on her hands on the back benches, playing it safe rather than risking her job by mixing it up with the heavy hitters?

Parrish, if nothing else, is a gamer. And that's what you've got to be to get noticed in Ottawa, where right now, she's rookie of the year.