

POLITICS IN CRISIS – ARE MEDIA MEANIES TO BLAME?

Is the press too cruel to politicians? Are meanies in the media turning people off politics? Some argue the media isn't tough enough while others blame cynical and negative coverage of politics and politicians for everything from voter apathy to crop failure.

Who's right?

At 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 27, hear the experts' viewpoints when a panel of politically savvy British Columbians discuss the uneasy relationship between politicians and the media.

The event, a free public service presentation of the British Columbia Press Council, will be held at the Marriott Pinnacle Hotel, 1128 West Hastings.

Panel members Senator Pat Carney, Vancouver Sun Managing Editor Kirk LaPointe, pollster Angus Reid and former B.C. Premier Mike Harcourt will each have up to 15 minutes to present their ideas and positions.

After the presentations, moderator Kevin Evans, former CBC-TV news anchor, will open up the event to questions from the audience.

Press Council Chair Audrey Moore said there's a huge diversity of opinion when it comes to how the media covers politics.

"Is it the role of the press to simply hold elected officials' feet to the fire? Or does the media owe readers and viewers a broader, more balanced perspective?"

"Given the background and experience of our panel, we think the discussion will be lively, opinionated and hopefully, educational."

NOTE; THIS FREE EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. HOWEVER, SEATING IS LIMITED AND AVAILABLE ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.