



## Harper Hockey Stopwatch

(June 17, 2007)

I didn't see the NHL Awards the other night, but this much I know: Stephen Harper was on hand at the Elgin Theatre to deliver the Hart Trophy to Sid Crosby.

Over the last handful of months, SH has made innumerable visits to hockey-related events in an attempt to out-folksify all previous prime ministers re: a directive from Republican wordspawn Frank Lutz, from whom the ReformTories have been soliciting pre-campaign campaign advice. During the Final, he hosted TSN's Gord Miller at 24 Sussex Drive for a long sitdown despite freezing out journalists and restricting access to Parliament Hillers thru recent amendments to writer-wag protocol. Prior to that, he hobnobbed at Senators' Saturday Night games and was a between-period guest on HNIC. During the last election, he boasted of having nearly-written a book about hockey history, but no one is sure whether the book, let alone its text, is fact or fiction.

Frank/Stephen's attempt to use the hammer of hockey to win hearts is not new, but the number of attempts is SH's alone. Canada-Russia/Finland-Sweden/Russia-Czech Republic is hockey-politics at its best. But beware the leader who uses the great game as a means of keeping his party in power.

Sources:

<http://www.mediatransparency.org/story.php?storyID=12>