

## The Lefebvre Austruther Maingy Questionnaire

Michael Hart

### Lefebvre Austruther Maingy

Lefebvre Austruther Maingy was a Canadian federal civil servant circa 1885. Little is known about him, but if we could travel back in time, we would ask him the following questions.

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### What traits do you most admire in a policymaker?

Integrity. I admire policymakers who base decisions on the best facts and who make decisions in full candour.

### What traits do you most admire in a politician?

Integrity. I particularly admire integrity in issues that require compromise.

### What traits do you most despise in a policymaker?

Fooling himself/herself or believing their own spin.

### What traits do you most despise in a politician?

Fooling himself/herself or believing their own spin.

### What advice would you give a young policymaker?

Is there such a thing as a young policymaker? I think what you mean is a young policy advisor. I would advise getting to know your subject as well as you can so that you can give the policymaker the best advice that you're capable of giving.

### Who is your favourite author?

I read a large breadth of subjects and genres, but I always enjoyed reading John le Carré. le Carré's work is intricately plotted, contains good characters, and is very

well-written.

**What's your idea of happiness?**

My wife and I have spent many happy, long weekends at a small golf resort where the food is great for her and the golf is entertaining for me.

**What do you hate the most?**

I hate people who are not honest with themselves and who are unprepared to put resources into understanding difficult matters. I dislike those who have opinions on subjects they have never thought about.

**What is your present state of mind?**

I'm calm and relaxed, currently listening to Henry Purcell played by Yehudi Menuhin.

**What is your favourite food?**

I have a very restricted diet, but one of the things I eat and really like is a mixture of nuts and dried fruit.

**What is your favourite drink?**

Although I don't get it often enough, I love a glass of peach nectar.

**What talent do you wish you had?**

The talent I really wish I had is the ability to play either the piano or a string instrument really well.

**Who most inspires you?**

At this particular point in my life, my friend Bill Dymond.

**If you could make one overnight change in government, what would it be?**

Cut it down to about half its size.