

dialogue

20

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Canada's Independent Voices

MAGAZINE

Dioxin Kills - and so does negligence by the Canadian Government



Will the Gov't. of Canada stop its denials
and do the right thing for the victims of
Agent Orange testing at CFB Gagetown? p.6

In this Issue...

articles to enlighten, engage & (perhaps) enrage... but also entertain!



KELLY FRANKLIN exposes the tragedy of Agent Orange testing in Canada, and asks that the Federal Government end its denials and do the right thing for the victims, p.4,6



TRACEY ADAMS shares her thoughts on sustainable land use, p.27, & announces the first Canadian birth of a Caspian horse, p.53



PETER SAUVÉ offers insight into post-election Quebec politics and the implications for the rest of Canada, pages.17-18

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Subscription Info - P.58

A word from the publisher and editor...



Maurice, Janet & Penny

Dear Reader,

This issue marks the beginning of our 21st year! Our cover story, about Agent Orange testing in Canada, reveals yet another saga of the mis-use of authority by the Federal Government (article, pp. 6-7).

There are many wide-ranging articles in this issue that alert us to on-going power struggles that are seeming to concentrate control in fewer and fewer hands – while simultaneously dis-empowering the rest of us. This can sometimes be depressing to read about... but the good news is that there is growing awareness, in our communities and around the world, of more cooperative and sustainable ways of living. We don't hear much about them on "The News" – but they are real and they are happening. One of many positive developments is the Wise Democracy movement – and its first Canadian Wisdom Council in Victoria, BC (article, p. 30).

There are many reminders around us that, as David Korten says, "...our species is in the midst of a profound awakening to a new appreciation of what it means to be truly human." (in his book, *The Post-Corporate World*, 1999)

Many essays, as usual, look at political topics from ideological perspectives. And again, in this issue, you will find differing opinions on the subject of what causes climate change and what needs to be done – and about other problems that are being ignored while all the focus is on "greenhouse gases."

When you see something in *Dialogue* that makes you think, "I wish everybody could read that!" – take the ideas and pass them on to friends, neighbours, radio talk shows, community groups, in letters to the editor, local politicians, etc. The more people who hear about our journal of ideas, the stronger our network of informed Canadians will become! Contact information for Canadian politicians is featured on our website: www.dialogue.ca. The website also now features a "pdf" extract of each issue – that you can download and share! And if you are not yet receiving our monthly "e-mail newsletter" or "discussion group" (prepared by Maurice), send an e-mail – to maurice.king@dialogue.ca – and we will add you to our mailing list.

With summer beginning, we hope you will get out and experience nature in our beautiful country! And by all means, send photos and stories – of anything you are enjoying over the summer... If you are visiting (or living) on Vancouver Island, come over to see us (*and Penny, of course!*) in Nanaimo! [Just call to make sure we are home: 250-758-9877.]

We would like to wish a "Speedy Recovery!" to Roly Smith (p.44) and Jim & June Chambers (p.57); Best Wishes to all our readers, and their families, who may be experiencing health problems.

Thank you for your part in keeping *Dialogue* going! For without your **support** and your **voice** as an independent thinker, reader/writer (and subscriber!) – there would be no *Dialogue*! Your help in finding new readers is so vital – and very much appreciated. *Thank you!*

Maurice, volunteer publisher

Janet, volunteer editor

Read, write, create... have your say! - in Canada's unique, national, volunteer-produced, non-profit magazine.

dialogue is...

...an independent, not-for-profit Canadian magazine, written and supported by its readers - empowering their voices and the sharing of ideas.

Dialogue, for 20 years, has been providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and an antidote to political correctness. We encourage readers to share with others – including our politicians – the ideas and issues gleaned from these pages.

If this is your first issue, please let us know what you think of it. If you would like to share your ideas and become a writer in

dialogue magazine

consider this your invitation!

We also need your support as a subscriber, to help us continue

(See P. 58 for details)

Dialogue was founded in 1987 and is published six times a year.

Maurice J. King, President-Publisher
Janet K. Hicks, Volunteer Editor

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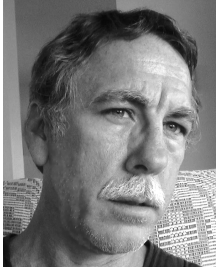
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Fifty Years of Silence: Agent Orange in Canada



Kelly Franklin

Kelly Porter Franklin, Nanaimo BC **The Tripartite Technical Cooperation Program (TTCP)**

Like the USA and the UK, our nation has a history of using soldiers in experiments, testing weapons of war. This is the story of Agent Orange use in Canada, and this time

the families of those soldiers were guinea pigs too.

The governments of Canada, the USA and the UK entered into a pact called the Tripartite Technical Cooperation Program in November of 1957. This alliance formalized what had been going on since before World War Two – the sharing of research into more effective methods of waging war.

One of the areas of collaboration was sub-committee E, the unit assigned biological, radiological and chemical warfare. This included Agent Orange.

The recipe for Agent Orange is one part 2,4-D and one part 2,4,5-T. Add in a sprinkle of a deadly contaminant called dioxin. This is what was sprayed on Vietnam. And on Canadians.

My father was transferred to Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, New Brunswick, on my first birthday November 25th 1958. The base had been spraying 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T on the forests in huge quantities since 1956, and this amount doubled when our family arrived there to live. We had no clue.

In the ensuing years, before my father quit the army in 1964, the base sprayed those forests surrounding where we lived with about 200,000 US gallons. I'm taking these figures from a government document that the Department of National Defence sent me.

This means *MORE* 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T per acre fell on Gagetown than on Vietnam!

The Big Orange Herring

If you ask anybody running this country today about the spraying of Agent Orange on CFB Gagetown, they will tell you the Americans sprayed a couple of barrels during a three-day period in June 1966 and a four-day period in June 1967. You might even be told this American “proper Agent Orange” is not the same as what was sprayed on CFB Gagetown from 1956 until 1964, although it had the same ingredients and level of dioxin contamination. You certainly will not be told that Canada manufactured Agent Orange in Ontario, and then sold it to the Americans for subsequent spraying on the Vietnamese.

This (“official”) cover story does one other thing to obscure the truth: it blames the USA. Yet the Americans were here at our invitation. Then there is that TTCP alliance and the testing done in its name. Maybe we traded non-participation in the Vietnam War for something.

Similarly, nobody in Ottawa will admit that Gagetown was sprayed with Agent White in amounts that dwarf even the use of Orange. Over 2,000,000 pounds of hexachlorobenzene-contaminated “Tordon” were sprayed from 1964 until 1984. In total, over a billion grams of toxic chemicals were sprayed on the base between 1956 and 1984.

Enter the Base Gagetown and Area Fact-Finders Project (BGAFFP), a construct of the Department of National Defence, tasked with investigating itself. Instead of a Public Inquiry into the largest poisoning of its own citizens by a country, this outfit with no powers or authority has itself produced a steady, obscuring spray of pure whitewash. By limiting itself to the 1966-1967 window, it is precisely as though the investigators of a big, toxic train derailment have opted to focus on the caboose while ignoring hundreds of wrecked and leaking cars.

One study produced by the BGAFFP concluded that Agent Orange spray is not a hazard unless you are closer than 800 metres to it when it falls from a passing plane. The most powerful war-defoliant yet devised simply disappears past that distance, immediately. All mention of the fact that we breathed there, ate the fish and berries, drank the milk and ate the vegetables from nearby farms and LIVED there was carefully abstracted and massaged into thin air.

Yet in 1964, there was a spray application accident of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T that affected an area over 25 kilometers wide, and the Crown paid out \$250,000 in compensation to local off-base farmers whose crops were destroyed. Nor was this the first time the spray got away. Soldiers, civilians, residents, upwards of 1,000,000 Canadians, including Boy Scout troupes camping on the base, are believed to have been potentially affected by the spray program.

2,4,5-T has since been banned in Canada. If spray drift is an enormous problem today, even with GPS, computers and professional applicators, what was the case 50 years ago, when the technical apparatus consisted of a wet finger held aloft?

Timelines

If you write down what was sprayed in CFB Gagetown, by year, and then put that list next to one for Vietnam, a pattern emerges. Whatever was first sprayed on Gagetown ended up on Vietnam, without exception. This, and the huge liability of the parties involved, at least partly

explains the total silence from Ottawa. We have a national skeleton in the closet, and I don't believe Canada can survive with it on its conscience. I think we were the willing proving ground for what befell Vietnam.

The Agent Orange Association of Canada (AOAC), and Others

Website: Agentorangealert.com

I am a member and researcher for the AOAC. It was created in mid-2005 because the Canadian government has lied about the chemicals used in Canada and concealed it, resulting in deaths and horrible diseases. My family and I – what is left of my family – didn't find out about Agent Orange until late 2005, when I read a letter to the editor in a local Nanaimo newspaper by a member of the AOAC.

One event that finally blew the lid off this story was that Canada's military awarded a medical pension to Brigadier General Sellar for Agent Orange exposure while he served in CFB Gagetown. He died a successful pensioner of the Canadian Forces, two weeks later.

Stephen Harper promised us medical treatment and compensation for Agent Orange exposure in CFB Gagetown. Then he got elected.

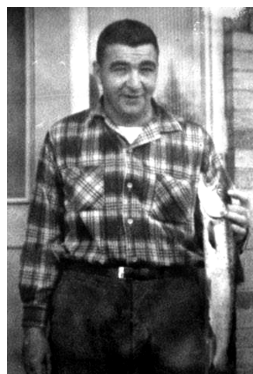
When the Maine National Guard, which trains on the base, found out, it offered its servicemen a medical pension for having set foot in CFB Gagetown. None have been awarded, mainly due to that Big Orange Herring, limiting the qualifying time period to seven days in 1966-1967.

When the 14,000 soldiers from the UK who trained in CFB Gagetown found out, the sick began putting in for medical pensions using research we provided. The first precedent-setting Royal pension was awarded to Yorkshireman Keith Pilmoor, a few days ago. After decades of illness, he now wears a colostomy bag. Hundreds more of the Green Howards regiment are expected to file claim soon.

The Vietnamese case against the USA's use of Agent Orange will be heard in New York on June 18th. There are over 4 million victims there.

New Zealand's Vietnam veterans – who say criminals get a better deal from their government than they do – have just hired an Australian law firm to sue all surviving NZ officials for \$5 billion. They are claiming malfeasance.

We here in Canada have launched a class action. The government of Canada dragged Monsanto and Dow in as co-defendants. A critical phase of certification is being decided in Newfoundland as I write this. In my affidavit to the court in this case, I included an old picture (above) of my father proudly holding up a fish he had caught on the base. Our supper.



Joseph Franklin, with fish caught at CFB Gagetown

The End of Patriotism

A fellow member of the AOAC suffers from the same disability as Mr. Pilmoor of England, mentioned above. No Canadian official has told her what she was exposed to. She was a child starting school when Mr. Pilmoor was stationed there. Not a soldier or civilian in the midst of a war, or a foreign serviceperson attending a combat training centre like

Gagetown. She was just unlucky enough to be born Canadian, in CFB Gagetown.

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For information about the Class Action, visit the website:
www.agentorangealert.com

Petition

To: The Prime Minister of Canada

We the undersigned believe it is imperative that the government of Canada acknowledge the fact that defoliants including AGENT ORANGE, AGENT WHITE and AGENT PURPLE, were sprayed at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown New Brunswick Canada from the period 1956 to at least 1984. This has been verified by Department of National Defence documents.

It is important that the government realize that the effects of the sprayings has been disastrous on soldiers, their families, civilian employees and their families as well as civilians and civilian families. The health issues that have been suffered by so many need to be acknowledged by this federal government.

It has been reported that the parliamentary committee studying the spraying is only focusing on sprayings during the years of 1966 and 1967. This baffles and angers the Canadian public. At a time when so many people who have been affected by the chemical sprayings are disillusioned, angered and frustrated it is time for the parliamentary committee to stop the denials and do the right thing.

Canada and the world are watching Mr. Prime Minister. This story will not go away. In this "Year of the Veteran," the actions of this committee and your government will say much about Canada as a nation. [END OF PETITION]

Please sign the online petition at this location:

www.petitiononline.com/aoalert

Agent Orange Association of Canada

PO Box 8120, 1225 Wonderland Rd. N, London ON N6G 2B0
www.agentorangealert.com

Ideological Politics

“Looking fundamentalism in the eye”

Dale Perkins, Victoria BC

“You’ve got to admire them for their tenacity,” said my companion, as we left the parking lot and a Jehovah Witness couple standing there. They had engaged us as we packed the van after an afternoon of hiking in East Sooke Park. We were somewhat surprised to encounter them there, ready to engage us in discussion and debate. It wasn’t a case of them being particularly aggressive, just very determined to convince us of their point of view and our need to convert. Something else struck me – they know when they’re succeeding. That is, either the people they talk to accept them and their message or they walk away (thereby sentencing themselves to hell!). I thought, ‘that’s just like George W Bush and his declaration following 9/11 – “either you are for the USA and its war on terrorism, or you are against us, and if you’re against us don’t be surprised by how we treat you!”’

Many of us need absolutes to stay interested and committed to whatever the enterprise happens to be. With religion it amounts to being absolutely certain what is true and what is false, right or wrong, good or bad. Relativism is a travesty – declare the fundamentalists. I’m told that relativism explains why fundamentalism flourishes. I am referring to fundamentalists of all persuasions: Christian, Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Atheist. They all prosper when there is an atmosphere of fear and absolutes to uphold. But fundamentalism isn’t the private preserve of religion. We have fundamentalist capitalists and socialists, “fundy” free-marketeers, too. We see evidence of this emerging all the time.

One of the latest manifestations here in Canada is the Honorable John Baird, the Minister of Environment in the Federal cabinet. He has come out parroting the Harper government’s line about the terrible dangers of setting standards and timetables for eliminating green house gases. The economic ‘sky is falling’ has become his mantra, and he leads the charge to stoke fear around economic consequences rather than actually doing something about polluters and carbon producers.

These capitalist-fundamentalists are indeed tenacious in their belief that the market place and unregulated businesses must set the agenda and timetable for reducing pollution and emitting carbons into the air. Private corporate apologists, like the Fraser Institute, propagate the illusion that the economy will collapse if we actually work to achieve the Kyoto targets.

The political mandarins in power in Canada, as well as in British Columbia, have joined the chorus and deepened the fear that sustains and energizes fundamentalists.

Fear breeds contempt, and those who offer other scenarios are soon vilified.

And yet, I hear and see people who operate at another level of consciousness, one that informs us that unbridled consumption and greed will quickly lead to the extinction of the human race. They want us to understand that if we hope to maintain a livable domicile for our great grandchildren and their children, we must act and change our ways now. Indifference, denial and the insistence on maintaining the status quo might allow those at the top of the pyramid a little time to prosper, but as for the rest of the population here and throughout the world we’re ‘toast’! (“They” are ‘toast’ too, but hey – when you own or control most of the levers of power, you see no need to worry about tomorrow since you actually believe you can control everything.)

Today is not the time to allow the fundamentalists to set the agenda or decide what economic, social and faith beliefs are true, and which system of government is absolutely correct. The old and ‘classic’ ideologies are leading everyone to a premature demise. We fully understand why we must make adjustments to the economic order because more and more of us realize we soon will face cataclysmic changes affecting the water we drink, the food we eat, our health and migrating populations forced to flee disappearing coast-lines and arid wastelands.

And as for religion, surely we are at a point of acknowledging that exclusive, triumphant religious ideologies have to be archived in some museum somewhere; they have no place in today’s complex and challenging world.

I contend that we cannot adopt the ways of the conservative fundamentalists and accede to their worn out ideologies at this time in our history. Too much is at stake, and I want to be able to look my grandchildren in the eye and point to people and communities doing the right thing; I believe a lot of people feel the same. ♣

A suggestion for Dialogue

Gerry Masuda, Duncan BC

I would like to make a suggestion for a new feature in Dialogue Magazine.

I think it would be interesting to your readers if you included thought provoking quotes scattered through your magazine. Addition of comments by those who submitted the quotes for your considerations could be included.

Should you consider this new feature, you can ask your subscribers to submit quotes they think are appropriate for your magazine. I have included some quotes supporting my suggestion. (See QUOTES on pp.36,46) ♣

Canadian Party Politics

Actively pursued but never openly admitted!

The business agenda that drives both the Liberal & Conservative party -

Russ Vinden, Errington BC

It is clear that another unwanted but inevitable election lurches towards us, driven by the Harper government's desire for a safe majority. We should be clear also about what this is likely to mean – and we should not be fooled by allegations that the current boom is due to Liberal or Conservative policies. We are an energy- and commodity-exporting country, undergoing a huge world demand for our energy and commodities. These have leaped in value and that, in a nutshell, accounts for the current boom.

We have not had what could be understood as a left-wing or social-minded national government for about 35 years – in fact since the early Trudeau years. So it is pointless to blame socialism for the spate of cuts to services, etc., considering its decades-long absence from the scene – really since the more enlightened Liberal administrations of the '50s and '60s, which recognised, not only the inherent virtue of many socialist ideas, but their inevitability and affordability, and which established the great health, pension and education schemes of that era. In those days, corporations paid a far greater share of social costs, and individuals far less. But things changed and corporate taxes dropped like a stone.

Politicians sought greater profits elsewhere. Our position today far more due to a thirty-year-long coalescing of Conservative and Liberal thinking under one over-riding belief, which has a long-standing history, and their differences appear cosmetic and inconsequential.

The basic assumption of both, actively pursued but never openly admitted, first surfaced in the middle of the 19th century in the great drive by the rich mercantile sector, then based in Montreal, for annexation by the States as the best course for Canada. They have become more circumspect since.

The move was foiled at the time by Confederation, but seems to have become entrenched in the big-business sector in muted form, in the belief that Canada cannot really remain an independent nation; and anyway the profits were higher over the border. The ideas became prominent again in both Parties in the mid-1970's, since when they have followed essentially identical major policies,

Sustained openly and massively for 150 years by a corporate world driven by profit, the Parties were seduced by the vast markets on their doorstep. It is what they see. They do not observe the stupendous, growing and unquenchable indebtedness to China, which could crush the US economy

like a fly by unloading a small part of their immense holdings of its bonds; nor the almost ungovernable, gun-mad society; nor the arrogant intrusion into the rest of the world's affairs (Do these corporate minds think for one second that the US would even consider consulting us first?). Not in the least do they see the mounting and apparently insoluble problems of illegal immigrants – on which vast sectors of the US economy depend – nor have they considered the massive endemic poverty and the surging, insane inequalities of wealth. They see only more trade and profits.

The business-friendly Libs and Cons today are utterly committed to a greater and far tighter formal association with the USA in all major areas

The business-friendly Libs and Cons today are utterly committed to a greater and far tighter formal association with the USA in all major areas, readily seen in the succession of epochal policy changes which have been swung on an unwary electorate over the last thirty years, often after fervent denials that such policies were being negotiated – or even desirable.

Examples abound, discreetly forgotten by a subservient media. There was the Liberals' unpublicised abandonment of government loan funding by the nation's own Bank in 1975, after 40 years, in favour of the private banking system. An inevitable and disastrously prolonged explosion of interest rates followed, which plunged the country into a ten-year recession and gravely weakened it. Could these great minds not see it happening right under their feet? It is with us still in our inextinguishable debt and endless interest payments (an entirely unproductive 8% of federal budgets today, while Bank Rate has hardly been over 4% for 13 years; it is a pure subsidy to the private banks).

There was the 1984 Conservatives' direct reversal of its firm pre-election anti-Free Trade stand, immediately on taking office – this, after months of declarations that no such deal was contemplated, that it would be catastrophic, and Mulroney's brazen "Not in my lifetime" speech.

There was the 1993 Liberals' flat refusal to follow their long, vocal pre-election opposition to the Free Trade Deals, and their reneged-upon pledges to 'renegotiate' them if elected.

There was the outright Liberal deceit of the infamous Multilateral Agreement on Investments a decade ago, which finally surfaced after a leaked draft appeared only three weeks from ratification date; and that, after flat denials in Parliament by the Trade Minister that any such talks were under way (It was organised protest by the Council of Canadians and a scathing dismissal by the French Trade ⇒

Minister in Paris that killed that move).

And now we have negotiations actively being pursued with the USA and Mexico on a vast range of economic, military, social, trade and immigration areas etc., etc., under bland, misleading headings and in absolute secrecy. These were started by the Liberals two years ago and seamlessly adopted by the new Alliance/ PC merger, and have the active participation, not just of current Conservative Ministers, but, strangely, of defeated Liberal Cabinet ministers (why?) and a host of big-business and corporate finance executives (again, why?). Not a single social, cultural or labour representative of any sort has been invited to participate, and the talks get no publicity. There is little public understanding of what is being discussed, no public input whatsoever and no reports issued.

These examples demonstrate a long-standing commitment to deception, obfuscation, and a deliberate misleading of the electorate over major policy intentions.

None were trivial or minor in character. They were all of supreme national importance, all of far-reaching and permanent effect, all deserving the widest possible debate and public involvement; yet private 'advisors' from one (corporate) sector are given far more influence in these crucial negotiations than elected MPs, who seem to have been coerced into Yes-men by Prime Ministers who have taken on quite extraordinary powers in recent years.

To re-elect either of the (two) main Parties now, from fear of some mythic socialist danger seems, in the face of this long chain of evidence, just plain dumb. If either is elected again, 'goodbye Canada.'

That the current talks come under the oversight of a senior Minister of Trade who was elected as a Liberal yet instantly became a devoted Conservative on being offered a plum Cabinet post is a plain demonstration of the contempt for the electorate which has come to characterise both Parties,

Both have consistently striven for a long-standing goal of major, binding legislation designed to lock us ever tighter into an irreversible submergence in the USA, but dare not spell it out. It appears to matter little which of the two holds power – the goal remains the same, as do the main players noted in a previous 'Dialogue' report on the Banff meeting. I doubt if even many of the Parties rank and file members are fully awake to what their Leaders are up to.

It is one thing to have a vague concern about what socialists may do if elected since there is no national precedent. But to re-elect either of the other main Parties now, from fear of some mythic socialist danger seems, in the face of this long chain of evidence, just plain dumb. If either is elected again, 'goodbye Canada.' We will go down with those we have so misguidedly joined, whose preferred method of running a country is first to sell it to China; then sell weapons worldwide, and go to war with someone to keep up the GNP; and finally, just buy the government. It's basically good business, really.

- Russ Vinden, Errington BC ♣

Sustainability Update

Mike Nickerson & Donna Dillman, Lanark ON

Over the last few years with the "Question of Direction," and much more so in the last year, since "Life, Money & Illusion" came into print, we have been making contact with people across Canada and beyond who are interested in transforming our present growth-based culture into a sustainable one.

This message is to those of you who have expressed an interest in the Question of Direction and/or who have come out to one of the workshop discussions on our book tour. Please, pass it on to others, whom you think might like to assist in this work. With your help, one by one, people are realizing that human activity cannot grow forever on a finite planet.

When enough people understand this, the conventional wisdom will shift, moving from: "Our purpose is to expand production and consumption" to: "Our purpose is to enjoy living while managing the planet for generations to come." As you know, the Question of Direction program aims to increase the rate at which this realization takes place.

One of our many contacts has kindly created a site where people can add their voice to the call for public discussion

on the issue of direction. Please visit:

<<http://synchronouscity.com/dirq.php>> to add your name (and a request for materials, if you are able to help spread the message in your community).

On our site – www.SustainWellBeing.net/scards.html – we have posted a new page which explains one outreach method that is particularly effective. Following up, as proposed there, can stimulate ever-broader circles of people to consider moving toward sustainability.

News, in regard to "Life, Money & Illusion; Living on Earth as if we want to stay," is that it is a Finalist in the Nautilus Book Awards 2007 (Ecology/Environment Category). As well, it has been courted by two distributors, the most noteworthy being New Society Publishers. As of Jan. 2008, they will take up distribution in Canada and the U.S.

Thanks for your help and support. We are very excited by the forward movement we see as we cross the country with this essential message. "The goals we pursue are the seeds from which our future grows."

Sustainability Project - 7th Generation Initiative

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www.SustainWellBeing.net ♣

The Quebec Notebook

Charest's Liberals finished third among francos in Quebec election

Federalist propaganda, Canadian idealists dead wrong about separatism's demise

By Peter Sauvé, Montreal QC

"In the national unity debate, the idealists are to be found in the rest of Canada. Quebecers are pragmatists." -- former Quebec Liberal MNA Reed Scowen



MONTREAL – It was the type of headline that Stephen Harper's Conservatives, Bay Street, and much of Canada's left-leaning establishment media, such as The Toronto Star, wanted so desperately to see last March, as votes were counted in Quebec's general election -- **"Charest's Liberals win as PQ loss marks end of separatism."**

There are none so foolish as those who want to believe. And English Canadians, those many misguided, naïve souls whose understanding of Quebec nationalism's true nature is limited to their national-media propaganda, want to believe that Quebec francophones are happier now, that they've grown up and seen the error of their deviant separatist ways. They want to forget that the majority of French Quebecers – about 60 percent, in fact – voted Yes in the 1995 sovereignty referendum.

Idealistic Canadians want to believe Canada's the best country in the whole darn world. They want to believe distinguished Quebec political scientist Maurice Pinard was wrong when he published his book, *Un Combat inachevé*, showing only 12 percent of French Quebecers, as opposed to 95 percent of other Canadians, now identify themselves as "Canadians." In short, Canadians want so much to believe that all this Quebec nonsense is finally going away.

Dream on. The reality is that Premier Jean Charest's Liberals actually lost more seats and votes in the last election than did the PQ.

To recap, Charest's Liberals won a slim minority government while the Parti Québécois finished third behind Mario Dumont's Action Démocratique du Québec party. Contrary to some other Quebec voices in last month's Dialogue, our summary accurately stated the results weren't a repudiation of separatism, but a repudiation of PQ leader André Boisclair, who, in the 50-odd days since that writing, is now known officially as former PQ leader Andre Boisclair.

In fact, under Boisclair's leadership, support for the PQ steadily declined from a high of 50 percent in 2005 to

the 2007 election low of 28 percent, the Montreal Gazette notes. A May 2005 poll showed the PQ would have won 47 percent of the popular vote under Bernard Landry. But PQ delegates turfed Landry out in a party leadership vote the next month, even though he won a leadership-confidence vote with 76 percent. Public support for a Boisclair-led PQ has decreased since the openly-gay, former coke-snorting, soft-spoken, congenial urbanite – not an image that plays well among many world-is-black-and-white, staunch Quebec nationalists – took over.

Our analysis is further confirmed by the subsequent release of some very telling statistics. "On March 26, only 23 percent of registered voters cast their ballots for Liberal candidates," says Gazette columnist Don Macpherson. "It was the fifth consecutive election in which the Liberals' share of the eligible vote declined. Now the provincial Liberal party as well as the federal one has been relegated to third-party status in French Quebec, which is where elections are usually decided. The March 26 election, in which non-francophones kept the Liberals in power, was an exception, and the Liberals shouldn't count on its repetition."

Indeed. In April, Charest excluded naming all but one anglophone, a relatively new black female, to his cabinet. Did it help his lagging fortunes in French Quebec? Hardly. The latest CROP poll says Liberal support among French Quebecers is now below 20 percent -- even though Charest recently said he wants enforcement of Quebec's anti-English language laws toughened.

Despite all this, Quebec's French media, led by the top-selling Journal de Montreal, condemn the Charest Liberals as "the party of the English."

So if you think the nagging Quebec question was partly answered for the better last March, think again.

Charest's campaign promoted special status and asymmetrical federalism for Quebec, absolutely no softening of Bill 101, and, among other things, was buttressed by a huge cash pay-out by the federal government. Charest was quietly touted as being head of the only federalist party on the ballot, while Mario Dumont, who campaigned for the Yes side in the 1995 sovereignty referendum, again warned it "would be a mistake to call me a federalist" while demanding "autonomy" for Quebec.

What does that mean? Former Quebec Liberal MNA Reed Scowen, in February's re-release of his excellent book, *Time To Say Goodbye*, explains: "The key question to be answered here is whether Canada would be ⇒

an even better place if we were to rebuild it according to Quebec's specifications. But this question cannot even be properly posed because Quebec's specifications are left deliberately unclear. The driving force in Quebec politics is not separatism or a clearly defined association but permanent exploitation of the language and culture issue to increase its own political and economic power. For Quebec, there is nothing to be gained from a resolution of the constitutional debate.

"Instinctively, francophone Quebecers are aware that the present situation provides them with the best of all possible worlds," Scowen says. "They have no practical reason to separate, or to put an end to the separatist movement."

Dumont, incidentally, proposed re-opening constitutional talks with Ottawa. Canadian idealists, take note: he doesn't intend to give anything back to your country - he just wants more for his.

Canadian idealists take note... A vital issue in this election, overlooked by both the Liberals and PQ, was "the defense of Quebec's identity and values," says Montreal Gazette columnist Josée Legault, a Quebec nationalist who admits the French language is at the heart of Quebec's identity. But Reed Scowen already told you that Bill 101 is the cornerstone of the Quebec nation-state, which is naturally incompatible with Canada's entrenched identity as a republic. "Even before the campaign began, Mario Dumont had identified that void and found ways to fill it. As Jean Charest and André Boisclair remained mostly silent on the related issue of reasonable accommodation, Dumont simply spoke up." In fact, Dumont's campaign theme on the issue of accommodating non-French minorities was effectively, "enough is enough."

The Quebec Notebook welcomes reader feedback.
Contact us at quebecnotebook@hotmail.com. ♣

Westmount's Allen Nutik launches new provincial party

Affiliation Quebec founded to defend Montreal-area minorities

By Peter Sauvé

MONTREAL -- Insisting his new political group is "not an anglo-rights party," a former Montreal businessman and federal unity-group leader says Affiliation Quebec is sorely needed to represent "staunch Canadians" living in greater Montreal. While francophone communities outside Quebec enjoy equality with the majority, "we get nothing much here." Founder Allen Nutik hastened to add the only obstacle to province-wide expansion is "money," adding his fledgling party presently has "zero funding."

Affiliation Quebec is not, I repeat, not an anglo-rights party. Affiliation Quebec is a minority-rights party representing anglophones, allophones and francophones in Montreal," he told about 70 people, May 20th, in a rented hall at Montreal's Ruby Foo's restaurant. Nonetheless, the group's mission statement lists, several times, "language rights" and related access to services as party priorities. It also mentions health care, education, civil-service employment, electoral-boundaries revision and construction of Montreal's MUHC super-hospital among its objectives.

Nutik knocked the Charest Liberals and the federal government for having abandoned the interests of minorities living in the city that powers Quebec's economy. "They've swept issues that are important to our community under the rug," he said, accusing Quebec's government of "lies and fear mongering" while the Parti Québécois is struggling.

Switching often into French, Nutik urged his mostly English-speaking audience to repel attempts by political foes to infiltrate and disrupt the new party. "There are many in Quebec who are only too eager to see us fail," he said adding there are "lessons to be learned from the past... Don't let the dividers in to destroy [anglo] rights movements, as before."

Nutik blamed Quebec's "gerrymandering" of electoral boundaries as the reason why rural Quebec votes outweigh Montreal-area votes by a two-to-one margin. "More policies that are discriminating and hurtful to our community have happened under the [Quebec] Liberal Party than under the Parti Québécois banner," he said. The group's motto is "Building Bridges Thru (sic) Dialogue." ♣



Re the new party...

Ernest Semple, DDO, Qc

I received the announcement regarding the creation of the new Quebec political party by Mr. Nutik, because of our former association with the Equality Party, for which I ran in the 2003 Quebec election.

The Quebec Liberal party is leaving a gaping hole in the representation in its home base of Montreal island and nearby regions. The party being created by Mr. Nutik is far more ambitious than the Equality Party. It could well take over the entire Liberal territory in the Montreal area.

Jean Charest is preoccupied now in trying to cosy up to the nationalist vote, which he imagines is centered in Mario Dumont's territory of 85 prospective seats in the next Quebec election. He's right to be concerned, but it emphasizes his lack of credibility in the most populace regions of the province. Charest may wind up losing in both camps and follow the Parti Québécois down a road of irrelevance.

There is no pot of gold at the end of the separatist rainbow, and in fact there no longer is even a rainbow.

The same goes for the powerless Bloc Québécois, now irrelevant to Quebec's future. ♣

"The Fifth Columnist"

"There is age in sage"

Michael Neilly, Dunrobin ON



It was a sad sight. I looked around the table to see them. Many of them were in their 50's; some in their 60's: people simply thrown away after 20 to 25 years of service. They weren't even asked to take a pay cut. They were given a severance package and bade farewell. Systems engineers, computer programmers, product and project managers, consultants, once at the peak of their respective games, now they are

unemployed or under-employed.

One fellow went back to school to be re-trained. But he's over 50; you note that he talks a bit too much, dominates the discussion with personal anecdotes and you can sort of see why he was let go. An uneasy feeling comes over you when you realize that maybe you, too, were opinionated, a little too vocal about the changes happening around you, and maybe, just maybe, you didn't look as co-operative to your employer as your younger, quieter co-workers.

As if to allay this fear, the guy beside you pipes up. You can tell by his words and phrasing that he's extremely intelligent. Another fellow from Bell, in his sixties, managed many projects and a large team of workers. He sounds pretty sharp, too. Why were these people thrown away?

Ottawa high-tech companies claim that there is a skills shortage, that they can't find the right people. But the people sitting around this table, who could easily do these jobs, who would willingly do these jobs for half of what they were making just a few years ago, are the tip of the iceberg. Some have given up. Others soldier on, but have a weary look: their eyes slightly glazed. A laxness in their face betrays a cycle of rejection, hope, rejection, hope, until it hurts to hope and it's better not to hope at all. Purchases are deferred. Charge card balances mushroom. Mortgage defaults loom. Basic dental care, haircuts, and car repairs are all pushed off into the never-never land of lost dreams.

They all wince or nod in agreement when you tell your story.

I still remember the day I was summoned to the Vice President's office. It was 11 a.m., late in 2002. I walked in and saw someone I didn't recognize and cracked, "This can't be good." I was right. Ten minutes later I was stripped of my ID badge, company credit card, cell phone and laptop computer. And in an instant, I was walked out a side door by security, clutching my personal belongings and in a total state of shock. I was an outsider.

I knew a year before that this was going to happen. But I was transfixed watching this slow motion train wreck; did next to nothing. Had I only known what I know now.

The outplacement counsellor tells you about the five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. Make no mistake, when you lose your job, you grieve. Like a fool, you think that this is a linear process; that you'll step through each of these phases in turn and emerge as some born-again butterfly. Wrong. Some days you'll be angry and might even give your ex-employer a nasty gesture as you drive by. And, all at once, you are depressed and fail to shave for five days straight. Heck, you notice that you're wearing your track pants around the house all day and a big event is driving down to Home Depot to buy some small thing. Dark thoughts bubble up from the lower parts of the brain and you wonder if you wrapped your car around a telephone pole, would anybody even care? Twice a day.

You get an interview! Remarkably, your potential employer asks for a gentlemen's agreement that you won't leave for a year even if another company offers you a higher salary in the interim. That's odd. Still, no problem, you say, you'll stay as long as you're valued as an employee and your work is respected. You feel great as you shake your future boss's hand and hope soars.

Among the greatest lies ever told, for example, "The cheque is in the mail", or "I'll respect you in the morning" is that all time favourite "We'll be in touch". After you give a great interview and you are assured that the job is all but in the bag, the days with no news become weeks. Your references haven't been called and there's strange knot in your stomach screaming that you haven't gotten the job. And the knot is right!

You ping the Human Resources (what we used to call personnel) representative who informs you that the position you interviewed for is too junior for you and they were worried that you'd be bored and so they've given the job to the junior candidate. That's the Canadian condition, millions of people toiling away at jobs that they hate and that bore them to tears, isn't it? What is really going on?

You get the hint when a potential employer confides over the phone that they don't want any "20-year retreads". You get the hint when they slyly ask when you graduated. You get the hint when you walk in the door for a job interview and you notice they are studying your grey hair. It's called age discrimination. Did we mention that this is a junior position? Hmmm. I'm beginning to understand how some black people feel.

⇒

The sad part is that companies have no qualms about letting people go, should they not meet their financial quarter. If the shareholders are unhappy, people, "our greatest resource", are walked to the front door first. Also, over the decades, loyalty has fallen by the wayside (we were encouraged by the career gurus to jump around to avoid career stagnation) and in the process employees have become just another commodity, a part that needs changing periodically to do the work. This has worked out well for corporations who don't have to pay fat pensions to retiring workers, and obviously not so well for the workers, who probably haven't been saving faithfully for 40 years. More likely workers will now have meagre, disparate RRSPs and reduced CPP earnings thanks to sporadic contributions made during these same transitions. And during protracted periods of unemployment, you will cash in those RRSPs.

I keep hearing the old chestnut that we'll change careers possibly up to seven times during our working lifetimes. If a working lifetime is 40 years, it means about six years for each career. What you don't hear is that with each subsequent career transition, the periods of unemployment between careers will likely be longer. And not every one of these career transitions will be successful ones!

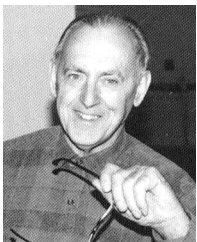
It's tempting to ask, given this "new reality" of multiple careers, no loyalty and globalization, why one would hire a younger employee if they'll probably be gone in six years! The answer is that it's cheaper to train new people at lower salaries than to keep more expensive, senior people on until retirement.

Why hire an older person? Please consider their stability, experience, and work ethic among other things. These people have a remarkable tolerance to pain and a willingness to sacrifice that is largely missing from the next generation, who, the career gurus say, are more concerned about life-style than career.

I see an older guy leaving early. He looks depressed and I remember that he never pulled his chair right up to the table. He didn't say one word during the meeting. I'd say his chances are next to none but my heart goes out to him. I wonder if I will come back next week to sit at this table. Whoever gets a job brings the Timbits. It seems like a small price to pay.

— **Mike Neilly**

dialogue always welcome, contact me at:
fifth_columnist@magma.ca ♣



"Rhymes and Reflections"

Larry Vaincourt
Deux Montagnes QC

The Old Man

His shoulders are stooped and his
hair's getting thin
and he don't move as fast as he did,
But he was the guy who stood seven feet tall,
when you were a wee, little kid.
In a world full of terrors, you always felt safe,
long as you had hold of his hand,
For then he was Poppa or Daddy or Dad,
but now he is just the Old Man.

Remember the guy who excused your misdeeds,
by saying that, "boys will be boys"?
Who painted your bike and patched your skinned knees
and repaired all your broken down toys?
Remember the guy on whose shoulders you sat,
so that you could look over the crowd?
And don't be ashamed if he tells a tale twice.
Just say, "he's my dad" - and be proud.

There's the time you went camping and he taught you
to fish, that summer when you were a lad.
And you slept 'neath the stars that night, by a stream;
just you and your best friend, your dad.

...Thoughts for Father's Day

And, when your first romance went badly askew,
and didn't work out as you'd planned,
And you needed advice and a comforting word
and you went to... that's right! the Old Man.

When the hugs that he gave you, when you were a child
were replaced by the clasp of his hand,
You knew that he loved you not one bit the less.
He was still there, he was your Old Man.
And though there were times when you might disagree,
you knew he would still back your stand.
For when push came to shove, he was always right there;
in your corner, there stood the Old Man.

But now you've outshone all the things that he's done;
you've surpassed him in knowledge and wealth.
Now you are the one who stands straight and tall,
while he's stooped and failing in health.
So take him to lunch or buy him a beer,
and call him whenever you can.
Who knows if he'll even be with you next year,
and remember, he is The Old Man.

Larry Vaincourt ♣

From Larry's first book, "Rhymes & Reflections"

Larry's books, "Rhymes & Reflections" and "Don't Burn the Biffy,"
can be ordered from *Dialogue*: \$10 plus \$3 postage
[Dialogue Magazine, 6227 Groveland Dr., Nanaimo, BC V9V 1B1]

Democratic Renewal

First Canadian Wisdom Council

Victoria Wisdom Council Convenors

The First Victoria Wisdom Council has reported to the People of Victoria and Canada. See their statement

Feeling frustrated that our leaders are ignoring the most important issues? You are not alone!

We face challenges that threaten the foundations of our civilization, like climate change, the end of cheap oil, and the almost ceaseless violence - real and simulated - in the media, but our leaders hardly seem to notice, let alone to be doing anything about it. People are beginning to realize that we can't just leave things to our leaders, who most often seem to "lead" from far in the rear.

Wise Democracy Victoria is seeking ways for "we the people" to lead the leaders. Read on and learn about the possibilities for real change that will emerge when we unleash the power of genuine democracy.

Random Selection process: Like a match in a haystack, the 'latent energy of democracy' is there, ready to be tapped. It only takes a few people at the right time and the right place. You can help provide the spark!

Our group has come together to engage our neighbours in a new form of public conversation, called the "Wisdom Council," which provides an innovative approach to exploring the issues you feel are most important. The Wisdom Council is being organized by a group of Victoria citizens who care about the health of our democracy. Wisdom Councils were first used in the U.S. and have spread to Europe. Victoria is the first Canadian city to introduce this process.

WHAT IS THE VICTORIA WISDOM COUNCIL?

A Wisdom Council is a small group of randomly selected people who symbolically represent all the people of Victoria. The time commitment is short, just one Friday evening and one Saturday, during First Victoria Wisdom Council, at which the Council members discuss matters of their choosing. A trained person facilitates the discussion, typically enabling great breakthroughs in a short time. Council members discover what issues are most important to the group; they explore possible solutions, and they create a unanimous statement summarizing their work. The statement is presented to the people at an inclusive public meeting on Saturday afternoon, immediately following the Wisdom Council.

The intention is to receive the broadest possible publicity in the hope that it will generate a public discussion of the issues identified by the Council. In other communities, Wisdom Councils have often resulted in important changes for the better, and a reinvigorated sense of local democracy.

WHO ARE WE? We are non-profit group of people who live in greater Victoria (www.wisedemocracylvictoria.com). We are associated with the international Center for Wise

Democracy (www.wisedemocracy.org). All members are volunteers and citizens of Victoria.

PAST EVENTS: The first Wisdom Council met on March 30 and 31, 2007, and reported to the citizens of Victoria at a public meeting on March 31st at the Fairfield New Horizons Activity Centre at 380 Cook Street. [Its statement is posted on the website: www.wisedemocracylvictoria.com.]

On November 10-12, 2006, we held a Wise Democracy Forum with Tom Atlee, author of *The Tao of Democracy*, and Jim Rough, author of *Society's Breakthrough*. (*Reported on in Dialogue magazine, Vol. 20, #4-Dec., p.15*) They introduced two key innovations in democratic participation: **Dynamic Facilitation**, which enables ordinary people to find solutions for "impossible" problems through creative, collaborative thinking in small groups, and **Wisdom Councils**, which provide a means, through Dynamic Facilitation, for 'all the people' of a business, a municipality, a province, or a nation to find solutions for "impossible" problems through creative, collaborative thinking. They offer a practical way for "we the people" to provide wise direction to government.

The First Canadian Wisdom Council

The first Canadian Wisdom Council met in Victoria on March 30-31, 2007, and issued the following statement at a public meeting right after the Council concluded its deliberations:

The Victoria Wisdom Council is a randomly selected group of citizens – symbolically representing all the people of Victoria – speaking on issues that affect us all.

Participation in a Wisdom Council is free and voluntary. Because of the random selection of its members, the Wisdom Council is independent. It does not represent any voice other than its own.

The Council chooses issues based on what the members feel is important. These issues are discussed and at the end of the meeting a unanimous statement is reached and presented to the public, after which this Wisdom Council disbands. A new Wisdom Council will be convened in the near future.

Statement of the Victoria Wisdom Council

The Victoria Wisdom Council recognizes that the fabric of our society is fraying in a variety of ways:

- We are increasingly isolated from each other
 - We are losing connection with our environment and making choices that have grave impacts upon it
 - Our society is increasingly socially and environmentally unsustainable
 - There is a growing disconnection between our government and the people
- ⇒

We believe these issues are solvable by fostering a shift from “I” to “We” in our attitudes and actions, by taking a greater role in our democracy, and by recognizing our personal responsibility for these issues.

The Victoria Wisdom Council encourages citizens to become more civically engaged and politically active, by:

- Empowering disenchanted people to reconnect with public life
- Providing more people-to-people connections, and
- Offering new ways of finding and using our voice.

The next Wisdom Council

The next Wisdom Council for Victoria will be convened shortly, scheduled for June 22-23, 2007.

Wise Democracy Victoria has mailed 350 invitations to

randomly selected Greater Victoria residents, seeking their participation in the group’s second Wisdom Council. A dozen people will be chosen from that group at a June 8 information session to form the new council, which will meet June 22-23. The public session – which anyone may attend – is scheduled for June 23 at the Fairfield Activity Centre (380 Cook St.), starting at 7 p.m. For the latest on news from the convenors of the Victoria Wisdom Council, visit: www.WiseDemocracyVictoria.wetpaint.com

If you would like more information on the Victoria initiative, please call or email:

George Sranko, Chair, Victoria Wisdom Council Conveners; Email: gsranko@shaw.ca; Phone: 1-250-598-0124
Web: <http://wisedemocracyvictoria.com/> ♣

“Latin America’s New Age of Enlightenment”

Kenneth T. Tellis, Mississauga ON

Few people pay much attention to the Japanese Emperor Meiji, or know much about him. But the fact is, that Japan that came out of its isolation, was a very different country. When the Japanese Emperor Meiji came on the scene (1867-1912), Japan came out of its ancient past into the age of enlightenment.

It was the thinking of the Japanese Emperor that woke the Japanese people from their long slumber and into the Age of Enlightenment. Gone were the days of the Samurai and the Ninja, replaced by modern thinking and business sense. Meiji had convinced the Japanese people that they were as good as any other modern nation and also had the capability to think and invent. Thus Japan emerged as a modern country, with a modern outlook.

If Latin Americans look at the strides they themselves have made, they will be surprised. Just look at Cuba alone, a country that has been encircled by a super power, and yet it has survived. That super power used every trick in the book, to destroy Cuba, but the Cuban spirit is indestructible. People should not equate Cuba with Fidel Castro Ruz alone, but also with that great Cuban Jose Marti. Cubans have something to be proud of, because they have tamed the tide of resentment against their country, by their generosity towards fellow Latin Americans who needed them.

Now we come to Venezuela. Here was a rich Latin American country in the throes of corruption. The masses were living in abject poverty, while their country was being robbed blind by an imperialist super power. As long as the political scene was controlled by a foreign power, Venezuelans could not weather the storm. It was only when men within Venezuela saw the way their country was being exploited that they felt that something had to be done. If there were not a Hugo Chavez Frias, there certainly would have been another Venezuelan that would have come the rescue of the country. It is just that Hugo Chavez Frias happened to be

on the scene, in the mid 1990s, that things began to happen.

The new thinking of people like Hugo Chavez Frias, brought along with it, room for great changes in governing. No longer was the wealth of country to be shipped overseas to Wall Street, New York, but to be used for the benefit of the Venezuelans themselves. But, the corporate masters in Wall Street, New York, did not miss a trick. They had assumed that they would always control the Venezuelan economy. They then attempted to recruit fifth columnists, to undermine Venezuela, and overthrow the legally elected government of Hugo Chavez Frias. But, the people of Venezuela thought otherwise, and supported all the changes that were being made. Every attempt by the corporate bums of Wall Street was defeated. Their hirelings were exposed and every attempt to oust Hugo Chavez Frias was defeated by Venezuelans themselves. All these stooges of corporate America were left to their own devices, with nothing under their control.

The OIL money was now going to help build the infrastructure of Venezuela, and also help other Latin American countries. In turn the Cubans sent doctors, teachers, engineers, etc., to help educate the Venezuelans. With that kind of cooperation, Venezuelans could now get education, medical aid, and housing, something that the poor Venezuelans had never dreamed possible in their lifetime. Yes! Cuba had been able to educate its people, but did not have the means to employ them. Now, all those educated Cubans can help their Latin American brethren to get educated and build their countries anew.

Yes! Right thinking Latin Americans can now imitate what the Emperor Meiji had done from 1867 –1912 in Japan. Latin Americans could learn to help each other out in times of need. There are now other Latin American countries awakening to this new age of enlightenment. It is like an aura of success, which hangs over the whole of Latin America. That is what it is all about, is it not? ♣

Kim McConnell, President, CLF

Official language committee shut down

The Conservative government has done what many of us have wanted them to do for such a long time but thought they wouldn't have the guts to do, until now!! The Harper government has taken on a challenge posed by the French-language zealots (that includes Graham Fraser) when they decided to fire the Chair of the Official Languages Committee, Guy Lauzon!! They have refused to reconvene the Committee under anyone else!! The Liberals, NDP and Bloc are screaming blue murder!! I say, "Bravo, Harper"!

The French zealots have set up a "renegade" committee composed of people who want the Court Challenges Program (CCP) reinstated. They know that the program has been used to force the funding of minority rights, especially minority language rights (except, of course, it doesn't work in Quebec, where Official Bilingualism does not apply & the minority English-speakers have been continually and consistently persecuted!!) and they want this lop-sided situation to continue. The Conservative government thinks that this program serves only to enrich lawyers & says that they will support minority languages in other ways. I don't necessarily like the sound of that last part but still, the CCP fund has been used to turn democracy on its head & had to be cancelled!! Lefty papers like the Globe & Mail and

Toronto Star are all for empowering minority groups to challenge the government and force all taxpayers to spend money entrenching minority rights. Democracy is NOT about minority rights - it is about the rights of the majority!! Democracy is "Rule of the Majority", it is never defined as "Rule of the Minority". Granted, an enlightened majority will not trample on the rights of minorities but that is a far cry from allowing the minorities to set the stage and force the country to acquiesce to their demands, especially at the expense of the majority!!

Supporters have asked for help to write letters to the PM, their own MPs & especially to Graham Fraser!! Mr. Fraser is typical of the sell-out Francophile who puts the interests of the French-speakers ahead of the English-speakers. He is the typical left-wing journalist, who used to write for the Toronto Star, who still clings to the idea that Trudeau espoused - i.e. Canada will be a united country once we make the French Quebecer feel "at home" in Canada. Canada is more bilingual than at any time in its history, but it is also more divided than it has ever been and it won't be long till Quebec becomes separate (or "autonomous" as is the current word that says the same thing). [...]

Visit the CLF Website for more: www.languagefairness.ca
Canadians for Language Fairness Inc.

Proof that bilingualism has failed!

Jurgen Vollrath, President, CESCO

Coalition of English Speaking Canadian Organizations

At this time in our history where budgets are under extreme pressure at all levels of government we have come to a very divisive crossroads. On May 14, on the local (Ottawa) newscast, an announcement was made that will have dramatic repercussions throughout Canada. We must all pay attention to this event.

Since the inception of the official languages act, Canadians, have been led to believe that this policy was necessary so that French-speaking Canadians could feel "welcome" throughout the country. Canadians appeased and have spent billions to loudly proclaim how proud we are to be so inclusive; and enforcement of a second language upon the vast majority was accepted as the price to pay to keep our country glued together.

What has followed is a federal bureaucracy rife with discrimination (against) a select group of people (Anglos) and with an over zealous feeling of entitlement that favours elitism by another group (Francos).

It is, therefore, completely beyond any reasonable acceptance that we are now led to believe that it is necessary to build a French-only centre (bank, community centre, library etc.) in the west end of Ottawa. The total cost is

estimated at \$8 million. The location makes no difference to the inference that now we must believe that the French population will only feel inclusive if they have their own French-only centres to express their culture, speak only French and organize community events that involve only their own people. If this is allowed to happen in Ottawa, where next?

The logical conclusion would therefore be, that bilingualism does not work and we must now consider parallel services in both official languages.

I would therefore like to be the first to proclaim that we must totally dismantle the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages and that two new offices be assembled. One commissioner (I would like to apply for the job now) for the English language and one for the French language.

I would also, at this time, demand that an English only hub be built in the East end of Ottawa so that English speaking citizens may enjoy their culture and language.

How do we afford this luxury of parallel services? It's simple...just take more money from health care and reduce the military. While we're at it, let's make tuitions more expensive and raise the price of gas some more.

If someone has any better ideas, please feel free to post on the Canadadivided website or e-mail this writer at:

president@CESCOgroup.com • www.CESCOgroup.com. ♣

B.C.

Shame on Campbell's Liberals for walking out on the Opposition leader

Sue Stroud, Brentwood Bay BC

The disrespect that the Premier and his henchmen show, by walking out on Opposition Leader Carole James on May 17,* reflects not on her, but on themselves. Ms. James is a democratically elected Leader of the Official Opposition and, if you are unwilling to listen to her respectfully, you are signalling your unwillingness to listen to the voice of the people.

We hardly need a reminder of the contempt in which this government holds the public; we have seen it too often. We've seen it through the treatment accorded to government workers, who are themselves taxpayers and voters; and we've seen it through the continuing political dirty tricks, which many thought would at least have a hiatus after the 'phony letters to the editor' scandal, a couple of years back. Most of all, though, we've seen it in the eyes of those who

lack housing, who lack food, who lack medical care and who lack any hope for the future. The rudeness our Premier condones is just an extension of his utter unconcern for the poorest and neediest among us.

Ms. James promised us an Opposition that would do their job without acrimony. She felt that more could be done if both sides of government tried to work together. Unfortunately the Government side wants to play another kind of game: one that abuses the voice that speaks for those with no voice. Shame on them and shame on us if any of these Liberals find a seat in the House of Democracy ever again. ♣

* **EDITOR'S NOTE:** May 17 was the day C. James criticized the Liberals for granting themselves up to a 54% increase (for the premier), while refusing to increase the minimum wage of workers (\$8, & \$6/hr. for new workers), who have had no increase for 6 years. ♣

ALSO RECEIVED FROM SUE STROUD, RE NATO:

As NATO member, Canada supports all nuclear policies!

Mike Wallace, Vancouver BC

It surprises most Canadians to learn that our membership in NATO means that we support the nuclear policies of all of its members, including the dangerous American doctrine of nuclear pre-emption, the wasteful and provocative nuclear "modernization" programs of Britain and the US, and the continued maintenance of an obsolete stockpile of 480 "tactical" nuclear warheads in six NATO countries, each 15 times as powerful as the Hiroshima bomb.

The Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (CNANW) has prepared a letter to be released prior to the

NATO Defense Ministers' meeting in June entitled "Canadians call for an end to nuclear weapons in NATO". We hope to gather the signatures of many thousands of Canadians and the endorsement of hundreds of peace and justice organizations, prior to its release, to lend strength to our media campaign. **For more information:** contact: CNANW, c/o 145 Spruce St., Ste. 208, Ottawa, Ontario, K1R 6P1; Phone: 613-233-1982, FAX: 613-233-9028; Website: <http://www.web.net/~cnanw/> ♣

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