

# Lower Island NEWS

An Independent Democratic Socialist Newspaper Serving the Lower Island Area for 28 Years

Volume 29 Issue #2

June, 2012

Victoria, BC



Thomas Mulcair, elected leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada March 24, greets well wishers at a BC NDP Provincial Council meeting May 5. --Photo by Robin Bassett

## What are the qualities of an effective leader?

By Starla Anderson and Bill Graham

Thomas Mulcair became the leader of the federal New Democratic Party on March 24, and he and his wife, Catherine, moved into Stornoway, the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition, less than a month later. This was an historical event.

Mulcair seemed to walk in stride into his new roles and has demonstrated considerable acumen as a debater in the House of Commons. Most recently he has argued that the prosperity of western provinces based on the export of energy resources has created an “artificially high Canadian dollar” that is negatively impacting manufacturing in the east.

Mulcair is being accused of being divisive and protectionist of eastern interests by western premiers but is his argument justified when looking at Canada’s economy as a whole? What are the qualities that Mulcair needs to convince his supporters to stand beside him to persuade those who oppose him ideologically? What are the personal qualities that make him a leader?

In February, Saanich-Gulf Islands NDP members met to think about and discuss the qualities that we were looking for in our new federal leader. We did not promote individual candidates but considered how our NDP values extend into our expectations of leadership. Executive members Bill Graham and Starla Anderson organized the afternoon with small groups meeting around tables for discussion. Members were given a list of questions to help stimulate discussion but participants were encouraged to go off on their own tangents.

This is a summary of the qualities that were identified as important for leadership. We might reflect on the conclusions that were generated to help move the discussion forward—thinking not only of the richness of leadership qualities Thomas Mulcair brings to the job, but how we might identify others who have much to offer as progressive leaders. While these categories and insights directly apply to the federal stage, we can extrapolate from them to recognize those leaders we work with at the provincial and community levels as well.

### How important is personal charisma/charm/style? Public and media image? Public speaking power?

A leader must have the common touch, take an interest in, and connect with people of all ages and walks of life. Some might call this charisma or charm, but the ability to connect personally and to speak to the issues that people care about is really important.

A leader needs to make people feel that they matter and that they’re important—humbly assuming the role of “first among equals”.

Grass roots workers need to feel that they can believe in their leader to be inspired

to work for local candidates. S/he must have integrity, embody the values of social democracy and be an intelligent, open-minded critical thinker so that there is spontaneity in communications with the public and the media.

The leader needs to have knowledge of NDP roots and values as well as knowledge of today’s issues. It’s important that the new leader bring political experience to the job but at the same time be attractive to youth.

The new leader will need to be able to manage a unified caucus, being able to trust the abilities of others and delegate responsibilities while accepting responsibility for situations that go awry.

A sense of humor goes a long way too!

### Must the leader be fluent in French? What is an acceptable level of fluency?

It is essential that the leader is articulate and communicates comfortably with citizens in both English and French, and it would be a bonus if the leader is completely fluent in both languages. Functional competency in the second language is a minimum requirement. Additional languages would also be an asset.

### What are the qualities most needed to successfully oppose Stephen Harper?

The leader needs to be a compassionate person who is able to inspire and unite people around a vision of an innovative and just society. S/he can’t just oppose Harper’s vision but must articulate the NDP principles of working for the public interest and suggest practical ideas for how to bring that vision into fruition.

The leader needs to believe that the NDP will form government so that voters will have confidence in the candidates and get out to vote.

### Is winning the next election more important than remaining true to NDP social democratic values?

We need to stay true to our social democratic values and by being honest and transparent about our values, the voters will trust us—just as they did in the last election, especially in Quebec but right across the country where we came in second in over 100 polls.

We want to win while building progressive values, belief in collective rights and common ground.

Please turn to page 2, Qualities of an effective leader

Canadian Publications Mail Product Sales Agreement # 40008124  
Return to: The Lower Island News  
Box 311-2750 Quadra Street  
Victoria, BC V8T 4E8

Inside this issue			
Barrett named to Order of BC	2	Politics the Kiwi way	14
The generational divide	3	Raise the longhouse	15
Editorial and op/ed	4	Time for industrial hemp	16
Letters to the editor	5	Fleeing Island of Austerty	17
Crapitalism	6	Environment news	18-19
Basic income conference	7	Bedbugs are biting	20
Federal news and comment	8-9	Book excerpt	21
Provincial news and comment	10	Books of interest	22
Municipal news and comment	11	Coming events calendar	23
Legalized bullying	13	Directory	24



Qualities of an effective leader, from page 1

**Should the NDP join with others (Liberals/Greens) in strategic voting to defeat Harper?**  
A few voices argued that the decision should rest with the constituency, but most rejected this strategy. They argued that after the election, whenever Liberals and or Greens support legislation that reflects our values we should act in a cooperative mode for the greater good of Canadians.  
Members were open to post-election coalitions to defeat a Conservative government.

**Must the leader have a background in special regions of the country? (Quebec/the West/the North/the Maritimes)**  
The leader needs to be familiar with the geography and citizens in all parts of Canada—the cultural aspects of different parts of Canada are diverse and the leader will need to communicate well with all citizens.  
The leader also needs to understand the complexities of both urban and rural life.

**How important should organized labour be to the future NDP?**  
Most felt that our new leader should maintain positive relations with organized labour and all workers. The party needs to continue to support the issues and values of the labour movement and educate the public about the historical ties between the CCF/NDP and organized labour. It's also important for the leader to educate the public about how organized labour has improved living standards for both workers and employers since the Great Depression in the 1930s.

**Is foreign affairs experience needed by our NDP leader, Canada's next prime minister?**  
It would be helpful but not necessary. A leader who has had broad life experience and has a world view is important but travel experience is not a prerequisite to being leader.  
Most important is that the leader has an open mind about other cultures and is willing to learn about their perspectives from their leaders and diplomats as well as Canada's advisors and diplomats.

**Should the next leader be especially attractive to young Canadian voters?**  
Our leader needs to make a special effort to reach out to Canada's youth by addressing the critical issues confronting them such as: cost of education, employment, affordable housing, and childcare.  
Youth need to be encouraged to become engaged in the political process when they're teens.

**Must the leader have a background in economics? In science and the environment?**  
Our leader must have a broad knowledge of economics, science, environmental issues, and social issues—including social equity—but this knowledge doesn't need to have come from academic training.  
It is especially important that the leader has an understanding of and respect for knowledge that has been gained through science even if the leader does not have a scientific background.

**How important is it that the new leader has an appreciation for arts and culture?**  
It is very important. Arts and culture are important to the well being of Canada, and national institutions like the CBC should be properly funded and supported.  
Arts and culture not only enrich Canadian's lives and help to shape our collective identity but many jobs are directly and indirectly related to projects, events, and businesses in the arts.



Bottle drive for food security

On the last Sunday of each month, the Cowichan Valley Bottle Depot (CVBD) hosts a Black Tie Charity Event. With staff adorned in neck ties, the CVBD provides the public with a formal opportunity to donate their returns to a local organization or charity.  
The Cowichan Green Community (CGC) was the beneficiary of the April event, which took place on Sunday, April 29, from 10 am to 4 pm at the CVBD, located at 6476 Norcross Road, in Duncan, BC. Proceeds will contribute to supporting CGC's food security programs and initiatives in the

Cowichan Valley.  
Speaking of the Black Charity event, initiated in 2009, Sherri Drouillard, CVBD manager says, "This event is a great way for the CVBD to support local groups in reaching their fundraising goals."  
CGC would like to thank the Cowichan Valley Bottle Depot for including our organization in their community programs.  
  
For more information on this event, please contact Vanessa Goodall with the Cowichan Green Community at 250-748-8506 or vanessa@cowichangreencommunity.org

Former NDP premier named to Order of BC

**VICTORIA** - Former BC premier Dave Barrett and 13 others, including former Canadian prime minister Kim Campbell, were named to the Order of BC May 18 by BC Lieutenant-Governor Steven Point.  
"As our province's highest honour, the Order of British Columbia is our way of acknowledging the outstanding achievements of our citizens," Point said in a news release.  
Barrett was first elected MLA in 1960, holding his seat through 1969, when he won the leadership of the provincial New Democrats, leading the party to a single term in office from 1972 to 1975.  
BC Premier Christy Clark said the recipients "have made exceptional contributions to their communities and to the province".  
Barrett's government is credited with several enduring pieces of legislation, including creation of the Agricultural Land Reserve and the Insurance Corporation of BC.  
Barrett late was elected Member of Parliament for Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca.  
BC New Democrat leader Adrian Dix issued the following statement on Dave Barrett being awarded the Order of BC:  
"Dave Barrett's years as premier of BC were, without doubt, three of the most significant years in our history.

"His legacy, accomplished in such a short time, is without parallel: the Agricultural Land Reserve, ICBC., Pharmacare, student loans and income for seniors—to name just a few.  
"Dave was BC's Tommy Douglas – a pioneer and an inspiration for all who strive for a fairer, more just society.  
"I was lucky enough to work with Dave in Ottawa when he was an MP. Dave Barrett was—and will always remain—a friend, a mentor and a hero to me.  
"I also want to pay tribute to every other recipient, including Kim Campbell, all of whom served our province and com  
This year's Order of BC recipients also include Bard on the Beach founder and artistic director Christopher Gaze, ultrasound imaging expert Dr. Peter Cooperberg, artist Rick Harry, and astronaut Dr. Robert Thirsk.  
The other Order of BC recipients announced by the government May 18 are: homeless advocate Sister Nancy Brown; entrepreneurs Norman Keevil and Hassan Khosrowshahi; athletes Marion Lay and Tricia Smith; social justice advocate Carol Matthews; business leader Djavad Mowafaghian; and community leader James Ogilvie.  
The Order of BC ceremony will be held in Victoria on September 6.



**FRASER**  
**Plumbing & Heating Ltd.**

Residential & Commercial • Service & Renos  
A locally owned & operated family business  
Reliable • Priced Fair • Quality workmanship

250-727-3888 | info@fraserplumbing.ca | www.fraserplumbing.ca



**the Flying Shingle**  
Published Weekly  
Your Island Your Paper  
The Voice of Gabriola since 1972

381 Spruce Ave Gabriola, BC V0R 1X1  
Contact: editor@flyingshingle.com

**The Flying Shingle's commitment to our advertisers on Gabriola Island:**

- Your ad will stand out to potential customers because we limit advertising to 40 per cent of the newspaper's total space. (Fifty per cent is usually regarded as an acceptable rate.)
- A sassy, intelligent, well-written paper committed to journalistic integrity that attracts a strong and loyal readership.
- Classified ads focussed on local advertisers and Gabriola customers.

Many of our readers tell us *they read the Flying Shingle from cover to cover*, which means **every page is a "good" advertising page in The Shingle.**

With a total winter distribution of 2,400 *The Shingle* is mailed out to every mailbox (1,850) on Gabriola, and distributed to newsstands around the island.

**Advertise in The Shingle. We deliver Gabriola.**



**H&C**  
from seed to sewn  
HEMPANDCOMPANY.COM

We sell clothing, edible seeds and bodycare products made from Hemp, eco-friendly, and other organic materials

**Comfortable Natural Clothing That Doesn't Cost the Earth!**

1-866-383-4367 Online: [www.hempandcompany.com](http://www.hempandcompany.com)



Victoria:  
1102 Government Street  
422 Craigflower Road  
Sidney:  
2348 Beacon Avenue



# The generational divide: can we overcome it?

By Starla Anderson

The University of British Columbia Alumni Affairs office periodically holds events for alumni residing in Greater Victoria. The latest of these events was a Dialogue on the topic, **How can we overcome our generational divide?** This event was held on May 7 at the Empress with Gregor Craigie, CBC Radio One’s host of *On The Island* moderating.

The four dynamic panelists were:

- **Kim Carter**, Ombudsperson for the Province of British Columbia. Ms. Carter has an impressive background in criminal, international, and administrative law. Her recently released report: *The Best of Care: Getting it Right for Seniors in British Columbia (Part 2)* gives her expertise on the challenges faced by seniors. (www.bcombudsperson.ca)
- **Paul Kershaw** is a social scientist at the UBC School for Population and Public Health. Dr. Kershaw alerted the mostly senior audience to the reality that today’s university-educated 55+ generation had more opportunities for employment and incomes suited to their professional training than the present generation of graduates has.
- **Mary Ann Murphy** is an associate professor with a cross-appointment on Aging (School of Social Work) and Sociology (Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences) at the UBC Okanagan Campus. Dr. Murphy teaches a course with students representing different generations who consider how their perspectives are affected by their generational experiences.
- **Paul Pallan** is presently vice-president of Hollander Analytical Services. He has been the Children’s Commissioner for BC; Assistant Deputy Minister of Health, of Cabinet Operations and of Education; and he has been a clinical associate professor in the UBC Department of Health Care and Epidemiology. Mr. Pallan sees as much diversity in interests and abilities among seniors as between seniors and younger generations.

Organizers of this Dialogue framed the panelists’ presentations with these questions:

- **By 2033 the number of seniors in BC will have doubled, making up a quarter of the province’s population. Some communities, such as Victoria, will see even more pronounced demographic shifts. Some are concerned that the Boomers will use their relative numbers to steer the political and social agenda for their own benefit.**
- **Is this view justified?**
- **How will the shifting population numbers impact social priorities, such as health care, pensions and education?**
- **Will there be increased tension between the generations as governments are forced to make difficult decisions?**
- **Can policy-makers meet the needs of the ageing Boomers without alienating future generations?**

Mary Ann Murphy’s opening remarks addressed the lack of opportunities there are for the generations to come together and get to know one another. She argues that there is a need for everyone to accept the challenge of creating a society that is for all ages, and that means that we all need to make an effort to spend time with others who are not our age peers.

Murphy sees aging as socially constructed: “The challenge is to put the ages together to get a level of understanding and a level of equality so that age discrimination drops away.”

In her class of cross generations, students of all ages learn that stories are knowledge; youth can learn about how social change is brought about by social movements (e.g. the women’s movement) and seniors can learn from youth about communication through technological advancements to further the causes of social movements (e.g. the Occupy Movement). Youth also learn that seniors still have much to contribute to the economy and society, and seniors learn that youth are challenged by a 17% unemployment rate.

Kim Carter focused on findings she presented in her recent report to the BC government on the challenges faced by seniors, pointing out that there wasn’t a lot of inter-generational divide evident on a personal level and that adult children put in a lot of effort to seek support for elderly parents.

She argued that the divide might be more between two groups of seniors—those who are still working and maybe even raising grandchildren, and those who need home support or residential care—but any divide that does exist is due to a lack of factual information. She agreed with Murphy that there is a need for more opportunities for conversations to take place between generations.

Carter noted that seniors are a powerful force as they have time to take public stands, and they can be eloquent in expressing their concerns and views. “The Boomers are used to carrying policy influence,” she said.

Paul Pallan reminded us that seniors are not a homogenous group, and argued that there is as broad a range of physical and cognitive abilities among seniors as there is between age groups. In addition, he believes that demographic factors such as rural/urban living, ethnicity, and income bring people of all generations together as much as age.

Pallan picked up on Carter’s thread of thought about how a lack of facts create misconceptions such as seniors being a burden because of health care costs and pensions: “Let’s get the facts straight. Less than 1% of the annual 7-8% increase in health care is due to an aging population; it is the high cost of drugs and new technologies that are most responsible, as well as inflation.”

He reports that only 6% of seniors are in residential care; 94% are still in their own homes with only 9% of these needing subsidized home care services—most care for themselves with the help of family and friends.

Pallan says that it is a myth that seniors drain the economy, and claims that the last 12 months of life for the elderly is the highest cost to the medical system. When later asked by an audience member about why we are so ill-prepared to die, he agreed that we do need to overcome fear and ignorance and learn that there is a good way to die. (Murphy added that policy work is needed around issues related to sustaining life.)

Pallan provided more facts about seniors aged 55+. He said that they have more

disposable income than seniors in the past, and that they contribute to the economy by paying taxes, holding down jobs, enrolling in school, and travelling. [This writer adds that senior volunteering, support of cultural amenities, and contributions to charities and social causes also enrich the social fabric.]

Pallan also noted that financial abuse of seniors is not uncommon; many seniors give on-going financial support to their adult children and some adult children with power of attorney over their parents’ finances help themselves with the rationalization that “I’m just getting my inheritance early.” Lonely seniors are also vulnerable to scams by strangers.

Paul Kershaw spoke directly to the inter-generational divide caused by the economic circumstances that youth face when moving into accepting the responsibilities of adulthood. He offered five facts which were summarized by the organizers of this dialogue:

- While incomes for “Boomers” are 18% higher than they were for seniors a generation ago, incomes for younger generations have stalled.
- Housing prices have gone up 149% since 1976. Real estate is a great source of wealth for those approaching retirement but it’s the biggest cause for debt for younger generations.
- Over the past few decades, the poverty rate for seniors has gone down while the poverty rate for children is now three times that of seniors. (In 1976, seniors’ poverty was 29%; it is now 5%.)
- Medical and pension costs have gone up substantially, leaving less money to invest in families. UNICEF rates Canada as one of the worst countries in the world for investing in children up to age 6.
- Youth are inheriting a larger government and environmental debt even though seniors 55+ are doing more for them than ever before.

Kershaw argued that one reason for the divide is that those under age 45 are the least likely to use their voices...—they think that politics “aren’t about us”. This age group will participate in an Occupy rally but they aren’t taking themselves to polling stations. Kershaw believes that until that changes, a space won’t be created to address their issues, but when asked by a youth in the audience how this might be changed, he confessed to having no answers.

Other questions from the audience carried the Dialogue to its conclusion.

Statistics given by Kershaw show that today’s children and youth are being neglected and he suggests this does not bode well for seniors into the future.


Murphy observed that with today’s average family size of 1.2 children, there will be few youth to take care of “Boomer” seniors but if an ethic of service is developed in children from a very young age, we can shape a caring society.

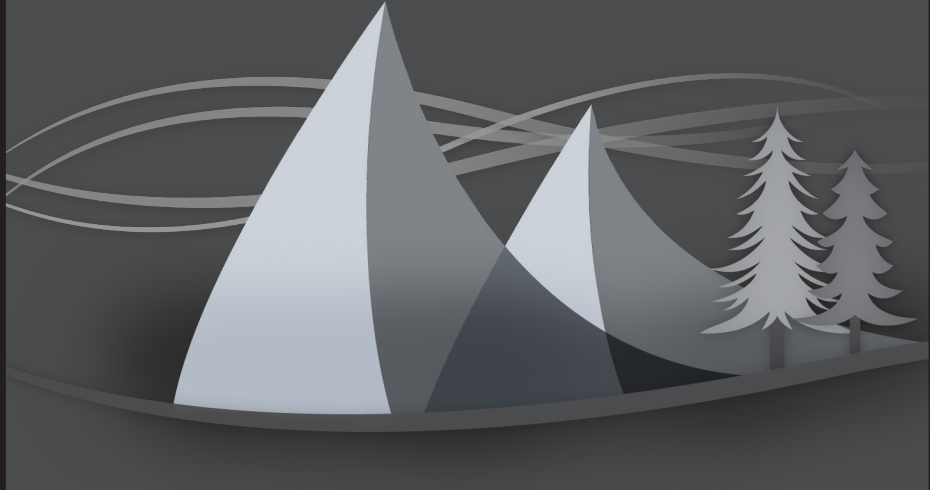
Carter concluded that we all need to push for vulnerable people of every generation to be treated fairly by public authorities—child care is needed as much as care for the elderly.

Pallan argued that raising taxes to increase budgets is no guarantee of improved services but what matters more is the efficacy of budgetary decisions that considers the needs of all generations.

Panelists agreed that key to creating a cohesive society is to make deliberate efforts to bring the generations together and ask: What kind of Canada do we want? What are the values that we want to shape our mutual future? How can we influence our politicians to make policy decisions that won’t leave anyone out?

REGIONAL  
CONFERENCE





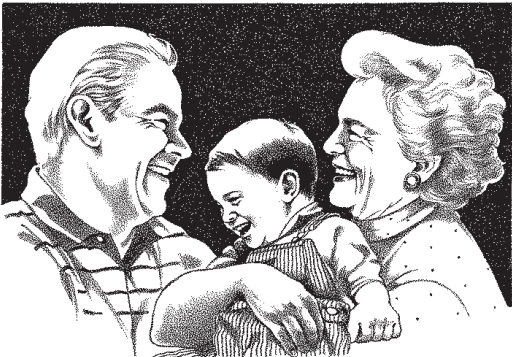
A FAIR AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE  
Vancouver Island South Regional Conference

Join us for this interactive conference to work together on local issues.

Featuring BC NDP Leader Adrian Dix and special guest speakers.

**When:** Sunday, June 17. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.  
**Where:** UVIC Student Union Building.  
**Tickets:** \$25, includes lunch.

Register online at [www.bcndp.ca/events](http://www.bcndp.ca/events) or call Lena Shillington at 1-888-868-3637 x 236.





**My country, right or wrong; if right, to be kept right; and if wrong, to be set right.**

*--Carl Schurz. American soldier and politician. 1829-1906*

Our view:

# The Land of Lost Content

In 1887 the poet A.E. Houseman wrote of “The Land of Lost Content”. Despite all the government economic hype, it would be easy to apply those words to Canada today and, indeed, other countries.

Behind the upbeat stories about the tar sands and the tens of thousands of new mining workers needed in Canada to satisfy China’s “insatiable appetite” for minerals (*Post Media News*), there lurks a grisly phantom, driving what some media commentators have called “the Harperization of Canada”.

This phantom of the economy manifests itself in many forms, but chief among them is the mind-numbing omnibus budget Bill (C-38) which is less to do with the budget and more to do with the Harper/Flaherty project to gut Canadian democracy and hand the bloodied remains to “the market” (i.e. foreign ownership).

The attack on the fabric of our society by Bill C-38, and others, is unprecedented and seems intended to permanently alter the nature of Canada. Stephen Harper’s Asian perambulations seem to have blinded him to the fact that the job of government is to ensure the long term well-being of the nation. However, the core purpose of C-38 seems to be to maximize exploitation of the tar sands (**tar**, not **oil**) and the pipelines and (foreign) tankers to ship it away to Asia.

A report by Forest Ethics Advocacy, based not on emotion, but on hard analysis of shareholder information, shows that 71% of tar-sands production is foreign-owned. As expected, the government dismissed the report just as it does any report that it does not like -- particularly if it also dislikes the reporters!

The effect of the omnibus budget bill and other legislation will concentrate more power in the hands of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and increase government by regulation, rather than by debate and amendment in Parliament. Indeed, Parliament is now clearly an annoying interference with the Conservative goal of setting up a political autocracy supported by a commercial plutocracy.

As the goals of foreign-owned extractive industries and the Harper government become more intertwined, one is reminded of the observation that fascism is the integration of the interests of corporations and the state.

But let’s get serious about the **tar**-sands, rather than the phantoms. Minister of Natural Resources, Joe Oliver, dismissing the Forest Ethics report, stated, “We will continue to promote the oil-sands as a safe, secure and socially and environmentally responsible alternative source of energy for the world.”

The first reaction to this amazing statement must surely be – **Why?** Why should we want to provide all this energy to “the world”? Canada does not have a moral obligation to provide energy to the world. Rather, with an increasing population, and a terrible climate, our first obligation must surely be to hold on to the **tar**-sands in case we need them ourselves (and can extract the small amounts needed in an environmentally acceptable manner).

We have not heard Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Iran, etc. moralizing about providing energy. They all do it for profit, which was the word missing from Joe Oliver’s statement – although it is the main driver in the exploitation of oil by multinational companies!

There is an underlying theme to the **tar**-sands issue, based on the word “alternative” – namely an alternative to Saudi Arabia and other states who, it is implied, are not nice guys like us (we do not behead people).

The **tar**-sands are not a true alternative source of energy – they are still hydro-carbons. Real alternative sources would be solar power, wind and tidal power, and, best of all, reducing wastage and cutting back on our ludicrously high demands for energy. Furthermore, most of the **tar**-sands output will not be refined in Canada – so, few jobs there!

If the pipeline to Kitimat is built (and, indeed, if it or a pipeline to Vancouver or the US is not built, then the **tar**-sands will fail) most of the pipes will probably be imported and they will be laid by foreign contract workers. The tankers taking the oil to China will be Chinese built (**not here**) and they will be foreign flagged, owned and crewed.

And what will be done with the profits from it all? They will be dispersed overseas, while the energy will power Asian factories to make the things that we are no longer capable of making for ourselves.

And what will happen when the oil is all gone? The answer may be “heaven help us”.

Concurrent with the attack on society represented by Bill C-38, are other attacks, manifested by newspaper headlines, such as “Ottawa (i.e. Harper/Flaherty) to crack down on EI recipients”; “Toronto G-20 report censures police for civil-rights violations”; “Doctors greatly concerned about cuts to safety net”; “Pensions report cover-up alleged”; “OAS roll-back is going to hurt”; “Higher duty-free threshold will hurt economy”; and so on. We even have a secret police type of activity, which forces eminent environmental scientists like David Suzuki to resign from their own organizations!

As we went to press, the UN Special Rapporteur on “The Right to Food” suffered the same treatment as other critics of the government. Invited by government to visit Canada, his report, containing facts about child poverty, poor nutrition, and problems of aboriginal people was described as “completely ridiculous” by Immigration Minister Jason Kenny, although they have been reported by Canadian sources for years.

As Iain Hunter put it in the *Times Colonist*, “He’s right (the UN rapporteur) – we should be ashamed.”

All this was overshadowed by the Facebook IPO – a sad reflection of our priorities. What does Facebook actually produce? Nothing -- it just uses imported electronic devices to thrust ever more advertising for imported gizmos into our faces.

The “Land of Lost Content” indeed! --**DJO**

**The Lower Island NEWS**

The *Lower Island NEWS*, celebrating its 29th year of publication, is an independent newsfeature tabloid newspaper, published as often as financially possible by the Lower Island News Society, Box 311-2750 Quadra Street, Victoria BC V8T 4E8.

Signed articles are the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Lower Island NEWS* or the Lower Island News Society. Articles submitted for publication are subject to editing at the discretion of the Editor.

**Editorial Committee Chair:** Sharon Hazelwood  
**Editor:** Dale Young  
**Editorial writer:** David Olsen  
**Book review and travel writer:** Ron MacIsaac  
**Distribution:** Jocelyn Floyer  
**Advertising:**  
**Contributors to this issue:** Marianne Alto, Starla Anderson, Jeremy Arney, Lorraine Copas, Jean Crowder, Ed Deak, Bo Filter, Helen Fy, Randall Garrison, Eden Haythornthwaite, Gary Holman, Carole James, Erik Kaye, Steve Kerstetter, Seth Klein, Gerry Masuda, Adrienne Montani, George Mortimore, Derek Peach, Dale Perkins, Tim Pheotist, Tim Rourke, Vicki Sanders, Denise Savoie, Brian Topp, Heather Tufts, Diane Walsh, Barry Weisleder, Teresa Wolfwood, and others.

**Printed at the Nanaimo Daily News, Nanaimo, BC**  
**Canadian Publications Mail Agreement # 40008124**

**Lower Island News Privacy Statement**

The Lower Island News is owned by the Lower Island News Society, a non-profit society registered under the BC *Society Act*. The Lower Island News collects and uses your personal information for the purpose of mailing the paper to you, and may write to you from time to time to solicit donations. The Lower Island News will not share this information with any other group.

As others see it

## NDP government needed to defend BC against the Harper Conservative agenda

By Gary Holman

Recent events have demonstrated to Canadians how far the federal Harper government is willing to go to win elections, stifle dissent and force through its hard right agenda. British Columbians should be particularly concerned about a provincial Liberal government that is silent, and even complicit in Conservative measures to export dirty oil, shred environmental legislation, and weaken the social safety net.

If you think this sounds alarmist or unfair, consider the following.

The Harper government has made it clear that regardless of the current regulatory review, they will approve the Northern Gateway pipeline to Kitimat, shipping 500,000 barrels per day of tar sands oil over hundreds of fish streams, and lifting the long standing moratorium on oil tanker traffic on the pristine northwest coast. They have also just announced that the *Fisheries Act* will be watered down and legislative changes ensuring that the federal cabinet can overturn negative NEB decisions, to further reduce potential barriers to this pipeline. The implications of these changes on the integrity of future resource and energy reviews go well beyond the Northern Gateway project.

The provincial Liberals are publicly pretending to sit on the Northern Gateway fence, but they have made resource development the cornerstone of their economic platform, and are providing no information to the Joint Panel regarding the environmental and economic risks associated with the pipeline and related tanker traffic.

In fact, as pointed out by economist Robyn Allen, the provincial Liberals have completely ceded their jurisdiction and authority on Northern Gateway. Similarly, they remain silent about the federal budget that downsizes an already inadequate oil spill emergency response system despite the proposed expansion of Kinder Morgan’s pipeline and related tanker traffic through our Salish Sea.

In addition to weakening federal fisheries protection, the Conservatives are also proposing to devolve the environmental assessment process to the provinces. In BC, this would be a disaster waiting to happen. The provincial environmental assessment process has been gutted by the Liberals, who approved the transformation of Fish Lake in the BC interior into a mine tailings pond.

The Harper Conservatives have completely reneged on our international responsibilities on climate action, pulling out of the Kyoto Accord, aggressively promoting the rapid development and export of tar sands oil, eliminating conservation retrofit incentives and muzzling or firing federal climate change scientists. The provincial Liberals continue to subsidize fossil fuel and mining development that will generate substantial green house gas emissions. And their so-called *Clean Energy Act* stripped the BC Utilities Commission of its authority to review tens of billions in private power investments, the massive Site C dam, and the smart meter boondoggle, despite the fact that all of these costs are borne by BC ratepayers.

The federal Conservatives promote open cage fish farming, in direct conflict with their obligation to protect wild fisheries, and have muzzled their scientists with empirical evidence of disease risks. The provincial Liberals ignored the recommendations of an all party legislative committee on fish farming to move to closed containment.

The recent court decision won by environmental organizations, forcing the federal government to take action to protect endangered resident Orca populations, is also a stark reminder that BC is the only province in Canada without species at risk legislation.

The Harper government’s agenda doesn’t just include the gutting of environmental protections. Their new crime bill, harking back to failed policies in the US, will shift billions of dollars to provincial governments across Canada in court and prison costs. In BC, our justice system is already reeling from a decade of Liberal cuts, which makes their silence on the Conservative crime bill all the more irresponsible.

Similarly, the recent Health Accord announcement by the Conservatives made it clear that any initiative for health care reform would be shifted to the provinces. Given that our Liberal provincial government has a tendency to equate “reform” with “privatization”, this downloading of responsibility should be cause for concern.

The impacts of Conservative budget cuts will be exacerbated by provincial Liberal budgets that have imposed a massive shift from income taxes based on ability to pay, to regressive user fees such as MSP premiums, Hydro and insurance rates, ferry rates and tuition fees.

Conservative measures to delay eligibility for Old Age Security, will disproportionately affect low income seniors and reinforce BC’s highest poverty rate in Canada resulting from the last decade of a provincial Liberal government. Harper and the provincial Liberals have both demonstrated that they have little respect for the Charter rights of unions to bargain collective agreements.

We need a provincial government that will act in the public interest; that will reinstate social justice and sustainability as core objectives in public policy; and that will defend the interests of its citizens in the face of the Harper government’s agenda. The alternative is a provincial Liberal government whose natural inclination is to tacitly support or even reinforce this agenda.

Gary Holman is the NDP candidate for the upcoming May, 2013 provincial election.



# Arrogant band of bullies must be gone after election

Diane McNally gave a most succinct history lesson on the conflict between government and the BCTF (LIN March issue). When people do things that are illegal, we ask our courts to lock them away; when governments do it, we call the legislation unconstitutional and appeal to our courts for redress.

Arragant band of bullies must beWell, our Supreme Court has found that denying bargaining rights to teachers is unconstitutional, but government will not repeal that law until 2013, and is now threatening the teaching-as-essential-service law (as if it equals emergency medical care, police or fire protection) to deny teachers the right to strike.

Such arrogance recalls the *Compensation Stabilization Act* of 1982 which mandated that any negotiated wage settlement whether mediated or arbitrated go before a commissioner who could reject the court's decision. It made an expensive farce of the bargaining process.

Today, those resurrected Socreds, now BC Liberals, have again blocked teacher salary increases with their net-zero mandate. School boards are placed in an impossible situation and teachers are admonished to "consider the children" and accept the gutting of public schooling, with class size and composition constraints gone as well.

In 1971, I walked my first picket line to tell the legislators in Victoria to remedy injustices they had done to retired teachers. I am now retired myself and cannot sit by while another government uses its power to impose legislation to further isolate and under-value teachers in BC.

We must see this band of arrogant bullies out of office in the next election.

**Derek Peach**, Victoria

# Indequate school budgets the result of the tax-cut cycle

The BC government is continuing its "tax cut cycle". The cycle starts with tax cuts to rich individuals and corporations, resulting in government deficits, leading to inadequate budgets. This cycle continues with the recent budget where \$1.9 billion of tax cuts were given to corporations.

The cumulative tax cuts since 2001 now represent \$7.9 million dollars of "lost" government revenue per year! These cumulative inadequate budgets have now resulted in a crisis in our children's' classrooms.

In my opinion, this continuing cutback in education is now a moral issue. The impact of continuing cutbacks affects each student throughout his/her life time. This is especially true for students with special needs. It appears trustees can no longer fulfill their responsibilities due to the impact of cumulative inadequate funding.

In 1990-1991, the government took over property taxes which funded the school system from municipalities. The government thus assumed the responsibility of providing adequate funding for our public schools.

In 2002, the government declared it illegal for school boards to submit deficit budgets. Thus trustees, with no alternative sources of funding, are legally forced to cutback educational services to meet the inadequate budgets which result from the "tax cut cycle". When do trustees declare the inadequate budgets must stop? How do they do this?

With the latest inadequate budget, the trustees can no longer fulfill their responsibilities of looking after their students' interests. Their only alternative is to politicize the crisis in our classrooms. The only way to do this is for trustees to submit a deficit/restorative budget and be replaced by an appointed administrator.

The responsibilities of the ex-trustees, teachers, parents, and students would then be to publicize each cutback made by the administrator and its impact. Making this an issue in the media could inflame the public which has suffered more and more cutbacks in all government services.

Making this a public political issue forces the government to live up to its responsibilities for the education of our children. The more school boards take this action of submitting deficit budgets, the more pressure will increase on government to stop "the tax cut cycle".

This resulting public outcry is the only method now of holding the government accountable. This is democracy in action.

**Gerry Masuda**, Duncan

# Open letter to Eve Adams

On May 11, 2012, on CPAC's *Weekend Primetime Politics* with Martin Stringer, I watched and listened to you trying to defend your hero from the east, Peter McKay, and his inability to tell the truth, or interpret the truth about the cost of the Libya destruction by our military.

After you had finished explaining that Peter only reported what he was told by his officials, therefore they were misleading him, you came out with a statement that boggled my mind:

"In future, Libya will be regarded as one of the greatest accomplishments of the Canadian military."

# Nailing the pet-bashers

**G.E. Mortimore**

A mentally-disturbed thug wielding a blade on a stick slashed and killed a gentle sheltie dog named Diesel who was walking on a leash with his owner.

This event bothers me in the night, more than the war horrors around the world. I feel Diesel's death when I'm half awake, and the feeling won't go away.

It happened in Richmond Hill, Ontario. Wiliam J. Bennett, aged 68, was charged with being the dog-killer. When the judge set him loose and told him to come back in court on June 20, he sauntered away with no sign of emotion.

A \$60,000 fine and two years in jail (Ontario law) is the heaviest punishment that Diesel's killer could get for harming a creature that is defined by federal criminal law as "property".

Property is a distant thought when I'm out of bed, sitting at the computer desk and scanning blogs about animal abuse. In the mind's eye I see a memory-picture of my long-ago terrier dog Kim, who learned to jump up high and let me catch him like a beach ball.

Cat Simba shows no respect for property as he walks across my keyboard, writing a random string of symbols.

Animal-cruelty offenders escape conviction because the law is weak. They plead "I didn't mean any harm, it was an accident." That usually gets them off.

Vancouver Island judges do send a worst-case animal-abuser to jail every 10 years or so. The BC Liberals decreed in-province maximum punishments of \$75,000 and two years' prison – much tougher than any animal-abuse penalty in the federal Criminal Code. BC turned up the heat after the slaughter of 100 sled dogs in Whistler.

Federal planners are thinking about heavier penalties, in a new cruelty law. A \$2,000 fine and/or six months in jail is the maximum federal penalty, much lighter than Ontario's or B.C.'s. But longer jail time won't be a big help; prison is a school for wounding and drug-vending.

As I pry cat Simba loose from the place he has taken up in front of the computer screen, and deposit him on the carpet, it occurs to me that brutal behaviour is too deeply rooted in the troubled minority of abusers to be cut loose by today's social surgery. We can't heal mental patients by locking them in narrow cells like battery hens.

At the moment we need the money-or-jail remedy as a fast fix, but in the longer term we must seek methods that stand a chance of working better.

Scientists have rambled through the literature and checked a pile of cases, and their findings are no surprise. Abusers are likely to have been victims of abuse, and a big percentage of those who are cruel to animals are cruel to people as well.

In a four-year Manitoba experiment during the 1970s (launched by Trudeau and an NDP provincial government in partnership) poor families that received a guaranteed income supplement showed an increased number of high-school graduations and fewer medical visits for accidents, injuries, and mental-health problems.

My hunch is that a larger and longer family-income experiment – in fact a generous and thoughtful guaranteed annual income -- would yield a money-saving reduction of many social ills, including reckless teen driving and violence toward people and animals.

Kennedy Stewart, NDP MP for Burnaby-Douglas, wants the Harper government to remove animal cruelty from the property section of the Criminal Code, strengthen federal cruelty law, and recognize animals as beings that can feel pain.

Stewart is a policy analyst from Simon Fraser University. Prime Minister Harper would be smart to follow his advice.

I find this a comfortable hope as I go upstairs to read and take a siesta. Cat friend is curled up on the pillow.

**G.E.Mortimore**  
Victoria

Oh yes, one question for you...How is the democracy thing going in Libya? We never hear anything from your bunch, so *now is your chance to tell us what a safe, peaceful, loving, prosperous, well fed, good health care, excellent education, country Libya has become*, thanks to us!

Please let us know that \$350 million was not wasted as was the \$50 million on fake lakes and gazebos.

**Jeremy Arney**, Victoria

# Fidel's right, eh?

Fidel Castro, Cuba's 85-year-old retired leader, criticized Canadian mining companies for inflicting "incredible damage" to "millions of people" in the search for "gold, precious metals, and radioactive material" across Latin America.

Writing in his regular column, which appeared on April 9 in *Granma*, the official organ of the Communist Party of Cuba, Castro expressed disappointment in the government of Stephen Harper. (He confided that he barely knows Harper by name, despite Canada being Cuba's leading source of tourists.)

Canadians ought to know better than to exploit the natural and human resources of other countries, given "the damage that the yanquis are imposing on the people of Canada". Castro was referring to the development of the Athabaska tar sands in northern Alberta, "causing irreparable damage to the environment".

**Barry Weisleder**, Toronto

What?

Bombing civilians and their infrastructure, schools, hospitals, universities, water pipe lines and pipe factories after our wonderful Minister for Foreign Disputes persuaded his rebel friends not to sign a ceasefire because he would support them to the end, up to and including the capture, torture and murder of their country's leader. This was all done from the safety of the air where our aircraft were all but unassailable. How many NATO planes were even damaged, never mind downed? – One French one, I think.

You dare to compare this corporate NATO, IMF, CIA inspired interference in another country's civil war with Vimy Ridge (WW1) or the Juno Beach landing (WW2), or the battle of the Atlantic (WW2)? Even our activities in the illegal, Bush inspired oil war in Afghanistan, for that matter.

Please get real Ms. Adams.

The Libyan slaughter by our military seems to have cost the Canadian taxpayers \$350 million dollars in an engagement they didn't want but which you and your Corporate Party of Canada judge a huge success. This was another case of almost all MPs not listening to their constituents but to their corporate masters.

In the minds of many Canadians it is a huge blot on our history. One we would like to forget but which will forever shame us. This degradation of Canada is all we will get from your CPC who are owned lock stock and barrel by corporate interests and have absolutely no interest in the people of Canada except at voting time, when we get treated to lies and more lies.

**We welcome your letters to the editor, as well as articles and reviews, photos, and anything else you think would be of interest to our progressive readers.**

**Please mail them to the Editor, at Box 311-2750 Quadra Street, Victoria, BC, V8T 4E8, email them to dale\_young@telus.net, or phone 250-384-7621.**

**The DEADLINE to submit material for the next issue is August 17**

## Friends of the Lower Island News

### We asked for your help and you continue to give it!

Since our last issue, the Friends of the Lower Island News have continued to support us with their generous donations, as you can see from the list below. The LIN Board and I are grateful and very encouraged, and are determined to keep the paper going. Thank you to every one of you, new and old donors, for helping to get this issue out to you.

Responding to our appeals since March were:	
Carol L. Brown	\$ 25
R.L. Creech	\$ 50
Anonymous	\$100
Lois M. Marcoux	\$100
Jean R. MacIntyre	\$ 50
Red Hens (in March and April)	\$ 35

The LIN is continuuiing to search for additional advertisers for coming issue but we also will continue to need your good will and most importantly your donations. Please keep them coming.

As I said before, if you like the LIN, want it to continue to be published and can afford to give something, please consider becoming a supporting donor and send us a cheque, whatever amount you can afford. All donations, large or small, will be appreciated.

If you would like to advertise in the LIN or know a business that might, please let us know, as we want to find a minimum of 20 more new advertisers. You can always reach me at dale\_young@telus.net.

Donations may be sent to the Lower Island News Society at Box 311-2750 Quadra Street, Victoria, BC, V8T 4E8, and will be acknowledged in the paper. Please indicate if you prefer to be "anonymous". Unfortunately we can't take credit card donations, nor give tax receipts.

Thank you again.

**--Dale Young, Editor, for the Editorial Board**



# Liberals across Canada are being hoist with their own petard

By Brian Topp

*“For ‘tis the sport to have the enginer hoist with his owne petar, an’t shall go hard. But I will delve one yard below their mines, and blow them to the moon.” – Hamlet, Act 3*  
*“Hoist with your own petard.” Meaning: “Injured by the device that you intended to use to injure others.” – The Phrase Finder*

For many years, Liberals have been eager advocates of “strategic voting” – the idea that it makes sense to vote for a party you don’t support in order to avoid the election of a party you don’t support even more. A pitch to this effect has been part of the closing argument of every federal Liberal campaign since at least 1993.

Arguably, it was all that Michael Ignatieff had to say (that anyone heard) during the 2011 election. In as many words, his pitch was that only the Liberals can stop the Tories; you don’t want the Tories; so you must vote Liberal. There was a red door and a blue door, and those were your only choices.

In my view, in the long term, the political drug that is “strategic voting” has had almost as much to do with the destruction of the federal Liberal brand as the Paul Martin 1995 budget and the sponsorship scandal. It reduced one of Canada’s great historical legacy parties to a tactic: Tick this box to avoid that box.

The federal Liberals had more than that to say about their history, their tradition, their values, and their odd elite interests-brokerage approach to public affairs. But they didn’t, which leaves them where they are now. In a poor mathematical position

to make federal strategic voting pitches in the future. And with much work to do to reassemble a case for themselves based on anything else.

But there is, possibly, something even more interesting to say about strategic voting. And that is this: Liberal voters seem to be uniquely vulnerable to it.

In 2011, Stephen Harper won his majority in large part by making a direct strategic voting appeal to formerly Liberal voters in suburban Toronto (what another politician likes to think of as “Ford nation”). You only have to look at the map to see how that worked out – an awful lot of suburban Toronto red doors became blue doors.

In 2012, Alison Redford made another direct strategic voting appeal to formerly Liberal voters, centred in Calgary and Edmonton. The Alberta Liberals got 26.4 per cent of the vote in the last election – and only 9.9 per cent last week. There is no doubt this is what saved Premier Redford (the NDP vote under Alberta NDP Leader Brian Mason, on the other hand, improved nicely: 8.5 per cent last time, 9.8 per cent this time).

Meanwhile, the car-crash-that-never-ends that is the premiership of British Columbia’s Christy Clark is now apparently thrashing around to the view that it needs to scrub the Liberal brand off itself, to fight off both a principled and a strategic voting pitch aimed at its voters from both the left (the BC NDP) and the right (the BC Conservatives).

Conservatives and New Democrats at both the federal and provincial levels have an interesting opportunity to pay the Liberals back in more of their own coin in future elections.

The challenge is to do so without being consumed by this tactic. To delve one yard below it, as Shakespeare put it so elegantly, without a fatal over-investment in it.

This article first appeared in the April 29, 2012, edition of the *Toronto Globe and Mail* and is reprinted with permission of the author.

# CRAPITALISM (iatrogenic vs. livable economics; sick world vs. healthy world)

By C.A. L’Hirondelle with collaboration from J.S. Larochelle

## What is Crapitaism?

Crapitalism takes good natural resources and turns them into crap products in order to keep the consumption/jobs cycle going. Crap products are harmful, wasteful or designed to break. Crap services waste resources and undermine the health of individuals and society, e.g. using up water to produce liquid candy (soft drinks).

Crapitalism is “iatrogenic economics” because it makes people, environments and society sick while posing as the cure. Crapitalism tips the scale from positive economic activities (including informal unpaid care work) to negative economic activities (causing harm but counted as goods in GDP). See the book *Made to Break*, by Giles Slade.

The vested interests of the crap production/consumption system mean jobs trump all other considerations including health, happiness and environment.

## Solution? A universal livable income (SHARE)

It would be universal and unconditional, goes to everyone, no means test; Livable to ensure no person’s income falls below what is necessary for health, life and dignity; Income, currently cash income, but could mean something else in the future. Principle, people’s inherent right to a share of resources; constitutionally guaranteed.

## The primacy of consumption

The current economy cannot function without high levels of consumption. Consumption, not production, is key. Economic production without consumption is bankruptcy.

From donut makers to public services, all depend on having customers, clients, students, patients, inmates, etc. Proposing to cut consumption without proposing another way for people to get money (or resources) is unworkable and unethical.

## A Crapitalist critique

A Crapitalist critique recognizes consumption is a systemic issue. It is not a moral “good/bad” issue because current society relies on Crapitalism to function.

Telling people to “buy nothing” or “stop consuming” means crashing the economy on to those on the bottom of the income pyramid, on to those who have least choice about saying “no” to harmful products or

processes.

Without a universal income, people cannot easily say “no” to Crapitalism. It is pointless to demonize people for their consumption or for taking harmful jobs.

## Money for all or money for none

Two ways to escape the Crapitalist economy: money for all, or money for none. Perhaps in the future we won’t use money.

But suddenly ending money today would have a violent impact on those without access to resources or without ability to access resources.

A universal livable income for all creates a practical way to move from a Crapitalist “death-cycle” economy (sickness creating) to a livable “life-cycle” economy (health creating) .

## Where would the money come from”

A universal livable income is not an additional cost. It is a subtraction of the massive costs of having a system that needs waste to function. For example, all the squandered resources: waste, pollution, ill health, lost human potential, lost innovation, wasted human lives due to jobs-based vested interests.

Three ways to assess an economic activity: Positive activity = helpful; negative activity = harmful; no activity = neutral. Ergo: A “lazy” person is preferable to someone actively causing harm to others or the planet.

## Summary

CRAPITALISM wastes resources: time, energy and natural resources on unnecessary or harmful work.

CRAPITALISM wastes people: intellect, imagination, problem-solving and creativity.

CRAPITALISM diverts resources from real needs.

CRAPITALISM harms the health of people, the environment and other living creatures.

A Livable Income Share mends the rift between life and work and between economy and environment. A Livable Income Share tips the scale towards positive or neutral activities and away from negative activities.

*“It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his job depends on not understanding it.” -- Upton Sinclair*

Further Reading: Buckminster Fuller’s *Critical Path*; J.W. Smith’s *World’s Wasted Wealth*; and Robley E. George’s *SocioEconomic Democracy*. See full article with links at [www.livableincome.org](http://www.livableincome.org)

# Canadian homeowners need to know about the cancer risk in their basements

**Toronto, ON --** A new study, *The Radon Challenge: Building Awareness and Encouraging Action* by The Homeowner Protection Centre (HPC) suggests that only about 8% of Canadians can name radon as the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers in Canada, despite Health Canada efforts to raise awareness.

Found in every Canadian province and territory, radon is a colourless, odourless, radioactive gas that can seep from surrounding soil into houses (in fact, into all types of buildings including schools and hospitals). Health Canada suggests that it accounts for approximately 10% of all lung cancers across the country, second only to tobacco smoke.

Few Canadians have tested their homes for the carcinogen and fewer still have taken the relatively inexpensive steps to radon-proof their homes. These were the conclusions of the recently completed *The Radon Challenge* study, undertaken by the HPC, a not-for-profit committed to improving housing and housing-related services across Canada.

“Homeowners have the ability to protect their families from radon with affordable solutions, but they can’t take action if they’re not aware,” stated Michael Lio, executive director of the Homeowner Protection Centre.

Lio continued, “Radon gas test kits are commonly available at Canadian hardware stores and in most cases cost less than

\$50. Testing your home is the first step in protecting your family’s health.”

Province-wide testing of buildings began in Manitoba and Saskatchewan in 2009. In 2010, Quebec began radon testing in its schools. Currently, Ontario has no policy in place but a Private Member’s Bill (*Radon Awareness and Protection Act - 2012 Bill 36*), first introduced in 2011 and again on February 23, 2012 by MPP Reza Moridi, is an attempt to address this.

In 2007, Health Canada lowered the recommended guideline for indoor radon levels by 75% to 200 Bq/m3. Five years later, Canadians are still largely unaware of this harmful gas. Michael Lio reports that, “Five years after Health Canada lowered the radon standard, there is still no national forum to coordinate efforts across provinces and territories. We need a national strategy. Health Canada must take the lead by bringing all stakeholders together to coordinate activities. “

The low level of awareness among Canadians suggests that the current approaches are not working. What is clear from the Homeowner Protection Centre’s study is that the time to act is now. Waiting to act is harming Canadians. Radon induced lung cancers continue to take lives. The time for decisive and coordinated nationwide action is now.

For more information, visit: [www.homeownerprotection.ca](http://www.homeownerprotection.ca)

## Martinez Hardwood Floors

*Specializing in New Installations & Dustless Sanding and Refinishing*

**250.590.6683    [www.martinezfloors.com](http://www.martinezfloors.com)**  
**Email. [www.martinezfloors@shaw.ca](mailto:www.martinezfloors@shaw.ca)**  
**Web. [www.martinezfloors.com](http://www.martinezfloors.com)**

## Dave Connell Tutoring

**Former Resource Teacher can teach most subjects from grade 1-12, carpentry theory and college/university essay writing.**

**Tutoring in my home or yours in the Victoria area.**  
**Phone 250-381-5997 or email [daveconnell@shaw.ca](mailto:daveconnell@shaw.ca)**

## Safety and Human Factors Consultant

**Call David Olsen**  
**250-655-6218**  
**or email him at [olsendj@shaw.ca](mailto:olsendj@shaw.ca)**

## Bill Hartley Insurance Services

*“Providing peace of mind since 1950”*

- Special Hobby Farm Packages
- Home • Auto • Commercial
- Travel • Marine • RRSPs
- Life • Mortgage Cancellation

*Bill Hartley Insurance Services*  
2420 Douglas Street, Victoria, BC V8T 4L7  
Phone 250-388-5014 • Fax 250-388-4277

[www.hartleyinsurance.com](http://www.hartleyinsurance.com)  
Email [info@hartleyinsurance.com](mailto:info@hartleyinsurance.com)





# Reflections on the Basic Income Canada Network’s (BICN) 2012 conference in Toronto

By Tim Rourke

**The big idea**

I have long been an advocate of the concept of a Guaranteed Annual Income, or as it is now being called, a Basic Income. I live in Toronto, so I could attend the BICN conference despite my limited income. Acquaintances of mine who are also interested in Basic Income also have limited incomes, do not live in Toronto, and so did not attend.

I took notes as well as I could of the presentations I attended and then typed them up and put them on the net. I also noted the debates that bubbled up around the presentations. Some of my email friends liked my stuff and one suggested I write up a shorter report to be published in local media.

I should explain briefly what a Basic Income is. It is the idea that the best way to cure poverty is to give everybody enough money without conditions so that they can look after themselves. The idea has its precedents but has truly emerged only within the past century. Only in the past generation has a global movement developed to push for it.

**Birth pains**

The Basic Income Europe Network (BIEN) has become Basic Income Earth Network and a growing number of national organizations are emerging and becoming members. The United States Basic Income Guarantee (USBIG) has been around for a while. In 2008 some Canadian Basic Income proponents attending the BIEN conference in Ireland decided to form BIEN Canada.

The group has had some difficulties and is now called BICN. It has no money and some trouble even putting up a web site, but has somehow managed to hold three successful conferences. I was able to attend Ottawa in 2009. I did not attend the one held in Montreal in 2010 with USBIG and Quebec groups.

I know that there have been some internal conflicts in this group and I can make some good guesses as to why. But they are my guesses and the people who know anything are tight lipped about it for fear of compromising the development of the organization and concept in Canada.

**How now?**

At the end of the conference, be-

fore those travelling had to leave, people who were interested in being part of a Basic Income Canada Network gathered together. It is frustrating that this was thrown in at the last minute, instead of being the most important part of the conference. In the end, people recorded their email addresses on a sheet from my well used notebook. This was handed over to those who undertook to arrange some way we could all communicate with each other.

Karl Widerquist was one of the original founders of BIEN. He is also a founder of USBIG and is a university professor in the United States. He has taken some interest in the development of BICN.

He said that an interaction between activists and academics is needed. He believes that BICN is capable of holding another conference like this in two years, or even of hosting the **BIEN world conference** that is held every other year, which he says would not be harder to manage than this. He gives an impression of frustration with the leadership of BICN.

**My little bit of wisdom**

I have been around antipoverty activism groups in different provinces in Canada for almost 30 years. People have to get it that to found an organization like this does take some hard headed leadership.

You are going to be dealing with money and power, even if it is only potential money and power, or with something that could interfere with somebody’s money and power. People will do some very nasty things over money and power. You cannot blindly trust all who come along and say they support Basic Income.

**The challenge facing BI activists**

Discussion in the hallways and on the various twitter pages gave clues as to who the real allies and enemies of a BICN would be. The tone was set by the **first plenary address**, from an economist for a labour think tank. She got up many people’s noses by theorizing that, while Basic Income was nothing if not a big idea, and it had certainly been around for awhile, it was an idea whose time never seems to come.

She had no ideas about when the time would come. She just thought we should focus on the incomes of the wealthy rather than the poor and that we are supposed to know “the drill”, which is “Wake Up! Speak

Up! Act Up!” She also thinks that “Basic Income could present a significant threat to the welfare state!”

Here is the problem with “the left”, from the politicians, to labour, to the revolutionaries; Basic Income is totally outside their way of framing reality. They cannot fathom that the “welfare state” is not something beneficial to poor people, who usually do not see it as such. It is still a hierarchical social order that makes most people “job takers, wage takers, and order takers”.

Widerquist in his own presentation said that what people want is to not have to take orders from other people. He blamed the left for the development of neo-liberalism in the past 30years. In the 1970s the conservatives were actually willing to consider reforms. There was a movement for a Guaranteed Income and it came close to reality. It was the left which undermined it; were more concerned with holding onto what they had already created.

**The issues**

Other presenters broke with “left” orthodoxy. One described Basic Income as the keystone of a new social order. Others talked about it being a super strike fund for labour. Others **said it could provide the capital** to start up many types of cooperatives, which are difficult to get going at present.

This was not a true conference, but a “work shop” type event with speakers presenting concurrently in different rooms. It was hard to decide which ones to attend. There was so much of interest that it was a bit overwhelming; hard to absorb it all.

Evelyn Forget spoke about the Manitoba Mincome experiment of the 1970s, which showed the beneficial effects of a Basic Income, even if it was only applied for a short time. We had a few possible Basic Income plans costed out. Charles Karelis discussed his research on **incentive systems**, and why the incentives that work for the well off do not work for people caught in poverty.

In and around this swirled the debates

within the Basic Income community. Trish Hennessey said that it is a mistake to talk about the costs of BI until it has been “sold”. Other people **said that the first thing “government people”** ask about a BI scheme is the cost.

Some people talked about financing a BI with a flat tax on the first penny of earned income. Other people found even the phrase “earned income” offensive. The idea that somebody getting a BI, set at what the welfare rate is now, then having to pay the same tax as a millionaire on whatever they make over that, was offensive. A flat tax is a common ploy of “kill government” types to hammer down state revenues.

**A new world**

Some complained that even some proponents of BI talked about poverty as if it **were a moral failing rather than a shortage** of money. Anyone holding such a view kept quiet at this forum. Once the idea is accepted that survival must be separated from “work”, a new world opens up and was on display at the BICN conference; a wealth of new concepts and possibilities.

These presentations are to be posted on BICN’s web site. This will take work, with few people to do it, therefore time. But when it is up it will be a great resource for people wanting to know how to really end poverty. Here are the most useful links on the web right now, about a Basic Income;

<http://binews.org/>} Basic Income News, the new project of BIEN.  
<http://biencanada.ca/>} The web site of BICN.  
<http://www.usbig.net/index.php>} The web-site of USBIG  
<http://www.livableincome.org/>} The web site of the Livable Income For Everyone (LIFE) group based in Victoria BC.

Tim Rourke is originally from Alberta, now living on a disability pension in Toronto. His personal web site is <http://www.citizensincome.ca/> and twitter page is [https://twitter.com/#!/yaxl\\_to](https://twitter.com/#!/yaxl_to)

## Provincial and federal New Democrats call for united action on the environment

**VICTORIA—** BC New Democrat environment critic Rob Fleming, and Canada’s New Democrat environment critic Megan Leslie, are underlining the risks to BC’s environment caused by major cuts to federal environmental protection agencies and changes to federal environmental laws.

Fleming, the MLA for Victoria-Swan Lake, criticized the BC Liberals for cheer-leading the Harper government’s plan to dismantle the federal environmental assessment process.

“British Columbians are being asked to consider oil pipelines and the lifting of a 40-year moratorium on super-tanker traffic within BC’s north coast. These are projects that carry huge environmental risks coming forward at the very same time the federal government is slashing environmental protections we expect as Canadians,” said Fleming.

“Yet, instead of standing up for our province, the BC Liberals won’t even speak out against federal Conservative plans to shut down BC’s oil spill response centre and move it thousands of kilometres from the Pacific coast to Montreal.”

“April 20 marks the second anniversary of the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico,” said Leslie, the MP for Halifax and deputy leader.

“It’s a stark reminder of the devastation caused by oil spills. We could have learned from that disaster, but instead Stephen Harper’s government is severely gutting environmental protection. After imposing

deep cuts on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, they’re now saddling it with the obligation to do more complex reviews, faster, and with fewer resources. It’s irresponsible.”

In addition to plans to introduce arbitrary timelines to the federal environmental assessment process, the Harper government is also going to opt out of most assessments, leaving the provinces to fill the gaps. Fleming says given the track record of the BC Liberal government on recent joint federal-provincial environmental assessments, this is bad news for BC’s environment.

“The BC Liberals gave a green light to the Fish Lake-Prosperity mine. This clearly exposed BC’s lack of equivalency with the federal process and the science as we saw the federal rejection of the mine proposal for unacceptable destruction of an entire ecosystem,” said Fleming.

In addition to their plans to change the way environmental assessments are done, the Harper government wants to cut \$88.2 million from Environment Canada’s budget by 2015, while also cutting \$108.3 million from Natural Resources Canada by 2015.

“Major industrial projects take time, and with good reason,” said Leslie. “They are complex and have big impacts on our communities and our environment. We only get one chance to do them right, and if we rush these projects, Canadians will bear the risk.”

You are invited to  
Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca’s

Supporter Appreciation Barbecue  
2012

Sunday, July 15, 2-5 p.m., at Jo and Frank Mitchell's home  
530 Witty Beach Road, Metchosin  
Directions: turn off Metchosin Road onto Witty Beach Road, watch for Randall Garrison sign

Admission by donation (suggested donation \$20)

For more information and to RSVP:  
Jock Bates 250-478-9735  
Jennifer Burgis 250-881-8280  
esquimaltjdf@gmail.com

Community Forum  
sponsored by  
the Cowichan Valley NDP Constituency

Special Guest Speaker  
Alexandra Morton  
salmonaresacred.org

Saturday June 23, from 2-4 pm  
Duncan United Church, 246 Ingram Street

Everyone Welcome



# Engaged communities like Victoria are the key

By Denise Savoie

In the past few months, the role of my caucus colleagues and me as Canada's Official Opposition has taken on perhaps the greatest importance, and the greatest challenge, of any previous federal opposition party. As Thomas Mulcair said in a recent speech to the Canadian Association of Journalists (CAJ), the current Conservative government is unlike any we have ever seen and has distinguished itself by an unprecedented lack of transparency and accountability.

This spring, we ended the session in the House of Commons with a federal budget. Instead of being an open account of the government's proposed expenditures, it was a sweeping policy document, touching virtually every aspect of Canadian life, revealing a government propelled by corporate interests and leaving the public interest in its wake.

Policy shifts in this bill steer us towards a secretive, deregulated Canada that guts our environmental assessment regime, cripples Statistics Canada and eliminates the powers of the Auditor General to audit government performance in important areas such as food safety, environmental protection and research that is key to our country's future.

Eliminating laws or reducing those agencies that provide Canadians with information about how their government is performing appear to be part of a deliberate strategy to silence the government's critics inside and outside Parliament.

The government's efforts to stifle debate in Parliament have become commonplace: by misrepresenting the true cost of the F-35 fighter jets; refusing to disclose accurate costs of the crime bill or the amount the Conservatives expect to save by extending the minimum age to receive Old Age Security; eliminating the obligation to report changing levels of greenhouse gas emissions to Canadians; or by muzzling scientists working for government.

Dramatic cuts to Statistics Canada (affecting nearly half of its 5,700 staff), will eliminate data collection that was highly valued because it was non-partisan and objective. This loss of objective information will result in government, financial, social and business investment policy developed on ideological whims rather than evidence. Deregulation will increasingly leave it to the corporate sector to monitor itself, and to volunteers to preserve the foundations

of our caring society and our environment.

Our government refuses to engage in critical debate about housing, inequality or poverty. In May, the government criticized the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food for reporting what he saw: that too many Canadians (including one in 10 families with children under six) cannot afford healthy food and that Canada needs a national right to food strategy.

I rarely engage in such a critical commentary but what I see concerns me so much that I am reporting what I have observed so that you can raise your voice. I would like to quote a passage from a book entitled *Ill Fares the Land* by Tony Judt, who has also observed the kinds of government policy I describe. He suggests why this may be happening and what we must do about it:

"For 30 years we have made virtue out of the pursuit of material self-interest: indeed, this very pursuit now constitutes whatever remains of our sense of collective purpose... We no longer ask of a law: is it good? Is it fair? Is it just? Is it right? Will it help bring about a better society or a better world? Those used to be THE political questions even if they invited no easy answers. We must learn once again to pose them."

I would like you to know that those ARE the questions that the Official Opposition has raised in the House of Commons in the course of the last session and we have succeeded in engaging thousands of Canadians from coast to coast to coast to take back their government.

I have faith in the ability of Canadians to unite towards a common goal not limited to material pursuit and to rise above the government's divisive politics of east versus west, urban versus rural, environment versus economic interests. I write this to you now because my time in Victoria reminds me that the greatest hope for change lies in our communities.

My New Democrat colleagues and I want to ensure that Parliament is taken out of the hands of large corporations and returned to Canadians. What I am most proud about in Tom Mulcair, the new NDP leader, is his commitment to ensure that under his leadership all MPs will serve the public interest. We will work to create the best economic conditions that will enable all Canadians to prosper without leaving our children to cope with a devalued environment and glaring social inequalities.



NDP Deputy Leader Megan Leslie, MP for Halifax (l) is joined by Victoria-Swan Lake NDP MLA Rob Fleming and Victoria NDP MP Denise Savoie at the Victoria federal NDP AGM. Leslie was guest speaker at the April 21 event. Photo by Tony Sprackett

## NDP deputy leader speaks to 2012 Victoria Federal NDP AGM

By Erik Kaye

Victoria federal New Democrats heard from two inspiring speakers and elected a renewed executive team at their 2012 Annual General Meeting, held Saturday, April 21, at the Oaklands Community Centre. A good-sized crowd of committed NDP members attended.

Members reflected on an eventful and difficult year since their last AGM, beginning with Denise Savoie's re-election for a 3<sup>rd</sup> term as Victoria NDP MP last May with the Orange Crush breakthrough, through Jack Layton's untimely death in August, and the intense leadership race leading up to Thomas Mulcair's election as leader of Canada's New Democrats on March 24, 2012.

Despite the ups and downs, the Victoria federal NDP was reported to have emerged from this period with an expanded membership base, a strong financial position and renewed momentum to work towards winning government in the 2015 federal election.

Victoria MP **Denise Savoie** emphasized that the NDP needs to defeat the Harper government in the next election. Conservatives are showing disrespect for democratic institutions and parliamentary accountability, e.g. Wheat Board, Rights and Democracy, Katimavik, court rulings, F-35 purchase and Auditor General. There is a lack of transparency and of respect for those who disagree with government policy.

In her role as Deputy Speaker in the House, Savoie moderates debates, consults with Speaker, works on the parliamentary committee. Her position precludes her having a portfolio and getting up and speaking in debates, but she can make statements and present petitions. Private members' bills that she once brought forward have now been passed on to MPs with the related portfolios.

Savoie told the crowd it was a difficult year with the death of Jack Layton, but said that Nycole Turmel did a fantastic job keeping the team together as Interim Leader. She illustrated caucus cohesion by describing an event from when Jack was still in the House, after the last election: when postal workers were ordered back to work, NDP MPs spoke in the House all night; everyone was there for the vote and all the caucus applauded during MPs voting.

Although she supported another candidate as her first choice, Savoie thinks Mulcair is doing a great job as leader. In Question Period, she noticed Harper showed discomfort with Mulcair's questions, which is something he hasn't shown for a while.

Savoie recognized Donna Forbes and Darcy Lindbergh, who were attending the AGM, for their work in the constituency office. She also noted local events in the past year: the community service fair; the crime bill forum; International Women's Day.

Guest speaker at the AGM was Megan Leslie, MP for Halifax, Environment Critic and new deputy federal leader. When she was first elected in 2008 at age 36, Leslie was one of the youngest MPs in the House. Now the caucus has many MPs in their 20s. But, she reported, there are more women in caucus now than the total number of NDP MPs before 2011. For the first time, the NDP has a truly bilingual caucus, with diverse backgrounds that represent all facets of Canadian society.

Leslie spoke about the Harper government's "pipeline budget", based on unlimited resource extraction, no money for energy efficiency; science and research organizations cancelled; the gutting of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Conservative approach, she said, is to try to eliminate dissent, demonizing critics and using the politics of division.

Leslie stressed the need to work at the grassroots and reach and inform Canadians outside BC, telling the truth about our communities. "You can never go too far by telling the truth," she concluded.

Elected to the 2012/13 Victoria NDP federal executive were: president, Erik Kaye; vice-president, Kelly Newhook; treasurer, Tony Sprackett; secretary, Shannon Ash; and members at large: Rick Infanti, Erin Wilson, Donna Forbes, Diane McNally, Logan Richards, Jim Harvey, Carol Judd, Tamara Malczewska and Dan Pollock.

Erik Kaye is the president of the Victoria Federal NDP Association.

The Victoria federal NDP can be contacted at [www.victoriandp.ca](http://www.victoriandp.ca), email [president@victoriandp.ca](mailto:president@victoriandp.ca) or call 250-382-4370.

### Victoria Federal NDP

Box 5380, LCD #9  
Victoria, BC V8R 6S4

**President: Erik Kaye**

Website: <http://victoriandp.ca/>  
Email: [president@victoriandp.ca](mailto:president@victoriandp.ca)  
Phone: 250-382-4370



### Denise Savoie

Member of Parliament for Victoria

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE:  
970 Blanshard Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 2H3

TELEPHONE: 250-363-3600

E-MAIL: [denise.savoie@parl.gc.ca](mailto:denise.savoie@parl.gc.ca)

ON THE WEB: [www.denisesavoie.ca](http://www.denisesavoie.ca)

*Your voice in Ottawa*

## New EI restrictions leave more unemployed out in the cold

OTTAWA – The May 24 announcement to further restrict EI qualifications is just another example of bad news for Canadians hidden within the Conservatives' Trojan Horse budget bill, according to the NDP.

"The Minister has failed the most basic test of accountability when it comes to these new restrictions," said New Democrat Finance Critic Peggy Nash. "Conservative ministers have been making up a different story every day and are simply mismanaging Employment Insurance. They didn't even bother to consult Canadians, or the provinces, before announcing these arbitrary

changes."

The changes will mean fewer people than ever will qualify for EI, more forced into lower wage jobs and others thrown onto provincial welfare. Additionally, the minister still refuses to explain the changes, including what she means by "suitable employment".

"This government forgets that EI belongs to the employees and employers who paid into it, not to the Conservatives," said NDP Employment Insurance critic Anne-Marie Day. "At the end of the day, the same minister who accused unemployed Canadians

**See New EI restrictions, on page 9**





Nanaimo-Cowichan MP Jean Crowder (l) takes part in an Earth Day celebration, held in Duncan April 21.

## Bill C-33 is like a Trojan horse, affecting 70 different pieces of legislation

By Jean Crowder

Parliamentarians are supposed to be the guardians of the public purse.

Bill C-38, the budget implementation bill, makes that impossible.

It changes nearly 70 different pieces of legislation. When NDP MPs ask how much changes will cost, Conservative Ministers say that the changes will be made through regulation after the legislation passes. So there is no way of judging now whether or not the changes will cost us more or not.

Like a Trojan horse, it is hard to know what is hidden inside. But some aspects of Bill C-38 are already clear.

It will change Canada's environment assessment process for big energy projects—leaving our air, land and water exposed and at risk. The bill dismantles the Canadian *Environmental Assessment Act*, the legislation many Canadians counted on to protect our wild areas and our own neighbourhoods from harmful development.

The budget bill will repeal the *Kyoto Protocol Implementation Act* and Canada will no longer have any internationally agreed-to targets for reducing greenhouse gases.

It limits which concerned citizens can appear at assessments of major projects like the Enbridge pipeline – ignoring our democratic right to have input into the socio-economic and environmental effects of these projects.

The Conservatives plan to download responsibility for most environmental assessments to provinces even though their responsibilities do not include the federal ones like examining the cumulative effects of a project or series of projects on an area.

Pipeline projects may get final go ahead from Conservative cabinet ministers—regardless of the environmental impacts.

New Democrats are hearing grave concerns from outdoors enthusiasts, fishers and First Nations. Instead of protecting our fisheries and other resources, the government is opening doors to big energy projects that threaten their livelihoods.

Bill C-38 changes habitat protection from the *Fisheries Act* and limits protections to those species harvested by commercial, recreational or Aboriginal fisheries rather than all fish and all fish habitat.

It will also limit the waterways protected by the *Species at Risk Act* and the *Fisher-*

### New EI restrictions, from page 8

of wanting to stay on EI because its 'lucrative' is now saying: just trust me. Canadians don't trust Conservatives to manage EI in a balanced way."

The new EI restrictions come just a day after Canadians learned that the Human Resources Minister is refusing to provide Statistics Canada with key data about unemployment and EI effectiveness.

"With less data, it will be even harder for us to know the actual impact of these changes. And the Conservatives' Trojan Horse Budget bill gives substantial new powers to the minister to arbitrarily change EI rules in the future," said Nash. "It's simply appalling to sneak these changes through in a budget bill."

ies Act.

Even health care takes a hit in this budget.

The budget bill will shortchange cash-strapped provinces of expected health transfers by \$31 billion.

It is going to end vital Auditor General oversight of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and pave the way for private contractors to perform food safety inspections.

That last point is of great concern because the government also announced that it would allow slaughterhouses to butcher animals that have died before they reach the facility as long as a private inspector checks out the carcass ahead of time.

I have already heard from many of my own constituents in Nanaimo-Cowichan that they feel betrayed by the decision that Canadians must work two years longer, to age 67, to qualify for Old Age Security.

For many of my constituents, especially those who worked in heavy industry or other physically taxing jobs, working another two years isn't possible.

The Conservatives also plan to cut workers off Employment Insurance if they don't take any job the Minister of Human Resources deems "suitable" but they cannot or will not tell Canadians what suitable employment will mean.

They will also repeal the *Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act*, turning the clock back on labour law, as well as removing federal contractors from the protection of *The Employment Equity Act*.

And the Conservatives plan to weaken the structures that hold government accountable to citizens.

Bill C-38 reduces the Auditor General's powers to hold government accountable to Canadians by reducing the number of areas he can investigate.

It also removes independent oversight from 12 key government agencies—including the Northern Pipeline Agency, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the Canada Revenue Agency.

Organizations that produce independent policy research—including Rights & Democracy, the National Council of Welfare, and the First Nations Statistical Institute all had their funding cut.

And the Conservatives are backing away from a key promise they made to ensure accountability in government and dissolving the Public Appointments Commission designed to ensure key positions are assigned based on merit instead of insider connections.

And this is only part of the many changes government is shirking its responsibility for by not allowing appropriate consideration of this bill.

Don't let the Conservatives sneak these changes through. Visit <http://budget2012.ndp.ca/> and let us hear your story. Or email the prime minister directly at [pm@parl.gc.ca](mailto:pm@parl.gc.ca) and let him know you oppose these changes.

Jean Crowder is Member of Parliament for Nanaimo-Cowichan.

## Taking on the additional role of Public Safety Critic

By Randall Garrison

The NDP is entering an exciting new chapter. After an invigorating leadership race that saw a record number of Canadians flock to our party, Tom Mulcair was elected leader of the Official Opposition—and leader of Canada's New Democrats.

In the shadow cabinet shuffle that happens after every new leader is elected, I was honoured to be named the Public Safety critic.

This new critic portfolio offers many new opportunities to hold the Conservative government to account and to influence decisions so they truly make our country safe while spending your money wisely.

I also proudly retain my role and ongoing working files as Critic for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, TransGendered and Queer issues.

Public Safety includes a variety of services including policing, corrections, border safety, national security and Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). With my background as a criminal justice instructor for 20 years and my time spent on the Esquimalt Police Board, I am ready to present a new vision for Public Safety in Canada – one ensuring that no one is left behind and our streets are kept safe.

In their first year, it has become clear that the Conservatives do not understand how to prevent crime and protect victims. They introduced massive legislative changes which will increase the prison population while at the same time they cut the Public Safety budget by 10 per cent.

The NDP is committed to finding cost-effective measures that are squarely focused on crime prevention and ultimately community safety. Our priority should be a well managed corrections system that can deliver effective rehabilitation programs so that when prisoners are released they are less likely to reoffend.

The Conservative government is also neglecting its duties in the area of civilian oversight of CSIS with their recent decision to eliminate the Inspector General for CSIS. This is the public servant who is meant to be the eyes and ears for the Public Safety Minister ensuring that CSIS operates within the law and its own operational policies. The Minister said that the Inspector General's duties would be transferred to the part-time Security Intelligence Review Committee. Yet this comes as a complete surprise to everyone, with no apparent planning, and at the same time as the government has failed to appoint a permanent chair for SIRC for months. This is just another case of the Conservative government abdicating its responsibilities for civilian oversight.

The Conservative government has also eliminated two significant pieces of emergency preparedness declaring them "beyond the government's core business areas".

Effective immediately the Emergency Management College in Ottawa will no longer be funded to provide courses and training. It was the only institution providing such training at the national

level. This decision will result in a lack of training for emergency preparedness staff and volunteers at the provincial and municipal level.

The government has also ended all funding to the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program which provided grants for training local volunteers, funding for training in urban search and rescue, and funding for critical emergency preparedness infrastructure. This cut will download all the costs of emergency planning onto provinces and municipalities. This is yet another reckless cut by the Conservative government which threatens public safety.

New Democrats are as strong and united as ever. We're ready to take on Stephen Harper—and win. We're ready to form a government that is competent, responsible and puts the public interest first. With our new leader and my new critic role we are ready to get the job done.

### Ron reviews:

**INVISIBLE NO MORE**, by V. Pietropaglo, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY PRESS

Photographer/author Pietropaglo has created a moving photo chronicle of 100 images and 30 evocative stories of people with intellectual disabilities.

Trial lawyers will find in this text demonstrative evidence of the effects of brain damage. All readers will be struck by the adaptations that make life liveable and even joyful for the victims.

--Ron MacIsaac



We're building our Facebook Timeline and we need YOUR help

If you have images that you've taken over the years at Saanich-Gulf Islands New Democrat functions, parades, rallies, or campaigns, we would love to include them in our social media story.

**PLEASE GET IN TOUCH!**

**Saanich Gulf-Islands NDP**

[ndpsaanichgulfislands@gmail.com](mailto:ndpsaanichgulfislands@gmail.com)  
[www.saanichgulfislandsndp.ca](http://www.saanichgulfislandsndp.ca)



### Randall Garrison, MP ESQUIMALT-JUAN DE FUCA

We're here to help constituents with Federal government programs and services.

ADDRESS: A2-100 Aldersmith Place  
Victoria V9A 7M8

HOURS: 10am-4pm, Monday-Thursday  
or by appointment

PHONE: 250-405-6550

EMAIL: [Randall.Garrison@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Randall.Garrison@parl.gc.ca)

FAX: 250-405-6554

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

[www.randallgarrison.ndp.ca](http://www.randallgarrison.ndp.ca)



# MLA tells of busy spring in legislature and constituency

By Carole James

It's been a busy spring in Victoria-Beacon Hill. I've enjoyed meeting many constituents, and seeing firsthand some of the excellent work of organizations in our community.

My federal and provincial colleagues and I spent a day each at the University of Victoria and Camosun Landsdowne campuses, speaking to students about the work of constituency offices, and how we can assist citizens to access and navigate government programs. We spoke with students about student loans, voting away from home, working and studying abroad, and tenancy and employment issues, among other topics.

During Volunteer Week, I visited some of the many outstanding helpers at Our Place, and thanked them for the important work they do day in and day out. On Earth Day, I joined with other local MLAs and MPs on the lawn at the Legislature to promote conservation and concern for our fragile environment.

Earlier in May, I had the great pleasure of meeting Janine Annett, a remarkable grade nine student from Campbell River. Janine walked the length of Vancouver Island, from Port Hardy to Victoria, to raise awareness and money for child poverty locally and globally, one step at a time.

My colleague, MLA Claire Trevena and I met Janine on the steps of the Legislature on May 3, the conclusion of her remarkable journey. What an inspiration. Well done, Janine!

I was also inspired by the grade four and five students at Sir James Douglas Elementary when I visited them on May 11. They asked excellent questions about the provincial government and the role of an MLA.

It's been a hectic spring at the Legislature, too. I worked with Esquimalt-Royal

Roads MLA Maurine Karagianis to help her constituent, Sharen (Jolayne) Gammon, get nutritional supplements from the Ministry of Social Development to aid her in her fight with both blood and breast cancer. We raised the issue repeatedly with the government, and as public pressure built, the Ministry finally relented and agreed to cover most of the cost of the supplement for Ms. Gammon.

It was my great pleasure to present statements in the Legislature highlighting some exceptional individuals and organizations in our province. I've appreciated the opportunity to talk about the mill fire in Burns Lake, Black History Month, community leader Naz Rayani, Social Work Week, First Voices, Daffodil Month, the Downtown Victoria Business Association's reCYCLISTS program, and the Victoria Foundation's Vital Youth Program.

On Sunday, May 27 I participated once again at the World Partnership Walk at Beacon Hill Park. It is Canada's largest annual event dedicated to raising funds and awareness to fight global poverty, held in 10 cities across Canada.

MLA Over the summer and fall, I will be hosting open houses in various neighbourhoods around Victoria-Beacon Hill. Please watch for notices in your area.

I feel honoured to represent our community and each and every day in my work I am reminded of the many people and organizations who make it such a wonderful place to live.

Carole James is MLA for Victoria-Beacon Hill.

## The underlying social contract...

*There is nobody in this country who got rich on his own. Nobody. You built a factory out there -- good for you.*

*But I want to be clear. You moved your goods to market on the roads the rest of us paid for. You hired workers the rest of us paid to educate. You were safe in your factory because of police forces and fire forces that the rest of us paid for. You didn't have to worry that marauding bands would come and seize everything at your factory... You built a factory, and it turned into something terrific or a great idea. God bless, keep a big hunk of it.*

*But part of the underlying social contract is you take a hunk of that and pay forward for the next kid who comes along.*

--Elizabeth Warren, candidate for US Senator in Massachusetts, USA.

# BC Hydro losing \$180 million to private power contracts this spring

**VICTORIA** – BC Liberal energy policies that forced BC Hydro to sign lucrative contracts with private-sector power producers will result in losses of \$180 million during the spring melt season, says New Democrat energy critic John Horgan, MLA for Juan de Fuca.

Horgan highlighted a submission from BC Hydro to the BC Utilities Commission outlining the cost of independent power production compared to the value of the electricity on the open market.

"These documents lay out in black and white what the opposition and others concerned with the Liberals' private power agenda have been saying for years. The contracts the Liberals sought with IPPs are expensive, unnecessary, and outrageous," said Horgan.

The document shows BC Hydro will purchase 802 GWh in April 2012, 1,018 GWh in May, and 1,087 GWh in June from IPPs at an average cost of about \$68/MWh. During the same three-month period, the average price to purchase power on the open market is approximately \$10.

"We're buying at \$68 when the electricity is only worth \$10. With the massive volume

of electricity we're buying at those prices, it adds up to about \$180 million that BC Hydro is overpaying in just a three month period," said Horgan.

Horgan raised the issue in question period May 17 while continuing to draw attention to the fact that on May 9, BC Hydro had to spill water over the publicly owned Peace Canyon dam because there was a glut of electricity in the system.

"BC Hydro had no choice but to spill more than 800 million cubic feet of water over the dam because they had to fulfill the contracts with private producers.

"This is exactly the situation Adrian Dix and BC's New Democrats have been raising for many years. The Liberals are putting their friends' business interests ahead of the public interest. The result is rate increases of 36 per cent over five years, with more to come," said Horgan.

Adrian Dix and BC's New Democrats are committed to restoring the regulatory role of the BC Utilities Commission, putting a moratorium on signing any further independent power contracts, and reviewing existing contracts to determine whether they are in the public interest.

# Cosmetic pesticide report fails to advance health and environmental protections

## Premier breaks her promise for bi-partisan cooperation on a ban

**VICTORIA** – The recommendations of the Special Committee on Cosmetic Pesticides fail to address the environmental and human health concerns of British Columbians and do not live up to the commitments of the premier, says New Democrat environment critic Rob Fleming.

"New Democrats are profoundly disappointed in the outcome of this process," said Fleming, who served as the deputy chair of the committee which began meeting in June 2011. "Instead of making good on the premier's repeated promise to ban cosmetic pesticides, the Liberals have brought in minimal regulatory changes."

"Unfortunately, despite the fact that it's the right thing to do and has overwhelming support from British Columbians, the government majority on the committee has chosen to bring in status quo recommendations instead of advancing protections that 22 million Canadians in six provinces currently enjoy," said Fleming.

Noting that the Liberals simply tabled the report, without an accompanying motion to adopt which would allow debate in the legislature, Fleming said that it does a great disservice to the 8,700 British Columbians who participated in the process.

"We had an unprecedented level of public interest and participation for a legislative committee, reflecting a widespread consensus among the public and scientific community that the cosmetic use of pesti-

cides poses an unnecessary health risk to children, pets and our water supply," said Fleming. "There are viable non-synthetic alternatives that are already available and the associated health risks of cosmetic pesticides warrants government action to reduce everyday exposure to toxins that are potentially harmful and easily misused."

Fleming noted that a patchwork of BC local government bylaws currently exist throughout the province with 2.6 million residents living in cosmetic pesticide-free municipalities. A number of other Canadian jurisdictions have bans or strict regulations in place, with Newfoundland and Labrador joining other provinces with bans during the time BC's committee met and deliberated.

A ban on cosmetic pesticides has been urged by the Canadian Cancer Society, the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, Toxic Free Canada, the David Suzuki Foundation, and the Union of BC Municipalities.

"After almost a year of Special Committee meetings, the Liberal majority on the committee has recommended BC remain with weaker regulations than most other provinces have in place."

Since 2009, Adrian Dix and the New Democrats have introduced legislation on three occasions calling for a ban on the unnecessary use of toxic pesticides on lawns and in other places where children play.

# NDP questions government over scrapping of TaxiSaver program

**VICTORIA** – New Democrats took the Liberal government to task on the decision by TransLink to cut the TaxiSaver program in Metro Vancouver which will affect seniors and people with disabilities who rely on the service for essential transportation needs. The TaxiSaver program allows registered HandyDART users to obtain coupons which provide them a 50% discount on taxis.

New Democrat transportation critic Harry Bains, MLA for Surrey-Newton, raised the issue in the BC legislature in mid May in response to TransLink's announcement that it will phase out its TaxiSaver program, which has been in place for more than 20 years.

"The TaxiSaver program and the HandyDART service allow people with disabilities to get around. Even before this announcement, people with disabilities and advocacy groups were on record saying they were experiencing long waits for rides to things like attending medical appointments and fulfilling their daily needs."

Bains said government must advocate to protect the TaxiSaver program, along with improving the HandyDART service to meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable members of our society. He asked the government to take action to ensure people with mobility problems are not prevented from traveling due to cuts to the program.

Katrine Conroy, New Democrat senior's critic, and MLA for Kootenay West, questioned the government's decision to allow this valuable program to be scrapped when it means so much to seniors and people with disabilities.


"Minister Lekstrom must take specific action to stop the cuts to TaxiSaver," said Conroy.

*"Only the winners decide what were war crimes."*  
-- Gary Wills

Proudly  
Representing Esquimalt  
**Maurine Karagianis, MLA**  
Esquimalt-Royal Roads

**250 479 8326**  
[maurine.karagianis.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:maurine.karagianis.mla@leg.bc.ca)  
[www.maurinekaragianis.ca](http://www.maurinekaragianis.ca)





**Bill Routley, MLA  
Cowichan Valley**

**Community Office Hours**  
**Tuesday to Friday**  
**10:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**273 Trunk Road Duncan**

**Phone 250-715-0127**  
**Fax: 250-715-0139**  
**Email: [bill.routley.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:bill.routley.mla@leg.bc.ca)**  
**[www.billroutley.com](http://www.billroutley.com)**  
**Mailing Address:**  
**PO Box 599 Duncan, BC V9L 3X9**

**Carole James, MLA**  
Victoria-Beacon Hill

1084 Fort Street  
Victoria, BC V8V 3K4  
Phone: 250.952.4211  
Fax: 250.952.4586  
Email: [carole.james.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:carole.james.mla@leg.bc.ca)  
[www.carolejamesmla.ca](http://www.carolejamesmla.ca)



Here to serve you at my Community Office



## Victoria Council asks for CETA Exemption

By Marianne Alto

Canada and the European Union are negotiating a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) that undermines local government decision-making. The European Union is seeking unobstructed access to procurement (public spending) by municipalities, which would reduce the capacity of local government to hire or buy locally and to use public spending as a tool for local economic development. For the first time in international trade agreements, water rights are explicitly a component of the CETA.

In response to this potential incursion into local authority, a growing number of municipalities across Canada are passing resolutions asking that local governments be excluded from the CETA. Victoria has joined that group, expressing its serious concerns that CETA will interfere with its ability to make local decisions about local purchasing for the benefit of Victoria residents.

Councillor Marianne Alto has been monitoring the progress of the CETA negotiations since last summer, participating in a panel last fall with Council of Canadians' Maude Barlow and CUPE National President Barry O'Neil. As the author of Victoria's policy on the human right to, and public ownership of, water (which resulted in Victoria being designated a "Blue Community", just the second city in Canada so named), Alto was particularly troubled at the possibility that private control of water could be on the table.

While hopeful that the federal government could be persuaded to stop negotiating behind closed doors and open up the process to public and municipal scrutiny, Alto finally had to admit that, with federal Conservative MPs sent out on a cross-Canada tour to sell CETA, and CETA's ratification apparently looming, there remained little choice but to demand an exemption for Victoria, before the application of the agreement confined Victoria's decision-making capacity.

Victoria City Council recently approved Alto's Motion, the text of which follows.

**Canada – European Union Comprehensive Trade Agreement and its Impact on the City of Victoria**  
WHEREAS the Canadian government will soon conclude negotiations with the European Union (EU) on a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA); and

WHEREAS the City of Victoria recognizes the importance of trade to local, provincial, territorial and national economies; and

WHEREAS, as an integral part of the CETA, the EU is requiring full access to municipal procurement; and

WHEREAS the CETA would increase municipal administrative costs by requiring additional reporting and contract management; and

WHEREAS the CETA, unlike previous international trade agreements, explicitly includes access to water rights and services; and

WHEREAS disputes by private firms against local policy decisions could be taken before private trade tribunals that lack transparency and have the authority to impose fines; and

WHEREAS these and other clauses of the CETA diminish the capacity of local government to hire or buy locally so as to use public spending as a tool for local economic development; and

WHEREAS the CETA will thus limit the powers of local governments to act in the best interest of its residents; and

WHEREAS it is not the international norm for municipal governments to be covered by procurement agreements such as the one proposed in the CETA; and

WHEREAS the federation of Canadian Municipalities has recently secured Federal Government support for seven fair trade principles; therefore

BE IT THUS RESOLVED THAT

1. City Council ask the Province of British Columbia for a clear, permanent exemption for the City of Victoria from the Canada-European Union (EU) Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA); and

2. City Council ask the Federal Government to protect the autonomous powers of the City of Victoria - to create local jobs, protect the environment, and provide services and programs as it sees fit - from any restrictions to those powers in the CETA; and

3. City Council ask the Federal Government to further exempt from the CETA any municipality that so requests; and

4. City Council encourage and support the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in its work with the Federal Government to change the terms of the draft CETA to protect the autonomy of municipal governments.

The motion was moved by Councillor Marianne Alto.

## Home heating oil tanks – prevention: key to eliminating oil spills

By Vicki Sanders

Thousands of underground, above-ground and basement heating oil tanks reside in residential homes in the region. There are also many decommissioned oil tanks remaining in ground. Data is not readily available for a definitive number of tanks in Saanich. Each and every one of these tanks creates the potential of an oil spill.

Provincial legislation provides guidelines for removing, abandoning and temporality taking a residential oil tank out of service. Real estate purchases include the location of underground tanks and remediation of environmental contamination. Municipal regulations have installation requirements and permit requirements for removal. There are no requirements for maintenance or protection for the environment from an oil spill.

An abundance of information is available on spill response and cleanup but little if none on prevention.

In late 2011 a fuel oil tank spill caused catastrophic damage to the fish bearing Colquitz Creek. Since then there have been a number of smaller spills requiring remediation and hazmat clean up. Oil tank or fuel line failure results in oil travelling via perimeter drains into the natural watercourses causing impacts to fish mortality.

A fuel oil tank is a part of a home that homeowners give little thought to. The furnace is generally serviced annually to insure efficient operation of the heating of the home. Albeit of equal importance, the lowly oil tank resides in a corner of the basement or camouflaged behind a hedge

in the yard or even buried in the ground.

In recent years the focus has been on replacing old oil tanks with double walled tanks. A new oil tank and a regularly serviced furnace build an air of confidence that a potential oil leak has been averted. However the tank, like the furnace, is only part of the system. The furnace and oil tank are connected by a 3/8 inch fuel line. The fuel line is not encased in a protective sleeve as required with natural gas. The fuel line is vulnerable to being severed as in the case of the recent oil spills.

A simple oil spill can become a complicated remediation of damage to the home and environmental cleanup and restoration. Homeowners need to become better educated on the potential environmental and financial impacts of an oil spill. A little prevention could save homeowners thousands of dollars in cleanup costs and fines and help save local streams or shoreline from damage.

Prevention is the solution. Residents, oil and insurance companies and the municipality working together proactively can achieve the solution of prevention. Let's all be part of the solution.

I welcome your suggestions. If you have an oil tank I would like to hear from you. Please contact me, Councillor Vicki Sanders, by email at [vicki\\_sanders@telus.net](mailto:vicki_sanders@telus.net) or by phone at 250-592-0865.

For a Saaanich oil tank fact sheet, go to [www.saanich.ca/living/environment/pdf/otank.pdf](http://www.saanich.ca/living/environment/pdf/otank.pdf)

Vicki Sanders is a Saanich Councillor and chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee.

## Victoria Council demands security for national public pension system

By Marianne Alto

As Canada's population ages, municipalities, like Victoria, are also ageing. Canada's old age dependency ratio (the ratio of individuals aged 65 and over to those aged 18 to 64 years) is currently about 20%, and projected to increase to approximately 39% by 2036.

In other words, today there are 20 seniors for every 100 18-64 year-olds, but this will rise to nearly 40 seniors per 100 working-age individuals 25 years from now.

This swing toward a "bump" in seniors has far-reaching effects, some of which will extend to municipalities.

When the federal changed eligibility for the Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement, Victoria city councillor Marianne Alto was inspired to bring a motion before her colleagues that would call for the reinforcement and revitalization of Canada's federal pension system, as a way to ensure seniors' capacity to fully and securely engage in society.

Council approved the motion.

Generally, pension incomes are lower than average reported incomes, which will have an effect on municipal budgets as municipal population ages and residents' incomes shift from employment to pension income. This is true for Victoria, as it is for many cities across the country.

As a community, Victoria is rightly concerned about the capacity of this demographic to support itself, and to contribute to the economic and social vibrancy of the community. An adequate pension income would enable seniors' to remain animated participants in the local economy.

Improved CPP benefits for seniors would diminish the local fiscal burden stemming from an ageing population. Municipal governments are responsible for providing a very wide range of services to seniors (public transit, senior centres, libraries and cultural and recreation services, etc.).

The pressures on municipal budgets arising from population ageing could be reduced if future seniors had better pensions (and thus more disposable income) than they receive under current federal arrangements.

Increasing the incomes of poor seniors through an immediate 15% increase in the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) would have several benefits. Fewer seniors would retire into poverty -- public pensions are adjusted for inflation. Money put into the GIS would be spent locally by seniors for their essential needs.

Such direct spending into the local economy represents an important and effective form of economic stimulus at a time when it is badly needed. Seniors continue to be consumers and are an often overlooked economic driver.

Increased CPP benefits come at no extra cost to municipal governments that already have good pension plans, as has the City of Victoria. Most public sector plans are integrated with the CPP, so CPP benefits are included as part of the replacement income which the defined-benefit plan is designed to replace.

As the CPP is expanded, employer contributions to a plan could be scaled back as employees received a better benefit at lower cost from the CPP.

There would be no net increase in costs for most employers with existing plans.

Cities across Canada are expressing their concern about the inadequacy of the current pension system, and are speaking out to resist the downloading of costs that would come from a further deterioration of pension benefits and programs.

Victoria has joined those raised voices by asking for expansion of the public pension system, and a national dialogue on the future of this critical aspect of the social safety net. The full text of Councillor Alto's Motion follows.

### On Canada's Public Pension System

WHEREAS the Canadian economic downturn is putting the retirement security of many workers at risk; and

WHEREAS Canadian cities are directly affected as they provide many local social services and support programs for older workers and retirees; and

WHEREAS Victoria bears an increasing portion of the cost of providing such programs, as other levels of government "offload" program delivery without providing necessary associated funding or enabling new taxation authority; and

WHEREAS the economic downturn combined with an increased number of employer bankruptcies across various sectors have resulted in under-funded pension plans and the actual and potential loss of promised pension benefits; and

WHEREAS about one in four private sector workers belong to an employer pension plan and the remaining 3 out of 4 workers are relying more heavily on personal savings to provide for their retirement; and

WHEREAS the Canadian public pension system including Old Age Security (OAS), the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) and the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) remains viable but falls well short of replacing the 50% to 70% of pre-retirement income needed to maintain a decent standard of living;

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Victoria supports an expansion of Canada's public pension system, by and at the cost of the Federal Government and not municipalities, and asks the Federal Government to:

- increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) by 15%; and
- protect Canadian pension through a federal system of pension insurance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Victoria asks the federal government to hold a national public consultation on the issue of pensions and the expansion of the Canada Pension Plan.

Marianne Alto is a Victoria City councillor .

MLA Victoria-Swan Lake

Rob Fleming



Working for *you*

 1020 Hillside Avenue  
250.360.2023  
[rob.fleming.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:rob.fleming.mla@leg.bc.ca)  
[www.rob.fleming.mla.ca](http://www.rob.fleming.mla.ca)





John Horgan MLA Juan de Fuca

Our Office is Open to Serve You

800 Goldstream Ave, Victoria, V9B 2X7  
250.391.2801  
[john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca)  
[www.johnhorgan.com](http://www.johnhorgan.com)



# The budget depends on all of us

By Eden Haythornthwaite

This budget has been a long time coming. In order to properly and successfully respond to an increasingly intolerable situation, our board has chosen to design our 2012/2013 “Made in Cowichan” budget using the following guidelines:

- Our District Strategic Plan
- Past presentations from our partner groups during budgets
- Results of the recent Public Budget survey including comments and attached letters/reports
- Presentations and speakers at our Public Budget Consultation Meeting held March 28 2012.

We must support our Strategic Plan – a plan the previous board built to direct our district at the requirement of the Ministry – with a matching program of restoration over the three years of our current term. If we do not apply ourselves to meeting the obligations our Strategic Plan defines, we will be guilty of neglect. This is our job as community trustees in Cowichan and considering the mild demands our plan makes it is the least we can do.

Our partners have dutifully submitted their well documented concerns yearly at this time and as of the last budget our senior staff confirmed we had not been able to incorporate these insights into any of our budgeting decisions. This must change.

Our Public Budget Input Survey tells us that over 85% of those who responded felt they and/or their children had been affected by cuts as well as demonstrating the broadest areas affected were classroom learning conditions. Of over 500 surveys completed, over 66% came from parents.

Further, out of 15 presenters at the Public Budget Consultation Meeting , 12 called on trustees to stop the cuts agenda and stand up for funding from our province.

Wednesday May 2, our board in Cowichan worked through 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of our budget bylaw based on a draft sent forward from the Finance Committee who followed the direction of our board to design a restoration budget.

The programs and services we have built back into our model will require additional revenue of \$3.7 million. This amounts to \$462 per student in our district. Surely, our children are worth a further \$462, particularly when you view the value we are trying to return to our schools. This board has planned the budget with great thought and resolve – all steps have been put in place to meet the immediate obligations and protect the district in the event we do not achieve our goal of convincing the ministry to distribute the additional funds our schools require.

Our first and most uncomfortable task has been to find a means to address the \$2.5 million gap between what we get and what we need to maintain status quo operation. The revenue we receive from the province habitually fails to acknowledge and fund our rising labour settlement costs, salary differentials, downloaded provincial initiatives, real costs of delivering services to special needs students, fixed costs for maintenance, transportation and custodial and most critically years of inflation which have gone unrecognized in the formula and represents an almost 20% increase in our costs over the last decade.



Eden Haythornthwaite

In the four budgets including this one since 2009 we have endured over \$10.5 million in funding cuts. Nothing we have been forced to eliminate from our schools was or is dispensable.

We are hopeful our Ministry may now be willing to review this pattern. The proposed loss of over 17 FTE teachers as a means to find \$1.5 million is not anything to celebrate – it will impact our classrooms which are already in crisis. Which schools will lose teaching time? Which students can be placed in those classrooms without the necessary supports? Balancing a budget these days is not about having enough money – it is about further cuts and loss.

While we all recognize the unfortunate machinery which compels us to announce layoffs of our teachers in order to comply with the collective agreement and avoid larger layoffs in the fall should our board not meet the goal of negotiating more funds, we are resolved to retrieving additional revenue so we can rehire our teachers in order to maintain our SER.

Declining enrollment is the main argument used to justify the shortfalls we are experiencing. Indeed, we have fewer students now then we did 10 years ago. However if the reduction in funding corresponded solely with a drop in requirements due to fewer students we would not have seen the swift deterioration in our schools and in our classrooms – we would have what we need for the kids who are in our system. But we don't. We would have the services and programs we always did but truncated only to reflect fewer numbers. The question which we must ask is why should headcount funding result in fewer resources for the students who are still in our classrooms?

Restoration is our key concept. Our drive to restore highlights the viewpoint we are not seeking an elevation of our system beyond what we have enjoyed but the very things our students and employees have found necessary in the recent past and are now gone. We all remember them and we feel their absence keenly. We needed all these elements last year and we need them now. A few children one way or another does not reverse the need for our supports. We must focus on the children who are in our schools rather than basing our approach on the ones who are not.

We recognize there is no practical way to recover all we have lost after a decade of damage to our schools in one budget or indeed in three. But we must begin. We must endorse a multi-year plan to seek additional revenue to meet the following essential services, conditions and programs and we must do this now.

The list below details the many areas where we need to seek recovery in this year; most of this service deficit has been imposed by cuts over the last 3 years. We will be following up with a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year plan for restoring further programs and services.

#### Core Classroom Needs

- Add another 1.5 FTE Aboriginal Teachers positions out of core to replace the 1-31 funded positions as agreed for this year
- Return Student Educator Ratio (SER) to 16.8 ( 8.82 FTE) Hul'qu'minum language instruction ( 1.4 FTE)
- Establish funding for baseline staffing at our Small Secondary Schools (2.196 FTE)
- Establish funding for baseline staffing at our elementary schools (0.74 FTE)
- Establish funding to support classroom needs and supplies currently being downloaded on families and teachers
- Increase our EA positions to 32 hours per week to allow prep and conferencing/8.68 FTE this year (accomplished in full over three year plan)
- Adding more admin time to our P/V/P to enable us to hive off more teaching duties to teachers -- we believe all schools must have a fulltime principal who is not burdened with teaching duties (4.1 FTE).

#### Learning Supports

- Restore IBIT programs at Bonner, Mt Prevost and LCSS to levels which existed before cutting 2.17 FTE
- Restore the Technology Coordinator from .2 FTE to 1.0 FTE Restore Substance Intervention Program
- Increase Resource Teaching time to 1.0FTE per 15 students at the level 1,2 and 3 / 3.14 FTE in this year(accomplished in full over three year plan)
- Increase Learning Assistance FTE to a minimum of 1.0 in each school (accomplished in full over three year plan)
- Increase Teacher/Librarian time in each school to meet the standards of the CSLA Canadian School Library Association/ 3.01 FTE in this year (accomplished in full over three year plan)Increase LAP from 1.0 FTE to 2.0 FTE
- Add 1.0 FTE Elementary counseling position
- Increase OT to 1.0 FTE with subsequent review to add time as needed in following budgets

#### Facilities Stewardship

- As I have observed, this budget began with you, the families, the employees and the community members in Cowichan.
  - While it is the duty of our board to insist we receive the funds our schools need to give our kids and our employees quality learning and working conditions, we need your strong voices to carry this along.
  - If you are worried about our fate at the government's hands (so are we which is why we have been so careful) stand with us. If we are not alone, we can meet these very reasonable goals together.
- Please join us. For once there is a chance to do something different – and these days that is rare. So don't miss it.

Eden Haythornthwaite is chair of the Cowichan School Board. Readers can visit and read more of her blog at [www.sd79.bc.ca/wp/boe/](http://www.sd79.bc.ca/wp/boe/) or visit the Board's Face Book page, “The Budget Belongs to You”.



## Oak Bay-Gordon Head New Democrats

### Help us swing OBGH to the NDP and elect Jessica Van der Veen

Find us online: [www.obghnewdemocrats.ca](http://www.obghnewdemocrats.ca)  
or by email: [president@obghnewdemocrats.ca](mailto:president@obghnewdemocrats.ca)  
Contact us to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter!

## Keep in Touch with

### Victoria-Beacon Hill New Democrats

Find us at <http://vbhndp.bc.ca/>  
Friend our Victoria-Beacon Hill NDP Facebook Page  
Follow us on Twitter: @BeaconHillNDP  
Call us at 250-386-8497

## Victoria-Swan Lake New Democrats

### Stay in touch!

You can reach your executive  
by emailing President Darcy Lindberg at [darcy.lindberg@gmail.com](mailto:darcy.lindberg@gmail.com)  
or by writing to Box 282  
1681 Hillside Avenue, Victoria, BC V8T 2C1



# The ultimate degree of leglized bullying?

By Ed Deak

School bullying has been quite a bit in the news in the past few years, its growth constantly reported, in some cases resulting in the suicide of the young victims. Parents are no longer “kitchen slaves”, but out and away, creating wealth. There’s nobody the children could talk to, because there’s nobody at home. The authorities are wringing their hands, trying to use plays and persuasion to convince the kids involved that bullying is not a civilized thing to do but can easily end up in tragedies. Of course, their efforts not only may not worry, but may even amuse the perpetrators, while leaving lifelong scars on the lives of the victims’ parents and families, who apparently had no idea of what was going on. Which probably is the worst tragedy of them all. The dictionary definition of bullying by Funk & Wagnall is, “To intimidate or coerce by threats.” A bully is defined as “A swaggering, quarrelsome usually cowardly person who terrorizes weaker people.” I would guess that all dictionaries in all languages would have about the same

definition, but what do they all really say, or mean, when all the kids grow up with and can ever see is institutionalized violence ? During the years I’ve been researching the causes for history’s repetitious tragedies I have collected several hundred books, especially on the military side. If there is a single dominating thread in virtually all of them, going back thousands of years, it was and still is the glorification of violence. The bullying against various countries, continents, societies and individuals, licenced, legalized, approved by religions, royalties, ideologies and now by sick economic theories destituting, destroying and killing people by the millions. Always in the name of “freedom”. Yet, all these crimes are described as natural and heroic actions. In the old days they used to be claimed as the will of the gods, and now as “economic necessities”, enforced and praised by the Priesthood of the Money God, our so called “economists” and politicians, serving the insatiable demands of the international corporate mafia, while hoping and praying for directorships. School bullying wasn’t much in the news when our children were going to school in

Vancouver and in Williams Lake in the ‘60s to the ‘80s. That was before the present “wealth creating” crime wave was forced on us , now taught in our universities as the “science of economics”. Of course, there’s always been the usual shoving and pushing between kids, anywhere, all over the world, but we never heard of any major problems, or warnings But now, for the past 30-35 years, since we’ve been living in a “globally competitive market economy”, the violence of bullying has become the rule. We now live in an age where environmental destruction, the kicking down of the other guy, society or country to rob them of their survival potentials with the legalized theft of “wealth creation” has become the mandated norm. Kids now grow up with daily doses of glorified bullying in the cartoons on TV, violent video games, sporting events almost imitating the Roman circuses, are listening to their parents talking about job and financial problems, and collecting cans of food for the victims of economic bullying lining up at the foodbanks in the richest country on Earth. We now have a society, led by apparently highly educated politicians with all kinds of university degrees, even in the pseudo religious theory of so called “economics”, who don’t have the mental capacity to realize that forcing people to rely on the charity of foodbanks for survival, while sitting on the world’s richest stock of resources, is the worst case of institutionalized bullying in history. Sixty-five million people were killed in the Second World War, most of them civilians, with indiscriminate bombings, mass executions and pogroms, all of them and always in the name of “freedom” all sides claimed to be fighting for. Now we have the phony claim of “free enterprise” and “individualism”, the new forms of colonization killing the same number every couple of years. Ruled by hopelessness and starvation, while watching the real wealth of their own lands stripped and taken abroad under the colonization of the “foreign investment”, fought for by all gov-

ernments, giving away the elementary decision making powers of their own peoples. What can we expect from kids when bullying, with the use of fraudulent monetary values and economic theories by an international criminal element, is being legalized by all governments to control, exploit, steal and even murder the peoples of the whole world ? As I wrote many times in the past, capitalism and communism may claim adherence to opposing ideological tenets, may wave different coloured flags to entice their sucker followers, but the leaderships of both are the same gangs of criminals, with the same intents and mindsets to rule and control, while claiming to be democracies. The most beautiful example of their brotherhood is now in China and the presently-being-negotiated free trade rackets by our governments, selling off this and other countries. When Mulroney was negotiating the first free trade racket with the USA, the news was full of the ongoing talks and anybody could ask for the condensed and the complete set of rules of the treaty. The public didn’t want it, but Mulroney got his “majority” with 43 per cent of the vote, and the FTA was forced on us, destroying a million jobs and tens of thousands of businesses, with absolutely no benefits to the overall public. But the powers learned their lessons. The NAFTA was negotiated and signed in secret, giving away more of the country, and even our decision making powers under Chapter 11, that permits foreign corporations to decide what our governments are permitted to do. And now we have the ultimate corruption of the CETA and many other free trade rackets being negotiated by our ultimately corrupt governments, in deep secret and no information to the public of what is being given away. If this is not the ultimate degree of legalized bullying, what is it? And what are the school bullies learning from our corrupt and bullying politicians, under the fraud of “foreign investment”?

This 263 Fiat Lux bD Ed deak first appeared in the April 13 Gold Rvier Record, ands reprinted

## Scrapping welfare council is a cheap shot by a federal government that will deprive Canadians of more valuable research

By Steve Kerstetter

Ever since its creation by an act of Parliament in 1969, the National Council of Welfare has been the only federal agency with a mandate devoted exclusively to improving the lives of low-income Canadians. The Conservative government’s decision to scrap the council in the budget speech was a cheap shot — in more ways than one — and a shot that will deprive Canadians of one more source of valuable research. The council’s work on the welfare system has been extraordinary. Its annual publication *Welfare Incomes* is the single authoritative source on that subject in Canada and is used extensively both inside and outside government. The council was a leader in the fight against provincial and territorial governments “clawing back” part of the federal Canada Child Tax Benefit from families on welfare. But the council has worked in many other areas as well. Its reports on child poverty and women and poverty are well known. It has published some of the most readable descriptions of public and private pension programs. It documented the many shortcomings of legal aid in Canada. A report on the justice system said poor people are most likely to be picked up by police, most likely to appear in court without adequate legal representation and most likely to wind up serving time.

Also worth highlighting are the council’s reports on child care and its importance to young families. One report came out after the truly perverse efforts on child care unveiled by the former Progressive Conservative government in 1988. Other efforts followed the decision by the former Liberal government to reject proposals for a national child care program that the party itself had promoted in its 1993 Red Book election platform. The council, along with several other national social policy groups, also helped to expand the scope of social policy to include tax policy and its effects on low-income Canadians. The National Council of Welfare was traditionally a great friend of opposition parties in Parliament and came to be regarded a royal pain in the butt once a party formed a government. That wasn’t because the council was anti-government by nature — just that governments of recent years had so many bad ideas about social policy and so few good ones. In fact, members of the council who make up the group’s board of directors are appointed by the federal cabinet and have often been close friends of the government of the day. However, that friendship never

compromised the work of the council even once during my 13 years as a staff member. I was director of the council in 1993, when the new Liberal cabinet started appointing members to replace Conservatives appointees when their terms expired. I can’t recall a single instance where the overall direction of the council or its specific policy proposals changed because of the change in government. My own analysis was that council members, regardless of any party affiliation, were committed first and foremost to the well-being of poor people. Many of them worked in social services and were well aware of the very real effects of poverty and the very real shortcomings of many government policies. The decision of the Harper government to shut down the National Council of Welfare comes at a time when poverty remains a significant blight in a country that has the means at its disposal to eliminate poverty. It also comes at a time when income inequality is on the rise, with poor people and some middle-income people stuck with the same levels of incomes they had a generation ago. Meanwhile, the richest of the rich are raking in huge increases in income that were bolstered in large part by the policies of successive federal ministers of finance. Most provincial and territorial governments have adopted anti-poverty strategies that aim to break the back of poverty in Canada. The federal government has shown no interest in following suit, nor any compelling interest in the well-being of the poor. The Conservatives didn’t even have the decency to mention the demise of the council in the budget speech. The budget papers included a table in one of the appendices that showed a cut of \$1.1 million a year in the council’s budget beginning next year. What the papers didn’t bother to say was that \$1.1 million is the council’s entire budget.

Steve Kerstetter retired as director of the National Council of Welfare in 2000 and now lives in Vancouver. He is a Research Associate with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives’ BC Office. CCPA BC Office is located at 1400-207 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1H7; telephone 604-801-5121; fax 604-801-5122.

**Victoria Labour Council**  
219-2750 Quadra Street, Victoria, BC V8T 4E8  
Ph: 250-384-8331 FAX: 250-384-8381 Email: vlcbc@telus.net  
The VLC, representing affiliated unions in the Greater Victoria area, holds its regular monthly meeting the third Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at the BCGEU Auditorium, 2994 Douglas Street.  
All delegates are invited to come out and meet the Executive:  
Mike Eso, President; Stan Dzbik, Treasurer; Kim Manton, Secretary

Esquimalt-Royal Roads New Democrats

**Stay in touch!**

You can reach your executive  
by mail  
at Box 231 110-174 Wilson Street Victoria, BC V9A 7N7 or  
by email  
to [esquimaltroyalroads@gmail.com](mailto:esquimaltroyalroads@gmail.com)



**Hot Dogs, Hamburgers 'n' Horgan**  
**A FAMILY BBQ & DESSERT AUCTION!**  
**Sooke Flats Park**  
**Sunday August 26, 12:30 — 2:30pm**  
\$10 suggested donation / Kids under 2: free  
For more info contact Jennifer at 250-881-8280  
HOSTED BY THE JUAN DE FUCA NDP



# Labour and socialists oppose ONDP sell-out

By Barry Weisleder

It was a momentary alliance. Was it a sign of things to come?

Labour and socialist delegates at the Ontario New Democratic Party Convention, April 13-15 in Hamilton, jointly opposed an emergency resolution backed by the party tops that was very soft on the Ontario Liberal austerity budget. The budget slashes \$17.7 billion by cutting public services, freezing public sector wages for two years, attacking pensions, and curtailing collective bargaining that affects some one million workers. A wide swath of destroyed jobs and greater social inequality will be the inevitable result.

Ontario Federation of Labour President Sid Ryan approached the NDP Socialist Caucus in the early hours of the NDP convention, very concerned about a resolution titled "Support ONDP Caucus" -- a self-congratulatory puff piece that lowered the bar for ONDP Leader Andrea Horwath and her caucus of MPPs at Queen's Park to prop up the Liberal provincial minority government.

Ryan asked this writer to collaborate on a "referral with instructions" to inject stronger language into the weak motion. And that's what happened. Ryan spoke at a CON mic, and savaged the "party line" to loud applause. Soon thereafter I moved the referral, with rationale. Delegates voted by raising their cards. The chair superficially scanned the forest of raised signs and declared the motion defeated. I demanded a counted vote. In the end, our motion carried 218-200. It was a sweet victory that set the tone. Subsequently, weak resolutions on pensions, pay for mid-wives, corporate taxes, employment standards, and corporate "remediation" (a clean up requirement for departing firms) were re-written.

A Socialist Caucus resolution to commit the ONDP to fight for the "unfettered right to strike for all workers" (including public transit, hospital and agricultural workers now denied this right), carried nearly unanimously.

As signified by Thomas Mulcair's elec-

tion to Federal NDP Leader, the Ontario NDP leadership under Horwath is moving to distance itself from unions, the foundation and backbone of the party for over 50 years. Horwath and co. favour a "class-less" approach that offers tax bribes to business (to create jobs) and puts a premium on balancing the government budget without substantially taxing the wealthy.

A parade of NDP provincial leaders, from Newfoundland to British Columbia, and Thomas Mulcair himself, reinforced this message in speeches to the convention.

The labour brass suffered a telling setback with the defeat of UFCW national rep Andrew Mackenzie in the race for ONDP president. Neethan Shan, the choice of the Blair-ite dominant faction of party officials, triumphed. The pro-capitalist "modernizers" won that election by bussing hundreds of supporters into the convention on the Saturday. Attendance peaked at over 1000 delegates. After the count, most of the late-coming voters promptly departed.

The six Socialist Caucus candidates for senior executive posts scored modestly, but articulately augmented a strong intervention that featured the free distribution of over 600 copies of the popular SC magazine *Turn Left*. Forty-five delegates signed up at its display table to join the SC. Three well attended SC meetings laid plans to launch new SC chapters across southern Ontario, including in Stratford, Hamilton, Mississauga and King City.

The convention was not all smooth sailing for Andrea Horwath. In a poll on Horwath's performance, 24 per cent of the delegates voted for a leadership review convention. While 76 per cent saying No to a review may seem like a vote of confidence, normally an incumbent leader scores in the high 90s. So this was a rebuke of her pro-business and "go-soft on the Liberals" policies -- a point later noted by several media pundits.

Meanwhile, the party tops plumbed new depths of policy debate avoidance. Their

latest trick is to present resolutions already adopted at ONDP Provincial Council -- as much as 18 months earlier. These were presented to convention for debate ahead of resolutions submitted recently by riding associations and affiliated unions. The paltry 6 hours allocated in 3 days for policy debate was thus *cut in half*.

As a result, there was no opportunity for delegates to discuss the growing trend towards top-down interference of party officials with the local riding candidate nomination process.

The party's strained efforts to appear more multi-cultural and youth-savvy produced at least one enjoyable moment. Juno award-winning artist K'naan dialogued with an invited audience of young Afro-Canadians, and sang a few of his hit songs. But this highlight was part of a manufactured landscape that also produced the election of a slate of candidates for executive more distant from unions and less likely to challenge the capitalist austerity drive that is destroying a century of working class gains. The struggle continues.

**The Aftermath:** On Saturday, April 21, about 15,000 union members and their supporters rallied at the call of the Ontario Federation of Labour and 80 community groups in front of the Legislature at Queen's

## Reinventing politics the Kiwi way

By G.E. Mortimore

Oily gunk from a blowout or tanker shipwreck could foul BC beaches and cause permanent damage. It happened in Alaska in 1989 and in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010. It could happen here.

Yet Prime Minister Harper is ready to push through two Alberta-to-BC oil and tar-sands pipeline projects without public consent.

As you dunk your toes in sand and salt water, think about the bargain that is now on the table: Alberta gets the money; BC takes the risk of oil-drenched fish, shellfish, birds, otters, seals and orcas, and a ruined seascape. Claudia Cattaneo of the conservative *National Post* recommended a better bargain. She floated a proposal for Alberta to buy BC's consent to pipelines. How much money would it take? More than Alberta is willing to offer, probably -- if we are talking popular consensus in contrast to the pro-pipeline bias of the "Liberal" provincial government -- a bias that Premier Christy Clark has hinted at, but has not yet confessed in public.

I suspect that a majority of Canadians would declare against both pipelines. The Harper government has shortened the timetable on environmental hearings and banned green watchdog groups from taking part unless they have a "direct interest". This action is more than a tidying-up of procedural clutter. It is a signal that Harper is determined to have the pipelines built.

Maybe we can break loose from such locked-in hostility between government and a large segment of politically-aware citizens. An NDP government in Ottawa could give voters a louder voice between elections, by making parliament more democratic.

We could follow the lead of New Zealand, and attune our electoral methods to the varied range of knowledgeable public opinion by opening the parliamentary door to minor parties. If Canadian voters opt in a referendum to change the electoral system, and then choose to democratize parliament by singling out a specific kind of representation in a second referendum, as New Zealanders did -- then Canada can guarantee not to trash popular consensus about any vital policy decision.

Mulcair and colleagues obviously will not demand reform of the electoral system during the current battle of wits with the Harper Tories, even if they have made up their minds to work for future change. To the majority of MPs, opening parliament wider must feel like an irrelevant fancy just now. But the NDP has a good chance to win the next federal election; and when it does win, it arguably can make its position more solid by offering Canadians a real choice in a Kiwi-style two-stage referendum.

Park to condemn the Ontario Liberal minority government's austerity budget. The banner "Defeat the Budget By Any Means Necessary", produced by Socialist Caucus members, was the most poignant, and possibly one of the most photographed banners at the rally. The slogan, "Vote it Down", was chanted by the crowd several times, including during the speech by the Ontario NDP leader.

On April 24, Andrea Horwath and her 16 NDP MPPs allowed the Ontario budget to pass, thus preserving the Liberal minority government. Support for the budget that slashes services and jobs, freezes wages, attacks pensions and curtails collective bargaining rights in the public sector -- in exchange for a paltry 1 per cent increase in welfare, and a minuscule tax increase on incomes above \$500,000 -- is widely seen in progressive circles as a betrayal. (By the way, the money from the new tax will go to reduce the debt, that is, it will go the big banks.)

The question now is: Will workers and their unions *challenge* the cuts and the attack on labour liberties in the work place and in the streets?

Barry Weisleder is co-chair of the NDP Socialist Caucus, and Canada editor of the monthly North American newspaper *Socialist Action*.

It goes like this: One: do you want to change the method of representation? Two: (assuming the answer was "Yes") which of the following patterns of representation do you choose?

There are six or more possibilities, from voting 1, 2, 3 for each candidate in order of preference, to choosing some MPs from each party list in numbers determined by the voters. For the referendum that decides the future system of parliamentary representation, online voting, offered as an alternative to paper voting, can reduce the referendum's cost.

New Zealand's Mixed Member Proportional Representation system (MPR) gives minority parties a place in the Kiwi nation's parliament. Eight small parties and two major parties currently have seats. The alternating conservative and progressive regimes (National and Labour) must make alliances in order to govern.

I think this would be a smart way for Canada to go. The smooth functioning of New Zealand's government and innovative economy under the double electoral arrangement has made nonsense of the forecasts of political paralysis that circulated before MPR came into use in the 1996 election.

Each voter casts two ballots. One is a vote for the local member. He/she is elected by a simple majority according to the old first-past-the post method. The second ballot is a vote for a party. Members are chosen from each party's list according to the number of votes. Representation in parliament is compounded from the two methods.

Kiwi-style democratization would be a people-friendly change in Canada's political system. Knee-jerk objections can be readily answered. Yes, tiny New Zealand differs from big Canada: 4 million people against 33 million, unitary state against federal state. But the main point is making people's wishes come true, regardless of size and complexity.

Among the popular causes currently blocked and stymied by Canada's Conservative federal government are legalizing marijuana, sharpening the efficiency and the reach and sensitivity of public healthcare, and putting a stop to healthcare privatization. With wider minor-party representation, even the Tories would be forced to translate the people's will into law.

What happens when the people are in a state of self-conflicted denial, loving cars but hating pipelines and dirty air and traffic-clogged roads and -- in Alberta - loving oily jobs and profits? That's a tougher problem for another day. Political and technological thinkers are working on it.

G.E. Mortimore, PhD, is a writer and social anthropologist based in Victoria.

### SIHOTA & STARKEY LAWYERS & NOTARIES

#### PERSONAL INJURY • ICBC CLAIMS Family • Real Estate • Wills • Estates

FREE 1st Consultation • Standard Fees for Many Services



250-381-5111

1248 Esquimalt Road, Victoria



### John Heaney Heenan Blaikie LLP

514-737 Yates Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1L6

Phone: 250-381-9599

Toll Free Fax: 1-866-615-8276

Email: jheaney@heenan.ca

Civil and Commercial Litigation,  
Labour and Employment Law  
Administrative and Constitutional Law  
Employment Litigation  
Human Rights  
Collective Agreements, Privacy

## MacIsaac and MacIsaac

Dan MacIsaac\*

Ron MacIsaac\*

Certificate in Arbitration &  
Mediation, University of Windsor

\*Denotes Professional Corporation

Personal Injury

Family Law

Wills and Estates

Deanna Lane

Laura Pringle

ICBC Claims

Child Protection

Free First Consultation

250-478-1131

2227 Sooke Road, Victoria



# Tsawout Snepeneks Cultural Society: Raise the Longhouse

Story and photos by Heather Tufts.

*"To watch us dance is to hear our hearts speak."-----* Inspirational First Nations proverb

When a huge fire tore through the cedar longhouse at Tsawout in the summer of 2009 the massive flames could be seen for miles. The loss of the community's spiritual home has been deeply felt for almost three years and there is profound longing to replace the longhouse as soon as possible.

At Tsawout First Nation the longhouse ceremonies are the heartbeat of the community and are deeply rooted in Coast Salish culture and spirituality.

Historically, cultural teachings have been passed down orally including narratives that trace connections from one family or community to another. This oral account has continued for thousands of years through longhouse ceremonies.

The Tsawout beach was once lined with longhouses that served as homes for the extended family and were also used for community ceremonies. Tsawout elder, historian and linguist the late Dr. Earl Claxton recounted fascinating stories about living in the traditional village in the 30s and 40s although the last house of the old village remained until the 1970s.

munity have seen the traditional longhouse used by the whole community for numerous events and ceremonies. The winter dances remain integral to cultural practices because it is where the youth are guided by the traditional teachings of elders.

The Tsawout Longhouse has also been used for naming ceremonies, weddings, funerals, family memorials and community feasts.

Many of the original teachings were lost in the residential school era when potlatches and longhouse ceremonies were banned by the race-based *Indian Act*. Cultural revitalization is therefore really important to the Tsawout community because of losses of language, cultural traditions, land, resources and the separation of families.

"When the people are brought into the longhouse they get taken back to their culture," said Eric Pelkey, spokesperson for the Tsawout Longhouse. "They eat a special diet to clean out their system so it is like a mind, body and spirit purification. Seven of my children have been in the longhouse with their grandmother's teachings so this is a great personal loss to me."

The rebuilding of the longhouse remains uppermost in the minds of the Tsawout community. An estimated cost of rebuilding a similar longhouse structure falls close to one million dollars and this cost remains



Pow Wow dancers perform at a fundraising feast at Tsawout.



Architect Art Finlayson (l) is honoured in a naming ceremony for the time he has donated to the longhouse.

This history is a vivid, living memory in the Tsawout community and is a deeply-rooted cultural experience.

Tsawout is part of the WSANEC (Saanich) First Nation with territory centred on the Saanich Peninsula and southern Gulf Islands. The WSANEC Nation is a single nation that was historically split into five First Nations according to village site by the Canadian government.

The past decades in the Tsawout com-

the sole responsibility of Tsawout First Nation. This is creating an urgent need to find innovative ways to raise funds or cut costs by using donated goods and services whenever possible.

As a result of generously donated time by local architect Art Finlayson a complete design for the new longhouse has been prepared.

Last summer the chosen ground was blessed in a traditional ceremony and the

soothing sound of bells, chants and prayers echoed over the dusty land. This sacred ceremony was led by Minister Elmer George from the Saanich Shaker Church following local protocol.

However the fundraising effort is far from reaching its financial goal and is in great need of community support.

Two fundraising feasts were held in 2011 where lively musicians, traditional dancers and drummers displayed their talents. Local artists contributed freely to a cultural art auction which was held at the second *Raise the Longhouse* feast event at Tsawout.

Another amazing feast and music concert is being planned as a fundraiser for later this year, so stay tuned!

The longhouse committee has established the *Tsawout Snepeneks Cultural Society* (like us on Facebook) and the society can offer tax receipts for charitable donations.

A trust fund is being managed by the Sidney Bank of Montreal and cheques written to the *Tsawout Longhouse Fund* can also be mailed to Tsawout First Nation.

The society is also excited to have a new website at [www.tsawoutsnepeneks.ca](http://www.tsawoutsnepeneks.ca) where donations can be made directly with PayPal or CanadaHelps.

If you would like more information or would like to volunteer in some capacity please contact Eric Pelkey at [ehpelkey@tsawout.ca](mailto:ehpelkey@tsawout.ca) or 250-480-8526. This is a

rewarding community-to-community opportunity and a rich learning experience.

Without the longhouse there is a cultural and spiritual void in the community. It is hoped that new outreach and proposal writing initiatives managed by a cultural coordinator will help bring the *Tsawout Snepeneks Cultural Society* closer to its fundraising goals.

A version of this article was originally published in *Saanich Voice Online*.

**"Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote."**

-- George Jean Nathan  
American journalist, critic, essayist and editor, 1882-1958

**Jim Jaarsma**  
**Contracting**  
**250-360-1905**

**Quality Carpentry**  
**General Contracting**

**Murray J. Ellis**  
Chartered Accountant

Services to Small Business  
Bookkeepers available

**250-385-1011**  
1325 Tolmie Avenue



The site chosen for the new longhouse is blessed in a traditional ceremony, led by minister Elmer George, of the Saanich Shaker Church.

**Robert G. Milne**

**Jawl & Bundon**  
Lawyers

FOURTH FLOOR  
1007 FORT STREET  
VICTORIA, BC  
V8V 3K5

TELEPHONE 250-385-5787  
FAX 250-385-4364  
EMAIL [rmilne@jawlambundon.com](mailto:rmilne@jawlambundon.com)



This article first appeared in *Hemp Lifestyle Magazine*, issue 5, May 1, 2012, [www.hemplifestylemagazine.com](http://www.hemplifestylemagazine.com)



# Fleeing the Island of Austerity – European Ships of Hope

By Tim Pheotist

In the most recent LIN edition I discussed the “attractions” of the Island of Austerity.

Austerity, of course, is nothing more than a virtual island of despair, invented by those with a personal and self serving interest in the accumulation of political and financial power.

Austerity is the economic island to which the citizens of developed societies are being shipped. Robbed of the benefits of life savings and pensions, Austerity gives a new 21<sup>st</sup> century meaning to the understanding of forced and slave labour, while at the same time removing any concept of economic and communal fairness from the social/ economic dictionary.

Too sweeping a statement, you say.

Put that thought to today’s “retired” guardians of the multi-national “Big Box” retail stores who greet you with waxy smiles and bent backs.

Put the thought that you have not already arrived on the Island of Austerity, to the hapless and hopeless teen, begging on Main Street, whose youthful energy is now valued only by other lost souls who find themselves floating in a toxic sea of drugs and alcohol – their only objective and escape being to find a transport to the Island of Oblivion.

Here in western Canada we find ourselves in the more sheltered regions of Austerity Island. The bloody economic talons of the capital groupings will not risk puncturing and damaging the pipes and structures that carry the Canadian oil and minerals, sold to support the lives of today’s “haves” at the expense of today’s “have-nots”.

So, here in Canada, and on Vancouver Island, we benefit from the shelter provided by the massive pipelines built by the petrochemical and mineral mining industries.

But just peek over the pipeline and it’s

easy to see the scorched earth that is the reality of Austerity Island.

The lifetime work product of ordinary people, destroyed by banks and money lenders, their possessions thrown, as tasty appetizers, to self styled “billionaires”.

It is preposterous to imagine that the wealth and potential of this planet is suddenly endangered unless the work product of 99% of humans is captured and ordered by a pitiful and pitiless 1% of the planet’s population.

By any standard, the international policies and agreements that have invented Austerity Isle have been shown to be a fraud on people, societies and labour, on a scale never previously imagined. Truly the globalization of public fraud.

But there is hope on the horizon.

Rescue ships flying French, Greek and Spanish flags, to single out just a few, are looking for some safe water to drop anchor.

These ships will offer only triage, in practical terms, but more broadly they offer hope.

Hope that the thieves of our labour will soon be deprived of the means by which they can steal from our pay packets, foreclose our homes, deny our healthcare, drug our children and restrict information and education.

The European Ships of Hope are still few in number and can be easily holed, but their sails are filled by the winds of change and the will of populations who clearly see that the virtual Island of Austerity imprisons them with very real rocks.

In today’s developed societies we have relied on a democratic process to protect us from dictators and despots. We’ve believed the cry “throw the bums out”, will stir and protect us, as the ballot box replaces the guillotine in displacing those who would steal from the populace to convey public wealth and communal labour to private

hands.

But the ever mutating cancer of inappropriate private interest – simple greed – has been as busy as ever, finding new ways to eat at progressive societies.

In the past 50 years we’ve been slow to spot that our democratic systems have been become the very device that can destroy civilized life.

By inventing outrageously complicated economic, monetary and legal systems, which are designed only to ensure that the inherent wealth of the planet and the labour of the populations is enjoyed by very few, we’ve made it increasingly difficult to fulfill the purpose of “democracy” – i.e. to be able to remove despots from power via the ballot box.

By electing governments and politicians who then contract out the work of government to private enterprise, we negate the entire concept of democratic government, replaceable by the will of the majority of voters.

The cry of the rulers of Austerity is that somehow private economic interests will give you a better “bang for your buck” than publically provided goods and services.

That the only thing stopping Austerity from becoming Utopia is public spending!

This is simply not true.

Look what private enterprise has delivered. Increasing poverty, unaffordable necessities, scarce housing, expensive healthcare, failing schools, unattainable and often irrelevant higher education and social misery that reminds of Dickensian times.

And the privately wealthy have never been richer – ever increasingly from income that could never have been earned in a million lifetimes.

The Island of Austerity was invented to remove increasing numbers of people from any hope or prospect of their reasonable expectation of a pursuit of happiness.

So now is the time to look at how some western European societies are responding to their governments. The idea is to install politicians who are increasingly separated from private interests. It’s not easy. The system is deeply rooted in anti-public interests, but progress can be made.

Here in Canada it’s easy to spot the politicians of whom we should beware, and for whom we should deny elected office.

Do not vote for any candidate who suggests that Austerity will bring economic balance.

Do not vote for any candidate who seeks to privatize or share any public good or service.

Do not vote for any candidate who resists the idea of nationalizing vital local and national resources.

Do not vote for any candidate who says we cannot afford to feed and house the weak, sick, young or elderly.

Do not vote for any candidate who says that reducing taxes will bring a richer society.

Do not vote for any candidate whose standing is financed by private interests.

Nowhere in the developed world have policies of Austerity succeeded in bringing a healthier, happier, richer society. Nowhere in the developed world has unrestrained and unregulated private enterprise brought fairer, saner, distribution of resources.

Here in British Columbia we are on the sheltered shores of Austerity but the toxic tide of unrestrained capital abuse is lapping at the shores, nonetheless.

Read the signals from the European Ships of Hope. Unlike the tides that Canute knew he could not stop, the tides and swells on the shores of Austerity are virtual and man-made.

Some strong votes against private politicians and for the voices that make social justice and community, a priority, will drain this tsunami of capitalistic greed we’ve come to know as Austerity politics.

# US global dominion made of idolatry

By Bo Filter

Did you know that Iran was behind 9/11? This is the latest wild claim by the US government (see [www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=30777](http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=30777)).

Why is it that just about anyone can be blamed for 9/11? Usually, they are the next target country of the US elitist’s drive for world hegemony.

How do they get away with the most obvious lies? The answer rests in the fact that the national security state has discovered a dirty little secret—the American public doesn’t mind being fed lies.

Most people will tell you that they hate being lied to, yet something carries greater importance than being deceived. Though seldom a point in political polemics, a great trump card is at play—radical nationalism—America the beautiful. Americans idolize America.

You can see it at work in the most simple of conversations. When casually asked about politics, people most often answer that they don’t pay attention much to politics. If you ask why, the most likely answer is, “All politicians are crooks.” They are therefore unworthy of attention.

Now you might think that this response could engender an invitation to mention a crime committed by the government, expecting the listener to readily agree—not so. When a crime is mentioned, the trump card comes down hard: “America, love it, or leave it! Go back to Russia where you belong!”

Dominance of value is quickly displayed. Lying and crime by the government is not important, as is love of country. America is to be idolized. No matter what the government actually does in the world, no matter how many international laws it breaks, no matter how many countries it attacks, you must remain silent or risk being called a traitor or miscreant.

Hitler spawned and spread this same kind of radical nationalism. Germany was idolized. In every case in history of national idolatry, wars of aggression have ensued. The idolatrous nation feels exceptional, too important to be confined to international treatise of peace and conduct. American

“exceptionalism” has been used to excuse their interference in the affairs of literally every country on the planet.

The statement that all politicians are crooks, tempered by idolatry, becomes more like: they are our crooks; therefore, they are the exception, exempt from prosecution.

Exceptionalism, as a tool of exoneration, is augmented by another fundamental belief of idolatry—America can do no wrong. These people believe that their country would never commit a crime, no matter how much hard evidence is presented to them.

For example, when easily proven evidence was evoked to show that the G.W. Bush administration was indisputably involved in the commission of 9/11, one American chortled, “I don’t care if it’s true, I won’t believe it anyway.” This is not an uncommon response.

The long and short of it is that blind faith trumps truth. Lies and associated criminal behaviour are set free to roam. In such instances, the collective national moral compass goes haywire, no north and south poles to hinge and correct ship direction.

The United States is no exception. America is loose of any international moral mooring.

When critical moral bonds are broken and rabid nationalism takes hold, no one is safe. The US *Patriot Acts* and Canada’s anti-terrorist legislation makes this very clear.

Not long ago, anyone who dared to question Hitler was arrested and imprisoned or killed without

any Constitutional protection. Anyone who questions or worse protests US/NATO/Canadian wars of aggression are now included as potential terrorists.

Like Germany, the US is preparing for mass arrests of its own citizens.

US Army Field Manual 3-39.40, entitled, INTERNMENT AND RESETTLEMENT OPERATIONS, published in February 2012, details procedures for making new prisons for protestors and anyone who questions US hegemony. Military bases are being converted for this purpose. Some are euphemistically named Residential Centers.

Former Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura took his research team to film one of these Residential Centers, ([www.brasschecktv.com/page/9312.html](http://www.brasschecktv.com/page/9312.html)).

Once a US military base with razor wire angled outwards to prevent entry, the wire had been re-angled inwardly to disallow exit, like Hitler’s concentration camp, Auschwitz.

Like Germans who pretended that exterminations were not taking place, Americans and Canadians might likewise calm themselves with fantasies that all is well and peaceful on the Western front.

Rabid nationalism can help calm pangs of guilt. Idolaters often pronounce, “They must have had it coming.”

Will you be one of them?

Bo Filter is a veteran social science researcher, speaker, and author of *The Cause of Wars and Aggression: Book 1* [www.globaljusticepublishing.com](http://www.globaljusticepublishing.com)

*“Never think that war, no matter how necessary, nor how justified, is not a crime.”*  
-- Ernest Hemingway



Fred Hiigli

## Real Estate Services Since 1990

**PROFESSIONAL -- EXPERIENCED -- COMMITTED**

Call anytime for a market evaluation!  
Part of every commission,  
with New Democrat clients,  
will be donated to a party candidate  
or sitting Member.

## Fred Hiigli ~ Newport Realty

250-385-2033

At Newport Realty we sell special homes...yours!



# Is Supreme Court of Canada the next step to save wild salmon?

*First Nation class-action on impacts of open net-pen salmon farms in British Columbia may head to highest Court*

**ALERT BAY -- May 16, 2012**--An appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada may be the next stage in a long running class-action lawsuit focused on the devastation caused by open net-pen salmon farming on the wild salmon in Kwicksutaineuk/Ah-Kwa-Mish First Nation (KAFN)’s Territory around the Broughton Archipelago (British Columbia).

The lawsuit was launched in February 2009. In December 2010, the Honourable Mr. Justice Slade of the Supreme Court of British Columbia ruled in support of the KAFN application for certification of their class-action to hold government accountable for failure to regulate open net-pen salmon farming in their Territories. On May 3, 2012, responding to the Appeal advanced by the Province of British Columbia and Canada, the British Columbia Court of Appeal overturned Justice Slade’s decision.

Bob Chamberlin, KAFN Chief and the Representative Plaintiff in the lawsuit, expressed frustration that the future of wild salmon is being sidetracked by government lawyers arguing the definition of “aboriginal collective”. He observed, “It is how we organize ourselves. Why argue about this? The focus needs to be on the fish. I will not stand by and see the wild salmon, fundamental to the culture of our people, disappear because of a procedural argument.”

“Despite years of intensive efforts by the KAFN and others to engage the BC Government and the Government of Canada in improving salmon farming regulations and reducing the industry’s impacts on wild salmon, the response continued to be *delay, deny and distract*. Our going to court was necessitated by the fact that both orders of government failed to respond to our concerns. Given the urgent need for action to protect wild salmon, a class-action offers the potential for a comparatively quick hearing of cases through the judicial system.”

“When juvenile pink and chum salmon in our Territories attempt to migrate out to the ocean, they face a gauntlet of open net-pen salmon farms densely stocked with non-native Atlantic salmon. These salmon feedlots cause the incubation, amplification and transmission of diseases and parasites to the wild juvenile salmon. The Cohen Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of the Fraser River Sockeye shone a pretty bright light on the evidence that was hidden by industry and our governments about the impacts of open net-pens, including introduced diseases. What more are they hiding?”

Chamberlin noted, “Wild salmon are integral to the social, cultural and ecological well-being of our people. Wild salmon have sustained us for over 5,000 years. Despite this, our firsthand knowledge of the impacts of open net-pen salmon farms in our Territories has not been respected and now, our rights are not being respected.”

“This is inconsistent with Canada’s international obligations as a supporter of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that promises for shared decision making at both the Federal and Provincial levels. Sadly, it is very consistent with the Harper Government’s recent decision to gut the habitat protection provisions of the *Fisheries Act* and the dismantling of environmental impact assessments in favour of industrializing Canada’s rivers and oceans. It should now be clear to all Canadians that we cannot trust this government to protect our fish and our environment.”

Chief Chamberlin observed that developments on Canada’s east coast illustrate the impacts of open net-pen farms and a lack of consistency in approach by government. “The recent Nova Scotia ISA virus outbreak in open net-pen salmon farms resulted in hundreds of thousands of diseased farmed salmon being destroyed. The Federal government will pay millions of dollars to compensate these salmon farmers. It is insanity when government fights our efforts to protect wild salmon while they safeguard salmon farmers with taxpayers’ dollars. This money could be used to restore Canada’s Atlantic and Pacific wild salmon and protect our oceans.”

The KAFN is now considering advancing this case to the Supreme Court of Canada. “This issue is not going away and we will not go away.”

**To view the original KAFN Statement of Claim filed in February 2009, go to:** [http://huffstrategy.com/MediaManager/Media/Text/1233780246\\_Microsoft+Word+-+0052+Pleading+Statement+of+Claim+Chamberlin\\_2.pdf](http://huffstrategy.com/MediaManager/Media/Text/1233780246_Microsoft+Word+-+0052+Pleading+Statement+of+Claim+Chamberlin_2.pdf)

**To view the December 1, 2010, Decision by the Honourable Mr. Justice Slade, go to:** [www.courts.gov.bc.ca/jdb-txt/SC/10/16/2010BCSC1699cor1.htm](http://www.courts.gov.bc.ca/jdb-txt/SC/10/16/2010BCSC1699cor1.htm)

**To View the May 3, 2012, Decision by Madame Justice Garson of the British Columbia Court of Appeal, go to:** [www.courts.gov.bc.ca/jdb-txt/CA/12/01/2012BCCA0193.htm](http://www.courts.gov.bc.ca/jdb-txt/CA/12/01/2012BCCA0193.htm)

## BC’s welfare recipients need immediate relief

**By Adrienne Montani, Seth Klein and Lorraine Copas**

Two recent events highlight the need for emergency relief for BC welfare recipients, and make clear that people simply cannot meet basic needs on a welfare income.

The first event was in January, when NDP MLA Jagrup Brar spent a month living on \$610, the basic welfare income for a single person. He lost 26 pounds, wound up \$7 in debt and had to sell his backpack to pay for a Skytrain ride home to Surrey.

The second was the publication of the report from BC members of the Dietitians of Canada comparing the cost of a nutritious basket of food to the support allowance available to welfare recipients. Every one of the five welfare family types studied in the report would have been in the red after paying for food and shelter. Their welfare budgets didn’t allow even one cent for a tube of toothpaste, a bus ticket or a new pair of socks.

The revelations from Brar and the dietitians’ report shocked many British Columbians, but were not news to government, welfare recipients and anti-poverty advocates. Over the years, successive governments have ignored the clear inadequacy of welfare rates, ensuring the deepening poverty of some of the province’s poorest residents.

Our welfare system needs a thorough overhaul, but it also needs an immediate increase in benefits. At a minimum, we propose an immediate increase of \$200 a month for a single person, \$300 a month for couples without children, and \$400 a month for families with children.

If you question the benefit of increasing the rates, consider the costs and consequences documented in Brar’s experience and the dietitians’ report.

Brar spent part of his month on welfare living in an 11-by-11-foot hovel in a Single Room Occupancy hotel. He had a chair, table, mattress, sink, stove, a fridge that didn’t work, and a bathroom he shared with 11 other men.

Brar’s welfare budget was \$610. Assuming he could have rented an SRO for \$375 a month, he had \$235 left for food and all other expenses. The dietitians said a nutritious diet for the month would cost \$244. That meant Brar would have been \$9 in the hole without having any funds necessary to look for work, or to pay for anything else.

In their report, the dietitians developed budgets for different family and household types that included the cost of food, shelter and basic telephone service. They included in income the amounts paid by BC welfare, and other government benefits such as the

# DFO officially approves Kokish River power project

**VANCOUVER** – Two days after the Wilderness Committee revealed the controversial Kokish River hydro proposal was going to be built, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) finally officially informed the public with an announcement on a government website.

Kiewit, the contractor for the Kokish River power proposal had started running help wanted ads specifically for the Kokish project in local papers April 20, days before DFO had made their decision public.

“I am not sure who is in charge when you have a construction firm informing the public before DFO has even issued its approval,” said Gwen Barlee, policy director with the Wilderness Committee. “This is an embarrassing and sad day for DFO and an indication of what we can expect in the future. If DFO can’t protect an important salmon river with two endangered runs of steelhead I don’t think any river is safe from industrial exploitation.”

The contentious 45 MW project has been vehemently opposed by a diverse group of wilderness tourism businesses, fishing and outdoor recreation groups including the BC Wildlife Federation, the Steelhead Society of BC and the BC Federation of Fly Fishers due to the high fish values in the Kokish River.

The Kokish River is located 15 km east of Port McNeill on northern Vancouver Island. Kwagis Power, owned by Brookfield Renewable Power and the Namgis First Nation, has applied to dam and divert the 11 km river into a 9 km pipe. The BC government signed off on the project in December 2011, but approval from DFO was needed before construction started.

“DFO has no capacity to oversee this project and will have less capacity in the future once the federal government has finished gutting the *Fisheries Act* and decimating DFO’s budget,” said Barlee. “On top of it all DFO is aware of considerable non-compliance on operating private power projects and have yet to issue a fine or lay a charge with projects that have repeatedly killed fish. People who care about wild salmon and wild rivers should be very concerned about this approval.”

The Kokish is important habitat for five species of wild salmon, coastal cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden, eulachon as well as endangered runs of summer and winter steelhead. The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) is on the record stating that the Kokish is a high-value river with a sensitive fish population.

## Fatal salmon virus outbreak in Clayoquot UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

**TOFINO, BC** — Mainstream Canada, a Norwegian-owned company, has reported an outbreak of Infectious Haematopoietic Necrosis virus (IHN) on one of their open net-cage salmon farms in Clayoquot Sound.

The farm, one of 20 sites in the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, is located at the entrance to a provincial park that encompasses a fjord, the Megin River estuary, old-growth Sitka spruce forests and salmon spawning habitat.

IHN is endemic to wild Pacific fish, and at low concentrations is not deadly to them. However salmon farms amplify diseases like this, much like in a crowded hospital, where pathogens which are normally not an issue can become deadly.

Dr. Kristi Miller, head of the Molecular Genetics section at the Pacific Biological Station, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), found Infectious Salmon Anemia Virus (ISAv) and Piscine reovirus (PRV) on two other Clayoquot Sound salmon farms late last year. Both viruses are of European origin and deadly to wild salmon. These farms were not culled and no further testing has taken place.

Friends of Clayoquot Sound campaigner Bonny Glambeck said, “Despite the abundance of pristine salmon habitat, Clayoquot’s salmon runs are in dramatic decline, with some runs now being counted in the tens, rather than in the tens of thousands.”

“Mainstream has applied for a new salmon feedlot to be located at Plover Point along the shore of Meares Island near Tofino. With the *Cohen Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Fraser River Sockeye Salmon* report not due out until September 30, and these deadly viruses present here in the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve, this is not the time to be expanding this industry.”

The Friends of Clayoquot Sound, founded in 1979, is an environmental organization with a mandate to protect the ancient temperate rainforest and marine environments of Clayoquot Sound.

Canada Child Tax Benefit for families with children and the federal GST credit.

Each of the five family types on welfare did not have enough money to cover the total cost of food and shelter. The family with two adults and two children had a deficit of \$124 a month or \$1,488 a year.

They would have had to cut back on food or shelter to the tune of \$124 a month, and they would have been unable to buy anything else such as non-prescription medications, soap, cleaning supplies, toys, clothing, transportation — goods and services all of us would consider essential for daily living.

The dietitians’ report concurs with years of studies on the costs we bear when we make it impossible for people to eat properly. They include unhealthy babies, poor growth and development in children, learning deficits, increased illness and decreased life expectancy.

As of January 2012, there were 135,714 “cases” on the BC welfare rolls. Nearly 81% were single people, 3% were couples without children, 14% were single parents with children, and 3% were couples with children. Only 25% of the caseloads fell into the province’s “expected to work” classification.

The cost of providing an additional

\$200, \$300 or \$400 a month would be approximately \$383 million a year, a significant amount of money, but not impossible to find.

In a society where income inequality has become a major issue, it would certainly be appropriate to consider taxing wealthier British Columbians to assist the very poorest.

That brings us back to politics and the stated willingness of BC politicians to meet the needs of poor people.

We need more than promises of action down the road. What we need from BC’s political parties is a commitment to emergency help right away, followed by an early start on a full review of welfare policies and rates. The ultimate goal should be a system for setting welfare rates that is tied to the real costs of basic living expenses in order to promote health and human dignity.

Adrienne Montani is provincial coordinator of First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition; Seth Klein is BC director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives; Lorraine Copas is executive director of the Social Planning and Research Council of BC.

The CCPA BC Office is located at 1400-207 West Hastings Street Vancouver, BC V6B 1H7; phone 604-801-5121; fax:604-801-5122.



# Poachers take ancient red cedar from Carmanah-Walbran Provincial Park

**VICTORIA** -- What remains of an 800 year-old Red Cedar lies in the parking area at Carmanah-Walbran Provincial Park. Last year, poachers were unsuccessful in an attempt to fall the tree, but had damaged it sufficiently to force BC Parks staff to bring the ancient cedar down for safety reasons.

Since then, the cedar poachers have returned at their leisure, cut up, hauled out, and taken away much of the tree. Some of this work has been done in recent weeks and has further damaged the environment. Undergrowth in the park is torn and crushed, a ditch is caved in and blocked with debris, small concrete parking stops have been moved or broken, and steel cables are lying around. Only one section of the trunk remains in the forest, along with the stump - which is nine feet in diameter.

Torrance Coste, Vancouver Island campaigner with the Wilderness Committee, visited the site over the May 15 weekend and is currently following up with parks officials and the RCMP.

"Our parks are extremely important to our province," says Coste. "They are and always should be regarded as some of the most spectacular natural areas in the world -- not as poorly protected places where poachers can operate without consequence."

BC Parks staff are currently seeking funds to mediate the damage. The Lake Cowichan RCMP has also been contacted,

but enforcement in the Carmanah area is difficult due to its remote location.

The Wilderness Committee has always pushed for better protection in existing parks, but the province has cut funding to BC Parks on an almost annual basis over the last 10 years. Currently, BC Parks has just 10 full-time park rangers for 1,000 parks and protected areas.

"There should be measures in place to stop this kind of thing," says Coste, "We entrust BC Parks with places that are valuable to us, but our government doesn't give them the resources to look after these areas."

Through its BC Parks Campaign, the Wilderness Committee works to uphold the government in its responsibility to manage and protect provincial parks on behalf of the public, Coste explains.

"It's clear that cedar is taken from Carmanah without fear," Coste continues, "What we need to know from Environment Minister Lake is if cedar poaching is happening anywhere else."

Torrance Coste, can be reached at 250-388-9292 (w) or 250-516-9900 (c) or at [torrance@wildernesscommittee.org](mailto:torrance@wildernesscommittee.org)

The Wilderness Committee is Canada's largest membership-based, citizen funded wilderness preservation organization, working for the preservation of Canadian and international wilderness through research and grassroots education.

# \$5,000 reward offered for conviction of cedar poachers in provincial park

**VANCOUVER** - The Wilderness Committee and the British Columbia Government Employees Union (BCGEU) announced May 18 a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of those responsible for poaching an 800-year-old red cedar in Carmanah Walbran Provincial Park on Vancouver Island.

The ancient cedar, located near the parking lot of the park, was attacked by poachers last year. The poachers cut 80 per cent of the way through the tree but were unsuccessful in felling it. The tree however was sufficiently damaged that BC Parks staff had to cut the cedar down for safety reasons.

After the damaged giant was felled, the cedar poachers returned at their leisure to cut up and haul out most of the tree. All that remains of the 800-year-old cedar is a stump -- nine feet in diameter. The poachers were still removing sections of the cedar in the last couple of weeks.

"We are offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to a conviction because someone needs to stand up for BC's parks and our provincial government clearly isn't doing the job," said Gwen Barlee, policy director with the Wilderness Committee. "With only 10 full-time park rangers for over 1,000 parks and protected areas poachers know there is almost no chance of them being caught."

The management of BC parks has been a hot potato for the provincial government. A series of unpopular measures have been introduced over the last decade including: weakening the *Parks Act*, changing park boundaries to allow for industrial development, cutting the operating budget, reducing park rangers by over 50 per cent, and axing government-funded park interpretive programs. Since 1999 visits to BC parks have dropped by over 20 per cent -- a decline not seen in neighbouring jurisdictions.

"Hopefully the reward will result in someone coming forward to the RCMP, and these poachers will answer for this criminal act," said BCGEU president Darryl Walker. "These kinds of incidents are the unfortunate result of having too few eyes and ears on the ground to protect our public parks."

British Columbia has only 10 full-time permanent park rangers to patrol 1,000 parks and protected areas covering 14,000,000 hectares. In the summer months 87 additional part-time park rangers are hired, but even at the temporarily increased numbers there is just 1 park ranger to patrol 10 provincial parks. Carmanah Walbran Provincial Park is 16,450 hectares in size.

Information on the red cedar poaching should be directed to the Lake Cowichan RCMP detachment.

## Ron reviews:

**TUG OF WAR**, by Mr. Justice Brownstone, UBC PRESS

The author is uniquely qualified to write on the bitter realities of Family Court. Justice Brownstone is host of the online TV talk show *FAMILY MATTERS*.

This book dispenses wisdom for the distressed Family Court battlers and helps disputants recognize the avoidable bitter fallout of family Court litigation.

A must have text for trial lawyers in the marital field.

**THE MANY VOYAGES OF ARTHUR WELLINGTON CLAH, a Tsimshian Man on the Pacific Northwest Coast**, by Peggy Brock, UBC PRESS

This is based on a a 50-year diary of the interchange between colonialism and our Pacific Northwest Aboriginal peoples.

It leaves the reader with a rare insight into the effects of White traders, missionaries, miners and the fishing industry.

Readers with interest in Native claims will benefit from the diarization of the downsizing of the Native share in the wealth of its lands and waters.

--Ron MacIsaac



Stump of 800-year-old red cedar is examined by a wilderness Committee member.

# Nanaimo and RDN urged to become Blue Communities

A delegation consisting of representatives from Vancouver Island Water Watch, the Mid Island chapter of the Council of Canadians, the Island Glass Artisans and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 401 made presentations to both the Nanaimo City Council and the Nanaimo Regional District urging the city and the RDN to pass resolutions that would designate these communities as Blue Communities.

The Blue Community designation was developed by the Council of Canadians and the Canadian Union of Public Employees and in BC the cities of Burnaby, North Vancouver and Victoria have all passed resolutions which have certified them as such.

A "blue community" is one that adopts a water commons framework by taking three actions: 1. Recognizing water as a human right;. 2. Promoting publicly financed, owned and operated water and waste-water services; 3. Banning the sale of bottled water

in public facilities and at municipal events.

These three resolutions are key to this generation leaving the next generation a legacy of land, water, air, and infrastructure that is better than what it received.

The presentations were favorably received by both the Nanaimo City Council and the RDN Board and proponents are awaiting final word on agreement with the three resolutions that were presented at each. The City of Nanaimo passed a resolution in 2006 promoting publicly financed, owned and operated water and waste-water services.

Vancouver Island University has already successfully banned the sale of bottled water on all of its campuses including the franchises operating there.

To find out more about the Blue Communities campaign, visit [www.canadians.org/water/issues/Blue\\_Communities/index.html](http://www.canadians.org/water/issues/Blue_Communities/index.html)

# Wilderness Committee calls for Site C public meetings for southern BC

**VANCOUVER** -- The Wilderness Committee demanded May 10 that the Environmental Assessment for the proposed Site C Dam on the Peace River, include southern BC population centres in the list of communities being granted public open house meetings.

Currently only communities in the Peace River area are being granted public open house meetings during the 45-day public comment period on the draft guidelines for the environmental assessment which ended June 1.

"The proposed Site C Dam project is a massive undertaking that will impact every British Columbian and I don't mean in a good way," said Joe Foy, national campaign director for the Wilderness Committee.

"The Site C Dam is a multi-billion dollar project with no useful purpose and that should set off alarm bells for everyone in the province. Everyone who uses electricity in the province is going to have to pay for this thing in rising electrical bill rates -- so we should all get a chance to have our say

in our own neck of the woods at the Environmental Assessment public meetings," said Foy.

Foy says that Site C Dam would require the largest ever deletion of farmland from the Agricultural Land Reserve -- 5,000 acres.

"The impact on human rights from the Site C Dam would be unacceptable," said Foy. First Nations communities as well as local farmers and ranchers in the valley are strongly opposed to the flooding of the Peace River Valley.

People all over BC care about the loss of farmland and impact on the human rights of their northern neighbours and would want a chance to say that to the Environmental Assessment people face to face," said Foy.

The Wilderness Committee is urging people to write to the Environmental Assessment office to demand public open house meetings in Vancouver, Victoria, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nelson and other southern BC communities.



# Don’t let the bedbugs bite

The authors reveal a lot that readers likely don’t know, but probably should know about this alarming pest

By Dr. Dianne Saxe and Jackie Campbell

Over the past decade, North America and western Europe have seen an alarming re-surgence of bedbugs in homes, university dormitories, apartments and hotels. Although the reason for the proliferation of bedbugs is not clear, some attribute this to the increase in international travel, use of narrower spectrum insecticides targeting other insect pests (that don’t work on bedbugs) and resistance of these parasites to pesticides.

**Bedbug backgrounder**

Bedbugs are bloodsucking insects that attack humans and other mammals at night. They live in floor and wall crevices, cracks in ceilings, bedding and upholstered furniture and even inside light fixtures, remote controls, alarm clocks and other electronics.

Although wingless, bedbugs -- which are small and flat, the size of an apple seed -- can crawl up to 20 feet seeking a human host; they feed once a week for 10-20 minutes, then return to their lairs. Bite marks may not develop until two weeks later. Unfortunately bedbugs can live for several weeks to around a year and a half without a meal.

**Do they harm us?**

Although they bite and may cause rashes, bedbugs do not appear to transmit blood-borne diseases like hepatitis B or C or HIV. However, they can provoke allergic reactions, cause secondary infections (e.g., following scratching) and anxiety. Most people do not need medications to treat bedbug bites, but in more severe cases, corticosteroid creams and oral antihistamines may be used.

However, more research is needed to determine if bedbugs can transmit disease. One small study suggests that bedbugs may carry, and transmit, bacteria that are resistant to conventional antibiotics. In Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside (VDE), which has high rates of homelessness, HIV/AIDS and injectable drug use, over 30% of residents reported bedbugs. Some of these bedbugs contained bacteria resistant to the “last resort” antibiotics, such as vancomycin. A 2011 literature review examined the possible role of bedbugs in transmitting pathogens.

**What can we do?**

- To detect an infestation:
- Inspect all bed linens, the mattress (including along piping and handles, under pillow tops and in air holes), the box spring and headboard.
  - Look for bedbugs. Black/brown spots might be dried blood or droppings; white dots may be eggs. Correct identification is critical to ensure that the treatment is appropriate.
  - Check baseboard gaps or behind tears in wallpaper or flaking paint. If you find bedbugs on walls, they may also be in picture frames, smoke detectors and other items mounted on the wall.
- The easiest prevention steps are:
- Bring into your house only new mattresses and stuffed furniture. As new mattresses may be delivered in a truck that takes away old mattresses, ensure that your new mattress is well-sealed.
  - Encase all mattresses in bedbug-proof encasements.
  - Use bedbug interceptors to find and trap the insects. These look like two shallow nested plastic bowls and slip under each leg of a bed. Bedbugs found in the inner bowl come from the bed; if in the outer bowl, from another area in the room.

If you’ve got bedbugs, call a licensed pest control company. Depending on the situation, the company may recommend physical (non-chemical) strategies to eliminate the insects, and/or to treat the area with chemicals and/or pesticides. Physical means include heating, freezing, steam cleaning followed by vacuuming, and washing/drying items at high temperatures. Note that temperatures that are not high (or low) enough, or for too little time, will result in treatment failure...and more bedbugs. In some cases, bedbug detecting dogs may be used to locate the pests.

Homeowners can save money by doing some of the work, including:

- Declutter
- Steam clean and/or vacuum the area; clean it thoroughly. If possible, use a vacuum that has a HEPA (high efficient particulate air) filter, so that insect parts and droppings (and dust) don’t get recirculated back into the air. Also, as vacuums may become infested with bedbugs, avoid using hand-held ones, those with cloth bags or fabric hoses. Discard the vacuum bag in a tightly sealed garbage bag.
- Wash and dry bedding and clothing at the highest temperatures the materials tolerate.
- Heating or freezing infested items may be an option. Do your research, as different resources recommend different maximum/minimum temperatures and duration of exposure.
- Seal cracks and crevices in walls, ceilings, window and door frames, and openings like areas where pipes and wires enter your home.
- Wrap any furniture or infested items that won’t be treated tightly in plastic and seal - then put them in the trash, perhaps with a sign that they contain bedbugs.

**Pesticides**

It is usually necessary to treat an infestation with pesticides. In order to be sold and used in Canada, pesticides must be registered under the federal *Pest Control Products Act* and classified under provincial or territorial laws (e.g., *Ontario’s Pesticides Act* and Ontario Regulation 63/09). Pesticides that are used for bedbug infestations typically act as nerve poisons and may be applied in liquid, aerosol, dust or foam formulations. There are also lower-risk agents that act by drying out (e.g., diatomaceous earth) or suffocating the insects (e.g., silica aerogel). Many pesticides are restricted for use by licensed exterminators, although several may be used by the general public. A list of pesticides classified for use in Ontario is available at the Pesticide Product Information System.

As bedbugs may be resistant to pesticides that are registered to treat them, it is critical to select the appropriate pesticide and use it correctly - or risk promoting further resistance. Consumers sometimes misuse pesticides, e.g., by using those licensed only for outdoor use in their homes or by applying pesticides at higher than recommended rates, risking unnecessary exposure of family members and pets. The US Centers for Disease Control reported that 111 illnesses were associated with use of insecticides (pyrethroids and/or pyrethrins in 89% of cases) to control bedbug infestations from 2003 to 2010. Most illnesses were minor, but one vulnerable individual died after putting pesticides on her skin, open sores and hair. Use of homemade pesticides is not legal, and these agents have not been evaluated for effectiveness; their use may expose people and pets to health and environmental risks

The ideal pesticide would be non-toxic to humans and non-target organisms. One new product of note is liquid carbon dioxide (Cryonite), which was registered in Canada in 2011 for control of bedbugs and other pests. This system releases liquid CO2 as dry ice particles, freezing the bugs and killing them on contact. It can be used on building structures, furniture (including mattresses -- conventional pesticides should not be sprayed on top of mattresses), and electrical equipment, where conventional pesticides cannot be used.



**What will the pest management company do for you?**

If you hire a pest management company, determine in advance what they will do -- i.e., steam treatment versus pesticide use and how many treatments will likely be needed. Get details -- e.g., the company should employ licensed exterminators, have experience in managing bedbugs, follow a treatment plan (which includes how you should prepare the area for treatment) and tell you what results it guarantees. Complete eradication may not be guaranteed, as reinfestation from a new source is always possible. The company should also tell you when it is safe to enter a room that has been treated as well as any precautions to take where there are small children or pregnant women at home. Some organizations provide details on expected services from professionals, e.g., the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association.

**What if treatment fails?**

Sometimes treatments don’t work. Reasons for failure include that not all the bedbugs were located, the area wasn’t cleaned sufficiently, cracks/crevices were not sealed, nearby areas the bugs may have colonized were not treated (e.g., other rooms, the next apartment), or pesticides were not used properly or the bedbugs were resistant to them.

**Who’s responsible?**

For those who rent apartments or other lodgings, landlords may be responsible for paying for the costs of treatments to get rid of bedbugs. However, this may vary with jurisdiction and, in view of the high cost of treatment(s), landlord-tenant disputes may arise. Tenants are responsible for the work involved in treating and preventing bedbug infestations, like clearing shelves, washing clothes and bedding, checking furniture and getting rid of clutter. Ontario’s *Residential Tenancies Act* requires landlords to ensure that rental units and common areas are kept in good repair, comply with health and safety standards and the buildings must be fit for habitation. The landlord is responsible for costs of building maintenance. Municipalities typically have by-laws that require all dwellings to be kept free of pest infestations (e.g., Hamilton, Ontario).

In some cases where vulnerable persons who may not be able to prepare their homes for treatment, the Public Health department of their municipality may provide assistance. Programs like the Toronto Bed Bug Project and Bug and Scrub may be available.

Some types of residential facilities may be required by law to have pest control programs and use the services of a licensed exterminator. For example, this is a requirement in licensed long-term care homes in Ontario.

In some provinces (e.g., Saskatchewan and Ontario), elected officials introduced private members bills that would have amended residential tenancies laws to require landlords to disclose to prospective tenants whether bedbugs have been in any unit in a residential complex. These right-to-know bills were never passed.

**They make travelling more complicated...**

- Bedbugs are notorious hitchhikers. When you travel,
- Hard, smooth-surfaced luggage without no pockets is more resistant to bedbugs.
  - The bedbug registry shows hotels with recent bedbug reports.
  - It is safer to pack your clothes into large, sealable plastic bags and leave them inside your luggage or hang them in the closet. Don’t leave clothing on the bed, floor or in hotel drawers.
  - Use luggage racks, don’t put your bags on the bed or floor.
  - Before you accept the room, inspect the bed: pull back the bedsheets and check the mattress, including the seams and mattress tag. Watch for blood-stains and droppings (red or brown). Check the headboard and bedside table, too.
  - If you do detect bedbugs, inform hotel management and ask for another room. Repeat the inspection.
  - When you get home, unpack outside, and re-inspect everything. Vacuum luggage (inside and out). Wash everything that is washable using the hottest water and dry on high heat for 1 hour; delicates can go in the freezer for 2 weeks. When weather permits, luggage can also go into a hot car in the sun over a sweltering summer weekend, or into a car or outdoor container in bitter winter conditions.

**Final words**

Bedbugs are exhausting and expensive, but they can show up anywhere -- even in the fanciest hotel. Be aware of what to watch for and act quickly if you find them. For more information, here are some comprehensive resources about bedbugs, including Ontario’s An Integrated Pest Management Program for Managing Bed Bugs available at [http://bedbugsinfo.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/BedBugs\\_IPM.pdf](http://bedbugsinfo.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/BedBugs_IPM.pdf), and for BC readers, visit [www.health.gov.bc.ca/protect/bed-bugs.html](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/protect/bed-bugs.html) and [www.bchousing.org/Partners/Ongoing/Guide/Bed\\_bugs](http://www.bchousing.org/Partners/Ongoing/Guide/Bed_bugs). Fact sheets and videos are also available at <http://bedbugsinfo.ca/tools>. Good luck!

This article is from a series of monthly columns by environmental law specialist Dianne Saxe, one of the top 25 environmental lawyers in the world, and Ms. Jackie Campbell. Dr. Saxe can be contacted at (416) 962-5882 or [admin@envirolaw.com](mailto:admin@envirolaw.com). For more information, visit <http://envirolaw.com>.







# The Price of Civilization, by Jeffrey D. Sachs, 2011, Random House, New York.

Reviewed by Jim Hackler

The author starts with this paragraph, “At the root of America’s economic crisis lies a moral crisis: the decline of civic virtue among America’s political and economic elite. A society of markets, laws, and elections is not enough if the rich and powerful fail to behave with respect, honesty, and compassion toward the rest of society and toward the world. America has developed the world’s most competitive market society but has squandered its civic virtue along the way.”

From the 1930s to the 1970s the US government tried to solve problems, such as reducing unemployment in the 1930s, winning the war in the 1940s, fighting poverty, and protecting the environment. Economic growth was shared.

Reagan inaugurated a new mind-set. Government was the problem and must be reduced. Don’t expect the federal government to help. But if you have a special interest, the government will rewrite the laws so that you will profit. But the Reagan formula failed. Reducing the top marginal tax rates did not benefit the economy. Inequality soared. The deficit widened.

Sachs argues that Americans are generally moderate and mostly generous in spirit. They would be better served if public policies reflected American values instead

of the values which the corporate-driven media falsely claim to be American values.

Powerful people saw themselves as being above the law. The US government reversed roles, from defender of the common man during the Great Depression to the enabler of the special interests of the wealthy.

Dick Cheney went directly from being a powerful politician to being CEO of Halliburton, a company involved in bribery, contract violations, accounting frauds, and safety violations. He returned to government as vice-president.

Private contractors now implement an astounding array of military activities, a form of contracting highly vulnerable to abuse: favouritism, kickbacks, nonperformance of services, and over-invoicing.

Wall Street firms such as Goldman Sachs, Citigroup, and JPMorgan Chase not only were the central actors in the financial crisis of 2008 but were the very places to which Obama turned to staff the senior economic posts of his administration. Did he have any choice?

When Goldman Sachs was charged by the Securities Exchange Commission with marketing toxic securities under phony premises, they settled for \$550 million, a pittance compared to their \$14.4 billion in income.

When Angelo Mozilo, CEO of Countrywide Financial, was sentenced for fraud, the fine was \$67.5 million, but his income from 2001-2006 was \$470 million.

Wall Street bankers took home tens of billions of dollars in Christmas bonuses each year in the lead-up to the 2008 financial meltdown, just as they were driving their firms toward bankruptcy. Even when Wall Street required government transfers to stay alive in 2009, the megabonuses persisted.

Countries compete for business, cut corporate taxes, ease safety regulations, and tolerate pollution. There is a “race to the bottom”. All countries lose in the end. Corporations play off one country against another.

The rich finance the elections. If the public replaced the private contributions, which would be a very modest cost, the rich would lose some of their control over government. Would a third party, with genuine progressive tendencies be able to exist? Probably not, given the voting system in the US.

Corporations have no trouble finding a PhD to sign off on just about any fraudulent scientific claim, or an MD to support a worthless drug, if the fee is right. Exxon relentlessly spreads antiscientific information on climate change and successfully confuses the public (as illustrated by the leader of the

Wildrose Party in Alberta).

In Sweden, a child growing up in relative poverty has almost the same education and earnings prospects as a child growing up at the top of the income curve. Sweden provides public support for families and their children from the earliest age, even before formal schooling. Day care is publicly provided. (In my own reading of sociological studies in Sweden, the attitudes and aspirations of working class Swedish children are similar to their middle class counterparts. In the US, working class children have lower aspirations than middle class children.)

Despite America’s natural resource advantages, it has ended up with a lower average quality of life than Northern Europe. Sachs asks if the younger generation will do better. These ideas aren’t necessarily new and the solutions he offers may be oversimplified, but the author is a well known macroeconomist who sees the larger picture and summarizes a frightening 35 year trend that should give us concern.

Jeffrey Sachs focuses on the US, but Canada seems to be following the same pattern.

Jim Hackler is Professor Emeritus, in the Department of Sociology, University of Victoria.

# The Trouble With Billionaires, by Linda McQuaig and Neil Brooks, 2010, Viking, Canada

Review and photos of “Occupy London” camp at St Paul’s by Theresa Wolfwood

“Today many influential progressives insist that poverty, not inequality, should be the focus and that how well the rich are faring is irrelevant.”

Linda McQuaig, Canada’s leading political journalist, always witty and perceptive, and her co-author, Neil Brooks, an academic and tax expert, show us just how narrow is the focus on poverty. We really should be looking at wealth – massive wealth -- because this inequality is what creates poverty. The 1% is packing in the billions at the expense of the 99% --the particularly the 20% at the bottom of the heap.

Yes, the rich have always been with us, but as the authors so graphically illustrate with the image of parades where people’s height reflects their income, but today’s wealthy are truly gigantic.

For example, in 1978 the lowest earners were getting about \$7,000 per year – pensioners, welfare recipients and part-time workers. The richest person, CEO of Imperial Oil, was getting \$453,820. In 2007, the lowest were not getting much more, but the



progressives have conceded important ground. At the centre of their case should be a strong moral argument about the illegitimacy of a small number of people gaining control over too large a share of society’s resources, and with it, control over society.”

We cannot expect conservatives to condemn policies that benefit them, but where are the progressive politicians and social leaders who speak and act against unjust wealth accumulation at the expense of the majority of citizens?

The authors make a number of useful and practical suggestions, with excellent explanations for each idea, for those who are willing to take on the issue of inequality.

They propose higher income tax rates for incomes above \$500,000; close the loopholes and remove tax preferences that now riddle the income tax system and almost exclusively benefit the rich; support the international implementation of a financial transaction tax (the Tobin tax); support international measures for a clampdown on tax avoiders and evaders; enact an inheritance tax, and use the proceeds to introduce a new education trust for every Canadian child; and perhaps the most important, difficult but hardly revolutionary, idea that we should strive to bring about a change in social attitudes towards taxation and its essential role in a democracy.

Not so much a new way of thinking as a revival of long-established notions of justice and democracy.

The book with its truths and ideas is saying what the “occupy” camps said. It concludes with a call for Canadians to wake up and grasp our future.

They write, “Canada could emerge” with the notion that “society is a community and that everyone in the community should have a chance to live their dreams.”

richest earner was Michael Lazaridis, CEO of Research in Motion, with a take-home pay of \$51,000,000.

Look at it in its simplest form: in 1978 the top earner got 65x more than the poorest; in 2007 the richest person (and many others close to him) earned 5100x more than the poorest. We are only quoting earning here, not assets. All this wealth came from somewhere, as the authors show; it came with the complicity and laws of our governments. The rich need laws.

“Only with the complex set of laws governing property, inheritance, contracts, banking, stock, exchanges and other commercial relations...can the rich be secure in holding possessions and enjoy comfortable lives that come with those possessions.”

For this reviewer the trouble with billionaires is that they exist at all and this book reveals the hypocrisy and hidden support that creates billionaires – who claim that somehow they deserve it because they are, “uniquely talented people whose contribution is so great that they deserve to be hugely fabulously rewarded.”

Upward mobility in our freer, supposedly classless society is actually blocked for the majority of citizens; the book says it is easier to be upwardly mobile in Sweden than it is in North America. In fact when Canada was more egalitarian after the war, economic prosperity boomed – contrary to all the dogma broadcast by conservative thinkers (is that an oxymoron?) and politicians.

“A society top-heavy with billionaires may seem like a paradise of upward mobility, but it is actually closer to being a bone-yard of broken dreams for all but a lucky few.” We may not all dream of becoming

billionaires but most of us dream of some right to higher education for ourselves and our families, for work that supports a family, owning a home, some degree of job satisfaction and security; all this is denied to many by the few at the top of the money heap.

Income tax at one time was and still is, thought by some to represent a form of governance that is, “central to democracy.” Taxation, when fairly administered makes our social structures possible – from pensions to schools to healthcare, providing a security which allows us to live and work together cooperatively.

Now thanks to Regan and Thatcher, taxes are considered evil and only useful for well-chosen handouts. The broader public interest is ignored. This is what we have come to. This is why we have billionaires; our laws, including tax laws, protect them; the richer they get, the lighter their tax load.

In their final chapter “Revamping the Ovarian Lottery”, the authors tackle the problem (and explain the origin of that title). They write that, “By declining to protest the concentration of wealth,





# Calendar of coming events

**CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT** Board Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month, at 1:30 p.m., at the CRD offices at 625 Fisgard street in Victoria.

**CENTRAL SAANICH RESIDENTS ARE** invited to attend regular neighbourhood gatherings, held every Friday night at 7 pm at Spelt’s Coffee Shop, 7586 East Saanich Road, in Saanichton. Share stories, books, talk politics and enjoy hot coffee. Nothing is taboo... No pretentiousness, no meeting agenda... just a chance to chat with neighbours and build community. Call 250-652-8228 for further information. Everyone is welcome.

**THE VICTORIA LABOUR COUNCIL**, representing affiliated unions in the Greater Victoria Area, holds its regular monthly meeting at 7 pm, on the third Wednesday each month, at the BCGEU Auditorium, 2994 Douglas Street, Victoria. All delegates are welcome to come to meet your executive, president Mike Eso, treasurer Stan Dzbik, and secretary Kim Manton.

**BOOK LAUNCH CELEBRATION for** *The Life and Art of Ina D.D. Uththoff*, by Christina Johnson-Dean, will be held on Saturday, June 16, at the Martin Batchelor

Gallery, 712 Cormorant Street, Victoria. Doors open at 7:30 pm, with the event starting at 8:00 pm. Published by Mother Tongue Publishing of Salt Spring Island, the book is the 5th in the extraordinary series, The Unheralded Artists of BC. Admission is free.

**CONFERENCE NDP**, a Vancouver Island South Regional Conference on a fair and prosperous future, will take place Sunday, June 17, from 10 am till 4 pm, at the University of Victoria Student **Union** Building. BC NDP Leader Adrian Dix and others will be special guest speakers. Tickets, including lunch, are \$25. Register online at [www.ndp.ca/events](http://www.ndp.ca/events) or call Lena Shillington at 1-888-868-3637 x 236. Join this interactive conference to work together on local issues.

**COMMUNITY FORUM** featuring special guest speaker Alexandra Morton of salmonaresacred.org and sponsored by the Cowichan Valley NDP, will be held on Saturday, June 23, from 2-4 pm, at the Duncan United Church, 246 Ingram Street. Everyone is welcome.

**VICTORIA PRIDE WEEK**, presented by the Victoria Pride Society, will take place July 1-8. For more information, visit [www.victoriapridesociety.org](http://www.victoriapridesociety.org).

**THE 39 DAYS OF JULY**--a rather runplace to be--brought to you by the Duncan-Cowichan Festival Society Summer Festival 2012, will take place from June 29 to August 1. For more information phone 250-748-1231 or email [summerfestival@shaw.ca](mailto:summerfestival@shaw.ca)

**SUPPORTER APPRECIATION BBQ 2012** will be held by Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca Federal New Democrats on Sunday, July 15, from 2-5 pm, at Jo and Frank Mitchell’s home, 530 Witty Beach Road. Directions: turn off Metchosin Highway onto Witty Beach Road and watch for Randall Garrison sign. Admission by donation (suggested donation \$20). For more information and to RSVP, call Jock Bates at 250-478-9735 or Jennifer Burgis at 250-881-8280, or email [esquimaltjdf@gmail.com](mailto:esquimaltjdf@gmail.com).

**HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS ‘N’ HORGAN** --a family BBQ and dessert auction--will be held on Sunday, August 26, from 12:30 -2:30 pm at Sooke Flats Park. Suggested donation \$10; kids under 2 free. For more information contact Jennifer at 250-881-8280.

## Ron reviews;

**50ish -- A JOURNEY TO 50 COUNTRIES IN 50 WEEKS, INTERVIEWING WOMEN IN THEIR FIFTIES**, by D. Lynch, D.M.I. PUBLISHING

Every woman with dreams of travel should read this book. The role of women is so different in different parts of the planet. Ms Lynch has made a major contribution to the world of travel books. It is a must..

**NOOKSACK PLACE NAMES, Geography, Culture & Language**, by Dr. A. Richardson and Dr. B. Galloway, UBC PRESS

A knowledge of place names gives us an entry into other cultures. This text covers the tribes that cross the Canadian and US borders.

Trial lawyers working the aboriginal field will find this to be a very useful book.

**THE PRINCIPLES OF TSAWALK, an Indigenous Approach to Global Crisis**, by E. R. Atleo, UBC PRESS

The author tells the readers how to solve the current crisis by the adoption of the native approach: sharing and balance to put it in short form.

The book is very timely. Would that our politicians would adopt his directions.

--Ron MacIsaac

# WESTERN SAHARA: the Refugee Nation, by Pablo San Martin, 2010, University of Wales Press, Cardiff, Wales

Review by Theresa Wolfwood

Pablo San Martin was a child when he saw scenes from the Western Sahara on TV in Spain.

“...what really captured my attention were the images of guerrilla fighters with yellowish turbans, waving their Kalashnikovs and departing for battlefield, crowded into the back of old open Land Rovers,” he explains.

His attention has been captured ever since and he has written one of the few books available in English about the Saharawi people and their cause.

The Saharawi, the people of the Western Sahara, have been fighting and working for their independence and self-determination since their homeland was occupied by Spain in 1884.

The present struggles date from the Moroccan takeover of the Western Sahara in 1975-6 when Spain abandoned their colony situated between Morocco, Mauritania and Algeria; the home of a tough and determined people, half of whom have lived in refugee camps in Algeria for three decades.

The author gives us an excellent overview of Saharawi history from before and after Spain’s colonization to the annexation of the land by Morocco and the struggles of Frente POLISARIO (Frente Popular para la Liberacion de Saguia el-Hamra y Rio de Oro) created in 1973 to fight for independence and freedom.

It also declared the creation of the new state, Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), which is recognized by more than 50 nations. An armed struggle with Morocco after its occupation of most of the Western Sahara ended in 1991 with almost half the Saharawi in camps, now communities, in Algeria.

Promises for referendums have been broken and the outside world either ignores the illegal and unjust situation or collaborates with Morocco, a well-supported ally of the USA.

This book is really a labour of love; San

Martin’s passion for these people and their cause carries the reader through the necessary historical and political detail.

In chapter 2 on the emergence of Saharawi Nationalism, he writes about international interest in the mineral deposits of the Western Sahara where mainly Spanish companies began the exploitation of rich phosphate deposits that continues to this day, now by Moroccans. The Saharawi’s only participation was to provide cheap labour. These deposits and the potential for other minerals along with the rich off-shore fishery are the main reason for Morocco’s militarized occupation and in spite of agreements, refusal to allow a vote on the possibility let alone the reality of Saharawi independence.

The Moroccan government receives military aid from the USA. Canada is negotiating a Free Trade Agreement with Morocco; it in turn is supported by the province of Saskatchewan where the agriculture minister says that Morocco is a major market for its agricultural products and he wants trade barriers removed. The giant Saskatchewan Potash Corporation also might benefit; it buys phosphates from Morocco, much of which originate in the Western Sahara.

Nationalism arose in response to oppression by Spain, then Morocco and the tacit support by most global powers; oppression was made more obvious by this resource exploitation.

There is a growing new awareness of the injustice of Africa’s last colony on many fronts. But San Martin writes, “In the meantime, 2009 has already ended and the Saharawi refugees are still witnessing, frustrated, how their lives fade away in the middle of no-man’s land, in a situation of neither peace nor war that seems not to have an end.”

San Martin says that in spite of the many UN recommendations, Morocco still rules the Western Sahara. The portion of the state along the Atlantic coast has received so many Moroccan migrants that they now outnumber the Saharawis who



are constantly subjected to surveillance, harassment and detention which may result in torture and lengthy jail sentences.

A narrow strip to the east and south is a “liberated zone” with little development and few people; this strip is separated from Morocco and the western region of the state by a more than 2000 km long berm liberally planted with landmines. Before this barrier was constructed by Morocco thousands of Saharawi fled from their homeland, pursued by the Moroccan air force dropping napalm and white phosphorus on terrified civilians. *Map courtesy of [www.sandblast-arts.org](http://www.sandblast-arts.org)*


The soul and centre of Saharawi life and culture is in the refugee camps; it is also the administrative centre for the SADR nation. The Saharawi live displaced in a “refugee nation” in the Algerian desert. All the while they maintain their sense of nationhood and have created governing structures, for now and for the future independent Saharawi state. This is not a refugee existence as much as a people preparing for statehood.

The last chapters San Martin devotes to description and analysis of society and life in the refugee camps. He explains how exile, impermanence and constant struggle, now on the political and diplomatic front, has changed peoples. Tribalism has been weakened as nationalism is forged. The role of women changed; women now have a great sense of equality and participation. The cash economy

has changed lives, donations and remittances from abroad, consumer goods and small business have changed the original ideas of economic equality. Many young people go abroad for education, bringing back new ideas and social norms. Children go on organized holidays to families in Spain. All these factors change relationships and expectations. The desert is not as remote as it seems. San Martin makes it seem close and personal with his encounters and quotes from many Saharawis.

Recently there has been some success in raising awareness of this little-known issue. An important EU fishing treaty with Morocco has not been renewed. The illegal export of mineral products from the Western Sahara is gaining attention; the Arab Spring showed us that change can be sudden and unexpected by outsiders. San Martin says that his book does not have an end; history is still happening there. Legal experts and solidarity activists are participating on many fronts, from direct contact to political lobbying to cultural events.

For good photographs and information see also: [www.studio-basel.com/assets/files/files/TOP-ICS\\_01\\_LIVING.pdf](http://www.studio-basel.com/assets/files/files/TOP-ICS_01_LIVING.pdf)  
[www.sandblast-arts.org](http://www.sandblast-arts.org)  
<http://sandblast-arts.blogspot.com/>  
For an article on the Western Sahara and maritime law by see: [www.arso.org/JSmithmaritjuri-diction102002.pdf](http://www.arso.org/JSmithmaritjuri-diction102002.pdf)  
Western Sahara Resource Watch has current news on resource developments in the region [www.wsrw.org/](http://www.wsrw.org/)



MOTHER TONGUE

PUBLISHING LIMITED

SALT SPRING ISLAND, BC

THE PORCH GALLERY

OPEN SUNDAYS 12-4

ORDER DIRECT FROM OUR WEBSITE OR AT YOUR FAVOURITE BOOKSTORE

[mothertonguepublishing.com](http://mothertonguepublishing.com)

Celebrating our fifth year publishing bold books of British Columbia’s unheralded art history, fiction and poetry.



# Directory of locations, organizations, publications of interest

## MLA COMMUNITY OFFICES

**Cowichan Valley Community Office**, Bill Routley, MLA: 273 Trunk Road, Duncan, BC or PO Box 599, Duncan, BC, V9L 3X9, phone 250-715-0127, toll free 1-877-715-0127, fax 250-715-0139, MLA email bill.routley.mla@leg.bc.ca

**Esquimalt-Royal Roads Community Office**, Maurine Karagianis, MLA: A5-100 Aldersmith Place, View Royal, BC V9A 7M8, phone 250-479-8326, email maurine.karagianis.mla@leg.bc.ca or visit her website at www.maurinekaragianis.ca

**Juan de Fuca Community Office**, John Horgan, MLA: 800 Goldstream Avenue, Victoria, BC, V9B 2X7, phone 250-391-2801, email john.horgan.-mla@leg.bc.ca

**Saanich South Community Office**, Lana Popham, MLA: 4085 Quadra Street, Victoria BC V8X 1K5, email lana.popham.mla@leg.bc.ca, www.saanichsouth.ca

**Victoria-Beacon Hill Community Office**, Carole James, MLA: 1084 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8V 3K4, phone 250-952-4211, fax 250-952-4586, email carole.james.mla@leg.bc.ca

**Victoria-Swan Lake Community Office**, Rob Fleming, MLA: 1020 Hillside Avenue, Victoria, BC, V8T 2A2, email rob.fleming.mla@leg.bc.ca

## MPs and COMMUNITY OFFICES

**Denise Savoie, MP**, House of Commons, Room 518, Confederation Building, Ottawa, ON, A1A 0A6.

**Victoria Community Office**, Denise Savoie, MP, 970 Blanshard Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 2H3, phone 250-363-8421, fax 250-363-8422, open Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; visit www.denisesavoie.ca or email her at denise.savoie@parl.gc.ca

**Randall Garrison, MP**, House of Commons, Confederation Building, Ottawa, ON, A1A 0A6.

**Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca Community Office**, Randall Garrison, MP, A2-1000 Aldersmith Place, Victoria, BC V9A 7M8, open 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday or by appointment. Phone 250-405-4550; fax 250-405-4556. Email randall.garrison@parl.gc.ca.

**Jean Crowder, MP**, House of Commons, Confederation Building, Ottawa, ON, A1A 0A6. Email her at crowdj1A@parl.gc.ca

**Nanaimo-Cowichan Community Office**: Jean Crowder, MP: 101- 126 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC V9L 1P1, www.jeancrowder.ca or email her at jean@jeancrowder.ca

## PROVINCIAL NDP CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATIONS

**Cowichan Valley New Democrats**: Write PO Box 102, Duncan, BC V9L 1P0; or contact president Ellen Oxman at 250-250-701-4980 or email her at CowichanValley.NDP@shaw.ca.

**Esquimalt-Royal Roads New Democrats**: Write Box 231 110-174 Wilson Street Victoria, BC V9A 7N7 or email esquimaltroyalroads@gmail.com..

**Juan de Fuca New Democrats**: Phone president John Lewinski at 250-391-1686 or email him at jonalew@hotmail.com.

**Oak Bay-Gordon Head New Democrats**: Write PO Box 5539, LCD 9, Victoria, BC, V8R 6S4,or contact president Keith Todd at 250-598-8039 or by email at president@obghnewdemocrats.ca

**Saanich North and the Islands New Democrats**: Email president Allan Collier at silcol@telus.net.

**Saanich South New Democrats**: Write PO Box 30041, Saanich Centre Postal Outlet, Victoria, BC, V8X 5E1, phone 250-479-1100, or email samuelgodfrey@gmail.com.

**Victoria-Beacon Hill New Democrats**: Write PO Box 8523, Victoria, BC, V8W 3S1, phone 250-386-8497 or contact president Chris Gainor by phone at 250-380-6358 or by email at cgainor@shaw.ca.

**Victoria-Swan Lake New Democrats**: Contact president Darcy Lindberg at darcy.lindberg@gmail.com, or write to PO Box 282, 1681 Hillside Avenue, Victoria, BC, V8T 2C1.

## FEDERAL NDP RIDING ASSOCIATIONS

**Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca New Democrats**: Contact president Jock Bates at wanzbates@shaw.ca or write to PO Box 622, 105-1497 Admirals Road, Victoria, BC, V9A 2P8.

**Nanaimo-Cowichan New Democrats**:Contact president Sue Creba at 250-753-3371or email

her at suecreba@aquariusd.com.

**Saanich-Gulf Islands New Democrats**: Contact president Jack Greenwell at 250-477-3549 or by email to j.greenwell@shawlink.ca; or Irene Wright (Gulf Islands), by phone/fax 1-250-537-5347, or email to aiwright@telus.net.

**Victoria New Democrats**: To contact president Erik Kaye, write to Box 5380, LCD9, Victoria, BC, V8R 6S4.or visit their website:www.victori-andp.ca.

## PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL NDP OFFICES

**BC New Democrats**: 5367 Kingsway, Burnaby BC, V5H 2G1, phone 604-430-8600, fax 604-432-9517, toll free 1-888-868-3637.

**Canada's New Democrats**: 300 - 279 Laurier West, Ottawa, ON, K1P 5J9, phone 613-236-3613, toll free: 1-866-525-2555, fax 613-230-9950, TTY: 1-866-776-7742.

## OTHER GROUPS YOU MAY WANT TO REACH

**Amnesty International--Canadian Section**: www.amnesty.org.

**BC Council of Senior Citizens Organization**: phone 604-438-3221.

**BC Latin American Congress**: 4184 Brant Street, Vancouver, BC, V5N 5B4, phone 604-879-3246, fax 604-872-6776, email bclac@vcn.bc.ca.

**Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives**: 410-75 Albert Street, Ottawa, ON, K1P 5E7, phone 613-563-1341, fax 613-233-1458, email ccpa@policyalternatives.ca, website: www.policyalternatives.ca.

**Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives--BC Office**: 1400-207 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 1H7, phone 604-801-5121, fax 604-801-5122, website: www.policyalternatives.ca.

**Canadian Health Coalition**: phone 613-233-1018.

**Canadian Labour Congress (Pacific Region)**: 201-5118 Joyce Street, Vancouver, BC, V5R 4H1, Regional Representative Iris Taylor, phone 604-430-6766, extension 267, fax 604-430-6762.

**Council of Canadians, Victoria Chapter**: PO Box 5515, 1625 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, phone 250-360-8448, email victoriacouncilofcanadians@shaw.ca or visit www.victoriacouncilofcanadians.ca

**Canadian Wildlife Federation**: 350 Michael Cowpland Drive, Kanata, ON, K2M 2W1, phone 1-800-563-9453, or visit www.cwf-fcf.org.

**Ecojustice (formerly Sierra Legal)**: 214-131 Water Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 4M3, phone 1-800-926-7444

**Government of Canada**: www.gc.ca.

**Government of BC**: www.gov.bc.ca.

**Greater Victoria Water Watch Coalition**: visit www.greatervictoriawaterwatchcoalition.ca or phone 250-595-1701 or 250- 380-1197.

**Human Rights Internet**: www.hri.ca.

**Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria**: phone 250-388-4728, fax 250-386-4395.

**Mining Justice Action Committee (MJAC)**: contact Heather Tufts at htufts@shaw.ca or Sharlene Patterson at daveandshar@shaw.ca

**NAPO (National Anti-Poverty Organization) News**: advocates for the poor in communities, courts and political areas, www.napo-onap.ca.

**NDP Socialist Caucus**: www.ndpsocialists.ca. "Our aim and ongoing struggle as New Democrats must be to establish a Socialist Canada."

**Parliamentary website** lists all federal cabinet ministers, parliamentary secretaries and opposition spokespersons. Visit www.parl.gc.ca/information/about/people/key/critic.asp?language=E

**Seniors' Advocacy Services**, sponsored by the Greater Victoria Seniors (OAPO) organization, are available on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m., at the Blanshard Community Centre, 901 Kings Road (King and Dowler Streets), close to the #4 and #6 buses on Quadra Street. Service is free, and provided by trained volunteers. For further information phone 250-388-7696.

**Seniors Serving Seniors**: 109-1022 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, BC V8V 3P5, phone 250-382-4331.

**South Island Health Coalition**, an affiliate of the BC Health Coalition. If you're concerned about access, affordability and quality of health care in our community, get involved by calling co-chairs Dale Perkins at 250-592-5487 or Wendy Strong at 250-592-1222.

**Together Against Poverty Society**: 415-620 View Street, Victoria, BC, phone 250-361-3521.

**Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society**: Third floor, 535 Yates Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 2Z6, phone 250-361-9433, fax 250-361-1914, website www.vircs.bc.ca.

**Victoria Labour Council**: 219-275 Quadra Street, Victoria, BC, V8T 4E8, phone 250-384-8331, fax: 250-384-8381, email vlcbc@telus.net; Mike Eso, president; Mary Ehl, secretary; Mike Ferguson, treasurer.

**Victoria Peace Centre**: Box 8307, Victoria, BC, V8W 3R9, phone/fax 250-592-8307, email centre@vicpeace.ca or website www.vicpeace.ca.

**World Wildlife Federation**: 410-245 Eglinton Avenue East, Toronto, ON, M4P 3J1, phone 1-800-26-PANDA, fax 416-489-8055, website: www.wwf.ca

**United Nations Association in Canada (UNAC)** - Victoria Branch: 202-3293 Douglas Street, Victoria, BC, V8Z 3K9, phone 250-475-2868, fax 250-475-5898, email unavic@coastnet.com or website www.unac.org.

## ALTERNATIVE PUBLICATIONS

**Canadian Dimension Magazine**: an independent socialist magazine, begun in 1963, and run by a cooperative, published 6 times a year, subscription \$24.50, students and unemployed \$18.50, 2B-91 Albert Street, Winnipeg, MN, R3B 1G5, subscription hotline 1-800-737-7051.

**COMER (Committee on Monetary and Economic Reform)**: reform-minded focus on monetary issues and how they affect our society, email comerpub@comer.org, website www.comer.org.

**Global Outlook**: Ian Woods, editor; \$25 Canadian, PO Box 222, Oro, ON L0L 2X0.

**The CCPA Monitor**: published by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, 410-75 Albert Street, Ottawa, ON, K1P 5E7, \$110 supporting membership with \$75 tax0 receipt, or \$25 low income membership receives the Monitor monthly.

**The Democrat**: published by the BC NDP, 3110 Boundary Road, Burnaby, BC, V5M 4A2, subscription \$10 per year.

**The Straight**: a weekly publication with features, articles, news and reviews from Vancouver, subscription \$117/52 issues in Canada, 2nd floor, 1770 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC, V6J 3G7, phone 604-730-7000, email info@straight.com.

**New Internationalist**: a communications co-operative based in Oxford, it exists to report on issues of world poverty and inequality; to focus attention on the unjust relationship between the powerful and the powerless in both rich and poor nations; to debate and campaign for the radical changes necessary f the basic material and spiritual needs of all are to be met, subscriptions, \$38.50 including GST ,PO Box 706, Markham, ON, L6B 1A7, phone 905-946-0407, fax: 905-946-0410, email: magazines@indas.on.ca.

**Our Times**: Canada's independent labour magazine and read by mostl about organizations and other supporters of working pwople. Check its website at www.ourtimes.ca.

The **Left Coast Events** listserve and webpage provides a forum for sharing information about upcoming events committed to uncovering the various dimensions of social and environmental justice. Anyone can add an event and doing so is free for not-for-profit organizing and actions. Visit leftcoastevents.org to add an event, for more information, or to subscribe.

**The Dominion**: a monthly paper published by an incipient network of independent journalists in Canada since May 2003. It aims to provide accurate, critical coverage that is accountable to its readers and the subjects it tackles. The Dominion can be read online, or delivered to your doorstep as a print subscription. See www.dominionpaper.ca/

**The Republic**: Vancouver-based socialist paper, subscriptions, two issues per month, \$25 per year; free at local news stands, PO Bo 56072, Vancouver, BC, V5L 5E2; email mag pie@lynx.bc.ca.

**Victoria Street Newz**: a montly independent newspaper focussed on understanding the root causes and consequences of poverty. It's sold by vendors on Victoria's streets, or by subscription. Archives and more information available at

relativenewz.ca.

## ALTERNATIVE WEBSITES

**www.alternet.org** --A US website featuring alternative articles on US and world politics, an online magazine and information source.

**www.counterpunch.org**--an American website with a left-wing viewpoint.

**http://dominionpaper.ca**--a Canadian ezine covering national and international stores that mainstream sources may not cover. Updated daily.

**www.globalproblematique.net/bcpolicyprobe** -- Run by BC Policy Probe, this website features information and research about suh things as privatization of BC Hydro.

**www.avaaz.org/en/global** --Global warming is a global threat. By confronting it together, we can build a more just, tolerant, and vibrant world.

**www.indymedia.org** -- A collective of independent media organizations and hundreds of journalists offering grassroots, non-corporate coverage of events as they happen around the world.

**www.informationclearinghouse.info** --World news daily--news you won't find on CNN or Foxnews.

**http://Newsdaily.ca**--CanadaNewsdaily.ca is a good (and bad) news service with a refreshingly non-corporate view of the news, from local to global stories, with features, opinion, analysis -- all for free, including free classified ads. Newsdaily covers Canadian and world news, plus a focused look at British Columbia, Victoria and the Islands.

**mai-not@globalproblematique.net**-- Originally set up to discuss the implications of the Multi-lateral Agreement on Investments, this website and related email list now discuss world-wide developments of concern to left-wing readers.

**http://ndp.4webs.ca** -- A new NDP list serve and bulletin board. Check it out.

**www.pacificfreepress.com**--with a mission to dig out nuggets of truth from the slag-heap of lies, ignorance and witless diversion that has buried public discourse today. Pacific Free Press provides a new venue for disseminating hard news and insightful, fact-based analysis of the harsh realities too often ignored or distorted by the mainstream press.

**http://pej.org**--PEJ News, a free service, serves up daily news, opinion and analysis of peace, environment and justice issues. Stay informed with web and email stories often days, weeks and months ahead of the mainstream media. The Peace, Earth & Justice News is produced entirely by volunteers and is a project of the non-profit Prometheus Institute based in Victoria, BC.

**www.policyalternatives.ca** -- The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' web page offers research reports, books and opinion pieces done on issues of social and economic justice.

**www.rabble.ca** -- A cheeky site offering original stories, feature articles and columns from some of the progressive voices in Canada.

**www.strategicthoughts.ca**--You'll find David Schreck's columns and more here.

**www.straightgoods.com** -- A watchdog working for Canadian consumers and citizens.

**www.thetyee.ca**--BC news and views from a non-corporate perspective.

**www.truthout.org**--US website with Real news.

**www.victoriacarshare.ca**--If you don't want to own a car but still need to drive one sometimes, this welbsite may be for you.

**www.vivelecanada.ca**--website by noted activist Mel Hurtig about the corporate threat to Canadian sovereignty, includes a whole range of features from online polls and petitions to editorials and information updates.

**www.wsws.org** --The World Socialist Web Site is the Internet centre of the International Committee of the Fourth International (ICFI). It provides analysis of majorworld events, comments on political, cultural, historical and philosophical issues, and valuable documents and studies from the heritage of the socialistmovement.

## COMMUNITY RADIO

Commercial free communjnity radio, CFUV is located at 101.9 FM and 104.3 Cable, or visit http://www.cfuv.uvic.ca