

# dialogue

Vol. 21, No. 4, Dec. 2007-Jan. 2008 \$5.00

Canada's Independent Voices

MAGAZINE



**NOT Made In Canada,  
you say...? *Pity!***

**"Product of Canada"  
no longer means that  
ingredients - or our  
'Political Policies'  
- are homegrown!**

- ✚ **Water exports & the S.P.P.**
- ✚ **Global warming & dimming**
- ✚ **Our place in human history**

# In this Issue...



MP Scott Reid (centre) visits Donna Dillman (left), Nov. 7th, outside the gates of the uranium protest site near Sharbot Lake, Ontario. Donna began her hunger strike on Oct. 8th. Story on page 12.

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## Dialogue Magazine

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VISA-M/C ACCEPTED

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

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Please see page 58 for special  
Christmas Gift Rates

## A word from the publisher and editor...



Janet, Maurice & Penny

*Dear Reader,*

**Janet's cover for this issue** may prompt us to question what "Canadian" really means these days? Who is calling the shots about the future of our country and our well-being? And it reminds us, as well, about our relationship with Mother Earth – and challenges us to look more deeply into the source of today's global complexities.

Many writers in this issue address these topics – from several different perspectives. You will find thought-provoking articles – some on topics that may push the limits of your current understanding! However, as Albert Einstein once noted, **"One cannot solve a problem using the same thinking that created it."**

Mark Kimmel, in discussing our understanding of reality, says, We are at the pivotal juncture in human history... Where we go from here is largely determined by... 'us.' (p.27)

A quote sent in by Roly Smith reminds us, *"We give advice by the bucket, but take it by the grain."* – (Rev.) W.R. Alger [1800's]

We enjoyed an interesting visit with Richard Moore in October. Dennis Shaw of *RefedBC* noted that their website features a pertinent quote from Richard Moore's book, *Escaping The Matrix*: "If a movement makes demands, then it is admitting that power resides elsewhere. If a movement creates solutions, then it is asserting its own power."

...You will find lots of solution-oriented ideas in this issue!

And a suggestion for *Dialogue* from Nora Seeley, of Penfield NB – "Ask readers to send in cooking receipts! They're always well received. I will send some too!" We enjoy receiving notes and letters from all our readers – like the ones from Rheta Hunking, Phyllis Bisson and Violet Greenburgh – that remind us *Dialogue* is for everyone!

There are plenty of commentaries on the Canadian political scene, including the hot topic of Mulroney-Schreiber (p.5), and also a critical assessment of federal politics by seasoned MP, Keith Martin (p.9).

And Peter Sauv e's *Quebec Notebook* (p.39) discusses "who's asleep, who's a sheep and who's for sale" in his province!

Enjoy, too, the many thoughtful articles pertaining to the true meaning of Christmas. And if you are in the neighbourhood, join us for our *Christmas Open House*, on Sunday, Dec. 9, from 2-4 pm.

The *Dialogue* website also now features a "pdf" extract of each issue. And if you are not yet receiving our monthly "e-mail newsletter" (prepared by Maurice), send an e-mail – to [maurice.king@dialogue.ca](mailto:maurice.king@dialogue.ca) – and we will add you to our e-newsletter list. [Please note: the e-mail address for submissions to the printed magazine is still: [dialogue@dialogue.ca](mailto:dialogue@dialogue.ca) ]

**Thank you** considering purchasing **Christmas Gift Subscriptions** this year! (p.58) Without your support and your voice, there would be no *Dialogue!* Your help in finding new readers is so vital – and very much appreciated.

*Maurice*, volunteer publisher

*Janet*, volunteer editor

*Wishing you a joyous, love-filled  
Christmas and New Year*

## dialogue is...

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

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

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

*dialogue* magazine

**consider this your invitation!**

**We also need your support as a subscriber, to help us continue**  
(See P. 58 for details)

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

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

**Date of Current Issue: Nov. 17, '07**  
**Annual subscription: \$30.00**  
[including GST]

[The price has been rounded off to make our bookkeeping easier! Thank you.  
GST # 89355-1739]

Canada Post Agreement No. 40069647  
Registration No. 08915  
ISSN: 1184-7042  
Legal Deposit:  
National Library of Canada (409731)

*We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP), toward our mailing costs.*

Canada™

**The views expressed in this publication are those of their individual authors.**

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# From Near & Far

## BC Municipalities reject TILMA

### Council of Canadians

The Council of Canadians applauds the Union of British Columbia Municipalities for taking a strong stand against the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement. In a landmark vote at their annual meeting in September, municipal representatives passed a motion calling on the BC government to significantly alter the deal to address the concerns of municipalities – or exempt them from TILMA completely. If Premier Campbell refuses to do either, then the municipalities committed to lobbying the government to scrap the deal.

“This is a severe blow to TILMA by municipalities,” said Carleen Pickard, B.C. regional organizer for the Council of Canadians, who attended the UBCM convention. “This is what citizens, environmental, labour and social justice organizations have been hoping for.”

Councillors expressed almost unanimous support for the motion against TILMA during the discussion preceding the vote. TILMA, which was signed into law without public debate or legislative oversight last April, is a legally binding agreement between B.C. and Alberta that gives businesses and individuals the right to sue either province when they feel that any regulation and local government policy “restricts or impairs” investment.

“The UBCM’s vote, along with the rejection of TILMA by Saskatchewan and Manitoba, will weaken the case for TILMA in Ontario and Québec, where provincial governments are considering this deal,” said Pickard.

The vote represents a huge victory in the Council of Canadians’ fight against TILMA. And it wouldn’t have happened without the hard work done by chapter activists, who contacted their local mayors and councillors, wrote letters to the editor, and organized many public events over the last few months. ♣

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## Press 5 for response to racists!

**AffiliationQuebec** Leader, Allen Nutik, has criticized the *Movement Montréal français* “press nine” initiative as “Just another ugly signal from the Quebec nationalists to pressure the minorities and Anglophones of this province”.

Nutik responds: Press 6: to demand an apology from the blatant MMf racists, as we remind them that they enjoy our English tax dollars paid to aid the 42% of Quebecers who pay NO provincial taxes. Press 7: to join AffiliationQuebec in order to speak for your Canadian rights. Press 8: for Partition of Quebec to banish the racists to their own territory.

AffiliationQuebec is a new political party formed to represent the full rights and interests of staunch Canadians living in Quebec. Contact: Allen E. Nutik, Leader/Chef, AffiliationQuebec  
www.affiliationquebec.ca / Tel. 514-799-4919 ♣

## Criminal Leadership!

### Alan Macdonell, Williamstown ON

The purpose of this letter is to describe a recent experience with the Federal Income Tax department. My intention is to warn taxpayers that Federal so-called tax experts in Shawinigan cannot be trusted.

### Canadian monetary policy is nothing but blatant fraud.

The chartered banks have usurped the authority of the legislature and turned the provision of a medium of exchange into a nightmarish pyramid scheme, from which they derive billions upon billions of dollars of undeserved interest. Most of the income tax collected by the federal government disappears into the maw of the chartered banks.

I do not appreciate donating money for this purpose. In fact, several years ago, I became tired of the farce and decided to let the government fill the forms out themselves. I simply provided the relevant information, signed the form, and sent it off to Shawinigan, usually including a letter of protest.

As retirees, my wife and I are on a fixed income. In spite of this, the tax charged kept increasing from year to year, putting our very survival in doubt. My wife finally prevailed on me to get professional help with the 2006 tax form.

Our annual tax bill under Federal government jurisdiction ranged between \$1500 and \$1900.00. The exact same information in the hands of a professional tax expert resulted in a rebate of over \$600.00 for 2006. Subsequently, a professional review of the five previous years eventually resulted in an additional rebate of \$7300.00.

### There is no excuse for such treatment. How many thousands of other Canadians are also getting ripped off?

Perhaps all those sponsorship thugs who escaped justice have since found safe haven in Shawinigan.

This letter will be distributed to various government and security departments as well as other individuals and organizations who might be interested. ♣

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## Canada’s abundant water...??

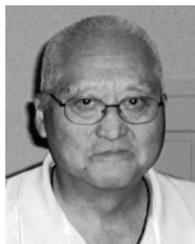
### From: Don Parker [rs15@cogeco.ca]

Some of the things I have scanned in Brent Patterson’s Council of Canadians Oct. report make my feelings of disgust for Harper and his gang simmer unmerrily. Why do we as Canadians let him get away with it? Because we are too blamed comfortable!... *One of the topics in the report:* The myth of Canada’s abundant water: The Gordon Water Group of Concerned Scientists and Citizens, a group of scientists, lawyers, policy experts and former federal government policy advisors, are united by a shared concern for Canada’s freshwater future. In *Changing the Flow*, the Gordon Water Group has established a comprehensive blueprint for federal action on freshwater protection. Read more at: [www.gordonwatergroup.ca](http://www.gordonwatergroup.ca) ♣

# From Near and Far

## Saving Canadian sovereignty from SPPA and NAU

Gerry Masuda, Duncan BC



In my opinion, informing Canadians about the secret implementation of the Security and Prosperity Partnership Agreement (SPPA) leading up to North American Union (NAU) is the most important and pressing issue facing Canada. It trumps all other issues, yet Canadians are unaware of this – by

design. SPPA is one of the latest stepping stones leading to NAU. It is sold as ‘only’ an administrative harmonization of regulations between Canada, US and Mexico. It is far more. It exposes our water, our oil and all our resources to American exploitation and waste. But more important, it will mean that we lose our sovereign right to set our own policies in the interest of Canadians. We lose our independence and identity.

SPPA is scheduled for completion this year! It is for this

reason that SPPA is the most urgent and pressing issue facing Canadians. The key to informing Canadians is to ‘force’ the corporate controlled media to report on SPPA by making it so BIG it is reported on TV, radio and in our newspapers. This could be achieved by the New Democratic Party (NDP) announcing it was making NO TO SPPA its election platform for the coming elections.

Once Canadians learn about the secrecy and stealth with which SPPA is being implemented, they will turn on the traitorous Conservatives and Liberals and vote to keep our sovereignty. The NDP could win a majority government on this issue. What do you think?

A longer version of the above has been posted as a discussion page on an electronic forum established by some NDPers in Victoria. Orange Forum is designed to stimulate interest and discussion on political issues with a view to possibly providing a grass-roots input to the NDP policy development. Orange Forum can be accessed at [www.orangeforum.ca](http://www.orangeforum.ca). If you are interested in joining the discussion and have trouble navigating through the Forum, send me an email at:

[gmasuda@telus.net](mailto:gmasuda@telus.net) ♣

### Lyin’ Brian’s old tactics

Bud Pfaff, Peterborough ON

It seems Lyin’ Brian is up to his old tricks, recognizing, “When caught, the best means of defense is attack”. Previously, when the Federal Govt. sent a confidential letter to the Swiss government about Mulroney and the Air Bus affair, it was rumored that Mulroney leaked the information, in order to have reason to attack the Government before he was called on. That worked so well that, in spite of the government’s right to enquire, the Liberal Government apologized and gave him \$2.1 Million dollars.

Now, after he is caught in so many lies linking him to Schreiber, Mulroney’s credibility is totally shot and an investigation is under consideration, Lyin’ Brian comes forward again on the attack, demanding a full public enquiry from 1988, a date carefully chosen to avoid revealing his earlier connections with the guy he said he only had coffee with, but who was obviously his “partner in crime.”

Over the past eight years, Schreiber has somehow avoided deportation to Germany for similar charges of fraud, influence peddling, bribery and tax evasion, in connection with Air Bus dealings, but is now in jail waiting deportation, just when he is needed here as a witness to an investigation into Mulroney’s involvement. If he is now rushed out of the country, the public will have reason to believe the matter goes much deeper than revealed, and the Conservative Party will suffer a tremendous set back.

This entire matter begs the question, why would a PM of Canada even have coffee with the likes of Schreiber? In my opinion, evidence already revealed indicates Mulroney is as guilty as O.J. Simpson – and got off for all the same reasons. Whatever type of investigation takes place, it should see Mulroney in the slammer. ♣

### Mulroney-Schreiber Inquiry...

**Fully impartial inquiries into the Mulroney-Schreiber situation and many others are needed to clean up the federal government**

by Duff Conacher, Ottawa ON



Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper's first response to the situation involving former Conservative Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and German businessman Karlheinz Schreiber was to say, “it's impossible, frankly, for the government to make an impartial

judgement on how to proceed” -- showing he recognized that Conservatives are in a conflict of interest concerning the situation.

The conflict of interest exists because Mr. Schreiber named Mr. Harper in his court affidavit, and Mr. Mulroney has advised Mr. Harper and has connections with Cabinet ministers.

However, Mr. Harper then contradicted himself and said that he will select a person to investigate, and that person will give advice to him and his Cabinet and then they will decide how to proceed.

On Tuesday, under public pressure, and in response to Brian Mulroney's request, Prime Minister Harper switched from appointing an investigator to appointing an advisor who will recommend terms of reference for a public inquiry and other possible steps, with the Prime Minister still deciding how to proceed. On Wednesday, Mr. Harper appointed David Johnston as the advisor, and while Mr. Johnston is a law professor and ⇒

currently president of the University of Waterloo, he was also appointed by then-Prime Minister Mulroney to the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy in 1988, and reported directly to Mr. Mulroney in that position. Mr. Harper's first instinct about conflicts of interest was correct -- his involvement in the selection of the advisor means that the advisor is neither independent nor impartial. Secondly, the advisor's report should not be submitted to the Prime Minister, but instead either to an independent prosecutor for a decision whether to prosecute, or to an independent commissioner (appointed under the Inquiries Act) to be explored further through public hearings and a fact-finding report.

If Prime Minister Harper had not broken his election promise to establish an independent Public Appointments Commission, it could have ensured a merit-based, impartial selection of an advisor, prosecutor and commissioner. So now, to ensure independence and impartiality, the Prime Minister must allow all federal party leaders in the House of Commons to approve the prosecutor and commissioner, and the terms of reference of the inquiry.

The Prime Minister selection of the advisor, and plan to have the advisor report back to him, is a step backwards in federal government ethics rules and law enforcement to the almost completely ineffective 1994 to 2004 period when Ethics Counsellor Howard Wilson (who had no investigative powers) reported behind closed doors to Liberal Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and his Cabinet ministers on so-called investigations, and then Chrétien decided whether he himself, or his Cabinet ministers or staff, had broken federal ethics rules.

Mr. Harper's actions also raise the same questions as Harper's selection of former Parti Québécois Cabinet Minister Daniel Paille to investigate and report back to Harper on the public opinion research practices by the Liberal government between 1990 and 1993, and former Prime Minister Paul Martin's selection of Justice John Gomery (who now faces a court challenge alleging bias) as the inquiry commissioner into the Adscam sponsorship scandal.

When Canadians face allegations about questionable actions by themselves or their friends, they don't get to choose the people who will investigate them, who will de-

cide how to deal with the evidence, nor who will judge them. The Prime Minister should not be allowed to choose these people either.

To prevent such conflicted responses to similar allegations in the future, the Inquiries Act must be changed as soon as possible to allow a majority of federal party leaders to launch an inquiry, and to require approval by all federal party leaders of inquiry commissioners.

Whether or not these steps are taken, federal political party leaders should not hesitate to initiate inquiries into many similarly questionable situations that occurred in federal politics over the past 15 years.

The Mulroney-Schreiber situation is only one example of many revealing how loopholes in the federal government's donations, gifts, lobbying and ethics rules, and lack of enforcement of these rules, are the real scandal.

Many party leaders have baited voters with false promises, then switched direction when elected, and then falsely claimed they kept their promises. Former Ethics Counsellor Howard Wilson, and former Ethics Commissioner Bernard Shapiro, either refused to investigate or approved highly questionable activities by more than 20 Cabinet ministers and Cabinet staff.

Many federal politicians and political staff have had questionable business dealings or became lobbyists soon after leaving office; billions have been spent on questionable contracts (and more than \$40 million from the Adscam sponsorship scandal is still missing); many unqualified party loyalists have been appointed to important, high-paying positions; many secret donations have been made to federal politicians, and; many lobbyists have worked for or raised money for Cabinet ministers they were lobbying.

Any federal politician who is a truly ethical leader will push for fully independent and impartial inquiries into all of these situations, into all the ways in which the federal government's accountability system is the scandal, and will continue pushing until Canadians have the honest, ethical, open and waste-preventing federal government they deserve.

**Duff Conacher** is the Coordinator of Democracy Watch, Canada's leading government accountability organization -- [www.cleangovernment.ca](http://www.cleangovernment.ca) ♣

---

## Fed. Government promoting a false image of Canada

**Ken Kellington, Moose Jaw SK**

Just months after praising organizers of the Vancouver Winter Olympic Games for its commitment to bilingualism, Canada's Commissioner of Official Languages is launching a probe to ensure the 2010 Games don't short-change francophone culture. Graham Fraser wants to guarantee that the Games are fully bilingual. His office posted a contract to study the preparations to "ensure that Canada upholds its image as a bilingual country." The majority of Canadians, who are unilingual English speaking, already

realize the Commissioner has tremendous powers. However, the majority would also agree these powers should not include giving the world a false image of Canadians and our Country. Canada is not a bilingual country.

Canada is a country with two Official Languages. The Official Languages Act is a major factor in the divisions within our country. This attempt by the Commissioner of Official Languages to display to the world a false image of our country at the 2010 Olympics is a disgrace. ♣

# "Rhymes and Reflections"

Thanks for the Memories...

Larry Vaincourt, Deux Montagnes QC



Every year it is the same, Nov. 11, Armistice Day rolls round and I am inundated with letters on my web site; Letters by the score, letters of praise, letters thanking me because a number of years ago I wrote a poem called "Just a Common Soldier," (featured in the last issue of Dialogue) which was

first published Nov. '87 and which, through some freaky quirk of fate, aided by the efforts of various radio hosts and syndicated columnists, caught the public's attention.

I did not get on the web until several years later, when my Sons treated me to an up-to-the-minute computer, and I made the acquaintance of a remarkable creature, named Google, who dwelt in a wondrous land called Web Site, where all things were known and where all knowledge would be revealed, one had but to ask.

It was there I learned, to my astonishment, that my little poetic effort had found its way to many far away places with strange sounding names, and although a few misguided souls did claim authorship, a remarkable number of people appeared to know my name and wrote me many flattering letters, which I attempted, dutifully, to answer.

Alas, it was not to be. There was no way in Hades that I was going to keep up with that flow of fan mail, so I simply gave up trying.

I tell you this, not boastfully, but so that you will understand my dilemma and not think of me as a boorish lout who doesn't answer his mail.

Sorry! The body is aged and the keyboard slow.

In the spirit of the holiday season, I would like to wish all my friends and family, all who love their fellow man, all who long for Peace on Earth, (And all to whom I owe a letter!) The very best of holidays. Aw! The Heck with political correctness,

*A Merry Christmas!*

A special note from Larry...

**Hi there! If there any of my old Air Force buddies out there, who still remember me, I would love to hear from you. The nicknames "Lucky" or "The Cowboy" might trigger your memory! Please contact me at:**

245 7th Ave., Deux Montagnes, Que. J7R 3H7;  
Ph/fax 450-473-2238; [vaincourt@juno.com]

## THE UKE

[first published Dec. '96]

It was an evening in mid-December, when he walked into my store, handsome, sturdily-built, wearing an expensive mohair topcoat, a massive gold wristwatch and that look of confidence and command that only the wealthy and successful can carry off. He replied to my salutation with a curt nod, walked straight to the musical instruments and asked to see a Ukulele. He examined it critically, then said, in an accusing tone, "This thing is made in China." I replied that the Chinese instruments were the best value for the dollar – and he retorted, "They're junk. I want something made in Canada or the U.S." He chose a Uke of approximately three times the price, from a catalogue. Tapping the picture with a stubby forefinger, he said, "That's the one I want, get it for me for Saturday. Here's a deposit." Dropping a ten dollar bill and a business card on the countertop, he turned and strode out, while Mrs. Hill, my assistant, murmured softly, "Wow! Mr. Personality."

True to his word, he returned Saturday, just before closing. He examined the instrument critically, then said, "You realize I have no intention of paying the catalogue price for this thing. I never pay full price for anything." Knowing from past experience that an argument could well result in his walking out and leaving me with a piece of slow-moving merchandise, I haggled a bit, arrived at a price that allowed me a few dollars profit and my client left, carrying the ukulele in its pasteboard box beneath his arm.

Suddenly Mrs. Hill exclaimed, "Good! I hope he got slivers." I glanced out the window in the direction she was looking, in time to see him climb slowly to his feet from the icy surface of the parking lot, pick up the box and climb carefully into his car, a white Caddy.

Monday, just before closing time, he returned, walked directly to the counter I was standing behind and laid a sadly-crushed box before me. I raised the cover. Inside were a ukulele neck, a tangle of strings and a handful of wood slivers. He remarked, somewhat bitterly, I thought, "They don't make them very strong, do they?"

I replied, "Well, they weren't intended to be sat upon."

His mouth opened and closed soundlessly several times, then he said, "I've come to buy the Chinese uke." He paid for it wordlessly and did not attempt to haggle, even when I palmed the price ticket and added two dollars to the cost.

His stride, I felt, was a little less self-assured as he left the store and I am not certain just what he muttered in reply, when we both wished him a *Very Merry Christmas*.



# <<<<<Global Dimming<<<<<>>>>>Global Warming>>>>>

## A LETTER TO LOWELL GREEN:

From John McCullough, Richmond ON

I saw a BBC documentary called “Global Dimming,” on Sask. Community Network, on a (mid-October) late-night show. It interested me in that it is all about cloud and sky contamination (jet contrails, etc.) reducing direct sunlight to the planet. It has now been proven that there is less moisture evaporation because of this. However, a mid western scientist discovered, after the shutdown of commercial flight for three days after 9/11, that the temperature rose one degree celsius during that period over the U.S. So, is one form of pollution balancing out the other? We don't know. I'm trying to get a copy of “Global Dimming” through the library. [Information below re viewing it online]

Dear Lowell,

Until I watched this documentary on SCN at 11:00 pm, I was prepared to take Mr. Gore's warnings with a grain of salt. However, after viewing this program produced by BBC, I think both you and I need to reappraise our opinions. May I suggest that you use your influence to possibly have TVO run this, or even the CBC (I don't believe a channel would). Global dimming is about the amount of direct sunlight reaching the earth and it has been proven declining significantly over the last few decades. For a time not too many scientists believed it. Now they do. It is primarily caused by air particulates emitted by our industrial complexes and machines, such as aircraft. This, in fact, is keeping our temperatures down artificially. A researcher discovered that when 9/11 grounded all commercial aircraft for three days, the temperature in the U.S. actually rose one degree celcius. So it appears that if we clean up air pollution, we will see a drastic rise in temperature from CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Kind of damned if we do and damned if we don't scenario, isn't it? Something for you to mull over. Anyway, try to see the documentary.

*kindest regards, John McCullough, Richmond, ON  
PS Remember, it won't affect us two oldsters much, but think of our grandchildren.*

“Global Dimming” Documentary

Watch the BBC documentary (free access after registering, also free), at: [www.documentary-film.net](http://www.documentary-film.net)

Transcript at: [www.bbc.co.uk/sn/tvradio/programmes/horizon/dimming\\_trans.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sn/tvradio/programmes/horizon/dimming_trans.shtml)

Horizon producer David Sington on why predictions about the Earth's climate will need to be re-examined, at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Global Dimming Program Summary:

We are all seeing rather less of the Sun. Scientists looking at five decades of sunlight measurements have reached the disturbing conclusion that the amount of solar energy reaching the Earth's surface has been gradually falling. Paradoxically, the decline in sunlight may mean that global

warming is a far greater threat to society than previously thought.

The effect was first spotted by Gerry Stanhill, an English scientist working in Israel. Comparing Israeli sunlight records from the 1950s with current ones, Stanhill was astonished to find a large fall in solar radiation. “There was a staggering 22% drop in the sunlight, and that really amazed me,” he says.

Intrigued, he searched out records from all around the world, and found the same story almost everywhere he looked, with sunlight falling by 10% over the USA, nearly 30% in parts of the former Soviet Union, and even by 16% in parts of the British Isles. Although the effect varied greatly from place to place, overall the decline amounted to 1-2% globally per decade between the 1950s and the 1990s.

Gerry called the phenomenon global dimming, but his research, published in 2001, met with a sceptical response from other scientists. It was only recently, when his conclusions were confirmed by Australian scientists using a completely different method to estimate solar radiation, that climate scientists at last woke up to the reality of global dimming.

Dimming appears to be caused by air pollution. Burning coal, oil and wood, whether in cars, power stations or cooking fires, produces not only invisible carbon dioxide (the principal greenhouse gas responsible for global warming) but also tiny airborne particles of soot, ash, sulphur compounds and other pollutants.

This visible air pollution reflects sunlight back into space, preventing it reaching the surface. But the pollution also changes the optical properties of clouds. Because the particles seed the formation of water droplets, polluted clouds contain a larger number of droplets than unpolluted clouds. Recent research shows that this makes them more reflective than they would otherwise be, again reflecting the Sun's rays back into space.

Scientists are now worried that dimming, by shielding the oceans from the full power of the Sun, may be disrupting the pattern of the world's rainfall. There are suggestions that dimming was behind the droughts in sub-Saharan Africa which claimed hundreds of thousands of lives in the 1970s and 1980s. There are disturbing hints the same thing may be happening today in Asia, home to half the world's population. “My main concern is global dimming is also having a detrimental impact on the Asian monsoon,” says Prof Veerhabhadran Ramanathan, one of the world's leading climate scientists. “We are talking about billions of people.”

But perhaps the most alarming aspect of global dimming is that it may have led scientists to underestimate the true power of the greenhouse effect. They know how much extra energy is being trapped in the Earth's atmosphere by ⇒

the extra carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) we have placed there. What has been surprising is that this extra energy has so far resulted in a temperature rise of just 0.6°C.

This has led many scientists to conclude that the present-day climate is less sensitive to the effects of carbon dioxide than it was, say, during the ice age, when a similar rise in CO<sub>2</sub> led to a temperature rise of 6°C. But it now appears the warming from greenhouse gases has been offset by a strong cooling effect from dimming - in effect two of our pollutants have been cancelling each other out. This means that the climate may in fact be more sensitive to the greenhouse effect than thought.

If so, then this is bad news, according to Dr Peter Cox, one of the world's leading climate modellers. As things stand,

CO<sub>2</sub> levels are projected to rise strongly over coming decades, whereas there are encouraging signs that particle pollution is at last being brought under control. "We're going to be in a situation, unless we act, where the cooling pollutant is dropping off while the warming pollutant is going up. That means we'll get reduced cooling and increased heating at the same time and that's a problem for us," says Cox.

Even the most pessimistic forecasts of global warming may now have to be drastically revised upwards. That means a temperature rise of 10°C by 2100 could be on the cards, giving the UK a climate like that of North Africa, and rendering many parts of the world uninhabitable. That is, unless we act urgently to curb our emissions of greenhouse gases. ♣ [Story from John McCullough]

Received from Richard Moore

## The Cosmic Paradigm

**Mark Kimmel** is a former highly conservative venture-capitalist (who was involved in the creation in the '70s of the magnetic-stripe credit card and ATMs) who, twenty years ago, began to understand the larger cosmic reality in which we are taking part. His first book, *Trillion* was published in 2001, followed by *Decimal, Creating the Cosmic Paradigm* – and now *Birthing a New Civilization*.



Each of us should take careful note, and consider whether they wish to act in accordance with the Cosmic Paradigm:

1. There is much more than the physical reality we normally experience. We are here, on this planet, at this moment in time, by our own choice. We are here to actively participate in the transition of humanity.

2. The universe is teeming with life. There is one Creator and there are trillions of non-human life

forms, some similar to us. Off-planet beings have been here for many thousands of years, with mixed agendas.

3. We are being invited to become members of the cosmic family. To qualify, we must reverse this planet from its current devolving condition, and we must do it very soon.

4. We, the humans of this planet, are the only ones to make this happen. Our current leaders will not do it for us. Extraterrestrials will not do it for us. We are the ones who must act -- now.

5. We are more individually powerful than we have been taught. Collectively we have the power to create a veritable paradise.

**Explore more at:** [www.cosmicparadigm.com](http://www.cosmicparadigm.com)

**and view the video:** "Weaving the Cosmic Paradigm" ♣

He says, on the website – [www.cosmicparadigm.com](http://www.cosmicparadigm.com):

**"We are at the pivotal juncture in human history.**

The shift to a new reality will be more encompassing than anything that has ever happened before to Earth-humans, and, most likely, more dramatic than imaginable.

**Where we go from here is largely determined by you and the other people of this planet. We can continue in our mode of violence and self-destruction, or we can choose to embrace a higher way to live.**

Contact with extraplanetary and intraplanetary beings is but the tip of the new reality iceberg. Almost every facet of our current existence is a lie, a lie perpetuated by those who enslave us.

## Blue Covenant: The Global Water Crisis & the Coming Battle for the Right to Water

Published: October 07, McClelland & Stewart  
ISBN: 978-0-7710-1072-9 (0-7710-1072-9)

In *Blue Covenant*, Maude Barlow details the "three crises" affecting freshwater stocks today: environmental degradation, commercial exploitation and unjust distribution.

"Imagine a world in 20 years, in which no substantive progress has been made to provide basic wastewater service in the Third World, or to force industry and industrial agriculture production to stop polluting water systems, or to curb the mass movement of water by pipeline, tanker and other diversion, which will have created huge new swaths of desert. Desalination plants will ring the world's oceans, many

of them run by nuclear power; corporate nanotechnology will clean up sewage water and sell it to private utilities who will sell it back to us at a huge profit; the rich will drink only bottled water found in the few remote parts of the world left or sucked from the clouds by machines, while the poor die in increasing numbers. This is not science fiction. This is where the world is headed unless we change course." - *Maude Barlow*  
Maude Barlow has proven herself again and again to be on the leading edge of issues Canadians care deeply about. In *Blue Covenant*, she lays out actions that we as global citizens must take to secure a water-just world for all. ♣

# A Financial System under Siege



by Rodrigue Tremblay, Montreal

The global dollar-based financial system is in crisis and is threatening the prosperity and stability of many economies. Financial excesses of all kinds have undermined its legitimacy and its efficiency. The U.S. dollar is losing its pre-eminence as the main international reserve currency, while many banks are

caught in the turmoil of the subprime credit crisis.

The overall background is the unprecedented real estate bubble that took place worldwide, from 1995 to 2005. In the United States, for example, owner-occupied home prices increased annually by an average of about 9 percent. The market value of the stock of owner-occupied homes in the U.S. rose from slightly less than \$8 trillion in 1995 to slightly more than \$18 trillion in 2005. It has been contracting ever since, confirming the working of the 18-year Kuznets real-estate cycle, which has gone from the top of 1987 to the 2005 top.

What makes this period especially dangerous is the fact that the average 54-year long inflation-disinflation-deflation Kondratieff cycle is also at play, having begun in 1949 after prices were unfrozen. World inflation then rose for twenty years, until 1980, which was followed by a period of disinflation under the Volcker Fed. The entry of China into the World Trade Organization (WTO) on December 11, 2001, with its abundant labor and low wages, unleashed strong deflationary forces worldwide. This in turn led to lower inflation expectations paving the way for the Greenspan Fed to keep interest rates abnormally low.

Persistent low interest rates and low inflation expectations led to a binge in borrowing and to a vast increase in market valuation, not only in real estate but also in stocks and bonds. Banks and other mortgage lending institutions took advantage of the opportunity to introduce some financial innovations in order to finance the exploding mortgage market. These innovations resulted in the severing of the traditional direct link between borrower and lender and the reduction in the lending risk normally associated with mortgage loans.

Thus, with the connivance of the rating agencies and of the Federal Reserve System, large banks invented new financial products under various names such as “Collateralized Bond Obligations” (CBOs), “Collateralized Debt Obligations” (CDOs) or “Structured Investment Vehicles” (SIVs), which had the characteristics of unfunded, short-term commercial paper. In the residential mortgage market, for example, mortgage brokers and retail lenders would sell their mortgage loans to banks, which in turn would package them together and slice them into different classes of

mortgage-backed securities (RMBS), carrying different levels of risk and return, before selling them to investors.

Indeed, these new financial instruments were the end result of a process of “asset securitization” and were slices of bundles of loans, not only of mortgage loans but also of credit cards debts, car loans, student loans and other receivables. Each slice carried a different risk load and a different yield. With the blessing of rating agencies, banks went even one step further, and they began pooling the more risky financial slices into more risky bundles and divided them again to be sold to investors in search of high yields.

By selling these new debt instruments to investors in search of high yields and higher yields, including hedged funds and pension funds, banks were doubly rewarded. First, they collected handsome managing fees for their efforts. But second, and more importantly, they unloaded the risk of lending to the unsuspected buyer of such securities, because in case of default on the original loans, the banks would be scot-free. They had already been paid and had been released from the risk of default and foreclosure on the original loans.

The banks' residual role was to collect and distribute interest, as long as borrowers made their interest payments. But if payments stopped, the capital losses incurred because of the decline in the value of unperforming loans would instead be carried by the investors in CBOs and CDOs. The banks themselves would suffer no losses and would be free to use their capital bases to engage in additional profitable lending. In fact, the end of the line investors became the real mortgage lenders (without reaping all the rewards of such risky loans) and the banks could reuse their capital to pyramid upward their loan operations. These were the best of times for banks and they gorged themselves without restraint. Some of them paid their employees tens of billions of dollars in year-end bonuses.

Indeed, and it is here that the Fed and other regulatory agencies failed; first line mortgage lenders became more and more aggressive in their lending, with the full knowledge that they could profitably unload the risk downstream. This explains the expansion of the “subprime” mortgage market, where borrowing was done with no down payment, no interest payments for a while and no questions asked as to the income and creditworthiness of the borrower. These were not normal lending practices. Such Ponzi schemes could not last forever. And when housing prices started to decline, foreclosures also increased, thus shaking the new financial house of cards to its foundations. Banks became the reluctant owners of some of the foreclosed properties at very discounted values.

Why then are so many banks in financial difficulties, if the lending risk was transferred to unsuspecting investors? ⇒

Essentially, because when the housing boom burst, the banks' inventory of unsold "asset-backed securities" was unusually high. When the piper stopped playing and investors stopped buying the newly created risky investments, their value plummeted overnight and banks were left with huge losses still not fully reflected in their financial balance sheets. Indeed, banks that did not unload their stocks of packaged mortgages were forced to accept ownership of foreclosed properties at very discounted values. With little or no collateral behind the loans, bad-debt losses became unavoidable.

Since nobody knows for sure the value of something which is not traded, it will take months before banks come to terms with the total losses they have suffered in their stocks of unsold pre-packaged "asset-based securities". It is more than a normal "liquidity crisis" or "credit crunch" (which results when banks borrow short term and invest in illiquid long term assets); it is more like a "solvency crisis" if the banks' capital base is overtaken by the disclosure of huge financial losses incurred when the banks are forced to sell

mortgaged assets in a depressed real estate market.

This is the financial and banking mess which is unfolding under our very eyes and which is threatening the American and international financial system. There are four classes of losers. First, the homebuyers who bought properties at inflated prices with little or no down payment and who now face foreclosure. Second, the investors who bought illiquid mortgage-backed commercial paper and who stand to lose part or all of their investments. Third, the holders of bank stocks who profited when the system worked smoothly but who now face declining stock values. And, finally, anybody who stands to fall victim, directly or indirectly, to the coming economic slowdown.

Online with links: [www.thenewamericanempire.com/tremblay=1077](http://www.thenewamericanempire.com/tremblay=1077)

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Author's Website: [www.thenewamericanempire.com/](http://www.thenewamericanempire.com/)  
Check out Dr. Tremblay's coming book "The Code for Global Ethics" at: [www.TheCodeForGlobalEthics.com/](http://www.TheCodeForGlobalEthics.com/) ♣

## Responses to the Last Issue

### Response to the possible Fraser Institute study of Official Bilingualism costs

By Jim Allan, Toronto ON

Re: Fraser Institute Research Projects

Dialogue; Oct-Nov 2007, Vol. 21 NO. 3 (P. 38)

**WARNING TO ALL POTENTIAL DONORS!** and presumably those that have already donated. Readers should be warned. This is a very specious project. It claims to be getting the Fraser Institute to "...investigate the cost of Official Bilingualism." by researching the following three things: 1) Costs of Federal Bilingualism in Canada; 2) Cost of Provincial and Local Government Bilingualism in Canada; 3) Optimal Language Policy for Canada. QUOTE: "The Fraser Institute is seeking financial support for this work, as each of these studies would cost approximately \$90,000, and they will not go ahead until they are fully funded." The Fraser Institute (FI) may, or may not, especially in this case involving as to how the money is to be handled, be a "...prestigious organization."!

3 X \$90,000 is \$270,000. The money, as collected, is to be passed to the FI until such time as it has accumulated the required 3 X \$90,000! Very nice for the FI! "Should the study not be done, we will happily send back your contribution," says Mark Mullins, Executive Director of FI!

POINTS: I have already researched this subject for 2001, for nothing! The cost of item 1), according to the federal government, is approximately \$520 million per year. Believe it or not! The cost of item 2), by my rough estimate, at 50% of federal cost, is \$260 million per year. (Note: Ontario alone has been estimated at \$1,000m for

1999!) That's \$780 million per year. The Private Sector, the most costly of all – not mentioned at all by FI, estimated at 20 X Government Costs is \$15,600 million (i.e. \$15.6 billion) per year. My estimated total for 2001: \$16,380 million per year. Or some \$16 billion per year! This, of course, is increasing each year at an estimated amount of \$2 billion per year, for interest on the part of the federal government's national debt, caused by this 1969 Trudeau's Official Bilingualism, otherwise known as TOB.

The Canadians for Language Fairness should be the ones holding the money in trust, which should not be released to the FI until the Private Sector Costs are included in the project, and item 3) Optimal Language Policy for Canada, which has absolutely nothing to do with costs and is simply an opinion which could vary with every varying political circumstance, is dropped. Donated money already passed to the FI should be returned to CFLF until each \$90,000 has been collected. Why should the FI be collecting interest on the capital of a project that may never materialize? The FI is a registered Charitable Organization. How is it handling official receipts for tax purposes for money it may never use and one day, who knows, may, or may not, pay back?

Where and how is the control on this money to be handled?♣

# Public Funding of Debts and Parties

Russ Vinden, Errington BC



Many *Dialogue* letters and articles portray frustration from the writer's awareness of great national matters being decided without their having any chance of input.

In the last year or so, these complaints have centred on the Security and Prosperity Partnership, wished on us willy nilly, without us having the slightest influence on the outcome,

and a direct and clearly purposeful dereliction of democracy. Add in the perception of 'Bread and Circuses' – in the form of apparently everlasting national and international sports contests, Winter and Summer Olympic Games, etc., together with the huge expenditures on new roads and Transit systems, whole small towns and stadiums ('providing X-number of man-years of employment') to accommodate the enormous numbers of media commentators and spectators – and the overpowering feeling is of distraction and deception – since there are far bigger, more secretive schemes afoot.

Realtors, contractors and skilled trades people will do very well, poor people will remain poor: and if this sounds like a bad-tempered gripe, well, so be it. I bet dollars to doughnuts that governments will still be wringing their hands over the numbers of homeless people on the streets and the 50% of children now officially classed as 'poverty stricken' when all the "games" are long gone. Of course, the recently improved salaries of the legislators will continue while in office, as will their pensions afterwards.

**I have come to think that these and other distractions for government are due to two fundamental faults: 1) in the way we fund our debts and our Parties; and 2) in the way we elect people to office.**

The second is well known and, under pressure, is getting some carefully delayed attention. The first is hidden in deep shadow but is, I feel, ultimately of far greater importance and needs a critical look by thinking people now, before the fair vote movement takes prominence, in the run-up to the next election.

Both faults are being exploited in a most determined manner in the current negotiations on the Security and Prosperity Partnership, which is epochal in nature. If signed it is bound to shift Canada inexorably toward far greater domination by the USA, for that is the unavoidable intent scarcely concealed by the innocuous title, and plainly visible in its precursor, NAFTA.

The SPP is clearly driven by the big business groups who, along with the Military, are the only ones invited to advise both sides in the negotiations. History shows that this ominous grouping is precisely what led to German military expansionism and the first World War; to the rise of Nazism and Fascism and the second World War; and to the mid-30's Spanish Civil War and the Japanese invasion of China. It is a highly dangerous combination, yet

it is exactly what we see, in full cry, in all the talks,

A Right-wing ideology in each country, each lacking a solid mandate from its voters, is engaged in mutual highly secretive talks under an innocuous-sounding title, from which – as *Dialogue* has reported – all other groups are rigorously excluded.

No details are before Parliament, which is not even directly involved, and the recent Throne Speech glossed over the whole process, a contemptuous attempt to use the nation's figurehead to diminish or divert public awareness of the SPP with the vaguest of one-line references which were easily missed altogether. I truly wonder what the Governor General made of this cavalier manipulation of a Constitutional requirement.

In other words, this is about as one-sided an affair as it is possible to imagine – arranging the future of our countries for decades to come under iron-bound conditions which deliberately reduce elected Parliaments to the status of rubber stamps whose imprint is only required after the deals have been struck – and from which representation from well over half the population has been quite excluded.

I cannot see it as other than a divisive sell-out in which Quebec is bound to be tossed aside as of no consequence, the electoral process itself reduced to a rather pointless exercise, and Canadian government, stripped of its sovereignty, reduced to dealing with a very restricted range of minor matters.

Only if the States collapses from within can a misbegotten SPP agreement be dismantled without a disastrous trade war developing between us. Not a happy prospect, but not unimaginable, given the rather stunning list of prevailing conditions. That country is surprisingly dependent on slave labour, having shipped its major manufacturing overseas; and uses huge numbers of illegal and badly paid immigrants for its domestic agriculture. It has consumed most of its own oil and gas reserves, forest and water resources. Its currency is declining rapidly, as is its international trust and respect. It is mired in disastrous and massively expensive wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; has a huge domestic problem in its own poverty-stricken millions, and has a vast, unpayable debt with huge interest payments: yet it is toward ever tighter union with this country that we are being pushed by a secretive business elite to the exclusion of all other sectors.

Candidly, the rationale for a Greater North American Union escapes me, as does the enthusiasm for it of the two old-line Parties. What is galling is the discreet sway of policies by the very banks and mega-businesses forming the Canadian Council of Chief Executives who maintain a huge body of very expensive lobbyists in Ottawa. They have been massive supporters of the Liberal and Conservative Parties for years in Canada, and their funding activities cannot be assumed to be over since the advent of Chrétien's Bill 'abolishing' corporate donations. **[To be continued...]** ♣

## "Clark's Column"

Ken Clark, Fergus ON



Do we have an official opposition?

Towards the end of October 2007, a couple of unusual events occurred in the House of Commons in Ottawa. Firstly, after the deliverance of P.M. Harper's throne speech, the entire Liberal Party, the official opposition, refused en masse to vote on its acceptance or rejection. Several days afterwards, when Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced a number of tax cuts to take place, the Liberal Party again refused en masse to vote for or against this policy.

The question that should be asked by the electorate in total is, "How long is this performance going to continue?" Do we have an official opposition or do we not? For that matter, do we have a properly functioning Parliament? Under this arrangement, who is really representing those millions of people who voted Liberal in the last election?

Of course, some individuals will defend this display of one-upmanship, claiming it is a direct result of a minority government. To them, I would like to say minority governments are not illegal and our politicians had better start to act in a more responsible fashion and earn their salaries.

The people of Canada are certainly not receiving the type of government to which they are entitled – i.e. one providing "Peace, Order and Good Government."

However as the old adage goes, we will only get the quality of government that we are willing to accept. So, whose court is the ball really in, at this moment? It's time to SPEAK UP, Canadians.

Quebec xenophobia...

It seems, more and more frequently, the word xenophobic is being used to describe a characteristic of the Québécois people of Quebec. Recent events within the province suggest this adjective is not being improperly used.

As mentioned in my last column, public hearings are currently being conducted to canvass people in Quebec for their views as to how far the provincial government should go to make newcomers to Quebec feel comfortable.

Since Mr. Harper's announcement, a number of months ago, that the Québécois are a nation, there is increased talk within the province that there is a need for a Quebec "National Anthem."

Most recently, a **Quebec Identity Act**, Bill 195, has been tabled in mid October 2007, by Parti Québécois leader Pauline Marois. This bill would ban new arrivals, both from within Canada and abroad, from running in provincial, municipal or school-board elections, donating to a political party or submitting a petition to the National Assembly, unless they could demonstrate an acceptable command

of the French language. Understandably, a poll among non-francophone residents was opposed by 79% and supported by 13% with 7% offering no opinion.

Some of these measures are in direct contradiction to Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms and must not be allowed to become law in Quebec. There are some short sighted legal experts who have said this legislation would not survive a court challenge under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Have they no memory whatsoever? Our Charter also contains the "Notwithstanding Clause" and it would permit this legislation to go through, just as it did Bill 101, in spite of the Supreme Court's ruling that it was unconstitutional. There is something terribly wrong with a Charter that allows one province to go against the wishes of the other nine.

If our federal government refuses to accept this fact, history will eventually record that they aided and abetted in the break up of our country, Canada. Think about that.

Equal before the law?

Who will look out for the over-taxed and poorly served Canadian citizen? The event that raises this question is the recent reporting in the media as to whether former PM Brian Mulroney did, in fact, have any questionable financial dealings with one, Karlheinz Schreiber.

Briefly in review, Mulroney was named in a letter from the justice department alleging his involvement in a kickback scheme for Air Canada's purchase of Airbus jetliners in 1988. An inquiry was begun into these allegations. In response, Mr. Mulroney sued the federal government.

In a transcript of an examination for discovery held in 1996, Mulroney was asked a question about Schreiber and he replied, "I had never had any dealings with him." It was later revealed that the former prime minister had received \$300,000 from Schreiber, albeit for business ventures unrelated to the Airbus affair.

The RCMP finally closed their investigation into the Airbus affair in 2003 and cleared Mulroney of any wrongdoing. Mulroney was subsequently awarded a \$2 million payout. Unfortunately, this is not the only incident of an alleged wrongdoing by a senior politician that refuses to go away. Who can forget the sponsorship scandal and the Gomery inquiry? It is ludicrous to think that this event could have happened without one or more senior politicians being aware or involved.

Then there was Jean Chrétien's alleged involvement in the Grand Mère golf club affair a few years back. Yet on Apr. 04, 2001, a motion put forward by the Official Opposition, calling for a judicial inquiry of this matter, was defeated by a vote of 152 to 113.

*Concluded next page*

In light of the above examples, there is no assurance for me that “every individual is equal before and under the law...” as guaranteed by The Charter. Until such time as the people of this country are able to see proof that this phrase is in fact

guaranteed, it should be removed from the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. There cannot be parliamentary immunity for politicians involved in wrongful acts! ♣

## “The Fifth Columnist”

“The elephant in the room...”

Michael Neilly, Dunrobin ON



Okay, I know that I promised not to write about Quebec anymore. But it’s like ignoring the elephant in the room. You just can’t. The floorboards are buckling. The paint is peeling. And as for those big, steaming mounds, well, you can only hold your breath for so long, if you take my meaning.

I have often pondered where the name “Quebec” came from. I asked some

French-speaking Quebecers and they didn’t know. Relying on my Greater Toronto Area French and innate sense of human nature, I figured it was an exclamation from some fur trader who saw a whale shoot water out of his spout and uttered “What a spout!” Que bec? But no. It turns out that Quebec is Micmac for “The narrows”, francised with the accent aigu as Québec.

I notice that folks from Quebec and their neo-Yvette emissaries choose to label our provinces by their French names. Therefore, British Columbia, where hardly a French word is spoken, is Colombie en Britannique. It’s the same for the other hapless Canadian provinces with English names, e.g. Newfoundland (Terre Neuve). Alberta, named after Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, the fourth daughter of Queen Victoria, passes unscathed by the tongue troopers and comes out as l’Alberta. But in a fit of Napoleonic excess (quick, notify the Standing Committee on Official Languages and our “Officious Language” Commissioner), they label the Latin-named Nova Scotia as Nouvelle-Écosse.

Through some sheer, monumental coincidence, the provinces with aboriginal names are not renamed, namely: Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba (almost), and, of course, Quebec. Sorry, I meant Québec.

Now in this game, I should mention that some French names have been anglicized like Montreal and Quebec City. An Ottawa city counsellor whinged that Montreal Road should have an accent aigu over the ‘e’ – it’s only logical, he says. By far, however, the French are the worst offenders, as they cannot resist staking their French signs and names cum national flags over all things Anglo, if our provinces, maps of our Great Lakes (ex. Lac Ontario) and provincial parks, and the French signs now appearing in Toronto, are any indicator.

I’d like to add here that it’s really a matter of perspective and I can’t recall how many times I saw Moscow instead of Mokba in our English-oriented Canadian atlases. Who can forget the confusion over the last Olympics at Turin, or was it Torino? But the times, they are a’changing and it’s Beijing (the best we can do with an English keyboard) now instead of Peking! So B.C. should be British Columbia – PERIOD.

In any case, I’d like to avoid offending the permanently-offended because, after all, I might be called before some kangaroo court or human rights commission for simply asking a question – as to why French is first on so many things across Canada these days, when it is a minority language spoken by only about 5% of the people outside of Quebec. You might dismiss this observation as bigoted but really, if it’s so important to French-speakers in Quebec that their language is first, larger, left and above, at all times per Law 101, and Westerners read left to right, top to bottom, and even the federal government respects this thinking with its Federal Identity Program, which dictates what language will be first (left and top) depending of the province, on federal correspondence and signs, then why not for us outside of La-Le land?

Perhaps we Anglos should just return the favour and begin referring to Montreal as Mount Royal. I’m thinking that Rivière du Loup should become Wolf River, very cool. Sept Isles and Trois Pistoles are fair game, becoming Seven Islands and Three Pistols, respectively.

As tempting as this is (and frankly anybody who endorses Quebec’s fascist Law 101 should wake up and smell their Jim Crow coffee), and to avoid passing our own fascist law defending our rights, I’d like to take my cue from the original tenants of this great, fractured land and refer to Quebec City as Stadacona and Montreal as Hochelaga. As for the unctuous province of Quebec (God forbid we should drop the accent while they’ve massacred the apostrophe in Labatt’s and Eaton’s), since Quebec is an Indian word meaning “the Narrows”, I propose translating the name into French as d’étroit or its anglicized form, Detroit. Now there’s a compromise we can all live with and it’s so Canadian. And it’s only logical.

*dialogue always welcome, contact me at:*  
fifth\_columnist@magma.ca ♣

## Quebec's ethnic nationalism gains strong momentum

Pro-101 militants, proposed Bill 195, public hearings show deep intolerance



Late last August, Montreal's major daily marked the 30th anniversary of Quebec's language law, Bill 101, by publishing a pathetic array of articles, penned mostly by the usual anglo sycophants - rare in number but high in visibility - prattling on about how the Charter of the French Language "saved Canada." But what these anglo apologists didn't know then was that Quebec's ugly ethnic-nationalist, French-supremacist elements were about to re-emerge - big time - on the national scene here. That's what's so amusing about their present furore over Parti Québécois leader Pauline Marois's newly-proposed Bill 195, the so-called Identity Act requiring tested French-language proficiency in order to enjoy full political rights as a Quebec citizen. Anglo Quebec apologists and politically-connected federalists are loathe to admit that Bill 195 is simply a logical extension of Law 101's exclusionary and linguistically-partitionist design.

**Bill 195's underlying mentality** is also colored by PQ language critic Pierre Curzi's recent comment on a top Montreal French radio program. Following independence, he said, Quebec would have the power to remove English-speaking Montrealers' right to vote.

Another revealing indicator of Quebec's ethnocentric mindset is the continuing public hearings of a provincial commission. Last spring, Quebec launched the Bouchard-Taylor Commission on reasonable accommodation, a task force designed to tap public attitudes toward the integration of immigrants into Quebec society. (It's led by Gerard Bouchard and prominent McGill University philosophy professor Charles Taylor, a former NDP candidate who, more recently, praised Bill 101 as "an inestimable gift" to Canada and Quebec.)

The commission's many public sessions across the province have proved to be a public embarrassment, with many francophones - sorry, no anglophones - voicing egregiously intolerant and xenophobic resistance to "les autres." (For the record, Prime Minister Stephen Harper recently said the hearings aren't needed; last September, Governor-General Michaëlle Jean said the hearings were healthy, and that Quebecers views are no different from those of other Canadians.)

But on October 20th, the *Montreal Gazette* reported on a survey that showed Quebecers are "far less accepting than other Canadians of a whole range of measures to accommodate the religious and cultural practices of newcomers." Noting that Quebec nationalists typically stir up French identity fears at certain times, a subsequent *Gazette* editorial suggests

that apologists at the newspaper are finally waking up: "We are beginning to believe that this is different," *The Gazette* said. "There's wind in the sails of this ethnic nationalism, perhaps because this transcends partisan politics."

This comes as no surprise to *Dialogue* readers who read the Notebook's report last March on Reed Scowen's excellent book, *Time To Say Goodbye -- Building a Better Canada Without Quebec*.

**Bill 195 logically follows the mindset that Law 101 entrenched**, defining Quebec society as a place where all are equal so long as they support the supremacy of the French language. It naturally builds on Law 101's foundation by reminding Quebecers who wish to be equal citizens that they must first embrace linguistic inequality.

Regrettably, this political paradox isn't limited to what most English-speaking Quebecers see as the bad boys and girls of Canadian life, namely, Quebec's separatist parties. It constitutes, and will continue to mandate, the way the Quebec Liberal Party - and all federal parties - do business in Quebec.

**Hard to believe?** Then consider this. Quebec's largest French daily, the *Journal de Montreal*, reports that Yolande James, the Charest Liberals' immigration minister and sole anglophone in cabinet, wrote a memo proposing that all new immigrants must stay in a highly-francophone region of Quebec for an undetermined period "to awaken them to the realities, the language and the ways of Quebec." *The Gazette* asked the Liberal minister to confirm or deny the report, only to get a "no comment" rejection.

**Yes, these are the pro-Law 101 Quebec Liberals**, the same party whose youth wing recently demanded an official Quebec anthem, and which is lobbying, with Ottawa's help, to convince the United Nations to move its headquarters to Montreal from New York. It's also the same party which many English Canadians foolishly believe represents the good guys of Quebec politics. "The government should evaluate whether Quebec should impose some constraints, for example, making it almost obligatory to participate in certain activities after their arrival," James wrote in her September 7th signed memo to cabinet. Six weeks later, she denied there was any plan to force immigrants thus, adding they would be encouraged to enrol in French-immersion programs.

**Back to the larger picture.** Except on referendum nights, English-speaking Quebecers and their language rights don't count in the French-language nation-state of Quebec. When it comes to deeds over words, not one major Canadian political party disagrees with the Quebec-nationalist slogan, "101 or the 401," a reference to Ontario's Highway 401 to Toronto. Much to their credit, younger Quebec anglos have cut ⇒

through the reams of propaganda on both sides. They got the message; only their continuing exodus isn't the choice that our pro-Bill 101 federal establishment had hoped for. That the United Nations – and the half-million-plus Canadians who've left Quebec over its linguistic intolerance – oppose a law that a rare few anglo journalists continue to justify shows just exactly who is out of step with true liberal values.

Even Charles Taylor, the aforementioned co-chair of Quebec's commission on reasonable accommodation, who glowingly embraces the most discriminatory law in Quebec's history, will inevitably co-sign a report condemning discrimination.

Bill 195 is but the latest evidence disproving the anglo-editorialists' argument that Bill 101 (as Law 101 is wrongly but typically called) saved Canada. Indeed, Law 101 saved a particular vision of it – one that compromises civil rights for superficial social peace, and whose imminent demise can only be welcomed. After all, no Canadians died at Vimy Ridge, in Italy or in Germany fighting for a Canada that included Bill 101.

**But the Charter of the French Language hasn't been all bad.** On the positive side, Bill 101 has been most instructive in showing Canadians their country's less-than-pretty inner workings. Domestically, it showed that Quebec anglos can live in Mississauga or Calgary just as well as they do in Westmount, NDG or Pointe Claire.

Pragmatically, it showed that anything, linguistic-cleansing included, is possible in a free and democratic society – as long as you do it *étape par étape* (step by step) and marshal enough militant clout on the national stage to press your agenda into law. Further, from defaced English signs, broken store windows and anonymous threats to vandalized offices – Bill 101 showed that, in Canada, terrorism works.

**Politically**, it showed how Canadian governments selectively create, fund and legitimize pro-Bill 101 anglo lobbies to push their bi-everything interests at the expense of English Quebec's. It even showed how quickly a once-great federal Liberal party could sink to electing a leader, Stéphane Dion, who insists outlawing English constitutes “a great Canadian law.”

**Academically**, the Charter of the French Language showed how brilliant Canadian professors can easily recognize social injustice and discrimination in history books, but struggle to do so in their own backyards. And journalistically, Bill 101 showed us who's asleep, who's a sheep and who's for sale.

**Professionally**, it showed us which lawyers get rich defending unjust laws, and which suffer by defending civil rights. Economically, it showed that despite all our Canada Day happy-talk about bridge-building, freedom, founding-peoples and nation-building, Canadians' political character is ultimately motivated by the two forces that drive Wall Street – greed and fear.

**Most of all, Bill 101 showed** that, just as there are many ways to be a Canadian, so are there many ways to be a

separatist. Indeed, it showed all who value freedom over borders that the two are now mutually inclusive. For decades, anglo Liberal MPs, MLAs and media types preached compliance in the name of tolerance and surrender in the name of bridge-building. Unlike most of us, what prompts their present outrage over Bill 195 is their long-overdue realization that Quebec's nationalism cannot be appeased – its leaders don't stay “bought” as anglo politicians do. And the genie isn't going back into the bottle.

So, if you accepted Bill 101 as the price of social peace, then there's no reason why you can't open your Liberal songbook and – once again – respect the nation-statist chauvinism of the Quebec majority, and put even more water in your wine. For that matter, if you accepted the Meech Lake and Charlottetown constitutional accords' recognition of Quebec as a distinct society, then you should now respect French Quebec's wish to walk your talk. And if you accepted Bill 101 as the price of “saving Canada,” then think of Bill 195 merely as the price of your having accepted Bill 101.

###

**Protecting French or hating English?...** About 50 members of two French-supremacist groups in Montreal made good on threats to block Quebec government phone lines that feature a “press nine for English” voice prompt. The Mouvement Montreal Francais, which wants an all-French Montreal, and the Imperatif Francais want this English-service access option removed from where it exists in Quebec government departments because it makes the statement that English is “too important,” a spokesman for one group said. The Quebec government said it's now studying the issue.

###

**See you in court...** PQ leader Pauline Marois is suing The Gazette over its front-page story on her private home. A veteran investigative journalist for the daily reports that Marois's palatial estate is built partly on public land that a former PQ government expropriated years ago and designated as agricultural property.

###

**101 = 911 + 401...** A recent Canadian Institute for Health Information report notes that Quebec has lost the most health professionals in recent years-- including doctors, nurses, dentists, medical lab technicians, various types of therapists -- to other provinces. This builds on other studies that have shown Quebec has consistently been losing the most doctors.

###

**Francois say no to Liberals?...** A September poll by Quebec's independent *Centre de Recherche d'Opinion Publique* (CROP) showed that, among francophones, Jean Charest's Quebec Liberals were stalled at an all-time low of 15 percent. The federal Liberals are down to 11 percent. No wonder the federal establishment here is desperate to keep anglophones in Quebec.

*Peter Sauvé, Montreal QC*

Agree or disagree...The Notebook welcomes all news and comments. Write us at quebecnotebook@hotmail.com ♣

# Laughter & 'Lightenment

## From John McCullough:

Changing a light bulb the Christian way

...*From the Lighter Side of Theology*

**How many Christians does it take to change a light bulb?**

**Charismatic:** Only 1; Hands are already in the air.

**Pentecostal:** 10; One to change the bulb, and nine to pray against the spirit of darkness.

**Presbyterians:** None; Lights will go on and off at predestined times.

**Roman Catholic:** None; Candles only.

**Baptists:** At least 15; One to change the light bulb, and three committees to approve the change and decide who brings the potato salad and fried chicken.

**Episcopalians:** 3; One to call the electrician, one to mix the drinks and one to talk about how much better the old one was.

**Mormons:** 5; One man to change the bulb, and four wives to tell him how to do it.

**Unitarians:** We choose not to make a statement either in favor of or against the need for a light bulb. However, if in your own journey you have found that light bulbs work for you, you are invited to write a poem or compose a modern dance about your light bulb for the next Sunday service, in which we will explore a number of light bulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, 3-way, long-life and tinted, all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence.

**Methodists:** Undetermined; Whether your light is bright, dull, or completely out, you are loved. You can be a light bulb, turnip bulb, or tulip bulb. Bring a bulb of your choice to the Sunday lighting service and a covered dish to pass around.

**Nazarene:** 6; One woman to replace the bulb while five men review church lighting policy.

**Lutherans:** None; Lutherans don't believe in change.

**Amish:** What's a light bulb? ♣

## From Ken Tellis:

The Best Way To Pray

A priest, a minister and a guru sat discussing the best positions for prayer, while a telephone repairman worked nearby. "Kneeling is definitely the best way to pray," the priest said.

"No," said the minister. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven."

"You're both wrong," the guru said. "The most effective prayer position is lying down on the floor."

The repairman could contain himself no longer. "Hey, fellas," he interrupted. "The best prayin' I ever did was when I was hangin' upside down from a telephone pole."

## Show and Tell

A kindergarten teacher gave her class a 'show and tell' assignment. Each student was instructed to bring in an object to share with the class that represented their religion. The first student got up in front of the class and said, 'My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is a Star of David.'

The second student got up in front of the class and said, 'My name is Mary. I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary.'

The third student got in up front of the class and said, 'My name is Tommy. I am Methodist, and this is a casserole.' ♣

## From Faye Sullivan-Stafford

Psychology Course

During a phone conversation, my nephew mentioned that he was taking a psychology course at the university. "Oh, great," I said. "Now you'll be analyzing everyone in the family." "No, no," he replied. "I don't take abnormal psychology until next semester." ♣

## From Louise Malloy

Subject: Why Canadians are so tired:

*And you all thought that you could relax...*

1. The population of Canada is 30 million;
2. 11 million are retired, that leaves 19 million to do the work.
3. There are 5.5 million in school, which leaves 13.5 million to do the work;
4. Of this there are 3 million employed by the federal government, leaving 10.5 million to do the work;
5. 1 million are in the armed forces, preoccupied with killing Terrorists, which leaves 9.5 million to do the work;
6. Take from that total the 7 million people who work for Provincial and city Governments, and that leaves 2.5 million to do the work;
7. At any given time, there are 476,000 people in hospitals, leaving 2,024,000 to do the work;
8. Now, there are 1,211,998 people in prisons and 812,000 on Employment Insurance and Welfare;
9. That leaves just two people to do the work;
10. You and me.
11. And there you are sitting on your ass, reading jokes! ♣

## One-liners

### From Paul Winter & Sandy, Oakville ON

1. Remember... clones are people two!
2. When did my wild oats turn into shredded wheat?
3. Sign outside local retailer: "We do precision guesswork! come in for a free estimate!"
4. Talk is cheap... because supply exceeds demand!
5. Why do sharks swim in salt water? Because pepper make them sneeze! ♣

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