

# dialogue

Canada's Independent Voices

MAGAZINE

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**Turn IT Off!**

and...

*tell a vision  
of your  
own!*



# Think, feel and dream for yourself, and look more deeply into the heart of things... “We are the ones we have been waiting for”

## Cover Stories

The Stranger, 4  
Good news for a change, 4  
Creative transformations, 6, 60

## Canadian Politics

Stand on Our Own Feet, 10  
Cdn. foreign policy, 16, 35, 53  
Bill C-6 threatens freedoms, 19  
Bill C-10: changes that won't  
be fully debated: Hueglin, 20  
Letters from politicians? 21  
Canada and Obama, 25  
Galloway banned in Canada, 26  
Concerns about Canada, 47  
On closing prison farms, 59

## Fiscal/Economy

Tax cuts: cure or addiction? 4  
Borrowing & banking in Cda., 5  
Early Bailout Scam, 5  
People & Power: World Bank, 5  
Too Big to Fail is Too Big! 5  
Corporate profits, taxes in Cda, 5  
Viability of the CPP, 6  
Misery of Corporate Welfare, 11  
Impact of global banking, 12  
America's fiscal collapse, 26  
US Economy designed to fail, 27  
Follow the Money: Roland, 28  
Eliot Spitzer strikes back, 32

## Canada-Quebec

Language statistics, 4  
Re Tough Love for QC, 13  
Charter of Rights, 13-14  
Concerns about Canada, 47  
Plains of Abraham, 59

## U.S.A.

SPP Update, 15  
Fiscal collapse, 26  
Economy designed to fail, 27  
Madoff, Mossad, AIG, 9/11, 28  
Pandora's Box- 9/11, 29  
A Patriot's Perspective, 29

**Deadline for the next  
issue of dialogue:  
MAY 15, 2009**

## Health

The Case for Raw Milk, 22  
Your Health Matters: Sugar,  
insomnia & you! 39  
Medical lessons from a tragic  
death, 41  
Turmeric for your health, 42  
How to avoid GMO foods, 42  
Past and future of food, 42  
Are you dehydrated? 42  
The Immune System, 48

## The Environment

Climate: warming or cooling? 19  
In support of Raw Milk, 22  
Live camera on Eagle Nest, 34  
Supporting local food, 59

## Global

One people, Two nations, 9  
Global banking, 12  
Thoughts on world trade, 12  
Middle East policies, 16, 26, 35, 53  
Stop Demonizing Russia, 51  
War on Terror Within, 55

## Historical

Capitalism & Republics, 29  
The Truth about Wars, 36-38, 54  
The End of Jewish History, 55

## Feedback

Thoughts on Dialogue, 21, 47, 53  
Middle East Foreign policy, 35  
The Truth about Wars, 36-38  
A Reflection & Challenge, 38  
Learning from the past, 54

## Provinces

BC: Provincial election, 45, 46  
BC: Burnaby civic election, 46  
NB: Concerns about Canada, 47  
NB: Victoria Manor, 49  
QC: Airport noise pollution, 44  
QC: PQ on the rise? 44  
SK: The Raw Milk issue, 22

## Columns

“Prévoyance,” 6  
“Mountain Murmur,” 8  
“Politics From The Far Side,” 16  
“From Down the 401,” 23  
“The Fifth Columnist,” 25  
“A Hick's Corner,” 43  
“Off The Slate,” 48  
“There's No Life Like It,” 50  
“Observations from Lithuania,” 51

## Inspiration & Philosophy

Negotiation vs. self-  
sufficiency, 6  
Caterpillars & social  
transformation, 6  
Remembering an exceptional  
human being, 26  
Live camera on Eagle Nest, 34  
On compassion? 48  
Perspective, 54  
Transformation stories, 60

## Poetry

Patriot's Perspective, 32

## Personal Stories

Stirring the Soup, 33  
Frank's Tricycle, 49  
Story of Victoria Manor, 49  
Laughter & 'Lightenment', 57

## Books & Videos

Merchants of Misery, video, 5  
Globalization of Poverty &  
the NWO: Chossudovsky, 26  
Future of food, video, 42  
Greenways (Green Island I), 60  
Anastasia-Ringing Cedars, 60

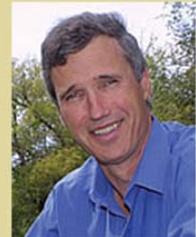
*Thank you for writing  
and reading and  
supporting dialogue!*



Hancock Live-Cam, p.34



Karen Selick writes on  
the raw-milk issue, p.22



David Orchard shares  
his 'modest proposal'  
for Canada, p.10

*“the world's  
a stage...”*



A photo from Lou  
Israel featuring  
Lou in his latest  
acting role as a  
Mexican...  
Lou's column  
is on p. 23



Citizen: "Hello government, I'm  
broke, can you bail me out?"

Government: "No problem, the bailiff is  
on the way!"



Corporation: "Government,  
we are broke, you must  
help!"

Government: "Easy does it. People's money  
truck is on the way. Enjoy your bonus!"



Denny Z. Petrik

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2 dialogue APRIL-MAY 2009 VOL. 22 NO. 6

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To receive a complimentary copy of the print magazine, please email: [dialogue@dialogue.ca](mailto:dialogue@dialogue.ca)

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



Janet, Penny & Maurice

The warmer days of Spring are very welcome, after what, *for many*, was a long, hard winter. Indoor days in front of ‘the tube’ can be more easily traded for healthy and creative outdoor activities – and our cover this month urges us all to **tell our own vision** – based on our own values and dreams – instead of accepting the “version” of reality portrayed through the mainstream entertainment and ‘infotainment’ venues.

The more alternative news and views we are exposed to, it seems, the more we come to realize that network news rarely, if ever, presents the whole truth. Just **compare** the range of economic analyses that you read in this issue with what you generally hear on the news!!

The discrepancies are never more obvious than when governments present their arguments for going to war. For as long as wars have been fought, ruling powers have realized that their own reasons for war (acquisition of wealth, land, and resources for themselves) would not inspire any foot soldiers to do battle and give up their lives. Hence war propaganda and, often, elaborate “false-flag” operations have long been necessary, on *ALL* sides, to sell the population on the patriotic justifications for war.

These days, it seems that nothing raises more heated debate, among *dialogue* readers, especially those who lived through WWII, than attempts to justify the propaganda of “the other side.” Learning from history is a worthwhile pursuit, but, perhaps, in the case of wars, there is ultimately only one lesson (*actually, two*) that we need to take to heart: **1) they are never** fought for the reasons governments state; and **2) they never, ever** bring lasting peace!

There are a number of in-depth essays in this issue that explore history, war, and social transformation. As our understanding increases, we may find ourselves challenged to ask if we accept or reject that old adage, “familiarity breeds contempt.” It is our experience that hatred cannot coexist with deep understanding – and the more we get to know and understand our neighbours (at home and in *dialogue*) the greater our opportunities to build loving, cohesive, sustainable communities that will endure the global shocks that are sure to come.

Our apologies for the lateness of this issue, caused by computer difficulties (as well as by some very welcome visitors!). Unfortunately, some e-mail files were lost during the computer failure, so if your letter is not in this issue, please re-send it! [In that regard, we are still trying to replace programs damaged during our computer failure and any financial help is most welcome!]

We have recently prepared a questionnaire for readers regarding a proposed project to improve the *dialogue* website to be more user-friendly. It is being sent out with renewal letters; but if you would like to receive a copy of the questionnaire now, please let us know and we will mail or e-mail it to you.

Thank you for your letters, encouragement, subscriptions, gift subscriptions and donations! Without your support and your voice, there would be no *dialogue*! Your help in finding new readers is so vital – and greatly valued. Remember that we will happily send a free introductory issue to anyone in Canada that you would like to suggest – to help the magazine grow! If you are not yet receiving our (*free*) monthly e-newsletter, please send an e-mail to: [maurice.king@dialogue.ca](mailto:maurice.king@dialogue.ca) /

**A special thank you** to our great-grand-niece Dana Malowany of Brossard QC & our late much loved nephew Howie Quesnel of Greenfield Park, whose images brighten the cover of this issue (as skater & guitar player, respectively).

*Maurice*, volunteer publisher

*Janet*, volunteer editor/layout  
...and Penny, of course!

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

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

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

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

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

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## From Near and Far...

### The Stranger

A few years after I was born, my Dad met a stranger who was new to our small town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around from then on.

As I grew up, I never questioned his place in my family. In my young mind, he had a special niche. My parents were complementary instructors: Mom taught me good from evil, and Dad taught me to obey. But the stranger... he was our storyteller. He would keep us spellbound for hours on end with adventures, mysteries and comedies.

If I wanted to know anything about politics, history or science, he always knew the answers about the past, understood the present and even seemed able to predict the future! He took my family to the first major league ball game. He made me laugh, and he made me cry. The stranger never stopped Talking, but Dad didn't seem to mind.

Sometimes, Mom would get up quietly while the rest of us were shushing each other to listen to what he had to say, and she would go to the kitchen for peace and quiet. (I wonder now if she ever prayed for the stranger to leave.)

Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions, but the stranger never felt obligated to honour them. Pro-

fanity, for example, was not allowed in our home... Not from us, our friends or any visitors. Our long-time visitor, however, got away with four-letter words that burned my ears and made my dad squirm and my mother blush. My Dad didn't permit the liberal use of alcohol. But the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular Basis. He made cigarettes look cool, cigars manly and pipes distinguished. He talked freely (much too freely!) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing.

I now know that my early concepts about relationships were influenced strongly by the stranger. Time after time, he opposed the values of my parents, yet he was seldom rebuked... And NEVER asked to leave.

More than fifty years have passed since the stranger moved in with our family. He has blended right in and is not nearly as fascinating as he was at first. Still, if you could walk into my parents' den today, you would still find him sitting over in his corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures.

His name?... We just call him 'TV.'

He has a wife now... We call her 'Computer.'

Received from John McCullough, Richmond ON ♣

### Tax cuts: cure-all or addiction?

**Sue Stroud, Brentwood Bay BC**

Tax cuts are the cigarettes of politics: they are full of poisonous chemicals and they just plain stink. Worst of all they're habit forming!

Tax cuts are marketed as the cure for every ailment in our civic lexicon.

Need more jobs? Tax cuts will create them. Need more housing? Tax cuts will build them. Need better health care? Have a dose of tax cuts.

So why after 30 years of tax cuts are we confronted with wave upon wave of homelessness, poverty, children neglected by the system that was meant to protect them, families fleeing abuse, bankruptcies, job losses etc? Simple. Tax cuts are just mind altering, brain abusing cigarettes that do nothing good for you or your loved ones. Tax cuts bleed the system.

Did the middle class benefit from tax cuts? Of course not. We pay taxes to purchase the goods and services

together, which we cannot afford on our own.

It has become a habit for right wing ideologues like those at the Fraser-so-called-Institute to demand tax cuts. They are so successful at making tax cuts sound sexy and desirable that any politician that doesn't promise deeper cuts than the other guys is shunned by the voters.

The trouble is tax cuts, like cigarettes, are bad for us. Time to break the habit folks. [sue\_stroud@hotmail.com] ♣

**From John Gray, Montreal QC**

### The Anglos in Quebec

From the Montreal Gazette (Mar. 24 09)  
[www.montrealgazette.com/story\\_print.html?id=1419715&sponsor=](http://www.montrealgazette.com/story_print.html?id=1419715&sponsor=) /

- 8000 Anglophones per year are leaving Quebec
- Percent of Anglophones now in Quebec down in the last four decades from 13% to 8%
- From the last Federal Census -- the % of Francophones living outside Quebec -- approx 3%

One does not need to be a "rocket scientist" to see where it's all heading. ♣

### Good News for a change

**Madeline Bruce, Nanaimo BC**

I attended a gathering in St. Andrew's United Church in Nanaimo last night (Mar 22) which was in honour of the 29th Anniversary of the death of Bishop Romero of San Salvador. A very controversial figure gave a talk – former Catholic Bishop Remi de Roo, age 85 (lots of stuff on the internet about him). He made the point that God's creation is meant to be shared equally for everyone, not just a privileged (and greedy) few. Funny how that premise has gotten so completely lost.... A San Salvadoran man told us, in broken English, that last week a new left wing government had been voted in, democratically, in San Salvador. He was ecstatic. He did touch on the fact that the U. S. has been supplying arms to that country for years. This new regime credited their success to Bishop Romero.

A woman gave a final prayer to "God of many names".) ♣

## BANKING – GLOBAL & NATIONAL...

### Borrowing & Banking in Canada

From John McCullough, Richmond ON

To: MP Gordon O'Connor,  
[mp@gordonocannor.ca](mailto:mp@gordonocannor.ca)

(Chief Government Whip and Minister of State)

Further to our earlier correspondence on this subject, and the subsequent attempted explanation from your Constitu-ency manager, Mr. John Aris (I have no direct evidence of your direct involvement in the matter whatsoever).

1/ If the Bank of Canada cannot create money, as your manager states, AND since "the GOVERNMENT" is now planning to create a huge deficit to stimulate the ailing economy, WHERE is the MONEY going to come from?

2/ Does the GOVERNMENT plan to borrow it from the CHARTERED BANKS, thereby permitting them to create it at the stroke of a pen, which under current law it is their legal right to do so, at GOD knows what interest rate?

According to news reports they, THE BANKS, are themselves in deep financial trouble, losing heavily in the financial melt down, requiring GOVERNMENT assistance by assuming some of their bad debts.

3/ Where did the GOVERNMENT get the funds to buy these bad debts from the BANKS? Did we borrow money from THEM to buy THEIR debts? I don't know of any ordinary taxpayers who would VOLUNTARILY fund such. They have much more common sense. Regrettably we have little control over what the GOVERNMENT does with OUR tax money, once it is in its coffers.

To conclude, you can see how your earlier correspondence and today's political moves doesn't make too much sense to this eighty-two year old brain. I don't think my household would have survived if I had run my financial affairs in a similar manner over the years.

FINALLY, you have as yet not addressed or answered my request for you to review the MILLSTONE of "Official Bilingualism", which is gradually destroying this nation, by effectively shutting the door on over eighty percent of the population, no matter how qualified, to Federal government employment, i.e. unless they can communicate linguistically with the tiny French speaking minority living outside of Quebec province (which is itself officially politically FRENCH unilingual). To carry on this charade on the majority of CANADIANS is pure unadulterated insanity, and the day of a revolt is fast approaching. Further, we cannot support the practical cost any longer, particularly in the private business domain.

P.S. I would strongly recommend that you obtain a copy of the current issue of Dialogue if you want to become aware of the mood of Canadians across the nation. ♣

### Early Bailout Scam...

*Nasrudin* was plodding along the village path on his donkey, minding his own business, when he was approached by a stranger. The stranger was distraught, and explained he had just lost a pile of money gambling. He was upset because he was supposed to host a banquet the next day, and it was too important to cancel. *Nasrudin*, being a sympathetic soul, said he'd be glad to bail the stranger out, but he was broke himself. So the stranger says, that's no problem, I'll loan you the money and then you can give it to me. *Nasrudin* was bit slow in the head, perhaps from the desert sun, and he agreed. A few days later *Nasrudin* was once more out on his donkey, and the stranger approached him again. This time he asked *Nasrudin* to repay the loan. *Nasrudin* said, "I can't, I gave the money to you." Too bad, the stranger says, I'll have to take your donkey. – R.K. Moore ♣

### People & Power: Merchants of Misery BrasscheckTV.com

The World Bank started with good intentions. Then Ronald Reagan became president and the bank became a tool for "free market" zealots. Of course, "free market" is often little more than a code phrase for corporate gangsterism.

Here's how the system works (9 min. video segment):

[www.brasschecktv.com/page/493.html](http://www.brasschecktv.com/page/493.html)

### Too Big to Fail is Too Big

by David Korten

From: [www.yesmagazine.org/article.asp?ID=3380](http://www.yesmagazine.org/article.asp?ID=3380)

### David Korten responds to the first ever media interview given by a Federal Reserve Chairman.

In a September 22, 2008 interview with Amy Goodman on Democracy Now!, Senator Bernie Sanders famously said that if a bank "is too big to fail, it probably is too big to exist." That should be a watchword slogan of any effort to fix the financial system. Major responsibility for the financial collapse rests with the deregulation process that allowed for the consolidation of banking power in the hands of Wall Street. Reversing that process should be an immediate priority. Before Wall Street there was Main Street... ♣

### Corporate Profits & Taxes in Canada

From Mel Hurtig, Vancouver BC

Statistics Canada has recently released figures re corporate operating profits and corporate taxes for 2007. Profits were \$302.4 billion, but corporate taxes were only \$55.7 billion. That works out to an effective rate of 18.4% Compare that to the tax rate you will pay in April. What ever happened to the long-standing ideal of progressive taxes?

And, bear in mind that since 2007 the Harper government has reduced corporate taxes even further, despite the fact that in 2006 total tax revenue in Canada put us down in 20th place among all the 30 OECD countries. And corporate tax rates are scheduled for more large cuts in the next couple of years, even though they are far lower than U.S. rates already. Can you guess which sectors of the economy in Canada were yet once again the most profitable? Right, the banks and the foreign-dominated petroleum companies. We're wonderful hosts. ♣

# "Prévoyance"

## Comments to an MP on the viability of the CPP

By Erik Andersen, Gabriola Island BC



A friend mentioned that (a Liberal MP) asked Minister Flaherty a question in question period that had to do with the long term viability of the CPP [Canadian Pension Plan] Fund.

A good question to ask these days and way over due. Actually, it was a Liberal government that ushered in the CPP investment reforms of 1998 and it is because of these reforms the CPP Fund has been and still is in harms way.

Had the Fund been solely invested in government of Canada bonds (as it was in 99) its value today would be about CDN\$120 billion. Should you wish to see the calculations just let me know.

Instead the fund was valued at CDN\$109 billion on December 31 of 2008. Since that date the equity markets have decreased by about 10% meaning the fund would likely stand at a value of CDN\$103 billion on the generous side.

When Mr. Goodale was the Finance Minister, he replied to one of my pesky letters with the assertion that private equity investments were great for the Fund and he was encouraging even more be used. Just so that you understand what private equity investments are, they are those where there is no public market to turn to for both value and sales. Values of these investments are highly subjective because they are determined by individuals who likely have conflicts of interest, or worse, by computer models. Should you ask Mr. Goodale today he might not remember his reply so if you need it let me know.

Private equity investments were shown to be at CDN\$16 billion in December 08. Notes to the financial statements did not indicate if these investments had been re-valued to reflect the decrease in publicly traded equities. This (re-valuing) practice is known as "mark to market" and is a

discipline nobody should escape from. To fail to "mark to market" would be to follow in the steps of folks like Enron, Bear Sterns; Merrill Lynch, etc.

By my estimate, the true value of the CPP Fund today is between CDN\$80 and \$90 billion. All Finance Ministers, including Mr. Goodale, fell back on the CPP Fund auditor's report, where he stated the Fund was sound for the next 75 years. Please do not be fooled by that representation; as, in order to make it, the auditor had to make certain assumptions. Those assumptions are so wrong now that what is needed is a call for a new actuarial report.

But what is needed even more and urgently, is a suspension of the CPP Fund Investment Board and a suspension of all current equity investments. Parliamentarians have been way out of their depth since agreeing to the 1998 reforms. As President Reagan was wont to say "the status quo is a fancy Latin phrase for the mess we are in". ♣

### On Negotiation vs. Self-sufficiency

If we think we know the logic of current developments then what should our reaction be? I for one think the use of the monetary system is a form of legal enslavement. BY turning our backs on this system we succeed in invalidating its authority. David Simms wrote "self-sufficiency is subversive". Perhaps a below the radar subversiveness is the way into the future. Why try to change the establishment because that means we engage in negotiations? I prefer to eliminate those influences from my life but that means turning my back on the negotiators in our society.

In present circumstances will negotiation be our salvation or will it be non-involvement or retrenchment into local co-op groups? Cuba has faced this dilemma this past several decades and the answer is not clear or in. ♣

**Erik Andersen** is a retired economist with a continuing interest in the financial, energy and transportation sectors. Also active in matters pertaining to the social issues of our time. Currently President of the Gabriola Island Ratepayers Association. ♣

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## Caterpillars & social transformation

Howard Switzer, [ecoarchitect@hughes.net](mailto:ecoarchitect@hughes.net)

It seems humans as a species are just about to leave their adolescence behind. As a green activist, I am of course often appalled at how *green* has been defined and used by corporations, but its real meaning is **sustainability** – which is what a mature rainforest is, for instance.

As Elisabet Sahtouris wrote, "there is no better governmental model or educational model or even spiritual/ethical model than the rainforest or any other mature, healthy ecosystem in which every species is fully employed, all work cooperatively while recycling all of their resources, and all products and services are distributed

in such a way that every species remains healthy."

She further writes about how human civilization is coming to the end of its 'caterpillar' stage, as it begins to harden its position.

"Caterpillars chew their way through ecosystems leaving a path of destruction as they get fatter and fatter. When they finally fall asleep and a chrysalis forms around them, tiny new imaginal cells, as biologists call them, begin to take form within their bodies. The caterpillar's immune system fights these new cells, as though they were foreign intruders, and only when they crop up in greater numbers and link themselves together are ⇒

**Howard Switzer** (Elisabet Sahtouris quote, contd.)  
they strong enough to survive. Then the caterpillar's immune system fails and its body dissolves into a nutritive soup, which the new cells recycle into their developing butterfly.

"The caterpillar is a necessary stage but becomes unsustainable once its job is done. There is no point in being angry with it and there is no need to worry about defeating it. The task is to focus on building the butterfly, the success of which depends on powerful positive and creative efforts in all aspects of society and alliances built among those engaged in them."

So I tell people to turn their back on government and do what needs to be done, as we cannot depend on anything much from our government, and that in our county growing food locally should become a high priority; then move down the list that Wendell Berry wrote about how to conserve a community: "How can a sustainable local community (which is to say a sustainable local economy) function? I am going to suggest a set of rules that I think such a community would have to follow. I hasten to say that I do not understand these rules as predictions; I am not interested in foretelling the future. If these rules have any validity, it is because they apply now."

**Supposing that the members of a local community wanted their community to cohere, to flourish and to last, they would:**

- (1) Always ask of any proposed change or innovation: What will this do to our community? How will this affect our common wealth?
- (2) Always include local nature - the land, the water, the air, the native creatures - within the membership of the community.
- (3) Always ask how local needs might be supplied from local sources, including the mutual help of neighbors.
- (4) Always supply local needs first. (And only then think of exporting their products, first to nearby cities, and then to others.)
- (5) The community must understand the ultimate unsoundness of the industrial doctrine of 'labor saving' if that implies poor work, unemployment, or any kind of pollution or contamination.
- (6) If it is not to be merely a colony of the national or the global economy, the community must develop appropriately scaled value-adding industries for local products.
- (7) It must also develop small-scale industries and businesses to support the local farm or forest economy.
- (8) It must strive to produce as much of its own energy as possible.
- (9) It must strive to increase earnings (in whatever form) within the community, and decrease expenditures outside the community.
- (10) Money paid into the local economy should circulate

within the community for as long as possible before it is paid out.

(11) If it is to last, a community must be able to afford to invest in itself: it must maintain its properties, keep itself clean (without dirtying some other place), care for its old people, teach its children.

(12) The old and the young must take care of one another. The young must learn from the old, not necessarily and not always in school. There must be no institutionalized 'child care' and 'homes for the aged'. The community knows and remembers itself by the association of old and young.

(13) Costs now conventionally hidden or 'externalized' must be accounted for. Whenever possible they must be debited against monetary income.

(14) Community members must look into the possible uses of local currency, community-funded loan programmes, systems of barter, and the like.

(15) They should always be aware of the economic value of neighborliness - as help, insurance, and so on. They must realize that, in our time, the costs of living are greatly increased by the loss of neighborhood, leaving people to face their calamities alone.

(16) A rural community should always be acquainted with, and complexly connected with, community-minded people in nearby towns and cities.

(17) A sustainable rural economy will be dependent on urban consumers loyal to local products. Therefore, we are talking about an economy that will always be more co-operative than competitive.

These rules are derived from Western political and religious traditions, from the promptings of ecologists and certain agriculturalists and from common sense. They may seem radical, but only because the modern national and global economies have been formed in almost perfect disregard of community and ecological interests."

Are we the 'imaginal' cells who have a positive vision of the future to pursue?

**Howard Switzer**, Architect

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[Ecoville ArchiTechs: homes of earth and straw (strawbale construction)]  
- **Received from R.K. Moore**

Remembering an exceptional human being  
**Stan Smith, Nanaimo BC**

I recall asking a retired R.C.M.P. officer on a day well below freezing in Calgary, 1944: "What do you believe in?" His answer: "The Golden Rule." When it came his turn to testify at the Court hearing on a matter of national interest, he declined to swear by any holy book. In my imagination, I can see him in full formal uniform, Stetson and all, standing at attention in front of the Canadian flag and saluting. What a human being! What a Canadian!

Somehow, I doubt that Commander-in-Chief Obama will rise to that standard. ♣

## "Mountain Murmur" Pen to Paper...



There are times when putting the pen to the paper is very difficult, particularly when one's handwriting has taken a long walk down the Old Age Lane. So one gets stuck at this fierce machine, grabs the mouse, hoping all the time it is not a rat, and goes clickety click, clickety clack. And there it is, the clear page of

Word something or another. Now, all I have to do is make sure that the letters on the keyboard are at the same place they were yesterday and we are off....

Off to where? Politics? If I go there, I better make sure I weed out the four letter words; a lady might be reading this. It appears that dictatorship has been postponed and we were spared a coalition expedition. Perhaps it is just as well, the leaderships on our political horizon do lack much lustre. The change in the Prime Minister's stance from the day he tried to knee cap the opposition to today is quite remarkable. Unfortunately, the adversarial approach of all our parties to the current and drastic economic situation leaves one wondering if everything is all right under our political cranium.

The world economic situation is very serious, if not drastically dangerous. And all we hear from the political circles is "We are throwing so much money at it!" From another side comes "That's not nearly enough!" And farther along rings "The money is going to the wrong place." Or statements to that effect. Instead of nattering at one another, we would expect them to sit down at the same table, admit that we have a very serious problem and do their best to scout for ideas on how to handle it, political fortunes be damned; we are talking about people potentially going hungry here and there.

Oh yes, I did hear some murmur about a think tank to pull us out of the tank. But if I remember correctly, the members of the think tank were mostly from the commercial elite that caused all this darn trouble in the first place. Their entrepreneurial craft and egotistical greed pumped the balloon, and pumped it some more. I do not know if Uncle Isaac had anything about it in his notes, but I do remember a teacher, long time ago, explaining to us that the amount of pressure a balloon can stand depends on the quality of material of which the balloon is made. But, regardless of material quality, all over-pressured balloons will burst. And, as we witness now, the old teacher was right.

Enough blame according! It is pretty clear that the capitalistic system, as we have practiced it, has not worked well. The extreme socialistic system, often called communist system, did not do any better. And the one similarity in both systems that underscores their shortcomings is – greedy people. Some are greedy for riches, others for

**Denny Z. Petrik, Clearwater BC**

power, and yet some for both. A system that could have looked well after the welfare of the community (world) was destroyed by the same curse that is crippling the so called "free" world.

The question is, "How can we fix it?" Putting nations' populations deeper in debt may be painfully necessary at the moment, but it is hardly the long term answer. It would seem that a complete redesign of society is in order. We know, or should know, that the resources of Earth are finite. Once we accept that fact, we should have no problem realising that forging ahead to produce and sell more and more is detrimental to us as a race. And that realisation should pop the question, "Well, how much should we produce and sell?" In view of the fact that we are dealing with finite resources, producing enough to supply each human's needs of shelter, food and clothing would pretty much describe it. Beyond that, we need to be very careful in what and how many goodies we, as a society, can afford to indulge.

There is no doubt that the needed changes are dramatic. If we produce only what we need, there will be lot less need for labour. Then, how will everybody have a job? But perhaps if the needed labour were divided among the labourers, each could work fewer days, shorter hours and have more time for family and rest. Oh, it would not be an easy arrangement to bring about, but if enough open-minded and concerned heads got together, I am sure a plan could be figured out. The biggest problem with this type of idea is how to convince enough people that humanity, by its sheer numbers, now faces serious danger to its existence and that dramatic change is needed.

The task to do the convincing will have to be left to the so called common people, since political leaders and business elite appear to be incapable of thinking that deeply, their addiction to the horrible concept of constant growth forming a large road block. How does the little locust story go? There they were, multiplying merrily and they cleaned this field and then the next till they ran out of fields and they dropped dead. We do need to learn to live within our means; and not just financially. We cannot continue to build bigger cities and cover up land meant to produce food with asphalt and concrete.

And for the benefit of the "leaders" I would say that substantial changes are needed – now. Lest they missed their history lessons, let us remind them that when many become poor and helpless, a revolution usually erupts, remember Rome, France, Russia? There have already been sparks in Greece, little discomfort in China.....

Tossing a billion here or there is not going to be the full answer. Taking firm steps to stop or at least curtail greed would suit much better. That means control of this or that and ⇒

'control' is a bad word in the upper circles. Yet, is that not what our parents did to us? If you did not behave yourself, you became controlled. Any society needs some rules to live by and the human society now needs rules to survive by. And if our representatives in Ottawa do not understand that, well, let us all explain it to them and tell them how we expect them to behave and carry on. Remember, a letter to an MP needs no postage.

Well, I have done some fair typing. But now, do I dare to hit the spell check? Don't look, anybody....

### **A Sunny Morning thought...**

I pulled up at the mail boxes. The sun was dancing on the ample banks of snow to show to the diamond what true

sparkle is all about. The frisky fresh air with a touch of freeze made me open the mail box rather fast. There were no bills. I shut the box tightly and took a deep breath of the freshness. Then another person approached the boxes. "Good morning", seemed like the right thing to say. "Good morning", she replied, "I'll be glad when spring is here!" I am not sure whether it was the cool breeze or her response that made me get back into the car so swiftly.

As I rolled down the street, I could not help but wonder why some people persist in wishing their lives away. What is the point of wishing for a great tomorrow when the splendour of today is all yours to behold – if you care to notice it. . – *Denny ♣*

## "Rhymes and Reflections"

Goofin' off

*Some twenty-odd years ago, veteran journalist and author H. Gordon Green asked me this question: "How long do you think you will be able to find fresh subjects to write about?" How long, indeed! I don't recall exactly what I replied at the time, but the gist of it was that when I or my readers felt I was becoming repetitive and boring, I would lay down my pen (make that 'computer'). Now like most mortals, I have certain pet peeves: 'Politicians and their Shenanigans' happens to be one of them and, looking back over the years, I realize that I have committed a lot of paper and choice invective to certain of them. I'd like to hear your (my reader's) opinion on the matter. Meanwhile, to observe the mid-point of my eighty-sixth year, I decided to goof off and let (my son) Wayne carry the ball...*

### **One People, Two Nations: Wayne Vaincourt**

Flying into Seoul at night can be a surreal experience. Below is a sea of light in the dark: brightly-lit highways, office buildings, apartment complexes and homes. People going about their business, without fear or hindrance. A proud, prosperous nation, the engine of its economy humming strongly. Take a look out the starboard windows of the plane, however, and the image abruptly changes. The light extends only as far as the DMZ. Beyond that, the Korean peninsula plummets into a sea of black. Here or there beyond the demilitarized zone, one can see the odd light speckling the darkness, but nothing else. A land as black its political ideology, its people starving and fearful, suffocating in the night. If we ever needed a tangible example of the difference between democracy and freedom on the one hand, and dictatorship on the other, it can be seen right here on the Korean Peninsula. One people, two nations. Soon I will land in Seoul and be met by my driver, then head to accommodations rather more comfortable than those remembered by the generation who preceeded me. The comfortable hotel in which I will soon be relaxing is a world away from the muddy ditches and snow-covered forests and valleys in which another generation slept fitfully at night, between the battles of the Korean conflict. Within a few hours, I'll be

### **Larry Vaincourt, Deux Montagnes QC**

having dinner at O'Kim's, one of my favourite restaurants. For those of another era, it was hunger and deprivation. It was the fear of dying very young, and far away from home. The Berlin Wall is now down. McDonald's now blankets Beijing and Moscow. So many changes have occurred in the last two decades that it has become easy for us to forget we were once locked in an ideological battle for the future of the world. It has become easy to forget that communism once held sway over so much of the earth, that hundreds of millions lost their lives, that churches were shuttered and a tidal wave of suffering unleashed upon billions of unsuspecting people. It's easy to forget that a second Dark Ages almost engulfed the planet, turning back the clock on civilization by a thousand years. It seems too ghastly to even contemplate now, but was once the reality with which everyone lived.

It's also easy to forget those who held the line against it all.

The soldiers who served in all the wars, all the NATO campaigns, all the fronts, all the proxy conflicts. The armed forces that patrolled the world's skies and seas 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for half a century.

I arrive in Seoul, clear Customs and find my driver. I slip into the comfortable leather seats and lean back, watching the familiar sights of Inchon, then Seoul, sliding by quietly in the night. I like Korea. I have friends here, attend church here. Seoul for me is a comfortable place.

I wasn't born until after WWII and Korea. The Cold War was a fact of my childhood. Like many people living today, it's a distant memory at best.

As far as a relieved planet is concerned, the ideological battle for the future of the world has ended. We won. Democracies now rule in places they were never found before. Freedom, to lesser or greater extents, can be found almost everywhere. Except for the people of North Korea. For them, the war never ended. They still wait, terrorized and hungry, suffocating in the dark. The DMZ is still there, a reminder to them of a world beyond their borders that has been cut off for 56 years. And a reminder to us of a madness from a different time, and how close we all really came. ♣

# Global banking and its impact on government in Canada

**Alan A. Macdonell, Williamstown ON**

On Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> (2008), a letter of mine, claiming the Bank of Canada was no longer a public institution was distributed to a number of outlets. Mr. Mark Carney, governor of the Bank of Canada, was kind enough to send a rebuttal, an abbreviated copy of which is included below:

**Mark Carney, Governor, Bank of Canada Dec. 11, 2008:**  
*Sir: As you know, the Bank of Canada was nationalized in 1938. The Bank has remained a public institution since then. Of note, central banks in all industrialized countries are public institutions. – Signed, M. Carney*

While I have to acknowledge I'm close to illiterate in the gobbledegook which is alleged to describe modern economics, my understanding of a public institution is clearly described in our constitution. In contrast, the U.S. Federal Reserve is owned by a number of American and International banks, and is clearly designated as private according to most experts.

The October 2008 issue of Economic Reform (C.O.M.E.R.) wrote of an attempt by a number of Canadian municipalities to obtain infrastructure financing through the Bank of Canada as is permitted under our constitution. The municipalities were turned down by the Bank of Canada, who proceeded to outline the Bank's policy on such requests. In other words, the Bank ordered the government to get their financing elsewhere, indicating that constitutional procedure was no longer relevant.

In the 1970's external forces started playing hob with Canadian financial policy. In 1928 a committee known as The Bank for International Settlements was formed for the purpose of distributing German reparation payments. As it happened, the world economy collapsed in 1929, so no reparation payments were forthcoming, leaving the Bank for International Settlements with no mandate to justify its existence. Instead of disbanding, this entity went underground. It resurfaced briefly at the beginning of World War two, accommodating the Germans in a matter of gold boullion, resulting in a direct order from the Allies to disband in 1943. It was later learned the order had been ignored.

The Bank for International Settlements seems to consist of a group of unelected and despised international bankers with no jurisdiction over anything, who exist to do serious damage to any economy they infiltrate. For instance, in conjunction with a freemarket oriented Bank of Canada governor, in the '70's, the Bank for International Settlements managed to impose up to 20 % interest on Canadians, causing at least half a million people to lose everything they had. No one seems to know where this mysterious power originated, although some were convinced the most important element in Canadian monetary policy at the time was the bribe.

In 1988 the Bank for International Settlements again exerted its mysterious power over the Canadian economy by

declaring all O.E.C.D. countries risk free. This enabled then Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to cancel fractional reserves, which in turn allowed commercial banks to acquire 80 billion in Federal government bonds for free. Taxpayers have been involved ever since in paying for this gift to the commercial banks. This had to have been done in secret. William Krehm, editor of Economic Reform, did not learn of the exploit for over a year. Mulroney also tried to make the Bank of Canada independent of the government of Canada. It currently looks as if he succeeded.

In 2005 or thereabouts, Paul Martin mounted a savage attack on employment insurance, cutting benefits by up to 60 %. In the last Federal election Stéphane Dion said this was done at the behest of the International Monetary Fund. Apparently any bum can walk in off the street and order Canadian monetary policy to adjust to his or her demands. In this critical time, with depression staring us in the face, one would think the Bank of Canada would be our most important weapon in easing the burden. Instead, the November edition of Economic Reform lists the amount of legal tender turned out by the bank of Canada in November at less than 5%.

Thoughts on world trade...

I wonder when, if ever, our political and financial gurus will wake up to the fact that globalization, as presently constituted, is over. We'll be well rid of the current version of world trade, which includes slave wages to the producers, suppression of emerging nations by force, if needed, and total corporate irresponsibility in the matter of using tax havens to escape their legitimate tax obligations.

Third world nations, left in a state of abysmal poverty, are a no-win situation for everyone, over the long term. Exploiting slave labour for short term profit is stupid. These are potential customers for reciprocal trade agreements of benefit to everyone. Trade policies must include provision for eventual wage parity among all participants.

One example of the ravages of the imperialist version of so-called free trade will be found in the history of the Republic of Haiti, in the Caribbean at the west end of the island of Hispaniola, as named by Columbus, who was struck by the untouched beauty of the island under indigenous stewardship. This didn't stop the Spanish from destroying the natives, whose life experiences hadn't prepared them for slavery. The Spanish were succeeded by the French, who changed the name of the island to St. Domingue, turned all arable land into plantations, and imported vast numbers of captives from Africa as slaves, to work the land. Sugar cane was the main crop. The island became famous worldwide for the amount of wealth it produced. Then came the French Revolution with its disturbing call for "Liberty, equality, fraternity" which struck a special chord among the slaves. ⇒

The slaves built up an explosive resentment against their masters and eventually started a full scale, successful rebellion, winning complete control of the country, to the consternation of imperialist forces in Europe and the Americas, who viciously counterattacked a number of times, to no avail. Thus, in 1804 was born the free, black, Republic of Haiti, population approximately 500,000 at the time, under a well-written Constitution from a self-taught former slave, Toussaint L'Ouverture, who later died in a Paris dungeon.

Over the last 200 years, while the world made massive advances in all areas, Haiti remained locked in a backwater of successive, oppressive, dictatorships, periodically preserved by armed intrusions, if the country became in-subordinate.

Per capita annual "incomes are among the lowest in the world. So is literacy. Famine is endemic. The land itself is being washed away, because Haitians, desperate for food and heat, have stripped most of the natural protective cover. Recently, the country was occupied again by

Canadian and American troops, and thousands of Haitians were gunned down for daring to demand a minimum wage of a dollar a day. French troops were also present. It would seem the racist philosophy is alive and well in the halls of imperialistic power.

A progressive approach to legitimizing world trade would be through import tariffs based on Canadian wage standards. Goods imported from countries with equivalent or better wage standards would pay nothing. Goods imported from countries where inadequate wages are being paid would be taxed, relative to the difference in wage standards. Any money collected could be invested in the rebuilding of our manufacturing capacity.

I would hope by now people are becoming aware of the futility in pumping borrowed money into the fraudulent, debt-based, elitest banking system. We have recently been inundated with rhetoric promising major changes. I would suggest the current banking system would be a good place to start. – *Alan A. Macdonell* ♣

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## Quebec and Canada

**From: John Wood, Morinville AB**

**To the Editors of the National Post, March 6 2009**

**Re: Andre Pratte's Tough Love-Quebec**

Andre Pratte's March 3 missive, "Tough love won't work in Quebec", is another example of the French Canadian "culture of entitlement". It is not unexpected from the editor of a Québécois 'pur laine' publication that is dedicated to promoting everything French, while vilifying everything English.

Canadians outside Quebec are totally oblivious of the creeping takeover of this country by the French interests in Quebec. The fact that it has cost Canadian taxpayers and consumers more than \$1.3 TRILLION, over the past 40 years, to protect and promote the French language and culture, coast to coast, seems to mean nothing.

Pratte suggests compromise between English Canada and Quebec, but it's always a one-sided proposition, with Canada doing all the compromising, which it has been doing since 1763. Quebec returns nothing of national value to the Rest of Canada, which, in spite of Mr. Pratte's ill-informed insistence, provides the financial life-support that sustains the Québécois as the most unproductive people in Canada.

COMPROMISE: A method of reaching agreement in a dispute, by which each side surrenders something that it wants. - *Webster's*.

FAIR PLAY: Equitable dealings between contending parties; respect for others' rights according to one's own ideas of social justice. - *Webster's*.

Words are vehicles of thought. Consequently, if certain words are missing from a language, the concepts and culture of a nation, speaking and evolving from that

language, are skewed in a specific direction.

This is a basic problem in Canada that has inhibited parliamentary government, because the French language, attitudes and values, are basically different from the English tongue and concepts.

To English-speaking peoples, which encompass the globe, the idea of 'fair play' in the sense of give and take, is a dominant value. No words with such meaning exist in French. As General DeGaulle so vividly demonstrated, the French have no feeling or respect for the English norm of 'fair play'. Thus, their motivation is all 'take' and no 'give'.

And so 'compromise' with the French is practically impossible. The compromise we supposedly have had for 250 years has been, and continues to be, a source of national disunity and divisiveness. It is at its worst today.

While the obvious solution is to negotiate Quebec's complete separation, apologists/appeasers like Pratte offer no solution to Canada's problems with Quebec. Only more of the same.

My cause is Canada. I mean to challenge anyone bent on damaging or destroying my country. When I perceive anyone doing just that, I must speak out. *Call Me Canadian!* ♣

### Charter Rights and the demise of democracy in Canada

*I am forwarding to you the article (next page) by John Wood as I think it would be an excellent contribution for your next issue. Few really understand the extent of damage caused by Trudeau and by extension, political leaders of the day and up to the present who are too cowardly or complaisant to seek a return to our British Charter that was simple, effective and fair. -Al. C. Johnson ⇒*

## Charter Rights:

**John M. Wood, Morinville AB**

Please consider my observations of one of Canada's most problematic pieces of legislature, that has had Canadians in its undemocratic grip for some twenty-six years... The Canadian Charter of (fewer) Rights and (limited) Freedoms.

WHY DO WE NEED A CHARTER OF RIGHTS?

The Charter of Rights created a sense of dependency among Canadians. It stipulated that Canadians should depend on the government for rights and unless these rights were written down in the Charter, they had no rights. Canadians did not demand these rights. They did not even ask for them. They did not even have a say in them. You might wonder why the government of the day insisted that Canadians should have these rights in writing if they didn't need them and already had them. Was there more to this Charter than meets the eye? The Charter has more to do with limiting and restricting rights and freedoms than with guaranteeing those we already had.

**The Charter reads:**

2. Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms:

- (a) freedom of conscience and religion;
- (b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication;
- (c) freedom of peaceful assembly; and
- (d) freedom of association.

The "Everyone" in section 2 does not mean Canadians. It means "everyone" in the world who can make it to Canada. It means that as "everyone" in the world arrives in Canada they can claim refugee status and not be questioned about it. They are then entitled to Canadian taxpayer funded welfare and Medicare for themselves and their extended families for the remainder of their lives. The Charter therefore saddled Canadians with the responsibility of supporting "everyone" in the world as they arrive in Canada.

There are five types of people who like this: immigration lawyers, government social workers, international socialists, illegal immigrants, international terrorists. We have them all in abundance. That is why we have "everyone" instead of "every Canadian" in the Charter. Our politicians prefer to talk about human rights rather than Canadian rights. It is a euphemism that shrouds the multi million-dollar immigration business, the planning ideas of social engineers, the Human Rights Tribunals and the politics of international socialists.

And in the true spirit of international socialism, the Charter does not mention the right of Canadians to own property.

International socialists who appoint judges to the supreme court are apt to appoint people who think as they do about international issues rather than Canadian issues. All Canadian prime ministers since Person and Trudeau have been international socialists. They like to impress the world rather than their fellow Canadians. Canadians as a whole do not vote for their prime ministers so there is no need for a prime

minister to impress Canadians -- only control his party. Mulroney tried to be appointed leader at the United Nations after he left office. Chrétien tried to have the UN moved to Montreal, even to take over the US debt to the UN while Canada had (still has) a national debt in the billions.

These supreme court judges are charged with interpreting Canadian laws according to their interpretations of the Charter. We have Supreme Court judges who were appointed for life by international socialists interpreting Canadian laws according to an international charter which was written for "everyone" in the world by international socialists. Do they also sing the International?

Democracies that depend on a Charter or a written dogma are less democratic. There is no need for public debate. Decisions are made by appointed-for-life judges and outweigh decisions made by elected parliamentarians. We then get strange decisions about kiddie porn and centuries-old Indian treaties and the definition of spouse. And we have international socialists in Ottawa who refuse to use the notwithstanding clause to control it. Public opinion has no input as we step closer to judicial dictatorship and international socialism.

Unless Canadians change the Charter, this creeping form of international socialism and creeping dictatorship will grow and grow until Canada is no longer recognized as Canada.

In Canada, Democracy is just a word that we use to identify the kind of society in which we live, but is erroneous. I won't try to define what a democracy is to you. If you don't already know, it is too late. You should know exactly how Canadians have been deceived by countless politicians, public officials, academics and the mainstream media, that we are a democratic society. We are not! Canada has not been a democracy for many decades, if ever.

Periodic general elections do not a democracy make! Going to the ballot box one day, every three, four or five years does not a democracy make! Forty percent of an electorate does not a democracy make! Certainly, twenty percent of that forty percent can never be considered the will of the people, as required to be a democracy. We use an archaic electoral system that encourages corruption of every kind. This is the fraudulent reality of our Canadian parliamentary system of government.

I would sincerely like you to comment on this observation. I realize that many of my opinions do not agree with the policies of your Conservative Party of Canada; neither do they with any of the other current parties. Does that make me an outsider, a loner? I believe not, as I am encouraged by many hundreds of other thoughtful Canadians with whom I correspond.

My cause is Canada. I mean to challenge anyone bent on damaging or destroying my country. When I perceive parliamentarians doing just that I must speak out!

*Call Me Canadian! John M. Wood ♣*

# SPP: Updating the Militarization and Annexation of North America

By Stephen Lendman

From GlobalResearch.ca, March 13, 2009

[EXTRACT] The title refers to the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP), also known as the North American Union - formerly launched at a March 23, 2005 Waco, Texas meeting attended by George W. Bush, Mexico's President Vicente Fox, and (then) Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin. It's for a tri-national agreement, below the radar, for greater economic, political, and security integration, with secret business and government working groups devising binding policies with no public knowledge or legislative debate.

In short, it's a military-backed corporate coup d'etat against the sovereignty of three nations, their populations and legislative bodies. It's a dagger through the heart of democratic freedom in all three, yet the public is largely unaware of what's happening. [...]

Read entire article online:

[www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=12696](http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=12696)

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From: [www.GlobalResearch.ca](http://www.GlobalResearch.ca) ♣

## "Politics From The Far Side"

### Premises of war: deciphering Canada's mission in Afghanistan

Chris Shaw, Vancouver BC



*"Lord grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." (St. Francis of Assisi)*

Choosing to go to war is one of the most momentous decisions a country can make and those that do so realize

that they must present justifications to their own citizens and the world. The official reason, or *causus belli*, is usually shadowed by various unstated reasons, the latter often more real than those presented for public viewing.

Canada has been at war in Afghanistan since 2002, our first major conflict since the Korean War. In 2006, the Canadian Forces began counter-insurgency combat operations in Kandahar Province. In total, the Forces have suffering hundreds of casualties and 112 killed, the number certain to grow higher before this article sees print. The Forces have also killed many hundreds of "insurgents". Officially, we are fighting alongside our NATO allies and the army and police of a newly democratic Afghanistan against a vicious insurgency led by the Taliban, the brutal former rulers of the country.

#### The premises behind Canada's mission in Afghanistan

In the years since September 11th, 2001, Liberal and Conservative governments alike have brought forward various reasons to justify Canada's role in the Afghan civil war. Just over a year ago, a report chaired by former Liberal Foreign Affairs Minister John Manley on the Canadian mission was put before Parliament. The report's rationale for Canada's role is remarkably similar in some ways to those cited before, but there are some odd twists. Each of the reasons – the equivalent to premises leading to a conclusion in a deductive argument – must be scrutinized in order to determine if the mission actually makes

sense. In logic, a deductive conclusion can only be true if the premises are all correct. If the premises behind the mission fail, then we must look elsewhere for the truth about Canada's role.

These arguments are presented below in the following format: *conclusion*, then the *premises* that led to it. After that, there is a *reality check* regarding each of the premises:

Conclusion: We are fighting the Taliban insurgency to help create a free and democratic Afghanistan.

Premises:

1. Afghanistan before September 11th, 2001 was a failed state and a breeding ground for international terrorism;
2. The ruling Taliban tolerated, if not actively encouraged, the worst of these terrorist groups, Al Qaeda, in the attacks on the West. They were, therefore, at least partially responsible for the horrors of September 11th;
3. Afghanistan is now a democratic state with a freely elected President and parliament;
4. Average Afghans want and need NATO's military forces and other aid in order to maintain their new democracy and the rights of women and minorities;
5. If we fail to achieve our war aims, Afghanistan will slide back into chaos and the Taliban will come back to power, even perhaps following us home to inflict unimaginable chaos in Canada;
6. Our international obligations demand that we fight in Afghanistan.

Reality Check:

1. Before 2001, Afghanistan was locked in civil war: The Taliban government (aided by Pakistan's ISI) controlled most of the country and fought against the Northern Alliance, a collection of groups controlled by various warlords. Taliban government officials had been in the US during the summer of 2001 negotiating terms for a Unocal Corporation oil pipeline through their country. As in any country in a state of civil war, the Taliban did not have effective control over all of their territory. In the south, ⇒

**Chris Shaw, Canada's Mission in Afghanistan, contd.**

Their inability to rein in Al Qaeda may have been due to various factors, not least a debt of gratitude for Bin Laden's service as a mujihadeen commander during the war against the Russians, the fact that his daughter was married to Mullah Omar, or simply the code of honour called "Pashtunwali". While life under the Taliban regime was harsh in many ways, poppy production and banditry – historical plagues – had been eradicated. A nasty place, perhaps, but not a failed state: The premise fails.

2. Immediately after 9-11, the US demanded that Afghanistan hand Bin Laden over. The Taliban asked for proof that Al Qaeda had committed the crime before doing so. The US, which still hasn't formally charged Bin Laden with the 9-11 attacks, declined to provide proof, and instead invaded the country driving the Taliban from power. The official 9-11 story has since come under intense scrutiny. Numerous anomalies make it clear that the US government was at the very least grossly and perhaps deliberately negligent. The numbers of people around the world who hold the latter view – including in the US – now vastly exceed those support the official story. Without a direct Al Qaeda link to 9-11, with or without Taliban compliance, this premise utterly fails. Even if Al Qaeda could be proven to be involved, there were far more appropriate targets for American revenge: Pakistan's ISI had long supported Al Qaeda; 15 of the alleged highjackers came from Saudi Arabia as did Bin Laden; and the CIA had actively worked with Bin Laden during the Russian occupation. No one, including Manley, has advocated military operations against Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, or Langley, Virginia.

3. Afghan President Hamid Karzai, a former Unocal employee, was appointed by the US to run the country, then rubber stamped into place by elections that also brought former warlords into the Loya Jirga (parliament). The election would not have passed muster in any western democracy. In most parts of the new "Islamic Republic of Afghanistan", Sharia law still prevails. The premise fails.

4. The Taliban government of Afghanistan was guilty of gross human rights violations including massacres of ethnic minorities and the oppression of women. In this regard they did not differ at all from numerous other violent and despicable regimes around the world: Saudi Arabia, Burma, Sudan, China, and many more. While international intervention to topple such regimes might be both moral and feasible, there was no such discussion of doing so in Afghanistan prior to 9-11. Manley, then Liberal Party Foreign Minister, never called for military intervention by NATO or Canada. If human rights violations weren't a premise for war prior to 9-11 when the Taliban were in control, then it can't logically be grand-fathered in now to support Canada's mission. The premise – merely a

politically correct add-on designed to bolster the failures of premises 1 and 2 – also fails.

5. If Canada and the rest of NATO leave, it is certainly possible that the insurgents will win (as it now seems, they might anyway). A new Taliban government that resembled the previous one would not be kind to minorities such as the Hazara, nor offer rights to women. However, the use of the label of 'Taliban' by the Canadian government and media when describing the insurgency is a form of short hand for a variety of "enemies" including former Taliban soldiers, Al Qaeda fighters, soldiers of drug lords or warlords, and others who simply don't like foreign occupiers very much. Which group(s) may come to power following a NATO withdrawal is uncertain, but that the various elements will find some sort of accommodation is likely as they have in the past. Our current presence inhibits this process. As for the notion that "they" will follow us home to fight in the streets of Vancouver or Toronto, this is simply the stuff of comic book super villains. General Rick Hillier, former Chief of the Defense Staff, has stated that our enemies in Afghanistan are "murderous scumbags and terrorists" who fight merely because they hate our rights and freedoms. There is no evidence whatsoever that the insurgents, Taliban, nor even Al Qaeda care what we do in our own country. Indeed a series of investigations by The Globe and Mail showed that most insurgents couldn't find Canada on a map and could care less about what we do at home. The premise fails.

6. Most of the world's population does not accept the official 9-11 story of the US government. Our government is not answering the demands of the world by remaining in Afghanistan, merely the demands of Washington. This premise fails.

The Manley report tosses in one final premise almost as an aside, one that other countries facing the end of failed counterinsurgency wars – the US in Vietnam and now Iraq, Israel in Lebanon – tend to promote: If we leave now, our soldiers will have died in vain. It would be unimaginably sad to have to admit that this was true, but the use of the sacrifice of a nation's soldiers to promote further warfare is not a logical argument, rather an emotional one, an appeal to mindless patriotism designed to tug at our heartstrings. Logically, it is the equivalent of suggesting that chronic gamblers or drug addicts should continue their addictions because, if not, then all the years of addiction were a waste. **All of the Manley Report's premises like those of current and past Canadian governments fail the test of reason. For all their repetition in the mainstream media, the stated reasons for war not the real reasons we went to Afghanistan in the first place, nor the reasons why the Harper government wants the military to remain.**

Before Canada loses another hundred soldiers, or kills a thousand more Afghans, we might want to find the ⇒

real reason for this war. We may never do so, but perhaps we can begin to see our way out of the current quagmire. With newly elected President Obama sending over 17,000 more US troops to Afghanistan in a new 'surge', the imperative to solve the war becomes even greater.

### End State

In military terms, an "end state" is how a commander envisions the final desired outcome of any battle. It is becoming increasingly obvious, even to the mainstream media, that the Harper government's/NATO's hoped-for an end state in Afghanistan is based more on wishful thinking than reality. Defence Minister Peter McKay can evoke memories of the Canadian sacrifice in WWI to his heart's content and hope that all the blood and treasure wasted in that imperial war will convince Canadians to support the current equally imperial adventure, but it will matter little in the end.

The premises for this war were utterly false, as we have seen, and any so-called morality based on these false premises remains dubious at best. It would, in fact, have been far better to had we remembered the "Prime Directive" of Star Trek fame: to let other societies evolve on their own terms at their own speed. Genocide would have been the only reason to intervene, but whatever else was happening in Afghanistan before 9-11, genocide was not part of it.

### **Alas, we can't go back in time and undo the 2001**

Invasion of Afghanistan and the subsequent destruction and death. Many Afghans increasingly see the presence of foreign troops as part of the problem, not part of the solution. In fact, many see NATO merely propping up the corrupt Karzai regime while killing civilians. Leaving aside all else, NATO is not going to win this war militarily: Counter-insurgencies in the last century have almost always failed, and Afghanistan will likely be no exception.

What then is a realistic end state to the war in Afghanistan? There are three options, in decreasing order of desirability for all involved. Each begins with the reality that neither NATO – nor anyone else – can make Afghanistan into a western style "liberal democracy" that we might like to live in. We don't live there and it's not our choice any more than it was the Russians' to make Afghanistan a soviet-style republic. The only people who can decide what Afghanistan will eventually become are Afghans themselves.

**Albert Einstein once said, "The significant problems we have cannot be solved at the same level of thinking with which we created them". For Afghanistan, it's time for some new thinking. Here are some options:**

Option 1: Invite all of the combatants to the negotiating table, regardless of current or past behaviours. After nearly eight years of demonizing the Taliban as subhuman monsters, it might be hard –let alone embarrassing - for NATO governments to sit down with the "enemy", but that's how virtually all wars really end: you end up talking

to your despicable foe. At the table would be all fractions of the insurgency, the Karzai government, the warlords and drug lords. NATO, and the UN. Representatives of all the surrounding countries (Iran, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, China, and Russia), all with strong vested interests in a stable post war Afghanistan, would attend as observers and mediators to help the process along. NATO countries could also help enormously by promising serious financial aid to rebuild the shattered infrastructure that they helped to destroy. Members of the Afghan parliament have already called for peace talks amongst all combatants. It's time to listen to these voices and let Afghans get on with the job of defining their own future. Canada helped broker a peace deal in Northern Ireland that saw former bitter enemies sharing power in a new government. We can serve the same role in Afghanistan.

Option 2: Partition Afghanistan. Somewhere between a third and a half of Afghanistan, including Kandahar Province where Canadians are fighting and dying, is now under the functional control of the insurgency. This area is defined, essentially, by the historical Ring Road that stretches from Herat in the west to Kandahar in the south, then north up to Kabul. It is the land of Pashtuns, mostly all Sunni Muslims, who are the backbone of the insurgency. Their fellow Pashtuns live across the Pakistani border to Afghanistan's south and east. Partition is not a new concept for Afghanistan. The British did it more than a century ago when they divided "Pashtunistan" leaving half in an Afghan state and the other half under the British Raj. Under UN auspices, Afghanistan would cease to be the artificial multi-ethnic state it now is and would become two separate countries: Pashtunistan in the south and east and an Afghan republic in the north and west. NATO and the UN would withdraw from Pashtunistan and help the new northern government set up a defensive line along the new borders. Both would now engage in more traditional peacekeeping roles under UN authority, train Hazara and other ethnic groups to form their own national army, and supply massive aid to help the new country emerge from the shadow of war.

The UN would also facilitate the transfer of any populations who wanted to live in either of the new states: Pashtuns in the north might want to be with their ethnic cousins in the south, Hazara and Dari speaking people in the south might want to move north. NATO countries that have been part of the war would be required to take as many refugees as wanted to leave back to their own countries as partial war reparations. Pakistan would have to find a way to deal with an independent Pashtunistan. While the latter might prove to be a daunting problem, it would be no more so that the current lack of control that Karachi exercises over their Northwest Frontier Province.

*Concluded next page*

Option 3: Pick up and leave. The result would be some measure of chaos, with an eventual outcome likely quite similar to that above, albeit perhaps not with the identical boundaries. To those in the West who might see this as capitulation and cowardice, consider the alternative: an endless and un-winnable war for NATO matched with endless suffering for Afghans. The UN made the hard choice to leave Somalia in the 1990s after the failed intervention there. Somalia after the withdrawal was neither better nor worse than when the UN military forces were there. At least that was the status quo until the Americans encouraged the Ethiopians to intervene in 2007. The results were disastrous and have since increased rather than decreased the fighting. Ethiopia is now on the brink of leaving, unwilling to bear the endless costs in lives and treasure

Benjamin Franklin is quoted as having said that, "the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results". It's time to escape from the insanity of war in Afghanistan. Any of the options presented above are better than the current situation that features a growing insurgency and an attendant

downwardly spiraling security situation.

Make no mistake: The solutions proposed here are all fraught with difficulties, but each leads to an end state that we, and more importantly the Afghans, can live with.

**[This article was written with the assistance of Ari Peltier-Shaw]**

**Biographical note:** Chris Shaw is a professor of Ophthalmology and Neuroscience at UBC and author and co-author of over 120 research papers and 4 edited books on various topics in his field of research, primarily concerned with understanding the origins and timelines of neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and ALS. A recently completed book on these topics, Stealing the Mind: The Hidden History of Neurological Disease, awaits a publisher willing to accept controversy and my attempt to shift the dominant paradigms in the field. As a social activist, Chris has written a book about the modern Olympics, including Vancouver's 2010 Winter Games (Five Ring Circus, New Society Press), which exposes the corporate culture behind the Games (real estate and privatization for local developers; television broadcast rights for the IOC). ♣

## Canadian Rights and Freedoms are at Risk: Bill C-6

From: "Brad" <[brad@canadianrightsandfreedoms.com](mailto:brad@canadianrightsandfreedoms.com)>

*The Canadian bureaucracy appears to be using the economic crisis and political instability to mask an attempt to take over a huge part of our government.*

Date: Thu, 5 Mar 2009

An Important Notice Regarding Bill C-6

On January 29th, 2009, the Canadian Minister of Health introduced Bill C-6 into the House of Commons. Similar to last year's Bill C-52, this bill poses a grave threat to the Rights, Freedoms and Democratic processes all Canadians now have. The powers sought after in Bill C-6 again are hidden in what is meant to seem like a much needed Consumer Product Safety Act.

### Bill C-6 will:

- -Remove your Elected Officials ability to protect you against illegal or brutal actions from government agencies. If voted into law Bill C-6 will remove Parliaments authority over the Health and Safety of Canadians. Decisions will be made behind closed doors with foreign governments, international trade organizations and government agents who may not have your best interests in mind.
- -Remove your Right to have a judge review and approve actions taken against people, companies and organizations, before they have been proven guilty of any offence.
- -Punish Canadians with little opportunity for protection or recourse, without any proof of guilt or wrong doing. Guilt will no longer be decided in a court room. Guilty verdicts will come from the office of the minister of health. No evidence will be required, no defense will be

allowed, no warning will precede their actions.

### When C-6 becomes law government agents will:

- -Search and seize property and bank accounts without a warrant.
- -Create laws based on global policy and big corporate interests.
- -Take action against Canadians without any evidence or proof of wrong doing.
- -Deny Parliament the ability to protect Canadians rights and freedoms
- With completely unchecked power, will Health Canada bend to the bribery and influence peddling of large corporate interests? Would they ever turn this power loose on the Canadian people?

### Examples of abuse from Health Canada Agents.

In 2003 Health Canada launched an attack on a group of mentally ill patients and the not for profit company that supported them. They seized shipments of a safe natural therapy required by the patients and stormed a mental health support center with 17 armed officers and agents. The Company ([www.Truehope.com](http://www.Truehope.com)) reported that they had lost contact with more than 300 of their Canadian participants. The Canadian Mental Health Association told of suicides as a result of this government action.

Health Canada then charged the not for profit company, burdening them with heavy legal costs. Health Canada lost their case. Although the agents admitted knowing they were injuring people through their actions, they continued to enforce policy at the cost of life. And what happened to

Continued next page

### **Bill C-6, continued**

the more than 300 mentally ill Canadians that became unreachable? In the months and years following, reports of hospitalizations and suicides during the seizures have surfaced. No Health Canada Agent has ever been charged.

To view video and audio files documenting the result of these actions. (YouTube videos)

### **Bedlam to Bureaucracy. Showing Health Canada's lack of regard for Canadian health and wellbeing**

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=1cOc4EmbS1I&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1cOc4EmbS1I&feature=related)

### **Health Canada loses court case against Truehope**

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=DASOd6\\_zL-A&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DASOd6_zL-A&feature=related)

### **Truehope participant denied help by Health Canada**

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDjINpFnaA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDjINpFnaA)

Why do bureaucrats need to bypass the Parliament and Senate approval process to create new laws? These processes are open and visible to public scrutiny. What don't they want us to see?

Why do bureaucrats want search and seizure powers without being required to provide any reason or evidence of guilt or wrong doing? The Canadian Courts were put in place to protect Canadians and provide a third party review of all claims and actions against an innocent party. What are the bureaucrats planning that they don't want a judge to see?

With the ability to levy fines in the millions of dollars, seize property and bank accounts without a warrant, and inject foreign laws into Canada without any oversight, is this new law designed to silence and discriminate against certain groups of Canadians or just to undo the democratic processes that our forefathers fought for and died to protect?

If C-6 is allowed to become law, Health Canada's Brooks Claxton Building will become the dominant symbol of power and authority in Canada. Global corporate interests will become Canadian Law and the Canadian people will have no say in how they are governed. The democratic processes that have served us for more than a hundred years will not have the ability to protect us.

### **Here's what you can do to protect your rights:**

#### **Educate Yourself**

- Go to [www.billc6.com](http://www.billc6.com)
- Read bill C-6 on <http://www.parl.gc.ca>

#### **Get Involved**

- Talk to your local press
- Contact your local MP [ <http://tinyurl.com/c7oatf> ]
- Blog and post online about it
- Ask the leaders in your community to get involved
- Contact your MLA/MPP
- Tell your friends; Hand this out in your neighborhood... ♣

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## What changes are buried in Bill C-10?

### the Budget Implementation Act

From Joe Hueglin, Canadian Daily Digest

<joe.hueglin@bellnet.ca>

### **Will "far-reaching amendments" in the Budget Act be passed "with limited, if any, meaningful debate."**

[Feb. 15 09, EXTRACT] There are some who view as perversely nationalistic those who have concerns about ownership and management increasingly being in the hands of non-residents of Canada. There are others who might be more than a bit concerned in regards to the changes being proposed to the Investment Canada Act. Then again, maybe we all should be concerned that this is going forward with little public discussion. What happened to that proposal of open, transparent government?

For example, Bill C-10 has been accepted at second reading. Following are comments included in the opinions of law firms concerning the nature of alterations to the Competition Act and the Investment Canada Act. No media consideration on the internet regarding these or other non-budgetary sections of Bill C-10 have been seen during daily searches in the development of the daily digest of articles ARCHIVED at <http://cndailydigest.blogspot.com/>

It may be political necessity will result in "far reaching amendments" becoming law without the public becoming aware. Most certainly the opinions of the firms made available to you below will, in and of themselves, have limited circulation.

### **Two questions:**

1) do you or do you not consider the changes in process worth spending the time to debate before they are made law through passage of the Budget Act?

2) are you supportive or not of there being no review of acquisitions of Canadian businesses by non-Canadians under a billion dollars, other than acquisitions of cultural businesses and those deemed as compromising national security?

How comfortable are you with the potential of so much of our economy to be placed in the hands for foreign investors and directors, and at what risk, if any?

Bill C-10 has been accepted at second reading. Following are comments included in the opinions of law firms concerning the nature of alterations to the Competition Act and the Investment Canada Act. It may be political necessity will result in "far reaching amendments" becoming law without the public becoming aware. Most certainly the opinions of the firms made available to you below will, in and of themselves, have limited circulation.

Following is what is in process politically, unbeknownst to just about everyone not in the law firms quoted.

The bill (Bill C-10, the Budget Implementation Act) proposes far-reaching amendments to both the Competition Act and the Investment Canada Act (the ICA).

**Read Joe Hueglin's Canadian Daily Digest:**

<http://cndailydigest.blogspot.com/> / ♣

## Global banking and its impact on government in Canada

**Alan A. Macdonell, Williamstown ON**

On Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> (2008), a letter of mine, claiming the Bank of Canada was no longer a public institution was distributed to a number of outlets. Mr. Mark Carney, governor of the Bank of Canada, was kind enough to send a rebuttal, an abbreviated copy of which is included below:

**Mark Carney, Governor, Bank of Canada Dec. 11, 2008:**  
*Sir: As you know, the Bank of Canada was nationalized in 1938. The Bank has remained a public institution since then. Of note, central banks in all industrialized countries are public institutions. – Signed, M. Carney*

While I have to acknowledge I'm close to illiterate in the gobbledegook which is alleged to describe modern economics, my understanding of a public institution is clearly described in our constitution. In contrast, the U.S. Federal Reserve is owned by a number of American and International banks, and is clearly designated as private according to most experts.

The October 2008 issue of Economic Reform (C.O.M.E.R.) wrote of an attempt by a number of Canadian municipalities to obtain infrastructure financing through the Bank of Canada as is permitted under our constitution. The municipalities were turned down by the Bank of Canada, who proceeded to outline the Bank's policy on such requests. In other words, the Bank ordered the government to get their financing elsewhere, indicating that constitutional procedure was no longer relevant.

In the 1970's external forces started playing hob with Canadian financial policy. In 1928 a committee known as The Bank for International Settlements was formed for the purpose of distributing German reparation payments. As it happened, the world economy collapsed in 1929, so no reparation payments were forthcoming, leaving the Bank for International Settlements with no mandate to justify its existence. Instead of disbanding, this entity went underground. It resurfaced briefly at the beginning of World War two, accommodating the Germans in a matter of gold boullion, resulting in a direct order from the Allies to disband in

1943. It was later learned the order had been ignored.

The Bank for International Settlements seems to consist of a group of unelected and despised international bankers with no jurisdiction over anything, who exist to do serious damage to any economy they infiltrate. For instance, in conjunction with a freemarket oriented Bank of Canada governor, in the '70's, the Bank for International Settlements managed to impose up to 20 % interest on Canadians, causing at least half a million people to lose everything they had. No one seems to know where this mysterious power originated, although some were convinced the most important element in Canadian monetary policy at the time was the bribe.

In 1988 the Bank for International Settlements again exerted its mysterious power over the Canadian economy by declaring all O.E.C.D. countries risk free. This enabled then Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to cancel fractional reserves, which in turn allowed commercial banks to acquire 80 billion in Federal government bonds for free. Taxpayers have been involved ever since in paying for this gift to the commercial banks. This had to have been done in secret. William Krehm, editor of Economic Reform, did not learn of the exploit for over a year. Mulroney also tried to make the Bank of Canada independent of the government of Canada. It currently looks as if he succeeded.

In 2005 or thereabouts, Paul Martin mounted a savage attack on employment insurance, cutting benefits by up to 60 %. In the last Federal election Stéphane Dion said this was done at the behest of the International Monetary Fund. Apparently any bum can walk in off the street and order Canadian monetary policy to adjust to his or her demands. In this critical time, with depression staring us in the face, one would think the Bank of Canada would be our most important weapon in easing the burden. Instead, the November edition of Economic Reform lists the amount of legal tender turned out by the bank of Canada in November at less than 5%. ♣

### Climate change: warming or cooling?

As a result of his discovery of the effect of solar cycles on the Earth's climate and, in particular, the lack of awareness he has observed in the media, government and among the people, John L. Casey, Director of Space and Science Research Center in Florida, has begun a vocal and highly visible effort to alert all to the coming climate change in order that we are prepared for the record cold event and its global ill-effects associated with this new climate.

This major reduction in solar activity called a "solar hibernation" is forecast to have the potential to cause major worldwide agricultural and economic effects.

In a press release, Mar. 2, 2009, Casey noted, "I am still

amazed and deeply disappointed that the on-going changes in our Sun that are among the most significant occurrences in the history of modern science, are still intentionally hidden from the people by the Obama administration and unreported by the media. This story alone without the background of what this means to climate change, should be front page coverage and the main story on the evening TV news on every channel. We should be teaching all about this remarkable transformation of our Sun, what I have termed a 'solar hibernation,' in every classroom in the country. These are sad times indeed, for truth in the scientific community and honesty in the White House." More at: [www.spaceandscience.net/id16.html/](http://www.spaceandscience.net/id16.html/) ♣

# The U.S. and the Economy

America's Fiscal Collapse - Obama's Budget Will Impoverish America  
Listen to Michel Chossudovsky and understand the game the banks are playing!

Radio Interview with Michel Chossudovsky  
**By Bonnie Faulkner, Guns and Butter program, Pacifica (KPFA). Article with audio link, online at:**  
[www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=12674](http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=12674)

The administration's 2010 budget will entail the most drastic curtailment in public spending in American history, leading to social havoc and the potential impoverishment of millions of people. Defense spending and bank bailouts will consume all government revenue resulting in fiscal collapse that will lead to the privatization of the state.

## America's Fiscal Collapse

**Michel Chossudovsky**, 09-03-02 [EXCERPT]

At first sight, the budget proposal has all the appearances of an expansionary program, a demand oriented "Second New Deal" geared towards creating employment, rebuilding shattered social programs and reviving the real economy. The realities are otherwise. Obama's promise is based on a mammoth austerity program. The entire fiscal structure is shattered, turned upside down.

To reach these stated objectives, a significant hike in public spending on social programs (health, education, housing, social security) would be required as well as the implementation of a large scale public investment program. Major shifts in the composition of public expenditure would also be required: i.e. a move out of a war economy, requiring a movement out of military related spending in favour of civilian programs. In actuality, what we are dealing with is the most drastic curtailment in public spending in American history, leading to social havoc and the potential impoverishment of millions of people.

The Obama promise largely serves the interests of Wall Street, the defence contractors and the oil conglomerates. In turn, the Bush-Obama bank "bailouts" are leading America into a spiralling public debt crisis. The economic and social dislocations are potentially devastating. Obama's budget submitted to Congress on February 26, 2009 envisages outlays for the 2010 fiscal year (commencing October 1st 09) of \$3.94 trillion, an increase of 32 percent. Total government revenues for the 2010 fiscal year, according to preliminary estimates by the Bureau of Budget, are of the order of \$2.381 trillion. The predicted budget deficit (according to the president's speech) is of the order of \$1.75 trillion, almost 12 percent of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product.

War and Wall Street: This is a "War Budget". The austerity measures hit all major federal spending programs with the exception of: 1. Defence and the Middle East War: 2. the

Wall Street bank bailout, 3. Interest payments on a staggering public debt. The budget diverts tax revenues into financing the war. It legitimizes the fraudulent transfers of tax dollars to the financial elites under the "bank bailouts".

The pattern of deficit spending is not expansionary. We are not dealing with a Keynesian style deficit, which stimulates investment and consumer demand, leading to an expansion of production and employment.

**BOOK: America's Fiscal Collapse**

The Economic Depression was predicted in Michel Chossudovsky's 2003 best-seller, The Globalization of Poverty and the New World Order. In the new and expanded edition of Chossudovsky's international best-seller, the author outlines the contours of a New World Order which feeds on human poverty and the destruction of the environment, generates social apartheid, encourages racism and ethnic strife and undermines the rights of women. The result as his detailed examples from all parts of the world show so convincingly, is a globalization of poverty. This book is a skilful combination of lucid explanation and cogently argued critique of the fundamental directions in which our world is moving financially and economically. In this new enlarged edition—which includes ten new chapters and a new introduction—the author reviews the causes and consequences of famine in Sub-Saharan Africa, the dramatic meltdown of financial markets, the demise of State social programs and the devastation resulting from corporate downsizing and trade liberalisation.

**Michel Chossudovsky** is Professor of Economics at the University of Ottawa and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG) based in Montreal, which hosts the critically acclaimed website [www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca). He is a contributor to the Encyclopedia Britannica. His writings have been translated into more than 20 languages. Book published in 13 languages. More than 150,000 copies sold worldwide. ♣

## Banned In Canada

George Galloway faces his accusers

*"To ban me from the country for my views on Afghanistan is absurd, hypocritical, and in vain."*

The decision to ban George Galloway from Canada seems odd, but now it emerges that the Jewish Defence League (JDL) may have pressured the Canadian Government to so the action.

**Video and Mar. 21<sup>st</sup> article in The Guardian, online at:**

<http://www.brasschecktv.com/page/587.html>

<http://informationclearinghouse.info/article22274.htm> ♣

## More on the U.S. and the Economy

### "The U.S. Economy: Designed to Fail"

Re an article by Richard C. Cook  
From David Boese, St. Catharines ON

I urge you in the most sincere manner, to check out Richard Cook's latest blogspot and his new website listed below. There is no greater truth than that which Richard Cook promulgates, and there is no greater need than monetary reform, if we want to end this roller-coaster ride of 'booms and busts' and the hardship these create for our citizenry. Being Canadians and notwithstanding some of our differences with the U.S., we could do no better than support Richard and advocates like Stephen Zarlenga from the American Monetary Institute, for their efforts in creating monetary reform, for if they and the U.S. beat us to the punch (which is O.K.) then Canada and the rest of the world

### FOLLOW THE MONEY: MADOFF, MOSSAD, AIG AND 9/11

Allen Roland

*The Madoff investigation is very similar to the 9-11 investigation in that evidence of a larger conspiracy is being avoided and ignored. It is possible that the billions that Madoff stole (and which are still unaccounted for) were being used to finance Israel's vast global spy and sabotage network Mossad, with connections to both AIG and quite possibly 9/11 itself:*  
Allen L Roland

Follow the money starting with Madoff's missing billions and let's fully open Pandora's box.

Allen L Roland Online with active links:  
<http://blogs.salon.com/0002255/2009/03/18.html>

**ONLY THE TRUTH IS REVOLUTIONARY!**

### OPENING 9/11 PANDORA'S BOX:

*Sibel Edmonds, a 32-year-old Turkish-American, was hired as a translator by the FBI shortly after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 because of her knowledge of Middle Eastern languages. She was fired less than a year later in March 2002 for reporting shoddy work and security breaches to her supervisors that could have prevented those attacks and is currently the most gagged prisoner in American History: Allen L Roland*

The Pandora's box of 9/11 must be re-opened by freeing the messenger, Sibel Edmonds, who the Bush administration has gone to great lengths to silence for over six years.

Enjoy watching a very special and truly courageous woman attempt to bring the truth to light ~ Sibel Edmonds, a documentary - **Kill The Messenger** (52-min):

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=6063340745569143497>

are sure to follow and we will all be the better for it.

Article at:

<http://britanniaradio.blogspot.com/2009/02/theuseconomy-designed-to-fail-by.html>

Regards, David Boese, 905 646 9143 [dash@vaxxine.com]

Richard Cook's website: [www.richardccook.com](http://www.richardccook.com) / and his new book from Tendril Press, "[We Hold These Truths: The Hope of Monetary Reform](#)"

Richard C. Cook is an author, consultant, and teacher who works out of Maryland and Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains. His interests are public policy, economic and monetary reform, meditation and spirituality, space exploration, and sustainable farming. Cook is a former U.S. federal government analyst who in 1986 became one of the foremost whistleblowers of modern times...♣

Allen L Roland is a practicing psychotherapist, author & lecturer who shares a daily political and social commentary on his weblog and website [allenroland.com](http://allenroland.com) / He also guest hosts a monthly radio show TRUTH TALK [www.conscioustalk.net](http://www.conscioustalk.net)  
Allen Roland's weblog: <http://blogs.salon.com/0002255/>  
Website: [www.allenroland.com](http://www.allenroland.com) ♣

### Eliot Spitzer strikes back

<http://tinyurl.com/cp3x3f>

Was Eliot Spitzer Taken Out Because He Was Going to Bust AIG?

By Melina Ripcoco, Brilliant at Breakfast

Mar. 19, 2009

Eliot Spitzer is back and he's talking. The thought of this, no doubt, brings a small shiver to the boardrooms of some of the perps walking around trying to figure out how to hide the money this week... Spitzer may be as "disgraced" as any anonymous sex loving Republican loser, but America is known for its great second acts, and we may be witnessing the curtain rising on Spitzer's.

Today in Slate, Eliot Spitzer has a short op-ed that speaks volumes about what is going on, and indirectly, if you follow the money, what happened to him. Plainly stated, Spitzer brings the AIG Ponzi Scheme one step closer to the revered establishment when he explains how the bailout money was funneled straight into the top players, with Goldman Sachs being the name that comes up again and again. These top players already got bailout money, and Goldman is looking at zero losses at this point, while regular Americans are being asked to make concessions or just plain losing everything. ... and the threat of the collapse of all of the world's financial markets still up in the air. So, what was all that bailout money for? Apparently to make sure that no one at Goldman or the other few top firms in the hand-out-line lost anything! View online at: <http://tinyurl.com/cp3x3f>

Received from R.K. Moore ♣

# From British Columbia

Received from Denny Petrik, BC

*This is interesting – Rafe Mair, former Social Credit cabinet minister supporting the NDP over the Liberals – says a lot about Gordon Campbell and the Liberals!*

## Thoughts on the BC Election

-- May 12, 2009

**Hi Everybody, Rafe here.**

I received an email from a man saying that he has a tough time bringing himself to vote NDP and asked for my comment and here it is. I hope you find it of interest. Please pass this on... so that we can provide information where the media will not.

Let me take a moment to answer your question, which is one that has troubled a lot of people including myself.

When I was in government (1975-80) I was Minister, first, for Consumer and Corporate Affairs. During that time, I passed more consumer legislation than anyone before or since, including licensing Car dealers (with six of them in caucus setting their collective hair on fire), forced the Banks to acknowledge and obey BC laws for the first time, forced serious reporting changes to the Vancouver Stock Exchanges for which they have never forgiven me, licensed Travel Agents and made them create a fund to bring home passengers stranded by bankrupt charter companies, and so on.

As Environment Minister, I stopped the government killing of wolves, stopped exploration for and mining of uranium and went to Seattle and negotiated the saving of the Skagit River from a raising of the Ross Dam which Seattle was permitted to do under a 1941 deal with the BC government.

As Minister of Health, I brought in the Homecare program and Palliative Care.

I tell you all these things because there is no way in the world I could have ever done these things for the public of BC had Gordon Campbell been Premier.

The political ground has shifted dramatically and the present day version of the old Socreds is, I think, the party Carole James leads. I know that there are supporters of Ms. James that are hard line lefties, just as when I was with Bill Bennett there were supporters and indeed members of Caucus who were near fascists. That sort of thing will always happen in a two party system.

If it were 1975 all over again, I'd support Bill Bennett (the best premier BC ever had, in my view); in 2009 I will support Carole James.

Now as to the point that Campbell "cleaned up the mess". Perhaps, but let's be fair and observe that the NDP were struck by the "Asian flu" and in fact balanced the budget in their last year. It's also interesting to note that under the Liberals the Vancouver Convention Centre is over budget \$400 million - more than double the cost of the "fast ferries". For a

fuller account of the Liberals financial record may I refer you to my articles, at: [http://thetyee.ca/Bios/Rafe\\_Mair/](http://thetyee.ca/Bios/Rafe_Mair/)

Now let's look at 2009. This election, for me, boils down to a single issue - the environment and the plans by Campbell to deface and destroy the province I was born in and love and where 7 out of 8 of my grandchildren live. The energy policy, in which no one but industry had a hand in formulating, will ruin an ever increasing number of rivers, not to look after BC's energy needs, but mostly, American requirements. I have nothing against Americans and in fact have often been accused of being too lenient with them, but I don't want to see us sacrifice our environment rivers so they can preserve theirs. This policy is **government by the North America Free Trade Agreement** and our experts tell us three things:-

1. Once an American company has access to our water for any reason, it can use it for any reason, including selling bulk water exports.
2. Once an American company has tenure on a Canadian water and is using it, that tenure cannot be terminated either by contract or legislation.
3. Once we are exporting energy, we cannot reduce that supply to the US without reducing our own usage by a similar amount (this is the "Proportionality Clause").

Moreover, the profits which BC Hydro now pays into our treasury will go as dividends to shareholders of Companies like General Electric, Ledcor and Axos. BC Hydro, forced by this government to pay huge amounts for energy that they can't even break even with when they sell it, will bankrupt BC Hydro, for which we paid a high environmental price 45 years ago, but which has since then given us regular power at 1/10th the cost they pay in California. Dr Marvin Shaffer at SFU calls this new business technique "buy high, sell low"!

If Campbell is returned we will be, like Bre'r Rabbit, stuck to the American Tar Baby.

There is but one other choice, vote NDP.

But will this not mean the financial ruination of the province? I don't believe so for a moment. But let us assume for the sake of argument an NDP government made a balls up of the economy. That can be repaired by a new government. However, once we have established the Campbell Energy Plan for another four years that will be the end of BC Hydro and the end of hundreds of rivers. FOREVER.

I cannot allow that to happen without giving it the fight of my life. I, a former Socred minister, with the same core values I had then, am supporting and will vote for Carole James. - Sincerely, Rafe

Please take the time to look at [www.saveourrivers.ca](http://www.saveourrivers.ca) and get the bigger picture ♣

## I'm back, more politics, just can't give it up

### Wayne Russell, Clearwater BC

Climate change, health care, public schools, the Olympics, child care, transit, fish farms, affordable housing, run of river private power projects, carbon taxes, raw log exports, resource-dependent communities, public private partnerships, minimum wage, free trade, mental health services, offshore oil drilling, public power, electoral reform, the gateway project, post-secondary education, taxes, clean air, First Nations treaties, public safety, seniors' care, harm reduction, poverty, and more... You don't care about these issues, do you? That's okay, because Gordon Campbell's election gag law imposes extreme limits on any organization who wants to talk about these or other topics from mid-February of this year until the May, 2009 provincial election. BC unions filed Charter challenge against election gag law July 24, 2008. Bill 42 violates freedoms of association and expression ... lawyers representing seven BC unions filed documents and launched a legal challenge against Bill 42. *"Effective February: Gordon Campbell violates free speech to silence his critics February 12, 2009. The Campbell government's Gag Law (Bill 42) (took) effect in February and remains in place for three full months until the provincial election is held on May 12, 2009."*

There were many, many editorials on this but Michael

Smyth (in The Province, May 16, 2008) says it best. "Premier's gag order aims to silence public-sector unions... What a difference from Campbell's attitude when he was leader of the Opposition. Back then, the NDP government of the day brought in a gag law against third-party advertising that was clearly aimed at the Liberals' deep-pocketed business buddies. Campbell was wild with indignation. "A gag order on third-party interests is simply wrong," he thundered in the legislature... The NDP's gag order, Campbell preached, was "simply inexcusable, it is simply unconstitutional and it should not be there. It clearly should not be there as a way of restricting full expression." Funny how freedom of speech becomes less of a priority once you're the guy in power, huh?"

**P.S.** Well everyone, the candidate for the party I belong to backed out at the last minute; no time to find a replacement so I have decided to run in his place. It will be a hard run as I have no \$\$ and only myself to run my campaign... I ask my friends in BC to vote for anyone running in their area for the ReFederation Party of BC. Give us only four years and we will give BC back to you through a true democracy. Thanks for your support. – **Wayne, The Vagabond Writer**, [slyolfart@gmail.com](mailto:slyolfart@gmail.com) ♣

## Perspective

### Received from Sylvia Hicks, Campbell River BC

One day, the father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the express purpose of showing him how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family. On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad."

"Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked.

"Oh yeah," said the son.

"So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered: "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end."

We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them."

The boy's father was speechless.

Then his son added, "Thanks Dad for showing me how poor we are."

Isn't perspective a wonderful thing? Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for everything we have, instead of worrying about what we don't have. Appreciate every single thing you have, especially your friends! ♣

## Live camera on an Eagle nest – Hornby Island, BC

Received from Stephanie McDowall, Nanaimo BC

**From: "Hancock Wildlife Channel"**

<info@hancockwildlife.org>

Hornby Island Eagle Nest Has an Egg!

Just a note to let you know that the Hornby nest has an egg!! **Live audio/video of the nest, live, online at:** [www.hancockwildlifechannel.org/staticpages/index.php/20080302140549584](http://www.hancockwildlifechannel.org/staticpages/index.php/20080302140549584)

The Hancock Wildlife Foundation is a "A-Not-for-Profit Society" with a Canadian Charity Number.: 83124 7127 RR0001. We sure appreciate all your support. Please keep



**Hornby Island  
Bald Eagle Nest 2009**

**Hancock Wildlife Foundation ♣**

watching the cameras from our site - it helps support our ongoing work. The Hancock Wildlife Foundation is always needing specialized, new or used equipment (weather-proof and water-proof video equipment, etc.) for which we will also issue receipts (see the website for more details).

# Laughter & 'Lightenment

**From John McCullough**

**Banking problem explained**

Young Chuck moved to Texas and bought a donkey from a farmer for \$100.00. The farmer agreed to deliver the donkey the next day.

The next day he drove up and said, 'Sorry son, but I have some bad news, the donkey died.'

Chuck replied, 'Well, then just give me my money back.'

The farmer said, 'Can't do that. I went and spent it already.'

Chuck said, 'OK, then, just bring me the dead donkey.'

The farmer asked, 'What ya gonna do with him?'

Chuck said, 'I'm going to raffle him off.'

The farmer said 'You can't raffle off a dead donkey!'

Chuck said, 'Sure I can Watch me. I just won't tell anybody he's dead.'

A month later, the farmer met up with Chuck and asked, 'What happened with that dead donkey?'

Chuck said, 'I raffled him off. I sold 500 tickets at two dollars apiece and made a profit of \$898.00.'

The farmer said, 'Didn't anyone complain?'

Chuck said, 'Just the guy who won. So I gave him back his two dollars.'

Chuck now works for Goldman Sachs.

**From Steve Stevens**

**Did I read that sign right?**

Toilet out of order. Please use floor below.

In a laundromat: please remove all your clothes when the light goes out.

In a London department store: Bargain Basement upstairs.

In an office: would the person who took the step ladder yesterday please bring it back or further steps will be taken.

In an office: after tea break staff should empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board.

Notice in a farmer's field: The farmer allows walkers to cross the field for free, but the bull charges.

**From Sammy Camilleri**

**Ever Wonder?**

Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?

Why women can't put on mascara with their mouth closed?

Why don't you ever see the headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?

Why is 'abbreviated' such a long word?

Why is it that doctors call what they do 'practice'?

Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains? ♣

**The Diplomatic Doctor**

A cute little old lady goes to the doctor and says, "Doctor I have this problem with gas, but it really doesn't bother me too much. It never smells and is always silent. As a matter of fact I've farted at least 10 times since I've been here in your office. You didn't know I was farting because it doesn't smell and is silent."

The doctor says, "I see. Take these pills and come back to see me next week".

The next week the lady returns.

"Doctor," she says, "I don't know what the heck you gave me, but now my farts, although still silent, stink terribly".

"Good," the doctor said. "Now that we've cleared up your sinuses, let's work on your hearing ♣

**From Paul Winter & Sandy**

**Random thoughts**

1. I never let my mind wander, it's too small to be out on its own!
2. Smith and Wesson. The original 'point & click' interface!
3. The definition of a garbage man: "an expeditor of culinary by-products."
4. The definition of a window washer: "a vision control coordinator!"

**From John McCullough**

**By God I've got it!**

A very interesting thought from my friend Gord. Don't misunderstand. As a gentleman and scholar (actually I believe, a friend of C.S. Lewis) said many many years ago: "The older I become, the less I seem to know and understand God, and at the same time, the more convinced I am that there is indeed a God". I believe we, i.e. Gord and I, belong in that category. What follows is a little bit of humour, which I am sure God would appreciate in us. - **JCM**  
John - our discussion about the Bible yesterday helped me with a life-long puzzle - that I have now solved!

It is the word "Politician"!

If Paul, who wrote so much of the New Testament, never knew Christ, yet went around quoting and writing about him, and spouting Christ's words, and amassing a following, then it follows that:

There are NO Christians - there are "Paul"iticians!

The modern day English version - "Politicians" - go around not knowing what they are talking about, or where it came from - but it sure as hell sounds good - and it helps quell the masses!

Wow - do I feel better having figured that out! **Gord.** ♣

# Contributors in dialogue, Vol. 22, No. 6

Allan, Jim S., ON..... 35	Grant, Jim, ON..... 59	Macdonell, Alan, ON..... 12	SixWise (link)..... 42
Andersen, Erik, BC..... 06	Gray, John, QC.....4,44	Mair, Rafe, BC..... 45	Slade, Ken, Lithuania..... 51
Atzmon, Gilad, US..... 55	Greenpeace (link)..... 42	McCullough,J.,ON (from)...4,5,57	Smith, Stan, BC..... 07
Blackwood, Frank, ON-NF... 48	Hancock Wildlife Foundation 34	McDowell, S., BC (from).... 42	Stevens, Steve, BC (from)... 57
Boese, David, ON..... 27	Hicks, James, NB..... 43	Moore, R.K., Ireland 5,7,19,29,	Stroud, Sue, BC..... 04
BrasscheckTV, US...5,26,42	Hicks, Sylvia, BC (from).... 54	Neilly, Michael, ON..... 25	Switzer, Howard, US..... 06
Bruce, Madeline, BC..... 04	Holy, Erich, ON..... 37	Newman, Jeffrey, BC..... 59	Vaincourt, Larry, QC..... 09
Camilleri, Sammy, ON (from) 57	Hueglin, Joe, DailyDigest... 20	Orchard, David, SK..... 10	Vaincourt, Wayne, ON..... 09
Cdn. Taxpayers Fed..... 11	Hurtig, Mel, BC..... 05	Petrik, Denny, BC..... 08	Webb, James, NB..... 47
Chossudovsky, Michel, QC 26	Hutchinson Gallery (AD) ..... 60	Ripcoco, Melina, (quote)... 32	Wilkinson, Paul, QC..... 44
Clark, Ken, ON..... 21	InformationClearingHouse 26	Rogers, Grenville, ON..... 53	Winter, Paul, ON (from)...38,57
Cook, Richard C., US..... 27	Israel, Lou, ON..... 23	Roland, Allen, US..... 28	Wood, John, AB.....13,14,35
Dandurand, Jean, QC..... 44	Johnson, Al, BC..... 13	Russell, Wayne, BC.....38,46	
Ervin, Jim, BC..... 46	Kasanda, Jerry, ON..... 50	Ruthard, Herta, ON..... 54	
Everitt, Chris, NB..... 49	Kim, Ben, ON..... 41	Schmidt, Frank, ON..... 36	
Gaudet, Kevin, SK..... 11	Korten, David, US (link)..... 05	Selick, Karen, ON..... 22	
Gaudet, Marie, AB..... 33	Lendman, Stephen, US..... 15	Semple, Ernest, QC..... 59	
GlobalResearch.ca....11,15,26	Lonsdale, Derrick, US..... 39	Shaw, Chris, BC..... 16	

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**MAY 15, 2009**  
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