

Letters to the Editor

The signs of change

The world, including Newfoundland and Labrador, is currently witnessing the slow painful death of the industrial revolution. Energy UK, the biggest energy lobbying group, has changed its position on green energy and will start campaigning for low-carbon alternatives. Its members realize that their future is in the new forms of energy rather than the old.

Countries like Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Costa Rica and Brazil are giving evidence that a system change is occurring. The world is changing trajectory on the energy sector. Interestingly enough, at the same time, every country needs to acknowledge that all people, especially future generations, have the right to live in a healthy environment. This is translated into a call to include the right to live in a healthy environment in our Canadian Constitution.

The renewable energy revolution is occurring faster than anyone predicted. It is believed that, with a mixture of good will, leadership and common vision, Canada has the potential to meet 100 per cent of its energy needs through wind, solar, geothermal, biomass and tidal wave, etc.

We owe it to the next generations to think and act differently.

Raymond Cusson

Shoal Brook (Gros Morne), Newfoundland and Labrador

Why can't Obama see the TPP is bad?

I read with great interest my Spring 2016 issue of *Canadian Perspectives*. It was nice to see an issue dedicated to the TPP, and also to the other big issue of concern, climate change. Yes, the devil is in the details. Great cover art, Greg Perry.

Sujata Dey's article (The Trans-Pacific Partnership Erodes Public Policy to Benefit World's Rich and Powerful) clearly pointed

out that President Obama's words do not match his actions. If he truly cared about what is best for the people of his nation, he would not be promoting a trade deal that is bad for the people but good for the multinational corporations.

So many experts can see the harm that these trade deals do to a country's sovereignty, how they chill a government and make it reluctant to do what is necessary to mitigate climate change for fear of being sued. Why can't the President of the United States see that too?

When I try to talk to people about this, they often say, "Why are Obama and Trudeau in favour of these trade deals if they are so bad?" I am still looking for the answer to this.

If making yourself look good as a politician is the main reason for signing a trade deal, then we need to make the government see that it would look stupid if it were to sign such a flawed trade deal. In other words, we need to make the government look competent and globally engaged by doing what is best for their nation and setting the right example for other nations to follow. That means refusing to ratify these one-sided, corporation-friendly trade deals unless ISDS clauses are removed. It means putting people first, not corporations.

Frances Anne Cote

Iroquois Falls, Ontario

A new voting system

(Re. a letter by N. Hart in the Spring 2016 issue.) Mr. Hart's letter proposed a proportional representation voting system based on Johnson's Direct Party and Representative Voting (DPR). Unfortunately, that particular system would require a change in Canada's Constitution, which would take too long. Our current Constitution requires that each province is allotted a certain number of MPs, which wouldn't work with DPR. Nevertheless, other proportional

representation voting systems, such as mixed member proportional, do not require a change in our Constitution.

Boyd Reimer

Toronto, Ontario

A gift for water

Thirty children and 12 teens recently worked together to raise money at our United Church Vacation Bible School. The theme was "water." We created a "water wishing well" and researched a place in the world or in our country where there were water issues.

The greatest awareness raised was around First Nation communities – specifically that so many of these communities are on boil water advisories – some for as long as 25 years. We learned that water is a natural resource that is essential for life and therefore should not be commodified and sold.

We decided to donate these funds – with our gratitude – to the Council of Canadians as a sign of support for all the work you do to advocate for our greatest resource.

Reverend Christina Paradela, Reverend Miriam Spies and Reverend Alison Mock

Dundas, Ontario

Send us your letters!

If you have something to say about an article you have read in *Canadian Perspectives*, or an issue you think would interest our readers, please write to us. We reserve the right to edit your letter for clarity and length. Letters must include your full name, address and phone number.

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