

Letters to the Editor

(Re. Toilet paper ballot, Letter to the Editor, Autumn 2015)

Dear Nicolaas and Maki,

There is hope for your vote! There is a system that is simple, representative and proportional. It will allow our elected MPs to be truly representative of our local wishes and at the same time allow the votes in the House of Commons to be truly representative of our nationwide wishes.

This system comes from Stephen Johnson, a retired chemist from England, and it uses our current ridings with the first-past-the-post system of electing our local MP. Thus, it is directly representative.

It is also directly proportional because the number of House of Commons votes a political party has would be connected directly to the number of votes (as a percentage of the total electoral vote) the party received nationwide. Thus, the number of House of Commons votes would not be dependent on the number of elected MPs, as it is with our current system. Each MP would have a portion of a vote, and the party would decide who stands up to announce their votes.

Norm Hart

Sydenham, Ontario

A positive conference

Early in 2015, in the months leading up to the 2015 Canadian election, I found myself responding to the messages – and energy – emanating from the Council of Canadians, which I followed on Facebook. I knew the federal election would, one way or another, establish a milestone for Canada. And that milestone could be a millstone if the government was re-elected.

It was clearly a time for change. If the government was re-elected, I felt this established a new benchmark in Canadian tolerance – and I don't mean that as a good thing.

These views, and my attraction to what I was seeing of the Council of Canadians, took me to the Council's annual conference in Windsor, Ontario last October. I was delighted to see there was sincerity and substance behind the Council's media



The Council of Canadians joined with public health care advocates from across the country in Vancouver in January to lobby for a new health care accord.

messages. It was a bit of a jolt to meet people who believed what they said and practised what they preached.

As I headed out to the airport and winged my way back to Ottawa at the end of the conference I felt that I now had a better appreciation of what not only the Council of Canadians faces, but also our country, our government, and our multi-lateral relationships. I was humbled by the complexities I witnessed in areas ranging from international trade law, to urban poverty, to the evils of bottled water. But then, I thought, if there are enough people who can see both the big pictures and the little ones, we just might get ahead of what is now beguiling us.

David Jones

Ottawa, Ontario

Swamps are precious too

After reading the article in the Autumn 2015 issue "Artist Donates Works to Raise Awareness about Fracking Water Withdrawals," I had to write to voice my concerns about the statement "Alberta is full of stinking swamps – why not take water from there?" Alberta swamps are full of life forms and are home to many different creatures and should not be drained for fracking.

I do applaud Mr. Mills for donating his works of art and for his efforts to raise awareness about companies taking fresh water from rivers for fracking. I hope he keeps up this work. In my opinion banning

fracking is the only sustainable and responsible way to protect our future.

Joe Saysell

Donalda, Alberta

Correction

A photo cutline in the Autumn 2015 issue of *Canadian Perspectives* indicated that the Nestlé bottling plant in Hope, British Columbia, draws water from the Coquihalla River. In fact, the Nestlé plant draws water from the Kawkawa aquifer, which connects to the Kawkawa watershed. The Kawkawa watershed connects to the Coquihalla River which is a tributary of the Fraser River. We apologize for the error.

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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Canadian Perspectives
The Council of Canadians
300-251 Bank Street
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1X3
Email: inquiries@canadians.org
Attention: Editor, *Canadian Perspectives*