

Letters to the Editor

Dump the pipelines

With the possible collapse of the oil market in the near future, industry wants to extract as much profit as quickly as possible. Enter the plans to build the Keystone XL pipeline and others. To feed these pipelines, oil production must be tripled. But what does this mean for all of us – for our families, our children, and our grandchildren? Nobody has asked us if we want these pipelines.

The situation with our environment is critical. Tripling the production of oil means three times more air pollution, three times more water pollution, and three times more soil pollution. It means that we will cross the point of no return. The Keystone XL project and other pipelines like it should be placed where they belong – into the political dump of history.

Jiri Selner

St. Albert, Alberta

Get out and vote

Democracy is a form of government in which all eligible citizens have an equal say in the decisions that affect their lives. Canadians do this by exercising their right to vote at election time.

Every election, I knock on every door in the polling area where I live. I try to engage people in conversation, encourage them to vote, preferably for my party, but I tell them all they should vote for whomever. I keep notes of what they tell me.

Every Election Day I am a scrutineer at the polling station and then contact folks who have not come to vote. “Do you know this is Election Day? Would you like a ride? Do you need a baby sitter?” I ask.

People say, “Yes I will be there soon.” But they do not come.

People say, “I have already voted,” and I

know their names are not crossed off the voters’ list.

Even after all my efforts, the voter turnout in my poll last federal election was 52 per cent, close to the national average. This clearly means that about half of all Canadians are NOT interested in having a say in the decisions that affect their lives.

Voting in Canada is really easy. I hope that talking about this will help ordinary Canadians realize the importance of voting and get many more of us out to vote in the next election.

Judy Sumner

Capreol, Ontario

Where is the investigation?

It has been several months since Federal Court Judge Richard Mosley ruled that electoral fraud occurred during the last federal election.

It made me wonder: if electoral fraud was known to be committed, and that it is presumably against the law in Canada, then why isn’t the RCMP investigating it? Why aren’t they trying to find out who perpetrated the fraud?

I would like to know if the RCMP are, in fact, investigating this fraud against Canadians and if not, why not?

Shannon Powell

New Westminster, B.C.

We must not forget

Stephen Harper’s Conservative government has shown its true colours by gaining power at any cost (remember the robocall scandal), then appointing senators (Mike Duffy, Pamela Wallin, Patrick Brazeau) when he hypocritically stated that Senate reform was a key mandate.

This political malaise has trickled down to

the municipal level (think Toronto Mayor Rob Ford, Laval Mayor Gilles Vaillancourt, and Montreal Mayor Gérald Tremblay) who have taken the ideology of entitlement to new heights.

The social contract is based upon the trust we, the electorate, have for those elected. But the disparity in financial compensation between those in power (both political and in business) and the regular taxpayers has fostered a belief they have the right to abuse their powers as long as they don’t get caught.

But unlike the majority of the B.C. electorate from the last provincial election, we must not forget the travesties of abuse we have suffered at the hands of the federal Conservative government and become apathetic amnesiacs come 2015.

Rafe Sunshine

Victoria, B.C.

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