

# Letters to the Editor



Cyclists on the Energy East Resistance Ride made a stop in Halifax in June. The group was cycling the proposed path of the Energy East pipeline to raise awareness and challenge the drive for fossil fuels.

## WHERE IS THE PLAN?

Does the oil and gas industry really need to be subsidized in this day and age, given their extreme profitability? Might these subsidies be better shifted to the development of renewable sources of energy in order to accelerate their development? Should our continuing dependence on fossil fuels not be actively discouraged by making its generation and use more costly by putting a price on it instead of subsidizing it?

In addition to all of the above questions, where is our government's comprehensive climate change plan? Does it even have one?

The urgency for this is growing, and more and more Canadians are becoming alarmed about what is happening to our planet and therefore to our country. Canada must become a world leader, a country that is prepared to take bold initiatives and set examples for others. We have done so in the past in many areas – and we are fully capable of doing so again.

**Joy Silver**

Coquitlam, B.C.

## MEANINGFUL, NOT MANDATORY

Re. "Time to legislate voting?" letter to the editor in the Spring 2014 issue of *Canadian Perspectives*.

Instead of mandatory voting, why not try *meaningful voting* where a voter's vote counts in a meaningful way whether or not the voter votes for the winner of their riding? With an effective voting system like Preferential Ridings Proportional (PRP), all votes could count and Canada could become a truly representative democracy. False majority governments would not happen, but real majority governments could.

**Dave Brekke**

Yukon

## WHY CANADIANS WON'T BOTHER VOTING

It is disappointing to know that during the next federal election approximately 10 million of us will not vote. But why is that?

I suggest there are six reasons that might explain this popular inertia.

1. The lack of respect and civility in the House of Commons and provincial legislatures that people witness through television and the media.

2. The lack of fairness. Canadians believe that due to a lack of electoral reform, their votes will result in no representation in Parliament and that their elected officials have no real appetite to change the rules once elected. How can one explain that this last federal government was elected with only 38 per cent of the votes and that the rest of the voters will find themselves with no voice in the House of Commons?

3. Lack of capacity to solve serious problems. While public awareness and concerns have mounted about global problems such as greenhouse gas emissions, the depletion of tropical forests and other species-rich habitats, so has the conviction that governments are failing to solve them.

4. The lack of trust and accountability. People have lost respect for government in general and don't believe politicians are honest, which leads people to question government's capacity to manage programs effectively.

5. Lack of team-building to solve problems. The refusal of the political parties to form majority-based coalition government(s), thus strategic alliances, to solve real problems (health, environment, climate change, education, employment) indicates our incapacity to engage in team-building for the benefit of the people.

6. Attack ads. These negative ads might work for the traditional political parties to gain temporary results, but they do not serve democracy well.

Yes, I confess, while waiting for real change, I will vote regardless. I guess I am an optimist after all.

**Raymond Cusson**

Shoal Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador

## THANK YOU

What would the citizens of Canada do if they did not have the Council of Canadians to take care of their rights? Thank you, Council, for everything you do!

**Shaheen Junaid**

Montreal, Quebec

## GREAT ISSUE

I just got my very first copy of *Canadian Perspectives* Spring 2014. Wow! It's full of very important (good and bad) news that we otherwise might not know, or not know in full detail. I just read it cover-to-cover in my first sitting.

**Helen Hansen**

Guelph, 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.

## SEND YOUR LETTER TO:

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