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Our cover: Many of you will remember Wayne Ratzlaff from the days of the Saskatchewan Western Canada Concept. During the recent crisis in Parliament, many people asked him about the situation. The picture above was his answer, entitled "the solution." Similar signs, banners and posters have been evident throughout Western Canada in recent days.

From the Editor

Not Just Another Flash in the Pan

Our long-term supporters, some of them dating back to the 1970's have been suffering from the same depressing syndrome as we have, recently: everything you say about the reasons for Western Canadian Independence falls on deaf ears; candidates that run in elections are ignored; you are treated like a crackpot; and you get so depressed that you cannot even muster the energy to take part in political discussions. I feel like I've been advocating Western separatism for so long that I can recite the reasons for it without thinking.

Then something completely unexpected happens and we are forced to look at the cause with new eyes, and remember why we chose this path twenty, twenty-five, thirty or more years ago. Such has been the case with the economic events in the world that have precipitated the political events in Canada, the enormous betrayal of the West in the formation of a coalition of parties the

West did not elect, to possibly run this country. Westerners who've lived through the National Energy Program, and other rip-offs of the West A sampling from the letters we've received in can anticipate what will happen next. That's why there is so much outrage all over Western Canada right now. That's why a whole new generation is being educated about the way Canada really works.

But will it last long enough to organize and achieve some lasting change? The letters we get that are critical of any building the Western Block Party or Western Canada Concept has *failed* to do are not aware that this movement has been (unfortunately) totally dependant upon the hysteria of the moment: There is a huge outpouring and release of emotion, expressed as a desire for Western Independence, and then it's on to the next stimuli. It's true that each time there are more and more people who are alive to the reasons for Independence and each time some crisis occurs, that number grows in quantity and intensity. I've watched this process since 1980. It's a great benefit to have the instantaneous communication of the internet and the level playing field for in-depth discussion it provides. Because of the internet we are seeing a huge influx of younger people who are involved as articulate advocates for Independence. That is wonderfully encouraging.

But the basic structure still remains the same: as soon as the federal system retreats a bit, the pain goes away, and support wanes. This time, however, it might be different, not because of the unresolved crisis in Ottawa, but because of the economic storm that soon will hit us all in full force, and will lay bare the underlying structure of confederation that always acts to the detriment of Western Canada. Then we will see Western Separatism solidify and grow into a strong and viable movement. We hope you stay with us and build that movement! You are all necessary to the growth of Western Canada.

Letters to the Editor

the past several days:

"This recent coalition talk in Ottawa is just about the last straw, the east will take power through this union and the west will be left out again. The blue vote in western Canada proves that we are different and should be in control of our own future. It sickens me to think of Stephan Dion as our Prime Minister in bed with a Quebec Separatist party just to wrestle power from the Conservatives. I am thinking of supporting your party. I am a fifth generation Western Canadian who is tired of being treated like a second class citizen because I'm not from the east. R.B."

"Thank you for your persistence with western separatism as a viable option for the future. I look forward to hearing from your organization in the coming days, highlighting a future free from the chains of Ottawa. R.K."

"I was a WCC member back in 1988-89 while living in Yukon. Today's events appear to provide a revitalization of our cause & needs. The power potentially resting with the Bloc Quebecois IF this coalition persists will be the end of western development & consideration of our concerns for years & years. What can we so to get Westerners to recognize & awaken to this situation? Thanks & all the best. J.C."

"Now that Dion has plans to take power, the western provinces need to also take power. J.V."

"It seems like the window has opened for this movement. I hope that you and the others who are committed to independance can take advantage of this opportunity. J.W."

"I have been sitting on the political fence for years, hoping that a conservative government can deliver on some of the values I hold dear as a Western Canadian. The current federal gong show has just pushed me off. . .D.M."

Keltie Zubko

"I am thoroughly disgusted with the antics in Ottawa over the past few days and am more convinced than ever that the West should separate. J.H."

"Time to make hay while the sun shines.... and black clouds hang low over Ottawa. We need conventions held all across western canada, policy gathering, reps chosen from every RM, town, PR work, news spots. Today alone, I've heard six people say its time to go. And that's in south east Sask. And these were folks I never thought would say it. S.M."

"I'm sure everyone is looking at their options today after the central canada politicos are saying that they are going to take over governance in this country. G.S."

The Western Separatist welcomes your letters to the editor. Please send them by email to: kzubko(at)shaw.ca or mail them to: WSP, Box 101, 255 Menzies Street, Victoria, BC V8V 3G6, or fax them to 250-479-3294.

Freedom's Voice

"The smart way to keep people passive and obedient is to strictly limit the spectrum of acceptable opinion, but allow very lively debate within that spectrum."

— Noam Chomsky, (1928-) Institute Professor Emeritus of Linguistics

"The worst thing that can happen to a good cause is not to be skillfully attacked, but to be ineptly defended."

— Frederic Bastiat, (1801-1850) French economist, statesman, and author.

"Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it."

— Ronald Reagan, (1911-2004) 40th US President, 1986

"If a nation values anything more than freedom, it will lose its freedom; and the irony of it is that if it is comfort or money that it values more, it will lose that, too."

—W. Somerset Maugham, (1874-1965) Source: Strictly Personal, 1941

"Christmas is a time when kids tell Santa what they want and adults pay for it. Deficits are when adults tell the government what they want and their kids pay for it."

—Richard Lamm, (1935-) American politician, lawyer, governor of Colorado (D) (1975-1987), 1996 US presidential candidate for the Reform Party

A Separatist Speaks

by Douglas Christie

Ottawa is a cesspool of organized crime which is revealing the weight of its own corruption under which it is destined to collapse. The downfall of Stephen Harper is both predictable and a final verdict on the futility of a Western Canadian federalist party. We in the Western Block Party are working for one goal -- separation and a new nation of Western Canada, chosen in lawful referenda by the people of each province of the West.

How long have Western Canadians avoided the hard and responsible decision! They rejected separatism in 1980. They formed the Reform Party with the hopeful but misguided slogan "he West Wants In," which took in Western Canadians, and to succeed in Canada, had to become like every other Canadian party. They pretend to listen to Western Canadians, while taking our taxes and using our resources. They allow us to participate in Parliament, but never in decisive or leaderhip roles. They even let Preston Manning be leader of the Opposition, as they ridiculed him. They didn't quite know what to do with Stephen Harper who was too smart to fit into the mold, until now. Two Quebeckers and a Torontonian, all leftists, were the perfect metaphor for Canada and its smug elite. They have turned the parliamentary system on its head and they will get away with it.

The stituation would be funny if it wasn't real. No one would believe this story if we hadn't lived it.

The Conservative Party won 77% of all the seats in Western Canada and yet we will be ruled from Quebec once again. The Conservatives who reject separatism must be fools who enjoy being humiliated, defeated and so held in contempt that even if they win an election with an increased number of seats, still they will be defeated, defeated by an alliance of the power-hungry, the mafia of the mediocre.

This Coalition pleases the socialists, and tries to bribe the voters with their own money. They will do more of the same. The socialists who could never get elected have achieved power regardless of the people's will. They have been rejected by the voters, but so what! They can still win.

If the West puts up with this, the West deserves it! There is an option and we have the peaceful right to do it under the Clarity Act, designed by Stephen Dion to defeat separatism in Quebec. The irony is perfect. The opportunity is ours. Stop, think, organize, communicate, build the movement to Free the West.

Western Block Party News

Message from Leader Doug Christie

I have had a number of inquiries from a number of people obviously concerned about the political crisis in Ottawa. This, in my opinion, is the logical outcome of a fundamentally flawed system. There is no way to rectify the problems that the Ottawa government has created and it is a waste of time for Western Canadians to continue to pour tax dollars into a corrupt and bankrupt government. Therefore, to those of you who are dismayed or concerned by what is going in Ottawa, I strongly urge you to do the following: 1. Join the Western Block Party;

2. Gather a group of Westerners who believe that Western Canada as an independent nation is a better option;

3. Form a Western Block Constituency Association and hold meetings to discuss what should be done in your area;

4. Once sufficient numbers appear to exist, contact us to arrange a meeting in a central location with a number of constituencies in your area.

5. Phone talk shows, write to papers, take part in internet discussions, and talk to friends about our cause.

6. Download Petitions and brochures, print them and distribute in your area.

The worst thing that can happen in this situation is to do nothing. Western Canadians have done nothing for far too long, and merely complaining about the problem does not accomplish the solution. The independence of Western Canada is the only viable political solution to an unbalanced federal system which favours Quebec and Ontario and has consistently plundered Western resources. If you have any doubt about this, ask yourself what happens to the Canadian dollar when the price of oil goes down?

We at the Western Block Party look forward to communicating on a one-to-one basis, but with the volume of material arriving by email, it has been made necessary to draft a standard form answer. They all seem to reflect a common theme: the frustration and confusion of Western Canadians.

I am one person who has consistently advocated independence for Western Canada since 1974, in a rational manner and brought it to the attention of Western Canadians through public meetings and discourse. My goal is to make sure that each of you do not allow your frustrations to fall back into apathy as has happened many times. Unique and different perspectives of each Western Canadian as to why we feel the frustrations we do, must surely not allow us to be divided and conquered once again. For once, let us unite in forming the one true alternative in the nation of Western Canada which we all can look upon with pride as an accomplishment of our generation, rather than curse the darkness created by previous generations of incompetent politicians.

Thank you for your support and attention. Please keep in mind that unless your support manifests itself in some sort of monetary assistance, this exchange of information could amount to nothing but the ventilation of frustration. We cannot allow this moment of understanding to pass without concrete, constructive, lawful, political action.

Yours for the independence of Western Canada, Douglas H. Christie

Petition for Independence making its way around the West once again

In 2003, a petition of 10,000 names was presented to Alberta Premier Ralph Klein, asking for a referendum on Independence. Nothing happened. Now the petition is making the rounds again and has the potential to attract greater numbers and be a greater focus for Western Canadian intention. Copies of the petition will be sent out to all our members, and are also available at the websites for the Block and the WCC. This is a great and powerful way to gather support.

Separatist Presence on the Internet

The Internet continues to inform and inspire a new generation of Western Canadians. The Western Block Party's site is being updated regularly with commentary and suggestions, as is the site for the Western Canada Concept. Check them out at www.westernblockparty.com and www.westcan.org. Why not download, photocopy and distribute our material to gather local support. Insert your own contact information so people in your area can get in touch with you and work with you to build a riding association.

As well, there is a **Facebook** group for the Western Block Party, and many, many groups whose focus is western separatism. If you are on Facebook, we encourage you to join these groups and participate with your ideas and your presence.

Separatist Presence at Rallies

The recent rallies held throughout Canada had a different element in Western Canada, the presence of Western separatists. In Calgary, where there were thousands present, hundreds of flyers and petitions were handed out to potential supporters. **Glen Dundas**, who is preparing to run in Crowfoot in the next election, attended the rally as did **Calgary representative Scott Lundteigen.**

Western Block Party planning meetings and convention

Meetings in major centres in the West are currently being planned. If you would like to help work on one, please contact us. As well, the Western Block Party is planning a convention for the spring to expand the Directors and delegate responsibility. Any suggestions for the site and offers to help organize it would be appreciated.

Candidates Preparing for Election

Candidates looking forward to the next election are working in their ridings. If you are interested in running as a candidate, supporting a candidate, or have suggestions in your riding, please contact us. Now is the time to get to work!

WBP Contact for Calgary

Scott Lundteigen: 403-880-0804

~Join the Western Canadian Independence Movement~

Western Canada Concept, Box 101, 255 Menzies Street, Victoria, B.C. Western Canada V8V 2G6; Or by fax: 250-479-3294

Western Block Party, 810 Courtney Street, Victoria, B.C. Western Canada V8W 1C4; Or by fax: 250-479-3294

_____ I wish to join/renew my membership in the *Western Canada Concept*, and enclose my membership fee of \$15.00, per person, per year. This includes a free subscription to the Western Separatist Papers. Please make cheques out to WCC.

____ I wish to join the *Western Block Party* (a federal political party dedicated to promoting Western Canadian Independence) and enclose my membership fee of \$10.00, per person, per year, made out to the Western Block Party.

____ I enclose \$____ for ____ bumper stickers.

____ I enclose a *donation* of \$_____ to help promote the idea of Western Independence. See note below about tax deductibility.

_____ Please send *information* about the Western Canadian movement for Independence to the following people (please print clearly):

I want to help as follows:	
Name:	
Postal Code:	
Phone Number:	Fax Number:
Email Address:	
to \$75 on a \$100 donation, from will receive a tax deduction of \$7	s only who donate to the WCC will receive a tax deduction of up their income tax. All residents of Canada who donate to WBP 75 on a \$100 donation. You could receive 2 separate tax receipts are a resident of BC and donate to both WCC and WBP. Please s case.
Western Canada Concept, the Movement for Western Independence! Advocating Western Canadian Independence since 1974	
www.westcan.org	www.westernblockparty.com