

D250: Dangerous Developments

Democracy 250 Celebration
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Dear Democracy 250 Celebration,

The signs are everywhere. Banners hanging from the lamp posts, posters in the public libraries, and everywhere else: *Celebrate Canada's First Parliamentary Democracy, 250 Years of Representative Government in Nova Scotia*. There is a constant bombardment of TV ads featuring rock stars and athletes, among others, encouraging young people especially to celebrate this special event: *Stand Up! Speak Out! Make Your Mark!*

And the storyline from history is truly awesome . . . "On October 2, 1758 the Nova Scotia House of Assembly met for the first time in a modest wooden building at the corner of Argyle and Buckingham Streets in Halifax . . . It was the first elected assembly of its kind in what is now Canada."

This is great stuff! A wonderfully huge leap forward in political evolutionary terms for the people of Nova Scotia, and eventually an inspiring model of governance for all throughout North America!

But then what happened? "Joe Howe must be spinning in his dark, Camp Hill grave. As a champion of liberty, Howe would surely be appalled that our main political parties are celebrating democracy in Nova Scotia by handing out thousands of toques imported from China, a Communist dictatorship, and long-sleeved T shirts from Haiti, where Canada, the US and France overthrew a democratically elected president . . ." [Upfront Editorial by Bruce Wark *The Coast*: March 20 - March 27, 2008].

However, we don't need to travel all the way to Haiti to observe a perversion or a subversion of democracy right here in downtown Halifax, and throughout the Province of Nova Scotia.

In other words, how does all this hoopla and celebration of the 250th anniversary of representative government in Nova Scotia square with the June, 2007 assembly of secret conspirators, with their clandestine meetings to enhance the aims and objectives of *Atlantica* in downtown Halifax, Nova Scotia? *Atlantica*, the Free Trade strategy, which is more widely known as *SPP Security and Prosperity Partnership*, takes in Nova Scotia, and the rest of the Maritimes and part of Quebec, as well as part of New York state and several New England states and is only one of six such arrangements throughout Canada to organize and construct conduits for rail, road and pipelines in order to drain the water, oil, gas, electricity and other resources out of Nova Scotia and the rest of the country and into the USA, and beyond. (The other five conduits are located in Quebec, Ontario, the Prairies, Alberta, and British Columbia).

The very real anti-democratic nature of this process is evident by the fact that the will of the people is being eclipsed by the will of Lockheed Martin, Manulife Financial, Chevron, Suncor Energy, Wal-Mart, in these secret meetings involving key government leaders with big business officials, from these corporations and

which may include in the mix such local business heavyweights as the Shaw family, the Sobey's clan, the Irvings and the Thompsons, among others? This process is very much promoted by the Atlantic Institute of Market Studies, among other organizations. The *Atlantica* group plans to deeply integrate with the USA and serve up our resources real cheap. And at the same time dismantle and destroy our public healthcare system, and also create a post secondary school environment that only the very rich sons and daughters of the wealthy will be able to afford. As well, their sights are set on our social programs such that they will rapidly become noticeable by their absence. A grim scene to be sure. Also, *Atlantica's* plans are bent upon destroying what's left of the union movement. So how should we respond to this outrageous scuttling of the democratic process right here in Nova Scotia?

We need a renewed and expanded definition and exercise of democracy. To keep everyone honest and to reassure the will of the people will be heard and followed more that the will of Lockheed Martin, Suncor Energy, Wal-Mart, Chevron, and Manulife Financial. Please indulge my thoughts on the role of morality and spirituality that is very much needed to advise and maybe even perhaps help guide the secular representative governmental process.

I feel we need the role of the prophet (or prophetess) more than the political leader in the public forum. By "prophet" I am referring to the way that Professor Stephen Carter at Yale University Law School uses the term:

Professor Carter advocates a moral compass personified, that is, a voice crying out from the margins of the legislative assemblies. Speaking outside the

offices of government, wealth and power, this kind of prophet makes it clear that he/she possess no bias. The prophet is not in favour of, nor against any specific businessperson, nor political official. Nor is he or she for or against any particular candidate in a political election.


But the prophet makes sure that those in positions of power and wealth and influence in society, and those who are elected representatives understand that they must be sensitive and generous to everyday working people, and especially to the poor, the homeless, the dispossessed, the disenfranchised, the disabled, etc. That a new spiritual configuration regarding the bottom line in business and government is sorely needed. It must not only be about the calculated black ink of financial renderings, but also be aimed toward being loving and caring, ethically and ecologically sensitive, and capable of responding to the world and to other human beings with awe and wonder and not only with a narrow utilitarian approach. (from the November-December 2000 issue of *Tikkun Journal*)

Yours sincerely,
Bill Krampe

*Wishing all a
safe and happy
holiday season!*



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**Happy Holidays
Everyone!**

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