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URBAN FARMING UNDER ATTACK - FROM WATER RIGHTS TO CARBON HYSTERIA



In recent times, an alarming trend has emerged that could cast a long shadow over the livelihoods of farmers—the guardians of our lands and the backbone of our communities. This unsettling phenomenon revolves around an unsettling declaration: Farmers are being stripped of their water rights, threatening the very essence of their work.

The water cycle as per earthobservatory.nasa.gov:

"Studies have revealed that evaporation—the process by which water changes from a liquid to a gas—from oceans, seas, and other bodies of water (lakes, rivers, streams) provides nearly 90% of the moisture in our atmosphere. Most of the remaining 10% found in the atmosphere is released by plants through transpiration. Plants take in water through their roots, then release it through small pores on the underside of their leaves. In addition, a very small portion of water vapour enters the atmosphere through sublimation, the process by which water changes directly from a solid (ice or snow) to a gas. Together, evaporation, transpiration, and sublimation, plus volcanic emissions, account for almost all the water vapour in the atmosphere that isn't inserted through human activities. While evaporation from the oceans is the primary vehicle for driving the surface-to-atmosphere portion of the hydrologic cycle, transpiration is also significant. For example, a cornfield 1 acre in size can transpire as much as 4,000 gallons of water every day."

But it seems the benefits of farms from such things as transpiration are being dismissed, and farmers and their animals are the newest targets of global agendas. The ignorance of the value of farms goes beyond their role in sustenance—it extends to the delicate balance of ecosystems, the security of our food sources, and the interwoven fabric of our lives. Farmers are viewed as contributors to climate concerns, and carbon emissions. Akin to Shakespeare's comedies, where mistaken identities lead to chaos, the perceived contributions of cow emissions, the 'carbon sequestration' claims of forests over fields, and the 'water hogging' in agriculture are distorting realities.

People have seemed to forget that this minute gas that makes up .04% of the atmosphere, is essential for all life on earth and a major social benefit of increasing CO2 in the atmosphere is the indisputable science that it increases the amount of food that plants produce through what is known as CO2 "fertilization." More CO2 means more food.

Sylvan Wittwer, the father of agricultural research on this topic, emphasized the enormous benefits of rising CO2 worldwide: "The rising level of atmospheric CO2 could be the one global natural resource that is progressively increasing food production and total biological output, in a world of otherwise diminishing natural resources of land, water, energy, minerals, and fertilizer. … The effects know no boundaries and both developing and developed countries are, and will be, sharing equally.… [for] the rising level of atmospheric CO2 is a universally free premium. One of the principal benefits plants receive from elevated levels of atmospheric CO2 is an increase in their water use efficiency. At higher CO2 levels, plants generally do not open their leaf stomatal pores as wide as they do at lower CO2 concentrations. The result is a reduction in most plants' rates of water loss by transpiration ….At higher atmospheric CO2 concentrations, plants need less water to produce the same — or an even greater — amount of biomass." Elevated CO2 levels impact water use efficiency, providing plants the ability to retain water more effectively. Net Zero is not only a dangerous goal, but it is also an impossibility as no life would survive without carbon, so

"net zero" looks to be a pay-as-you-go type scheme

where the little man, like the farmer, is punished for their livelihoods, whilst those with money just pay to offset their carbon usage. This intricate web of science and policy converges at a pivotal juncture—our local farms. As we explore the 'Net Zero' concept, we realize its complexities, its risks, and its potential consequences. It seems a distant dream, an abstract notion that may inadvertently punish the very people who breathe life into our lands.

Up and down the Island we are hearing from farms and nurseries that have had extremely intimidating visits by one authority or another, trespassing on their properties in full uniform with outlandish threats such as "a million dollar a day fine" if they continue to use their water.

This seems to have its roots in the Water Sustainability Act that was introduced by the Christy Clark government in 2014 and passed in 2016. The Globe and Mail reported, "(The new Act) promises to regulate groundwater, to manage water use during droughts, and to measure large-scale water use. …The act will allow the province to limit water use if a significant water shortage is declared. That means all users could face potential curtailment during periods of scarcity. Under the proposed law, critical environmental flows will have priority over licensed rights on streams and connected groundwater users, meaning

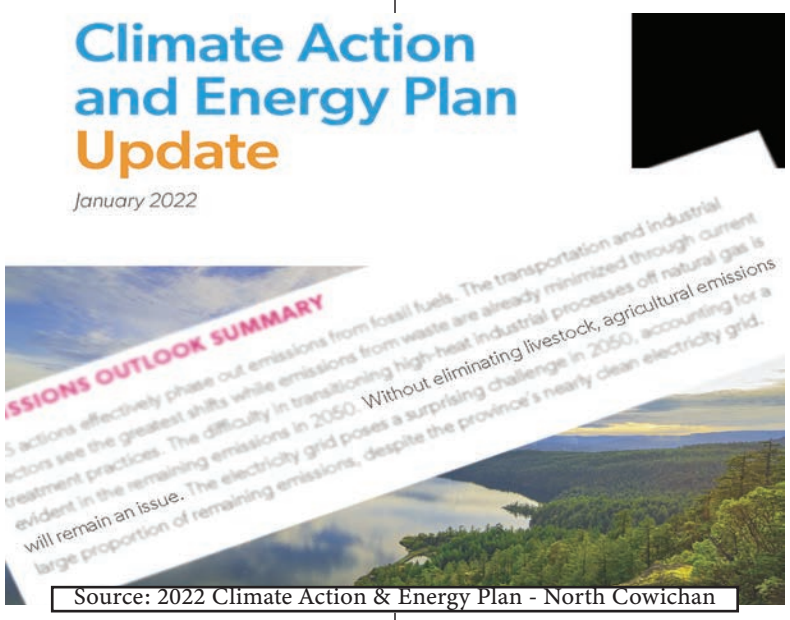
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that companies such as Nestlé could see the taps turned off in some circumstances." Of course, Nestle's taps were never turned off after the Act was passed, they just had to start paying $2.25 per million litres of water, while locals in the area of Hope where the bottling plant is, were often on stage 4 water restrictions.

One of the significant changes introduced by the Water Sustainability Act is found in the wording: "You are now required to be authorized to use groundwater for anything other than domestic use". According to the province of B.C., "water right is the authorized use of surface water or groundwater. All water in British Columbia is owned by the Crown on behalf of the residents of the province. If you own land that contains or has access to surface water or groundwater, in most cases you must apply to the province for the right to use the water and pay an annual rental fee for that use".

Rent water!? It is no wonder



Source: 2022 Climate Action & Energy Plan - North Cowichan

many farmers who run multi-generational farms decided to not register their wells and sign onto this 'contract'—a choice borne out of apprehension for their heritage.

Currently only around 40% of farms, and nurseries have registered wells. Across the landscape, tales abound of farms and nurseries besieged by the heavy hand of authority, pushing farmers into a corner where their very livelihoods hang in the balance. Farmers who have leased land for 21 years for a crop have had authorities show up at their front door, with no notice, and told to immediately shut off their water. They have had to scramble and make other arrangements as some plants could only last two days without water. Some secured pools and others purchase water by the truckload - though we don't know where that water is being sourced from…we do know that if you pay enough money, be it an annual fee for your registered well, or trucks of water, drought restrictions seem to disappear. One agricultural farmer had two very intimidating men show up to their front door asking them what they were using their water for and how much they were using, not even realizing, or noting beforehand, that they use drip irrigation. They stated that they were visibly shaken as was another farmer who processes upwards of 3000 chickens per cycle who had the authorities storm onto his land and demand his water be shut off immediately, which he did. But the trickle-down effect was felt by his processors waiting to process the chickens and the feed store who was anticipating his order. Furthermore, some farmers have to hire hydrologists to prove their groundwater is coming from one river and not another river.

This past month the Province dealt another blow to many of our local farmers:

"Effective Thursday, Aug. 24, 2023, a fish population protection order temporarily restricts water use for industry and forage crops in the Koksilah River watershed. Koksilah River has seen persistent low stream flows that are threatening the survival of steelhead trout populations. This order will help restore water flow levels and protect this fish species. This order falls under the Water Sustainability Act's purpose of population-level threats to fish species. Approximately 108 surface and groundwater license holders and transitioning groundwater-use applicants in the Koksilah River watershed must stop using water for forage crops, which include grass for hay and silage, alfalfa and forage corn (corn grown for forage purposes, including grazing, silage, and earlage). Water use for industrial purposes, as outlined in the protection order, must also cease."

Municipalities and many companies are exempt from water restrictions. For instance, car washes, even those with state-of-the-art recycling systems like in California, do not use recycled water in their rinse cycle. Municipalities are laying turf down ignoring the fact that water must penetrate through the earth to refill the water table, or running their machines right near the roots of trees, compacting the surrounding earth. I could go on. Food security should be a top priority, especially on an Island where, in a disaster, we may only have three days of food supply on store shelves. So why are farmers being targeted?

Globally Cows, agriculture, and all forms of farms are under attack due to the "climate" narrative

3000 farms in the Netherlands, the breadbasket of the EU, have been ordered to take a payout for their farms and agree to not practice farming ever again. Al Gore has stated that the United States needs to curtail the farmland and change farming practices. All over the EU farmers are being urged, or paid, to "rewild" their land. Canada has openly demonized farmers for their usage of fertilizers, while also taking farmland for so-called 'sanctuaries'. Currently, Ontario is losing 319 acres of farmland every day (Statistics Canada, 2021).

From the Ontario Federation of Farmer's guide for local municipalities: "Farmers are facing greater challenges when influencing local decision-making, as an increasing number of citizens have a limited understanding of agriculture. Municipal councillors listen to the concerns of their constituents. Since farmers are a minority, their voices may not be heard. As an integral part of our local economy, environmental sustainability, and food security, we must include the views of farmers to ensure farms are represented to remain viable and financially sustainable."

Why are outside consulting companies being invited into our communities to create agricultural plans that do NOT hold local food security as a top priority, as opposed to engaging the farmers in our area and asking for their generational wisdom? A legacy spanning generations is dismissed, and replaced by policies that seem to prioritize control over sustainability. This is about control, monitoring, and fees. Of all the industries we should rally behind, it should be our local farmers. If there really is less water, why don't we dip into our Climate Action and Energy Fund and buy local farms cisterns to store water during our "atmospheric river" season? Why don't we dredge the rivers? And for goodness sake, if the province wants wells to be registered, they should then take on all the ownership of said wells i.e. maintenance, drilling, etc.

Mark my words, this is only the beginning. Support your local farmers by purchasing directly from them, and voice your concerns to local councils and area directors, before it is too late - before our farmers are squeezed off their lands in a 'death by a thousand cuts' scenario.

A. Richards







Canadian currency is issued and managed by a central bank called the Bank of Canada. Their website says they're "exploring the possibility of issuing a digital form of the Canadian dollar, also known as a central bank digital currency (CBDC)." https://www.bankofcanada.ca/digitaldollar/

114 countries are working on CBDCs. Eleven countries already have CBDCs: China, India, Nigeria, Jamaica, The Bahamas, and six more small Caribbean countries.

CBDCs exist only on government computers, so they're completely controlled by the government. 100% financial surveillance all the time, and the ability to block transactions, freeze accounts, or deduct money from your account at any time for any reason. Not just taxes, but even "negative interest rates", a way for the government to manage the economy. That only works if cash is abolished.

They're "exploring" the idea of a Canadian CBDC, but say they have no plans to implement the digital currency they're developing and definitely no plans to ever eliminate cash.

CBDCs are already a fact of life in eleven countries. None have abolished cash yet, so the control is not yet total. But that can happen at any time without warning.

In 2016, India announced -- without warning -- that the two largest denomination bills were no longer money. They had to be exchanged quickly for new currency or become worthless. India has CBDCs now and could force everyone to exchange all cash for CBDC money the same way. Canada could too.

There is an alternative currency not controlled by the government. It works like cash so there are no accounts to spy on or deduct from.

It's called Tetla. Tetlas can be spent at local businesses including a grocery store and a restaurant.

Each Tetla is worth one Canadian dollar since 2012, but if inflation continues, prices in Tetlas could stay the same while prices in dollars keep going up. The downside is there'd be an exchange rate. But at least local people can choose whether to have inflation or not.

People can also choose to use CBDCs or Tetlas, even if the government does declare cash worthless.

Tetla website: tetla.org



House of Grace Pregnancy Centre

An unexpected pregnancy can be a significant, life-altering event. We at the House of Grace, seek to provide a safe place for individuals who are facing hard, life-impacting decisions.

Individuals who seek out our support can be assured that they will receive compassionate care, evidence-based information and practical resources for all pregnancy outcomes. We offer support to women and family members who find themselves in an unexpected pregnancy situation. We are there to support her choice and give her all the accurate information about the options available as she makes her decision.

If she decides not to carry, she will be able to access post-abortion support services. If she decides to carry and give up her child for adoption, House of Grace helps in giving information and connecting her to BC's adoption agencies. And if she decides to carry and parent her child, she'll be given support through supplies and clothing for her child up to 2 years of age.

If you are going through an unexpected pregnancy, we would want you to know that you are a person of value and that in spite of what you may feel is an impossible situation, we are here as a team of people who see & hear you, who will care for you, and will walk with you through this process. All of our services are free, confidential, and client-led.

Some of the services we offer:

- Pregnancy tests, Accurate nformation about pregnancy, abortion, adoption, and Parenting
- Maternity and baby clothing supplies
- Education on healthy relationships
- Referrals for community resources
- Pregnancy-related grief support

www.houseofgrace.ca
Phone: (250)737-4337





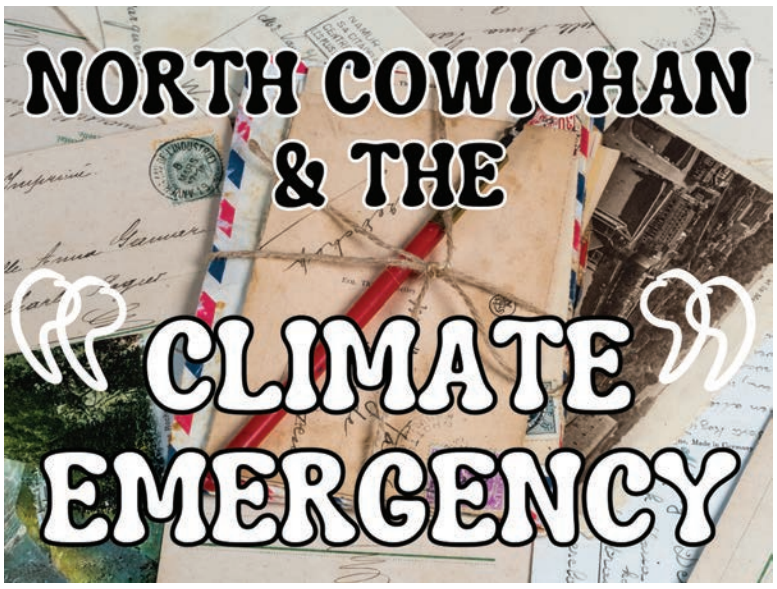
Grace Kidz Thrift is serving the families of the Cowichan Valley with gently used children's items while supporting the House of Grace Pregnancy Centre.

We sell children's clothing (newborn to size 12), maternity wear, women's clothing, shoes - baby & children's, toys - clean & gently used, family puzzles & games, baby gear, kid's books, & adult Christian books. We also accept gently used donations of the same.

Hours - Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm
Address: #103 5855 York Rd. Duncan







Last month a letter was sent asking to clarify the Climate Emergency, this is their response

Good morning COAP team,
Here are responses to your queries, in bold text:
1: We requested documentation and supporting information from North Cowichan regarding the declaration of a climate emergency. The response we received indicated council has not specifically created a definition for the "climate emergency". As the local expert, would you please provide clarification regarding the definition of a "climate emergency", as well as supporting information related to North Cowichan specifically being in a climate emergency?
North Cowichan's Council discussed and acknowledged that there is a climate emergency on July 17, 2019. Council did not specifically create a definition for "Climate Emergency". The meeting agenda contains the request to Council in item 9.2 (page 286-287) of the agenda package.
2: North Cowichan policies still operate through a climate lens. Will you please forward your evidence, data, correspondence, or other documents to support this continued declaration, as well as data that was used to declare a climate emergency in 2019 please ? We have requested this information from staff previously, but they did not have that data available.
As indicated above, Council's discussion and acknowledgment of the climate emergency was in response to a submitted request to Council, as outlined in item 9.2 of the agenda package. This item was not a result of or a follow up to a staff report, nor was one requested so there is no further data available.
As part of the motion, Council did direct further action on an integrated climate action strategy and a report back to Council took place on January 20, 2020 (Item 8.3).
Following this report, documents that are related to ongoing direction, but are not necessarily a direct consequence of the Climate Emergency acknowledgement of Council include:
Climate Action and Energy Plan Update (January 2022
Official Community Plan (July 2022)
Council Strategic Plan noting Key Future Issues of Responding to all facets of climate change, Limiting environmental degradation
Environmental services (engineering) department business planning, Create and implement a Biodiversity Protection Policy, Integrate natural assets into the overall asset management program
Develop a comprehensive climate change risk and vulnerability assessment
Other related initiatives in the business plan for 2023 and beyond. All departmental business plans containing a climate emergency priorities section. A draft master transportation plan that puts a focus on multimodal transportation alternatives to increase ease and connectivity of walking, rolling transportation means in addition to supporting electric vehicle infrastructure.
3: Our understanding of the intention behind the declaration of a climate emergency is to provide focus and direction toward 'net zero'. A term used to describe carbon emissions.
Please define 'Net Zero'.
- Do we have data suggesting what the global impact may be from these local initiatives?
- How much will it cost taxpayers to achieve net zero from within North Cowichan?
- What portion of global emissions are North Cowichan residents responsible for?
- If we achieve these goals by the 2050 target, how much will global temperatures change?
An explanation on net-zero can be found in the Climate Action and Energy Plan in the Part 5: Discussion (page 53). Net-zero means to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible, with remaining emissions re-absorbed from the atmosphere through the process of carbon sequestration. Net-zero differs from "zero emissions", means the total reduction of emissions to zero. Accounting and reporting greenhouse gas emissions for cities is defined by the framework laid out in the "Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Inventories".
The most recent community inventory for North Cowichan was completed in parallel with the Climate Action and Energy Plan update (Results in Appendix 2). North Cowichan's community emissions are measured at 337,822 tonnes. The Climate Action and Energy Plan included modelling of reduction action impact and financial analysis of actions. The cost estimate in Part 4 of the report includes private, commercial, and government activity. Emissions reductions are estimated to cost all three sectors approximately 500 million dollars by 2050 but to also generate about 587 million in savings. The savings estimated under the proposed actions result from lowered expenditures due to decreased energy use, lowered payments for federal and provincial carbon taxes and lower maintenance costs.
Carbon reductions require action from all levels of government, utilities, businesses and individuals. If North Cowichan achieves our net-zero goals, this impact will not be measurable at a global scale, as global emissions are reported by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (https://di.unfccc.int) to be commensurately higher than North Cowichan's contribution. But the collaborative approach of individual, local government and countries acting together will have an impact.
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. The sixth assessment report released in 2023 continues to support mitigation and adaptation actions to reduce projected loss and damage to humans and ecosystems and deliver many co-benefits for air quality and health. https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-cycle/. North Cowichan has commenced work on our climate adaptation strategy to respond to effects of extreme weather on local infrastructure, natural environment, economy, and community well-being. Here is the project engagement page: https://www.connectnorthcowichan.ca/climate-adaptation
All the best,
Jennifer
Environment Team
environment@northcowichan.ca



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@Aarongunn on Bill C-18

A lot of people have been asking me why news content has disappeared from their Facebook feed and who's to blame. Let me explain. Earlier this year, the Trudeau Government – supported by the NDP and Bloc Quebecois – passed a bill known as C-18, which aimed to coerce social media companies, specifically Facebook and Google, to pay "government accredited media" every time one of their links was shared on the social media platforms. For example, if you or I decided to share a link from the CBC or Vancouver Sun on Facebook, Facebook would be forced to pay the publisher of said content a legislated amount of money. Twitter, fortunately, was somehow able to avoid this regulation. Rather than abide by the new legislation and place themselves on the hook for millions of dollars, these two tech companies decided to block the sharing of news links altogether.

Which brings us to where we are today. A couple of important points. First, this is nothing more than an attempted government shakedown of tech companies to reward their favourite media outlets - who already remain almost universally dependent on government financing.

Second, the consequences of this move were entirely predictable. Facebook and Google (who I have issues with for other reasons) have telegraphed their response for months, and have followed similar paths in other countries where comparable legislation has been tried.

And thirdly, this fundamentally makes no sense. News and media companies PROFIT from the free advertising generated from social media platforms like Facebook. They use these platforms (at no cost) to distribute links to their content that directs back to their websites where they sell advertising and subscription services. To then attempt to receive coerced payment for that free advertising is the height of arrogance and hubris that has rightly blown up in their face (and the government's). Unfortunately, it's also produced collateral damage, as Canadians have been left without easy access to news (although you can still navigate to all these sites directly) and some media companies, like True North, have also been negatively affected despite not supporting the legislation.

Hope this helps clear things up!

www.aarongunn.ca



When you discover your first herbal medicine, it is alluring and exciting and offers hope. Many of us struggle for years or decades without any clue that there are plants growing freely around us that can help us overcome our health issues let alone that they can do it better than any pharmaceutical you've tried and without side effects. The promise seems too good to be true- but you figure nothing else has worked so what've you got to lose? So you try it and when it works- commonly far better than you could have hoped, it's exciting and inspiring and opens your eyes to an entirely new paradigm and possibilities.

Experimenting with herbal medicines can feel like travelling back to ancestral lands. You may not have been there before, but it feels like a deep remembering in your bones. There is a quality of making sense, of connection, of palpable intelligence, beauty, and order.

Herbal medicine is everything pharmaceuticals are not. I'm not saying drugs and isolated compounds don't have their valuable place, but in a world where the reality of profits and loyalty to shareholders has corrupted moral obligation and responsibility to people, coming back to herbal medicines as an integrative part of a healthy lifestyle is a choice many of us feel confident making.

Plant medicines are comprised of hundreds upon thousands of various constituents that are in constant flux and exponential variability amongst plants even of the same species, even in the same area depending on environmental conditions. It is the intelligence of the plant that regulates which compounds it will create in which amounts and the whole combined effect of those is always greater than the sum of its parts. Plus, unlike drugs, plants are free for anyone with a green thumb or a keen eye who knows how to properly identify and harvest them. They are also exceptionally safe when properly identified and used appropriately and with rare exceptions are virtually side-effect-free.

It is a joy and an honour to witness the excitement and enthusiasm students bring to class when working with and learning about herbal medicine. To hear their stories of how deeply particular plants have impacted them and their loved ones is something I will never grow weary of.

I strongly encourage anyone who isn't yet using herbal medicines to support their health to reach out to your local herbalist, start noticing and becoming familiar with plants in your area adopt a beginner's mindset and pick something simple that appeals to you as a starting place. It could be as simple as a new tea; it could be a tincture, or it could be a powder you incorporate into your food or drinks. Why choose herbal medicine? Why not?

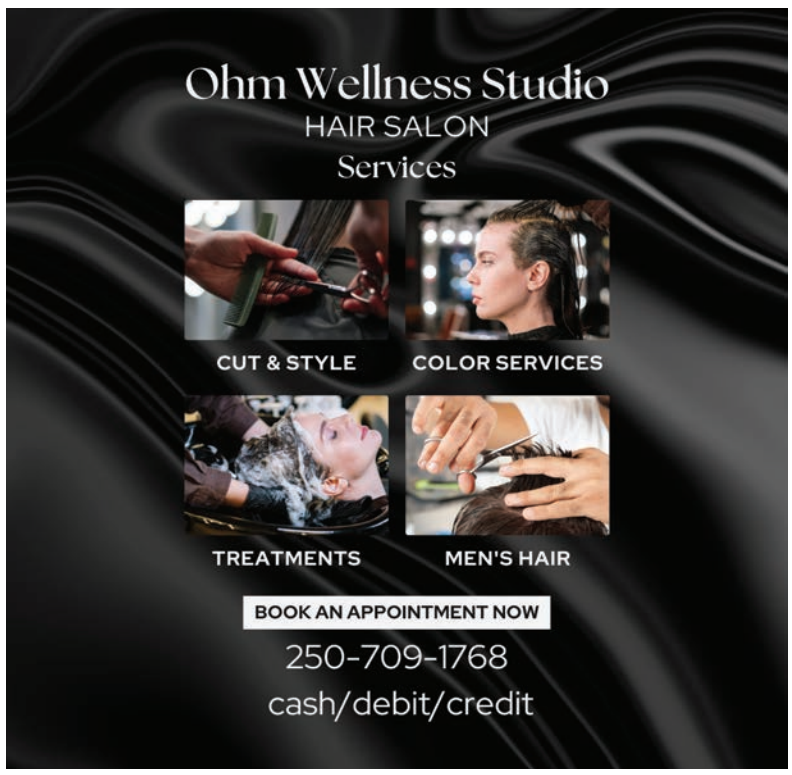
Andrea Larsen

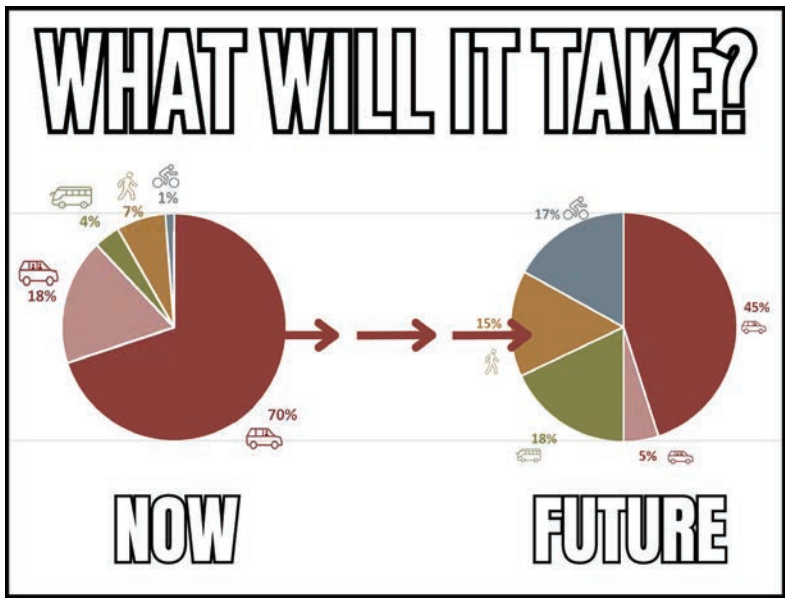
Read more from Andrea or sign up for her classes at www.andrealarsenrncp.com











North Cowichan has quite the plan for our future mobility.

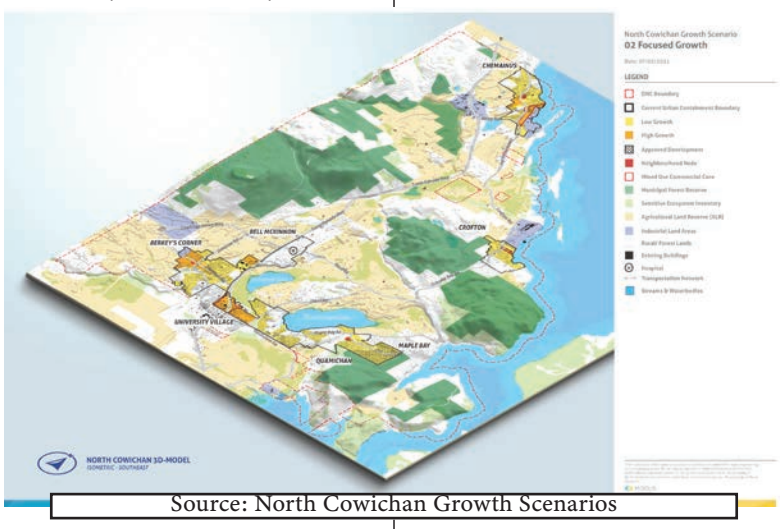
Have you ever heard the phrase "Active Transportation"? This phrase refers to modes such as walking, rolling, and scootering. Words you will see often in many plans, federally, provincially, and locally. For example, in October 2021 the Government of BC released the Clean BC Roadmap: "Actions supporting mode-shift toward active transportation and public transit."

The North Cowichan Transportation Plan is currently in the works and is meant to guide the transportation infrastructure for the next 30 years. The Plan (Master Transportation Plan Phase 2) was on their website during public surveys but has since been removed, the Phase 2 plan is still available on www.coap.ca.

North Cowichan hired WATT consulting out of Calgary AB. to create a transportation plan for our area. They worked with Modus out of Vancouver which designed our Official Community Plan (OCP) that was put to the Council. Between the updated Climate Action Energy Plan and the Transportation plan, North Cowichan has some big changes to your mobility and lifestyle in the works.

Let's break down some of the changes and put feelers out as to whether you could maintain your current lifestyle, or prosper within these new 'tweaks' to how we currently get around this lovely Valley of ours!

North Cowichan proposes that we switch to 35% "active transportation" by 2050, "especially in the winter months" by "creating a behaviour shift". If we project the population growth according to the OCP that would be 13,814 people who only walk, scooter, or 'roll'. Currently, 1% of people use bikes for trips, 7% walk, 4% use transit, and 18% use their car with more than one passenger, according to a survey in the proposed Transportation Plan. Additionally, 25% of people who are to ride transit by 2050 are set to be fully electrified by 2030,



Source: North Cowichan Growth Scenarios

and those who still drive will be driving electric vehicles.

These plans are based around the majority of citizens living within "Growth Centres", a term used by North Cowichan to specify areas slotted for aggressive development, and "villages within growth containment boundaries" by the CVRD. We have witnessed a proposed building application be denied because, as Councillor Justice stated it was not within a 15-minute walk from amenities. We have also heard Mayor Douglas speak about "walkable" towns, so we know this global shift to 15-minute cities is alive with North Cowichan and the CVRD (Cowichan Valley Regional District).

The thought is almost romantic when you picture little European Towns, especially the ones long gone, like in Dickens' Christmas Carol, where you stroll down the street picking up from your local butcher, baker, and candlestick maker. Who wouldn't want that? Some people may have moved here for that small-town feel in the first place, but is this a reality for the folks of North Cowichan? "Especially in the winter" as they state.

If, in reality, you could depend fully on resources within your "walkable communities", this may fit many people's needs, but there are some pretty large challenges to this whole idyllic plan. The Transportation plans, OCP, and Climate Action & Energy Plan (CAEP) indicate that you would not have to leave the areas as all your needs would be met within a 15-minute walk This is far from the case as 80% of people commute for work currently, and most jobs within these Growth Centres are minimum wage. Many people shop around for the best deals on food. Many people enjoy other restaurants than what is in their 15-minute walk. As for vehicle usage, many families shop for the week, sometimes as far as Costco for groceries. Many elderly can not walk 15 minutes to get groceries and then carry them back 15 min.

The transportation plan has broken down the proposed vehicle usage for each growth centre by 2050. For instance, in the Berkey's Corner area, only 35% of people would own and use a vehicle.

The Transportation Plan, also indicates that travel between these hubs could be facilitated by BC Transit or Ride-Share options. Where do the parents who drive their kids to hockey, dance, soccer, etc. fit into this restrictive mobility plan? What about all the men and women who drive fleet vehicles to work up and down the island?

But this is all just a grandiose plan that could never be implemented if you did not agree right? Who could make you ditch your F150 and walk in the winter to pick up groceries? Well, our municipalities have many plans like this based on declaring a climate emergency in 2019, and much of the grant money they depend on is reliant on meeting certain emission targets by 2030 and 2050, so they are very motivated to have these plans come to fruition.

These plans are in alignment with their zero-carbon, and emission goals. But how do they measure our emissions? According to one North Cowichan staffer, they use records from fuel sales, natural gas sales, and BC Hydro (How they tell the difference between a tourist or someone travelling through Duncan filling up and residents fueling up is a mystery). And are these calculations made with alternative calculations in mind?

According to an article in the Business Insider:

"The conclusion Richard B. Mckenzie, a professor of Economics at the Paul Merage School of Business comes to in his blog post on EconLib. Because of the way food supply chains work, walking a mile — and consequently expending calories that need to be replaced — might be more wasteful and polluting than driving a mile. He takes the example of a 180-pound man who chooses to walk a mile to work instead of driving. Walking a mile will burn 200 calories more than the 2000 calories he burns just to survive. Producing food worth 200 calories takes up to 3000-4000 calories. So a person who drives a high fuel economy car that burns 40 miles per gallon will be using only half to two-thirds of the energy that the walker uses in replacing the calories he expended on walks. The heavier you get, the less efficient walking is, as a heavier person would burn more calories from walking a mile. So walking can be 1.5 to 2 times more polluting than driving a high mileage car." An interesting twist to the emissions model.

How would they implement these transportation plans? Between the Federal, Provincial, and Municipal governments there will be a multi-pronged attack on vehicle usage.

Following the direction of the Pan-Canadian Framework, the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (2018) established a Canadian benchmark carbon price that began at $20/tCO2 e in 2019, rising to $50/tCO2 e in 2022. The tax will then increase by $15/tCO2 e every year until it reaches $170/ tCO2 e in 2030.

The federal carbon pollution pricing system has two parts:

A trading system for large industries, known as the output-based pricing system; and a regulatory charge on fuel (fuel charge). Provinces and Territories can implement their carbon pricing that meets or exceeds this national benchmark.

ZERO EMISSIONS VEHICLES

2019's Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program is supporting the transition to zero-emissions vehicles by helping to address the required investments and upgrades to the EV charging network. The program targets public, on-street, workplace, multi-unit residential buildings, and commercial and public fleet charging infrastructure improvements. As of June 2021, the federal government has established a mandatory target for all new light-duty cars and passenger truck sales to be zero-emission by 2035. (pg 13 CAEP North Cowichan)

Pg 26 CAEP: "Low-carbon transportation. Vehicle electrification, increasing and improving public transit services, and making more trips by walking, cycling, and other means of active transportation can eliminate most transportation emissions."

Locally they will install "traffic calming" lanes, narrow road widths, reduce speed limits, and more, to "frustrate" drivers and commuters. This is designed to make vehicle travel less desirable while promoting active transportation. They can install the emission detection attachments to the new LED streetlights. (Read WWIND June edition for article). They can block roads to create walk-only areas that expand outward and so many more things we see being rolled out globally. They also state the priority in funding should be put towards 'active transportation' over road congestion issues.

"When the 2050 land use was modelled with the mode share targets, the volume of traffic on the road network in 2050 will be similar (or slightly less) than the volume of traffic today during the peak hour. Therefore, by shifting the focus to promoting and prioritizing active transportation, less funding will be needed to mitigate the vehicle

network operations." (pg 32 MTP)

"The transportation network needs to be viewed through a new lens where walking, rolling, cycling, and transit users are considered the higher priority." . "... It also means that any congestion in the network that results in added delays to vehicles does not force the District to prioritize investments in additional vehicle infrastructure but rather find a more balanced approach to accommodate other modes. Having a more balanced approach will allow for re-allocation of some of the road/ vehicle funding to sustainable modes" (pg 21 MTP)

"Several areas within North Cowichan are mainly (or solely) residential such as the Lakes Road, Quamichan / Maple Bay sub-area. This increases the need for residents to travel longer distances for employment and amenities (many of the grocery stores, medical offices, and recreational destinations are located on the west side of Highway 1). Adding more commercial (retail/office) east of Highway 1 and within 5 km of the single-family (city lot) neighbourhoods also supports the ability to shift traffic patterns and behaviours to active modes." (pg 37 MTP)

"Shoulders, which are provided for rural/urban arterials and rural collectors, are intended to be narrow to provide some space for recovery (stalled vehicle). The need for wide shoulders to accommodate broken-down vehicles is not necessary as tow truck services are easily obtained in North Cowichan. Shoulder widths are rarely used with a separated pathway and therefore would only add additional width and encourage higher speeds." (pg 42 MTP)

When looking at these same plans globally, there are many cities and countries steps ahead of us where we see more drastic and invasive measures being taken. There are too many to list but we will take one example from London, and their ULEZ, the Ultra Low Emission Zones.

If you plan to enter these zones, your vehicle must meet certain emissions standards, or you will be charged 12.50 pounds to enter this zone which is now expanding to a much larger area Sept 2023. Additionally, if you drive within this zone between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., you have to pay a congestion fee of 15 pounds, regardless of your vehicle emissions.

If you do not pay these fees there is a 180 pound penalty. These charges apply to motorcycles, mopeds, and more as they encourage walking and cycling on their government website.

So while North Cowichan looks at shifting funding from road infrastructure for cars, and moves priorities to biking, walking, active transportation, and public transit, one can only ask, are we putting the cart before the horse? Can our power grid sustain this shift, and does BC Transit have a plan to create a functioning network within our community?



I have known about and used Bach Flower remedies for many years, especially Rescue Remedy which is used to help cope with acute stress, trauma and anxiety. I have always had a desire to dive deeper into Dr. Bach's legendary work, so I pursued training to be a Registered Practitioner and recently graduated! I learned so much about his individual healing remedies — 38 in total — and how to use them to balance emotions for people, plants, and animals. https://www.bachcentre.com

Dr. Edward Bach was a British doctor, bacteriologist, pathologist, homeopath and a prolific spiritual writer born in 1906. He is best known for developing the famous Bach remedies, a simple selection of 38 flower remedies, covering all aspects of human nature and emotions that he intuitively derived based on his psychic connections to the plants and Nature.

"...those herbs of the field placed for healing, by comforting, by soothing, by relieving our cares, our anxieties, bring us nearer to the Divinity within. And it is that increase of the Divinity within which heals us." — Dr. Edward Bach, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., D.P.H

In 1928, Dr. Bach began experimenting with medicines made from flowers, as he had always been more interested in the people suffering the dis-ease than in the diseases themselves; a fact that made him unusual at that time. His work with the flower remedies convinced him that true health could best be maintained by treating the individual personality, instead of concentrating exclusively on the diseases of the body. He discovered that by selecting flower remedies according to the personality and emotional states of the individual he was able to resolve these imbalances — noticing that well-balanced people got better physically because their bodies were quite literally free to heal themselves.

Dr. Bach developed 38 flower remedies that cover the full spectrum of emotions humans experience in 7 key areas: despondency + despair; overcare for others welfare; fear; uncertainty; lack of interest in present circumstances; loneliness; and over-sensitivity. Within each category are several remedies that assist in acceptance and integration of our deep emotions. Each remedy is associated with a basic human emotion Mimulus for example, is for when we are anxious or afraid about something specific; taking the remedy helps us to overcome our fear and face it with courage. More examples include: Elm for overwhelm; Pine for guilt and self-blame, Honeysuckle for living in the past; and Larch for lack of confidence... fascinating!

By the time Dr. Bach left the physical realm in 1936, he had contributed greatly to the natural, self-heal movement, and I am grateful for his insight, intuition and the beautiful healing gifts he left us in his work and writings. Using the remedies myself through the years has given me increased confidence, peace, patience and a growing sense of personal power and well being. It's truly amazing soft and gentle healing on an emotional energetic level. I also regularly made a personal remedy mix for my husband David, and for our feral cats and kittens plus a growing list of clients.

"They cure, not by attacking the disease, but by flooding our bodies with the beautiful vibrations of our Higher Nature, in the presence of which, disease melts away as snow in the sunshine. There is no true healing unless there is a change in outlook, peace of mind and inner happiness." Dr. Bach, 1934

I realize that I am right on time with my learning and sharing of Dr. Bach's work with the world, as all humans can benefit from these beautiful and simple flower remedies these days, especially Rescue Remedy, my go-to and favourite remedy, which is used to help cope with every day stress, and especially at times of crisis and emergencies for people and animals.

I have carried a spray bottle of this truly remarkable combo remedy in my purse for almost 20 years, and I have used it to assist others I have met in my travels. I have also witnessed the rich rewards of using the Rescue Remedy on our feral cats and kittens -- truly remarkable and calming for the animals. Rescue Remedy is a combination of five different Bach Flower remedies: Star of Bethlehem for shock; Rock Rose for terror and panic; Clematis for faintness; Impatiens for undue agitation; and Cherry Plum for hysteria or loss of self-control. This remedy is a must have these days with so much anxiety, depression, trauma and mental health issues. https://www.rescueremedy.com

I am passionate about sharing Dr. Bach's remedies with humans and animals, and I welcome you to contact me to discuss how a personal Bach Flower remedy blend can gently help you to balance your emotional needs and improve your well-being. Remedies are a fantastic way to step forward with personal strength, renewed peace and real confidence!

DIANA PINK BFRP

Diana is a Wholistic Health Practitioner, Bach Flower Remedy Practitioner, Intuitive Mentor and Messenger, Organic Food & Medicinal Herb grower and a mind body emotional resilience coach. For more information or to arrange a consult, contact Diana at afreshstart@shaw.ca home phone 250 597-2102

Tues.Wed.Thurs. 12- 3:00



LIFE ON WHEELS

Life On Wheels is volunteer run and led Initiative in the Cowichan Valley .

Donation Drive May - Dec 2023. Help us continue our work and grow our detox iniative.
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Making connections with people to move them forward in hope, faith and love.
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I miss my beach.

Granny bought our property on East Shawnigan Lake in 1941. My Mom was 14.

We 5 kids spent every summer swimming in Shawnigan and exploring the shoreline.

Crayfish, toads, and bullheads were fun to catch and we could run along the shore from our cabin to Granny's.

I moved my family to the cabin in the summer of 1998, that summer we didn't have a beach...no shoreline out of water...about 2ft higher than I had ever seen it. As the fall rains were about to start I said under my breath ' I hope we don't get a pineapple express because we will all flood'.

Well, we got a pineapple express and the lake started to rise fast as some logging had occurred behind us and rivers were flowing everywhere as there were no trees to hold or deflect the downpour. I watched as the wharf started to get really high. My Granny's gangplank was underwater and straight up.

My wharf was rising and the gangplank floated above my pathway and was pushed against my rock hill. The wharf was 6 ft from the cabin..now level with it.

We were completely surrounded by water and had to exit by a board from the second step to the pathway 6 ft away. I went to bed that night unable to sleep as I anticipated having to evacuate my family to the upper floor. At midnight i stuck my hand out the lower patio door and felt the water about 8in away. I checked 30 min later and it was going down...fast... huh?

At dawn, we could see the lake emptying and were able to push our gangplank, back into place which pushed our wharf out... whew. Our neighbour's wharf came to rest on their lawn. A boathouse floated past that had slipped off its pilings. Lots of broken docks and flotsam floated around for weeks.

The CVRD in their wisdom had put more boards in the weir to raise the lake level by 2ft...like they want to do on Lake Cowichan. Those boards were removed by the old timers on the lake with pick axes and chainsaws. That's why the lake went down so fast... it flooded Cameron Taggert as the Shawnigan Creek breached its banks heading to exit at Mill Bay.

The CVRD replaced it with concrete and left the lake at 2 ft higher. My shoreline has drowned. My trees on the shoreline died. My Indian paintbrush never comes out of the water.

My dock has pilings now as that high water event broke the cable on the wharf. My house started to fall apart as it was like a sponge, when it's dry it's hard, when it's wet, not so much. We started falling over and had to jack up 2 1/2 feet and put in concrete pilings. My house is literally over the lake. The damage done to the riparian shoreline and water-cleaning bushes caused our water quality to decline...didn't help that Toxic dumps were put on our feeder creek..that's a whole 'nother article.

I am the canary in the coal mine of what happens to a populated watershed when you raise the weir by 2ft.

Our shorelines have eroded from wakes crashing 2ft higher in the summer. Our beaches are gone. Our properties got smaller since the water was higher.

Septics got even closer to the lake, Yay?

Water cleaning cattails and reeds drowned. Shawnigan Lake is an example of the damage the CVRD does but playing God with water levels.

The people who say Cowichan is different from Shawnigan.... yes it's a bigger watershed and is cutting down all its trees and letting Catalyst pull from the lake.

No toxic dumps ...yet.

I am warning the people on Cowichan Lake to prepare for a class action suit against the Cowichan Watershed Board, CVRD and the Province as they flood your houses, break your docks, erode your shoreline and drown your riparian area. Chirp chirp.

My solution is to anchor log booms 20ft out from my wharf that is planted with water-cleaning plants I gather from my shoreline and wetlands, they also reduce the wakes from eroding my shoreline and have created a habitat for herons, cranes, dragonflies and fish. I call them my floating hedge.

Only when man sees the destruction will they see they were wrong.

Shemama Bell-Irving

Banksters rule!

The Beatles said, "Money can't buy you love" but it can buy you just about everything else. "Money talks" because some people will do "anything for a buck." If they won't do it for a buck, offer them a thousand or a million because "everyone has their price." Yes, It's money that "makes the world go round," not love, and "the love of money is the root of all evil," for money buys power and "power corrupts." A corruption defined by a complete lack of compassion and a need to control, dominate and exploit others.

"Whoever controls the media, controls the mind," said Jim Morrison.

"Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past," said George Orwell.

"Control oil and you control nations; control food and you control the people," said Henry Kissinger.

"He who controls the weather will control the world," said Lyndon B. Johnson.

But the big banksters of "Monopoly" control it all, for "whoever controls a nation's money, cares not who makes its laws." They are "above the law" because they hold the "get out of jail free card." They own the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Bank of International Settlements and the central banks of every nation. So, "the game is rigged" because they can magically create money "out of thin air" and lend it to our governments with compound interest. National debts that can never be paid off, designed to enslave future generations.

"And this is how the few control the many," says David Icke.

Yet, the majority of folks are unaware that "the fox is in charge of the henhouse." Time after time they return to the polls hoping that this election will be different. They believe that if they can just vote in the right politician or the right political party that all of the world's problems will be solved. But, no matter how honest a politician may be and no matter how good their intentions, once in office they come face to face with the real rulers of this world: the big bad banksters!

In this "dog eat dog world" where "the only way to get ahead is to step on the backs of others," we are desperately in need a new paradigm. One of service to others, not service to self. Sovereign beings, not slaves of the system. We must replace Winston Churchill's "ten thousand regulations (that) destroy all respect for the law" with the one universal law: "do no harm." But first we must decentralize power so the banksters rule no more.

David Jay Trabajo

Reflections on the recent Board of Directors election at the HUB

On the 29th of July, the Cowichan Station Area Association (CSAA) held its annual general meeting to elect a new Board of Directors. The board had 6 positions to fill: A president, a vice president, and four members-at-large.

It was to be, we assumed, a simple process following straightforward voting procedures. In other words, good old-fashioned local democracy: nominate people, vote on them, calculate the outcomes and, bingo, a new Board of Directors.

Alas, it was anything but simple.

The gymnasium where the meeting was held was filled to capacity with members old and new. In addition, some members had brought in proxy letters from those wanting to vote, but not able to attend.

The first problem with how the election was held was instantly apparent: The existing board had recommended current board members for each position and had put their names on the ballot in bold print. OK, a bit cheesy for the board to nominate its own, but other organizations do the same, so what's the problem? The problem is that it might be one thing for the existing board to want to keep the same people and to recommend this outcome, but it is an entirely different thing to highlight the choices in order to influence that outcome. Planned or not, this would be the inevitable result.

For the President and Vice-President positions, the voting turned out to be pretty simple: The existing Board had a candidate for each, people could nominate others from the floor, and then people would simply



vote on the various nominees. Since no one was nominated to oppose the official nominees, the Board's choices were acclaimed. Fine.

However, when it came to the member-at-large positions, the process got scrambled because of existing CSAA bylaws that had each member-at-large running individually for one particular at-large position. What that meant was that each of the Board nominees was running only against outsiders, not against each other: Problem #2.

Problem #2 then segued into Problem #3: The proxy ballots. If those submitting proxy ballots for others wanted to keep the Board nominees, then filling in these ballots would be easy by just voting for those same nominees. If, however, one wanted a new at-large member there would be no way to know in advance where in the four separate slots one should put that name so as not to compete with another favourite.

The results of the election bore out all of these concerns: All of those nominated by the existing board easily won with a remarkably similar total of almost 3:1 against new candidates. In other words, it looks suspiciously like the existing board using the current by-laws managed the election to ensure their desired outcome. Maybe that's not how it happened, but any perception that the result was stage-managed is not good for either democracy nor for HUB.

For the next election, HUB can do better, at least if it wants to observe some basic democratic norms. Revise the election by-laws such that all nominees for Members-at-Large go into one pool of candidates. People vote for their top four and the top four become the new Members-at-Large. Easy, right?

HUB belongs to all of its members. Let's make sure that the democratic process at HUB always demonstrates absolute transparency and fairness.

C. Shaw

QUESTIONS

Actions can ask questions,
That will show true feelings kept.
Questions will share suggestions.
Sown deep inside ones mind
firmly set.
They are asked of our future,
And tell surely of ones past.
Their answers can feel pleasure,
When shown truthfully to last.
Questions can draw your picture,
To personal ask held deep within.
They can answer your wishes sure,
And restart a life once again.

A poem by Dave Armstrong a volunteer at Life On Wheels

We're just neighbours

Hey,

I've got something on my mind that's been bugging me. I think it's high time we start caring more about the real stuff and less about where people come from. It's cool that folks want to help out my tribe, but sometimes they get so caught up in our indigenous background that they miss the actual issues.

Do you know what's annoying? People seem to focus on skin colour more than what someone actually knows or has experienced. I'm all about giving props to folks for what they bring to the table and how they can help, not just their background. But sometimes, good ideas get shoved aside 'cause everyone's all fixated on one side of who we are.

This constant obsession with our identity takes away from what we're actually trying to talk about. Our convos get derailed, and we lose sight of the real deal. Instead of feeling like a part of the crew, sometimes I feel like I'm just there to play a role, like "the indigenous representative" or something. I want our chats to focus on real problems, not just where I come from.

What I'm really hoping for is a community where we see each other as neighbours, team up like buddies, and deal with differences in a chill way. We gotta move past just looking at where people are from and think about what we're all facing. Everyone's got their own ideas and stories, and when we come together, we can sort things out.

I'm asking our community to have chats that go beyond labels and zero in on fixing stuff together. It's about time we really hear each other out and get why we all see things differently. When we do that, we can stop treating people like they're playing a part and start having better talks that lead to real solutions.

If we work together on the stuff that affects us all and bring in as many peeps as possible, we can build up a solid community where we've all got each other's backs.

Later,
Your Neighbor

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Detox & Balance your Life ~ Restore Your Vitality!

Where's the ethics?

Can you believe it? We're sitting here in Canada without an ethics commissioner. Like, seriously? And to all those who keep waving those "Our Government is Perfect" flags, do you even know that we're living in a time where ethical conflicts and problems can just slide under the radar? Our government hit the brakes on having an ethics commissioner, and it's been a whopping six months without a replacement. What's going on behind those closed doors that they're so scared of?

I mean, come on! What has our prime minister been up to that's so darn shady that they can't even find someone to play detective? It's like they've thrown up a "No Entry" sign on any investigation that might point fingers. I'm not one to scream "conspiracy," but seriously, why the secrecy?

We're a bunch of smart cookies, aren't we? So, shouldn't we be paying a tad more attention to what our big shots up there in the federal world are cooking up? This whole situation is just plain absurd, and I can't wrap my head around why more of us aren't tossing our two cents into the mix.

Hold up – scratch that surprise. I'm not shocked at all. Why, you ask? Well, because mainstream media is all about the silence on this. It's like they've decided to play the "See No Evil, Hear No Evil" game. But guess what? Not everything's a wild, far-out idea. There's a whole bunch of stuff happening right under our noses, and it's all being hushed up.

Let's put some muscle into supporting our local groups who are trying to turn up the volume on these issues. We're thirsty for some transparency, and we need it now more than ever. It's time to turn on the spotlight and let these shadows scatter!

R Rolland

Small business hero, Cowichan Milk Company!

Last Wednesday, I tragically slept in 30 minutes past my alarm. I sprang out of bed and glanced at my phone. One missed call and it was 8:30. My first thought, I missed my milk delivery. My second thought, I'm late for work.

I sprang out of bed and rushed out to the patio in hopes my milk delivery hadn't happened yet. When I popped open my cooler, my fresh milk was in there!

The driver must have taken the long walk around the side of the house, found my patio, found my cooler and left me my milk! It might seem like a small thing to read, but no coffee cream is a day-killer. Yet, here's the milk from Cowichan Milk Company safely inside.

I'm so grateful the driver took the extra time to do that. Milk Company, you've got a customer for life and the whole situation just reinforced my love for local businesses.

A Local Shopper



TAMMY'S TIPS

Yay, apple season! It's the time of harvest, and even if you don't have your own apple tree, local online groups often offer their abundance. With organic apples costing around $7-$10 a bag, these neighborly offers are a true gift!

Let me share my top three quick and easy ways to handle surplus apples. Craft delicious dried apple rings for wholesome snacking or kids' lunches by thinly slicing apples and dehydrating them in a machine or oven until you reach your preferred chewiness.

Applesauce is a winter delight. After peeling and coring the apples, simply boil them until soft, add a dash of cinnamon, and mash with a potato masher. Freezing portions in flat layers for stacking makes it convenient to enjoy later.

Short on time? Slice peeled apples, dip them in a lemon water bath, pat them dry, and freeze the slices. While a vacuum sealer offers extended preservation, I've found success using a straw to remove excess air from a Ziplock bag.

As much as I look forward to this season, I admit I'm still mastering the art of canning. For now, in my busy life, I embrace these simple ways to make the most of the bountiful harvest.

Happy Harvest Season!



Tammy





How can a study that claims 'greater than 99% consensus' among scientists, simultaneously report that 69% of scientists gave 'no position'?! This article reports on a recently published study which declares an overwhelming consensus among experts - more than 99% - as to the human-cause of climate change. I don't intend to argue whether there is indeed a consensus among scientists, but rather, I wish to highlight how easy it is to be mislead with 'scientific consensus' headlines, and ultimately, why it matters.

Overview

A recent Cornell University publication announced that: '99.9% of studies agree; humans caused climate change'

This was based on an analysis undertaken by Mark Lynas et al of more than 80,000 scientific papers in which their titles and abstracts were carefully reviewed, filtered and categorized.

The work was an update of the widely cited '97% of experts agree' study published by the Australian scientist Cook et al in 2013.

Approach

The purpose of the study was to determine the degree of scientific consensus against the following proposition; '..agreement in the peer reviewed scientific literature on the principle role of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from human activities in driving modern climate change (i.e. since the Industrial Revolution)'. Mark Lynas et al 2021 Environ. Res. Lett. 16 114005

Below is a summary of how the study was undertaken:

A data set of 88,125 climate-related papers published since 2012 on the 'Web of Science' (an extensive database of scientific papers) was accessed. 3,000 papers were randomly sub-sampled from these 88,125 papers upon which the analysis was conducted. From these 3,000 papers, 282 were removed as being 'not relevant', leaving a total of 2,718 papers subject to analysis. The titles and abstracts from the selected papers were reviewed and classified according to their level of endorsement of human-caused climate change, ranging from 'explicit endorsement with quantification' through to 'explicit rejection with quantification'. The number of papers that fall into these classifications were counted and used to calculate a level of 'consensus' against the proposition noted above. (*For the sake of brevity, I have not described parts of the study that are not relevant to the points I wish to make in this article.)

Below is a summary of the results showing the numbers of papers that fell into each particular category:

Explicit endorsement with quantification	19		
Explicit endorsement without quantification	409	845	
Implicit endorsement	417		
No position	1,869		2,718
Implicit rejection	2		
Explicit rejection without quantification	1	4	
Explicit rejection with quantification	1		

Summary of the paper categorizations, reproduced from Mark Linas et al 2021 Looking beyond the headlines.

Sounds pretty reasonable so far? When scratching beneath the surface, however, things start to get a bit questionable.

Bias?

The first issue relates to how a paper can be accurately categorized just by looking at its title and abstract. This would require, one imagines, a fair amount of judgement from the reviewers side. How would someone become qualified in making such important judgments, and how would one ensure that bias is not driving the decision making? There are numerous statements from the paper that I believe indicate a level of bias on behalf of the authors, the following being just one example: '..the prevalence of mis/disinformation about the role of GHG emissions in modern climate change is unlikely to be driven purely by genuine scientific illiteracy or lack of understanding.' Mark Lynas et al 2021 Environ. Res. Lett. 16 114005

It appears that, in the authors opinion, those skeptical about mankind's ability to change the weather - which they call mis/disinformation - are at best scientifically illiterate, but more likely embarking on a campaign of knowingly spreading falsehoods for some other unknown motivation. From this example I think you can judge for yourself whether there may have been the potential for 'bias' to creep into the authors judgments.

Explicit vs Implicit Endorsement

The next issue is the difference between explicit and implicit endorsement. The results show that:

16% of the papers explicitly endorsed the human-caused climate change proposition.

15% of the papers implicitly endorsed the human-caused climate change proposition

But how do you tell the difference between implicit and explicit endorsement? The definitions of these categories given in the study are broad. But one specific example given raises a glaring contradiction; 'we gave rating [*explicit* endorsement] to all papers referencing future emissions scenarios in their abstracts, because emissions scenarios by definition *imply* an evaluation of humanity's role in GHG emissions and their subsequent impact on climate [sic].' Mark Lynas et al 2021 Environ. Res. Lett. 16 114005

So if I understand this correctly, a papers' endorsement can be categorized as explicit, because their topic of study is believed to be implicit in the endorsement of the causes of climate change?!

Consensus defined as a lack of objection!

If a paper didn't contain a 'clearly-stated rejection or disagreement' it was simply assumed as endorsing the consensus position. Yes you read that correctly. Here it is in the authors own words: '..defining consensus in a clearer and more objectively transparent way as simply the absence of clearly-stated rejection or disagreement.' Mark Lynas et al 2021 Environ. Res. Lett. 16 114005. The study commits what I believe to be a professional foul in assuming that the absence of rejection is the same as endorsement. Into which specific endorsement category these 'non-rejection' papers were placed is not clear, but in the end it didn't actually make any difference!

Which brings me on to my final point.

The mathematical slight-of-hand

The authors undertook a post-categorization step that allowed them to really boost their consensus paper figures. After categorizing a paper as 'no position', they bundled it in with the 'endorsement' papers anyway! One can't help but wonder, therefore, why they bothered with a 'no position' category at all!? It was this astonishing move that that was behind what appears to be some mathematical trickery, and ultimately, the contradictory headline '99% consensus' figure; 1-(4/2718)) = 99.85%

The papers that either implicitly or explicitly rejected the proposition (4) were removed from the total number of sampled papers (2718), and the result expressed as a percentage of the total sampled papers.

This mathematical slight-of-hand allows the 'no position' papers (which make up the largest category at 69% of those sampled) to be counted along with the papers categorized as endorsing the proposition. How can a study that claims 'greater than 99% consensus' among scientists, simultaneously report that 69% of scientists gave 'no position'?!

Why it matters

Cook's earlier 2013 '97% consensus study', the work that this recent paper published by Lynas et al effectively updated, was extremely powerful in persuading people around the world of the human origin of climate change. From discussions with friends and colleagues, through newspaper headlines and TV panel discussions, to speeches made by the US president in front of the world, the '97% of experts agree' phrase has been used countless times to very powerful effect.

I recently read an excellent summary of the Cook study published by the Daily Sceptic website, which shares many common themes as those highlighted in this article.

Endorsement by 'experts' is very influential; that's why you will often see dentists in white coats pushing toothpaste brands on TV adverts and not random actors - irrespective of how clean their teeth are!

Social psychologists, just like marketeers, understand the persuasive power of endorsement by 'experts'.



Having a consensus among them is even better! That is why the headlines that this type of study generate are important, something which I believe the authors understand very well.

Conclusion

It would come as no surprise to me if it is the case that the majority of those publishing papers about climate change do, in fact, 'endorse' the view that human's are primarily responsible. But why bolster the appearance of 'consensus' using questionable assumptions and mathematical slights-of-hand? Notwithstanding the issues of bias and questionable assumptions during the categorization process which I described above, here are the actual results summarized;

15% of papers explicitly endorsed human-caused climate change.

16% of papers implicitly endorsed human-caused climate change.

69% or papers took 'no position', and

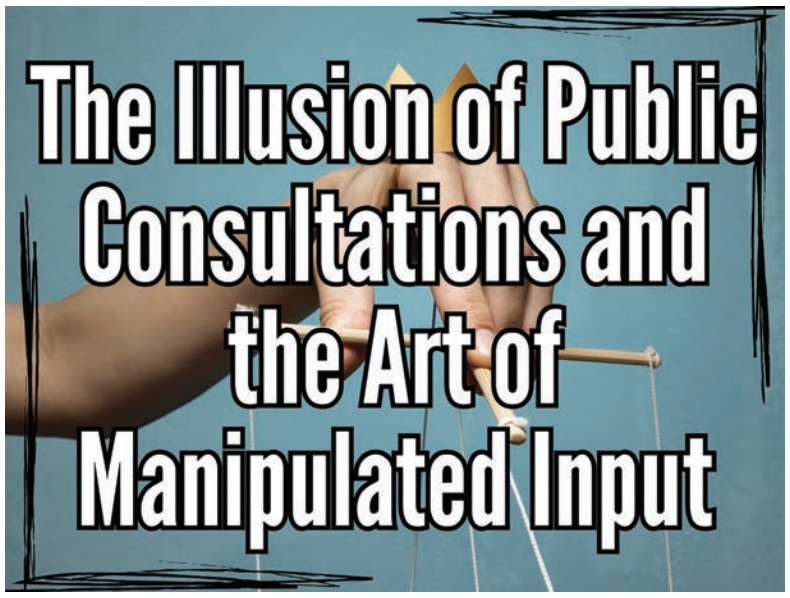
less than 1% rejected, either implicitly or explicitly, the human-caused climate change

I could write much on the broader idea of 'consensus' in science. But for now, I will just say that science is not an endeavor in which 'consensus' should be given any authority over any single scientist's honest commitment to skepticism, evidence and inquiry. We can all think of examples of great scientists from the pages of history who were made great precisely because they went against the 'consensus' of the day; Galileo, Mendel, Boltzmann & Einstein to name but a few famous examples. "Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to reform (or pause and reflect)." Mark Twain

The next time you hear someone use the 'scientific consensus' argument during a discussion about climate change or any other area of science, I hope that you will pause and consider the possibility that you are being manipulated by clever statistical artistry, and more importantly, whether it even has any relevance at all in a scientific context.

-Tristan Coleman
atlasreport.substack.com





Municipalities often boast about their transparency and commitment to engaging with the public. However, recent events have sparked doubts regarding the efficacy of this process.

Residents in the Cowichan Bay area have recently organized several town hall meetings to discuss the potential removal of a protective dike that shields farmland. A recurring sentiment among these discussions is the lack of awareness until the matter was brought up in the newspaper. According to information from estuaryresilience.ca, project partners have purportedly engaged with the farmer and adjacent landowners during the project's development. Nevertheless, a landowner adjacent to the subject property claims to have never been consulted. Notable organizations involved in the project include Nature Trust BC, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, among others.

Elected officials such as council members and mayors frequently emphasize their reliance on public input. This is particularly evident in projects with designated public consultation phases, which wield significant influence over the direction of the community. An illustrative example of this participatory approach is exemplified by the deliberations on the Municipal Forest Reserve (MFR) in North Cowichan. In the conclusive report submitted to the North Cowichan authorities, a total of 110 participants engaged in one of four online workshops.

Having actively taken part in all four workshops, we had the privilege of firsthand experience with the process. Each session featured breakaway groups comprising roughly 10 individuals, providing a platform for voicing opinions, queries, and concerns. Regrettably, out of the 10 participants within each breakaway group, merely 3 to 4 individuals were actively engaged. Of these, 1 to 2 individuals expressed apprehensions about financial implications, while a comparable number voiced concerns regarding ecological impacts. When we posed queries concerning financial burdens, tax ramifications, or sustainable practices, the response often directed us to address these concerns with our local council. Regarding ecological viewpoints, we observed multiple moderators intervening to expand questions, offer feedback, and steer the discussion's trajectory. The moderator responsible for taking notes diligently incorporated this feedback into their records.

Significantly, none of our inquiries, thoughts, or concerns pertaining to the potential implications of carbon credits or logging were incorporated into the council's official documentation.

This prompts the pertinent question: is this an incidental oversight or suggestive of inherent bias?

In conjunction with the involvement of 110 participants online, records further indicate that 1,145 respondents actively participated in an online survey. However, it is disconcerting to learn that certain community members were able to complete the survey more than 50 times due to the absence of stringent login or email verification mechanisms. Intriguingly, out of the 14 inquiries posed in the survey, a mere 2 queries pertained to matters of annual revenue and jobs tied to logging and management.

While we extend appreciation for the concerted efforts towards public engagement, alongside the attention garnered through social media and print advertisements, our experiential vantage reveals inherent imperfections within the process. Continued alignment with stakeholder groups predisposed to specific viewpoints invariably results in predictable outcomes.

We earnestly advocate for a more robust commitment by local authorities to foster a diverse spectrum of feedback and opinions. Selectively engaging with organizations driven by distinct thematic or operational perspectives tends to yield outcomes that may not genuinely mirror the broader sentiment within the community.





UNMASKING GREYHOUND THERAPY. NAVIGATING HOMELESS CONUNDRUM

The issue of homelessness in North Cowichan has ignited a multifaceted dialogue, intensified by an article propagated by media powerhouse Black Press. While their narrative resonates across various platforms, a deeper exploration into the issue reveals a web of complexities. Contrasting this corporate perspective are the stories shared directly by the homeless residents themselves. In our pursuit of understanding, we must not only challenge media narratives but also consider the factors that might attract or deter individuals from seeking shelter and support within our community.

Black Press's influence reverberates far and wide, demonstrated by their widely shared articles that leave an impression of thorough investigation and extensive coverage. Yet, beneath this surface narrative lies the question of local relevance and accuracy. As we unravel the experiences of those most affected by homelessness, we encounter a reality that challenges the media's sweeping assertion.

Engaging with North Cowichan's homeless community unveils an alternate account. Their lived experiences suggest the arrival of newcomers with distinctive behaviours and interactions that stand in contrast to the established homeless network's ethos of mutual support. While Black Press contends against such claims, it is these direct accounts that punctuate the evolving dynamics that media representation might miss.

Another viewpoint adding layers to this discourse is the "build it, they will come" concept. It posits that increasing treatment beds, homeless housing, and shelters might inadvertently attract more homeless individuals to the area. Conversations with BC Housing reveal the availability of supportive housing on the provincial level. Residents from outside the community can apply and relocate to secure housing here, amplifying the complexity of the issue and challenging the viewpoint entirely.

> Concerns surrounding "build it, they will come" are factual and based on reality.

Healthcare professionals shed more light on the phenomenon termed "Greyhound Therapy," a practice Black Press disputes. Over the last five years, verifiable instances of individuals being transported from other areas challenge the narrative's dismissal as mere rumour. North Cowichan's temperate climate certainly exerts a pull, but the motivations driving such journeys extend beyond a search for warmth.

Piecing together these diverse narratives yields a mosaic of perspectives. The voices from the streets challenge established corporate narratives and hint at a reality that warrants attention. Beyond the headlines and the media's powerful influence, it is these individual stories that lend credence to the idea that newcomers are far more than an isolated anomaly.

Navigating the juncture of media representation, personal narratives, and the spectre of increasing support facilities, we are confronted with a complex scenario. While Black Press may shape perceptions, it's the voices of those who know this reality firsthand that anchor us. By acknowledging these disparate viewpoints, we forge a path toward a more comprehensive comprehension of the issue at hand, forging solutions that cater to the diverse needs of North Cowichan's residents.

Conclusion:

In this intricate tapestry of narratives surrounding North Cowichan's homelessness, it's imperative that we move beyond passive consumption and become active participants in shaping solutions. While media narratives and government programs play a role, they're not the sole answers. It's crucial to uplift and empower the grassroots initiatives that truly understand the dynamics on the ground. Initiatives like Life on Wheels embody this ethos, offering boots-on-the-ground assistance and insights that often elude institutionalized reports. By supporting these local efforts, we bridge the gap between narratives and reality, cultivating a community that stands united in the face of a multifaceted challenge. As we collectively work toward change, let us remember that transformation begins at the local level, one empathetic step at a time.



The following article is written to promote thought and intrigue surrounding climate policies and related taxes on residents.

If you enjoy a bit of math and speculation, this article might be for you!

Using statistics available on sciencedirect.com, ancientforestalliance.org, and North Cowichan's Municipal Forest Overview from 2019, we can provide an estimate for the average age of trees in North Cowichan, of 74.94 years, rounded up to 75 years old.

According to treeplantation.com, an average 75-year-old tree will remove approximately 30-42 pounds of carbon each year. Using this calculation, we will use the average of 36 pounds of carbon per year, for each tree within North Cowichan.

The North Cowichan Forest Reserve is approximately 5,000 hectares. Estimates range from 1,400 - 3,200 trees per hectare in an active forest. Once again we'll select the middle of the average, at 2,300.

Therefore, North Cowichan's Forest Reserve contains approximately 2,300 (Trees) X 5,000 (Hectares of land) = 11,500,000 trees. Please note this number could be as low as 7,000,000 and as high as 16,000,000.

Using the average we calculated above, at 36 pounds per year of carbon removed per tree, we can estimate our Municipal Forest Reserve to remove approximately 414,000,000 pounds, or 207,000 tons per year.

According to the North Cowichan Environmental team, yearly carbon emissions equal 337,822 tons. With these numbers, we can calculate how much of our emissions are removed by the municipal forest reserve, which is 61%. The MFR accounts for around 1/4 of the total area within North Cowichan. With the remaining approximately 15,000 hectares, we can estimate between 100 - 400 trees per hectare, for a total count of trees around 1,500,000 and 6,000,000. As before we'll select the middle of the two, for a total of 3,750,000. For an additional carbon removal of 67,500 tons.

Therefore, using the best estimates we could gather, and selecting just the median numbers, the trees around North Cowichan remove 274,500 tons of carbon emissions per year. With North Cowichan reporting 337,822 of annual carbon emissions,

> Our available forest likely removes 81% of our emissions.

this suggests we are only 19% away from our goal of 'net zero' for carbon emissions, with absolutely no additional measures taken.

Factoring in the range of carbon removal per tree, the forest in North Cowichan could potentially be scrubbing between approximately 105,000 tons to 336,000 tons of carbon annually. This range accounts for both the uncertainty in tree density and the variable carbon removal rates per tree.

A very interesting viewpoint as our local government, both elected and staff, looks to spend taxpayer dollars into the future of carbon emission reduction and removal. One might question the veracity and focus on a situation that seems well-contained, respected, and even possibly resolved.



I was recently in the market for a used vehicle and found the older most vehicles were the longer their lifespans. Why would a 1950 Chevy last hundreds of thousands of km longer than a 1999 Chevy? Shouldn't we have more innovation and more efficient technology? Then I read into the history of planned obsolescence. We see this all the time when we go to a store to say, replace the carafe for a coffee maker, only to find buying a new maker can be cheaper than the replacement part.

I remember years ago reading about a place in England (as I remember), where you could take your broken toasters or ripped clothing, and rent tools and sewing machines to fix what was broken. They even had classes on repairing small appliances. Wouldn't that be a cool investment from our 'circular economy' fund?

So what is planned obsolescence? Planned obsolescence, a strategic practice of designing products with limited lifespans to encourage frequent replacement, has a history intertwined with innovation, consumerism, and economic shifts. While its origins can be traced back to the early 20th century, the concept gained prominence in the post-World War II era and continues to shape consumer culture today.

The roots of planned obsolescence can be found in the work of Bernard London, an American real estate broker, who proposed in 1932 the idea of legally mandating an "obsolescence certificate" for products. London believed that such certificates would regulate the economy by ensuring that products would become obsolete after a predetermined time, thereby creating a continuous demand for new goods and stimulating economic growth.

However, it was during the 1950s that planned obsolescence became a deliberate strategy for businesses. The rise of mass production and the shift from wartime to peacetime economies prompted manufacturers to seek new ways to stimulate demand. Companies like General Motors embraced this philosophy, regularly introducing new car models with subtle design changes and updates, encouraging consumers to trade in their old vehicles for the latest models.

The advent of technology further fueled the spread of planned obsolescence. Electronics, in particular, became notorious for rapid advancements and shortened product life cycles. The introduction of new features and improved specifications rendered previous models obsolete, enticing consumers to upgrade frequently.

Critics argue that while planned obsolescence may boost short-term profits, it contributes to environmental issues and wasteful consumption. As products are discarded sooner, electronic waste accumulates, and valuable resources are depleted more rapidly. In response, some governments have implemented regulations to promote product durability and repairability, nudging manufacturers to consider the environmental impact of their designs.

In recent years, a counter-movement has emerged, advocating for "sustainable consumption" and emphasizing the value of longer-lasting, repairable products. Consumers are increasingly seeking out brands that prioritize durability over constant replacement, but is that enough? Should we not place regulations on manufacturers in the name of the environment? And wouldn't these regulations go further for the environment than current policies around climate change?

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This reporting period encompasses the First Quarter reporting period for the RCMP's fiscal year ending March 31st 2024: April, May and June 2023. The intent of this report is to provide a brief overview of policing to Leadership of the Cowichan Valley, which the North Cowichan/Duncan RCMP Detachment serves.

Calls For Service: Between April and June 2023, 5403 calls for service were received. This compares to 5080 calls for service between April and June 2022. This is a total file count increase of 6.4%. Crimes Against Persons occurrences were up in all jurisdictions from 306 to 371 (+21%).

- Assaults increased 29%.
- Sex Offences were up 38%
- Extortion files were up 83% (from 6 to 11 files). "Sextortion" incidents are the majority of these types of files.

Crimes Against Property occurrences trended flat at a 4% increase (from 737 to 769 files).

- Auto Theft files decreased by 27% (down from 22 to 16 files).
- Shoplifting remains high in all jurisdictions with an overall increase of 12% (133 files to 149).

There were zero Fatal Motor Collisions between April – June 2023, compared to two fatalities.

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Common Sense, 2023 Preface

Common Sense was written by Thomas Paine in 1775–1776 and took the then unusual step of advocating for independence from Great Britain for the people in the thirteen British colonies. Writing in clear and persuasive prose aimed at ordinary people, Paine made an impassioned case for freedom by elaborating on the harms of maintaining a subservient relationship with Great Britain and the moral and political arguments for a new, egalitarian government of their own choosing.

Paine's writing was distributed widely and read aloud around dinner tables, at taverns, churches, and at other meeting places. Common Sense was considered the most influential document of its time, exceeded in readership only by the Bible.

In our present circumstances, we believe that there is a growing need for a modern version of Common Sense to inspire a new generation to fight for the freedom to choose how they are governed and by whom. Our future, and that of our children and grandchildren, depends on creating a form of government with minimal delegated authority, and one that is not beholden to monolithic or foreign direction.

As Paine presciently stated, "Society in every state is a blessing, but government even in its best state is but a necessary evil; in its worst state an intolerable one; for when we suffer, or are exposed to the same miseries by a government, which we might expect in a country without government, our calamity is heightened by reflecting that we furnish the means by which we suffer..."

After more than three years of governmental overreach across the globe, we seek a truly egalitarian form of government and thus complete independence from unelected foreign entities and from the oppressive measures by government into the lives of citizens. We reject any attempt designed to achieve a one world control for the forces of globalization.

Times change, but the assaults on human freedom are continuous and must be fought again by every generation which does not seek to live under oppression. This document is an initial attempt at penning a modern version of Common Sense.

An Historical Crossroads

Modern human beings have reached an historical crossroads at which two paths diverge, each path leading to very different futures for humanity. The time to make that choice is now before us. This choice cannot be neither delayed nor abrogated to those who would deign to rule on our behalf.

The dominant path at this time is one whose nature has been clear for the last three years. This path does not lead to greater freedom for all, but rather a form of oligarchy, a dictatorship of the richest and most powerful. The ultimate goal of this self-declared oligarchy is to subjugate all of the people of Earth to their regime. Accompanying this dystopian world vision is that human freedom and choice must be under elite control: what people are allowed to eat, what they must put in their bodies, where they will live, and how their children are to be raised, will all be regulated from on high.

The goals of this oligarchy will be enforced by captured national governments which will use whatever coercion and force they deem necessary to control their own residents. This path is different only in scope and resources, not intent, from tyrannies of the past, be they monarchies or the various "isms" of the 20th Century, fascism, Marxism, or others.

The second path is that of the renewal of the concept and expression of freedom for all peoples. This is the path that leads to a revitalization of human possibilities. In the words of Thomas Paine:

"We have it in our power to begin the world over again."

Much of the population, at least in the global West, has succumbed to the siren call of the global elite and have given over their minds, and often their bodies, in obedience. Not only have they adopted a slave mentality, they seek to impose this mental slavery on others.

In Paine's day, the new World was an asylum for persecuted lovers of civil and religious liberty. Today, there is no new World to escape to. Our battle must be here and now.

By studying history, we know to a great extent how American revolutionaries succeeded in their struggle for independence against the British Empire. It remains to be seen if today we are mentally and spiritually strong enough to block the global empire now arrayed against us. Do we have the courage to reclaim our own independence both individually and nationally?

The coming struggle may well be monumental in scope, disruption, and damage, but once again we have Paine's words to encourage us:

"The harder the struggle, the more glorious the triumph."

The pandemic actions of various governments appear to some to be a mere aberration from the past, brought on by extraordinary circumstances. It is important to realize, however, that the events we now witness have been preceded by decades of social conditioning that have been implemented to fracture the very nature of society.

Human societies, however diverse in presentation, have been characterized by fundamentals beliefs: a core family unit, a reliance on tribe/community, art in all of its forms, and a faith in a higher power.

It is precisely these ancient human characteristics that have come under planned and sustained assault.

In the globalists' proposed new world order, the family unit is undesirable and hence disposable. Families need no longer to be parents and their children, and as often presented by its proponents, the world's population is too great and the impacts on climate too severe to allow all to have children. Rather, the choice to do so must be subjected to state control.

This latter notion ties in with identity dysphoria in which one is allowed, even encouraged, to reject their biological sex, or ethnicity, and simply declare what they prefer as a new identity. Their right to assert a novel identity is contained within a self-serving view that it is the moral and social obligation of us all to not only accept any person's declared identity, but also to celebrate their choices, sometimes by helping to indoctrinate our children. One consequence of gender dysphoria and resulting medical interventions is a dramatic decrease in fertility.

The demolition of the family structure, in turn, leads to the deterioration of tribal and community connections and to the perspective that such structures are archaic and thus also disposable. The solution of the elites is to replace innate community and the nation with a super-national entity, for example, the World Economic Forum (WEF). The WEF's medium term goal is to replace autonomous counties and all local control with their directives from Davos.

What is being proposed is nothing less that a world oligarchy based on wealth and its resulting power leading to a form of modern serfdom for everyone else. The stated consolation from the head of the WEF, Klaus Schwab, is that those of us who are the new serfs can be considered to be "stakeholders" in the new world order. In practice, these stakeholders will hold no real power.

What Has Led Us to This State?

The following provides only a partial list of the assaults on the freedom of peoples that have occurred over the last few years, assaults that have been exacerbated if not planned, under the guise of the Covid-19 pandemic.

For much of the world, arbitrary regulations and unscientific mandates have been the standard response of most governments during this period. In nations that pride themselves on democratic traditions, we have come to realize that our national constitutions and Bills of Rights are functionally useless for preserving our natural and civil rights. This realization highlights a harsh reality: The rights we thought we enjoyed were merely taught to us as comforting fairy tales without actual substance and security. Sadly, blatantly totalitarian regimes are less hypocritical than those that pretend a respect for democracy and the rule of law but fail to do so.

In countries around the world, people have been subjected to massive propaganda campaigns based on deception and outright lies. The deceptions have included:

- The origin of the Covid-19 virus that at least two countries, the US and China, had a role in creating;
- The misleading epidemiological statistics on Covid-19 harms;
- The reliance on vaccines made by the pharmaceutical industry as the sole way out of a manufactured pandemic;
- The deliberate dismissal of effective medications and early treatment, policies that certainly resulted in many more deaths than from the disease alone;

In Canada, the US, the UK, Australia and New Zealand, citizens were subjected to any, or all, of these additional restrictions:

- The right of individuals to bodily sovereignty and medical choices; - The rights and responsibility of parents to make decisions, medical and educational, for their children;
- The right to freedom of thought, speech, religion, and access to information to make informed decisions; - The right to privacy; - The right to freedom of movement:
- During lockdowns, people were sometimes unable to exit their homes, cities, or regions for long periods;
- Restrictions on citizens' ability to leave their own countries; - Deliberate government attempts to isolate people from relatives and friends; - Deliberate government efforts to divide society along vaccine compliance lines; - Subversion of traditional societal and family values; - Mis- and disinformation to promote official agendas; - Censorship of media and the internet;
- Freezing of bank accounts of those deemed to be enemies of the State, without any oversight from the courts; - Governmental policies designed to collapse small businesses;
- Attacks and continued demonization of protests and protestors.

The first step to establish true freedom is to recognize that all human beings, by virtue of being born human, have certain natural rights. As in the American Declaration of Independence, these include "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Natural rights can be suppressed, but they can never be extinguished. This declaration recognized that natural rights are innate and thus also can not be negotiated. Civil rights, however, may involve negotiations with other people in the society or with whatever

structures pass for government.

In the Western "democracies", we have been raised to believe that the people are sovereign with government as their servant. This core belief has now been demonstrated to be utterly false with the tendencies of most governments to default into "State of Exception" behaviours, the latter apparent even before the Covid-19 pandemic. In the terminology of the World Economic Forum and those who control it, we are mere "stakeholders" to be dictated to by an elite that is neither elected nor of our choosing.

Over the last years, we have seen that governments in countries around the world, including within their administrative divisions of states and municipalities, have responded to the pandemic nearly identically. The conclusion that must necessarily arise from the above is this: For all governments to respond to the pandemic in much the same way strongly indicates a higher controlling entity that was able to exercise its will regardless of the stated political structure of any country.

The controlling entity, the WEF or a more secret structure of similar intent, has created the plans and circumstances for a complete restructuring of human society.

That this planning has been done to the peoples of the world without their consent must lead to two possible outcomes: In the first, populations surrender sovereignty to the globalists, both personal and national together with the futures of their children.

The second possible, likely the more plausible, outcome is that the push for a "Great Reset" by the globalists will trigger a significant push back, a resistance that will take the form of social and political revolution. Whether that coming revolution is accompanied by violence is solely in the hands of the globalists since it is their deliberate actions that will evoke it.

As the great American emancipator, Frederick Douglass observed during the prelude to the American Civil War, "Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will. Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have found out the exact measure of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them, and these will continue till they are resisted with either words or blows, or with both."

Once the endurance of people has been exhausted, resistance and revolution become the only possible alternatives.

In the faux democracies, people are taught that, in principle, they have the right to choose their own form of government. They are further taught that some governments may have come into being from violent revolution such as in the United States or France, but these lessons are no longer valid in the present day. We are thus paralyzed by the aporia that we are free to think we are free, but not to exercise such freedom lest it disturb existing governments. Those that come into power by force do not like being reminded of this inconvenient fact and seek to cushion their own abuses from future justice by the hands of their own citizens. In this view, while Americans and the French, and others, had their own glorious revolutions from tyrannical governments, the door to allow people today to assert rights is now forever cancelled.

The innate right of self-determination has not, however, been extinguished. The realization that it is not is beginning to percolate in the minds of those who have been subjected to arbitrary governmental regulations and excessive intrusions into their lives and livelihoods during the pandemic. The Freedom Convoy 2022 and the many thousands who stood in support was an expression of this realization.

What Might the New Structures Be?

We are now in a pre-revolutionary period, much like the years preceding the American revolution. This is the period where those determined to change their own systems of government must first wrestle with what they want any new structure to be.

One option is to simply replace an old regime with a newer one, but one that has the same structure and means. This choice is based on either the victors being unable or too lazy to imagine a different form of governance than the one they replaced. As the American social philosopher Murray Bookchin noted:

"The assumption that what currently exists must necessarily exist is the acid that corrodes all visionary thinking."

Simply replacing older rulers with newer ones is based on the historically naïve belief that the newer rulers will somehow be more just, more caring, and more responsive to the needs of those governed than those of the previous regime. Historically, this is invariably incorrect, and it is typically only a matter of time before the new regime begins to resemble in thought and action the one that has been replaced.

A "constitutional" monarchy, such as in Canada, describes a parliamentary system in which the actual power resides, in principle, with elected members of the parliament. If those elected have sufficient numbers based on party structure and loyalty to form government, then they are allowed by the system in place to do so. The innate flaw in any such system is that a parliamentary majority is functionally a "constitutional" dictatorship until some future election. Abuses of such systems have been pronounced in countries such as Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the originator of the model, the United Kingdom.

American revolutionaries attempted to develop a system based both on suffrage and on a system of checks and balances designed to keep each branch of government within its own domain. Suffrage was not for all at the beginning of the American experiment, but the original rights that the founders proclaimed were, in due course, also given to other groups.

The failure in the process has been in the emergence of monolithic political parties whose loyalties seem to be primarily to themselves, not to the entire nation. As well, any system that relies on a simple majority to rule and pass legislation can never avoid the risk of a tyranny of the majority over the minority.

In their long struggle for self-determination, the Kurds of Syria created another governance structure that is best described as a "grass roots democracy" where political/societal decision making begins at the lowest level, the family, then moves upwards to increasingly larger structures: family to neighborhood, to district etc., to eventually comprise the entire country. The ability of people to participate from the bottom upwards makes the system responsive to more of the population than any simple majority rule structure can ever be. It also demands more responsibility for governance falls increasing on the governed, as it should.

With the collapse or destruction of any previous regime, considerations of the future structure of governance are inevitable, but as we move forward beyond the Great Reset it is essential to consider the future outcomes desired so as not to simply reproduce older systems of dominance. From this, it becomes apparent that some fundamental guidelines need to be suggested and accepted by the population. Some of these include:

- Formal mechanisms must be in place to ensure that power is always delegated from an informed citizenry, rather than power being assumed;
- There must be a measure of insurance that all citizens of a certain age and maturity can participate equally in society and its governance;
-All residents in any jurisdiction must have equal status that recognizes both natural and civil rights;
- The above aspects must be clearly enumerated in a written constitution to which is attached a bill of rights, the latter clearly documented. This bill of rights must validate the right of resistance, even rebellion, against any government which abuses it delegated authority;
- The same governance structures need to be described for each proposed administrative level: rural to city, city to region, to province or state, and finally to the overall nation if that structure is desired by the inhabitants;
- The governing structure musts provide overlapping checks and balances between different branches of government, particularly that of the judiciary whose primary role is the regulation of the otherwise inevitable slide to state of exception rule;
- The new constitution must contain clear description of the history of how any previous regimes abused the trust of the people to ensure that the same types of abuse from government not re-occur in the future;
- The constitution must ensure that all of those holding power, at any level, are subject to removal from office for violating any of the constitutionally-guaranteed protections;
- Citizens must constantly monitor against the tendency of any political entity to assume more powers than it has been delegated by the people, or to surrender to an outside power, the freedom of the people;
-The new constitution must respect the notion of private property such that people are free to seek their own prosperity and property;
- To these ends, it becomes critical that schools, of whatever form, teach, in addition to the basic skills required by society, the notions of freedom and legal equality for all peoples, and instill lessons about critical thinking to help those so trained to identify when any political structure has begun to assume powers that were not granted by the people;
- To teach all people to recognize that good governance is a process, subject to evolution, and not a fixed inviolate structure that is immune from alterations for all time;
- To instruct people in the respect for freedom and self-reliance, while acknowledging that the concept of freedom may differ from individual to individual;
- To recognize the difference between natural rights, over which no governance structure should have dominance, and civil rights which are subject to social evolution;
- To teach all inhabitants that the bedrock of any society must be human autonomy and choice and that governments are only legitimate if they respect such choices and seek to foster them;
-It is in this latter regard that we must accept the choices of some communities/societies to have the systems of governance that they choose, regardless of whether we would have the same for ourselves or not.

Concluding Statement

Thousands of years of human society have now culminated in the choice of futures for all peoples. What were once local tyrannies have, in our time, become a global assault on human freedom everywhere.

We now declare our intention, for ourselves and our children and children's children, to create a truly just and free society that serves all the people rather than a self-appointed elite.

It is our duty to posterity to accomplish this most sacred task.

(Authors and contributors to this document: C.A. Shaw, T. Kuntz, J. Roberts, A. Newhook).

Common Sense 2023

Keep this on your fridge for a quick reference!



CVRD

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gbruce@duncan.ca
jcapps@duncan.ca
smiddlemiss@duncan.ca
cnewington@duncan.ca
tomduncan@duncan.ca

SAVE THE DATE

Lake Cowichan Official Community Plan Open House

Saturday, 1:00-4:00 pm
September 23
Lake Cowichan Town Office
39 South Shore Rd.

North Cowichan

Stay Informed: connectnorthcowichan.ca
Council@northcowichan.ca

Lake Cowichan

Stay Informed: lakecowichan.ca/public-notices.php
Mayor: trim@lakecowichan.ca

WWW.WWIND.CA

THE VALLEY'S POWERFUL DUO!

COAP Citizens Oversight Accountability Project

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YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT CAN HAPPEN IN A SMALL TOWN.

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