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## Summary

### Part One

We are not governed by the current elected political administration, we are governed by the laws made by the people we elect, and who are there to protect us from the rulers. Capitalism and Democracy are irreconcilable.

### Part Two

There are three kinds of democracy: direct democracy, electoral democracy and representative democracy. The essential difference between electoral and representative democracy arose out of the English Reformation wars.

### Part Three

There is not only one, but there are three Democracy Deficits. There is a deficit of a Neighbourhood/Community. There is the Deficit of Meaningful Information. And there is a Deficit of Representation by the people we elect.

### Part Four

The importance of an organizational structure within which to perform the necessary functions of a Representative Democracy cannot be understated. The engagement of youth, combined with the wisdom of age can make it happen.

### Part Five

In a functioning Representative Democratic society we can "Shift the Vote" necessary to 'Shift the Power, from the rulers to the voters and thereby provide for the economic, social and spiritual needs of the voters.

## CPR Democracy

### Part 1

I chose the title words "CPR Democracy" since our democracy is in trouble. Not only do we not know how to practice it, but also the knowledge of 'how to do it' is being deliberately kept from us. The modern version of both Democracy and Protestantism were forged during the

Reformation Civil Wars of England (1638 -1660), the 'CPR' in the title can be "Citizens Practicing Representative Democracy" or "Christians Practicing Representative Democracy."

We are governed by laws. How we do that as a society lies at the crux of democracy; we do it by passing laws.

I hope others have noticed that the converged media constantly focus the political on the party leaders.

As will be shown, political parties exist, not to represent the people, but to obtain the ruling power. Their whole existence is focused on that purpose. In our parliament, the people's commons, there are only rulers and commoners. When our MPs get it into their heads to be rulers, then to claim to represent the people is a sham.

Abraham Lincoln has said that the purpose of government is to obtain the results we want as a people, which we cannot obtain by ourselves alone. Our converged media constantly presents the practice of politics as a conflict; it is that, but the conflict in debate has as its purpose the obtaining of a consensus, which can be promulgated into laws.

Sir Winston Churchill has famously said, that "in a democracy, the law flows from the people."

How it does is the focus of the next segment; and it will become obvious that this is not how it happens in current practice.

## **Part Two**

In a democracy we are not governed by the leader and political party, which happens to form the Cabinet, but we govern ourselves, or are supposed to be governed, by the laws proposed by the ruling Cabinet. Those laws are then supposed to be vetted by the people we elect to assure that they do not infringe upon the well being of the voters, in any part of the country.

I was first alerted to the idea that there were different kinds of democracy when Chairman Mao was quoted as saying that 'we also have a democracy, but it is of a different kind'. Further investigation revealed that there are essentially three kinds.

- 1) **Direct Democracy** – is when a gathering of people inform each other, come to a consensus and all share equitably in the costs and benefits of the resolution.
- 2) **Electoral Democracy** – is the kind we currently practice. It is where the voters elect a political party or leader, who then, with the assist of a bureaucracy, makes the laws and commands the powers which enforce them, or not; the invoking of laws being an executive decision.
- 3) **Representative Democracy** – is when the voters elect members to the people’s house of commons, where they then protect the people’s interests, by allowing the rulers to both ACT, and amending ACTS to prevent the rulers from harming the well being of the voters. The people’s interest is protected by our representatives amending the LAWS proposed by the rulers, laws, which always seek to promote the interests of their courtiers and courtesans, cadres, special interests, supporters and major contributors.

The essential difference between Electoral and Representative Democracy arose out of the English Reformation wars.

The Roman Catholics and the Royalists believed in the personal and authoritarian rule of Pope and King (divine right) on the one hand and the Puritans, led by Cromwell on the other, believed in the rule of law and when all the chips were down, insisted that the ultimate power was to rest with the commons, not with the rulers, irrespective of whether the rulers were elected or not.

We have culturally inherited the difference, as evidenced by the predominance of personal rule (bordering on dictatorship) in Countries predominantly Roman Catholic and the rule of law having greater dominance in the predominantly Protestant countries.

Currently, many are advocating various new ways to ‘elect our representatives’.

### **Part Three**

The expression “Democracy Deficit” first was first spotted in an article in the April 1, 2001 edition of *Catholic New Times* titled, ‘The Growing Democracy Deficit’(10), by Author Ted Schmidt and it got me thinking, what if there is more than one deficit, and if there is more than one, what are they?

The three deficits impact on each other and show why our democracy has not only failed, but

**Deficit of Community – Neighbourhood** and for the purposes of practicing democracy, there must be a way to facilitate the dialogue between the voters and the elected and also allow all the voters to monitor that dialogue.

The next deficit is the...

**Deficit of Information:** The news is fabricated and spun to garner support for such items as continued control of the issuance of credit by the international 'Banksters', or for unjustified warfare that only benefits the global power-elite, not world citizens per say" " (13)

On 2011-12-23 Jack Etkin wrote: "Because we Canadians don't have our own media, we have only a limited ability to find out what is really going on in our world. And I think that is why we continue to lose so many important fights" (14).

**The Deficit of Information** begs the question what is information other than the in-forming of the mind. The primary source of mass information has become firstly, the mandatory state curriculum and later the Converged Corporate Media.

I think it can be taken for granted that the prerequisite for apathy regarding public affairs is the voter ignorance. How can we be concerned, and act upon, what we know nothing about. Not only about the issues involved, but ignorant of the consequences of the legislation.

So with a loss of neighbourhood and communing, and blessed with little knowledge of facts with which to communicate, and further, being bombarded with trivia, there is an absence of consensus which any of our elected persons can represent. That leaves the source of information for the elected to the bureaucracy.

### **Deficit of Representation**

The importance of voter representation was established when England's Civil Wars, the Reformation Wars, were being fought.

Those wars are and have historically been characterized as a fight for religious freedom, but they were just as much to establish and affirm economic, political and social reforms.

What kind of representation can there be if there is no consent or consensus to represent it? Something has to be developed and that can only happen when people have an organizational structure to enable themselves to communicate with to each other meaningfully.

We can only do that if we let our elected persons know how legislation is affecting us. That is, what are the consequences of the ACTS of the legislature?

That can only happen if the elected person's first loyalty is to the voters and not to a political party in exchange for perquisites. If legislation could be put in place so that the rulers could not reward the elected either materially or with favours it would be a long step toward assuring the elected persons independence. Other legislation could be passed so that the only money that a candidate or political party could spend would be the amount filtered through a non-partisan body such as Elections Canada. It must be recognized that by reducing the amount able to be spent by candidates or parties would increase the powers of the Converged Corporate Media, which even now has few if any constraints.

#### **Part Four**

The cumulative effect is that the people we elect, almost totally, represent the political parties. The reason that the elected so willingly genuflect to the leaders of the parties is twofold.

The first reason is that they have been persuaded that they owe their election to the political parties and their leaders, purchased through the media. The second reason is that, by pledging loyalty to the party leader, it is their only chance of a meaningful role in parliament, as minister, committee chair or opposition critic, thus providing the illusion of opposition.

Canadians are frustrated at not having more influence over the country's politics, yet one in four voters surveyed in a recent poll admitted to never undertaking grassroots activities like signing a petition, joining a party or marching in a demonstration.

SES Research conducted the poll for the Crossroads Boundaries National Council and the Public Policy Forum, a pair of think-tanks, to assess Canadians' attitudes toward political activism and governance.

#### **Is today's youthful generation apathetic and self-indulgent?**

That myth was busted at a packed, standing-room-only book launch for a new anthology about the "power of youth" and how to build movements for change. Young activists from across the country spoke about their passion for climate justice, indigenous solidarity and

strengthening a sense of community in a society being ripped apart by inequality and oppression.

To this day, a disquieting number of its participants believe that the traditional democratic channels, including the ballot box, have failed them.

So what's wrong is not the only problem, also what is missing needs to be identified.

Most successful national organizational structures have been predicated upon the 'orders' model. While inherently dictatorial, the dictatorship is based upon the need for the integrity of the organization. So long as the functions are free and open, the constraints force adherence to the elemental purpose of the organization.

The point is that the functions must drive the purpose and not the requirements of the organization.

Community ownership of small economic and media structures, a little like co-ops, would allow the profits-benefits-gains to grow in the neighbourhood.

According to the most recent Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating an examination of data collected from 2010 and released by Statistics Canada this past March, young Canadians (aged 15 to 24) volunteer more than any other age group. Young altruists aged 15 to 19 did an average of 115 hours of volunteer work in 2010, and those aged 20 to 24 volunteered for 159 hours. Karen Willson confirms that there has been a significant increase in the number of young Canadians getting involved. (26)

The need is for a new kind of representative who will put voter's interests before party. That means we need to counter the Stockholm syndrome, which keeps party members toeing the party line.

The first responsibility is for an elected person to strive for the rule of law, then to assure that the law will be what the people require, not what the rulers require. Then finally, the elected should strive for stability even if a period of instability (such as a series of elections) must be endured.

That leaves us with the game changing challenge of, “What will it take to shift the vote? Certainly more than banging on pots and pans.”

Democracy doesn't happen because people are given a chance to vote. It happens because of a whole series of interconnected changes in attitudes and in systems. (29)

Perhaps we should think about developing some kind of body of community members, unburdened by legal training and trial-oriented minds. (33) Such a group could sound out the neighbourhood and determine what are the policy and administrative of the people.

In the absence of organizational forms that permit meaningful participation in political and social institutions, as distinct from following orders or rationalizing decisions made elsewhere, the instinct for freedom may wither, offering opportunities for charismatic leaders to rally mass popular support with consequence from recent history. (40) *The Culture of Terrorism* P. 200 by Noam Chomsky.

A democracy movement should propose new civic structures that give citizens a voice in societal decision-making, mechanisms for citizens to hold people in positions of power accountable, and the means for citizens to band together to counter the power of large institutions. It should create “tools” of empowerment for citizens to use in all the principal social roles they play – as voters, citizens, taxpayers, consumers, workers and shareholders. It should rework the institutions of the country to bring them in line with the realities of a modern, working democracy. And, it should coordinate the efforts of people and groups who want to work together for common reforms. (41)

By merging the community and the neighbourhood with new non-corporate print media we could have a new economic and social model that could develop a realistic moral code and social system.

How can we create the organizational structures that we need in order to shift the Stockholm syndrome type dependence that our elected have upon political parties and make them dependent for re-election upon the voters.

The apathetic can only be awakened through informing voters of what their elected are doing.

A mayor famously said, it is not the responsibility of the elected to inform the voters of their public affairs. Yet we cannot rely on the corporate converged media for unbiased and clear information.

Given the opportunity to engage in the dialogue of public affairs in a non partisan way, voters will become engaged.

### **Part Five**

It is important that we begin to consider education as a social investment, a future asset and a source of budgetary remuneration, and not as a budgetary expense.

I suggest that, if we offer students an opportunity to get an education that is an investment by society, with future dividends returned as income tax, they will see that it is a better idea than banging on pots and pans, with even greater rewards.

In a few short years this will be their country also. They have a vested interest in it being something they will want to be part of.

There are two things we need to put that in place, an Organizational Structure and a Functioning Process.

The Organizational Structure is already in place. It is in the riding and poll structure provided by the non-partisan Elections Canada and is used to elect what should be persons representing us as our Federal Representatives.

I suggest that we recruit high school students, appoint them as non-partisan reporters, one for each poll, representing it as their beat. Even if they only start with a petition, it would show that they care about their neighbourhood's well being.

There are about seven elected members supposedly representing my poll; Municipal; regional; Provincial; Federal, and the Board of Education. Some jurisdictions also elect representatives to a utilities commission.

It would be elemental that the reporters not be a mouthpiece for the elected. The purpose would be to determine the appropriateness or consequences of the moral and statute laws



by which we govern ourselves.

The clear advantage of the proposal is that it could start with one poll in one riding and the value to the voters participating could only increase as more students/editor/mentors sign on. A national registry could reveal which polls were without representation. The poll boundaries are available from Elections Canada.

What WILL we Do?

There is no other way to obtain the representation to which we are entitled in a Representative Democracy.

**Footnotes:**

(10) Growing Democracy Deficit: Catholic New Times, Ted Schmidt 2001-04-01

(26) Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering: Toronto Star 2012-11-14

(29) Richard Gwyn: Toronto Star, 1997-07-09

(33) Chronical-Herald: 1996-08-01

(40) ibid pg200

(41) Ralph Nader: Consumer Advocate,