

Fighting for the Maritime provinces

An article recently appeared in the local Newspapers in Toronto and Ottawa which promoted the relocating of Maritimers to the prosperous areas of the country where they were really needed. Like, "would the last one out of the Maritimes please turn off the lights?"

They had a lot to say about the handouts that are being given and have been given to Maritimers. Not a word was said about the handouts to "Upper Canada." The fact that Canadian icebreakers keep the St. Lawrence River open so that shipping into Quebec ports is open year round. Is that a handout? As a result of that action who suffers?

If we go back in history and look at all the benefits bestowed upon Upper Canada we can see where the Maritimes were placed at a disadvantage. The St. Lawrence Seaway opened up the Great Lakes to ocean shipping. A multimillion dollar project, paid for by all Canadians, including Maritimers. Now, does anyone wonder what happened to all the grain and other products that used to be shipped out of Saint John and Halifax? That wasn't a handout to Upper Canada (not to mention what it did to our railways)?

Look at our tariffs and trade treaties. They generally favour Upper Canada.

The trans-Canada Pipeline sure helped the West, paid for by all Canadians, including the Maritimers.

Go back even further, for example during the war. Federal funding of dry-docks on the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes that at

the time were closed in the winter. Funding of Algoma on the Great Lakes rather than Sydney, Nova Scotia.

The depletion of the cod stocks. My view is that it was mismanagement by the federal government. They funded the trawlers and the multi-nationals to build the fish plants and then failed to evaluate the impact on the cod stocks.

What's to be done? How can someone such as we, lone voices crying in the wilderness, bring about change? How can we influence matters so that the Maritimers get their fair share? Should we threaten separation? The following are some recommendations for action:

1) Why not a Chignecto canal, coupled with tidal power. The St. Lawrence Seaway, Hibernia and the Confederation Bridge were all justified one way or another and were built.

2) The funding of mega-projects is questionable. Ever hear of Heavy Water, Bricklin, cucumbers in St. John's, Clairtone and the list goes on. Rather than waste the money on Bricklin, it wouldn't have cost anymore to give every man, woman and child living in New Brunswick at the time \$5,000 each and the province would have been further ahead because the money would have stayed in the province.

I recommend the promotion of small and medium enterprises and co-operatives. Such as:

A more flexible taxing system. Laws that require financial institutions to invest a portion

locally. For example, Canadian financial institutions invested in South America and they ended up losing a lot of it, and now they are into Asia. They cover losses by hiking up the bank charges we pay.

Letting people have more deductions for investments in small businesses.

A simpler tax system for small business. When you figure that profits can be transferred to offshore shelters, why not let Maritimers make deductions that will at least stay in the country, to support local oil companies, advertising, newspapers, stores, construction and other companies.

Lets have the federal government do a trial run in the Maritimes on a simpler tax system. For example: let's make the Maritimes the friendliest place in North America to start a small business. No handouts, no mega-projects, no funding fish plants or trawlers. Just simplify taxes, regulations, etc.

3) Energy is the basis for development. There must be an alternative to charging what the market will bear and it should be sustainable and non-polluting. Everyone should express their views so the policy makers will be influenced. Alternatives for the provincial monopolies should be researched. As an example, for New Brunswick, let's split up NB Power distribution. Ontario is doing this. By the way, Ontario rues the day they ever took the Nuclear option. Three main objectives are recommended for the Distribution Branch: security of supply; minimum cost (e.g. a non profit corporation,

same price to everyone, no more freebies to industry). The Distribution Branch should buy the power from anyone at fair market value, even private homes with surplus capacity.

Promoting conservation, alternatives and renewables even recycling and saving the environment — let's plan on getting rid of Point Lepreau before we have another Chernobyl or a Pickering and Darlington. Halifax and St. John's are downwind from Point Lepreau.

There are alternatives to nuclear, such as conservation, which are non polluting and benefit the local economy regardless of what is reported. Nuclear power is not economically viable when disposal of used fuel and research is included. Our government is out selling nuclear reactors now which we are subsidising with tax dollars that have been used to provide fuel for nuclear bombs, e.g. Pakistan, India. Let's get out of the nuclear business. It can't be done overnight, but its being done in the Scandinavian countries. Why not here?

4) Let's invest in the Maritimes. I worked for the New Brunswick Development Corporation "a few years ago" and I never understood why they gave a preference to Brits and Yanks who always kept coming up with mega-projects, a la Bricklin, Clairtone, Heavy Water, etc. The contention was that Maritimers didn't have the expertise. Well even without the expertise, Maritimers couldn't have done worse and maybe they could have done better. I'd venture to say

that any St. John's, Halifax, Summerside or Saint John resident would have done better.

Hire local engineers, accountants, fisheries experts, professionals; fund their acquisition of the expertise if necessary, let them go out and acquire the expertise.

5) The fisheries? Lets ban the trawlers, especially in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. In shore fishing only.

The TAGS program has been mismanaged as well. Training was a big thing. But how many hairdressers and computer programmers are needed in the outports. As an alternative, how about having every community that has been hit by the fisheries mismanagement provided with a development office, staffed by locals with technical support as required. For example: lets try new things like investing in the upgrading or building of new spawning grounds for salmon. Permaculture, cleaning up the environment, fish farms and sustainable communities. Improving conditions for wildlife to improve the harvesting of moose and deer and others. Plant trees for the common good, not only to supply mills, local theatres, music, herbs, labrador tea and other sustainable development. Emphasis must be on sustaining and non polluting.

Anyway, Maritimers lets continue to fight for the good fight and not turn out the lights.

JOHN VAUTOUR,
B.E.M., P.Eng

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Who runs Dalhousie anyway ?

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and Budget Committee. This budget is developed through an iterative, consultative process by the president's Budget Advisory Committee and is available freely at the Killam library. Any students with questions on this budget can try to see him, or track me down for a student perspective. Bryan is also responsible for the Facilities Management department run by Bill Lord (they make this place run), Personnel Services, the University Computing and Information Services (UCIS), the Arts Centre and Environmental Health and Safety.

Eric McKee is the vp Student

Services. His portfolio includes all of the "front line" services that you probably have to deal with. The first department that most students run into, the registrar's office, run by Gudrun Curri, Dal's Registrar, is part of student services. So are housing and conference services, under Heather Sutherland, Athletics and Ancillary Services (e.g. Bookstore), Psychological Services and Health Services. In short if it's at Dal, it's not teaching, and you are dealing with it, it's probably Eric's problem.

The last vp is Dale Gódsøe, vp Development and Alumni Affairs. The alumni office workers and volunteers are the people who give out those little pins during convocation and ran the barbecue for the parents during orientation week. This office also spends most of its time trying to raise money for

things like those shiny new buildings and research chairs. Coordinating the efforts of all of these vps is Tom Traves, the university president. His portfolio is both everything and nothing. He is ultimately responsible for everything, but must delegate it all away. He also acts as the public face of the university to outside bodies.

So what, you are probably asking yourself, does any of this boring crap have to do with me? Well, these are the people who make all of the decisions at the university and will affect your next few years here. If a policy you don't like or decision that really helps you out comes along, this is where it came from.

TED CHIASSON
DSU PRESIDENT

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BEST BUDDIES



VOLUNTEER TO BE A BUDDY. MAKE A FRIEND FOR LIFE.

Best Buddies is an international non-profit organization which creates friendships between people with developmental disabilities and university and college students.

A Best Buddies chapter is coming to **Dalhousie University** this fall. If you'd like to volunteer to be there for someone who could really use a friend (and have a lot of fun at the same time), give us a call:

Shannon @ 423 0510

ATTENTION JEWISH STUDENTS

The Atlantic Provinces Jewish Students Federation is your organization that is there to represent your wants and needs. We have a large variety of social, cultural and educational events ranging from parties, Shabbat Dinners, multicultural events, regional conventions, our annual ski trip and more. We currently have over 225 members across Atlantic Canada. Our membership is primarily Jewish, but we are open to anyone who wishes to join. For information about the representative of the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Students Federation on your campus, please contact Yakov at (902) 422-7491 Ext. # 27 or e-mail at ai993@chebucto.ns.ca