



# Getty deficient in leadership qualities

I figure Don Getty will have a pretty good duck-hunting season in Stettler.

The only question is whether he can shoot anything that moves faster and is farther away than his foot.

Getty revealed his priorities when opening his constituency office. I'm wondering whether the chicks will obligingly fly in front of his constituency office so that he can take pot-shots at them in between meetings.

Perhaps we could have saved some rent money by purchasing a duck blind for the premier to use as a mobile constituency office.

By all accounts, Getty is a private but affable and inoffensive kind of guy who generates warm fuzzies all around. I've got a teddy bear that provides better leadership, though. Leadership involves several qualities. Being likeable isn't always one of them.

Leadership involves taking a stand, or making decisions, and being willing to take responsibility for them.

Ask Provincial Treasurer Dick Johnston what he thinks of Getty's leadership qualities. Getty made

the decision to axe former Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister Connie Osterman in response to the damning Code Report. But Johnston was left to field questions and take what flew off the fan. Again. He's gotten so good at it he should quit "Dick-ing around" and openly run for the party leadership.

Leadership also means recognizing what direction a parade is going in and placing oneself in front of it.

One may not like Connie Osterman, but you have to respect her. Her recent announcement to refuse the obscene 30% pay hike that MLA's have awarded themselves shows leadership that no other MLA has shown. On this issue, none of the parties seemed to recognize that the pay hike is a political decision, not an economic one.

Laurence Decore was the worst in this regard. After promoting the Liberals as the party of fiscal responsibility, at first he defended, and then attacked the pay hike. Misjudging the direction of political winds is not a leadership quality. In any case, leadership by poll is not leadership at all.

Leadership is also telling it like it is.

Ernie Isley, Minister of Agriculture, didn't really surprise anyone when he admitted using his influence to affect government grants. Everyone expects that sort of thing in politicians. The difference is he made it clear that he wasn't about to perpetuate myths about the impartiality of elected officials.

Recently, a Conservative Party internal memo expressed concern about a perception of leadership arrogance - problems with communication and distance from the grassroots of the party. There was also concern about media relations.

This came in the context of announcements that the ever-frugal Premier's Office was spending \$200 000 to turn the office into a bunker into which Getty and friends could retreat from the nasty media.

You'd think that the memo would alert Mr. Getty to a problem, the solution to which requires leadership.

Typically, he was unavailable for comment.

At least chicks don't shoot back.

### Staff meeting today:

All current and prospective staffers urged to attend. Meet the editors; talk a little shop. Current staffers can get press card photos from 2 pm on. We'll assign stories, discuss the paper so far and adjourn to R.A.T.T. What a groovy way to spend a Thursday afternoon!

**Room 282 SUB. 4 pm—cartoonists at 3:30.**

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