

P. DON, WHERE DO YOU THINK THE ECONOMIC FUTURE IS GOING FOR YOUR FAMILY OR FOR VANCOUVER?

Well, for myself it's getting a whole heck of a lot better than last year. But you know I'm in the same boat, I appreciate the fact that the housing prices in Vancouver are obscene, that's kind of a personal thing. I don't think that I'm concerned about the national debt, I sense some really interesting things happening around in that people are starting to become aware of the disparity between the people that do have a lot of money and are very comfortable and those people who don't. The disparity is becoming more noticeable as more and more women and young people are relegated to the service sector jobs and have no way of getting out of those kind of economic binds. I guess the other side are the people who would have professions. I think it will continue to get better for them so for me it's the disparity. I think that as the Canadian government becomes more and more in debt, you have to look at who it's in debt to. It's in debt to large private things so I think we should maybe nationalize things, change who owns what. I'd like to see the disparity change.

Q. PAT, I'M FROM WINNIPEG, I DON'T COME OUT TO THE COAST NEARLY AS OFTEN AS I WOULD LIKE, IF I COME BACK TO VANCOUVER THREE YEARS FROM NOW WHAT WILL I FIND, WILL THE CITY STILL BE GROWING, GROWING, GROWING...?

Yes, I think so. I think it's really like your California of Canada. I think the growth is going to be continuous for quite a long time.

P. WHAT'S DRIVING THE GROWTH, WHAT'S GOING TO BE KEEPING IT GOING?

Climate is part of it.

Also, it's the new influx of money because a lot of people...

From Hong Kong.

If that stopped everything could just go kapupple. But I don't see it going that way because too many people want to live here. I really think Vancouver is going to become an immensely large city. And tourism.

P. TOURISM IS ALSO DRIVING THIS GROWTH?

Yeah, ever since Expo, that has put us on the map. I've been here for 19 years. When I first stepped in Vancouver I was thinking there were no restaurants, no choice, no clothing, no fashion and now I've seen it blooming over the years. The prices have bloomed as well but...

Vancouver used to be at least six months behind Montreal in fashion but it isn't now. I would say they might even be marching toe to toe.

P. SO WE'VE HEARD FROM SOME PEOPLE WHO THINK THAT VANCOUVER IS GOING TO CONTINUE ON AN UPWARD AND IMPROVING ECONOMIC CLINE, ARE THERE PEOPLE AROUND THE TABLE WHO THINK THAT IT MIGHT BE STAYING THE SAME OR GOING IN A DOWNHILL DIRECTION OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS?

No, keep going up.

I think business-wise it's going to go up. They're considering new types of businesses for British Columbia.

Like what.