

THE 2008 FEDERAL ELECTION

AN ANALYSIS

The clapping of hands and the hurrahs have stopped. The members of the band have packed up their instruments and have all gone home. Political silence reigns. The turmoil of a federal election has mercifully ended. What has happened? What did we gain by the sound and fury and \$300 million spent on this federal election?

We still have a minority Conservative government – albeit, a stronger one with 143 seats (155 is required for a majority) – 17 more seats than at the dissolution of Parliament on September 7, 2008. The Liberals, after a dismal campaign led by a well intentioned, intelligent, but incompetent leader, Stéphane Dion, are down to 77 seats from the 95 they held at dissolution. The Liberals received only 26% of the popular vote, the poorest showing in their history, and are no longer a national party. They have been reduced to a regional party, broke, fumbling, too far left, and without definitive policies, except Mr. Dion’s idea of controlling greenhouse gas emissions by a carbon tax (the Green Shift plan), which appeared unintelligible to most Canadians. This made it easy for the Conservatives to characterize it as a “tax grab.”

What Happened?

Although Mr. Harper began the campaign claiming he expected another minority government – this wasn’t true. He fully intended and expected to win a majority. What Mr. Harper didn’t expect was a failing economy, a snubbing from Quebec, and most fatal of all – the quirks in his personality which failed him in crucial moments during the campaign.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper

Mr. Harper is a decent and honest man but he is very shy. He cannot “glad-hand” or make light social conversation. That is just who he is. Make no mistake, however, he does care about people and Canada, and cares very deeply about them. He is not an orator to inspire Canadians. For example, when Canadians were reeling from their loss of jobs and investments in the unstable stock market, instead of comforting them (and his mother), he talked about how now was the time to invest in the stock market! He couldn’t explain just why Canada’s economy was not as unstable as that of the U.S. – what his party was doing to shore up the economy or would do in the future to keep our banks stable, e.g., by way of government guarantees of credit to keep the bank lending (their lifeblood) flowing. None of this was made clear during the campaign. Nor, for example, has Mr. Harper ever been able to explain exactly why Canadian soldiers are in Afghanistan. He knows it’s the right thing to do – but he can’t explain to Canadians why this is so. In short, Mr. Harper has the heart, but lacks the temperament, to connect with ordinary Canadians.

Further, despite his many appeasements to Quebec, Mr. Harper still has a tin ear for that province. He cut arts funding, not grasping the essential fact that culture is Quebec’s identity, and that it was the kiss of death in that province to do so. The fact that Mr. Harper (sensibly) intends to tighten the Youth Criminal Justice System, to ensure youths be held responsible for serious criminal offenses, did not sit well with liberal Quebec either.

Quebec Is Different

Quebec is now and always has been “different”. Mr. Harper’s adamant refusal to open the abortion debate, a decision that pierced the soul of social conservatives, was mainly due to Mr. Harper’s attempt to court Quebec. That province’s differences have continually skewed our national statistics. For example, Quebec has the highest divorce rate, the lowest birth rate, the highest abortion rate, the most common law unions, the most suicides and the heaviest use of marijuana etc. These are all signs of a deeply troubled and unhappy society. The great gobs of

political payola gifted to that province by Mr. Harper were useless in that they didn't help that sad province awaken from its melancholy to its true heritage, including its once faith-based culture.

Quebec is a part of Canada, its history, its present and its future. That province, however, has to heal itself from its own illness and not spread its contagion to the rest of Canada. We don't need to duplicate Quebec's sad statistics in the rest of this country. If Quebec doesn't change, it will not survive. The loss of its culture and language even now are very serious problems. Time is running out for Quebec. The federal government is not helping Quebec by catering to its demands, which only enables it to continue on its reckless way, ignoring its destructive future.

Voters Stay Home

When voters feel disenfranchised by a lack of candidates who share their values, they tend to stay home, and this is part of the story of the 2008 election. Overall, voter turnout was 59%, an (unprecedented low for a federal election. The Conservatives lost 11 ridings by fewer than 1,500 votes, six of which had turnouts below even this year's dismal average. Potential Conservative voters, who stayed home rather than support a party that does not support them, played a decisive role in these ridings, and doubtless in many others.

It's true; Canada has had other Prime Ministers in the past (eg. Mackenzie King 1921-1930 and 1935-1948, and Sir Robert Borden 1911-1920) who were far from great orators; nor were they particularly open or charming men. However they survived politically because, although they couldn't express their feelings or vision for the country, Canadians at least understood that they cared about the needs of ordinary Canadians. Mr. Harper failed to communicate this.

What Mr. Harper needs then, short of a change of temperament, which isn't going to happen anyway in a mature man, is to have advisors, or a spokesperson(s) who although experts in management and policy development, are also able to connect to ordinary Canadian men and women – to their hopes, sorrows and fears. That is, if Mr. Harper can't express himself to Canadians, then he can at least find those (his wife, Laureen, is a huge asset here) who can do so on his behalf.

What Happens Now?

Mr. Dion, dripping with blood from many dagger cuts, has announced his resignation, but intends to stay on as leader until the Liberal convention in Vancouver in May 2009. (The Liberal party, however, can always change the date and location of this convention to more quickly settle the leadership issue and stave off further drifting by the party.) A new Liberal leader, however, will not be enough for the Liberal Party to survive. It has to begin the long journey of re-inventing itself as a national party, by retooling its grass roots appeal, raising funds, finding new policies, and making structural changes in its operations. This won't be easy or quickly achieved, no matter who is elected as leader.

Meanwhile, Canadians now have a pizza Parliament with 37 NDP members and 49 Bloc members, plus the fractured Liberals. It's not going to be easy to make this Parliament work. Moreover, we've had three elections in four years, and Canadians won't put up with another election very soon. Don't expect therefore, another election for at least two or three years. It seems that this is the Canadian way of doing things - just muddling through. No one is really happy with the present situation – but that is what we're stuck with for now.

THE GEAR UP CAMPAIGN — THE UN'S RADICAL NEW ENTITY FOR WOMEN ONLY

By Ginger Malacko, REAL Women of Canada, Representative at the UN

I often wonder why the United Nations doesn't just change its name to the United Nations for Women. It seems they cannot even have a simple discussion without a 'gender expert' present. There are several UN bodies that are specifically dedicated to women's rights, but there is only one UN body dedicated to children, and no UN body to

address the specific needs of men, or of families. This lop-sided focus on women has been felt in every branch of the UN organization. 'Gender perspective' pervades every issue. And in case you were under the impression that the word 'gender' includes men, at the UN, gender perspective is exclusive to women (and men who wish they were women).

Women as Victims

The UN and the radical feminists who operate within it, see all women as victims of evil male dominance, which is an embarrassing over-simplification and distracts from the real women's rights issues. But the UN has a history of getting it all wrong when it comes to women's rights. They pump far more money into contraception than literacy. They promote gender quotas that undermine democracy. They enable the exploitation of women by insisting upon better wages and benefits for prostitutes. And they make a mockery of the true woman's rights movement when they call an Irish woman oppressed because she is forced to endure the celebration of Mother's Day.

Let's be clear; the women who drive the UN do not place blame for the violation of women's rights where blame is due; upon tyrannical governments, ongoing conflicts, or ancient cultural and economic castes. They blame patriarchy, they blame religion, they blame marriage, motherhood, and even heterosexuality. They consider any woman who speaks in defense of any one of these social building blocks to be a traitor to the sisterhood. They are not working to liberate women; they are conspiring to change women. Fortunately, up until now, this radical movement has been met with a great deal of resistance by UN members.

Secretary General Kofi Annan and the New Women's Agency

In 2006, Secretary General Kofi Annan convened a high level panel charged with preparing a report called 'Delivering as One', which was presented to the UN General Assembly, and is meant to be the framework for UN reform. Among other things, this panel called for a 'consolidated, strong and fully resourced United Nations entity for women', led by an Under-Secretary General, and designed to 'enhance results at the country level'. Thus began the GEAR Up Campaign (Gender Equality Architecture Reform), which is a massive lobby movement of groups, individuals, and even delegations, in support of the creation of such a UN entity. For anyone familiar with the UN, this is enough to send shivers up and down the spine, because what they are asking for is no less than a heavily funded social police squad run by radical career feminists.

The GEAR Up Campaign for New Agency

Visit the website of any organization belonging to the GEAR Up Campaign and you will find demands for 'autonomy', 'adequate and sufficient resources', and 'authority and clout'. One radical feminist organization complained that in 2002, UNIFEM's budget was a mere \$36 million, while UNICEF had a budget of \$1.454 billion. To a radical feminist, it is unreasonable to focus so much on helpless children, when women are the true victims of society. The GEAR Up Campaigners want more money; a lot more. They are demanding an annual budget of \$500 million at the minimum. They want gender equality experts on every UN country team throughout the world, with their own budget, independent of the rest of the 'team' and they want to be answerable only to their own undersecretary general. In short, they want power, and lots of it. But power to do what? The GEAR Up Campaign has a long list of demands, but they say nothing of what this new entity for women will do with this 'major up-scaling of power, authority and resources'. That is because they won't be doing anything new, they will just be in a position to push their old agenda harder and faster than ever before. And I can say with certainty that making abortion a human right is top of the list. New positions of authority will be filled by radicals and any disapproving moderates will be carefully weeded out. Enormous amounts of money will be channeled into questionable grassroots organizations that have no respect for the cultures, religions, or even laws of the countries they work in. Nations will be bullied and delegates harassed as this new entity attains its dream of 'universal country presence'. And by the way, I fully expect that life within the walls of UN headquarters will be far more difficult for organizations like REAL Women, taking us back to the days of the Clinton administration when we were hassled, followed, thrown out of meetings, and even spat upon. This is a women's rights body that seems to have been authored by George Orwell, rather than a UN coherence panel.

We Have Time

But we do have some time. Informal consultations ended in the General Assembly this fall, which means that the earliest a concrete proposal could be made on the formation of a new women's entity would be at the 63rd session of the general assembly next year; our own Canadian delegation expressed hope that a decision to move forward will be made at that time. Nations will only begin to negotiate seriously at that point. There is certain to be a great deal of discussion and argument over the details of any UN reform, and that means there will be opportunities for REAL Women and others to counter the GEAR Up Campaign both at the UN and here in Canada. This is of vital importance, since the whole purpose of the new women's entity is to impose their radical vision of womanhood on the individual countries. They intend to exercise their new power and authority over Canadian women and we must ensure that no UN body, great or small, can dictate anything to any one of us, now or ever.

Please write to Prime Minister Harper and the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lawrence Cannon and your own MP requesting that Canada reject the UN's GEAR Up Campaign. Their addresses are as follows (mail may be sent postage-free to any Member):

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0A2
Fax: 613-941-6900

The Honourable Lawrence Cannon
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Fax: 613-996-8924

Your MP
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

WOMAN POWER — THE FAMILY WAY: SARAH PALIN

It wasn't supposed to happen this way: a woman breaking through the glass ceiling and having direct access to the U.S. presidential oval office. This breakthrough was supposed to have happened only to card carrying, licensed and agenda certified feminists. No others would be considered.

The Feminists

A livid Toronto journalist wrote that Mrs. Palin was "not exactly the identity we thought 40 years of feminist activism would bring us." ("NOW", September 10-14, 2008 issue)

Old time feminist Gloria Steinem persists in living in her fantasy world where her views represent that of all woman, namely pro-abortion, day care demanding, liberal thinking on all issues, as part of a woman's package for elected office. Without this package, a woman, according to Ms. Steinem, is "deceptive" and not an "authentic" woman. Who knew?

Sarah Palin, who ran on the Republican ticket in the 2008 U.S. election, is Governor of Alaska, as well as the mother of five children. This indicates that she has some authenticity as a woman. Ms. Steinem and her sister feminists are the ones lacking authenticity as women, since motherhood and family don't seem to rate high on their agenda.

Hillary Clinton and the Feminists

Feminists were understandably crushed when their supposed “authentic” woman, Hillary Clinton lost the Democratic nomination. Hillary Clinton and her feminist supporters adamantly touted loudly that she had the “experience” to become president, or as a fallback position, at least vice-president. No one dared point out the obvious - that Ms. Clinton had no experience in governing, although her husband, Bill, supposedly did supply her with some knowledge, at least by way of pillow-talk. However, since Bill Clinton is a known philanderer, he could not have provided too much information to her in that regard! Hillary Clinton never sat in a cabinet meeting or on a National Security Council meeting: she lived her political life in the shadow of her husband, Bill.

During the US election primaries, it also became known that Ms. Clinton had difficulty making decisions. If she had won the nomination and/or presidency, it is apparent, and intended, that her husband, Bill Clinton, would be stalking the halls of the White House and ensconced in the Oval Office, not just “influencing” her decisions, but also making many of them for her. An independent woman she is not. Little wonder Bill Clinton was angry and bitter at her failure to win the nomination. It prevented him from obtaining his third term in office.

Finally, no one ever thought of the ambitious, ruthless Hillary Clinton in terms of being a mother. Motherhood seemed to be a sideline in her lust for power and not central to her life.

In comparison, Sarah Palin, is a self-made person, independent and decisive, and is clearly an individual in her own right if ever there was one: quite a different kind of woman. Unabashedly pro-life and pro-family, she is also opposed to embryo stem cell experiments, and sex education in the schools.

In 1963, Betty Friedan wrote her break-through book *The Feminine Mystique*, and described the home as a concentration camp from which women must break free to join the real world of paid employment and economic independence from men. Feminists followed that script. These same women are now weeping crocodile tears that Mrs. Palin’s children are being neglected because of her career. Feminist hypocrisy was never more odious. National Post columnist George Jonas (September 6, 2008) has wickedly suggested that Mrs. Palin as vice president would mean far more time for her children than she had as Governor of Alaska - so what’s the problem with these feminists?

Left Wing Media and Democrats Alarmed

It was not just feminists who reacted against Mrs. Palin’s selection as the Republican vice presidential candidate. The left wing media and the Democratic Party immediately realized that Mrs. Palin was dangerous, not just because of her views, but also because, as a candidate, she would attract middle America as well as independent voters. The reason for this is that Mrs. Palin is able to connect to the public. Consequently, the left wing media and Democrats began at once, assisted by ardent leftist bloggers, to attack her credibility before she was even out of the starting gate. False stories filled the media, trying to equate her with previous inadequate vice presidential choices. Her family was closely examined for flaws: her experience (although considerably more than that of Democratic candidate Barack Obama) was belittled. Wagers were made that she would not remain long on the ticket. Significantly, in contrast, the media never did investigate the murky background of the Democratic candidate Barack Obama

Then came her speech on September 3, 2008 at the Republican Convention. It was a remarkable performance. No one listening to it could fail to be impressed by the speech, her poise and intelligence, and her family, which she proudly introduced including her four month old son with Down Syndrome, whom she stated was “perfect” for her and her family. All bets were off. She is clearly a larger than life candidate to be reckoned with. Pro-life and pro-family is suddenly part of the so-called “woman’s” package. The truth is that it always was – just never publicly acknowledged.

Mrs. Palin, may have lost in the 2008 U.S. election, but she has changed America. She will be a part of the US political landscape for years to come!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, everyone

May you encounter God's presence during your preparations for Hanukkah or Christmas this year. Hopefully, you will receive this in time to read it before the holiday season begins.

For the past couple of years, REAL Women of Canada has promoted a new "Registered Disability Savings Plan" (RDSP) to the Minister of Finance, and the Prime Minister's office. In December of 2007, the RDSP received Royal Assent and became law. We are pleased to announce that it should be available at major financial institutions in Canada by the time you get this newsletter! The RDSP is a new vehicle that will assist families in planning for the long-term financial security of their relatives with disabilities. Over time, the RDSP will provide billions of dollars to supplement income, enable home ownership, and enhance the quality of life for as many as 700,000 Canadians with disabilities. For more information on this critical new financial instrument, go to www.plan.ca and check out the links concerning the RDSP! You can also find out if your provincial government has already exempted the assets in an RDSP when determining eligibility for provincial disability benefits by following those links. If they haven't, please contact your MLA (or MPP in Ontario) and ask that they do so immediately, as it was a commitment all the provinces agreed to with the federal government before the RDSP came into being.

Can't find out whom to write? E-mail me at lgeschke@telus.net and I'll find out for you.

Watch out for a new initiative in education in your province. With the Conservative government opposed to providing universal daycare, the daycare lobbyists have come up with a new plan with a different name, which is now being pushed on an unsuspecting citizenry in BC — "optional full-day kindergarten for 3, 4, and 5 year olds", aka universal unionized daycare for 3, 4, and 5 year olds. While we were successful in extending the deadline for "consultation" this summer, the juggernaut for implementation has not been checked. The provincial government funded a one-day conference in Vancouver, called "Towards a Roadmap for Preschool Children in BC" on October 24, and, second hand, we received word of it less than two days earlier. Our BC Chapter was able to find a volunteer to go on such short notice, and I will keep you posted as this initiative continues to roll out in BC against the wishes of the electorate.(

By the time you are reading this, I hope to be a duly elected School Trustee in my local school district! My passion for education, my experiences as a home educator and tutor for 20 years, as well as on corporate, non-profit, and charitable boards of directors are strong reasons why I hope people in my town will vote for me. I'm busy dropping flyers now, all over town.

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2009! We are building a core group of monthly supporters who will help us to take some of the guesswork out of our financial decisions. We are also seeking donors who will stand with us financially as we intervene in a couple of crucial cases. This includes the challenge to the prostitution law and the Insite legalized drug injection site case where BC Justice Ian Pitfield argued that it was unconstitutional to not allow a drug addict access to his drug(s) of choice at taxpayer expense. If you would like to help us out, either as a regular donor or by donating toward expenses we will incur in 2008 – 2009 in these intervention, please send your cheque with your renewal to our national office at the address on the membership form enclosed in this issue.

Merry Christmas! Joyeux Noël! Happy New Year! Bonne Année!
Laurie

REAL WOMEN AND THE MEDIA 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

When REAL Women celebrated its momentous (at least to us!) 25th Anniversary, we distributed a press release to announce the event.

The National Post responded to our press release by publishing a story on our organization in the September 20, 2008

issue. The article was written by journalist, Katie Rook, who decided to get the low-down on REAL Women by consulting with Judy Rebick, the former President of the tax-funded National Action Committee on the Status of Women and currently professor of Social Justice at Ryerson University in Toronto – a chair funded by the Canadian Auto Workers. Ms. Rebick sniffed with distain that REAL Women:

...represents a certain current in Canadian society that is the religious right – who have opposed a changing role for women from Day One, They'll never change, they don't change. They're ideologues.

To have REAL Women defined by Judy Rebick was scarcely objective journalism.

However, on September 24, 2008, REAL Women was accurately depicted in the National Post by its popular columnist, Barbara Kay, who happens to know considerably more about REAL Women than Ms. Rebick. Barbara was one of the speakers at our 25th Anniversary Conference.

In her article, entitled "Who are the Real Ideologues", Barbara stated:

Canada's Judy Rebick, who's made a name for herself leading women's organizations on the public dime (unlike REAL Women, which thrives without government support through dues from its 55,000 members), has been disdainful of REAL Women from the beginning. ...

That's pretty rich coming from the spokesman for an ossified ideology (Sue me Judy: When they start calling manhole covers "personhole covers" because of all the women trying to break through that dirt floor to be "equal" with men in the sewers, I'll say "spokesperson.")

REAL Women are not women who don't personally grow and change to engage in today's world. And you don't have to be a member of the religious right -- I am certainly not that -- to believe the timeless family -- father, mother, children -- remains the cornerstone of a healthy society, and that the deliberate subversion of traditional family structures, the cornerstone of the feminist ideology, is the source of many of our current social ills.

Until REAL Women began, no one in Canada questioned the feminist claim that all women shared a commonality of experience, even though it should have been obvious that feminist activists were mainly speaking for an elite, urban, liberal enclave of women from the same socio-economic background as themselves.

From day one of its existence, feminists portrayed REAL Women as Stepford wives, intellectual hicks in thrall to the patriarchy. Yet, in the course of its work, REAL Women carried out groundbreaking research that, amongst other successes here and internationally, led to the happy demise of the federal government's odiously discriminatory Court Challenges Program in 2006.

In order to further correct the misunderstanding about REAL Women, set up by Katie Rook in her article, REAL Women sent in the cartoon (see page 8) created in 1990 by Mazoe Stewart Kaufman, one of REAL Women's Vancouver members. We thought her cartoon was both hilarious and clever, and accurately depicted our work and the issues in which REAL Women is involved. We were delighted that the National Post published the cartoon as the Letter of the Day on September 26, 2008.

We were also pleased that a number of letters, in praise of REAL Women, were published in the National Post on October 1, 2008. Also, David Warren, a columnist with the Ottawa Citizen, wrote a supportive article about REAL Women, published on Sunday, September 28, 2008. In his article, he stated, in part:

I know some of the ladies [REAL Women] who started the thing, back in 1983, and who continue to fight for what they consider to be the full range of women's real interests against Canada's heavily subsidized, rigidly Left-feminist 'official' women's lobbies.

The founders and leaders of REAL Women are among my personal heroes, or "heroines" as we used to say. A quarter-century before Sarah Palin suddenly emerged as a U.S. vice-presidential candidate, these Canadian women were showing the take-charge attitudes we now associate with Alaska's governor.

As their statements of purpose have always made clear, REAL Women do not consider themselves the only legitimate champions of women's interests. They have consistently stated that they take women for individuals, as diverse in their wants and needs as men.

The difference from "movement feminism" is not only one of attitude -- the positive, unwhining, "men and women are in this together" approach of REAL Women, as against the opposite, "victimhood" approach of movement feminism. The question of subsidy is also important, and one of the many pocks on the face of our decreasingly free, democratic order is the provision of taxpayer funding to lobbies, of any sort.

One of the greatest accomplishments of REAL Women has been their effective attack on the Canadian state's "court challenges program" -- by which taxpayer money is used to finance Charter challenges to standing Parliamentary legislation, as a way around having to get laws changed democratically. The reader who is familiar with the extraordinary efforts made by movement feminists to "marginalize" REAL Women will understand what a large accomplishment this was -- the product of tireless, unselfish labour.

From their beginnings to the present day, and by their very existence and perseverance, these women have been defending a natural political and social order in which the family is at the root of society, and is secured in law by civilized nations against intrusions by commissars with various schemes of social engineering.

REAL WOMEN'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

REAL Women's 25th anniversary conference was held in historic and magnificent Fairmont Chateau Laurier in Ottawa on September 20, 2008. It was a wonderful celebration.

Reception on Parliament Hill

A highlight of the celebration was the Saturday evening reception on Parliament Hill in a formal reception room just off the Senate Chambers. The Honourable Anne Cools and the Honourable Pierre DeBané were the gracious and charming hosts of this most enjoyable event. A summary of the speakers' talks at our conference follows.

REAL WOMEN'S PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

A Talk By Gwen Landolt, National Vice President, REAL Women of Canada
Summary by Ruthann Attia, Board Member, Ottawa, Ontario

It was quite fitting that Gwen was the opening speaker at the REAL Women's 25th Anniversary Conference. As one of the original founding members and after years of dedicated service, no one was better suited to speak about the past, present and future of REAL Women.

She began by engaging us with some stories about REAL Women's past battles. Needless to say, the history of REAL Women would not be complete without an account of the relentless challenges posed by feminists, who claimed to speak for all Canadian women. Of course REAL Women has always believed that it is impossible for any one organization to speak on behalf of all women and thus the stage was set for a confrontation. The feminists laid out their plan of attack against REAL Women using four key stages. They began by attempting to infantilize REAL Women by trying to present REAL Women as simply dutiful puppets of men. When that failed, they tried to paint a picture of us as intellectual sell-outs. They refused to appear on media events with us, claiming we were unable to argue the merits of

issues. One feminist even had the audacity to claim at a government committee meeting that REAL Women members had pink icing for brains! Upon realizing that their attempts at degrading us had proved fruitless, the feminists began the third stage of their attack, demonizing REAL Women. Suddenly we were to be feared as enemies of all women! They claimed that we were trying to set women back generations.

In the end when all else failed, they claimed that REAL Women were just not “authentic” women. We were simply female impersonators! Gwen related a personal story about attending a Law Reform Commission meeting in 1989 and having a woman next to her lean over during the meeting and say “I’m wondering what went wrong with you when you were growing up that you have rejected feminism?”

Milestones in REAL Women’s Journey

(a) Government Funding

It took 23 years before we could witness the termination of funding to feminist organizations via taxpayer dollars. We had always found it offensive that the government funded only feminist organizations, especially because these groups were totally dependent on government dollars for their very existence. In September of 2006, the Conservative government altered funding through the Status of Women and restricted funding to only those organizations that provided actual services for women within their communities.

(b) The Courts

The feminist groups were granted funding for their ongoing expenses by the Status of Women and also for their legal challenges, through the Court Challenges Program. REAL Women, on the other hand, managed to fund our own court interventions dealing with life and family issues approximately 20 times! Twelve of these cases were heard before the Supreme Court of Canada. We intervened in these cases because it was important that history show a strong and united opposition to the feminist orthodoxy of the time. We were determined to show Canadians of the future that there was strong support for life and family issues. Secondly, we did not want judges years later to say that their decisions had been made because no other arguments had been put before them.

Gwen assured us that we would continue to intervene in cases that concern the family. This fall we will be appearing before the Superior Court of Ontario on the challenge to prostitution laws. We will also be intervening in the B.C. Court of Appeal objecting to the decision by a lower court judge that a drug addict has a constitutional right to shoot up drugs in the government-funded Vancouver injection site!

(c) Canadian Judicial Council

REAL Women has been fearless when it comes to laying complaints before the Canadian Judicial Council for statements and actions that we feel are contrary to acceptable judicial standards of behaviour. Throughout the years REAL Women has laid six complaints against individual judges. Gwen stated that, although many times these complaints were covered up by the Canadian Judicial Council, we have, nonetheless, made it known that we are going to speak out whenever their actions constitute unacceptable judicial behaviour.

(d) Child Care

REAL Women’s fight against universal daycare has been long and interesting! As Gwen mentioned, we have been involved in the struggle from the beginning. We have constantly presented well researched and reasoned arguments against national daycare. As a result, we received confirmation from a provincial cabinet minister in 2004 that we have been instrumental in preventing the national childcare program from being established in Canada by the federal Liberal government.

(e) The United Nations

As the first Non-government Organization in Canada to obtain Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, we have attended approximately 35 UN conferences around the world, promoting life and family issues at every opportunity.

(f) REAL Women's Research has Changed Canada

Our research has been responsible for sounding the alarm regarding many discriminatory agencies. It was our investigation, combined with our political pressure, that finally led to the disbanding of the Court Challenges Program and the Law Reform Commissions in 2006. Our research continues to support those currently challenging the Human Rights Commission, which we hope will soon be disbanded or limited in their mandate.

REAL Women Today and in the Future....

Gwen acknowledged that many things have changed since REAL Women began 25 years ago. We have now made over 250 presentations to government committees. We are now sought after by the media throughout the country and are largely seen as the voice of conservative women in Canada.

Our battle to turn this country around and away from left wing influence began with promoting respect and support for the values of family and life. While we have come a long way, we still have many miles to go. We will continue to fight for family, tax relief, the rights of the unborn and the vulnerable. The journey has been one of adventure and one with many ups and downs. Gwen concluded by stating that none of it would have been possible without both the financial and moral support of all our members, who have steadfastly stood by us over so many years. We never could have made the progress we have made without our loyal members. Rest assured that we will continue to fight the battle for the hearts and minds of our nation for years to come with our members' support.

A CHILD'S BEST HOPE FOR LIFE AND HEALTH

A talk by Dr. Janice Crouse, Concerned Women for America
Summary by Corry Morcos, President, Alberta Chapter, REAL Women of Canada

In her speech, "A Child's Best Hope for Life-Health-Family", Dr. Crouse stated that our culture gives our children no right to life, treats marriage as optional, and defines family as a group of caring individuals only.

However, the very best circumstances for children to thrive in include the right to life, a mother and father who love each other faithfully, and are committed to the marriage, and a home where values and ideals are nurtured and honored. The essential characteristics for child well-being are centrality of faith, traditional marriage and a belief in the sanctity of life.

Faith inspires transcendence, embraces honor, duty, love, fidelity; it values decency, loyalty, self-respect; it responds to the challenges to be what you should be, not all that you can be. Values shape a person's attitude, attitudes shape a person's actions, and actions shape a nation's future.

Marriage and the natural family is the divine plan to raise children in a safe and healthy environment with moral instruction. Such children are born and thrive, with lower rates of poverty, sexual activity, suicide rates, etc. and achieve better academic success.

Sanctity of Life is the bedrock of all human values and rights; abortion destroys the future. Faith-marriage-life are the moral principles that will ensure the successful future of our country.

The audience was most appreciative of the eleven slides presented by Dr. Crouse in her PowerPoint presentation of

family statistics from Canadian sources. The comparison and contrast between the US and Canada provided an overview of trends that is not available elsewhere in either the U.S. or Canada. The text of Janice's fine speech and thumbnails of her slides are on the CWA website: www.cwfa.org.

DEMOGRAPHIC WINTER: THE CRISIS OF DECLINING BIRTH RATES

A Talk by Don Feder, Director of Communications, World Congress of Families

Summary by Jill Cahoon, Board member from Alberta, REAL Women of Canada Board

Demographic Winter is related to the worldwide decline in birth rates. Humanity is failing to reproduce itself. When demographers discuss this, one number is crucial – 2.1. That's the number of children the average woman must have just to maintain current population.

Since 1970 – in less than 40 years – worldwide, birth rates have fallen by more than 50%. Back then, the average woman on this planet had 6 children. Today, that typical woman has 2.9. According to the United Nations Population Division, by the middle of this century, worldwide fertility will be below replacement.

Most of the developed world already has below-replacement birth rates. In the countries of the European Union, the average is 1.5. In Italy and Spain, it's 1.2. And in Russia, it's 1.17.

To put this in perspective, demographers tell us that with a birthrate of 1.3, a nation will lose half its population every 45 years.

Russia presents a sneak preview of this disaster movie in the making. As a result of a low birth rate, abortion (today, there are almost as many abortions in Russia as live births), and shorter life-spans, Russia is losing 750,000 people a year. Its current population of 143 million could fall to 77 million by 2050.

All over the world, there is a shortage of births. Worldwide, there are 6 million fewer children under 6 today than there were in 1990. Out of a total population of 6.5 billion, 6 million doesn't seem like that much. However, that's just the tremor of a coming earthquake. In Europe, the number of children under 5 has fallen by 36% since 1960. If present trends continue, by 2050, the earth will have 248 million fewer children under 5 than it does now.

Some contributing factors are: Abortion - 42 million a year world wide. Contraception - just under half the world population of childbearing age uses some form of contraception. Delayed marriage - after 35, it becomes progressively harder for a woman to have children. Divorce - and the uncertainty arising from the prospect of marital dissolution. The decline of marriage - and the rise of cohabitation. Or, most importantly, it is a culture that tells people that children are a burden rather than a joy, and that propagates an ego-driven, live-for-the-moment ethos.

The outcome of this Demographic Winter has dire implications for the future and we would encourage you to go to www.DemographicWinter.com and purchase a copy of the very informative DVD to share with family and friends.

HARM REDUCTION AND THE HIJACKING OF DRUG POLICY

A talk by Dr. Colin Mangham, Health Specialist

Summary by Lorraine MacNamara, Board Member, Oshawa, Ontario

With almost 30 years experience in the field, Dr. Colin Mangham is a respected authority in the field of substance abuse prevention. His credentials are impressive. He served as a faculty member in the faculty of Health Professions at Dalhousie University, conducted research in health promotion, both within the university and for Health Canada, and directed the provincial centre for resources in prevention for the province of British Columbia. He has also served as an Associate Child and Youth Officer for British Columbia, responsible for research issues.

Dr. Mangham has worked across the country to develop programs for schools and communities. Prior to 1990 he was hopeful of turning the corner on drug abuse. Funding to communities for prevention was beginning to work. Then came “harm reduction”. Harm reduction, he said, is an ideology whose underlying philosophy is nebulous: whatever a person thinks is all right. We do not tell anyone to stop using drugs but wait until that person is ready: no matter that the use of drugs hurts the addict, families and society! No matter, also, that assisting someone to use drugs is inconsistent with the law – the law must be changed! Harm reduction, particularly the use of injection sites, opens the door to the legalization of drugs.

When, at the request of the RCMP, Dr. Mangham reviewed various “studies” supporting the Vancouver Injection Site, he found that there was an intense bias on the part of the authors of those studies. No program or philosophy should be used exclusively, yet this appears to be the case when it comes to the issue of harm reduction. Euphemisms and half-truths fuel the agenda.

The facts do not support the claim that injection sites are a good thing. The Vancouver Insite has had no effect on the prevalence of HIV infections, has not curtailed public disorder, nor has there been any increase in entries to treatment programs. Only 5 percent of the addicts in this Vancouver area make use of the injection site. The present government in BC follows the advice of its civil servants, who are strong advocates of drug legalization. Not surprisingly, there has been little funding in BC for addiction prevention or treatment programs since Insite was established.

Dr. Mangham is concerned that appropriate treatment be provided to those who are tormented by drug addiction. His research has made it clear that injection sites have an adverse effect when an addict is simply enabled to continue on a perilous path, instead of encouraged to take the road to recovery.

THE EFFECT OF FEMINISM ON CANADIAN SOCIETY

A Talk by Barbara Kay, Columnist, National Post

Summary by Cecilia Forsyth, Western Vice-President, REAL Women of Canada

In introducing her talk, a critique of feminist ideology, Barbara Kay noted a shared belief with REAL Women that “many of our present social ills can be traced not only to the breakdown of the traditional family, but to a breakdown of respect for the idea of the traditional family, which in turn can be traced back to the feminist revolution.”

The feminists' zeal to redress alleged past imbalances has resulted in their regarding men as the collective enemy in a gender war. Kay called this phenomenon of targeting men with suspicion and resentment “misandry”. She described misandry as a gendered worldview where the negative aspects of manliness exhibited by a minority of men - sexual aggression, brutality and territoriality - are portrayed as the majority masculine characteristics.

Kay said, “Culturally, misandry is the most troubling fallout from the feminist revolution because it seeks to suppress the qualities of trust, the instinct for collaboration, protection, and mutual gratitude for the sacrifices and strengths of the other sex - that a healthy society demands.” She explained that once entrenched, prejudice is extremely difficult to uproot. Examples are found in governments funding feminist groups, women-friendly family law decisions, school curricula with men-bashing domestic violence material, social services for women but not for men, and of course, advertising and entertainment portraying women as competent, smart and attractive, while men are portrayed as crude, ineffectual and infantile.

Barbara Kay, rightly, called herself one of the few opinion columnists in the mainstream media who addresses the marginalization of men's rights and the denigration of their character. With only one side of the story dominating the public forum, society has become compliant in accepting these radical feminist revolution theories and speech.

Although calling the feminist revolution a spent force, Kay explained that the feminists have, nonetheless, “captured the culture” through the institutions. Today's family lawyers, governmental staff, judges, and family therapists were taught the feminist ideology that women are victims of a patriarchy.

According to Kay, domestic violence is the single most effective propaganda tool feminists have found for entrenching misandry in the general population. She said, “the truth is that domestic violence affects perhaps 7% of the population, is initiated in near-equal proportion by men and women and results in Canada in about 70 intimate partner deaths a year.” Noting that more women are killed than men, Kay explained that “the overall figure is nugatory in a country of 35 million, and clearly individual dysfunction accounts for all of it, and no possible generalization about the nature of one sex or the other can be drawn from it.” Unfortunately, authorities on domestic violence, who have arrived at this conclusion, are ignored.

Family Courts

Calling the family court the most illustrative example of the punitive character of feminist excesses, Kay said, “It is where misandry in its most open, cynical and pernicious form is found.”

She noted over 85% of contested custody suits end with mothers receiving sole custody over children, with the remaining 15% going to other family members, agencies and fathers. In fact, fathers receive sole custody about 7% of the time.

Kay explained, “Only an extreme systemic contempt for the value of a father’s role in the life of a child can explain such a disparity, and only an extreme prejudice against men in general can explain that contempt, and nobody pretends otherwise.” She continued, “ In totalitarian societies, some people are more equal than others, and in the totalitarian world of family court, it is mothers who are more equal than fathers.” Kay called “family court, a visible shame, the Berlin Wall, erected by feminism, that stands between men and their human rights. It must come down.”

Mrs. Kay concluded, “Every healthy individual knows that children want, and have a right to, the love of both their parents in equal measure. It is time – past time - to entrench this principle in law.”

THE SOCIAL CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT IN CANADA: STANDING ON GUARD FOR THEE

A talk by Michael Wagner, Author, “Standing on Guard for Thee”
Summary by Corry Morcos, President, Alberta Chapter, REAL Women of Canada

Mr. Wagner chronicled the most influential persons and movements in the last half-century in Canada, on the Conservative Right. Three were singled out.

The Reverend Ken Campbell, a Baptist evangelist from Toronto, became a crusading political activist. In 1974, he founded the first organization on the Christian right called Renaissance. He began by taking action against immoral activities in the public schools, which his children attended. His protests were also against immoral literature, homosexual activism and sex education. The Rev. Campbell’s effort led to the defeats of a Toronto mayoral candidate and a gay activist seeking a seat on the city council.

Ted Byfield is a Christian journalist who began publishing a weekly magazine in 1973 that eventually became known as the Alberta Report. This magazine would be the most significant print media voice for the social conservative perspective in Canada for over two decades. The magazine is widely seen as the central factor in the creation and support of provincial rights, Senate reform, and the Reform Party.

Gwen Landolt has been a visionary since the early 1970's, starting in the Right to Life movement after the Omnibus Criminal Code Bill was passed in 1969, which decriminalized abortion. Her concerns regarding the patriation of the Constitution and the passage of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982 have now been proven to be correct. At the time of the Charter debate, Gwen warned of possible judicial activism that would change the face of Canada.

After witnessing the rise of left wing feminism, which claimed to speak for "all the women of Canada", she knew it was time to bring together the voices of other Canadian women: REAL Women, Realistic, Equal, Active for Life, believing in

the sanctity of life. In 1983, REAL Women was formed on the foundation of Judeo-Christian values.

Copies of Mr. Wagner's book, *Standing On Guard for Thee*, can be obtained from our national office at the special price of \$35.00. Also available is the book, *The Natural Family*, by Dr. Allan Carlson (World Congress of Families) and Paul Mero, at an excellent price of \$25.00

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF A WONDERFUL LEGACY

REAL Women is very grateful for the generosity of one of our members who left a bequest to REAL Women in his will.

Because of his generosity, we were able to publish six new pamphlets this past year on current issues. These included:

Illegal Drug Use in Canada

Prostitution in Canada

Feminism in Canada, Its History and its Implications

Leaving a Legacy for Canadian Families

REAL Women of Canada – 25 Years and Still Going Strong

Strengthening Our Nation – Election 2008 pamphlet

The bequest also enabled us to expand our work at the UN on behalf of the family and life, in that we were able to attend UN meetings in both New York and Vienna this year.

Finally, the bequest also enabled us to purchase new computers for our National Office in Ottawa, which has enabled us to become much more efficient in our work.

The bequest has made a huge difference to us and our work, and for this, we are deeply grateful.

Please be assured that we are very careful with all our funds. Nothing is ever wasted and we never take on any project that we can't afford. Much of our work is carried out by our dedicated volunteers, which has enabled us to keep our expenses to a minimum.

Please consider remembering REAL Women in your will. It will serve as a lasting legacy to the traditional family and its values, which must continue if we are to become, once again, a principled, strong nation.