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JUSTIN TRUDEAU—THE ENTERTAINER

Handsome, charming and seemingly affable, Justin Trudeau has become a pleasant distraction from the concerns of the day

Ever since he was elected as Liberal Party leader in April, 2013, Justin Trudeau has been criss-crossing Canada entertaining the crowds. He speaks to any organization which requests his presence, including the Islamic Society of North America which endorses polygamy and supports Sharia law in Canada.

Justin Trudeau is the son and heir of a famous father, former Prime Minister, Pierre Elliott Trudeau. Handsome, charming and seemingly affable, Justin Trudeau has become a pleasant distraction from the concerns of the day: the economy, the national debt, unemployment, Syria, etc.

Mr. Trudeau's role, like that of other Canadian celebrities, such as hockey commentator, Don Cherry or CBC funny-man, Rick Mercer, seems to be to distract and amuse the public. He doesn't like to talk about the heavy stuff, such as the economy, foreign affairs, etc. He assures us, however, that such policies will come by the time the 2015 federal election rolls around. By then, he states he will



> This cartoon is illustrated by Brian Gable. It first appeared in The Globe and Mail on September 6, 2013.

have finished "consulting" Canadians in order to determine such policies. It is difficult to see how he can "consult" Canadians while, at the same time, entertaining them—but that is what he says.

There was an exception to his customary entertainment format, however, when he stated that his thinking on marijuana had "evolved" (he firmly rejected legalization of marijuana in 2009 and 2010) and has now come around to the view that marijuana should be "legalized". He seems a little hazy on the difference between legalizing and decriminalizing marijuana. To legalize it is to make it freely available without restrictions, but to decriminalize it means to regulate its use. Mr. Trudeau argues that he wants to "legalize marijuana" to keep it out of the hands of young people by way of regulations. This must mean, therefore, that he believes it should be "decriminalized". This confusion is even more perplexing when one considers that by either route, decriminalizing or legalizing marijuana, it would be guaranteed to make marijuana more available to young people (just like cigarettes are today). So, it is difficult to grasp the rationale behind Mr. Trudeau's newly formulated policy on marijuana.

Moreover, according to the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, the prevalence of marijuana use among youth is declining—32.7 per cent in 2008 and 25.1 per cent in 2010, reflecting mainly decreasing use among young women. It would be unfortunate if this downward trend were reversed if Mr. Trudeau's recommendations on

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marijuana were implemented.

When Mr. Trudeau made his statement on marijuana, the number of convictions for marijuana possession he cited was wildly inaccurate. One hopes when he announces his economic policies on time for the 2015 election that they will be based on more accurate data than his marijuana statistics.

Mr. Trudeau admitted that he had himself smoked marijuana while serving as an MP. Again, he seems a little hazy about the difference between making laws and breaking laws, in his capacity as an MP.

Mr. Trudeau, with all his charm, also seems to have stumbled once or twice when he tried to break away from his customary entertainment format. He commented on Senate reform in the French language newspaper, La Presse, on June 1, 2013.

We have 24 Senators from Quebec, there are just 6 from Alberta and 6 from British Columbia—that's to "our advantage".

"Our" advantage? Isn't the Liberal Party supposed to represent all Canadians? He had also stated on a Quebec TV Show in 2010, that Quebecers make better prime ministers than Albertans, whom, he stated, are "destroying the country's social fabric".

These statements are no more likely to endear Justin Trudeau to the west than his father's national energy policy did a number of years ago.

Mr. Trudeau and the official Opposition Leader, NDP Leader, Thomas Mulcair, both have their eyes firmly on Quebec, where they are fighting for their share of the booty of 78 Parliamentary seats, now available under redistribution. In this scramble for Quebec's approval, they have forgotten the western provinces, which have experienced this before when the elites of Montreal/Ottawa/Toronto shut them out for the supposed betterment of Canada.

To be fair to Mr. Trudeau, it may be that this was not

his intention. Perhaps he didn't realize that his comments made in French to a Quebec audience could be translated into English for the rest of Canada to read. Or, perhaps, he may just have a male form of the Kim Campbell disease. When Ms. Campbell opened her mouth to speak, she never realized the political fallout that her remarks might create.

Again, it is always possible that Mr. Trudeau's statements on marijuana were in fact a calculated attempt to garner the youth vote. It is uncertain, however, whether he is in fact resonating with them. During the Liberal leadership race last spring, Mr. Trudeau was supposed to be connecting with a new, younger generation of voters and thereby expanding the Liberal Party's base. An analysis of those registered to vote for that Leadership Convention, however, suggests he did not do so. Almost 60% of the registered voters were 50 years of age or older and almost half resided in Ontario. Only 8% of the registered voters were under 25 years of age, 13% were between 25 years and 34 years, and 19% were aged 35 to 49 years of age.

The difficulty in getting the youth onside may be, according to the Environics Research Groups on Social Values, the fact that young people today are strong on the "rejection of authority", and weak on the "duty" value. It is not surprising, therefore, that only 25% of Canadians between 18 and 29 years of age identify with any political party, while those 60 years or older do.

In the 2011 federal election, the "youth" vote (under 34 years of age) was 34%, whereas the national average was 61% of eligible voters.

Mr. Trudeau has to harness the elusive youth vote as well as get them out to the polls on election day in the 2015 election. This group of young people, however, is the most diverse, socially liberal, and world-connected generation in our history. It will not be easy, and his "evolved" policy on marijuana won't be enough to carry out this tricky job. ‡

THE GROWING INTOLERANCE TO RELIGION

Freedom of religion has always been the foundation of our constitutional rights. But now, "sexual rights" and the "right" not to be offended have been given priority.

Two worlds stand juxtaposed to one another. On the one hand, there is the modern "progressive" world where human rights are hailed as the highest value attainable. On the other hand, there is the traditional world. In this latter world, faith and tradition are seen as the glue that holds cultures and civilizations together. It is the dam that blocks

the dark forces of destruction in society. In the "progressive" world, man is held as the apex while in the traditional world, there are other higher values, such as God, faith, family and culture. This conflict is the reality of today's world.

To the "progressive" world, religion is a regressive concept which resists the establishment of an improved world. Consequently, the "progressives" wish to destroy religion by discrediting and marginalizing it so that it's no longer a factor in the formulation of public policy.

Homosexual activists appear to be in the forefront of the "progressive" attacks on religion as they regard it to be the major source of resistance to their objective of complete tolerance and acceptance of homosexuality.

When churches openly resist the demands of homosexual activists, they retaliate by intimidating and humiliating the churches and believers.

This is the pattern established by the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (Act Up), a homosexual activist organization in Western countries, including Canada.

- In 1989, this organization protested in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York by desecrating the church during the celebration of Mass by shouting obscenities, breaking statues and desecrating the Eucharist.
- In 2008, when Proposition 8 Referendum in California overturned the decision by the California Supreme Court to legalize same-sex marriage, homosexual activists attacked the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons), a strong promoter of family, which had given its heart, soul and finances to support the referendum.

Protests were staged at Mormon temples in California and in New York, and these churches vandalized. The Mormon Church was also charged with election violations, and its tax-exempt status was challenged by homosexual activists.

- A Christian Church in California, Calvary Chapel Chino Hills, was spray painted by vandals, after homosexuals learned that the church served as an official collection point for Proposition 8 petitions. A 69 year-old Christian woman, carrying a cross, was spat on and her cross stomped on in San Francisco. Also in San Francisco, a Christian group was swarmed by homosexual demonstrators, its members were thrown to the ground, had hot coffee thrown at them, were urinated on, and sexually attacked after the referendum. A Christian Church, Mount Hope Church in Lansing Michigan, was interrupted in the middle of its services by homosexuals, angry about the referendum results. The activists threw flyers and condoms at the congregants and placed an obscene banner over the pulpit.
- In August, 2013, members of Act Up vandalized the offices of the Lejeune Foundation in Paris. Jérôme Lejeune (1926–1994), a staunchly pro-life geneticist, who discovered the cause of Down syndrome, had established the Foundation to continue research in genetic disabilities. The Foundation recently opposed the legalization of same-sex marriage in France. Its offices, a medical space welcoming doctors and patients, were plastered with posters and the attendants at the Foundation were forced to walk among condoms and splatters of blood-red paint thrown against the walls, doors and windows.

In the Western world, advocacy for homosexuality has become totalitarian and tyrannical. It brooks no tolerance for any resistance to the prioritization of homosexuality over family and religious beliefs.

The number of attacks on religious beliefs in the Western world is now overwhelming, and too frequent to enumerate. Conscientious objectors, such as street pastors, are hauled away by police for objecting to homosexuality in accordance with the Scriptures. Those raising signs objecting to a gay pride parade are attacked by homosexual activists while police look benignly on and raise no objections to nudity and sexual posturing. Children are taught in our schools that homosexuality is, in every way, equal, if not preferable, to heterosexuality and that the transgendered are reasonable individuals, even though they are clearly living with troubled minds and illusions. Those in the wedding industry, such as photographers, florists, bakers, etc. are repeatedly ordered to provide services to same-sex couples, even though same-sex ceremonies are contrary to their conscience and religious belief. Criticism of homosexuality is considered "hatred", as demonstrated in the 2013 decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in the Whatcott case.

Freedom of religion has always been the foundation of our constitutional rights. But now, "sexual rights" and the "right" not to be offended have been given priority. This occurs even though the right to refuse service to same-sex couples creates for them a minor inconvenience as they can easily go elsewhere. It is far more serious when an individual in business is required to serve a same-sex couple when it violates a deeply held moral commitment and their personal identity.

Human rights exist to protect individuals because of their "immutable" (unchangeable) characteristics like skin colour, race, age, sex, etc. Sexual orientation, however, is a behaviour. The two are not comparable. However, this comparison is used as a tool by homosexual activists to paint anyone who opposes them as bigots or hateful, although this was not at all the reason for the refusal of the service.

In truth, the institutional vehicles of our entire culture, Parliament, the judiciary, universities, public schools, the media and arts, and entertainment purveyors, are increasingly populated and controlled by liberal elites and are intent on marginalizing and discriminating against those with conservative values. It is they who have pushed the homosexual rights forward to take precedence over religious rights. These elites will continue to push and push against the structures of society, developed over centuries and put in place to protect society from destruction. Essentially, socially conservative values have been shaped by Christian beliefs and behaviours. These values included accountability, responsibility, human dignity and empathy. These values are being destroyed today.

Religious belief serves to moderate mankind's behaviour to provide a sense of direction to care for the vulnerable, and to provide hope for the future. Without this firm basis in society, we face a bleak future. †

FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER JOHN BAIRD MISLED CANADIANS

Mr. John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs, has caricatured the Russian law on homosexuality as "antigay" and characterized it as "hateful, intolerant and meanspirited". Mr. Baird appears to have joined the international gay lobby to condemn the law without having actually read it. The gay lobby claims that the legislation makes it illegal to be a homosexual in Russia and that athletes suspected of being homosexuals will be arrested when they participate in the Winter Olympics at Sochi, Russia, in February, 2014. These allegations are baseless, and are being spouted by the international gay lobbyists in order to pressure Russia to revoke the law. The law, however, was not borne out of hostility towards persons with same-sex orientation. Rather, it was drafted with the intent of protecting the innocence and total well-being of children.

WHAT THE RUSSIAN LAW STATES

The law was an amendment to a previous law, passed in December, 2010, aimed at protecting children and family life in Russia. The law prohibits the propagation of any activity aimed at harming the psychological or physical wellbeing of minors and prohibits propaganda promoting alternative sexual lifestyles, and prohibits the promotion of the use of intoxicating drugs, alcohol, gambling and the use of offensive language.

The law is administrative, not criminal. (Russia decriminalized homosexuality in 1993); it does not permit any interference in the private lives of homosexuals or authorize the arbitrary detention or arrests of homosexuals as so loudly proclaimed by the gay lobbyists.

This law has been endorsed by II8 human rights organizations worldwide.



> This cartoon is illustrated by David Parkins. It first appeared in The Globe and Mail on April 15, 2013.

The Russian law has been posted on REAL Women's website www.realwomenofcanada.ca. Also posted on our website is the legal analysis of the law by Canadian, British and Slovakian lawyers. (The latter lawyer served two times as a Cabinet Minister, and Deputy Prime Minister of Slovakia).

REASON FOR THE LAW

This law is in accordance with other recent initiatives taken by the Russian government to protect the family, which is in deep crisis. About a third of Russian children are born out of wedlock; more than half of marriages fail; alcoholism is rampant; Russia has the highest rate of abortion in the world (officially, over one million abortions each year). More than two million children are "civil orphans", living adrift from their families.

Russia has passed this most recent legislation because Russian leaders are deeply concerned about the demographic winter in Russia. In recent years, Russia is burying more citizens than are being born. President Vladimir Putin has stated, "Without exaggeration, the central problem of contemporary Russia is demography, strengthening the family, [and] increasing the birth rate". Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has stated, "The overall decline in population, reducing its density to the parameters of almost three times less than the global average would result in weakening of political, economic and military influence of Russia in the world, and the possibility of additional claims to the territory of Russia".

Among Russia's concerns are the vast numbers of Chinese on its south-eastern border, and its unsettled southern borders, where many of Russia's former satellite countries are located.

Today, the only real source for Russia to sustain itself economically is its oil exports. Russia is in need of a larger population to sustain itself economically by way of taxation and increased productivity. Hard-headed pragmatism was required. Although REAL Women does not support all of Russia's decisions, we do support its family initiatives.

The abortion law in Russia was restricted last year for the first time since the fall of communism. More such abortion legislation is expected this fall. Pregnancy centres have been established in every major centre in Russia, and generous funding is provided to pregnant women (single and married), both prior to and subsequent to giving birth. The President of the pro-life movement in Russia is Svetlana Medvedeva, wife of the Prime Minister.

In June, 2011, Russia held its first Demographic Summit at the Russian State Social University, attended by more than 500 demographers, economists, sociologists, religious figures and societal leaders, such as Vladimir Yakunin head of Russia's National Railways. During the discussions, it was

agreed that the breakdown of the family in Russia is a large contributing factor to the current demographic problem.

The World Congress of Families will be meeting in the Kremlin in September, 2014. The conference is called "Large Families—Future of Humanity".

Not everyone will agree with the Russian solutions to its

very serious societal problems. However, the amendment to this law and other family initiatives are directed at protecting children and restoring family life in Russia. This is contrary to the prevailing characterization of these initiatives as being anti-gay. The latter is both a misleading and inaccurate assessment of the situation. ‡

LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA—A DOPEY IDEA



It seems that the latest fad promoted by the mainstream media is the legalization of marijuana.

It's a dopey idea. The argument being put forward is that legalization would lead Canada into a green paradise. It

would put an end to the supposed "war on drugs" (which doesn't exist) as there would be left only legal prohibitions against other supposedly more harmful drugs: Legalization of marijuana would apparently, stop the violence, empty our prisons, and provide, by way of taxation, much needed government revenue.

Thanks to a well-funded and impressively executed, decades-long campaign to normalize marijuana use, much of the public incorrectly believes that marijuana is harmless. The media have created this myth by carefully ignoring a growing body of scientific evidence on the negative effects of marijuana.

It is a fact that 9% of all marijuana users become addicted and this figure increases to 16% when use begins in the teen years. There is a direct relationship between marijuana use and academic failure and drop-out from both high school and university. Heavy marijuana use in the teenage years is associated with an eight point loss in IQ. Two-thirds of teens who have used marijuana and more than three-quarters of teenage heavy marijuana users admit that the legalization of marijuana would make them more likely to use it.

Also, marijuana is a gateway drug. There is virtually no one who is on cocaine or heroin who didn't start with marijuana.

According to the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) (April, 2013):

Frequent cannabis users are at increased risk for psychosis and psychotic symptoms. ... Cannabis smoke contains a mixture of poisons that are similar to tobacco smoke, and THC—the active ingredient in cannabis—may make the lungs and airways more susceptible to respiratory problems.

The main concern for CCSA is that "research suggests smoking cannabis may be even more harmful to a person's airways and lungs than smoking tobacco since cannabis smoking often involves unfiltered smoke, larger puffs, deeper inhalation and longer breath-holding".

Smoked marijuana has never been proven to be medically

beneficial. Marijuana smoke is a crude THC (the psychoactive ingredient) delivery system that sends over 400 chemical substances into the body. This increases the risk of heart attacks, strokes, and damage to the respiratory system and brain.

Puff for puff, the amount of tar inhaled and the level of carbon monoxide absorbed by those who smoke marijuana, regardless of the THC content, are three to five times greater than that of tobacco smokers. According to the British Lung Foundation (BLF), "smoking three or four marijuana joints is as bad for your lungs as smoking twenty tobacco cigarettes".

It is clear that legalization will increase marijuana use, because it will make it more widely accessible. This means that health care providers will be encountering a substantial increase in the number of patients who require medical care because of the effects of marijuana.

It is pointless to argue that legalizing marijuana will increase tax revenues since health care and social costs will offset any revenue. It will also cause a serious loss of production in the workplace. As well, there will be increased costs for police intervention required because of marijuana induced traffic accidents and other such impaired behaviour.

Also, if marijuana is legalized, it will create the entry of big business into marijuana production and sales, which will create powerful economic interests. This will mirror the current status of alcohol and tobacco advertising and sales in Canada. Current tobacco production could easily be adapted to marijuana production and criminal gangs and cartels will only increase due to the profits that can be made from the easier access to marijuana. Tobacco companies have long examined a two-prong strategy whereby marijuana cigarettes could be sold in the drug's pure form as well as in a tobacco-marijuana blend, which will enormously increase the companies' profits.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police recently passed a proposal that the police be given the option of a fine for those caught with 30 grams of marijuana or less. Fining those for possession, however, would not be a large revenue generator for the government. The issue, then, is what would be the <u>effect</u> of ticketing marijuana possession in contrast to the present system of laying a complaint, requiring a court appearance, and perhaps establishing a crim-

inal record if found guilty? That is, what would be the effect of making possession of marijuana a civil offence rather than a criminal offence?

It all depends on how seriously we regard the illegal possession of marijuana. To issue a ticket for possession the same way a traffic ticket is issued for exceeding the speed limit, for example, is to turn marijuana possession into a minor offense only. It would not serve as much of a deterrent.

This is clearly what promoters of marijuana are seeking: to downgrade its use to become an inconvenience or nuisance,

and thereby make its use more acceptable and prevalent.

Do we, as a society, think marijuana use is harmful? If the consensus is yes (based on scientific evidence) then the possession and use of marijuana should be taken seriously as a criminal offence, with all its implications including a criminal record. If, on the other hand, we regard marijuana use as another way of relaxation, similar to the use of tobacco and alcohol, then ticketing is acceptable.

The key, then, is: how harmful is marijuana? The answer is, very harmful. ‡

CRTC AND SUN NEWS



In April, 2013, Sun News Network ("SNN") a conservative channel, applied to the Canadian Radio-Television Telecommunications Commission

(CRTC) to provide it with "mandatory carriage". That is, it requested that all cable companies be required to include the Sun Channel in its packages offered to the public as it had done when CTV and CBC started up their own cable news channel.

On August 9, 2013 the CRTC handed down its decision. Although it denied Sun News "mandatory carriage" it did provide another opportunity for SNN to remain on the air.

The CRTC Chairman, Jean-Pierre Blais stated:

"Television news channels provide an important public service by ensuring that Canadians are exposed to different opinions and perspectives on matters that concern all citizens. We are concerned that, under the existing rules, Canadian news services are not being given a pride of place in our broadcasting system."

Further he stated:

"The diversity of voices is an essential component of our society particularly as they relate to news and information in the Canadian broadcasting system." "Television news channels provide an important public service by ensuring that Canadians are exposed to different opinions and perspectives on matters that concern all citizens. We are concerned that, under the existing rules, Canadian news services are not being given a pride of place in our broadcasting system."

The Commission concluded that it would like to solve the problem by forcing every cable and satellite operator in the country to carry <u>all</u> news channels grouped together close on the dial. That is, the proposal will require that competing news channels be situated together on the dial, and viewers can choose and pay for what channel they want to watch. Currently, SNN is located very high on the dial where few can find it. The news channels to be offered would be in either a package, or a stand-alone subscription. It is apparent from this decision that the CRTC is moving away from "mandatory carriage" and shifting towards a television system that allows consumers' own choice.

The Commission had asked for public comments until September 9, 2013, and hopes to issue a ruling on this new proposal by the end of the year.

SNN has responded to this new plan with cautious optimism and promised to continue broadcasting for the time being, at least until the final decision by CRTC in December.

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