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THE SUFFOCATION OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN CANADA

Conservative Senator Lynn Beyak was suspended from the Senate for approximately three months, without pay, because she posted five controversial letters, received from the public, on her website, relating to indigenous matters. This suspension of Senator Beyak indicates that the walls are closing in on freedom of speech in Canada.

That is, Canadians are no longer able to freely speak on such topics as abortion, homosexuality, transgenderism, indigenous affairs, feminism, immigration or climate change. Should Canadians deviate from the politically correct narrative of these issues, they are silenced and labeled as anti-women, homophobic, transphobic, hateful, racist, deniers, and are then, in some cases, subject to punishment by the state.

There is a vital difference between legitimate dissent, by speaking out according to one's beliefs, and the incitement of hatred. This fine line appears to have been crossed in Canada by the labelling of some politically incorrect comments as "hatred".

The suspension of Senator Beyak was based on complaints made by four senators, who are all so-called "independent" senators. They were all appointed to the Senate by Justin Trudeau on the same day, March 18, 2016. It appears that their complaints were not spontaneous, but were well co-ordinated: the complaints were all made in a matter of a few weeks in January, 2019. These senators may be called "independent", but they are operating under identical marching orders. The complaints against Senator Beyak were made by Senators Frances Lankin, Andre Pratte, Raymonde Gagne and Ratna Omidvar.

Significantly, the first aboriginal person appointed in 2005, to the Senate, Lillian Dyck, by then Liberal Prime Minister Paul Martin—she is the current Chair of the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples—does not support the expulsion of Senator Beyak from the Senate. Senator Dyck only believes that Senator Beyak should feel some sort of remorse, and apologize for posting the controversial letters, but should not be suspended.

The Senate's Ethics Officer, who investigated these orchestrated complaints, concluded that the controversial letters posted by Senator Beyak on her website were "racist". However, he has included, in Appendix A of his

report, these same controversial letters, in their entirety, on his website. Should he not also apologize and express remorse for doing so? Can one conclude from all this that the letters were not the real issue?

Perhaps the real issue is that Senator Beyak raised serious questions about Canada's indigenous policies, for which there is abundant evidence that they are not helpful to indigenous communities.

Moreover, it is part of the legal responsibility of senators to raise issues brought to their attention by the Canadian public. For this, Senator Beyak was inexplicably expelled from the Senate.

The shutting down of debate on controversial issues, such as indigenous matters, does not solve problems. Free speech, which should include input from the public, is necessary in a democracy in order to formulate successful policies.

REAL Women has sent a letter to every senator objecting to the unreasonable suspension of Senator Beyak. Please also write to the senators, objecting to the expulsion of Senator Beyak, who has been denied her freedom of speech, a legal right, set out in Section 2 of the Charter. The senators' names and addresses can be obtained here.

If you do not have access to a computer, please let us know and we will forward to you the names and addresses of the senators. No postage is required on your letters to them.

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FAREWELL LETTIE PRESIDENT OF REAL WOMEN 1988–1990

On April 14, 2019, Lettie (Violet) Morse passed away at the age of 98. REAL Women is deeply saddened by her death. She was President of REAL Women of Canada from 1988–1990.

Lettie and her husband, Allan, who died in 2009, made an enormous contribution to REAL Women. They established the national office in Ottawa and worked tirelessly to lay the many-faceted foundations of REAL Women of Canada. In those early years, they managed all REAL Women's correspondence, membership and finances. Their work and dedication established REAL

Women as the vibrant, national voice for the family and for life. We can never thank them enough for their great contribution. Even at 98 years of age, Lettie preserved her great interest in political matters. She continued to follow the work of REAL Women, writing letters to elected officials and the media as requested. She was the mother of eight children (one deceased), grandmother to 27 grand-children and great-grandmother to 29.

Lettie is an inspiration, for her life-long involvement in the pro-life movement and many other charities. May she Rest in Peace after a long, productive life. She has been a role model for us all. †

ORGAN DONATION IS A COMPLEX ISSUE

The vast majority of Canadians agree that organ donation is a good idea, and are willing to help others in this regard. However, only about 20% of individuals actually sign up to be organ donors. As a result, Canada has one of the lowest organ donation rates in the developed world.

One of the reasons for the low donor rate is that such donations are not a simple matter. There are religious and ethical objections to this practice. Also, whether correct or not, there is in some cases, a distrust of the medical establishment. Some fear that if they are brought into a hospital emergency room and if there is a patient who needs an organ transplant at that time, they may find themselves to be considered a whole lot deader than they expected. This fear has been greatly increased in recent years with physicians' participation in abortion and assisted suicide procedures, which indicates that the sanctity of life isn't always uppermost in some physicians' minds while attending to their patients.

The province of Nova Scotia has decided to get around the problem of the low organ donor rate by introducing legislation, on April 12, 2019, that provides for those over 19 years of age to be regarded as automatic organ donors unless they indicate otherwise. The Nova Scotia legislation providing for presumed consent for organ donation is the first of its kind in North America.

Although the idea behind the presumption of consent is to increase the number of donors available, which is positive, it does raise some troubling moral and ethical problems. For example, it is a significant intrusion into people's bodily integrity and intent. The decision to donate organs should be made <u>consciously</u>, rather than by having the state play the role of decision maker for the patient. In effect, by this automatic donation of organs, individuals relinquish their bodies to the government's disposition by default, providing they have not specifically raised objections to it, since the

government is taking their body parts to distribute to others. Looked at from this perspective, taking organs by way of a presumed consent is a dehumanizing, utilitarian policy.

ORGAN REMOVAL WITH PRESUMED CONSENT DOES NOT ALWAYS ACHIEVE MORE DONATIONS

There is evidence that the automatic removal of body parts, under presumed consent, does not automatically increase the number of organ donations. Luxemburg, Sweden, and Bulgaria, for example, have presumed consent laws, similar to the one in Nova Scotia, but their donation rates are even lower than that of Canada. This may be due to the fact that the patient's family may refuse the donation. In any civilized society, it is not acceptable to ignore the wishes of family members, especially in regard to the sensitive issue of organ donation. A decision by the family creates a layer of uncertainty and confusion which results in a reduction in the number of donated organs.

ORGAN REMOVAL AND ASSISTED SUICIDE

The problem of organ harvesting also raises concern in cases of assisted suicide, which adds another wrinkle to organ donations. The problem is that the organs need to be harvested quickly after the patient dies: the less stress the organs undergo, the better their condition for transplant. This need for "fresh" organs has led to the invention of the concept of "brain death." "Brain death" is not a true natural death, but rather a medicolegal construct for the main purpose of removing organs from deeply comatose, but still living patients.

The "brain death" interpretation can lead to pressure on families of such patients to give consent to remove the organs—pressure that family doesn't need at such a difficult time.

Further, individuals who donate their organs after assisted

suicide must undergo uncomfortable and inconvenient medical tests to see if their organs and tissues are viable for transplant. Such patients also have to be in a transplant capable hospital, close to an operating room, with a waiting medical team to remove the organ once death is declared. This

process does not leave much time for the patient to ensure friends and family are provided with fond memories of the "event". It is reduced to a quick, efficient medical procedure—not a meaningful, gentle ending to a life as depicted by the Death with Dignity organization. †

A SILVER LINING IN ALL THE CHAOS

It seems that we are living in an age of tumult and chaos. Unfortunate situations seem to be occurring all around us. As a result, we are unable to see that a silver lining is also present.

For example; we hear so much about assisted suicide. However, the American Medical Association (AMA) in 2018 voted 392 to 162 to oppose assisted suicide. The AMA delegates concluded that assisted suicide, whereby the physician kills his patient, is incompatible with the physician's role, which is to heal the patient.

Since 2011, US lawmakers have passed a record 479 abortion restrictions in 33 states. According to the Guttmacher Institute (the former research arm of Planned Parenthood), the US has passed 1271 pro-life laws since 1973, when the US Supreme Court ruled in support of abortion in Roe vs Wade.

These restrictions have resulted in abortions in the US falling to an all-time low in 2018, down 26% since 2006.

In addition, a Gallup Poll, released in June 2019, found that 60% of Americans take a pro-life position on abortion, wanting all (21%) or almost all (30%) abortions to be made illegal.

A poll, in 2019, by Marist Poll, indicates that the US experienced the biggest pro-life shift in history. Americans shifted to a pro-life position by a 17% margin in one month, after the Democratic Party defended abortions up to birth.

In Canada, there is a growing, noticeable unrest about the lack of restrictions on abortion since the abortion law was struck down by the Supreme Court of Canada in January, 1988.

The abortion issue is rising again and again in the mainstream media, despite every attempt to stifle this debate. The fiasco of the federal government's Summer Jobs Program in 2017 and 2018 is testimony to the fact that

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abortion is a live issue here, when thousands declined to sign Trudeau's abortion attestation requirement. There are still grave problems remaining with this ideological purity test, in spite of Trudeau's claims that he adjusted the attestation provision because of the public's refusal to accept it

Homosexuals pretend that they are winning the debate on same-sex marriage. The reality is that it is permissible in Western Europe only. Italy and Switzerland do not allow same-sex unions, nor any country in Central and Eastern Europe. In Africa, only South Africa allows same-sex marriage. In the Americas, only 7 countries allow same-sex marriage, of which, unfortunately, Canada is one! It is to be noted, that in most of the jurisdictions that allow same-sex marriages, this came about by way of the courts, not by the will of the people. •

MESSAGE BOARD

- Action Item: Please write the Canadian Senators to object to the expulsion of Senator Beyak as explained in the article in this REALity issue: <u>"The Suffocation of Freedom of Speech in Canada"</u>.
- Action Item: If you live in a province that has enacted "Abortion Bubble Zone" legislation, please write to your premier and attorney general asking them to repeal it. If you live in a province that has not yet passed this legislation, please write to your premier and attorney general to ask them to refrain from doing so. Refer to the article in this REALity issue: "REAL Women's Resolutions-2019 Annual General Meeting".
- Donations much needed: We are ever so grateful to all our grassroots supporters who keep REAL Women in operation from day to day. Rent, insurance, office expenses and staffing costs take a huge chunk out of our limited resources. The summer months tend to be lean ones for donations, although our expenses never take vacations. Please try to <u>send us</u> a little extra "something" this summer. Thank you so very much.
- Social Media: Please share our <u>REALity articles and Media Releases/Alerts</u> on your Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms. Please share our <u>Crowdfunding link</u> on your social media as well. Don't forget to LIKE our Facebook page.

TANYA GRANIC ALLEN, GUEST SPEAKER AT THE AGM

BY CATHY SMITH, ALBERTA REAL WOMEN BOARD MEMBER

On June 8, 2019, REAL Women of Canada hosted its AGM at the Liberty Suites Hotel in Toronto. With an attendance of new and old members, we were enthralled with the presentation given by Tanya Granic Allen.

I first became aware of our guest speaker when I read an email on the Ontario-based PAFE (Parents as First Educators) several years ago. They were concerned about parental rights and the sex-ed curriculum of Kathleen Wynne, the then premier of the province of Ontario.

Tanya is the President of PAFE and continues to keep the issue of Ontario's sex-ed curriculum in the news.

In fact, as she highlighted to all those in attendance, she was successful in her nomination bid as a candidate for Mississauga for the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario and then decided she needed to run for the leadership of the Party to keep the sex-ed curriculum issue at the top of the news throughout the campaign. It was truly inspiring to see her in the debates as she challenged the other candidates, notably Caroline Mulroney, Christine Elliott and Doug Ford, on where they stood in relation to parental rights and the sexed curriculum and their voting records on this issue.

She demonstrated to our members present that she has strong leadership skills and that she is well versed on a variety of issues, not just education.

During the Conservative leadership campaign, Tanya's strong base of support was later transferred to Doug Ford which enabled him to win the election for leadership She continues to soldier on speaking out on the promise Premier Doug Ford made and has not fulfilled regarding the sexed curriculum. The curriculum has not been repealed as promised by Mr. Ford.

In spite of Article 26.3 of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that parents have the right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children, parent rights are slowly being eroded by

the interference of the state. As an example, Scotland has now assigned a "named person" from the state to look after one's child. This Named Person will have power to access confidential data on the family, and to talk to a child without their parents agreeing with what they say.

Tanya explained that Canada has become an authoritarian state, interfering with parental rights. For example, Ontario Bill 28, "All Families are Equal Act", passed in December 2016, redefined the family such that there can be no more reference to "mother" or "father". The family becomes a contractual arrangement where up to four persons are identified as parents.

The child has now become a commodity like "Thing 1" and "Thing 2" in the world of Dr. Seuss.

This ideology is counter to natural law.

Ontario Bill 77, the Transgender Therapy Bill, passed in 2015, prevents therapy for children who are gender confused ("Gender dysphoria").

Ontario Bill 89, Supporting Children, Youth and Families Act, which passed in 2017, amended the Child and Family Services Act. (The NDP in Alberta did something similar.) This new legislation signals a potential shift towards greater readiness for children's aid societies to intervene in family affairs, including cases where the parents do not agree with their child's expressed "gender identity".

Tanya discussed the impending Ontario Bill 84, prohibiting hate-promoting demonstrations at Queen's Park in Toronto. The Bill has passed second reading and is now at the Standing Committee stage.

People need to start pushing back on this abuse of their rights. For 36 years, REAL Women of Canada has been using its voice and speaking out about these abuses and warning about many of these issues which have now become reality.

As Tanya reminded us, Dr. Jordan Petersen says "Use your voice or lose it."

"The cost of not speaking up is far worse than speaking up". •

REAL WOMEN'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS OF 2019

At REAL Women's 2019 AGM, two very important resolutions were passed, which reflect problems that must be dealt with by Canadians if we are to live in a true democracy.

1. THE CRIPPLING OF PARLIAMENT

The first resolution dealt with the crippling of Parliament due to it denying the public the right to participate in any debate on legislation that takes place there. That is, Parliament is no longer a forum for public debate but, instead, has become a forum for political leaders to promote their own agenda for the advancement of their respective parties.

This situation has developed over the years, starting with Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, who centralized power in the Prime Minister's office, excluding even his cabinet ministers from participating in the forming of public policy. Only the Prime Minister, his appointed, paid staff and senior bureaucrats now make public policy decisions in Canada. This flawed system has continued under successive prime ministers, both Liberal and Conservative. They enjoy this absolute power and will not willingly relinquish it.

REAL Women has written to every MP of all parties expressing our concerns about this grave problem and

assault on our democracy.

MPs are now reduced to being obedient, compliant and docile tools for the advantage of the political parties.

Supposedly elected to represent the public, MPs are prohibited from deviating from their party's policies without causing permanent damage to their political careers. Their role today is only to vote as directed by their party's elite, never according to their conscience or the views of their constituents.

This results in public policy developed for the benefit of the political parties rather than for the benefit of the public.

The flawed practices now carried out in Parliament, which cut the public out of the loop, were detailed in REAL Women's 2019 resolution:

REAL WOMEN OF CANADA RESOLUTION 2019 PARLIAMENTARY REFORM TO RESTORE THE INDEPENDENCE OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS Canada's constitutional order is founded upon the consent of the governed through Responsible Government; and

WHEREAS "responsible government" is a system based upon the principle of Parliamentary accountability, which means that: (1) government is accountable to the people and, therefore, derives its legitimacy from the consent of the people; (2) the executive (Prime Minister and Cabinet and their respective departments) are accountable to the people through Parliament; and (3) the courts, as part of government, although independent of government, are, nevertheless, accountable to Parliament; and

WHEREAS Canada's constitutional order has been gravely undermined by Parliamentary practices that transfer the responsibilities of Members of Parliament, including Ministers, to the political party leaders and the bureaucracy, resulting in the loss of accountable government and influence by the public in the formation of policies and laws; and

WHEREAS the party leaders approve of nominated candidates, despite the views of the local riding association; and

WHEREAS Members of Parliament are denied the right to vote according to their conscience or represent the views of their constituents, but are required to vote according to the direction of their party; and

WHEREAS the use of omnibus bills, which, by their nature, are large and complex pieces of legislation, that undermine and avoid the application of the normal principles and procedures of parliamentary review of legislation by restricting clause-by-clause review in Parliament's Standing Committees and debate in the House of Commons; and

WHEREAS according to the House of Commons Standing Orders, which govern the operation of the House of Commons, the governing party's house leader chooses the chairman of each Committee, denying Members of that Committee from participation in the selection process; and

WHEREAS the Speaker of the House of Commons, who formerly had the responsibility during Question Period of recognizing Members of Parliament to speak on topics of their choosing, is now required to accept a list of speakers provided by party house whips on matters chosen by the party; and

WHEREAS Members of Parliament are provided few opportunities to speak in the House of Commons on matters of concern to their constituents, which has severely diminished the public's right to be heard in Parliament; and

WHEREAS there has been a consistent and continuing centralization of privileges and power in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Privy Council Office (PCO), which has resulted in the weakening of Parliament's privileges, oversight of the Executive, and the loss of ministerial responsibility; and

WHEREAS these Parliamentary changes have led to laws being passed without the meaningful consent of the public, and in contravention of the principles of responsible government;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Parliamentary reform be undertaken immediately to restore the independence of Members of Parliament in order to establish accountable, responsible government.

2. ABORTION BUBBLE ZONE LEGISLATION

The Provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec and Newfoundland/Labrador have passed legislation protecting the operation of abortion facilities. This legislation includes prohibiting anyone from coming within 50 metres of their facility, prohibiting anyone from approaching a woman accessing the abortion facility services, and prohibiting anyone from providing any information to a woman on alternatives to abortion or on the support systems available to assist her during and after her pregnancy. The Province of Manitoba, however, thankfully rejected this legislation in 2019.

This controversial legislation was passed due to complaints made by abortion clinic owners and their staff, without any supporting corroborative police evidence. The purpose of the legislation is to protect the abortion industry to permit it to continue earning profits received from vulnerable women, even though it does not provide such women with impartial or factual information, but, instead, persuades them to undertake an abortion for the clinic's financial benefit.

This legislation has been passed on the incorrect assumption that a woman walking into an abortion facility has already made up her mind to have the abortion, and is doing so freely and should not be prevented from doing so. Many pregnant women, however, are depressed and isolated and are not aware of humane alternatives and support services that are available to them in their situation. Pregnant and distressed women are entitled to care, support and information relating to their situation, including choices to resolve their problem. They should not be steamrolled by abortion clinics and pressured by family, friends, and the father of their child into undergoing the abortion by being denied full knowledge of the procedure and its alternatives. Such a situation prevents many women from giving a valid consent.

REAL Women has written to every provincial premier and attorneys general advising them of the problems that arise from bubble zone legislation. We requested that the five provinces that have passed the legislation, repeal it, and we have requested that those provinces which do not have such legislation, refrain from doing so in the future.

The resolution on abortion bubble zone legislation passed at REAL Women's AGM in June is as follows:

REAL WOMEN OF CANADA RESOLUTION 2019 ABORTION BUBBLE ZONE LEGISLATION

WHEREAS the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec and Newfoundland-Labrador have passed legislation protecting abortion facilities under Abortion Bubble Zone legislation; and

WHEREAS the Abortion Bubble Zone laws prevent anyone from coming within 50 metres of abortion facilities, from approaching a woman accessing the abortion facility services or providing any information to the woman on alternatives to abortion and the support systems available to assist her during and after her pregnancy; and

WHEREAS this law prohibits the public from enjoying their fundamental rights under the Charter of Rights, to the freedoms of speech, conscience, belief, and religion; and

WHEREAS the Abortion Bubble Zone legislation was passed due to complaints made by clinic owners and staff of abortion facilities without supporting corroborative police evidence; and

WHEREAS a peer review study, published in the medical journal <u>Canadian Family Physician</u>¹, authorized by the abortion industry found that, even in circumstances where picketing has occurred, there was no interference, no complaints, vandalism or reports of threatening emails or telephone calls to or received by the abortion facilities; and



Editorial Cartoon from The Globe and Mail on October 30, 2014 by Brian Gable.

WHEREAS the purpose of the Abortion bubble zone legislation is to protect the abortion industry to allow it to continue earning profits received from vulnerable women, even though it does not provide such women with impartial or factual information, but, instead, persuades them to undertake an abortion for the clinic's financial benefit; and

WHEREAS a study published in the <u>Journal of American</u> <u>Physicians and Surgeons</u>, in 2017², found that 73.8% of postabortive women admitted they were pressured to terminate their pregnancies; and

WHEREAS a poll published in Canada, in May, 2019, carried out by <u>Public Square Research</u>, indicated that 92% of Canadians want pregnant women to receive assistance when they are pressured to have an abortion; and

Whereas many of these pregnant women are depressed and isolated and are not aware of humane alternatives and support services that are available to them; and

WHEREAS pregnant and distressed women are entitled to care and support and information, including choices to resolve their problem, and not be steamrolled by clinics and pressured by family, friends, and the fathers of their child to undergo the abortion; and

WHEREAS the Abortion Bubble Zone legislation is corrupt and immoral;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Abortion Bubble Zone legislation in the Provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec and Newfoundland-Labrador be repealed and no further abortion bubble zone legislation be enacted in Canada.

ENDNOTES

- 1. Canadian Family Physician, 2016; 62; e209-217
- 2. <u>Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons</u>, Volume 22, November 4, Winter 2017

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