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## THE FAMILY

***"This unique time has also given us an opportunity to strengthen our family bonds and to examine why families are important, regardless of our circumstance."***

In these trying days of COVID-19, our busy schedules have been set aside. We are required to stay at home with our families, which have now become the very front and centre of our lives, since they are providing the human contact and comfort that we need. This unique time has also given us an opportunity to strengthen our family bonds and to examine why families are important, regardless of our circumstance.

### CARE OF THE ELDERLY

Many elderly family members are in long-term care residences, some of which are unable to cope with the current disaster. More than half of the deaths from the virus have occurred in these residences. This is very troubling.

Separation from the family unit, by parents living in retirement communities, is a concept which hasn't been around for very long. It exists for a number of reasons, including our understanding of the aged. We may have lost respect for old age, which is no longer associated with leadership, experience, and wisdom. Instead, the aged, in many cases, have been reduced to merely being a burden on families. This notion is reflected in the Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ), March 2020 issue, which included an article by James Downer, the former chair of the Dying with Dignity Physician Advisory Committee, who recommends a new protocol that would lead to anyone with disabilities and the aged being denied ventilation and other healthcare, regardless of disease status, because of resource scarcity.

It is a fact, unfortunately, that our long working hours and busy lives have made it difficult for us to care for elderly family members. Also, many of the aged require the kind of advanced care and support that the family does not have the expertise or resources to provide.

Our current long-term care system heavily relies on stressed personal support workers (PSWs) who are not medically trained and start at a pay of only $15 an hour, despite the difficulty and sensitivity of their work. Because of a lack of funding, PSWs must work without both sufficient medical supervision and sufficient protective equipment, combined with limited training in how to use the equipment. In short, the long-term care sector is overstretched and underfunded. It was ill-prepared for the coronavirus and will be, as well, for the surge of Boomers who will soon be admitted to their premises.

### WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE FAMILY

No family is perfect because we ourselves are not perfect. We all make mistakes when raising our children. As parents and grandparents, we are also painfully aware that some members of our families do not live according to our values and standards. Yet, we care for them.

There are certain aspects about the family, however, that can assist us in navigating the joyous, but sometimes treacherous, road of family life. The family has been diligently studied over the years and from these studies, we have learned some facts that can no longer be contested.

### Children Flourish and Thrive With Their Own Parents

Some single-parent families have raised wonderful children, but this is much harder than raising a child in a home with married parents. For one thing, marriage is a defense against poverty. Those who graduate from high school, start working, get married, and have children in that order are less likely than others to fall into poverty. This formula, known as the "success formula", is key to financial and general life success. Children living with married parents are more likely to continue with their education, stay away from crime, and avoid drug and alcohol abuse. They have better health. Interestingly, according to a study published in *Health Affairs* 38,5 (2019), pages 729–737, children raised at home by their biological parents have greater resilience later in life. This is because they are better at completing tasks, have the capacity to regulate their emotions, and have developed curiosity

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and self-confidence to learn new things. These characteristics provide them with the tools needed to respond to problems that will inevitably occur in their lives.

### Fathers Are Important

At one time, it was believed that the flourishing of children was centered on the love and warmth of the mother. However, we have now learned that the father has a critical role to play in children's lives. The increasing occurrence of adolescents carrying out ruthless shootings and increased use of knives in attacking others has been associated, in large part, to young men being raised in fatherless homes. The horrific mass shooting of 22 victims in Nova Scotia in April 2020 was carried out by Gabriel Wortman, who exactly fit the profile of mass shooters in the U.S. That is, he was white, male and his father was absent for most of his life. When adolescents do not have a father figure in their lives, drug dealers and exploiters become their role models. As a result, these children are deprived of the self-affirmation, affection, and discipline of a father and so are more prone to crime. These youths turn to gangs to fill this missing gap in their lives. It is also a fact that such children are more anxious, insecure, and needy, which makes them more vulnerable to the harmful aspects of today's culture. The father's influence not only extends to his children's behaviour while growing up, but also can affect their later life in regard to drinking to excess, taking drugs, or suffering mental health problems. None of this is exclusive to any one race or community, as all children need both their mothers and fathers to help them avoid the pitfalls of life.

### Common-Law Relationships

According to Statistics Canada data taken from the last census, 56% of adults aged 25–64 are married, whereas about 15% are living common-law. The proportion of Canadians living common-law has more than tripled since the early 1980s.

Data on separated and divorced individuals from Statistics Canada's *General Social Survey*, published in 2017, shows that 74% of common-law relationships ended within seven years. By contrast, 28% of marriages ended within that same time period. Only 15% of common-law relationships lasted more than ten years, compared to 57% of those married. Further, the incidence of domestic violence is higher among common-law couples than among married couples. Statistics Canada's *General Social Survey* has revealed that those who lived in a common-law relationship were at an increased risk of experiencing violence at the hands of their intimate partner.

### Why Aren't Young People Entering into Marriage?

There are many reasons why Millennials (age 24-39) are either delaying marriage or not marrying at all. Financial uncertainty causes many to delay or forgo marriage. University debt, lack of job security, and expensive housing all contribute to the economic insecurity that leads to delaying marriage and delaying having children or having none at all. The sexual revolution has not encouraged marriage either. It has made personal self-fulfilment—sexual, emotional, financial, and intellectual—of more importance than the responsibilities of marriage.

Also, men and women today seem to have more trouble successfully and permanently pairing off. This may be due to the fact that technology increasingly focuses on the individual, who creates his or her own digital universe of endless entertainment according to individual tastes, and living alone with streaming music, shows, and porn. But pornography does not make for happiness. The digital age, where pornography is so readily available, often means virtual sex rather than physical sex. As a result of the digital age, loneliness has become more prevalent today. Data released from Statistics Canada *Global Family and Gender Survey* (2019) indicated that married Canadians were very satisfied with their families—compared with just under half (40%) of those living common-law or alone.

### Differences Between Low- and High-Income Families

Some fascinating and challenging information about marriage, recently disclosed, is that there is a stark difference between wealthy neighbourhoods, where one would be hard pressed to find even one single-parent family, and low-income areas, where they abound. It is striking, for example, that despite being a cultural force for liberation, California actually has a higher share of stable, married families, as approximately 67% of California parents live in intact marriages. These zero single-parent neighbourhoods in California are disproportionately populated by highly educated, high-income adults and their children. They obviously think that getting married and staying married is preferable to a common-law relationship.

In contrast, there is a growing, self-reinforcing phenomenon that lower-income families are not getting married, and are more inclined to have children outside of marriage (See *The Marriage Gap Between Rich and Poor Canadians*, Institute of Marriage and Family Canada, February 2014). The children of such arrangements are paying the price for this instability.

The reason that lower-income families are reluctant to marry is that they are most likely to suffer from the potential costs of ending a marriage. That is, compared to middle class people, lower-income individuals are wary of the legal and financial difficulties associated with divorce, rather than the emotional or social impact. The bottom line is that people who are less financially stable are more reluctant to get married. Unfortunately, these changing social attitudes and economic pressures mean more stressful times ahead for all of us.

# TRUDEAU, THE AUTHORITARIAN

***"It's clear that Trudeau is all too willing to unilaterally use his powers when he decides that his decision is for the common good. However, too frequently, Trudeau's decisions are born of his own limitations and his lack of understanding of the issues. "***

Prime Minister Trudeau has spoken admiringly of Communist regimes and some of their leaders, such as China's Mao Tse-tung and Cuba's Fidel Castro. Castro was a longtime personal friend of Trudeau's father, Pierre, and a trusted family friend. In 2000, he was an honorary pall bearer at the funeral of Trudeau Sr. at Montreal's Notre Dame Cathedral.

Trudeau admires the absolute power of these dictators because they could get their demands met quickly and not be weighed down by the cumbersome democratic process that requires debate and a vote.

Trudeau apparently believes that torture, execution, extortion, expropriation of property, bribery and suppression of human rights are acceptable if a leader does so for the common good.

It's clear that Trudeau is all too willing to unilaterally use his powers when he decides that his decision is for the common good. However, too frequently, Trudeau's decisions are born of his own limitations and his lack of understanding of the issues.

Trudeau does not appear to understand the complications and implications of the issues before him and especially in times of crisis. It is this limitation based on his ignorance that is dangerous for the country, as is the backroom influence of his unelected advisors.

Trudeau's authoritarian streak has shown several times since he was elected prime minister in October 2015:

1. In 2017, Trudeau declared that anyone applying under the Summer Jobs Program must attest that he/she supports his government's position on abortion. In 2018 and 2019, he removed the attestation requirement, but the application forms still required that applicants support Trudeau's sexual and reproductive policies.

   It is abhorrent that the taxpayers' money is distributed to only those Canadians who support Trudeau's policies. This is contrary to the tenets of democracy, where everyone is to be treated equally without discrimination.

2. In 2019, Trudeau dismissed Minister of Justice Jody Wilson-Raybould for refusing to take his orders regarding the prosecution of SNC-Lavalin. By doing so, he arrogantly abused the fundamental principle of law that the criminal justice system must not be interfered with by politicians.

3. On March 24, 2020, Bill C-8 was introduced into Parliament. This bill is supposed to prohibit attempts by those who wish to change the sexual orientation of children under 18 years of age. This bill also restricts treatment for gender dysphoria to only surgery and hormones, while outlawing other counselling therapy of any kind. (See article discussing Bill C-8 in April 2020 REALity). Bill C-8 is another example of the extraordinary abuse of power by the Trudeau government. It is not a simple bill, as alleged, to protect homosexuals, but instead, is a remarkable overreach that prohibits discussion of the homosexual issue in Canada except in accordance with the political orthodoxy the Liberal government promotes, which is based on policies determined by the LGBTQ activists.

4. On March 24, 2020 Trudeau attempted to include sweeping new tax and spend powers in emergency legislation aimed at rushing out financial aid to those economically compromised by the coronavirus pandemic.

   A draft of this legislation was delivered to the opposition parties for prior review in the hope that the legislation could be quickly passed. However, when the legislation was introduced in Parliament, it mysteriously included draconian provisions, which would allow the Liberal government to tax, spend and borrow with impunity, minus parliamentary approval for 21 months until January 2022. This provision suspended Parliament's role in approving or providing oversight of legislation for nearly two years. Conservative leader Andrew Scheer described these provisions as a tyrannical abuse of power. Trudeau was forced to back down. Absolute power to tax and spend without democratic oversight has never been granted to a Canadian government—not even during wartime. All Canadians should be aware of and horrified by this arbitrary attempt at a power grab by the Liberal government.

   It is noted that Trudeau has not yet invoked the *Emergencies Act* (successor to the *War Measures Act*, which was repealed by the Mulroney government in 1988). The explanation as to why Trudeau hasn't done this may be due to the fact that the Act requires that the government report to Parliament within seven sitting days once it is invoked in order to explain the reason for its declaration. The government must also explain how it has consulted with the provinces on the issue. The Act also provides that the emergency declaration will expire within 90 days of its proclamation. Trudeau wanted no limitations: he would obviously have preferred a totally free hand for nearly two years to do whatever he wanted.

This attempt to grab absolute control over the national agenda makes it clear that Trudeau's actions must be carefully monitored by Parliament at all times. He has demonstrated his contempt for both the Canadian public and the democratic process.

# DRUG INJECTION SITES ARE NOT THE ANSWER TO HELPING ADDICTS

***"A compassionate society must not further undermine addicts by enabling their addiction by way of drug consumption sites."***

The bells tolling opioid deaths in Canada incessantly ring. They toll for the nearly 14,000 individuals who have died from opioid overdoses from January 2016 to June 2019. The federal government's response to this ongoing tragedy has been to authorize the establishment of even more supervised drug injection sites (SIS). This will not solve the problem.

The government's response is based on the well-orchestrated public relations campaign which claims that these sites are beneficial for drug addicts as they allegedly save their lives. However, evidence supporting this proposition is unreliable.

The establishment of safe injection sites is based on the concept that addicts cannot change and therefore must be provided with clean facilities and medical supervision to inject their drugs as needed. This assumption is contradicted by the thousands of former drug addicts who have sought treatment and now lead healthy, productive lives. In fact, the fundamental solution for a drug addict is abstinence-based treatment rather than easy access to facilities to continue to inject drugs.

## EFFECT OF DRUG INJECTION SITES ON ADDICTS

The problem with the supervised consumption approach is that it deepens the addiction. Well-off individuals can afford to obtain treatment for their addictions, but it is the addicts without money or support who are shuffled off to a SIS, where they inject themselves with street drugs. Their addiction continues and leads to their further degradation and eventually a difficult death.

Advocates of supervised drug-use sites argue that these facilities provide opportunities for the addict to seek treatment. The latter is not the priority for such facilities, however, as very few addicts take advantage of treatment offered them. SIS staff don't exert pressure on addicts to seek other treatment since they believe the addicts must make their own independent decisions. But a drug addict, without support, is unable to do so.

In contrast, Sweden, a very liberal country, has a drug policy based on zero tolerance and mandatory treatment for addicts. Treatment facilities are also widely available there. As a result, Sweden has the lowest rate of drug use in Europe. It is noteworthy that the effectiveness of treatment is the same whether it is voluntary or mandatory.

Regretfully, advocates for safe injection sites have justified their use based on research provided in approximately 30 studies on Insite, the drug injection site established in Vancouver in 2003—North America's first SIS. These studies, however, have been criticized by experts for their flawed evaluations, reporting and interpretation of findings that give the overall impression that the facility is successful. Some examples of these flawed studies include one which purports to show that Insite effectively controls injection drug behaviour; another study purports to show positive impact on the community, but the data collected was not adequate in scope to warrant its positive claims; a study attempted to show that Insite reduces the prevalence of Hepatitis C infections among users; and another study purports to indicate that Insite reduced drug dealing and other drug-related crimes. All these studies purported to show that Insite has curtailed crime and disease and led to a 35 percent reduction in deaths caused by drug overdose. The studies concluded, without exception, that Insite's operation has produced exemplary results.

These studies, however, were conducted by the same individuals who lobbied for the establishment of Insite in the first place. As a result, they had a personal interest, as well as a conflict of interest, in ensuring that Insite be regarded as successful. Their research papers violated prime directives of evaluation in that they intermingled activism with positions of public and professional responsibility, without acknowledging their efforts as activists. Their research, in effect, was carried out for the purpose of supporting the political objective of continuing the operation of Insite, establishing that it was "successful" in treating addicts. The studies were peer reviewed only by supporters of the facility.

One such study on Insite was published in the British medical journal The Lancet on April 18, 2011. This study was pivotal in the decision by the Supreme Court of Canada, handed down on Sept. 20, 2011, to prevent the federal minister of health from closing Insite. The study purported to show there was a 35 percent reduction in overdoses in the 500-metre radius around Insite, while in the rest of Vancouver, the rate decreased only by 9 percent.

The B.C. Vital Statistics reports from the years 2002-2005, however, indicated that overdoses actually increased in that specific area by 14 percent, or 11 percent when population-adjusted, between 2002, the year before Insite opened, and 2005, the final year of the study period. In addition, in a letter to the editor published in The Lancet on Jan. 14, 2012, an international medical team of drug experts exposed the egregious error of original study's assertion that overdoses had decreased around Insite. The letter referenced an extended analysis of the many errors in the study.

## INCREASED CRIME, PUBLIC DISORDER

In March 2008, the federal government's Expert Advisory Committee (EAC) produced a report on safe injection sites which found that there is no proof that the facilities decrease the spread of HIV and blood-borne diseases.

Nor is there any proof that the facilities decrease crime in the area. The EAC report estimated that each addict causes $350,000 worth of crime each year through stealing, break-

ins, and auto theft in order to support a $100-day-habit. The addict obtains illicit drugs, usually heroin or cocaine, of questionable purity, from a drug trafficker, which the addict brings into the site for injection purposes. The site becomes a "honey pot" or meeting point for drug traffickers.

The report also criticized the claim that public order improved in the area around Vancouver's Insite, noting that other studies have shown that deterioration in public order at such injections sites was the norm. In fact, drug injection sites are destructive for the communities in which they are established, including making it unsafe for passersby and harming local businesses.

A February 2012 position paper by the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police stated that the OACP did not support the introduction of supervised injection sites in Ontario on the grounds that "such facilities will encourage, not reduce, the consumption of illicit drugs among users."

"The consumption of illicit drugs at supervised injection sites will inevitably lead to a general degradation of the social and economic life of communities in which these facilities are situated," the paper said.

Since three drug injection sites opened in the Moss Park area of Toronto in 2017, residents say they're seeing more used needles in the street, dealers openly selling drugs, and people yelling abuse at passersby, the Toronto Star recently reported.

### ABSTINENCE-BASED TREATMENT

According to the OACP's paper, "supervised injection sites around the world have focused on the individual without adequately addressing the treatment component." In fact, addicts urgently need abstinence-based treatment.

A compassionate society must not further undermine addicts by enabling their addiction by way of drug consumption sites. A far more effective approach would be to provide them with well-rounded treatment at abstinence-based facilities as well as other community support systems to deal with their myriad problems—social, economic, mental and/or physical health—in order to break their destructive addiction.

This is something that supervised injection sites, with their primary focus being "safe" drug use, have no way to achieve.

## MESSAGE BOARD

- Annual General Meeting: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our AGM has been postponed from May 30, 2020 to an as yet undetermined date. We will let you know as soon as we can set a date.
- Action Item: Please write to your MP, to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and to Maryam Monsef, Minister for Women and Gender Equality, to object to our federal tax dollars supporting the radical feminist group FFQ, Federations des Femmes du Quebec. Please refer to the article in this issue, "Government Funding for Men-Hating Feminist Group" for details.
- Action Item: Please sign this petition to ban child sex-change in Canada: https://www.campaignlifecoalition.com/petition/id/38
- Action Item: Please sign this petition to stop all non-essential abortions during the COVID pandemic. Abortion is not a prescribed treatment for any ailment. https://www.campaignlifecoalition.com/petition/id/37.


Cartoon: Brian Gable, Globe and Mail, April 2020.

## MAKING A GIFT UNDER YOUR WILL TO REAL WOMEN OF CANADA

Making a gift under your Will to REAL Women of Canada is a lasting gift, not just to REAL Women itself, but also to Canada as a whole. Canada needs strong families, especially now, when the fabric of society is being torn apart by materialism, selfish individualism, and disrespect for human life.

REAL Women's efforts on behalf of the traditional family have never waivered. Through turmoil and adversity, we have put forward our voice on behalf of the family in a clear and uncompromising manner. We can only continue this vital work for many generations to come with your help.

When preparing your Will, please consider assisting REAL Women by making a bequest to our organization so that we can continue with our crucial work.

# GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR MEN-HATING FEMINIST GROUP

The government agency currently under Minister Maryam Monsef, Women and Gender Equality, formerly the Status of Women, has awarded $1,986,270 in the past 10 years to a feminist group in Quebec called "Federation des femmes du Quebec" (FFQ). Funding was withdrawn in 2010 but resumed under the Trudeau government with $29,880 (2016) to revitalize the feminist movement and $385,067 (2017) to promote diversity and feminist and gender parity in Quebec. The organization also receives a $120,000 annual grant from the Quebec government. FFQ's membership, according to the Canadian Press (Jan 28, 2020), consists of 600 individual members and 300 associate organizations. The FFQ Trust Fund has charitable status with the Canada Revenue Agency, where it declared $495,170 (2014–2019) revenue from donations, 43% of which were received from "other charities".

This organization was founded in 1966 under the direction of the well-respected Thérèse Casgrain, who was fundamental in bringing the vote to women in Quebec. Although deeply committed to rights for women, she was also profoundly pro-life.

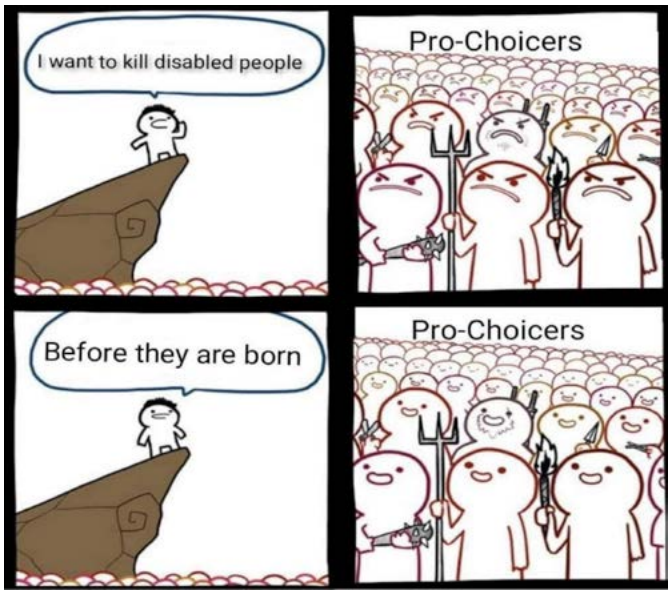
The organization has come a long way since the time of Mme. Casgrain. In 2018, a resolution was passed by the FFQ declaring that women can freely choose to be prostitutes. As a result of this resolution, a number of the member organizations left the FFQ.

Its current president, Gabrielle Bouchard, who was born a man but who, as an adult, "transitioned" to become a woman, has taken great strides in creating further controversy among its member organizations. In June 2018, she suggested that the government should make vasectomies obligatory as soon as a man has reached 18 years of age. It should be noted, however, that this notion of compulsory vasectomies was recently regarded as reasonable by the media in regard to a bill introduced on February 24, 2020 by an Alabama State Representative, Rolanda Hollis. Her bill would have required a man to have a vasectomy within one month of his 50th birthday or the birth of his third biological child, whichever comes first. Mainstream media outlets in the U.S. lauded this bill because it supposedly "exposed" the hypocrisy of the Alabama legislature, which, in 2019, passed a bill banning all abortions, thus restricting a women's right to do what she wanted with her body. The argument in support of the vasectomy bill was that it showed that there must be an equal restriction on a man's body as that which occurs when a woman is denied an abortion. The difference between ending a human life by an abortion and a sterilization procedure was overlooked.

FFQ's Ms. Bouchard was not done yet; she had other plans to set the organization on fire. In January 2020, she suggested that, since heterosexual relationships were violent, and that the vast majority of them were based on religion, then, it may be time to ban heterosexual relationships altogether. As a result of this declaration by Bouchard, the Quebec government announced that it would be "re-evaluating" its annual $120,000 grant to the organization, claiming that Ms. Bouchard's statement was "unacceptable" and "lacked respect". Ms. Bouchard apologized.

The FFQ also stated that its president's remarks did not represent the position of the organization.

Under Justin Trudeau's feminist government, federal taxpayers' money, however, continues to be rolled out for this eccentric organization and its leader, who holds such bizarre views.




Cartoon: Dank Pro-Life Memes, Facebook, January 19, 2020

## SUPPORT REAL WOMEN OF CANADA

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