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REAL Women of Canada “Women Building a Better Society”

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THE FAMILY IS THE WHOLE STORY ON CHILD CARE

University of Chicago economist and Nobel Laureate James J. Heckman is considered the world authority on early childhood learning and child care policies. He is notable for the “Heckman Equation”, which asserts that higher investment in a child’s early years pays great dividends later in life. The word “investment” in a child’s early years has been taken to mean public dollars spent on public systems in universal programs for children, but this is not correct.

At a virtual event at the American Enterprise Institute, on February 25, 2021, in Washington, Dr. Heckman stated that “investment” in child care did not apply to public programs only, but also to the contribution of the family to the child’s upbringing. He stated, “Nobody wants to talk about the family, and the family is the whole story. And it’s the whole story about a lot of social and economic issues.” He explained that the most essential investment in building children’s early skills derives from family environments and especially parenting. Efforts to advance disadvantaged children’s development, therefore, must focus, first and foremost, on boosting families’ capacity to advance their young children’s skills.

Dr. Heckman acknowledged that disadvantaged children benefit most from early childhood state intervention, but that such programs should also incorporate the parents in order to make them more successful. The secret to early child care, he stated, is engaging the family and, in the case of

single parents, frequently the mother is the family.

He went on to state that universal childcare proposals are often sold on the basis that they diminish inequality among children. The inequality, he said, has actually to do with family structure and values. The greatest benefit of universal daycare is to the disadvantaged child, not to the advantaged child. He states, “If you take someone from a quality environment and put them in an inferior environment [provided by a universal program], you can make them worse off”.

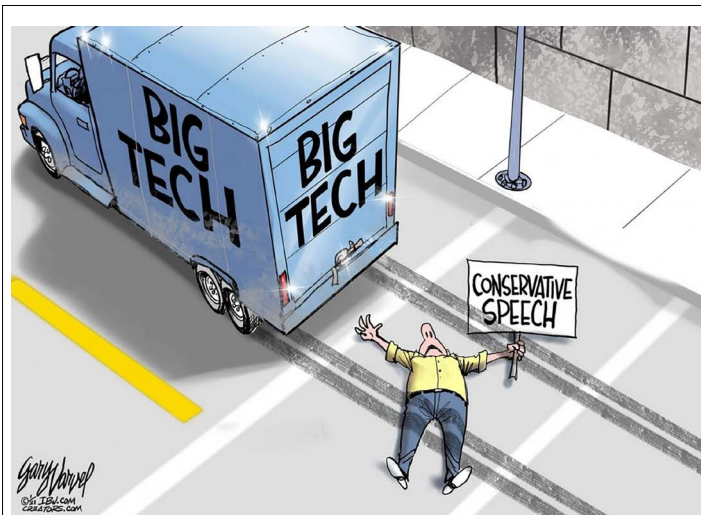
The Trudeau government’s proposed national day care program is to be based on the Quebec model of universal day care. It is significant that Dr. Heckman referred to the latter model as the “warehousing of children”. He noted that the research by Baker, Gruber, and Milligan (September 2015), published by the U.S. National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), was solid research that showed poor outcomes in Quebec for children and parents. He asserted that the Quebec day care model was “fairly impersonal and there wasn’t any real quality”.

Dr. Heckman was unequivocal about the home and how it is undervalued and understudied in regard to raising children both in research and public policy. He champions the importance of mothers, who, he acknowledges, are generally still the ones taking primary responsibility for babies and toddlers even in our gender-neutral age.

It is significant, therefore, that one of the most cited men on the planet regarding early childhood learning and child care has confirmed that the home and attachment of a mother to her child is a “powerful force” and that the family should “get back into more of the centre of our lives”. He said, “Parents will always matter more than any program, or professional in a child’s life.” †

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Cartoon: Gary Varvel, *The Toronto Sun*, January 29, 2021

WHY DON'T WE WANT BABIES ANYMORE?

“Children are about life and life is about caring for more than just oneself. The declining birth rate is a sign of an unhealthy culture that lacks the will to survive.”

The world is facing a terrible calamity because of the shrinking number of births. The global total birth rate has declined a stunning 50 percent in the past 60 years. This is changing the security and fundamental structures of most countries.

The reason for this decline is often attributed to the many problems we are experiencing today, such as stress caused by the pandemic, and international political and economic uncertainties, leading to a fear of the future.

It is not the hard times, however, that are causing the failure to have children. Even in 1935, during the height of The Great Depression, Canada's birth rate was 2.75 children per women of childbearing age. This was more than sufficient to replace ourselves. In 1935, however, the birth control pill did not exist and abortion was illegal. This undoubtedly contributed to the positive birth rate at that time, even in an extreme economic situation. The contraceptive pill was made legal in Canada in 1969, when PM Pierre Elliott Trudeau legalized its use, along with legalizing abortion in some situations, and homosexuality. Two years later, in 1972, the Canadian birth rate had fallen to 1.97 children per woman of childbearing age. It has continued to remain well below replacement level. The birth rate in 2019, the last year that statistics are available, was 1.47 births per woman of childbearing age.

LOW BIRTH RATES—OTHER COUNTRIES

China, with its population of 1.4 billion people, is experiencing a huge decrease in births, the lowest it has been in seven decades. This has sparked panic across China. The decline is partly due to decades of policies to limit China's population growth with a one child policy. This led to fewer young people being eligible for marriage. In the last six years, the number of Chinese getting married for the first time fell by a crushing 41 percent. Moreover, the low birth rate has resulted in a decline in service-aged men, which is alarming for China's military provocations and the decline in births potentially poses a risk to Chinese Communist Party rule.

In South Korea, years of a phenomenal low fertility rate (around 1 child per woman), have caused the country's population to shrink. Statistics Korea forecasts that within 35 years, the population will fall below 40 million, the same population South Korea had in 1980.

Italy is also hitting record low birth rates. In 2019, births in Italy hit an historic low, in that it was the lowest it has been since Italian unification in 1861. In 2019, Italy's birth rate was 1.29 children per woman, just ahead of Malta and Spain, which had birth rates of 1.23 and 1.26, respectively,

the lowest birth rates in Europe.

The only positive news in regard to population is Nigeria, where its youth make up an ever-growing proportion of the world's population. In fact, by 2100, Sub-Saharan Africa, led by Nigeria, will be the only region in the world still growing. This country is currently the 7th most populous country in the world. It is expected to surpass China and the United States to become the second most populous country in the world by 2100, after India. Currently, more than 60 percent of Nigerians are under the age of 24. Unfortunately, 34.9 percent of these youths are unemployed. This has created both unrest and demands for basic education and vocational training in order to assist Nigerians, not only domestically but also to improve eligibility for Nigerian immigration.

WHY AREN'T BABIES BEING BORN?

There are some characteristics that low fertility societies have in common. One is that low fertility societies occur where religious belief is weak. High fertility societies are highly religious, regardless of the particular faith. Simply put, the research shows that, with few exceptions, as religious practise declines, so does the number of births.

It is significant that the once traditionally Catholic countries, such as Italy, Spain, and Malta, ignoring the Catholic Church's teachings, have legalized divorce, abortion, and contraception. These countries are enacting other policies opposed by the Church, such as assisted suicide and same-sex marriage. Such countries are now experiencing phenomenally low birth rates.

DO PRO-FAMILY POLICIES WORK?

Some countries in Europe, including Hungary, France, and Russia, are trying to address the low fertility problem by introducing policies that offer financial incentives to women to marry younger in order to encourage their having more children. Hungary is one country leading the way in these kinds of policies, but, as yet, it has had minimal success. The Hungarian National Statistical Office estimates that it has raised the number of births per women from 1.23 in 2011, to 1.48 in 2020.

Pro-birth policies can work, but they do so very slowly and they are very expensive. The reason that many ignore these financial incentives is that they ignore the important function and role of family in society. To have more children, the population must first appreciate the value of family in society so that having a family is regarded as an important component of one's life and is regarded as providing happiness and fulfillment.

CHANGING CULTURAL VALUES

It seems that the declining birth rate has been caused by important cultural changes that have led to many nations becoming anti-natalist societies that no longer value the natural family. Marriage has become, to many, primarily about adult fulfillment, in order to provide self-discovery,

self-esteem, and personal growth. There is no longer the concept that marriage and children contribute to society and are necessary for the future. In short, the notion that marriage is central to society has crumbled. South Korea is an example of this change: the number of marriages plummeted to an all-time low in 2020. The government had conducted a survey in 2019 which found that just 51.2% of South Koreans aged 13 and older felt obliged to marry. This represented a decrease by 14 percentage points from a similar survey in 2010.

Research on marriage in Asian societies and its effect on the declining birth rate led to the researchers recommending that the best way to deal with the declining birth rate is to promote marriages among young people. The researchers concluded that if governments remove the barriers to marriage, the marriage rate would increase, as would fertility rates. The researchers concluded that moving the focus back to valuing marriage, family, and home would refocus the Asian countries' current focus on extended education and emphasis on having a "career". This would reverse years

of chronically low fertility.

A light on this remarkable cultural change was shed in a survey conducted in 2019 by the U.S.-based PEW Research. It revealed that only 16 percent believe that having children is essential for a man to lead a fulfilling life and that only 22 percent believe it is essential for a woman to have a fulfilling life. The same survey found that 57 percent believed that having a job or career they enjoy is essential for a man to have a fulfilling life and 46 percent said that a job or career they enjoy is essential for a woman to have a fulfilling life.

This study succinctly explains why people are not having children. It is not because times are hard or challenging, but because people perceive that a more comfortable and fulfilling life is achieved by being single, or, if married, by remaining childless. This mentality ignores the consequences of aging alone and its dire effects on society.

Children are about life and life is about caring for more than just oneself. The declining birth rate is a sign of an unhealthy culture that lacks the will to survive. †

SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS

"The primary object of an effective drug policy is to help the addict, not provide him/her with easier access to drugs. Policies that permit continued access to drugs...will only lead to more deaths by drug overdose."

During the past year, drug overdose deaths in Canada have skyrocketed. Preliminary numbers show that 5233 Canadians died of opioid-related toxicity in 2020, the deadliest year since national tracking began.

It is a curious fact that as substance abuse increases in Canada, the response has inevitably been to facilitate easier access to drugs for the addict. Examples of such policies include:

- **Increasing Drug Consumption Sites**

These sites have been greatly expanded across Canada under the Trudeau government. It is the addicts without money, who are homeless or marginalized, and lack support, who are shuffled off to these sites, where they inject themselves repeatedly with street drugs. As a result, their addiction continues and leads to further degradation and usually, a difficult death.

Supporters of these sites claim that they provide opportunities for the addict to seek treatment. This is not so. The priority for such facilities is not treatment, but to serve as "safe" places to inject drugs. Drug addicts are not in a position to admit to their drug problem in

these facilities since the addicts' only objective is to feed their addiction.

Also, one might question the motivation of the workers at these sites to prioritize treatment when they rely on a continuous supply of addicts to maintain their funding from federal and provincial governments: life-long addiction ensures a continued source of income for them.

- **Substitute Drugs For Addicts**

The government has increased access for addicts to receive substitute opioids, such as methadone, hydromorphone, and Dilaudid. Although they help patients with their withdrawal symptoms and cravings without getting high, the addict still remains addicted to an opioid for life and there is still a risk of death by overdose using methadone. The treatment merely creates another opioid problem and a never-ending maintenance treatment. It is noted that Sweden experienced an increase in drug-related deaths when it expanded its substitution drug therapy.¹

- **Drug Vending Machines**

Free drug vending machines, to dispense the opioid medicinal grade drug, hydromorphone, have been installed in four Canadian cities—two in Vancouver

1. Andersson, Pierre. "Decriminalization of Drugs: What Can We Learn from Portugal?" Translated: The Business Translator/Prologic GmbH. Swedish Drug Policy Centre. 2020. Page 24. http://narkotikapolitisktcenter.se/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/NPC_Portugal_Decrim_Eng.pdf

and one each in Victoria, B.C., London, Ontario, and Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. The drug provided at these vending sites serves as a substitute for heroin. According to the Federal Health Ministry, these vending machines allow “participants to access a safer drug without fear, shame and stigma and without contact with anyone, which is all the more essential during the pandemic.”

To provide addicts with easier access to a drug by way of vending machines only continues the addicts’ desperate, unrelenting problem of addiction.

CURRENT RESPONSE TO INCREASED SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The approach to the current increase in drug overdose deaths proposed by public health officials and policymakers is to decriminalize drug possession of small amounts for personal use. They base this on the argument that prohibitions are ineffective in that they don’t deter addicts’ drug use, and also, prevent people from seeking help because of the stigma involved.

ILLEGALITY IS NOT THE PROBLEM

The reality is that the problem of drug overdose is not caused by its illegality. Many of the deaths are from opioids which are legally produced, prescribed, and distributed. Moreover, changing the legal status of drugs doesn’t address the underlying cause of drug abuse. That is, the problem of drug addiction is not caused by the addiction, but rather by other factors, such as mental health, loneliness, homelessness, family instability, poverty, etc. The demand for decriminalization of drugs overshadows these real needs.

In short, the decriminalization of drugs is not a medical cure for drug addiction as evidenced by Portugal, which decriminalized drugs in 2001. The [latest figures from Portugal](#) indicate that, 20 years later, it has the same drug overdose mortality rate as it had before decriminalization.

PURPOSE OF PROHIBITION OF DRUGS

Legislation that prohibits drug use has a regulating or deterrent effect, as the penalties impact on attitudes toward drug use, especially among youth. Moreover, penalties allow for law enforcement to redirect addicts for treatment and other support services. Activists pushing for the decriminalization of drugs validate their demand by referring to the July 2020 report by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACCP), which recommended the repeal of criminalization for possession of small amounts of drugs for personal use. These advocates, however, never mention the complete recommendation of the police chiefs, which was that decriminalization must not occur until treatment facilities are established with capacity to accommodate individuals diverted through police contact. The police’s recommendation was also premised on the requirement that there be increased mental and physical health care as well as social services and support in regard to family instability, educational dysfunction, and poverty,

before decriminalization is implemented.

DECRIMINALIZATION OF DRUGS INCREASES USE

The undisputed fact is that decriminalization increases both the number of people using drugs and the number of drug traffickers operating in communities. Decriminalization benefits the black market as it leaves underground sales intact and in operation. Also, decriminalization makes it difficult for police to detect and apprehend traffickers who can easily avoid arrest by only carrying the limit allowed for private possession of drugs.

A [review of drug-related deaths in 11 European countries](#) has found that drug deaths were not reduced by decriminalization. Only when extensive support services are made available to the addict did deaths decrease.

CURRENT POLICIES ARE NOT WORKING

It is clear that the above policies dealing with drug overdose deaths are not working and are not solving the problem. This is evidenced by the escalating number of drug-induced deaths each day across the country.

It’s time to rethink the drug issue in Canada by taking a fresh look at the problem and developing new approaches to deal with it.

THE REAL SOLUTION TO DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS

The real solution to drug addiction is to remove the addict from drugs completely. What is needed is a drug recovery system for addicts. Abstinence-based treatment works well when followed by long term supported recovery.

The important point is to eliminate the causes of drug addiction by way of treatment (voluntary or involuntary) and support services for addicts.

More and better treatment, more resources for prevention, and, therefore, tougher measures against the illicit sale of drugs is the effective response to drug abuse. In this regard, the province of Quebec has provided a program entitled the [Court of Quebec Addiction Treatment Program \(CQATP\)](#), which gives the courts the ability to suspend sentencing until the addicted offender undergoes court supervised treatment for his or her addiction. The program also enables closer cooperation between the courts and addiction resources to establish courses of treatment, including therapy, rehabilitation and social reintegration.

Drug courts established in other provinces have also proved successful in assisting addicts to obtain recovery. One of the key factors contributing to the success of court ordered drug treatment is the continuous monitoring of the addicts by the court system to support them in their goal of abstinence.

The primary object of an effective drug policy is to help the addict, not provide him/her with easier access to drugs. Policies that permit continued access to drugs by addicts, including the proposed decriminalization of drugs used for personal use, will only lead to more deaths by drug overdose. †

HOW IMPARTIAL ARE OUR JUDGES?

Since Justin Trudeau became Prime Minister in 2015, he has appointed 466 judges to the federal courts. The lawyers he is carefully selecting for appointment to the Bench are not just any lawyers: many are lawyers who have made donations to the Liberal Party or been active supporters of or volunteers for the party. Trudeau apparently believes that appointments to the Bench are a way to keep money flowing to the party by way of ambitious lawyers.

The Globe and Mail (April 24, 2019 and February 18, 2020) and the National Post (December 11, 2020) reported that Liberal staffers and MPs are vetting judicial candidates' political backgrounds before appointments are made. The Bloc Quebecois has been trying, unsuccessfully, to launch a parliamentary committee study on this questionable judicial appointment process.

This process is taking place despite the fact that, during the 2015 federal election, Trudeau promised to make judicial appointments more transparent and to have them based on merit. This obviously is not happening. Of course, lawyers who donate to a political party or who work or volunteer for a party can also be excellent judges. There are many such judges in Canada, whether appointed by Liberal or Conservative prime ministers, who are competent and carry out their responsibilities with the utmost integrity. We are grateful for their service to our country. On the other hand, there are too many judges who seize the opportunity, using their position on the Bench, to reshuffle Canadian values according to their own, personal ideology. It is they who bring distrust and disrespect to our courts. Further, the fact that the Liberals strongly favour individuals involved with the party also raises concerns that many qualified individuals are being overlooked by the current appointment system, where patronage plays a major role.

Trudeau is certainly not the only prime minister who has blatantly appointed judges on a partisan basis. For example, Liberal Justice Minister Irwin Cotler, under Prime Minister Chretien, went all out in making judicial appointments based on party affiliation. Between 2004 and 2006, Cotler appoint-

ed to the Bench his former Executive Assistant, his former Chief of Staff, the wife (Rosalie Abella) of his good friend, Irving Abella, who was a fellow member of the Canadian Jewish Congress, plus an assortment of Liberal fundraisers, campaign workers, defeated Liberal candidates, and other partisans.

Mr. Cotler did so without embarrassment or seemingly harming his reputation. He was just doing what Liberals do when they are in power.

This is not to say that Conservative prime ministers have not also made partisan judicial appointments. However, the practice of partisan appointments by Conservative prime ministers seems to be more the exception, rather than the general practice. One only has to look at the appointments made by former Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper to the federal, provincial superior and appeal courts, and to the Supreme Court of Canada to understand that he has made many appointments to the Bench of very liberal judges. Currently, the Supreme Court of Canada, which is very "progressive", includes five Harper appointments.


Trudeau's blatant manipulation of judicial appointments, however, is contributing to a growing mistrust of the judiciary in Canada. Many of the judges he has selected for appointment are not interpreting the law, which is their proper role, but, instead, are creating new laws, regardless of Parliament's views. In doing so, the judges are, in effect, making public policy rulings which they are not qualified to do.

The legitimacy of the judicial system in Canada has always been its ability to remain aloof from political debate and to objectively interpret the law, not involve itself in public policy. Judges who meddle in policy decisions have diminished Canada as a democracy. In their enthusiasm to impose their will on the country, the rule of law means little to such judges.

As a result of the prevalence of judicial activism today, the public should be aware that the courts should be approached with caution. There is no longer a guarantee that justice will be served by our courts. †

friendly
REMINDER

AGM
June 19

 **REAL Women of Canada**
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY, JUNE 19TH, 2021
1:00 PM – 4:30 PM •

LIBERTY SUITES HOTEL

7191 Yonge St, Suite 1201, Thornhill, ON L3T 0C4
(North of Steeles Ave—East Side of Yonge St)

Guest Speaker: MP Derek Sloan

Light refreshments provided. Please let us know if you are attending.
RSVP by June 15: 1-905-787-0348, info@realwomenofcanada.ca †

THE HIGH RATE OF LESBIAN DIVORCE

“Same-sex marriages have not worked out too well for lesbian couples ... because the relationship lacks the natural complementarity of the sexes.”

Homosexuals and lesbians advocated for the right to legal marriage in order to obtain social recognition and status for their relationships. They claimed this was a reasonable demand since their relationships were just the same as those in heterosexual couples.

Same-sex marriages, however, have not worked out too well for lesbian couples in that they have found legal marriage is not a good model for them after all. This is because the relationship lacks the natural complementarity of the sexes. This becomes apparent when the lesbian relationship brings a child into the home. This causes the couple to struggle to adapt to a psychological and biological reality that they had not anticipated.

The problem is that when a child is born into a lesbian relationship, the child has to be cared for, including breastfeeding (if desired), and also requires that the partner who gave birth to the child have time to recuperate.

At the same time, the other partner has to provide the family income. This is the usual masculine role in a heterosexual relationship and the feminine role is usually to maintain a household and care for the child. These different roles occur naturally within traditional marriage, but do not work well for the lesbian couple, which leads to conflict between them. This conflict may explain the number of divorces among lesbian couples—much higher than among heterosexual couples. For example, in the U.K., almost three quarters of same-sex marriage divorces involve lesbian couples. Statistics Canada, unfortunately, only tracks the total number of divorced people without distinguishing between types of couples. Sweden, however, has had two decades of same-sex marriage and statistics there reveal that, although male same-sex unions have the same risk of divorce as heterosexual couples, there is an elevated risk for female same-sex couples, more than three times higher than male same-sex couples in some years. Similarly, in Norway, between 1993 and 2010, although women were much more prone to enter same-sex marriages, they were more likely to dissolve their union in divorce. Similar patterns have been reported in Denmark, Belgium, Spain, and the United States. †

MESSAGE BOARD

- **Annual General Meeting:** REAL Women of Canada: Saturday, June 19, 2021, 1 pm, Liberty Suites Hotel, Thornhill (Toronto), Ontario. Open to members in good standing. Must pre-register. See [notice](#) in this issue.
- **Petition for Bill C-268:** Please sign this [petition](#) in favour of Bill C-268, the Protection of Freedom of Conscience Act, a private member's bill sponsored by Kelly Block, MP.
- **Bill C-233:** An Act to Amend the Criminal code: Please [write to your MP](#) to ask him/her to vote in favour of Bill C-233., MP Cathay Wagantall's private member's bill which would make it an offence for a medical practitioner to perform an abortion knowing that the abortion is sought solely on the grounds of the child's genetic sex. Campaign Life Coalition has an [Action Alert Tool e-mail](#) that makes it very easy to write to your MP.
- **We need your help!** REAL Women relies solely on the generosity of our grassroots supporters for our revenues, via donations, membership fees and bequests. Your [financial support](#) would be greatly appreciated. No donation is too small or too big! We accept e-transfers at realwcna@rogers.ca, as well as cheques and credit card payments. †

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