

The Western Separatist

What Makes the Wild West Wild



Our cover this month features a political cartoon from *The United Farmers of Alberta*, May 1, 1931. It was based on a similar one about the United States, and tells of the frustrations of the West, which are still true today, almost 75 years later.

From the Editor

Some of the best news that's ever hit Western Canada was revealed by the *Western Standard* magazine, in their August 22nd edition. Their front page story told of a recent poll conducted for them, which found that more than a third of Western Canadians are thinking of separating from Canada. And even better than that, a large percentage of these Western Canadians are young.

It appears that the traditional cycle of the West has been broken: that old, self-deprecating joke may no longer be true that Western Canadians only figure out how the West is being shafted in Canada, and want to do something about it, when they are—shall we say—“elderly” and feel that their time is running out. Meanwhile, those with youth and vitality, have either run away to the United States, or given in to paralytic depression.

This *Western Standard* survey points to a phenomenon we've all been hoping for, that young people will finally realize that a new nation, a free West, offers the challenges and

opportunities they crave. That far from being an idea that is retrograde, independence for the West is a bold new concept, since it involves the possibility of creating new ways of doing politics, with the technology that's now available. Instead of regression, separatism offers the chance to create a structure that is

efficient, economically free and responsive to individual liberty.

Together, those with the wisdom and experience from witnessing decades of Western enslavement to Canada, and those who have the energy and desire of youth, will make a formidable force in Western Canadian politics.

Keltie Zubko

Western Standard Poll Results

Western Independence How much do you agree with the following statement: "Western Canadians should begin to explore the idea of forming their own country"?

<u>By Gender</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>All Respondents</u>		
Agree	42.7	28.7	35.6		
Disagree	57.3	71.3	64.4		
<u>By Age</u>	<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
Agree	37.2	36.1	33.7	36.3	
Disagree	62.8	63.9	66.3	63.7	
<u>By Province</u>	<u>B.C.</u>	<u>Alberta</u>	<u>Saskatchewan</u>	<u>Manitoba</u>	
Agree	32.1	43.0	33.6	28.8	
Disagree	67.9	57.0	66.4	71.2	

Other Questions:

How effective do you think Prime Minister Paul Martin's government has been at eliminating the democratic deficit since being elected one year ago?

Poor 56.8% Good 43.2 %

How effective do you think the Martin government has been at ending western alienation since being elected one year ago?

Poor 64.0% Good 36.0%

How much has the Gomery inquiry testimony impacted your opinion of western Canadians exploring the idea of forming their own country?

Increased 38.0% No impact 34.8% Reduced 27.2%

How much did the manner in which the Liberals won the budget confidence vote impact your opinion of western Canadians exploring the idea of forming their own country?

Increased 37.5% No impact 36.6% Reduced 25.9%

What impact would a Liberal re-election likely have on your opinion of western Canadians exploring the idea of forming their own country?

Increased 40.4% No impact 35.5% Reduced 24.0%

The Cost of Confederation

Isn't it sad that the following optimistic facts about Alberta and B.C.'s energy production, must be seen with the proviso that the federal government can confiscate our resource wealth for equalization, if they so decide?

On the other hand, these statistics provide a great answer to those who wonder if the West could make a go of it, on our own:

Alberta's 2003 Energy Sector Highlights

- Natural resource revenue of over \$7.6 billion was the second highest total ever delivered to Albertans in 2003 and industry investment of well over \$20 billion made energy the number one investment target in Canada.
- The responsive Natural Gas Rebate Program was launched in 2003, helping Albertans offset high natural gas prices. The program will continue over the next two years.
- In July 2003, the McBride Lake Wind Farm was completed, solidifying Alberta as number one in Canada when it comes to total wind power capacity. This played a role in Alberta's total installed electric capacity exceeding 11,500 MW – a 45 per cent increase over the previous decade.
- The Alberta Hub continues to attract attention as a first class pipeline network for northern gas producers. It provides highly competitive access to markets for natural gas in Alberta and across North America.
- Alberta's mining and energy exports were valued at \$39.6 billion in 2003 and accounted for 70 per cent of all Alberta's international exports in that

B.C. Oil and Gas Statistics

- Over the past six years, B.C. has replaced, or more than replaced, gas production with additional reserves.
- Industry investment in oil and gas has increased 151 per cent since 2000, from \$1.8 billion in 2000 to an estimated \$4.5 billion in 2004.
- The June 22, 2005 sale of oil and gas rights in northeast B.C. brought \$100.5 million in bonus bids – the third highest in the history of the province. The average bid price was \$1,682 per hectare, which is the second highest ever.
- The number of wells drilled in British Columbia has increased by 65 per cent from 2000 to 2004 (777 to 1279).
- B.C.'s raw natural gas production increased by 1.6 per cent in 2004 and over 50 per cent in the last 10 years.
- In 2004, gas wells drilled in B.C. increased by 21 per cent over 2003, a larger increase than experienced in Alberta (7.1 per cent).
- B.C.'s Summer Drilling Royalty Program will provide up to \$100,000 in royalty credits to wells drilled between April 1 and November 30, 2005.
- B.C. is providing \$50.3 million over two years as part of the Heartlands Oil and Gas Road Rehabilitation Strategy to improve public roads and allow industry to operate in areas that may have been restricted due to seasonal road bans.
- B.C. is investing \$6 million into a new Centre of Excellence in Oil and Gas Training in Fort St. John. EnCana Corp. also provided \$3 million, and an additional \$3 million is anticipated to be donated by the oil and gas industry.
- The B.C. government partnered with industry to commit \$1 million to create the B.C. Oil and Gas Education and Training Consortium,

which will help meet the demand for skilled workers.

Source: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Province of B.C., Factsheet, June 27, 2005

Freedom's Voice

“Thoughts are free and are subject to no rule. On them rests the freedom of man, and they tower above the light of nature.”

Philippus Aureolus Paracelsus, (1493-1541)

“A problem is a chance for you to do your best.”

Duke Ellington

“The first people totalitarians destroy or silence are men of ideas and free minds”

Isaiah Berlin, (1909-1997)

“Four short words sum up what has lifted most successful individuals above the crowd: a little bit more. They did all that was expected of them and a little bit more.”

A. Lou Vickery, Writer

“When men yield up the privilege of thinking, the last shadow of liberty quits the horizon.”

Thomas Paine, (1737-1809)

“If a million people say a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing.”

Anatole France, (1844-1924)

“When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around.”

Willie Nelson

Western Block News

Meetings

For all **Edmonton and area** members, there will be a meeting in Leduc, at the **Leduc Inn**, Saturday, **September 10th** at **7 p.m.**

The **first convention** of the **Western Block Party** will be held in **Sidney, B.C.** on **Sunday, November 20th**, **8:30 am to 5:00 p.m.** The cost is \$100 per delegate, and includes two meals. All members in good standing are eligible to vote. Registration prior to September 30th is required. Notice will be going out to all members, shortly.

Our weekly meeting at the **Waveside Café, Saanich Commonwealth Place** is **Thursday evening at 7 p.m.** Everyone welcome. Recent events have prompted new people to come, so it's very interesting.

Western Block on the Web

The website of the Western Block Party is located at: **www.westernblockparty.com**. Join the forum and participate!

A Separatist Speaks

By Doug Christie

On Leadership

The growth of the Western Block Party, as well as the pressure on Stephen Harper to change, according to the dictates of media-induced perceptions, have led to some thoughts on leadership.

The fundamental rule of leadership is integrity. This simply means the clear articulation of a goal, combined with a consistent movement toward the same goal. The function of a leader is first to articulate the goal. Secondly, the leader must motivate, educate, and inspire commitment to the goal.

In modern society politics has become the art of *compromise*, with elimination of any clearly articulated goals. Canada is a perfect example of the political state with no real or

effective leadership. The selection of the present government by the so-called democratic process has rendered all leadership in Canada impossible.

Lets examine what *actually* occurs: The media provides most of the leadership because it has the capacity to create the illusion of popularity. This phenomenon of media presentation has currently stimulated a tremendous interest in western separatism. It arises again out of a public opinion poll. The people, it seems, in growing numbers, want western separatism.

This is particularly disturbing to the Canadian establishment because a large percentage of the support comes from those younger in age. It was always thought in the past that western separatism was a phenomenon unique to those of long experience or about to expire in this world anyway. The young however have not been thoroughly brainwashed by the virtues of the multicultural, equalization payment distribution system, which Ottawa represents.

This brings me to the subject of leadership. One cannot be a leader by simply following the opinions created by others or alternatively demanded by others, inconsistent with the articulated goal. If Western Canada is to be a new nation, it will only be an improvement if it starts from a radical departure from the Canadian political foundation.

Federalism, multiculturalism, wealth redistribution, open door immigration, special status based on race for persons of aboriginal origin, tolerance of all things, same-sex marriage, gun control, universal Medicare, and the contempt for the United States and everything that it does -- these seem to characterize Canada. If we were merely to reproduce these disastrous policies on a smaller scale in Western Canada, we would have missed a great opportunity to actually establish a whole new country. We would merely have substituted the problem in Ottawa, the cesspool of organized crime, for a smaller ones, somewhere else.

We can do a great deal better as a reasoned, thoughtful, but complete departure from all that is wrong about the whole Canadian process. This may require changes in thinking greater than some people are capable of achieving. Leadership however requires a commitment to a goal and consistent movement towards the same goal.

Leaders are *not* interchangeable as inconsistent goals unless they have no principles themselves or no particular convictions. The leader requires convictions, strongly held beliefs, and a firm capacity to explain them if the leader is to have the ability to motivate others.

Canada produces no leadership because strongly held beliefs are generally discouraged. Ironically, Canada tolerates no strongly-held beliefs. Do we wish to perpetuate such a leaderless, pointless society? Do we wish to start with a whole new concept of how a nation should be and how its leadership should relate to its people?

New ideas are sometimes frightening. It is only when the existing order of things becomes intolerably corrupt that people are even willing to consider new ideas. Such a point, it appears, has been reached for more and more Western Canadians, with the political situation in Canada. Now is the time to strike out boldly for new ideas and to provide true and better leadership. The substitution of leadership that amounts to no more than that of a mediator among opposing views is not capable of effecting any real change.

These thoughts have come to me as a result of a variety of challenges presented by the members of the Western Block Party. Recently I have been instructed by two members in particular that if I do not do what they suggest they will leave, forming their own organization, I suppose.

The question must be addressed, what should I do? Should I submit to their demands, tender my resignation and allow the convention

of our organization to be held in Red Deer where they insist it would be better, or do I maintain the decision to conduct a convention November 20th, in Sydney, British Columbia? In addressing this particular question I am reminded of the past 23 years. After building the Western Canada Concept in the province of British Columbia and Alberta in 1980 and 1981, I was told that an Alberta leader was necessary and that I was no longer entitled to lead the party I had founded in Alberta. This advice, which in actual fact was really an ultimatum, I had to accept.

The party and Alberta carried on for short time electing Gordon Kessler as leader. We all know what happened thereafter, don't we? The internal in-fighting which shortly emerged between the President and Gordon Kessler created great newspaper stories. The party was soon discredited. Gordon Kessler said he would rather be a member of the legislature from another area rather than the one in which he had been elected. He was quickly defeated in the next election.

The media, of course, are always willing to emphasize anything that will discredit the separatist movement or party. So therefore my experience in Alberta, which was very bitter, causes me to understand that merely having an Alberta leader would not achieve separation even though Alberta seemed to be the place where most people supported it.

From 1981 to the present time I have had no official political position within the Western Canada Concept in Alberta. That political party is now defunct in Alberta, though continually active in B.C. From 1981 till 2004 no separatist party emerged to replace it. The Reform Party originating in Alberta, ran as a federal party seeking to rectify Western grievances by means of constitutional reform.

We now know that it has in effect achieved nothing to this end. The Reform Party is now the Conservative party. It is indistinguishable on any major issue from the Liberal party. If elected as a government, its

Members of Parliament would predominantly come from Ontario. Its leader, Stephen Harper, now realizes that Ontario is the place where elections must be won or lost. He spent most of his time in Ontario during the last election, to no avail.

The demise of the Reform Party created no new separatist alternatives in the province of Alberta. The only separatist party currently active, at least in the media, in the province of Alberta is headed by an Alberta leader but it is rumoured that he is a retired member of the RCMP and could very well be receiving a federal pension.

Notwithstanding that, the Separation Party of Alberta is headed by an Alberta resident. It did not receive support in the last provincial election and it has no members of the Legislature. Consequently it seems reasonable to conclude that Alberta may have many grievances and the legitimate cause to desire separation, but it has not of its own accord managed to achieve any lasting commitment or political organization to that goal. It does not have at present any consistent leadership towards the objective. If it did, that leadership would be subject to the same conflict that I experienced in 1981 and 1982. The leader would be torn apart by his own followers. This seems to be the pattern that emerges in Alberta. I do not wish to repeat this pattern.

The Western Block Party is a federal political party. It needs an equal representation in its executive council from each of the four western provinces. It should not give disproportionate power or influence to any one province. It needs to have consistently articulated leadership. Until a large number of citizens of Western Canada are members of this party, it would be foolish to adopt any firmly fixed policies other than the need to achieve independence by referendum in each province.

That is the one fundamental principle, upon which it was founded.

The structure of a federal political party allows the provincial boundaries to be no impediment. The Western Block Party can become a trans-provincial organization. It can achieve the goal of uniting all of Western Canada. To abandon this objective to the impatient demands of a few restless souls in Alberta would be in effect to repeat the disastrous abdication of responsibility which I admit was mine when I withdrew to the west of the Rocky Mountains in 1982.

If I was the problem, Albertans could surely have solved it in my absence. They really have done nothing in that regard except fight among themselves. No constructive separatist alternative has ever emerged except the Reform Party, now dead. It would be irresponsible for me to abandon my post, submit to the demands of a few impatient Albertans, and let the party be taken over once again by those who are too ambitious to follow but incapable to lead. I've decided not to do that and to maintain the concept of one party for Western Canada.

The goal will be to create equal influence in the executive council of the party from each province, but not to allow one province or its perceived interests to dictate to all the rest. My responsibility to maintain the goal of united Western Canada must not be abandoned. The convention will occur in Sidney, British Columbia November 20th, between 9 AM and 5 PM to elect the executive council and to resolve any disputes of policy which can be notified to the interim executive as an issue before September 30th in writing. By this simple means we will maintain the cohesion of the organization and the integrity of its message.

*Yours for independence,
Douglas Christie*

~Join the Western Canadian Independence Movement~

**W.C.C., Box 101, 255 Menzies Street, Victoria, B.C. Western Canada V8V 2G6;
Or by fax: 250-479-3294
Western Block Party, 810 Courtney Street, Victoria, B.C. Western Canada V8W
1C4; Or by fax: 250-479-3294**

___ I wish to join/renew my membership in the Western Canada Concept, and enclose my membership fee of \$15.00, per person, per year. This includes a free subscription to the Western Separatist Papers. The Western Canada Concept Party of B.C. is provincially registered and entitled to give tax receipts for donations, and is only open to residents of BC. The Western Canada Concept for all of Western Canada is a research and communications movement dedicated to the creation of a new nation of Western Canada. It's primary aim is education and inspiration.

___ I just wish to subscribe to the Western Separatist, and enclose \$15.00 per year, made out to WSP Ltd.

___ I wish to join the Western Block Party (a federal political party dedicated to promoting Western Canadian Independence) and enclose my membership fee of \$10.00, per person, per year.

Western Block party bumper stickers now available for \$1.00 each. I enclose \$ ___ for ___ bumper stickers.

___ I enclose a donation of \$ _____ to help promote the idea of Western Independence.

___ Please send information about the Western Canadian movement for Independence to the following people (please print clearly):

I want to help as follows: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Email Address: _____

*Western Canada Concept, the Movement for Western Independence!
Advocating Western Canadian Independence since 1974*