

ALBERTA Street News

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**Bill Buck in the parking
lot of Edmonton Cash
Register where he gave
food to those in need
seven days a week.**

**Photo by Richard Eastland
Story on page 2**



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ALBERTA STREET NEWS

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A street warrior has fallen

By Linda Dumont

The death of William {(Bill) Buck on March 16, 2019, reverberated throughout Edmonton's inner city where he had been a faithful volunteer with the House of Refuge Mission since 1979. Like a John Wayne of the street, Bill was tough but gentle, and a staunch defender of his faith in God. He proudly wore a baseball cap with the word Jesus embroidered in red across the front and joked that no one ever tried to steal it.

Bill was from northern Saskatchewan, but lived in Edmonton for more than forty years. He was born October 10, 1936, but the birthday he celebrated was his spiritual birthday December 31, 1979. That was the day he met Jesus at one of Max Solbrekkens's evangelistic meetings. Bill was sensitive about his age saying, "Age is just a number", and kept on working right up until the three days before he died, picking up food at the Edmonton Food Bank, then taking it down to the street to be given to those in need. He passed away following surgery to repair a ruptured hernia.

At the House of Refuge Mission, Bill was always there seven days a week, doing everything from putting on the coffee and making soup to acting as a bouncer for unruly clients and cleaning up at the end of the day. He also did food pick ups and was always ready to take food hampers to those in need. He was also a handyman and could put up drywall, do repairs and unplug toilets as needed. He never neglected the prayer meetings. After the building burned down in 2012, Bill continued to work, giving out food outside on the parking lot of Edmonton Cash Register, even on the coldest winter days. He was proud of his position as president of the board of directors of the House of Refuge mission since 2008.

At the memorial service for Bill on March 31st, Brian, Bill's friend and former co-worker at the House of Refuge mission, said, "No man was too big or too small or too crazy that Bill couldn't handle. He could take them outside. Bill would clean the place up, open the doors and lock them up at night."

Bob Vandergrift has known Bill since the 1980's and worked with Bill at the House of Refuge Mission since 2007. He said, "Bill would make people take off their hats at the House of Refuge. I talked to his son about his dad. His dad loved Jesus and the people on the streets. It was my honour and privilege to work with Bill. He was a strong man."

Glen Davis, who preached at the House of Refuge mission from 1996 until 2012, said, "Bill was a friend and fellow minister for many years. We had coffee together every morning for the last few years. I have known him for 23 years. I met him in 1996 and he invited me to preach. He didn't like hospitals He was a good friend to help."

Bill was hard of hearing, but refused to consider a hearing aid. Josh Branston remembers Bill from when he was eight years old and visited the House of Refuge to help out his grandmother, who was a volunteer. He said, "These two guys were fighting. Bill told them to go outside. One went but the other said he was scared and didn't want to leave. Bill grabbed him by the jacket and hauled him out anyway. I don't think Bill even heard him. Once the men were outside, I saw the first guy hit the other one on the back of the head with a hatchet. He went down. The police came and I talked to the police. I wasn't allowed to go to the mission for a long time after that."

Bill's death is strongly felt by those he served and those he served with, but the work of the House of Refuge Mission continues. Every evening at 6 p.m. food is distributed to those in need on the parking pad of Edmonton Cash Register on the corner of 103A Avenue and 95 Street.

Below: part of the mural on the side of former House of Refuge. The building burned down in 2012. Photo by Linda Dumont



Sell in May and go Away

By Joanne Benger, Photo by John Zapantis

May has more than its share of superstitions. Wall street Says, "Sell in May and go away." Roman-tics say, "Mary in May and you'll rue the day." Its unlucky to get married in any month with an a just as it is deadly to eat oysters in a month without an r. If you want to stay healthy, eat no oysters this month. Eat sage instead for "If you would live aye, be sure to eat sage in May." Housewives know it's unlucky to wash blankets in May as the saying goes, "Wash a blanket in May, wash a dear one away." Our weather being uncertain, this is not yet the time to get rid of winter wear. The wise warn us, "Toss not a clout till May is out."

1. May 1 is May Day when romance blooms. If you girls want to see your future husband, toss a ball of yarn into an old cellar or barn and rewind it while chanting, "I wind, I wind, my true love to find. The color of his hair, the clothes he will wear the day is married to me." Before you finish rewinding that yarn your future husband will appear to assist you, or so the saying goes. If you are more interested in money than love and don't much care for insects this superstition is for you, If you kill a bee on the first of May and stick it in your purse you'll always have money."

2. The first week of May is Be Kind to Animals Week. Practice random acts of kindness toward all the animals you see.

3. May 3, the first Friday in May, is No Pants Day, a mock holiday that has been with us since the mid '80's. Sit around in your underwear and watch TV.

4. May 4 is Star Wars Day. May the fourth (force) be with you.

5. May 4 is the first Saturday in May which makes it U.S. National Scrapbooking day. Get all those newspaper clippings and start gluing them in place. Resurrect the old art of scrapbooking.

6. May 5 Ramadan beings and it will last until June 4. This is the 9th month of the Mohammedan year and the Muslim lent or holy month.

7. The second week of May is Nurses Week. Visit a nursing station and leave them a gift of flowers or chocolates. Most nurse go above and beyond the call of duty.

8. May 8 is the anniversary of VE Day which marked the end of World War II (1939 to 1945) Honour a war vet today.

9. May10, the Friday before Mother's day, is when Mother's Day is celebrated in schools.

10. May 12 is Mother's Day. None of us would be here if it weren't for our mother so let's thank her for life. Every mother is special in her own way, but as Kipling said, "God couldn't be everywhere so he made mothers." Wear a pink carnation if your mother is alive and a white one if she has gone to heaven.

11. May 12 is also St. Dunstan's day when spring cleaning officially begins. This year I think we'll wait a day to begin cleaning on May 13.

12. May 17 is National Pack Rat Day when many begin decluttering, which we now call Swedish death cleaning. Actually it used to be Pack Rag Day in the old country. All servants were hired by the year in May so this is when they packed up their rags (clothes) to move to the next year's job.

13. May 20 is Victoria Day when we can finally set out transplants and plant the garden without worrying about losing them to frost. Still we do have late frosts some years so keep the blankets handy in case you have to cover them.

14. May 20 is also World Bee Day. We've all seen bee hives in clover fields where bees are busy working pollinating the crop as they make honey.

Sometimes the bees swarm and the saying is, "A swarm of bees in June is not worth a fly." Let's hope bees swarm early this year.

15. May 21 is Plato's birthday. He was born in 429 BC. It is said he was no eloquent because when he was a baby in his cradle a swarm of bees landed on his mouth.

16. The fourth week of may is Aboriginal Awareness Week. This is a good time to go to a museum and think about Canada's early days.

17. May 27 is U.S. Memorial Day and we, too, can visit a cemetery and think of those who sacrificed their lives for us.

18. May 31 is World No Tobacco Day. Smoking was called "drinking smoke" until the 17th century and Nicot, who introduced it to France in 1560, promoted it as a medicine that would heal wounds and cure cancers. Now we know tobacco is more addictive than heroin or cocaine and smoking is responsible for one death in ten worldwide. An estimated 1.3 billion people world wide are smokers and half of them will eventually be killed by



Rough Sleep

The Big Issue Australia asked a selection of its vendors to share what it's like to sleep when you have no place to call home.

By Big Issue Australia vendors

Sue | Melbourne CBD

Every morning at 6am, upon hearing the sound of music, all of us have to wake up. We are a group of less fortunate people who have in some way or another lost the cosy comfort of our beds. We are homeless for all different reasons. The community cafe allows us to sleep there every night, from 11pm to 6am. It sounds perfect, but there is not enough quality sleep. We are sleeping like sardines,

either on the floor or on the few wooden long benches, or just on the chairs. The light and TV stand are on the whole night, and people keep walking in and out for free coffee and toasties. Sometimes, in the middle of the night, troublemakers make unnecessary noises, too. Despite all this, we are grateful to have a safe place to sleep, and fortunate to have staff and volunteers who are taking care of us.

Magoo | Brisbane

I have been a rough sleeper on and off for 40 years. My quality of sleep is much better when I have a roof and four walls. When I am sleeping rough, I always make sure I'm around cameras, as it gives me some peace of mind. You can never fully relax when you are sleeping rough – you always have to sleep with one

eye open.

Sean | Perth

When I was 14, I used to sleep in the sand hills near Cottesloe Beach. I remember finding it very hard to sleep, as it was hard to keep warm. It was hard to get a solid sleep as you don't know what dangers are around.

Erik | Melbourne

I find it hard to get to sleep because I'm thinking about the future: work, my relationship and money. I'm always trying to make my mark on society, and because of anxiety I focus on stuff for a long time. I don't get to sleep until after midnight and sleep until 7.30am. If I had to get up earlier, I couldn't. able to do it.

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8th Annual Edmonton Fire Fighter's Union 209 24 Hour Charity Challenge Kids vs Coaches raises \$70,000 for cancer care packages

By John Zapantis

Hockey players of all ages, ranging from six to 16 including Edges Professional Skating Instruction coaches, who played against their students as well as celebrity media members, former NHL alumni and the Edmonton Fire Fighter's Union 209 came together in a heroic effort, helping to raise public awareness and fundraising pledges for the 8th Annual Edmonton Fire Fighter's Union 209-24 Hour Charity Challenge Kids vs Coaches for The Matt Cook Foundation.

The popular event was held at The Canadian Athletic Club Arena located at 14645- 142 street in Edmonton. It was hosted and organized by Tammy Coley, who owns and operates Edges Professional Skating Instruction that works in partnership with Super Skate Advanced Hockey Development Association and The Canadian Athletic Club. The two day event commenced at 6 p.m. on Friday April 5th and ended on Saturday April 6th at 6 p.m.

TSN 1260 Radio personality and MC Dave Jamieson did the honours, hosting the opening ceremonies for this action packed fundraiser. In his opening introduction he started reading out the names of members of the Edges Professional Skating Instruction, who came onto the ice one after another, then all lined up at the blue line. Jamieson also asked members of the audience, along with the players on the ice, to pause for a moment of silence to honour the 1st Anniversary of

the Humbolt Bronco's bus tragedy, when that bus collided head on with a semi trailer truck, killing 16 of its members and injuring 13 on April 6th, 2018.

Former Edmonton Oiler's hockey player Chris Joseph, who has been a proud participant of this fundraiser, is the father of the late Jaxon Joseph, who was riding on that bus the day when the tragedy hit close to home. Chris Joseph missed this year's event, because he was attending the Humbolt Bronco's Memorial Anniversary held in Humbolt Saskatchewan on Saturday, April 6th to pay his respects to his deceased son and his teammates, whose lives were taken so suddenly on that fatal day.

Tragedy comes in all forms, as in the passing of the late Matt Cook, whose foundation, The Matt Cook Foundation, is named in his memory. He struggled with osteosarcoma bone cancer at age 18, when he received 31 rounds of chemotherapy treatment and had his left leg amputated below the knee.

The late Matt Cook, the son of Don and Lynn Cook, was a hockey player with the Bonnyville Pontiacs of the A.J.H.L. in 2006. After having his leg amputated below the knee, he went on to briefly pursue a career in sledge hockey, where he made the Canadian sledge hockey team helping Canada win the bronze at the 2009 World Championships in Ostrava, Czech Republic.

A few months prior to his determination to appear, he was tragically taken down by the return of his bone cancer on April 4th of 2010. The memory of his legacy has established his 'Forever Calling' and he has become a source of inspiration for two people in particular, Marla Miller and Don Wilson, who established The Matt Cook Foundation in his name.

The compassionate foundation provides care packages to cancer patients, who are

waiting for cancer treatments at the Cross Cancer Institute. The reputable foundation is also the reason that the 24 Hour Charity Challenge is gathering funds to donate, while giving them back to the foundation's operations.

Matt Cook's family members were invited onto the ice to take part in the opening ceremonies with two hockey players, who were preparing for the ceremonial puck drop, before the first game was about to start.

The Cook family members at centre ice included Lynn Cook, her husband Don Cook, her son Brady, Brady's wife, Alyssa, Lynn's daughter Marina and Marina's husband Kyle Nazarchuk, Asher Lawley a young student of Edges Professional Skating Instruction faced off against his instructor Ryan Coley for the official puck drop. The game then commenced to officially kickoff The 24 Hour Charity Challenge as Edges coaches played against their young students in a fun filled game of ice hockey while raising money for the cause.

NHL Alumni, who made up the celebrity team, also played against Edges coaches. The players included the likes of Dave Marcinyshyn, Mark Fistric, Brian Benning and Jason Chimera. Edmonton Oiler's Matt Kassian was in attendance watching the activity. Kieran Block, a former Medicine Hat Tiger's Junior hockey player of the WHL and a former member of the Team Canada sledge hockey team, was also on hand playing in a sledge hockey game that was featured at the very end of day two of this event.

Media players, who were a part of the celebrity team, adding to the excitement, included television personalities, Chris Scheetz from CISN, Kevin Karius from Global TV, Darcy Seaton from CTV, Kent Morrison from Global TV and Daryl McIntyre from CTV.

ASN took some time out to interview NHL Alumni, Edmonton born Dave Marcinyshyn, who once played minor hockey for the Canadian Athletic Club. He started his junior B career with the Fort Saskatchewan Traders and played two years in the WHL with the Kamloops Blazers, while coached by current Edmonton Oiler's coach Ken Hitchcock, which earned Dave an appearance in the Memorial Cup. Marcinyshyn also played 12 years in the NHL with teams that included the New York Rangers, New Jersey Devils and the Quebec Nordiques. His professional career finally ended with Deutsche Eishockey Liga in Germany.

Left: The puck drop was a face off between Edges Student Asher Lawley and Edges Captain Ryan Coley, with them are, left to right, Lynn Anderson Cook, Marina Cook, Brady Cook (hidden head behind him is Kyle Nazarchuk and Brady's wife Alyssa Cook, Don Cook and Edges Professional Skating Instructor and coach Tammy Coley
Photo by John Zapantis



The Mother's Day Haircut

By Sharon Austin

Once again on Mother's Day the pastor hands out the carnations, red or pink if your mother is alive and white if she has passed on. I reach for the white carnation as I have for so many many years and my mind floods with memories from so long ago, memories of a kinder gentler time long before lives were shaped and moulded by technology. The choir is softly singing that beautiful old song "My Mother's Hands" and I remember my mother's big hard-working hands. She never bothered with her hands, never used hand cream or painted her nails. There was always too much work to do from milking the cows to hauling water from the well to tending the huge garden that kept us in potatoes and vegetables throughout the winter. I remember her hands kneading the bread and the wonderful aroma of the golden brown loaves. Those big hands were gentle too as she combed the tangles from my freshly washed hair. She would tell me stories of a little lame prince that rode on a magic carpet so I would sit still. I remember Mom sitting beside my hospital bed when I was six and drawing pages of girls in fancy fashions for me to colour. The nurse brought in a colouring book but I much preferred Mom's drawings or drawing my own pictures. Short curly hair was in style in those days and Mom would sometimes give me a home permanent called a Toni. She would cut my hair, wrap each piece in perm paper which looked like a small square of tissue paper, then curl it tightly in a bone curler. The smell of the perm solution was not pleasant as it stung my nose and made my

eyes water. It took all afternoon but the results were a head full of natural looking curls.

One beautiful spring day I came home from school to find Mom holding a box of Toni home perm and a pair of scissors. It had been a long, cold, gray winter and I think Mom was ready for a change. There certainly was no money to go to the hairdresser back then so a Toni home perm was the best that we could do. I was only fourteen, and I have no idea why Mom trusted me to cut and perm her hair but with the bravado of youth I was sure that I could do a fine job. I felt like a real hairdresser as I cut the soft black strands and wound her hair in the tight bone curlers. She instructed me how to do each step and finally the job was done. Mom looked like a new woman with her head of glossy black curls instead of the chin length straight hair. The next day was Mother's Day and Mom's Ukrainian friend stopped by for a visit. She kept looking at Mom's hair and talking in Ukrainian so I couldn't understand what she was saying. Then turning to me she said, "Shorney, you cut my hair too?" She never did come with her box of Toni to have her hair done and I was secretly glad. Doing Mom's hair was one thing but doing it for a neighbour was daunting. Mom was a gentle soul and even if I had done a terrible job she never would have yelled or made me feel bad; she just would have worn a kerchief on her head. I never forgot the faith she had in me that day or the smile on her face as she looked in the mirror at her new hairdo.

I breathe the soft scent of my white carnation and remember my dear mother as the hymn ends with the verse: "Oh those beautiful, beautiful hands! I shall clasp them again once more. As my feet touch the bank of the heav'nly land. We shall meet on that shining shore."



Mom's wisdom

By Joanne Bengier

1. Bring me the change.
2. Stop teasing the cat.
3. It's cold, Put on your sweater.
4. Hang up your coat
5. Don't drag your feet.
6. Use a clean handkerchief.
7. Hurry up. You're already late.
8. Don't sit on the seat and be sure to flush.
9. Don't slouch or your back will grow that way.
10. Take Mummy's hand.
11. Don't stare at people.
12. Don't put gum in your hair.
13. Stop sniffing.
14. Stop eating candy. It will spoil your appetite.
15. Don't drink or smoke. It will stunt your growth.
16. Don't chew paper. Don't put crayons up your nose.
17. Wipe that smile off your face.
18. Stop scowling.
19. Good girls don't make smells.
20. Stop scowling.
21. Good girls don't pinch people.
22. Look. Don't touch.
23. If you touch it, you eat it.

After retirement from hockey, Dave became a fire fighter and has been one for 18 years. He maintains a long term friendship with the Cook family.

Marcinyshyn takes great pride in always giving to a worthy cause, which makes him feel great. Marcinyshyn said, "I try to do my best to gather as many silent auction items as I can to raise funds, to be involved and actually, still fortunately, I'm capable of playing. Today was the first day I was involved with my son for the parent taught hour. He is seven years old. It was his first year in hockey so that was as exciting as can be, to be on the ice playing a real game with my son, but giving back is something that was always promoted. It's kind of funny. It took me right back to my junior hockey days with Coach Ken Hitchcock in Kamloops. We were in Kamloops for two years. He was adamant that the guys weren't in school, had already graduated from high-school. You get out into the community and you make yourself known and you give back and from there even into my pro hockey, you

know it was always nice to give back and feel like you're always making a connection with the community."

The event occupied two very busy days of activities that will all benefit the Matt Cook Foundation's helpful care packages program for people waiting for cancer treatments. Other activities that also helped raise money for the cause included a silent auction, a 50/50 draw and Charity Challenge T-shirts. An airplane toss was also part of this exciting venue that had young and old entertained throughout the two day event.

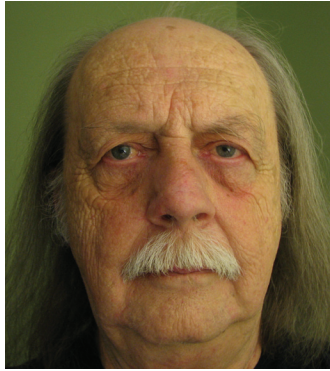
This year's event reached its anticipated goal of \$70,000 that adds to the overall grand total of \$300,000 raised in eight years since this charity's humble beginnings. This year's title sponsor was The Edmonton Fire Fighter's Union 209. The event once again was a smashing success, thanks to its many local sponsors and volunteers, including the 'Goodwill Warriors On Ice', who helped make the event a meaningful and enjoyable one.

There's seldom a time we ever hear about

those invisible people who remain behind the curtain, who in some way or another have a big influence in making it all come together. They also deserve a sincere thank you for their commitment and contributions. These invisible administrators of 'Good Will' include none other than the Board of Directors, Lynn Anderson Cook-Chair, Donald Cook-Director, Barry Bentz Secretary, Marla Miller-Director, Brady Cook-Director, James Morrissey-Vice Chair and Donald Wilson-Director.

Oh, and let's not forget one compassionate spirit in particular, who the players may feel hangs around in the dressing room and on the ice, as a pep talk for raising revenues and playing this game from the heart, none other than the spirit of Matt Cook, who has inevitably left his legacy and notable mark that makes the 8th Annual Edmonton Fire Fighter's Union 209-24 Hour Charity Challenge Kids vs Coaches the entity it has become in helping to make that big difference for those living with cancer!

Pissing match-ups



By Allan Sheppard

What was Justin Trudeau thinking in his clumsy mishandling of his disagreement with and resulting controversy surrounding Jody Wilson-Raybould? What was he thinking in his bungled efforts to crisis-manage fallout from the resignation in protest against Trudeau's treatment of Wilson-Raybould by Wilson-Raybould's friend and advocate in matters of political ethics, Jane Philpott? And what were Trudeau's party handlers thinking when they advised, allowed, or enabled him to botch things so incompetently?

And what were Trudeau and the Liberal

Opposition parties do not win elections, governments lose them; Justin Trudeau has gone out of his way to prove that axiom.

brains trust thinking when they caved to shameless lobbying by SNC-Lavalin, surreptitiously enacting legislation that would enable them to help the Quebec-based engineering giant escape potentially crippling punishment, if convicted of corruption charges, assuming that Attorney General Wilson-Raybould would agree? Campaigning in the aftermath of the Mike Duffy scandal gave Trudeau and the Liberals opportunities to point fingers of shame and blame at Stephen Harper and his Conservatives and scatter promises that they would do better. Can Trudeau and the party have thought that those promises would not be taken seriously by voters or by principled Canadians, like Wilson-Raybould and Philpott, that Trudeau personally recruited as candidates, presumably because their lack of partisan political experience would help him keep his promises to restore ethics in governance?

Whatever Trudeau and the party were

thinking, they were wrong. They should have known better. They have no excuses and will deserve whatever bad happens to them in the October election. Whether Canadians deserve what may happen to them, should a Conservative majority emerge, is another matter for another discussion; the issue here is ethics, not politics or policy. Important as those may be, they do not trump ethics, especially in relation to a government that made ethics a ballot issue.

We should not be surprised that the Liberals reneged on promises to do politics in a better, more ethical way. Reneging is what Liberals do. Pierre Trudeau campaigned against then Progressive Conservative leader Robert Stanfield on the issue of wage-and-price controls, which Stanfield advocated and the elder Trudeau opposed—until he was elected and could enact legislation that he had campaigned against. Jean Chretien promised to get rid of, then opted to retain, a seven per-cent Goods and Services Tax, introduced by Brian Mulroney's Progressive Conservative finance minister, Michael Wilson. It didn't take Justin Trudeau long to revert to old Liberal ways. He quickly reneged on a promise to replace our archaic first-past-the-post electoral system with a more representative proportional system.

Trudeau and the current Liberals also promised much and delivered little (except platitudes) on the environment and on Indigenous affairs and reconciliation. Their rhetoric was often encouraging, but their performance was only marginally better than that of the Conservatives, who seem poised to replace them and who will happily revert to their old ways, consorting with and enabling like-minded premiers Doug Ford (Ontario), Scott Moe (Saskatchewan), and our own newly resurrected Jason Kenney. Again, Trudeau and his loyal caucus and cabinet of team players might richly deserve what they will get in October, but will Canada and Canadians get what they deserve?

Opposition parties do not win elections, governments lose them; Justin Trudeau has gone out of his way to prove that axiom.

Which brings me back to the question I raised at the beginning. What were Trudeau and his advisors thinking?

With respect to SNC-Lavalin, they obviously thought they could get away with it; with reverting to politics done the old way, ethics and integrity bedamned: winning (or not losing) isn't just everything, it's the only thing; the (self-identified) interests of one's party are more important than the rule of law, justice, or one's country; meaning the party is bigger than the country; meaning the party is too big to fail; meaning anything is permissible.

The only sin is to get caught. The only error is to get caught out, especially by members of one's own team. Surely to be a team player where such thinking prevails is to behave as expected and to have no excuse for unethical behaviour except that one was following orders. (Out of deference to Godwin's law, I will not extend the metaphor.)

Surely it is understandable and predictable that Wilson-Raybould, an attorney general whose contribution to cabinet diversity included generational knowledge and personal experience of the ways that federal governments have in the past and still today disrespect the rule of law as it applies to First Nations and Indigenous rights under the law, might not agree to ignore the rule of law in any circumstances.

Surely it is understandable and predictable that Philpott, a talented cabinet stalwart whose contribution to cabinet diversity included membership in and medical missionary work at home and abroad for a notably community-minded faith group, the Mennonites, might place personal and political ethics and integrity above the interests of party and power. Why would Trudeau et al preach diversity and then reject its consequences when faced with a tough decision that might lose some seats in Quebec (or might not, the argument for rescuing SNC-Lavalin to save jobs was never presented convincingly).

And, above all, why would Trudeau and his advisors/enablers allow Wilson-Raybould and Philpott to linger in caucus long after it was obvious they were not, and could not be, team players in lockstep with the party and its leaders?

Seeking an answer to that question led me to remember a quotation from U.S. President Lyndon Johnson. When asked by a delegation of Congressional Democrats to fire long-time FBI director J. Edgar Hoover on grounds that he pursued personal agendas and vendettas against the interests of the party, Johnson refused, saying "It's probably better to have him inside the tent pissing out, than outside the tent pissing in." If Trudeau was aware of Johnson's colourful, if vulgar, definition of big-tent politics half a century ago, he might have been envious of Johnson's simple either/or choices. Politics in Johnson's day was virtually an all-male, all-white enterprise. Diversity did not exist as a political value.

Trudeau et al seem, by their actions and reactions, to have discovered that diversity in the 21st Century is a bit more complicated. By keeping Wilson-Raybould and Philpott in caucus, they gave them, it must have seemed to Trudeau and the party, licence to piss inside the tent. But if there was any pissing in the tent, it was done by Trudeau himself. Week after week, statement after statement, his explanations and justifications fell flat. When he and the caucus finally got around to banishing Wilson-Raybould and Philpott (doing politics the old way), the self-inflicted damage had been done. Let me offer Trudeau and his caucus an Alberta bumper-sticker prayer for the upcoming election: God, please give us another majority; we promise not to piss it away this time.

Problem is, premiers Ford, Moe, and Kenny (once again praying for another Alberta oil boom and promising not to piss it away) will happily join federal Conservative leader Andrew Scheer pissing into the Liberal team tent.

The basics of reform?

By Timothy Wild, Calgary

I have long breakfasted, dined and supped on the idea of electoral reform. To me, changes in the way we choose our representatives would have a positive impact on the responsiveness of elected officials to all citizens' needs in the democratic time between actual elections. This legislative space is largely uncontested, due to old fashioned practices of whips, careerism and party discipline. However, it is in this space that the program and policy framework is built. This space has so much latent power and potential for the concrete expansion of justice, particularly in terms of economic rights of citizenship. Electoral reform would not only be healthy for society as a whole, but would also provide significant opportunities to promote the inclusion of people surviving on the social, cultural and economic margins. That is why the referendum held in April on the use of proportional representation (PR) in Prince Edward Island was of such interest to me. (The deadline for this article was early April, so I do not know the actual result).

This was not the first time that changes to the methods of electing our representatives have been put to the electorate. British Columbia has held a vote on a number of occasions, the most recent one being late last year. None of these votes, however, has satisfied the required conditions for a change. The 2018 vote (by mail-in ballot) saw almost two thirds of voters supporting the continued use of the first past the post method (FPTP). An earlier vote, in 2005, supported a change to the process but did not result in a change to the system as the required overall voter turnout was too low for the results to be binding. Prince Edward Island itself has had previous votes on electoral reform, with the 2016 non-binding vote eventually receiving majority support but also with a low voter turnout, so it was not adopted by the PEI government. Ontario too has had a referendum on the subject in 2007 that was unsuccessful.

The federal government has also expressed some interest in reform. During the most recent federal election, the Liberal leader, Justin Trudeau, loudly and proudly announced that that the 2015 election would be the last election conducted under the first past the post method. After the election Trudeau initiated a consultative process with Canadians to determine what method should replace FPTP.

The Liberals appeared to embrace the notion of reform with alacrity, as they felt that the preferred model would enshrine Liberal rule in perpetuity. However, when Trudeau realized the potential threats electoral reform might have to the hegemony of the right-wing Liberal Party of Canada, he cynically changed his tune. Perhaps this is not surprising; the Liberals have a number of grey areas and a solid track record when it comes to keeping their word. As my friend noted "this is the last election under first past the post is up there with 'read my lips, no new taxes' in the torch lit halls of broken campaign promises." But that not unexpected political chicanery aside, the PEI vote helped shed some larger light on the general range of electoral reform options folks can choose from.

Any of the reform options will ensure that election results more accurately reflect the will of the electorate and of each individual member of the electorate. They all attempt to provide some measure of equality to the weight of each vote. One approach is to have all of the political unit as one constituency, and each party is given seats in that "constituency" based on the actual percentage of votes they receive. For a long time, Italian elections were held under this approach, and resulted in a third of seats going to each of the Christian Democrats, the Socialists and the Communists. The actual representatives were selected from the party lists, published and promoted by the parties themselves. Other models use a combination of PR and conventional FPTP single member constituencies. Scotland uses such a process in their elections. Most seats are elected in single member constituencies, but then there are regional "top up" seats to help reflect the votes of people whose party may not have actually won in the single member seats. As a result of this, the Green Party, the Scottish Socialist Party, the Senior Citizens Party and others have had their voters represented in the Scottish Parliament. But enough of the history, what about the potential? Well, the Scottish system resulted in a Green voice in Holyrood. And the use of PR in Germany allowed the Green Party their first electoral breakthrough in the early 1980s. Elections to the Australian senate, using a model of PR, has also helped the Green public presence, but has also resulted in more cross-party informal alliances between female Senators on issues relating to the marginalization of women. I have long argued that Green politics are the last best hope for the actual implementation of the transformative socialist

project. Therefore, electoral reform could also help amplify the voices of the working classes in our legislatures. And this would, undoubtedly, result in more pro-worker, pro-people and anti-poverty policies.

I do recognize the obvious fact that if an election is won under FPTP, there is little incentive for the winners to fundamentally change the rules of the game. The actions of Justin Trudeau are clear evidence of this point. However, such reform is needed. If we want justice broadly defined, we need electoral reform. I was just reading an article in a newspaper and it contained a poll indicating that the United Conservative Party (UCP) would gain a majority of the votes in the upcoming provincial election. Political opinion polls are frequently wrong these days and I sincerely hope that this is the case with this poll. However, even if the UCP does capture the majority of votes, what about the views of the significant minority? After all, democratic theory holds that respecting the rights of minorities is essential to the well-being of any polity. In order for these views to be respected, doesn't it seem logical that they also be represented – in proportion – in the legislature? Proportional representation would help level the current imbalance. It is a matter of justice. Each vote must have equal and equitable value.

But is it also a matter of helping create effective and efficient public policy. More views will be heard and considered throughout the policy development and implementation process. The voices will not be limited to the market focused bray of the centre and the centre-right. The working class could be more accurately represented with a socialist party that aggregates and articulates the concerns, experiences, dreams and strengths of that class. A working-class political project could animate the voices of workers (broadly defined) and illustrate the need for transformative public policy. A comprehensive social policy framework would be central to this transformation. In the current system this will not happen. And there is no guarantee that this would happen in a more democratic political space. Big business and the boss class still hold a lot of power, particularly amongst the angst ridden "bourgeois cool". However, I would argue that this change is more likely to happen under a system of PR than in our conventional system. And surely those on the margins deserve to be at the very core of inclusion and participation?

Rough sleep continued from page 3

Shane | Canberra Centre

In 2011 I lost my best friend, my Uncle Tommy, and then I lost my grandfather to cancer and I fell apart. It brought me to drink alcohol, and now I've been sleeping rough for three years. I sleep anywhere I can. I did jump in my sleep a lot, but thanks to my wife Kim I no longer jump in my sleep. I'm now safe and happy.

Kelly H | Sydney

I am very lucky because I have found friends I can stay with. Some of my friends are not so lucky, they don't feel safe. And if the weather is bad it affects your sleep. When you don't get good sleep, it puts you in a bad mood and affects your relationship with friends and work. I hope my friends' situations change and they find a home soon.

Jacob S | Sydney

I used to sleep on the street about five years ago, and I have now found accommodation in Redfern. Sleeping in the street made me feel unsafe. You meet all different kinds of people, some good and some bad. It was very unpredictable, as you weren't sure if they would be in a good or bad mood. I am very happy with my new home.

You will change your life if you change your attitude

By Maria B.

"To believe in something, and not to live it, is dishonest." Mahatma Gandhi

There are three steps to change our attitude: Our beliefs about ourselves are the guides of our thoughts, words and actions. Our thoughts are very important as they influence our words and actions. Our words are the result of our thoughts. Our actions are the results of what we believe, what we think, and the results are our actions.

If we perceive the world as a hostile place, it will directly influence our beliefs. Our words and how we treat ourselves and others reflect in our actions. Whatever we believe affects our actions. If we believe that a certain action is negative, we will reply in a negative form. If, on the other hand, you believe an action to be positive, then your actions will be positive. Taking action (or not taking action), gives you results of one sort or another. If you evaluate your results and if you don't like what you find, or if you want different results or better results, it circles right back around to what you believe.

So what do you believe? And are your beliefs standing in your way? Do your beliefs support your ability to prospect successfully? If they do not, it's time to change your beliefs.

"Faith is about doing. You are how you act, not just how you believe." Mitch Albom,

Words have such power. They can hurt our feelings or encourage us, they can uplift us or depress us, they can shape us or break us. As children, the words that were spoken to us have become a part of us. They are planted in our subconscious and we replay them over and over in our minds. Most of us grew up with negative messages that continue to run through our minds and they continue to affect our decisions in life.

"What have I always believed?

That on the whole, and by and large, if a man lived properly, not according to what any priests said, but according to what seemed decent and honest inside, then it would, at the end, more or less, turn out all right." Terry Pratchett,

The best way to change our beliefs is to sit down and write down all the beliefs that come from your parents or the people that raised you. Question every belief that you have been told that you are. Make an honest observation of who you are and the one that conforms to the belief of what you think is closer to yours.

While you are going through this, I want you to understand that when we were born we had everything within us that we need to succeed in life. Every child is an incredible human being that deserves to be respected and treated with respect. I learned that in life, we teach others how to treat us and if we do not have a very good image of ourselves we are going to become the welcome mats for people to abuse us. When I was growing up I always felt I did not belong in this world but you know what? Every one of us has the incredible right to be



in this world, do not let people decide that their definition of you is who you are no one can define who you are, you are the only one that can define yourself.

By changing your thoughts just remember that your thoughts aren't a statement of fact, but a declaration of your goal. It is not yet a fact but you are taking the first steps to manifest your dreams.

You are in charge of your own life, the way you live it, the way you deal with issues and the way you present yourself. Make better choices and the end result will be much more peaceful and more pleasurable. Live your life with pride of who you are, have compassion and kindness for others and never forget that our Creator has an incredible plan in life for you to fulfill.

Naughty Secret Ballot Secrets Revealed

By Joanne Bengner

1. My Baba voted liberal the rest of her life because the Liberals pulled Canada out of the 1930 Depression.
2. After Baba died in 1955, Mom took over voting Liberal until she died in 1978.
3. A relative I cannot name is still voting Liberal in their memory. I suspect with secret ballot you may never know for sure.
4. Dad voted CCF and then NDP because he came from Denmark and believed in socialism.
5. Uncle John always voted for the party he thought would win. That way he said you have better representation in parliament.
6. Auntie Marie never married so she remained a girl forever. She voted for the handsomest candidate.
7. Uncle Peter didn't vote unless he was dragged to the polling station. Then I suspect he spoiled his ballot. He said it didn't matter who you voted for. The government always got in.
7. When I first voted and Women's Lib was new, I voted for the lady candidate no matter what she stood for.
8. Then I married an alien who couldn't vote. Together we decided who I would vote for.
9. Since my husband's death I've read all the fake news and listened to all the robocalls, then visited the cemetery for a sign.
10. This year they eliminated our local polling station so I took the Legion bus to an advance poll and voted for ... Oops, I can't say. It's secret ballot.
11. My friend voted for the party that phoned and then drove her to our very inconvenient new assigned polling station. She said they earned her vote.
12. Congratulations premier. We all voted for you, thanks to secret ballot. And thanks to us astute voters, the best person won.

Ignorance

By Rodney Graham, Winnipeg

In Webster's dictionary, you will see a picture, under the word "Ignorance" - a picture of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Canada.

In the middle of the picture, as many public relations photos show, will be the prominent, glorious, impressive looking Canadian Museum Of Human Rights.

A tribute to the hypocrisy, arrogance, and deceit of the hell-hole in the eastern prairies of Canada

The hardest fight you will ever have to fight is just to be yourself

Linda Dumont