



A BETTER WAY

BUILDING A NEW COUNTRY
FROM THE OLD

A Proposal for Western Canada

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By

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Forward

I have considered writing this document for quite a long time. Having been born in Canada, raised in the United States, served overseas in a 27 year career in the Canadian Forces and having the benefit of experience in living in the west most of my adult life, I saw that it was now a matter of necessity, I need to get this done. We need to get this done before it is too late for us and future generations.

It wasn't an easy decision.

The Canadian general election of 2015 brought home to me how far down the rabbit hole my country has gone and the urgency with which something needs to happen. At the very least, it's time to seriously discuss options.

And so, after months of work and research, I give you this document. A proposal on what might be, a means to get out from under the yoke of the dictatorship and mess Canada has become, where up is down, freedoms are threatened, culture is systematically obliterated and our way of life is under daily attack.

This is my gift to Western Canadians and you, the reader, are free to accept or refuse it. It is a document that can be amended to suit. I readily admit that I don't have all the answers but I hope I've done enough to show that the status quo doesn't need to be.

A special thanks to Mr. Guy Bertrand, whose work on independence for Quebec has been a great inspiration.

Remember, dear reader, you can control your destiny and make things so much better for your descendants.

You have the power.

Peter LeTourneux
March 2017

Why?

Canada has been in turmoil for nearly fifty years. Through successive Liberal and Conservative governments, Canada has descended from a homogeneous society with a sense of purpose and national pride to one where divisiveness rules above all else. Accusations fly from left and right, lawfare has become an accepted way of dealing with issues and special interests and foreign controlled NGOs adversely affect the Canadian economy, energy development and social policy. American billionaires unduly influence our leaders to follow the path of globalism, rejecting national identity and pride. Our media has become tremendously partisan, routinely conducting character assassination of anyone not found worthy. Free speech is stifled and only accepted speech tolerated, the police serving as the minions of unscrupulous politicians.

Those same politicians are less concerned with the state of Canada and the well being of Canadians and more concerned with being politically correct and not offending anyone lest they be called names.

Immigration has become a joke in Canada. Once a means of providing the best the world could offer to enhance and advance Canadian society, it has been allowed to degrade into a quick and ready way to get votes. Little attention is paid to the quality or the immigrant, any vocational or professional training he may have or even if he can speak either of Canada's official languages.

We see examples elsewhere where this path leads. Europe is experiencing unprecedented levels of crime, unrest and economic strife from the effects of creating the Euro zone and unbridled generosity of the welfare states. Unrestricted migration, at the behest of European leaders, has caused entire regions to become uncontrollable with law enforcement ill equipped to enter areas. Rampaging groups have assaulted citizens and impose greater and greater demands on the state, pushing it to the breaking point.

The United States, once a shining light of freedom around the world, has become a miserably polarized society. So low has it become that even the President cannot depend on the support of his own government to carry out policy objectives.

This is the future of Canada.

The West, specifically Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, has been historically maligned by eastern Canada. Since Canada first sought western expansion the west has been viewed as a *source*, not a partner.

The resources have been exploited for the benefit of everyone but Westerners. But what's more, resources have been *regulated* by eastern Canada. An example of which is the present day usurping of Alberta's oil industry, actions that largely benefit American and Saudi interests.



Illustration from 1915.

Their minions in the environmental movement are well funded to disrupt and clearly do not have the best interests of Western families and economies in mind. One can only speculate as to the motives of some federal and provincial leaders.

At the present rate it appears that Western economies will sit on the verge of collapse with high unemployment and ever increasing strains on social services.

Concurrently, as Westerners are treated like vassals in their own land, they are subject to unending

Province	% of Population	Seats	% of Seats
Ontario	38.8 %	120	38.1 %
Quebec	23.1 %	72	22.9 %
British Columbia	13.3 %	41	13.0 %
Alberta	11.0 %	34	10.8 %
Manitoba	3.6 %	12	3.8 %
Saskatchewan	3.1 %	10	3.2 %
Nova Scotia	2.7 %	9	2.9 %
New Brunswick	2.2 %	7	2.2 %
Newfoundland & Labrador	1.5 %	5	1.6 %
Prince Edward Island	0.4 %	2	0.6 %
Northwest Territories	0.1 %	1	0.3 %
Yukon	0.1 %	1	0.3 %
Nunavut	0.1 %	1	0.3 %
Total		315	

platitudes about how great it is to be a Canadian, how they're doing their part, and how they should be glad to be Canadians. Yet this just doesn't hold water. The entire west has less seats in the Canadian Parliament and Senate than Ontario and Quebec, also the case with the Maritime Provinces. So the questions arise, who really controls Canada and is it fair?

Canada is a huge country, the second largest landmass on the planet behind Russia. Its population gathered along its southern border as

the further north one goes, the more hostile the climate. The present system effectively isolates all power in the centre and leaves the outlying areas, including the West, without adequate or fair

DISTRIBUTION OF SENATE SEATS	
AREA	SEATS
Ontario	24
Quebec	24
Maritimes	24
Nova Scotia	10
New Brunswick	10
Prince Edward Island	4
Western Provinces	24
Manitoba	6
British Columbia	6
Saskatchewan	6
Alberta	6
Additional representation	9
Newfoundland and Labrador	6
Northwest Territories	1
Yukon Territory	1
Nunavut	1
TOTAL	105

representation. The present population based system worked well 100 years ago but times have changed and a system where power rests solely on population no longer applies in a society that prides itself on fair play. It has been acknowledged that Alberta and the Western provinces are the economic engine of Canada, even when oil prices are low. And yet central Canada dictates what and how the West will sell its oil and even *if* the west will sell oil! All this with complete disregard for Western families and economies.

Equalization

The premise of equalization is that all provinces should have access to a similar level of services. To that end, the country is divided into "have" and "have not" provinces. Again, the controller is the central government. The equalization process is somewhat convoluted and not something that this document

will address. Instead we will deal with the effects of equalization, who wins and more importantly, who loses.

The West has always paid into equalization. But so have all the other provinces in the form of taxes such as the GST. All this goes into general revenues of the central government who then distributes the funds. While it is true that in effect, all taxpayers contribute to the equalization fund, the disparity is in who receives funding and why?

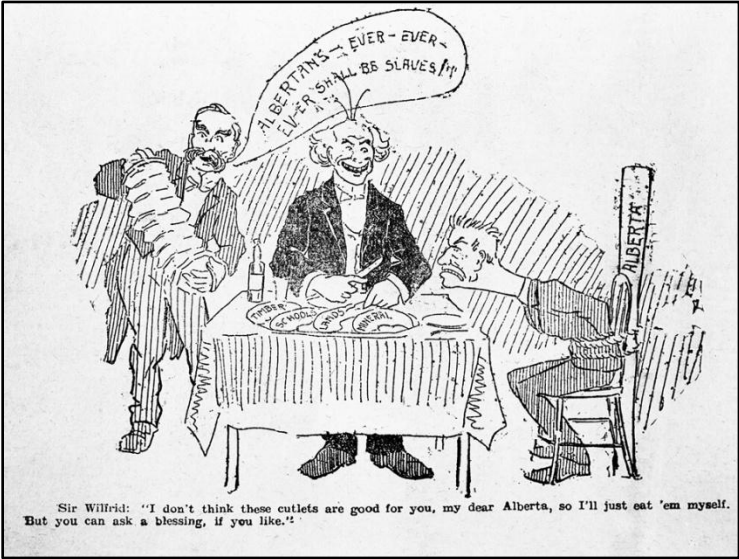
Disbursement is based on economic performance and population. This is why Quebec gets the lion's share of funding, permitting the province to offer perks unavailable to other provinces. One has to wonder what the economic situation would look like without equalization.

Equalization has long been a thorn in the side of Westerners who see it as an unnecessary drain on their economy. Westerners see this as the difference between Quebec's low university tuitions, better social services and what someone can expect from the Alberta or Saskatchewan government.

Like it or not, equalization is entrenched in the Canadian Constitution and cannot be rid of without a consent of the provinces who benefit the most from it.

National Pride

As mentioned before, Westerners have been told over the years how important the West's contribution to Canada has been. Examples are too numerous to list here, unfortunately reciprocity has not been the strong point from eastern Canada. Westerners have long been considered backwards, "rednecks", unable to look after their own affairs.



Just after Alberta entering Confederation.

We can do better on our own, for us, and future generations.

At Present

Western Canadians were shocked when in the last general election Justin Trudeau and the Liberals were elected with an overwhelming majority. What was upsetting is not that the Liberals were elected but that the election was decided before the polls were even close to being closed in the West. This told Westerners that their vote does not count in electing a government. The eastern media were quick to disregard Western sentiment, saying that this was because the Conservatives lost the election but when one looks at the seats in Western Canada, the vote was pretty well split among the NDP and Conservatives with a few Liberals. The great divide between east and west was made very clear. Even if everyone West of Ontario voted for only one party they could not have elected a government. Western votes have always been and to a very great extent still are formalities with little or no effect.

There is no reason to think that the Canadian attitudes towards the West will change.

Time and History

Very few Westerners are actually aware of the truth about their history and relationship with Ottawa. If it were common knowledge there would be an open rebellion. A history lesson is not in the purview of this document however, as we enter the 150th year of beginning of Confederation, yes, the *beginning* as the West did not enter until much later, readers are strongly encouraged to read the reasons why the West entered into this arrangement with Ottawa and the cost each and every Westerner has paid since each province signed on the dotted line.

An examination will reveal that the West was absorbed into Canada by threats and false promises by such legendary people as Sir John A. Macdonald who pushed for the railroad to the west coast to satisfy eastern interests and anyone that got in his way, such as Louis Riel, were dealt with harshly. The vestiges of that absorption are still with us today. Ask yourself, who owns the West?

By seceding and going our own way we have an opportunity to take back what was ours for our benefit.



Sir John A. Macdonald

Look to the future!

Out with the Old

Canada has changed many times. The borders we now know have been drawn and redrawn, reaching what Canada looks like today with its provinces and territories. Recently, the Northwest Territories changed to include Nunavut. *Change is the only real constant.*



Canada in 1900.

It is recognized that one of the largest impediments to successfully creating a new country is the present provincial boundaries. Keeping them spawns a multitude of questions, amongst which are... who is in charge? Where is the capital? How are elections run? Should the first province to leave run the new country?

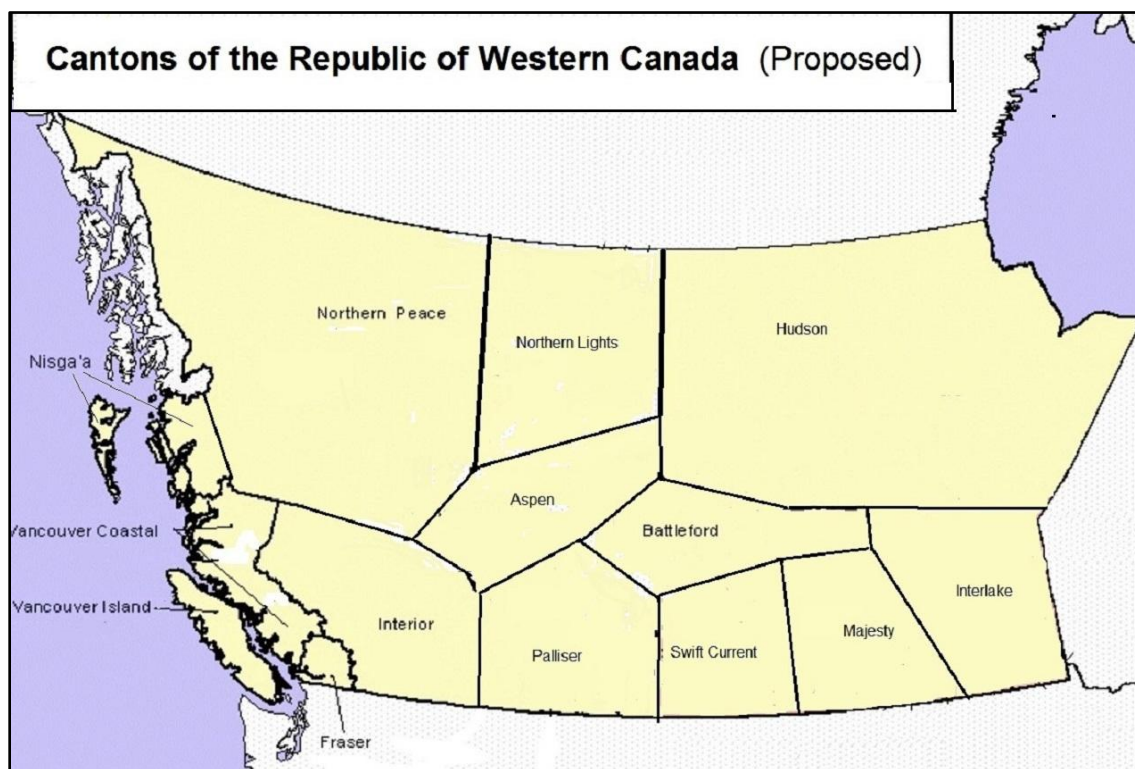
The only way to approach creating a new country is to dispose of the old and start with a clean slate. This will ensure a fair and unbiased system that treats all equally without the vestiges of the old country. This is not to say we would throw everything away! There is always the matter of family ties and shared history. No one would ever suggest that things such as this would end as a new country is born just as the history of Saskatchewan didn't finish with the end of Assiniboia.

The Concept

In this document, the reader will find the offering of a dream. A dream where true democracy exists in a country that is both familiar and new. Where each citizen has a truly equal vote on what happens to him locally, and beyond. This vote would decide all issues of importance to each and every citizen from how his street is maintained, how much tax he pays, how his country defends itself and who can become a citizen and how.

The Republic of Western Canada is a name that has been tossed about for many years and although at this stage it isn't really important what the country is called, for the purposes of this document, it is the name we shall use. Naturally, its citizens are called Westerners.

Old provincial boundaries would be dissolved and the reasons why have already been discussed. As an alternative, the Republic is based on the Swiss Cantonal System. The proposed divisions would be as shown below.



Western Canada is a big place with most of the population located near the US border. Because of this care had to be taken to ensure that even remote areas would have sufficient population to support the canton through taxes. And so the largest cantons are sparsely populated while the higher peopled places are smaller in area. Canton names are based on names these areas have been referred to. With this system every citizen has an equal vote in all matters concerning their municipality, canton and country. A true democracy.

The Government

Briefly, the government is broken down into three levels, Federal, Cantonal, and Municipal.

Federal

There are 14 Cantons that elect 4 representatives to the Federal Parliament making a total of 56 Representatives. Also elected separately are 1 President, 1 Vice President, and 1 Speaker. This makes a total of 59 members, all can vote, in the event of a draw the President must vote to break the tie.

Cantonal

Each Canton is broken down into sub regions, the number of which depends on population. Each sub region would have a number of representatives elected to the Cantonal Parliament. The number of Representatives will depend on population. The members of the Cantonal Parliament must elect one of their own to act as Cantonal Head, Secretary, and Speaker.

Municipal

Municipal governments would remain largely as they are now with a Mayor and Councils.

In General

Municipalities have exclusive powers in local service delivery (building and surveillance of local roads, gas, electricity and water supply, removal services, election of teachers and building of schools). *Cantons* retain powers that are important for their identity (culture, education, languages, religion) but also issues related to social policy (health and social services). In policy areas that either directly concern national sovereignty (army, monetary policy, or external relations) or require special co-ordination (social security, environment, energy, or infrastructure), the *Federal* level has exclusive powers or can promulgate framework legislation. All three levels, the federal, the cantonal and the municipal level, have the right to raise taxes and thus have a certain level of financial autonomy. The important point is the negation of duplication of services and toleration of overlapping only in cases where such is required to deliver the service to the citizens.

Change in distribution of powers in Western Canada, as in other federal states, centralisation or decentralisation of responsibilities would be a constant political issue that prompts ideological, social and economic conflict. The country must go by constitutional rule, the government can assume new responsibilities only if the double majority of the people and the cantons agree in a popular vote. This has two consequences. Firstly, it is the cantons that are responsible for any new tasks in the first place. Secondly, constitutional rule must protect the autonomy of the cantons.

Subsidiarity principle

The proposed federal system exhibits a marked preference for extensive cantonal and local autonomy that is based on the idea of subsidiarity. The idea of subsidiarity proposes that a central authority should perform only those tasks which cannot be performed effectively at a more immediate or local level. All matters should be handled by the smallest, lowest or least centralized competent authority. Political decisions should be taken at a local level if possible, rather than by a central authority. This will cultivate a climate where citizens expect fewer responsibilities to be taken by the state and will prefer decentralised solutions whenever possible. The strong autonomy of the cantons and their communities will produce citizens that are proud of their independence and community.

Co-operative Federalism

Most federal policies are implemented by the cantons and the municipalities. Thus, the cantons do not only have their own powers and responsibilities, but they also have the possibility to influence the implementation of federal policies. This form of co-operation between the federation and the cantons ensures governing from a bottom up perspective. When uniform implementation is required, federal legislation should be detailed, and cantonal governments have to report to federal authorities on its implementation. This runs the risk that cantons may take the view that their autonomy is endangered if federal legislation is too detailed, giving them no leeway in implementation and therefore leading to informal centralisation. The right to be different is a central element of the Western republic's federalism but in some cases, such as the Criminal Code, uniformity is a desired feature.

Vertical co-operation

Besides the vertical co-operation between the federal and the cantonal level through implementation of federal laws through the cantons, there are further forms of vertical co-operation. Primarily in the areas of foreign trade, the federal government may assist a group or one canton in a particular issue.

Horizontal co-operation

Cantons have the right and are encouraged to co-operate amongst each other. Cantons will have the right to engage in interactional treaties in different policy fields; however, most of these are likely to be concluded between two cantons that share regional concerns. These would concern mainly finances and taxes, trade, education, police, infrastructure and health. For these specific policy areas, different conferences of ministers of the cantons (e.g. education, police, health, finances) can be established.

Any barriers to trade between the cantons must be discouraged at all levels. Prosperity for all is dependent on cooperation by all. To that end the federal government must maintain a close watch on trade between cantons and be prepared to facilitate and mediate any disputes.

The Federal Government acts as an impartial mediator between cantons and is responsible for its field of control. It represents the collectivity that is the Cantons and municipalities primarily in the areas of defence, monetary policy, fisheries, police, judicial, health (as an equal partner with the cantons) national and international affairs including those with Canada.

The Constitution, when written, must lay out the responsibilities of each level and worded in such a manner as to be free of ambiguity. It must guarantee fundamental freedoms and responsibilities of the individual in the areas of freedom of speech, assembly, property ownership, religion and other freedoms as determined at time of writing. It must also serve as a tool to establish the sovereignty of law and protection of the country of Western Canada. The Constitution should also lay out the responsibilities of citizens and immigrants to observe and contribute positively to the country of Western Canada. There can only be one system of laws in Western Canada. It is a tall order to be sure but one that is the very bedrock of our society.

Send us your poor and huddled masses yearning to be free and we will make them Western Canadians.

The Electoral System

The actual mechanics of the electoral system is complex and better left to work out by the levels of government. Parts of the system have already been discussed in previous pages.

However...

The system must, of necessity, be free of undue influence. Examples of this can be found in the Canadian General Election of 2015 where outside special interest groups poured large amounts of money and influence to sway Canadian voters. The Western Canadian electoral system must bar any funding or interference, either directly or indirectly, from foreign groups and individuals and have adequate penalties to enforce this principle.

Western Canadian voters must be citizens of Western Canada, non citizens cannot be permitted to vote at any level. Residents of one canton cannot vote or interfere in the elections of another canton or municipality. The only exception is in the case of referendum affecting two or more cantons and then only in the cantons concerned.

External Affairs (with Canada)

Western Canada will have a shared history with its eastern neighbour. Many citizens of Western Canada will also have direct relatives living in Canada. Businesses will have dealings with Canada. The connections are real and must be taken into consideration in Western Canadian external affairs with Canada.

Just the formalization of independence will put good relations to the test. There are hundreds of factors to be considered and worked out between governments, cantons and provinces. Everything from

military bases and equipment, trade, security services, border services, devolution of responsibilities inherited from Canada and of course the equitable partition of the Canadian national debt, all are subjects of negotiation and agreement. It should be noted that this is not by any means and instant process. Contrary to what the naysayers will undoubtedly proclaim, none of this is unsolvable, however it will take a period of time during which cool heads and common sense and a will to succeed produce a fair and equitable separation.

The Western Canadian Federal government will be responsible to conduct these negotiations in consultation with cantons and affected municipalities and groups. Of everything discussed in this document, the actual split and functions of independence are the most important. Everything afterwards is not of consequence until this is achieved.

External Affairs and Immigration

Western Canada must be prepared to take its place among the great democracies of the world. Embassies and good relations with our neighbours in the United States should be of benefit to both countries. Currently, Canada is the United State's largest trading partner with the relationship being the second largest after China. 2015, U.S. merchandise trade with Canada consisted of USD\$295.2 billion in imports and USD\$280.3 billion in exports. 73% of Canada's exports went to the United States, and 63% of Canada's imports were from the United States (2009 figures).

Western Canada will train and develop a professional diplomatic corps to man embassies in countries with which we have relations.

We share security concerns with the United States and in an ever more troubling world, these are paramount in importance. Currently, Canada has adopted an open door policy towards illegal immigrants which will bring forth an inevitable increase in crime and an increase in terrorism. Western Canada must not make the same mistake. While we do want immigration to address social issues and growth, this desire must be tempered to ensuring that such intake is not a drain on resources and social services. Cantons will be able to veto any federally assigned intake numbers making close cooperation between levels a must. In short, we want the best the world can give us not the worst. Immigrants must be willing to become part of our society and observe our customs, traditions and laws. It is fine to be proud of one's roots and past but in this case we want newcomers to look forward to their future as Western Canadians.

Monetary Policy

Of necessity, Western Canada will continue to use the Canadian Dollar (CAD) during the transition period. This will greatly simplify issues such as the Western Canadian share of the national debt, trade matters, banking and foreign exchange issues.

Once full independence is achieved, Western Canada will adopt its own currency backed either by the gold standard or based on resource extraction. In all likelihood much of it will mirror the Canadian monetary policy, that being of inflation control target of a maximum of two percent reviewed every 5 years.

National Defence

At present, Canada maintains a large number of units in western Canada.

The 3rd Canadian Division has over 50 Army units and establishments located between the Pacific coast and the Ontario border. These are further divided between 4 brigade groups of regular and reserve forces.

The Royal Canadian Navy's Maritime Forces Pacific (MARPAF) employs about 4000 military and 2000 civilian personnel. Over 30 vessels of all types and their supporting facilities represent the naval capability in the Pacific

The Royal Canadian Air Force operates from 5 bases in western Canada operating about 12 units and a variety of fixed wing and rotary aircraft.

This represents a large capital and manpower investment that cannot be overlooked. The military assets in Western Canada would likely remain as part of the new country however the value of them and for that matter all federal assets would be included when calculations for asset redistribution between two equal partners in common defence.

All military forces would be part of the Western Canada federal government responsibility. Citizens would be obligated to serve 2 years regular military service that would serve to pay for post secondary education. This will have the result of a populace that has a distinct sense of responsibility and the education to benefit the society they have protected for two years. Citizens may elect to serve up to age 60 in the primary reserve. Reserve service would give a reduction in federal income taxes.

It is hoped that the military forces of Western Canada would be used primarily for national defence, crisis work such as forest fires as well as border enforcement if required.



Canadian Forces Photo

Internal Security

It is the federal government's responsibility to ensure the well being and security of the citizens of Western Canada.

A national police force is required to enforce federal laws and statutes. While the final function and duties of such a force is to be determined during the independence process, there are some key points to be observed. First, the force is there **for** the citizens and must be subject to civilian oversight and control. Much of the equipment and many of the initial personnel, just as in the case of the military, will be located on Western Canadian soil and will remain here. This will provide a solid base upon which to build.

As is in most instances looking forward, the national police force will have a shared history and heritage with Canada's RCMP.

Cantonal police forces are not necessary due to the size of each canton and population distribution. Municipal police forces will remain much as they are today with some refinements.

Environmental Policies

Western Canada already has some of the highest environmental standards on the planet. While that may sound like a lofty statement, it is to a very large extent true. The standards for the various industries are a federal responsibility that is enforced by the cantonal and municipal governments depending on the activity.



Western Canada must, if it is to be truly independent, eject all foreign funded or controlled so-called environmental groups such as Greenpeace, Lead now and others that have become defacto governments in Canada. An examination of such groups often leads to nefarious leadership and is a very real threat to the sovereignty of Western Canada. Only local groups with local funding and facing a direct impact of any energy project will be able to have standing in project planning and approval.

The future management of Western Canada's resources must be determined only by Western Canadians.

Aboriginal Affairs

A country can only be as good as it treats its citizens, this includes aboriginals. Unfortunately Canada has not treated its native population very well. A long succession of governments of all political stripes has rendered Canada's aboriginals into something more resembling a twisted welfare state within a prosperous nation.

The Indian Act, enacted in 1876 and modified since then, is a repressive piece of legislation that promotes poverty for the masses and wealth for a select few. It denies property rights to individuals and enforces a culture of dependence and political gamesmanship. Recent attempts to render accountability have met with concentrated efforts to maintain the status quo where remote bands are living without clean water or adequate housing. The only ones who clearly profit are what has now become known as the "Indian Industry" full of lawyers and special interests.

Western Canada will enter into equal status agreements with Native peoples concerning land rights and property. Respect for the individual, according to law, must be paramount. Existing agreements between individual bands and the Government of Canada may be respected however any future negotiations must be concluded with the federal government or Western Canada in accordance with the laws and statutes of Western Canada. In that respect aboriginals will be considered full citizens of Western Canada with the benefits and responsibilities that entails.

Native bands are to have the same status as municipalities in Western Canada, there will be no Indian Affairs Department. As such, mechanisms must be in place to ensure that public funds allocated for infrastructure is fully accounted for. The time has come for aboriginals to free themselves from being wards of the state. This will naturally lead to some level of conflict as native bands are unaccustomed to such treatment. This is to be expected. However as we move well into the 21st century all citizens must shoulder the burden of nation building for the benefit of all.



Winnipeg Free Press



Summary

Western Canada. A name that speaks of hard work, overcoming obstacles, achievement, pride and hope for the future in a land of plenty with freedom and shared destiny.

Western Canadians. A people who love their homes and families, unafraid to face the future with optimism and drive.

This document is a proposal, nothing more. Many issues are broadly addressed but many are not because they would be realized during and after the independence process. Some are sure to raise eyebrows and give rise to concerns. But the whole document, the idea, is to propose a means to move forward together.

There will be some who will fight against it for reasons that are mainly based on sentiment. "Canada is my country and always will be", or, "My grandfather fought in WW2", arguments of that type. But a careful look at history and economics will tell a different story. A story of a west that, despite being drained of wealth to support ambitions of the east, continued to prosper and grow. A history of a country that passes legislation, even its constitution, that locates all power and benefits to one half of the country while denying adequate and fair representation to the other half. It is a small wonder that anyone would see the need to write this document.

Including the north, there are nearly 12 million people in Western Canada. You are not alone. Don't be afraid. Stand up. Be counted. Contribute. Advance. There are far more reasons to move ahead than maintain the status quo. I readily admit there are shortcomings in this document, its intent is to offer something to discuss and realize that *it is possible*.



Yours to believe in.
Yours to create.
Yours to be proud of.

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About the Author

Pierre (Peter) LeTourneux was born in Montreal, Quebec in 1956. In 1960, the family moved to Syracuse, New York and Peter was raised there, returning to Canada in junior high school. He joined the Canadian Forces and served honourably for 27 years, retiring in 1998. He has lived in the West for nearly 40 years and considers it his home. Peter and his wife own and operate a store in Campbell River, BC.

He has been a separatist since Jean Chretien cured him of being a Liberal.