

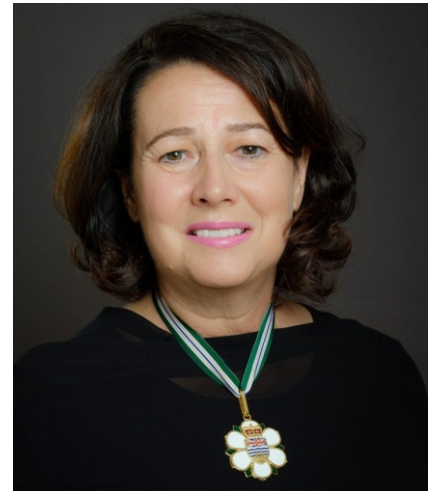
Social change advocate moves into Gov. House

BC has a new Lieutenant Governor, Janet Austin.

Austin is a remarkable community leader and advocate for social change. She has been serving as the Chief Executive Officer of the Metro Vancouver YWCA, a position she has held since 2003.

She follows Judith Guichon into Government House to take on what has been, until last year, a largely ceremonial five-year appointment. Guichon made headlines last June when she asked the NDP's John Horgan to form government after no single party had won a majority.

The announcement by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau came March 20 as Governor General Julie Payette paid her first official visit to British Columbia. She was welcomed to Government House by Guichon. It would be Her Honour's final bow.



Incoming Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin



Premier John Horgan and retiring Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon greet Governor General Julie Payette on her first official visit to BC.

(Province of BC photo.)

Payette signed the guest book at Government House, leaving a sticker of her new coat of arms, which features a white wing to symbolize exploration, liberty and safety. Payette, a former astronaut, was the second Canadian woman to go into space and the first Canadian on board the International Space Station.

The Prime Minister and Premier John Horgan thanked the outgoing Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon for her numerous contributions and her work to engage communities, non-profit organizations, and businesses across the province since taking office in 2012.

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Angus Reid says: "Me too."



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Her Honour

The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC

Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia

Thank You and Miscellany

Orders of the Day is published regularly throughout the year, and is circulated to Association members, all MLAs now serving in Legislature, other interested individuals and organizations.

Material for the newsletter is always welcome and should be sent in written form to:

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From the Editor's Desk

The centre piece of this April issue of OOTD is a spread devoted to the very important issue of electoral reform, an issue that will dominate political discourse as we progress towards the fall referendum.

The government has asked for input and it is my hope that the readers of OOTD will provide that in good measure through the letters pages of this publication. As you are aware OOTD is well read up and down the corridors of power, so your views will not go MIA.

This month I have assembled a primer on the various voting alternatives. "Proportional representation" is an electoral species rife with permutations and combinations. I hope this primer makes some sense of the options before us. As well, the Fraser Institute has provided a thought provoking study about the consequences of one single referendum as opposed to a staged voting process that the Institute argues provides more certainty for government.

My thanks to Province political columnist Mike Smyth for his report on the state memorial for Dave Barrett. Mike claimed my chair in the Legislative Press Gallery in 1996 when I retired from The Tab and Reliable Sources and he continues to serve his readers well.

And, to AFMLABC Honourary Life Member Jim Hume, our thanks and ongoing affection. I try to get "The Old Islander" into as many issues as I can; at 94 he continues to write with clarity, heart and passion. Jim is a BC journalism treasure and we are lucky to have him.

Finally, a nod to Rachel Rilkooff in the Government House communications office who went the extra mile in late March to get us pictures of the Governor General's first BC visit and information on the appointment of a new L-G. We were right on deadline and every minute counted.

The Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia is strictly non-partisan, regardless of members' past or present political affiliation. Founded in 1987, the Association was formally established by an Act of the British Columbia Legislature on February 10, 1998.

Orders of the Day was conceived, named and produced in its early stages by Bob McClelland, former MLA and cabinet minister, following his retirement from office. Hugh Curtis ably helmed this publication up through May 2014.

Broadcaster/politician Barrie Clark dies at 86

Broadcaster, city councillor, MLA and Rentalsman ... Barrie Clark did it all over a lengthy career never far from the public eye. In March, he died at 86 after a battle with cancer.



The former CKOV talk-show host served as councillor in the District of North Vancouver and as the MLA for North Vancouver-Seymour from 1967 to 1972. In 1974, the NDP government of the day appointed him Rentalsman in charge of landlord-tenant relations.

Those were highly charged times. The Landlord and Tenant Act of April 1974 created the office of the Rentalsman to adjudicate landlord-tenant disputes. The bill also allowed eviction only for "just cause." Most controversial, however, were provisions mandating the Rentalsman to set allowable rent increases.

In his new role as Rentalsman, Clark told cabinet ministers Alex Macdonald and Lorne Nicolson he could not possibly handle all the appeals that would be generated by rent controls. Worse, he would be in the untenable position of adjudicating disputes caused by his own rent rulings. Macdonald and Nicolson appointed a blue-ribbon panel to

dig deeper into the rental control morass and Clark was off the hook.

Macdonald's bill was heavily amended in the fall session and by Christmas, BC tenants were receiving their grants, watching new units being built and enjoying the security of new legal rights.

Raised in the Okanagan and a graduate of Kelowna High School, Clark returned to Kelowna in 1989 and worked at CKOV radio. He went on to serve three terms as councillor in the City of Kelowna from 1999 to 2008.

Clark also served on the Regional District's Air Quality Committee, the board of directors of the Kelowna Museum, the Okanagan Military Museum, and on the Kelowna-Veendam Sister City Association.

His broadcasting/journalism credits include being an announcer, news reporter and talk show host with: CKOV Kelowna 1949, CHEX Peterborough ON 1951, CJOR Vancouver 1952, Reuters News Agency London UK 1954, CKLG Vancouver 1955, CKWX Vancouver 1956, CHAN-TV Vancouver 1961, CKWX and CBUT Vancouver 1962, KKNW 1977-86, CJOR 1988 and CKOV Kelowna 1989 to 1999.

At Barrie's request, there will be no service.

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From Page 1

"Dedicated ... to improving the lives of others" – PM

Of Guichon's successor Prime Minister Trudeau said: "Ms. Austin is an outstanding leader who has dedicated her career to improving the lives of others. Her advocacy work has helped countless Canadians, and makes her an excellent choice as British Columbia's next Lieutenant Governor. I know she will work hard to represent the province, and its people, well."

Premier Horgan said: "Ms. Austin is a business leader and change-maker who has dedicated her career to helping people and building community. She will ably represent our province as BC's next Lieutenant Governor."



Austin has been a leader in her community and an advocate for social change in British Columbia. In her capacity as YWCA CEO, she was responsible for one of British Columbia's largest and most diversified non-profit organizations. Prior to joining the YWCA, she was the Executive Director of Big Sisters of the Lower Mainland and worked for BC Housing.

The new Lieutenant Governor has been an active member of various local and national organizations, including the board of directors of Translink and the City of Vancouver's Healthy City for All Leadership Table. During her career, she has served on numerous boards, including the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade and the Canadian Paediatric Society.

Raised in Calgary, Austin is a graduate in English from the University of Calgary. She spent the early years of her career in a variety of public sector roles in Calgary, working in regional planning and running public consultation and communications projects for the Alberta government. She eventually moved to BC when she began working with BC Housing.

Austin believes "you have to reach out broadly across society" to effect change. "The way to a healthier society requires an integrated approach, and change has a social component," she says. As director of development services at BC Housing, she oversaw the development of the province's new-build social housing for seniors and families, as well as transition housing, homeless shelters and group homes for people with disabilities.

Austin's work and leadership in the community have been recognized by her peers on numerous occasions. Named in Vancouver Magazine's Power 50 for 2014, Austin was also a recipient of the Business in Vancouver (BIV) Influential Woman in Business Award,

Vancouver Board of Trade Community Leadership Award and Wendy MacDonald Diversity Champion Award, the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals, the SFU Beedie School of Business BASS Award, the YWCA Canada Carolyn Barry Bray Award and the YWCA Canada Clea Herman Award, the Big Sisters Big Heart Award for outstanding contribution by a volunteer and the Downtown Vancouver BIA Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 2008, Austin was included in the Women's Executive Network's list of Canada's 100 Most Powerful Women. She also received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Kwantlen Polytechnic University in 2013. In 2016, she was named BIV CEO of the Year in the non-profit category and was invested as a Member of the Order of BC. She has also been an annual speaker at the Canadian Board Diversity Council (CBDC) 'Get on Board' Education Program in Vancouver.

In the past, Austin has been an active community volunteer with a range of organizations. Janet led The Vancouver Board of Trade as chair in 2014-15, during which time the organization hosted 142 events with a cumulative audience of more than 23,000 people. She served in board and volunteer positions with the TELUS Vancouver Community Board and Education Sub-Committee, the Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation, MOSAIC, United Way of the Lower Mainland, the Council for Early Child Development, Leadership Vancouver, the BCIT Non-Profit Management and Fund Development Program Advisory Committee and the BC SPCA. She has also served on the BC Provincial Advisory Council on Social Entrepreneurship, the Leadership Council of the BC Government/Non-profit Initiative (GNPI), the Blue Ribbon Council on Vancouver's Business Climate and the City of Vancouver Women's Task Force.



(Province of BC photo.)

Magical weekends at “the farm” stir the Old Islander

By Jim Hume
The Old Islander

Fortune has smiled on me in kindly fashion all my life. For sure there have been bad periods. Dark shadows have swept across what had been sunlit valleys when death claimed family or close friends. But for most of my 94 years on earth, my glass has always been more than half full; memories of the good times far outweigh the bad.

I was blessed with a grandfather, my mother’s father Jimmy Startin, who lived in a small cottage in rural Warwickshire, England on just enough land to hold chickens, a few ducks, a milk cow, a pony and trap – and a loft with a dozen or so racing pigeons. I was fortunate because, although I lived a few miles away in the grim two-up two-down row-house streets



of an industrial town, I could walk to granddad’s place in less than an hour. And, many were the weekends spent there before I was deemed old enough at the age of 12 to spend Saturdays working to help “earn my keep.”

I still remember Saturday weekends at “the farm;” magical weekends where I learned how to enter the hen house without sending the inhabitants fleeing in cackling terror, and how to gently remove still-warm eggs from nests. Within the hour four would be on the soft-boil; two for granddad, one for grandmother, one for me.

The only part of Sunday morning I wasn’t fond of was Granny’s insistence that after harvesting the breakfast eggs, I had to strip to the waist in the scullery and bend over the sink with my head under the cast iron pump spout for a pre-breakfast scrub. The pump took three or four wheezing, priming strokes before gushing its ice-cold flood over the head and shoulders of a young lad too proud to cry out in protest.

continued next page

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Old Islander

Some weekends would be full of work: mucking out the stable and cowshed; putting fresh straw in the henhouse; making sure the pigeon loft was clean for grandfather's pride and joy. I loved – and learned – every minute. And, on the mornings when we put half a dozen pigeons in a basket and delivered them to the railway station for transportation and release many miles away, my glass was not just full but overflowing. It was my first remembered wonderment. How could they find their way home? "They know," answered Granddad and sure enough they seemed to. Now here's wonderment. My second son Timothy, now an OAP survivor, never met his Great Grandfather in the flesh but has inherited many of the old man's genes involving a born-with love and understanding of animals wild and domesticated – with extra affection for horses and pigeons. It's been quite remarkable for me to watch.

I learned a lot about nature and the way of things from my grandfather and son as we grew up together but decades apart. Come to think of it, I learned a lot from all my children as they educated me in the ways of parenthood. All six sons have chipped in with lessons; some learned with reluctance – all appreciated later. I sometimes look back and think that in stressful times they often understood me better than I understood them. As they follow me into the far

from golden years (with four sons now OAP's), we remain understanding that while we are of the same blood, we do not have to think the same thoughts or hold dear the same philosophies.

I did try to teach them, as my grandfather and father taught me, to never be afraid to advance their own thoughts and to challenge me or anyone else they thought in the wrong. I wanted them to be like Elihu, the young man daring to enter the great debate on life in the book of Job with the powerful opening statement to his learned elders: "I am young, and ye are very old; wherefore I was afraid, and durst not show you mine opinion. I said, days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom (but) great men are not always right neither do the aged always understand judgment."

It remains today a good lesson for parents and children. If the old folk speak with respect and the young folk listen, respond, and possibly challenge respectfully, that glass of life will rarely be less than half full and never, ever, close to empty.

(You can read more of Jim Hume's fine writing at The Old Islander, <https://jimhume.ca/>)

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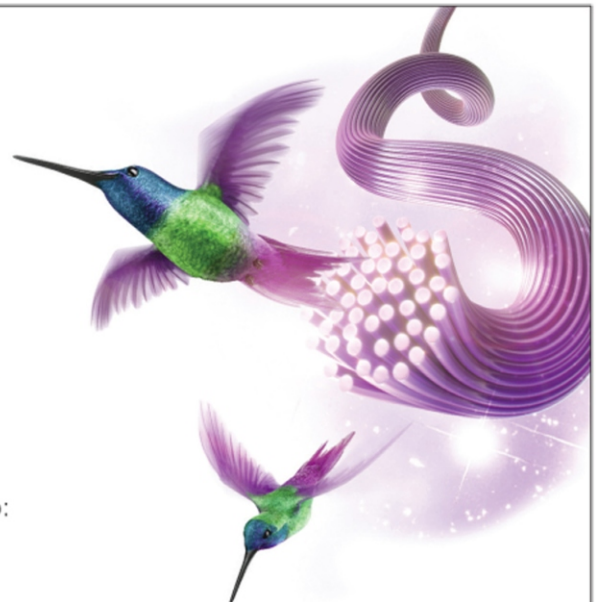
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Two referendums are best for elections reform

by Lydia Miljan and Geoffrey Alchin
for the Fraser Institute

The British Columbia government has committed to proceed with electoral reform. The government has set a deadline of November 2018 to have a referendum on proportional representation. Part of the consultation process includes designing the referendum question.

The consensus for referendum questions is that they: be clear; not designed to lead to a specific result; show no favouritism as to outcome; inform electors of the effects of the referendum and allow voters to answer the questions solely with a yes, no, or blank vote.

To have a meaningful and legitimate mandate, a Fraser Institute study recommends that the government have two referenda on electoral reform, with the first having two questions.

Referendum One would consist of one question asking whether there is appetite for change, and a second question asking which system the public would like to change to. Referendum Two would offer a choice between the existing system and a new electoral system that has been developed for BC, and contain all details including electoral boundaries and rules regarding coalition and minority governments.

By separating the question of reform from the type of system, the government will have the information it needs to proceed with a new electoral system. More importantly, if the public agrees to change the system, the second referendum will give the new electoral system higher legitimacy and ensure it has a greater chance of not being changed by subsequent governments.

The premise of a fair referendum is that members of the public are aware of the consequences of their choice. An open-ended question regarding the desire for change to an unspecified system does not satisfy the criterion of informed choice.

In addition to the wording of the question and the way the referendum is conducted, this study also examines whether there should be voter turnout thresholds or a super majority vote. Although the government has stated that the referendum will succeed with 50-plus-one per cent of the vote, we urge caution in proceeding with electoral reform on that criterion alone. The government should not consider the results binding if voter turnout is lower than is typical in provincial elections.



Turnout of less than 50 per cent would impair the legitimacy of the result. If, for example, only 36 per cent of voters turned out (as was the case in PEI) and 51 per cent of them supported changing the system, it could mean that the province was proceeding to change the electoral system with the support of less than one fifth of the electorate. In such a scenario, it would be impossible for the government to say it had a clear mandate for change. Therefore, the government might want to consider the impact of a low voter turnout before declaring that it has a mandate for change.

More problematic is the removal of a regional requirement. Given the high population density in the Lower Mainland, the referendum's outcome could be determined by just a few ridings.

Status quo bias should also be taken into consideration. If the public is concerned about partisan manipulation, it is more likely to vote to retain the current system.

Having a two-question ballot with the promise of a binding referendum on a specific electoral system will elicit a clearer picture of the public's attitude. In addition, that process would provide much-needed legitimacy for the adoption of a new system. Moreover, the binding referendum on a specific system should require some threshold of voter turnout and regional support to further ensure legitimacy for the chosen system.

(Lydia Miljan is a Fraser Institute senior fellow and associate professor of political science at the University of Windsor. Geoffrey Alchin has an MA in Political Science from the University of Windsor. The full study can be found at: <https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/designing-a-referendum-question-for-british-columbia.pdf>.)

A voting reform primer:

First Past The Post (FPP)

This is the current voting system in BC. The candidate who gets the most votes in an electoral district wins and represents that district in the legislature as its Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). Each electoral district elects one MLA. The phrase “first past the post” comes from horse racing.

Voters in each electoral district vote to elect a single MLA

Voters use a single ballot listing the candidates for the electoral district

Voters mark an ‘X’ beside the one candidate of their choice

The candidate with the most votes wins the seat in the Legislative Assembly to represent the electoral district

List Proportional Representation (LPR)

Multiple MLAs are elected in large electoral districts: either several regional districts or the province as a whole, depending on the design of the system. The proportion of total votes received by each political party determines the share of seats it receives in the Legislative Assembly.

There are three different types of List PR systems that can be distinguished by the level of choice voters have:

Closed List PR: Voters choose their preferred party

Open List PR: Voters choose their preferred candidates

Open List PR with Party Option: Voters choose their preferred candidates or simply choose the list proposed by the party

Each party prepares a list of candidates prior to the election. Lists may be “closed” or “open.” For closed lists, voters endorse a party and its candidates as listed in the order put forward by that party. For open lists, voters may choose the candidates they prefer from amongst the candidates put forward by a party, or there may also be an option to endorse the party’s list as presented.

Each party receives a percentage of the seats equal to the percentage of the vote the party or its candidates

collectively received in the region or province. The party’s seats are filled by the candidates for that party in the order of the number of votes the candidates received (in an open list) or in the order they appeared on the party’s list (in a closed list).

Election law would establish a formula to determine the number of seats each party is entitled to when the popular vote results (expressed as a percentage) would give a party a fraction of a seat. A minimum percentage of the popular vote (for example two per cent or five per cent) may be established below which a party would not be eligible to receive any seats.

Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)

First Past the Post (FPTP) and List PR are both used to allocate seats in the Legislative Assembly and voters have a separate vote under each system. Some seats are filled at the local electoral district level under FPTP, while other seats are filled at the regional or provincial level under List PR. For example, there could be 50 seats that are filled directly by voters in local electoral districts and 30 seats that are filled by voters across the province or in a region that votes for candidates on provincewide or regional party lists.

The overall share of seats each party holds in the Legislative Assembly is determined by the parties’ share of the List PR vote – the List PR seats are allocated from the parties’ lists of candidates specifically to compensate for any disproportional results from the FPTP vote, so that the overall result is proportional.

Voters cast two votes – one vote to elect a single MLA for a local electoral district (FPTP), and one vote for a party to elect MLAs on a regional or provincewide list (List PR).

Single Transferable Vote (STV)

Multiple MLAs are elected in each electoral district and voters rank the candidates according to their preferences (1, 2, 3, etc.). A formula determines the quota, which is the minimum number of votes a candidate must receive to be elected. Any candidates who reach the quota based on voters’ first choices are elected. If any seats remain unfilled because other candidates did not reach the quota, voters’ subsequent choices are transferred to the other candidates until all seats are filled.



Mixed Member Majoritarian (MMM)

This is very similar to MMP in which FPTP and List PR are both used to allocate seats in the Legislative Assembly and voters have a separate vote under each system. Some seats are filled at the local electoral district level under FPTP, while other seats are filled at the regional or provincial level under List PR. For example, there could be 50 seats that are filled directly by voters in specific electoral districts and 30 seats that are filled by voters across the province or in a region that votes for candidates on provincewide or regional party lists.

In MMM, unlike MMP, the List PR seats are not allocated to compensate for any disproportional results from the FPTP vote – instead, the List PR seats are allocated proportionally only amongst themselves. While MMM produces more proportional results than FPTP, it does not necessarily produce closely proportional results overall and is usually referred to as a semi-proportional system.

The proportionality of the results depends on how many MLAs are elected in each electoral district (district magnitude). A version of STV called BC-STV was proposed by the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform in 2004. It called for between two and seven MLAs to be elected in each electoral district.

This process of transferring continues until all seats have been filled or until all ballots have been exhausted (that is, there are no further preferences to count). Several rounds of counting are usually required.



BC's labour narrative comes to life in new book

("On the Line, A History of the British Columbia Labour Movement," will be published by Harbour Publishing on April 28. In 1849, Scottish labourers at BC's first coal mine in Fort Rupert went on strike to protest wretched working conditions, and it's been a wild ride ever since. For years, the BC labour movement was the most militant in the land. Now, in prose that is both accessible and engaging, Victoria-based veteran journalist and author Rod Mickleburgh tells the important story of how BC's labour organizations have shaped the economic, political and social fabric of the province.)

By Dan Ferguson
Langley Times

Even for a former labour reporter with 16 years reporting on labour disputes, writing a comprehensive history of the BC labour movement was an educational experience.

"I learned stuff doing it, I really did," said Rod Mickleburgh, author of "On the Line, A History of the British Columbia Labour Movement."

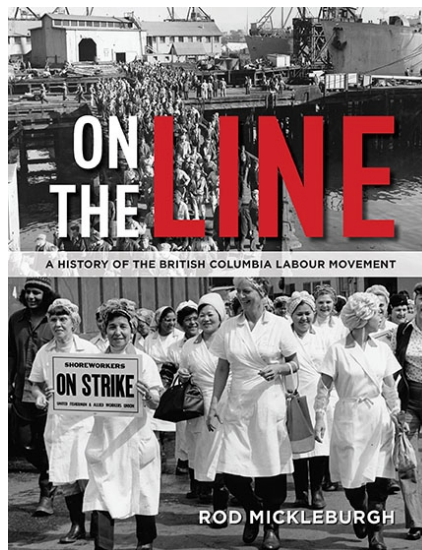
Mickleburgh, a former labour reporter for the Vancouver Sun and Province newspapers and a former senior writer for the Globe and Mail, was fascinated to learn the prominent role First Nations people played in the early labour history of the province. "It was a surprise to me," Mickleburgh said.

The book describes how indigenous people worked on the docks and in fishing, logging and mining, working during the summer and returning to their communities in the winter. It quotes the opinion of historian John Lutz, who said: "Coal would not have been mined in the 1840s and 1850s (without indigenous workers); sawmills would not have been able to function in the 1860s and 1870s; and, canneries would have had neither fishing fleets nor fish processors."

Then, the colonial governments began to methodically force them out.

People who had been trapping in a particular area for generations would show up on their trapline one day and discover that someone else had been given a licence, Mickleburgh said. Indigenous fishermen saw non-natives take over the fishing industry.

"In every industry where aboriginal people had once laboured productively, they found themselves squeezed by new government restrictions on their hunting, fishing and trapping rights, and the desire by employers for year-round workers coupled with growing mechanization," Mickleburgh writes.



The other surprise for Mickleburgh was the fact that workplace safety is still such a problem. "Tragedies are still going on in the workplace and I find that shocking," Mickleburgh said.

The book describes the fatal consequences of lax safety standards at a Langley mushroom farm in 2008, when two workers struggling to clear a clogged pipe in an enclosed pumphouse were rendered unconscious by toxic gases. When three fellow workers rushed to rescue them, they too were overcome.

Mickleburgh wrote: "The mushroom farm was run as if safety regulations and legalities did not exist." A coroner's inquest "detailed a long history of missteps, failures, ignored warning signs and lack of concern by the operators for the basics of health and safety ..."

Mickleburgh said it's been about 50 years since the last comprehensive history of the labour movement was written and published. His book, he said, is not an academic history. "I tried to tell a story to make the narrative come alive."

The book concludes by noting that after "more than 150 years of struggle marked by death, hardship, sacrifice, many bitter defeats and eventually a long period of solid gains and achievements" the percentage of BC residents belonging to unions has fallen, especially in the private sector. Despite that, "there is no sign of trade unions becoming extinct. They remain a key force protecting and advancing the cause of all workers in a no-holds-barred economy," he says.

The book was commissioned by the BC Labour Heritage Centre with sponsorship by the Community Savings Credit Union, originally formed by members of the International Woodworkers of America.

History catches up to a racist lieutenant governor

(Editor's note: Lately, the path to reconciliation with First Nations citizens has taken a detour back into the pages of our rather brief history; pages full of once-respected province builders who – we discover far too belatedly when viewed through a 21st Century lens – also happened to be disturbingly racist. Most recently, the focus has been on a former lieutenant governor, Joseph Trutch, who called First Nations people “savages.” And, we learn that not even John A is safe from reconciliation's rear-view mirror.)

In Greater Victoria, the path to reconciliation has resulted in a community-led initiative to rename Trutch Street. Joseph Trutch was a British surveyor who came to BC in the 1850s and served as chief commissioner of lands and works. He was the first lieutenant governor of BC, after playing a key role in the province joining Confederation in 1871.

He wrote that First Nations people were “the ugliest and laziest creatures I ever saw.” In his role managing aboriginal land policy, Trutch ignored the British mandate of fair treatment, refused to acknowledge treaties and title and cut back reserves to make way for white settlers.

“In some ways, he was the Trump of his time with respect to Indigenous policy,” Victoria Councillor Ben Isitt said at a recent meeting of more than 100 Greater Victoria concerned citizens.

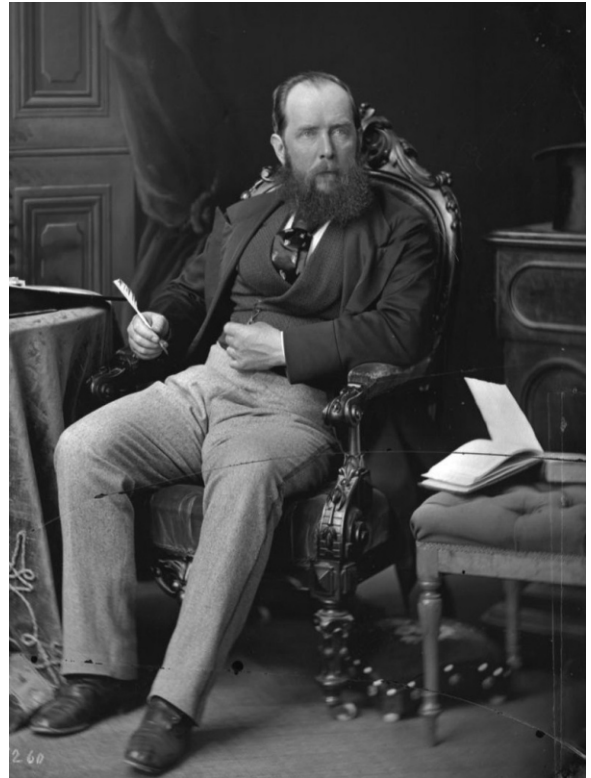
Renaming Trutch Street was characterized as “a great way to start the healing journey for truth and reconciliation.” One Trutch Street resident came to the meeting with concerns about changing the name, but quickly discovered he was “an absolutely horrible human being.”

Reuben Rose-Redwood, chair of the UVic Committee for Urban Studies, said: “I do think that there is a growing consensus that now is the time to rename Trutch Street, both here in Victoria as well as in Vancouver. There are always people who disagree, so the hope is that we can have an informed and respectful dialogue about the possibility of renaming Trutch Street.”

Rose-Redwood did not buy into the “slippery slope” argument that by renaming one street, a wholesale renaming of others should occur.

Mayor Lisa Helps noted that there has been no application yet to rename Trutch Street but said it would be up to council to consider whatever comes forward. “I would be open to it, but again, that would be a decision for council to make in consultation with the public and in consultation with the current residents of Trutch Street.”

Last year, UVic removed Trutch's name from one of its residences.



Joseph Trutch, first lieutenant governor of BC

Mayor Helps has also said there are “ongoing conversations” about the future of a statue of Canada's first prime minister, John A. Macdonald, located off Pandora Avenue outside city hall. Macdonald's achievements include his role in establishing a national railway, but he also established Canada's residential-school system, which separated Aboriginal children from their families and culture.

The 19th-century Conservative politician served as minister of Indian affairs and was Victoria's Member of Parliament from 1878 to 1882.

“In my opinion, tearing down statues and pretending history didn't happen isn't the way to go,” Helps said, adding, however, that it is important that such statues are given context.

While there are no plans to tear down the statue, “there may be an opportunity to remove him from that post — remove the statue from that post — for the time being in order to have a conversation about reconciliation,” Helps said.

“But even if that were to be the case, that statue would reappear somewhere else in the city. I don't think it's responsible to simply erase history, but we need to have a different kind of conversation and give statues like the John A. Macdonald statue context.”

Question Period

offbeat news, humour, and things that make you go "hmm..."

Queen has WW3 key messages

With the Russian embassy telling Britain it should not threaten a nuclear nation, tensions at Buckingham Palace are higher than ever amid the threat of a new Cold War.

While the horror of a 'World War Three' is unthinkable, the Queen is ahead of the curve with a speech prepared in the event it happens.

Written in 1983 at the height of the Cold War some parts of it are of its time; regardless, it remains as chillingly relevant today as it did then.

It begins with a reference to the Queen's traditional Christmas address, saying, "The horrors of war could not have seemed more remote as my family and I shared our Christmas joy with the growing family of the Commonwealth.

"Now, this madness of war is once more spreading through the world and our brave country must again prepare itself to survive against great odds.

"I have never forgotten the sorrow and the pride I felt as my sister and I huddled around the nursery wireless set listening



King George VI waves from the balcony of Buckingham with Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret during VE Day celebrations at the end of World War Two.

to my father's (George VI's) inspiring words on that fateful day in 1939 at the start of the World War Two.

"Not for a single moment did I imagine that this solemn and awful duty would one day fall to me."

Do not roll eyes in China

The Chinese government has censored a journalist after she rolled her eyes at a TV reporter for lobbing a government official a "softball question."

Liang Xiangyi, a journalist for Shanghai-based Yicai.com, was filmed scowling at TV reporter Zhang Huijun for asking a scripted question designed to present a facade of transparency at a political summit.

Huijun, who was dressed in Communist Party red, asked a government official a long and rambling question at one of the heavily-scripted press conferences held on the sidelines of China's annual parliament, the national people's congress.



Xiangyi's reaction, which was broadcast on television, spread wildly on social media through a string of comments, GIFs and memes.

The Chinese government then censored her name on the microblogging platform Weibo and released a directive which said: "All media personnel are prohibited from discussing the blue-clothed reporter incident on social media."

Lovers' murder kills a government

A love story turned murder mystery led to the recent collapse of Slovakia's government but failed to quell the largest protests in the Central European country since 1989 when the Velvet Revolution brought down communism.

The prime minister-designate, Peter Pellegrini, has been scrambling to calm the situation. The catalyst for the outrage in the nation of 5.4 million began in the heavily guarded newsroom at Aktuality.sk, an online news site run by a Swiss-German media conglomerate.



There, 27 year-old Ján Kuciak was a rising star in Slovak journalism, known for his reporting on the Panama Papers. He was part of an investigative team covering corruption in the Slovak government and business community. It was a formidable task in a country where corruption is deeply ingrained, a holdover from communist times.

Investigators suspect Kuciak's last story ultimately cost him and his fiancée, Martina Kusiňová, their lives. Police discovered their bodies on Feb. 25th in the bungalow they'd been renovating since last summer in the small village of Velká Maca in southwestern Slovakia. He was killed with a gunshot to the chest and she, with a bullet to the head.

How ‘old guys’ like me view the #MeToo movement

By Angus Reid

I’m one of the old guys, born in 1947 and a witness to the sexual revolution of the ‘60s and ‘70s, which coincided with the arrival of the birth-control pill and a generational shift through which female participation in the workforce more than doubled from 1960 to 1980.

The macho culture that permeated much of the business world in the ‘60s was a hangover from the Second World War and the masculine organizational dynamics of most of the 20th century: lots of booze, cigarettes, and women in largely subservient positions. Secretaries, filing clerks, waitresses, nurses, dental assistants.

In the ‘70s, it wasn’t unusual for a drive-home show on a popular radio station to have listeners call in with the punch lines of their favourite joke – and find most of the content was about sex. Around that time, it was not unusual to see a Playboy calendar on a guy’s desk.

It’s not just a coincidence that so many of the men under the spotlight for alleged abuse come from my generation.

But, it would be a mistake to characterize us as insensitive to the fundamental change in gender relations now under way. More than any of the demographic groups analyzed in our new study (<http://angusreid.org/me-too/>), older men are the most likely to see the #MeToo movement as sparking a new era in gender relations at work. The vast majority agree that women should come forward to speak about their experiences. They also firmly believe that men must take responsibility for their actions, and that the changes associated with the #MeToo movement are long overdue.

When asked to rate a long list of possible activities in the workplace as acceptable or unacceptable, these men are the most conservative, choosing “unacceptable” more than any other group to describe many of those actions. Some of this may simply be a consequence of a perceived need for caution, since older men are the most likely to see changes as happening too quickly and feel that a lot of ambiguity remains about what is acceptable and unacceptable.

Finding it harder than younger men to draw the line, they are most likely to see many activities as unacceptable.

But when it comes to matters of elementary justice, the views of men in general, and especially older men, stand in sharp contrast to those of millennial women.



A clear majority of the latter, though sympathetic to the risk of ruining careers because of a lack of due process, go on to express majority agreement with the idea that “no one has the right to question women’s stories.”

This concept of blind acceptance is a major point of division for all men – especially the baby boomers. Seventy per cent of older men disagree, in some case vehemently, with younger women on this critical point of evidence-based justice.

A fascinating element of #MeToo is that, unlike many other social issues, it is truly a family affair. Chances are that a millennial woman’s father is a baby boomer. This may partly explain the full-throated support of these old guys for most of the arguments put forward by the #MeToo movement. But when Toronto’s Sarah Thompson makes claims about the behaviour of TVO journalist Steve Paikin, most old guys will be insisting on evidence to back the accusations.

Their daughters may be more likely to credit Thompson just because she came forward. This will continue to make for heated debates whenever extended families gather in Canada.

(Dr. Angus Reid, a pollster and sociologist, is the founder and chairman of the Angus Reid Institute. He was guest speaker at the 2017 AFMLABC dinner at Government House.)

Member News

Please send news about your activities to ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com for the next newsletter.

UVic state memorial for “Dave” draws 1,000

By Mike Smyth
Province Newspaper

It's extraordinary to ponder all that was accomplished by the NDP government of Dave Barrett in the 1970s, despite the very brief time that he was premier of British Columbia.

Barrett, who died on February 2nd at age 87, was premier for just three years, from 1972 to 1975. But, during that time, he did things that changed BC forever.

The list of achievements was recited frequently during a state memorial service in the Farquhar Auditorium at the University of Victoria on Saturday, March 3rd, attended by 1,000 people. Pharmacare. The Agricultural Land Reserve. The B.C. Ambulance Service. ICBC. The BC Labour Board. The BC Human Rights Code. Ending corporal punishment in schools. Introduction of Hansard transcription and question period at the legislature. Bargaining rights for teachers. French in schools. The first BC premier to visit China. Expanded BC parks, including his beloved Cypress Bowl.

All were well-known to many in attendance — including a who's-who of the New Democratic Party — but there was still an audible gasp as they were rhymed off by Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon. “The volume of bills, and the lasting nature of the changes wrought during the short duration of that first NDP government, is legendary: 357 bills,” Guichon said.

An amazing record. But what people enjoyed most on Saturday were the tall tales and terrific stories behind the Barrett legend.

He was born in Vancouver to Jewish parents and grew up in the Commercial Drive neighbourhood of East Vancouver. After studying philosophy and social work at university, he was drawn naturally to politics, where he had a gift for fiery speech-making.

As NDP leader, he clashed with the mighty W.A.C. Bennett and his 20-year Social Credit dynasty.

“Bennett was around forever and most of us didn't think we could beat him — but Dave did,” former cabinet minister Bob Williams told the service, recalling Bennett's attacks in the legislature.

“The speech went something like: ‘I know you socialists! Saturday night rich, Sunday morning poor! You will never govern this province! The government benches roared and enjoyed it.’”



But Barrett would use his trademark humour and wit in defence, like when Bennett compared his socialist ways to Marx. “Which one? Groucho? You bet,” Williams quoted him.

There was still doubt in the 1972 election campaign, especially when Barrett and another former cabinet minister, Bill King, became stranded on an inland ferry near Revelstoke because of misplaced car keys. “The captain of the ship came staggering across the deck and said, ‘You two want to run the province?’”

But run the province they did. After Barrett defeated Bennett in the election, he began his transformation of BC, including increasing the minimum wage to \$2 an hour, provoking the wrath of Canadian Pacific Railway president Ian Sinclair, nicknamed “Big Julie.”

“Dave suggested to him that they go on television and debate the issue,” King recalled. “He thought the grotesque proposition of a man making a couple of million dollars a year in wages and benefits objecting to the maids making a small increase in the minimum wage might be an instructional procedure. Needless to say, Big Julie got the next first-class flight back home.”

After losing the 1975 election, Barrett went on to become a federal MP, and a role model and mentor for a subsequent generation of NDP politicians. Joy MacPhail, one of the just two NDP MLAs elected in the 2001 BC election won overwhelmingly by Gordon Campbell's Liberals, said Barrett picked up her spirits. “I was feeling low and I was complaining to Dave about how unfair it all was,” MacPhail said. “Dave leaned across the desk and he said, ‘Listen Joy. Two of you and 77 of those sons-of-bitches, that's a fair match! Get in there and kick crap out of them!’ And we never could. But Dave made us feel like we could.”

Premier John Horgan said he was inspired to get into politics after hearing Barrett speak at a 1983 rally against the cost-cutting measures of the Social Credit government. “I had just graduated from university and I was waiting on tables,” Horgan said. “This man came out onto the steps of the legislature. He started that low start to a Dave Barrett speech. About 15 minutes in, I was jumping up and down with everybody else. The passion, the power.”

Horgan said he joined the NDP right after hearing the speech. “I’ve never looked back,” he said. “All thanks to Dave Barrett.”

“If you were fortunate to witness Dave Barrett speak, you would never forget it,” agreed Marc Eliesen, Barrett’s former deputy minister and his best friend. “He didn’t read from a prepared text. He had no teleprompter. In Dave, there always remained a part of the little kid from the east side of Vancouver. He had chutzpah. And he knew when and how to use it.”

Barrett is survived by his wife of 65 years, Shirley, who also received praise.

“They had an unbeatable partnership,” Eliesen said. “Dave would often ask Shirley, ‘Shirley, why do you stick around?’ And Shirley would say, ‘Dave, I just want to see what happens next.’”

Their three children — Dan, Joe and Jane — said their dad was just as funny, boisterous and passionate at home as he was in public.

“In university, I had hair down to my shoulders,” Joe said. “I came home one day and Dad looked up at me



Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon speaks about former NDP premier Dave Barrett during a state memorial service in the Farquhar Auditorium at the University of Victoria in March.

and said, ‘You look like Jesus!’ I looked back, and said: ‘Well, the son of God.’”

He said Alzheimer’s disease took his father’s famous voice, but not his spirit, in his final years.

“We knew he was there in gestures and smiles and the way he looked at us. With my mom, you could see the connection between them, even when the illness was very advanced.

“It was quite beautiful.”

Letters

Brian and Rob:

Keep up the good work!

It was a great tribute to Dave Barrett in the March 2018 issue.

I look forward to your publication.

Best regards,
Marion Reid,
White Rock

OOTD:

The interesting articles and overall quality of the Orders of the Day publications are very much appreciated.

Well done to: Editor Brian Kieran, Rob Lee, and the Editorial Board.

Most sincerely,
Ken Jones,
White Rock

50 years ago, W.A.C. Bennett threw the switch

During the late 1700s and early 1800s, the potential of the area along the Peace River came to prominence when the explorers and fur traders arrived. Hudson's Hope was an integral part of that industry. As the fur trade dwindled in the mid 1900s the town settled down to ranching and logging. However, it wasn't long before the increased demand for electricity led to the idea of using the natural water resource of BC's rivers.

The Peace Canyon was the only un-navigable part of the Peace River system; its turbulent waters dropping 215 feet in 20 miles. Then-premier W.A.C. Bennett was not going to let this natural resource go untapped. The W.A.C. Bennett Dam was the most ambitious hydroelectric project built during the 1960s and 1970s.

Construction of the dam took approximately five years and employed more than 4,800 people. By 1963, at a cost of \$18 million, three tunnels, immense and lined with concrete, had been blasted through a bend in the canyon wall to divert the river.

A low coffer dam was constructed to direct the water into the tunnels, allowing the dam to be built on the dry river bed. However, a second coffer dam had to be constructed to hold back the rising spring waters. This structure ran 338 metres across the river channel to a height of 40 metres and would later become part of the main dam.

In 1964, construction on the dam itself began. Graded material was transported to the dam site by shuttle conveyors. The main conveyor was 1.68 metres wide and stretched 4.9 kilometres, making it at the time the longest continuous conveyor in the world. When completed, the dam measured 0.8 kilometres wide at its base. Dump trucks carrying 100 tons of earth had poured more than 100 million tons of gravel, sand and rock.

At the same time, work began to construct the G. M. Shrum Generating Station, a massive chamber deep within the east abutment out of the solid rock of the canyon wall.

By the spring of 1967, the intake towers that would admit water into the subterranean powerhouse were nearing completion. The dam had now reached an elevation of 140 metres above the riverbed with only 50 metres to go. By July, the structure of the dam was nearing its final crest line.



W.A.C. Bennett Dam opening

The final cost of construction was approximately \$700 million and another \$200 million for the transmission lines. More than 924 kilometres of 500,000-volt transmission lines were laid from the dam site to the lower mainland via Prince George and Kelly Lake. Nearly 11,265 kilometres of aluminum cable conduct the power into the grid system.

On September 12 1967, a ceremony was held where Lieutenant Governor General George R. Pearkes dedicated this enormous dam to the service of the people of British Columbia. The reservoir behind the dam was continuing to fill and would eventually stretch 300 kilometres to a maximum depth of 175 metres.

On September 22, 1968 over 3,000 people jammed into the huge underground power house to watch the premier switch on Peace Power. On September 28, 1968, power from the project was generated for the first time.

A once peaceful village became the hub of economic and social change. The initial influx of workers, many from Europe, raised the population in 1966 to 5,500. As Shirlee Smith Matheson remembers in her book, "This Was Our Valley," the scene "was like the Klondike Gold rush – men with money, and nowhere to spend it. Working men from all over the world were here, making wages they'd never dreamed of ..."

The construction of the dam negatively impacted people upstream. First Nations and residents of the valley and its tributaries, the Finlay and Parsnip, were re-located. Little of the harvestable timber was logged and local freight and guiding businesses could no longer use their river boats for transportation. In all, 1,773 square kilometres of rich land was flooded.