

Dan created Royal Roads and, now, is honoured

By Richard Dal Monte
for Royal Rhodes University

Dan Miller has never been defined by a single job.

He worked as a millwright in a pulp mill, but then signed on for several years as an assistant to Graham Lea, a minister of highways under NDP Premier Dave Barrett. He went on to serve on Prince Rupert City Council for three terms and, as a New Democrat, was subsequently elected MLA in 1986 in the riding now known as North Coast. And in the space of 14 years in Victoria, he held a number of cabinet positions: Forests, Municipal Affairs, Energy and Mines, and Employment and Investment.

As well, for a brief period after the resignation of Glen Clark, from August 1999 to February 2000, Miller held the province's top job, serving as BC's 32nd Premier as well as leader of the NDP.

But it was as Minister of Skills, Training and Labour (a portfolio now called Advanced Education and Skills Training) that his personal approach to continuous professional progress and improvement intersected with his job and a rare challenge: the creation of a new university.

That university is Royal Roads.

And it's for his role in its conception and creation that the university awarded him an honorary degree at its Spring Convocation in June.

In 1995, Miller introduced the Royal Roads University Act, which created the university "to provide continuing education in response to the needs of the local community, and to maintain teaching excellence and research activities that support the university's programs in response to the labour market needs of British Columbians."

The wording of the act has been crucial to RRU's vision and its mission from day one.

Miller, 76, who was born in Port Alice and is now retired in Victoria, admits he was initially a little reluctant for the province to take on the project when the federal government announced it was closing Royal Roads Military College after



55 years. It wasn't that Royal Roads didn't have potential; rather, BC had just opened the first new university in Canada in 35 years, the University of Northern British Columbia, and starting another was an expensive proposition. Thanks to lobbying from the community as well as cabinet colleagues Elizabeth Cull and Moe Sihota, the government proceeded.

But Miller didn't want Royal Roads just to be a smaller UBC or UVic.

"We had done a lot of work in my ministry on trying to look ahead in terms of the demands that would be placed on the workforce of the future," he says. "We could see a fairly significant decline in traditional industries [such as pulp mills]. And a lot of people were displaced... But the workforce was ill-equipped for change."

His ministry launched a project called Training for What?, in which it tried to identify future labour market needs. "We thought that was critically important. The world is never static and it was changing fairly rapidly. And that formed a big part of my thinking with respect to Royal Roads. I didn't want a traditional university."

Her Honour

The Honourable Janet Austin, OBC

Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia

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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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.

Thank You and Miscellany

Thank you to those of you who, when sending in your Member dues or subscription renewals, added a donation to help cover production costs for the newsletter.

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Graham Bruce, Crofton
Dan Miller, Victoria
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Lynn Stephens, Langley

From the Editor's Desk

As readers know only too well ... balanced, non-partisan content in this newsletter is my constant goal. In this issue I have been tested as never before.

My first challenge was whether or not to cover the publication of the BC Liberal's 2020 election debrief (Pages 6 and 7). Had this exhaustive report been an internal confidential document meant for party eyes only I probably would have given it a pass. That was definitely not the case.

Don Silversides, Acting BC Liberal Party President, characterized it perfectly: "Only with openness and transparency can the work of rebuilding and renewing our party continue and this important review of the 2020 provincial election campaign will help us achieve these goals and revitalize the party. That's why we are releasing the report to our members and the public. With the race for a new leader underway, it's important for members to have this information as we chart a new path forward for the party."

It is worth noting that many of the report's suggestions could apply equally to the NDP and the Greens.

The election of a new Liberal leader will take place Feb. 5th, 2022. To be eligible to vote the deadline for individuals to join the party or renew a membership is Dec. 29th. Rules and information regarding the leadership contest can be found on the BC Liberal website.

Another challenge was whether or not to publish an analysis of the federal Green Party's recent challenges (Pages 8 and 9). I opted for coverage because the party's issues were so publicly laundered on the national stage.

I want to thank Gordon Campbell and Linda Reid for helping OOTD pay fitting tribute to Dan Jarvis who left the Precincts in late June. Dan's story unfolds on Pages 4 and 15.

Just as Rob and I were shipping this issue off to the printer we learned of the deaths of former MLAs Allan Warnke (Liberal, Richmond-Steveston, 1991-1996) and Gerry Strongman (Social Credit, Vancouver South, 1975-1979). Look for tributes to both Allan and Gerry in the September issue of OOTD.

The President's Report

On behalf of all members of the Association of Former MLAs of BC, I want to extend our heartfelt condolences to Dianne Jarvis and the rest of the Jarvis family who are struggling with the loss of Daniel.

As the tributes remind us in this issue, Dan was all about service to his community. He was a constituency man above all else. He embodied the aspirations and best interests of the North Shore with steadfast focus. Whether it was torrential rains and mudslides or troubles in the shipbuilding sector, Dan stood shoulder to shoulder with the citizens and workers of North Vancouver-Seymour and they rewarded him with enviable pluralities in successive elections.

Our tribute to Dan in this Summer issue of Orders of the Day also appears in the News and Events section of our website, formerbcmla.com.

And, what better time to remind you of some of the features of the website. The site was built by the good folks at the Legislature Library and is kept up to date by OOTD editor Brian Kieran. The About section contains historical details going back to the origins of the

association in 1987 and its formal establishment in legislation in 1998. That legislation reminds us that we exist, in part, "to put the knowledge and experience of (our) members at the service of parliamentary democracy in British Columbia and elsewhere."

The OOTD Archive section contains back issues of our newsletter – perfect for members who enjoy a stroll down memory lane. And, for those who have mastered online banking, the Payments section provides an easy way of keeping your dues up to date without using the postal service.

As you read this, we are enjoying a measure of COVID-19 recovery that was long overdue. But that doesn't mean we can throw caution to the wind. Keep those masks at hand and urge all around you to get that second jab.



Dave Hayer,
AFMLABC President

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North Shore's popular Dan Jarvis dies in hospice at 85

Former North Vancouver-Seymour MLA Daniel Jarvis died in late June.

Dan, a Liberal, was very popular with voters throughout the 1990s and into the 2000s, winning four successive elections from 1991 to 2005 with pluralities ranging from 56 to 65 per cent.

While in Opposition he served as the Deputy Critic for Children and Families, the Energy and Mines Deputy Critic, and the Critic for ICBC. He also served as a member of the Government Caucus Committee on Natural Resources as well as the Legislative Standing Committee for Crown Corporations. And, he served on the Mining Task Force.

In March 2009, Dan announced his retirement from provincial politics and endorsed Jane Thornthwaite to replace him as a candidate in the upcoming provincial election, a recommendation later supported by the party's election readiness committee.

Former Liberal Premier Gordon Campbell remembers Dan well: "Dan Jarvis was a constituency MLA first and foremost. He represented the people who built the province with hard work and perseverance. He was first elected in 1991 as the MLA for North Vancouver Seymour. I first met him 1993, when I decided to run for the leadership of the BC Liberal Party. I remember the meeting because the first thing Dan said to me was that he wasn't sure why I was talking to him. He told me with a twinkle in his eye, 'There was no one more surprised than me when I was first elected.' That was Dan. Sparkle in his eyes, teasing you if he cared to and, equally, never taking himself too seriously.

"He worked hard and never lost his focus on his constituents. As a critic for BC Hydro and for ICBC, he always remembered the people who were paying the bills and held the people who were spending their money to account. He genuinely cared about the communities he served.

"I remember in 2005, when torrential rains inundated North Vancouver and in the middle of the night, a major slide of mud and debris destroyed two homes, put others at risk and cost one resident their life. The rain would not relent, and Dan was there at the site as the rain poured down, making sure the province gave his constituents all the assistance they needed. He continued for months afterwards to be sure homeowners in precarious situations had support.



"He loved mining and saw it as a foundation for the future of BC's economy and he understood the competitive advantages that BC Hydro could offer every British Columbian.

"He will be missed; one never forgets a man like Dan Jarvis."

Former Speaker and MLA Linda Reid recalls: "Danny and I were heading to a caucus meeting in the Interior during our first term post 1991. I had recently taken on critic responsibility for Women's Equality. We stopped for gas and Dan said in honour of your new role "you get the gas and I will get the chocolate bars." I can still hear him chuckling halfway to Kamloops.

"Daniel was my best friend and a gracious host. He had Reni Masi and me over to his apartment and decided to serve us a snack while we were working. There we were eating Ritz crackers with a dollop of ketchup when his wife Dianne calls. I can still hear her laughter as she tells Danny that he has forgotten to add the smoked oyster to the dollop of ketchup.

"Danny was a joy to behold on his feet in the Chamber. He was the best spokesperson for Energy/Mines bar none. It still makes me smile to recall the bemused looks from the Government benches when Danny would point out that a direction of government would see them "going south in a breadbasket." Danny believed the phrase "hell in a handbasket" was unparliamentary.

continued on Page 15

Continued from Page 1

Miller: “You're there to try to do things”

To create a non-traditional institution, he says, the government moved away from the conventional governance model at other universities, where there is both a board of governors and an academic senate.

The model adopted for RRU – with only a board of governors – was controversial at the time but allowed the fledgling university to be nimble and quick at adapting to the changing needs of both the workforce and the economy.

Another innovation he and his ministry staff considered – and note that this was in the early days of the Internet – would set the stage for online learning before the ubiquitous tech tools of today existed and before the COVID-19 pandemic made it a necessity.

“My deputy, Gary Wouters, and I talked a lot about that, and about how we could look at ways of providing some courses in a non-traditional way – in other words, without bricks and mortar – because we could increase [teaching] capacity fairly dramatically without the capital cost of new buildings.

“So [the Internet] was very much part of our thinking,” says Miller, who notes, “All the time I was a cabinet minister, I didn't use a computer.”

He says looking back on how RRU started and what it has become is “very gratifying.”

While he's quick to point out any such endeavour is a team effort inside a ministry, he says, “Looking back sometimes, you don't see as a cabinet minister often the fruition of what you started. You're constantly moved [to new posts].

“That's why I'm quite humbled to be given this honorary degree.”

Asked about his inspirations as a public servant, he points to Tommy Douglas, considered the father of Medicare in Canada, and former BC Premier Dave Barrett. “They had intelligence, they had foresight, they had determination to make positive changes for people. That was the real inspiration for me in terms of my being in politics.

“You're not there just to get re-elected – nor are you there just to be popular. You're there to try to do things.”

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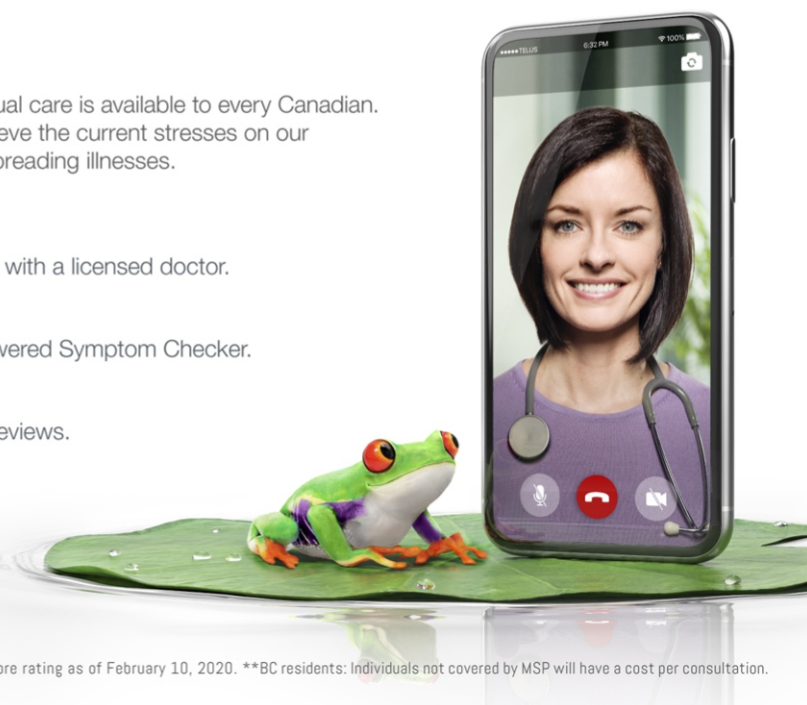
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A “less than ideal” provincial election scenario

(Editor's note: The following two pages constitute excerpts from *BC Liberals: Campaign 2020 Debrief*. The full report – written by Ben Parsons, David Murray and Amber Ruddy – can be downloaded at www.bcliberals.com/2021/06/11/bc-liberals-release-campaign-debrief-report/)

While the upcoming BC Liberal leadership race will answer the big questions around vision and ideology, this report compiles the views and recollections of party members to examine the mechanics and execution of the last election campaign and provide recommendations for the future.

It is possible for a post-mortem review to quickly devolve into an unconstructive finger-pointing exercise, but this analysis aimed to drill down on the tactical execution questions rather than assign blame.

It is noteworthy that there was almost no finger pointing by those interviewed. Respondents took responsibility for their own misjudgments and failures and expressed genuine hope for the coming political cycle. Not one person interviewed was ready to throw in the towel.

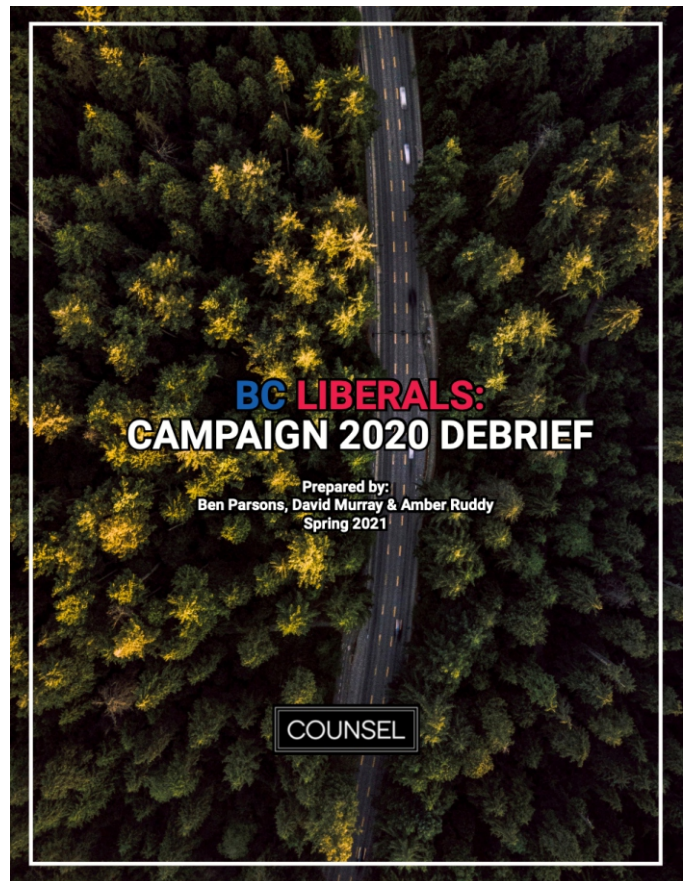
Among participants, there was universal acknowledgment that the circumstances of the 2020 BC election were less than ideal.

In the fall of 2020, Premier John Horgan and the BC NDP were at a high point in their popularity. Heading into the fall season, the BC NDP raised twice as much money as the BC Liberals, and the public was broadly satisfied with the government's pandemic response at that time. Media in the province were perceived to be friendly toward Horgan and his inner circle, and broadly dismissive of the BC Liberal Party and leader Andrew Wilkinson.

Given the state of public health measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was limited ability to conduct public events, recruit and mobilize volunteers, or do anything that could create a sense of political momentum.

In interviews, the question arose whether the election was winnable. Most senior staff interviewed felt that by the time the election was called, it probably was not. However, many felt that the BC Liberals could have retained more of their seats with a different strategy, message and leadership style.

There was also a general perception, in both the survey comments and in interviews, that the leadership team could have better anticipated the election call. There was a general acknowledgement, both at the local and central campaign levels, that some elements of the party were caught off guard by the election timing.



While many staff argued correctly that Horgan was setting up for a fall election, others thought it was a bluff right up until the end. More than one person on the central campaign admitted to this misjudgment and felt that it might have had a material impact on the campaign.

Specifically, for lower priority ridings, it was noted that candidate packages were delayed until weeks into the campaign and the party was left scrambling to recruit the last batch of candidates.

There was also a perception that a small number of these delayed nominations were waiting for the writ to drop before holding nominations so star candidates could stand for election.

Some senior officials expressed that some senior incumbent MLAs didn't take the election threat seriously and hadn't done enough fundraising by the time the fall of 2020 arrived.

However, no interviewee felt that this miscalculation would have changed the ultimate result. A few more weeks or months of preparation may have saved a few marginal seats, but it would not have been enough to ultimately turn the tide.

continued next page

The pandemic made volunteer recruitment and motivation extremely difficult. The social aspect of a campaign is often the glue that holds a local team together. Absent the ability to gather a group of people together to phone bank and then socialize over beer and pizza, many people opted to sit the election out or simply weren't asked to participate.

Out of the survey and interview process, a number of themes emerged and some common sense suggestions were made:

- Invest substantial time and money into recruiting young people and revitalizing campus clubs

The volunteer pipeline is running dry, and the only way to replenish it is with young, energetic activists. Traditionally, campus clubs have been the best places to recruit and develop young talent. This requires a real investment of time and money to do properly. Staff and budget need to be committed to the effort if the party is serious about this.

- Build a multi-year training program for prospective candidates and campaign managers

This needs to be undertaken earlier in the political cycle and with more intensity and depth. The BC Liberals lean heavily on a cadre of experienced political operators, but they are not enough. New people need to be identified and transformed into political professionals with mentorship and training opportunities. This should not be left until the six months leading up to an election.

- Set clear, enforced targets for incumbents when it comes to fundraising, volunteer recruitment and voter identification

MLAs cannot rest on their laurels between election campaigns. With the new donation rules, fundraising cannot be an afterthought. Clear expectations need to be set for incumbents on a year-by-year basis, ensuring that their riding associations are hubs of activity rather than empty, moribund organizations activated once every four years.

- Consider communicating some marquee platform items well ahead of the campaign

This suggestion is subject to the context of whatever is happening in 2023/2024, but the principle is valid. It is difficult to build a constituency around a policy item if there are only a few weeks to communicate it. It will take time to reach and convince new pools of voters. Communicating an appealing policy agenda ahead of time is one way of doing that.

- Invest time and money in revamping the “Digital Influencer” program

In 2013 the “Digital Influencer” team had regular communications, events and seminars, which allowed for a semi-informal group of online pundits to work together in order to shape the public discussion, mostly on Twitter. This was a successful project and it is worth revisiting.

- Conduct research into new branding reflecting the values and aspirations of persuadable voters in BC

While most of the old language was officially shed, it still ended up in local campaign materials and talking points in the last campaign. The BC Liberal Party needs to update its language so that it sounds accessible and responsive to the needs of ordinary people.

- Undertake an internal review and reform of the BC Liberal Party nominations process

Some participants expressed confusion with how the nominations process was supposed to proceed and others said that more energy needed to go into recruiting and supporting candidates. Clear guidelines need to be laid out explaining when, why and how candidates will be appointed without a nomination.

- Consider setting up an initiative to identify and foster talented elected officials serving at local levels of government

Talented elected officials may be serving at the local levels of government, including municipal councillors or school board trustees. Take steps to engage and recruit candidates at these levels who have a track record of making a difference in their communities and hold values the BC Liberals espouse.

- Redouble efforts to recruit and foster talent from diverse backgrounds

The party is perceived by many as lacking diversity – fairly or unfairly. The BC Liberals need to recruit, listen to, and elevate British Columbians of every gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, and economic background. The province has changed, and so should the BC Liberals.

(The survey was sent to more than 3,000 BC Liberal Party volunteers, staff and candidates. There were 821 respondents and the survey was weighted on a regional basis. This is a strong response rate for this sample size.)

Atwin's defection forces a Green Party reckoning

(Editor's note: At presstime, Green Party Leader Annamie Paul was fighting a group of party councillors campaigning to dethrone her.)

By John Woodside
Canada's National Observer

Fredericton MP Jenica Atwin's defection from the Green Party to the Liberals has revived old fights about what the Green Party should stand for, and whether it's possible for the party to compete for seats until that question is settled.

When Annamie Paul became Green Party leader in October, one challenge she faced was how to define the party after it was led for more than a decade by Elizabeth May. After all, in May's 13 years steering the ship, she became the Greens' first elected Member of Parliament, and the caucus grew to three in 2019 – albeit chopped down to two in June.

Even though climate advocacy is what the party is best known for, the Greens organize around several values, including non-violence, participatory democracy and social justice. At a time when other federal parties are flexing their climate credentials, the Greens are increasingly making the case they're more than a single-issue party.

"I do believe that part of the reason members elected me is because I opened up the opportunity for the Green Party to begin a new conversation with people in Canada about those other policies," said Paul.

"Given who I am, my lived experience and my professional experience, and my identity, it's not hard for people in Canada to imagine that I am as equally interested in things like racial and social justice, in the need for a guaranteed liveable income, the need for affordable housing, etc., exactly because of who I am and how I grew up.

"So in my case, it's actually been sometimes more of a challenge, to be honest, to remind people ... that I'm committed to the climate and environment, because people tend to see politicians that look like me and think only of social and racial justice issues," she said.

Paul's vision of the Green Party championing progressive values beyond fighting climate change was severely tested this spring when her senior adviser, Noah Zatzman, threatened to work against sitting Green Party MPs who spoke out against Israel bombing Gaza. One of those MPs was Jenica Atwin, who on May 11 called Paul's statement on the violence "inadequate" and accused Israel of a policy of "apartheid."

"Appalling anti-Semitism and discrimination from a range of political actors ... We will work to defeat you," Zatzman wrote on Facebook three days later.



In what's now ancient history, Atwin joined the Liberals and dropped responsibility for floor crossing at Paul's feet, calling their differences "irreconcilable." That has since sparked a massive fight in the party over its future and Paul's future in it.

University of Prince Edward Island political science professor Don Desserud says: "What I found a bit surprising about what was happening was the intemperance of both Atwin's comment about her leader, but even more so the adviser's (Zatzman) attack on her, and to have all this public, what were they thinking? It's not going to end well, I don't see anybody coming out of this ahead."

It could be a major blunder for Atwin, who, on the day after jumping ship to the Liberals, saw that the federal government was convening an emergency summit on antisemitism in direct response to criticism from Conservative MPs and a former Liberal MP. It's almost certainly a blunder for Paul, who is now facing open challenges to her leadership from the party's ranks.

Paul's top rival is Dimitri Lascaris, the Montreal-based eco-socialist who finished second in the 2020 Green Party leadership race.

"There's a lot more going on than just the Israel-Palestine issue," Lascaris said. "The context is Israel-Palestine, but it's raising a philosophical question about the role of the leader ... If Annamie is serious about courtesy and mutual respect then she should have unequivocally rejected what Zatzman said and identified that as an example of how not to communicate when we have sharp differences of opinion about policy," he said.

Lascaris' vision for the party, along with others like Meryam Haddad, who pitched the Watermelon Revolution – a one-time alliance with the NDP to avoid splitting progressive votes – aims to centre workers in the climate movement.

"Our natural constituency is the progressive community," said Lascaris. "People who tend to vote Conservative or Liberal are never going to come over en masse to a party



that's talking about things like bringing an end to the fossil fuels industry, demilitarizing, bringing in a wealth tax, eliminating preferential treatment for capital gains – the kinds of things that the progressive community wants.

“This idea that if we move to the centre, which is so crowded now with the Liberals and the modestly progressive agenda of the NDP, and even O’Toole is trying to, or at least appear to, move his party to the centre ... There’s no prospect of us growing the party there.

“We need to be champions of eco-socialism,” he said. “That’s our place in politics today, that’s the promised land for us.”

It’s a topic that has clearly been on the mind of party members in recent weeks, too. A climate action lobby, 350.org, is calling for a climate alliance between the NDP and the Green Party for the next election, and in a meeting where Green Party members flung questions at Paul over Zatzman, one topic of interest was whether an alliance was in the cards.

“We are in a desperate climate crisis so desperate measures are needed to avoid climate champions in both parties trying to defeat each other,” one member said, asking leadership to share the party’s position on the alliance. Another member wanted to know if a third-party poll was taken asking Green Party members whether they supported the alliance, would that affect Green Party leadership’s position.

“The Green Party of Canada will continue to field candidates in every one of Canada’s 338 ridings,” was the official response.

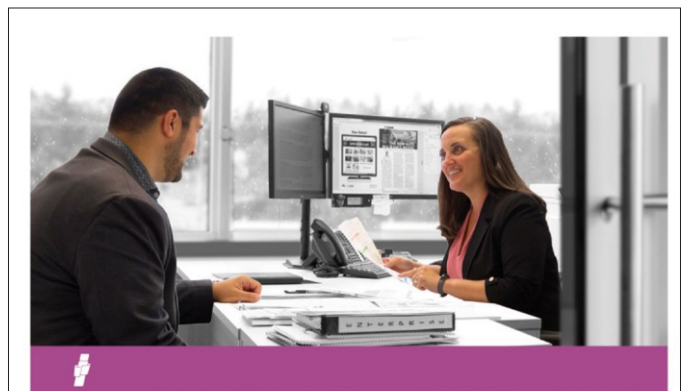
“I think (Atwin) was open to collaboration with the NDP in the next election, which is not something welcomed by the old guard of the party, I would say,” said Haddad. “I think that’s why me and Dimitri were such targets during the leadership contest; there’s no other explanation than that one.

“The leadership, or the elite of the party itself, is completely disconnected from what the membership wants,” said Haddad, adding the base wants to see collaboration.

Desserud suggested there could be a third way if the national party took a closer look at the Maritimes, where David Coon’s Green Party in New Brunswick has essentially iced out the NDP as the progressive option, and Peter Bevan-Baker’s Greens in Prince Edward Island have formed the official Opposition since 2019.

“What Peter has been able to do with the Green Party here is talk about conservation in a very broad sense, so it’s still part of the environmentalism of the party but it also includes making sure we’re particularly prudent about the way in which we manage our economy, very prudent in the way in which we manage our farmlands and farm economy as well, and how we deal with social issues,” said Desserud.

“What they’ve been able to do is broaden out their appeal of their party from starting with their core values, and not basically doing things that you don’t know why that would be the case or you don’t know how that fits into the overall messaging of the party,” he said. “I think that’s the problem that the national party has had is that they’re trying to find an identity that is beyond simply – and I shouldn’t say simply because the environment affects anything – but beyond simply that issue.”



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HELPING WHEN LIFE CHANGES



Can patience, goodwill, truth and justice prevail?

By Jim Hume
The Old Islander

It must 50 years since I talked to George Clutesi in his neat cottage home on Somass River Road in Port Alberni. I was a newcomer in the Albernis having been transferred to the Valley to open a news bureau for the Nanaimo Free Press.

The newspaper had ambitions way back then to spread its new daily wings beyond the Hub City. My new home with four children and a fifth due in a few months was on Stirling Arm on Sproat Lake not far from the old and famous water bombers that provided wonderful entertainment.

It was a great spot for raising children and a short drive to and from work, shops and schools and George Clutesi – artist, actor, movie star, and a treasure chest on the Tso-shat Nation's legends and history. He was a new-in-town newsman's dream. I was not a frequent visitor or could ever boast I was a close friend. I was one those annoying acquaintances who dropped in unannounced occasionally, made myself at home – and was always made to feel welcome.

I've been calling George to mind as I have ploughed through the thousands of pages of the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, published a couple of years ago. I think George would agree that it contains a lot of his thinking although he died in 1988, well before the Commission report was published and the permanent National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation was established.

One of themes echoing Clutesi's thinking has to do with revenge for the evils perpetrated by white governments as they tried to whip the Aboriginal tribes of Canada into subservient replicas of their masters' society.

I asked George why young aboriginal Canadians were so hang-dog submissive; why they tended to step to one side on a downtown sidewalk to give white folk clear passage. He politely said I was mis-reading their feeling. He said it was sometimes a serious challenge holding the "young bloods" in check. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission report echoes that warning with the oft repeated theme that its emphasis is, and will always be, on reconciliation, not revenge.

And I'm wondering if the majority of white people feel that way. John Donne (1572-1631) once wrote: "Never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."



George Clutesi

In the context of the recent discovery of 215 graves at the site of the former Kamloops residential school, we should remember that when we hear church bells tolling for the child victims of Canada's shameful mini-holocaust, they also toll for those of us who permitted it to happen.

As a working journalist in Western Canada from the 1950s through to the first decade of the 21st Century, I heard stories from time to time about tough discipline in residential schools but paid little attention. Even when my old mentor, George Clutesi, talked to me with sadness about life at the Alberni Residential School, he never spoke with bitterness. He always spoke with the hope that patience, goodwill, truth and justice would prevail.

But, George Clutesi and Aboriginal leaders across Canada knew. So did church leaders and the governments – national, provincial and, in some cases, municipal. They knew the ultimate aim of the Indian residential school program was to assimilate an entire race of human beings into the mainstream culture of Euro-centric beliefs and values.

The shameful plan failed because Aboriginal people proved tougher to crush than the white oppressor thought. Strong and articulate native voices began to be heard. White leaders of good conscience were prepared to listen; and, the general population was shocked to awakening as the cultural extinction of native tribes was exposed in horrific detail.

George Clutesi is one of the strong native leaders to emerge in the 1900s. I'm just happy he's one I was privileged to meet and be friended by, on my life journey. His first book *Son of Raven, Son of Deer – Fables of the Tse-shat People*, was my introduction to native culture.

His books can still be found at <https://abcbookworld.com/bc-bookword-archive>.

A third of us say Canada is a racist country

These are times of deep reckoning over issues of race and identity, hatred, and violence in Canada.

Against the backdrop of the London, Ontario attack that targeted and killed a Muslim family, the deep pain associated with revelations about the hundreds of children buried on the grounds of former residential schools, and ongoing reports of discrimination against Canadians of Asian origin, many are attempting to reconcile the realities of the nation's attitudes towards diversity and equality with national mythologizing about multiculturalism.

This report from the non-profit Angus Reid Institute in partnership with the University of British Columbia dives deeply into the sentiments of those living in this country – to illuminate perceptions and attitudes towards diversity and racism.

For 85 per cent of the population, Canada is a better nation for being home to people from different races and ethnicities. Canadians of all regions of the country, age groups, political ideologies and ethnic backgrounds agree on this point.

But does everyone feel it? Contradictions abound. Fully one-in-three (34 per cent) say “Canada is a racist country.” Among those who believe this most keenly are visible minorities (42 per cent of whom say so) and women, particularly those under the age of 35, who are much more likely than men to hold this view (54 per cent).

On the other hand, fewer than one-in-eight (12 per cent) say they believe some races are superior to others. Further, 41 per cent of Canadians say that people seeing discrimination where it does not exist is a bigger problem for the country than people not being able to see where it does.

Canada's diversity has been referred to at times as everything from experimental, to post-nationalist, a success and a failure. Canadian views on this subject diverge and meet, like the dipping and rising threads pulling together the cultural fabric that Canada has sewn over the 50 years since multiculturalism was instated as a government policy.

For a majority, there is a level of pride that comes with living in a racially, culturally, and ethnically diverse nation. So too, there are competing views in public opinion of how far multiculturalism should go, and the extent to which racism and discrimination exist in Canada.

Canada relies on immigration for economic growth. As of 2016, the top sources of foreign born Canadian citizens are India, China, the Philippines, and the United Kingdom. India is projected to account for one-quarter of new residents going forward under the Liberal government's plan.

Multiple factors including declining birth rates, an aging population and the crippling effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have led some to suggest this will be the case even more so in coming years. Indeed, the expectation, according to Statistics Canada, is that this year the percentage of Canada's visible minority population will surpass one-quarter.

This report analyzes four mindsets with which Canadians view diversity each – the Detractors, Guarded, Accepting and Advocates – to better understand the expectations of Canadians heading into the second half century of official multiculturalism. Each represents approximately one-quarter of the population.

Here is a brief summary of some defining details in each group:

Advocates

- Half of women aged 18 to 34 are Advocates
- Highest proportion found in Ontario (28 per cent), Atlantic Canada (27 per cent), and British Columbia (26 per cent)
- Three-quarters say Canada is a racist country
- Half (47 per cent) say they often hear others making racist comments (most of all four groups)
- Unanimous (99 per cent) that diversity makes Canada a better country

Accepting

- Women in the 35 to 54 and 55-plus age groups are most commonly found among the Accepting
- Highest proportion also found in Ontario, Atlantic Canada, British Columbia – 29 per cent in each
- One-in-three (33 per cent) past Liberal voters are Accepting, as are 28 per cent of past New Democrats
- 86 per cent say that people not seeing racial discrimination where it does exist is a bigger problem than people perceiving it in areas where it doesn't

continued next page

- Most likely of all groups to say they feel connected to their community (80 per cent)

Guarded

- Men in the 35 to 54 and 55-plus age groups are most commonly found among the Guarded
- Alberta (28 per cent), Manitoba (27 per cent), and Quebec (27 per cent) hold the highest proportion of the Guarded
- One-in-three past Bloc Quebecois voters are Guarded, as are 29 per cent of past Conservatives
- Half (55 per cent) say that perceptions of racial discrimination where it does not really exist is a bigger problem than people failing to see it
- One-in-five (20 per cent) would prefer to have neighbours that are the same race

Detractors

- Men are twice as likely to belong to this group (34 per cent) as women (17 per cent)
- Two-in-five men ages 55 years and older are found in this group
- Highest proportion found in Saskatchewan (38 per cent), followed by Alberta (32 per cent)
- Half of past CPC voters (48 per cent) are Detractors, 39 per cent of past Bloc Quebecois voters
- Near unanimously (94 per cent) disagree that Canada is a racist country
- More than two-in-five (44 per cent) dispute that diversity makes Canada a better country
- One-third (34 per cent) feel as though they are treated as an outsider in Canada

Age is a key factor along with gender. Young women are by far the most likely demographic to be Advocates, followed by women ages 35 to 54. Meanwhile, men of all ages are much more likely to be Guarded or Detractors compared to their female counterparts.

Regional differences are also significant. Ontario, BC, and Atlantic Canada are more likely to be home to the Advocates or the Accepting, whilst other parts of the country reveal greater populations of the Guarded or Detractors:

Politics is another part of the discussion. Half of those who supported the Conservative Party in the 2019 federal election are Detractors, as are 39 per cent of Bloc Quebecois voters. New Democrats are most likely to be Advocates. A full majority of those who supported the Green Party or NDP in the 2019 election say Canada is a racist country, while this concept is rejected by most Liberals, Conservatives, and Bloc Quebecois supporters.

While the RCMP has itself acknowledged issues with systemic racism, Canadians are divided over how visible minorities are treated by police compared to others. When asked how they think the police handle this group, the Detractors feel there is little difference, the Guarded tend to agree, while the Accepting offer a mixed view. The Advocates are much more certain that police treatment of visible minorities is unfair.

When it comes to different minority groups in Canada, religious or ethnic, the Muslim community stands out as a source of antipathy for some Canadians. This is not the case for all, almost all among of the Accepting and the Advocates view Muslim Canadians warmly. That number drops to two-thirds (68 per cent) among the Guarded and just 48 per cent among Detractors, well below the level of warm feeling towards Black, Chinese, or South Asian Canadians.

One-in-five Detractors have “very cold” views toward the Muslim community and are divided evenly between warm and cold proclivities. On the opposite end of the spectrum, two-thirds of Advocates (66 per cent) say they view Muslim Canadians “very” warmly.

A common debate in Canada centres on the breadth and intensity of racism in this country, and whether the push to overcome it goes too far. Indeed, some have argued that in 2021 there is a propensity to see race issues where they do not exist. Others push back against this narrative and call it a denial of reality.

Two-in-five say that people seeing racial discrimination where it does not actually exist is a bigger problem than the inability of some to see where it's real. Visible minorities and women lean heavily toward the latter as being a more significant issue, while men and self-identified Indigenous respondents are divided.

Carole James mourns the passing of her activist mom

By Louise Dickson
Victoria Times Colonist

Mavis DeGirolamo was a tiny woman, but she was larger than life and never turned her back on anyone, daughter Carole James recalls.

DeGirolamo, 81, who died peacefully at home in July surrounded by her family, is being remembered as a lifelong activist, volunteer, teacher and mentor.

“My mother was the true radical in our family,” said James, the former deputy premier. “If there was a cause that needed a fight and needed an advocate and someone to stand up for people, for justice, that was my mom.”

DeGirolamo started the Voice of Women peace organization and protested in Victoria every weekend during the entire Vietnam War.

“She was out there for every cause that needed somebody,” said James, joking that she spent her childhood on the protest lines. “She was extraordinary.”

DeGirolamo was born in Lancashire, England in 1939 to Edith and Richard Jones, just before the start of the Second World War. They emigrated to Canada when she was 12 and settled in Saskatchewan for a few years. In 1962, DeGirolamo, a single mother, moved with her parents, five-year-old Carole and Janice, four, to Victoria.

She was a teacher of children with special needs almost all of her 30-year career, 12 of those spent at Tillicum Elementary.

She and her husband, Lorne DeGirolamo, who adopted Carole and Janice, also fostered children. Although the couple divorced, they remained good friends.

DeGirolamo became president of the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association and vice-president of the BC Teachers' Federation. When she retired, she moved from full-time teacher to full-time activist.

DeGirolamo began volunteering at the Intercultural Association 35 years ago and was its president for 12 years. She taught citizenship, English and English as a second language and was involved in all the citizenship ceremonies, said James.

In a Facebook post, the Intercultural Association said it had lost a great friend.

DeGirolamo was an enthusiastic organizer and provided support and mentorship over the years, the ICA said.



“She will be sorely missed and we are deeply grateful for all she gave as a friend and committed community builder.”

She was also involved with the Black History Association, the James Bay Community Project and New Horizons.

Ten years ago, DeGirolamo accepted an invitation to coffee with Bill Corbin, whom she had dated when her children were little. At the time, she told her daughter she had no time in her life for a relationship, but “I want to be polite so I'm going for coffee with him.”

“It was a wonderful love story for the last 10 years. They sold their homes and moved in together. She called him her sweetheart,” said James. “It was terrific. My mom worked so hard and when she and Bill got together, she also learned to play again.”

James remembers how her mother allowed a down-on-his-luck window washer to camp in her backyard for several weeks.

“That's just my mother. She was an incredibly special person and leaves such a huge, huge hole in our family. It's pretty heartbreaking.”

Victoria city councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe described DeGirolamo as a loving, giving and caring individual. “There are so many that are grieving right now, but are also honoured to have known Mavis,” said Thornton-Joe. “She cared about the community and was an amazing volunteer who inspired us all.”

Letters

Political colleagues remember Dan Jarvis

Daniel Jarvis' political career began a little later in life when he was elected in 1991, but once it started it was a commitment he would make to the people of BC for the next 20 years. That made him one of the longer serving MLAs in provincial history and a fixture as the representative for North Vancouver-Seymour.

Like many of the new MLAs elected in the historic election of 1991, politics wasn't Daniel's first choice as a career. He was a very successful realtor on the North Shore and was one of the founders of Sussex Realty.

But when Provincial Liberal Leader Gordon Wilson asked for his help, he agreed to stand as a candidate in North Vancouver-Seymour. He was elected along with 16 other MLAs on October 17th, 1991.

He would go on to serve eight years as an opposition critic and then eight more years as a valued member of the Government caucus. He worked on numerous legislative committees, but his passion was always for BC's resource industries.

He was the official opposition critic for Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, and continued with his drive of supporting BC resource communities when he served in the government caucus. He was a frequent traveler to many resource communities in BC and brought their issues and concerns back to the BC Legislature.

Daniel would often good naturedly lament that his long detour into public life meant that he largely missed the Lower Mainland's real estate boom, although Sussex Realty became a family firm and was taken over by members of his immediate family.

But despite the sacrifices he made to enter public life, it was a choice he never really regretted. He often said that serving his constituents and people of British Columbia was by far his highest calling.

He will be sadly missed by his close family and by his many friends and former political colleagues. But the loss is particularly keenly felt by the constituents of North Vancouver-Seymour whom he ably served for so long.

Wilf Hurd
MLA Surrey-White Rock, 1991-1997

Daniel Jarvis was a "handsome" man in the fullest sense of the word.

Beyond a welcoming smile and bright eyes that betrayed his often-understated humour and wit, Dan was handsome in the abstract.

His ideas and qualities were a welcome addition to a fledgling group of BC Liberals who came together to contest the 1991 provincial election, stepping forward as the candidate for the North Vancouver-Seymour riding.

He was a valued member of the group of 17 newly minted opposition MLAs who, in that election, changed the course of BC politics.

Dan could be relied upon to always speak frankly and offer sound counsel even when his views were at odds with those around him.

Of his many handsome qualities three stand out for me. He was honest, he was selfless, and he was a loyal friend.

These were qualities that he did not need to cultivate, they were who he was simple as that, which is why he made such a handsome contribution to his North Vancouver riding. And, beyond his political contribution, he served his community through amateur sport and service organizations.

Dan, a fourth generation British Columbian, loved his province, his friends, and above all his family. Yes, in every sense of the word, Dan was a handsome man.

Gordon Wilson
MLA Powell River-Sunshine Coast, 1991-2001



Linda Reid and Dan Jarvis

Photo submitted by Linda Reid

Continued from Page 4

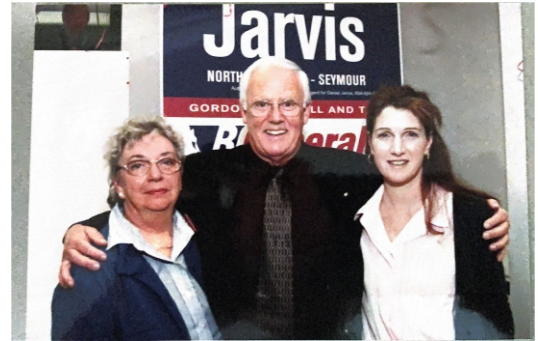
Dan remembered as steadfast, a great friend, humourous

“Heartfelt thanks to his wife Dianne, his daughter Catherine, his son Danny and their families. You shared an incredible gift with me and with his constituents. He truly was the best loved MLA. I will always be grateful for his steadfastness, his friendship, and his humour.”

Before being elected to the Legislature, Dan was involved in the real estate and construction industries. He also worked in the general insurance industry for 10 years.

He had a long history of community service. He was involved in amateur sports including girls softball and hockey. He coached and organized girls baseball leagues. Daniel was past-president and organizer of the North Vancouver Minor Hockey Association. Daniel also co-owned and served as president of the old Nor-Wes Caps Junior Hockey Association. He was also a member of the Capilano Kiwanis Association.

Dan volunteered on behalf of the Salvation Army, the Heart Fund, the Multiple Sclerosis Association, the Canadian Diabetes Association and the BC Cancer Agency.



Dan Jarvis and his constituency assistants Jill Hill and Jennifer Anderson

You could always count on Dan to promote the best interests of the North Shore. It started with his maiden speech in the Legislature in March 1992: “On our foreshores are the homes of some of the oldest shipyards which have had remarkable history of shipbuilding in this province. They are presently constructing the hulls for the new super ferries. The shipbuilding and repair sector has faced major setbacks in the last few years and this has had a major impact on the people and the economy of North Shore. We must work to improve and resolve this maritime industry.”



Please donate to the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund

The Association of Former MLAs of BC looks forward to your donations to the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund to assist members of the Youth Parliament of BC. The fund is managed by the Victoria Foundation.

By phone: Call 250-381-5532 to make a donation by credit card directly.

By cheque: To the Victoria Foundation, #200 - 703 Broughton Street, Victoria, B.C., V8N 1E2. Cheque payable to The Victoria Foundation. Note the name of the fund in the memo line or in a cover letter.

Online: Go to www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca. Click on “Giving” in the navigation bar and then on “Make a Donation.” After that just follow the prompts to find the Hugh Curtis Memorial Fund.

If you have any questions about how to make a donation to the Victoria Foundation, please contact Sara Neely, Director of Philanthropic Services, at 250-381-5532 or sneely@victoriafoundation.bc.ca

150 years ago

BC – depressed post gold rush – joined Canada in 1871

When British Columbia joined Confederation it was so remote from the rest of Canada that mail going east had to carry an American stamp and go through San Francisco.

The colony was large and rich in resources, but its population was small, perhaps only 11,000 Europeans and about 26,000 Indigenous people. With a British naval base in Esquimalt and a series of gold rushes in the interior, the fur trade economy had given way to coal mining, lumbering, fishing and a rising merchant class. But a large public debt, economic depression following the end of the gold rush, and political unrest pushed the colony to consider making a change.

Just as in other pre-Confederation colonies, union with Canada had its opponents in BC.

A small faction sought to solve British Columbia's financial problems by annexation with the United States where a great deal of their trade orientation was aimed already. Others, like J.S. Helmcken, son-in-law of James Douglas, wanted to maintain the British connection.

Helmcken felt that BC was geographically too distant from the rest of Canada for proper communication with the east. BC would have little political influence, he argued, and would be subject to policy decisions made far away. This is still a concern of westerners today.

The eccentric newspaper publisher, Amor de Cosmos, who was to become an early premier of the new province in 1873, was a strong supporter of Confederation. From his point of view it was the only way British Columbia would achieve responsible government, something reformers had been arguing for without success since the 1850s.

Governor Anthony Musgrave was a friend of John A. Macdonald's and shared his vision of Canada. Britain was ready to give up control of this remote, increasingly expensive colony and Musgrave's job was to overcome the opposition and smooth the way for Confederation. He sent a delegation to Ottawa, among them the skeptical Helmcken, and much to their surprise, all their terms were accepted. Canada would take over all the debt of the colony and pump money into the province annually for public works. Responsible government would be implemented in the province and BC would also be allowed to send six members to Parliament in Ottawa instead of the two or three it was entitled to with rep by pop.



The biggest surprise was Ottawa's generous offer of a transcontinental railway line that would penetrate the Rocky Mountains and join BC to the east within 10 years. The delegates had only asked for a wagon road.

The railway promise provoked a lot of opposition in the east because it was such a massive, expensive undertaking and most of the land between BC and Ontario was barely inhabited. Without it, however, we probably wouldn't have been able to establish a country.

On July 20, 1871, British Columbia entered Confederation as the sixth province, extending the young Dominion of Canada to the Pacific Ocean.

Shortly after joining Confederation, 25 Members were elected to the province's first Legislative Assembly. Under the *British North America Act, 1867*, the Canadian Governor General, on behalf of the British Crown, appointed a BC Lieutenant Governor, Joseph Trutch, who then called upon one of the elected MLAs to form a government.

John Foster McCreight became BC's first Premier. He resigned in 1872 after a vote of non-confidence indicated that he had lost the support of the Members of the Legislative Assembly. In recognizing the need to have the support and confidence of the newly elected Legislative Assembly, McCreight's resignation validated the existence and principles of responsible government.

(The Canadian History Project, BC Legislature)