

Our World

Community Collective

210 members

www.ourworldcommunity.org

OWCC for the North Okanagan, believes that best way to effect change is to focus the power generated by large numbers of people to democratically identify concerns and move towards solutions which support a healthy and sustainable future.

Join the Action



Meetings

We meet the first and third Thursday of every month.

@6:00 P.M.

For more information, phone Darren at 542-3379.

Springtime is a season of growth. With renewed energy, OWCC volunteers are ready to expand the organization with exciting new goals and ideas. One goal is to have 1000 members by the end of this year. We want to spread the word about the type of impact we can have as one strong voice speaking out for positive change and sustainable practices. If each existing member attracts 2-5 people this year, we will multiply our numbers and easily achieve this goal.

A second goal is to have a solid solution base to vote on by September. If you have time this summer (June, July, August) we are currently brainstorming SOLUTIONS to reverse "Polluting of our Earth." Please provide input by mail, phone, at our meetings or online. Throughout the summer, we will hold meetings at the regular time, although the locations might

vary. Please contact us to find out the location (542-3379).

Another goal is to expand our newsletter. In this issue, we have included sections on the monetary system and food security. In future issues, we plan to write on such topics as health, corporate conduct, environmental issues and alternative energy or technology. Please contact us with any ideas you might have. We would like to welcome our new writers to the OWCC team!

We would like YOU to join Our World Community Collective (OWCC) to improve the state of Our World. We need YOUR voice! Membership is free; the minimum requirement is to vote.



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Possible Solutions

OWCC would like to share some solutions that our members have come up with so far, which we will possibly be voting on in September.

1. One idea is to have our Federal Government support the Italian Government initiative of coming up with a more fair and just monetary system and to attract representatives of other countries to do the same (see article on page 3).

2. Another idea is to use CBC, our own public broadcasting system (which we pay approxi-

mately \$600-800 million of our tax money a year to operate) to identify, learn about and vote on how to solve issues we deem important. We can imitate the Greatest Canadian show, broadcasting one night each week, but instead of picking the Greatest Canadian, we can start solving issues and be involved in the Government decision-making process.

Keep those ideas coming in! We want to have a wide range of solutions to vote on in September.



Monetary Reform

To inform and empower people about a flawed and unsustainable monetary system which is one of the main causes of the majority of problems facing society today.

People vs the Banks of Canada

“It is well enough that people of the nation do not understand our banking and monetary system, for if they did, I believe there would be a revolution before tomorrow morning.”

~Henry Ford

♦ ♦ ♦

“Until the control of the issue of currency and credit is restored to government and recognized as its most conspicuous and sacred responsibility, all talk of the sovereignty of Parliament and of democracy is idle and futile...Once a nation parts with control of its currency and credit, it matters not who makes that nation’s laws...Usury once in control will wreck any nation.”

~William Lyon Mackenzie King

On April 15, 2005, in the Supreme Court of British Columbia at New Westminster, BC, John Ruiz Dempsey BSc, LL.B, a criminologist and forensic litigation specialist filed a class action suit on behalf of the People of Canada alleging that financial institutions are engaged in illegal creation of money. The complaint alleges that all financial institutions that are in the business of lending money have committed fraud against borrowers by lending non-existent money that was illegally created by the financial institutions out of “thin air.” Dempsey says the transactions constitutes counterfeiting and money laundering in that the source of money, if money was indeed advanced by the defendants and deposited into the borrowers’ accounts, could not be traced, nor could not be explained or accounted for. Some financial institutes named in the suit are the Royal Bank, CIBC, Bank of Montreal and TD Canada Trust.

The plaintiff in the lawsuit is seeking recovery of money and property that was lost by way of confiscation through illegal “debt” collection and foreclosure. The Plaintiff is also seeking for the return of the equities that rightfully belong to the People of Canada, now being held by the defendant financial institutions as constructive trustees without colour of right.

Dempsey claims that these defendant banks and all of them have no legal standing to lend any money to borrowers, because: 1) these financial institutions did not have the money to lend, and therefore they did not have any capacity to enter into a binding contract; 2) the defendants did not have any cash reserve, they are not legally permitted to lend their depositor’s or member’s money without expressed written authorization from the depositors, and: 3) the defendants have no tangible assets of their own to lend and all their “assets” are “paper assets” which are mainly in the form of “receivables” created by them out of “thin air,” derived out of loans whereas the monies loaned out were also created out of thin air.

The suit alleges that the defendants utilize fraudulent banking practices whereby they deceive customers into believing that they are actually receiving “credit” or money when in fact no actual money is being loaned to their customers. However, the complaint describes a practice whereby there is realistically no money other than ledger or computer entries being loaned to the borrowers. Rather than real money being received by the borrowers, “electronic” or “digitally created money”, created out of nothing, at no cost to the financial institutions are entered as “loans” into their customers’ accounts. The borrowers are then required to pay criminal interest rates for the money they never received. The suit alleges that the defendants effectively turn consumers into virtual debt slaves, forcing them to pay for something they never received, and then seizing their properties if they can no longer pay the banks with real money.

Dempsey states that there is no law in Canada that could remotely suggest that the defendant financial institutions have the legal right to create money out of nothing. Banks use unlawful and fraudulent banking practices, which always ends in the enslavement of the people and confiscation of the people’s properties. The class action suit is the first and the biggest of its kind in Canada.

Italian Government Endorses Call for New Monetary System

In an historic breakthrough, on April 6, 2005 the Italian Chamber of Deputies (the lower House of Parliament), approved a motion calling on the government to promote “an international conference at the level of Heads of State and Government, to globally define a new and more just monetary and financial system.” The motion had been drafted by Paolo Raimondi, representative of the LaRouche movement in Italy, together with Rep. Mario Lettieri, who had introduced it with fifty colleagues from almost all Italy’s political parties.

The vote on the motion introduced by Lettieri and his colleagues, came after a fierce battle, during which a government attempt to emasculate the motion was successfully beaten back.

A government representative, Ventucci, intervened by proposing to remove five lines of the proposal, which would have completely eliminated the call for the government to take action to convoke an international conference to reform the international monetary and financial system.

Ventucci’s attempt was rejected by a broad array of legislators from the opposition as well as the government coalition, in particular a representative from the opposition party, Gianni who is an economist respected by many of his opponents for his competence.

Gianni pointed out that the proposed changes to the resolution would justify the government continuing to act only within the framework of institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank—those very institutions whose failures are exposed by the motion itself. Gianni then announced he would withdraw his support if the text were altered in line with the government suggestions. Gianni’s forceful intervention aborted the government’s efforts to undermine the resolution.

As subsequent debate showed, many colleagues from the opposition, as well as from the government coalition were ready to follow Gianni’s example, which isolated the government, and set it up for a possible defeat. The government backed down. The motion to support the initiative to convoke an international conference to reform the monetary and financial system was put to a vote. It was approved with 187 in favor, 5 against, and 159 abstentions. Those figures show that many members of the government coalition voted with the opposition.

~Excerpts were taken from an article that appeared in the April 15, 2005 issue of Executive Intelligence Review, written by Claudio Celani.



Food Security

In this era of extreme media hype about ‘security’ and ‘terrorism’, the term ‘food security’ for most people means that the food supply will not be hijacked or poisoned. There are, however, other aspects to food security.

On a personal or individual level, food security means that you know where your next meal is coming from – and that it will have adequate nutrition for the needs of yourself and your family, and that the kids will actually eat it. It also means that you have the information and skills to choose healthy foods – and that you don’t have to beg for it. On a community level, food security means that there is enough food of good quality available to everyone in the community, now and in the foreseeable future.

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Affordable Professional Web Design



Erynn Watson

www.watsonsworld.com

A big Thanks to Erynn for designing and hosting OWCC’s web site!

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Food Security

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At the political level, any jurisdiction which cannot feed its people is at the mercy of whoever does. This is true whether the jurisdiction is a community, a tribe, or a country. What would happen to us if the USA decided to stop the flow of food from California to Canada? It would make the soft-wood lumber dispute look like a game of checkers!

In terms of economics, food security means that the people who work to produce, harvest, process, distribute, preserve, transport, sell, and prepare food have to earn a living wage.

And from an ecological point of view, food security means that all of the above activities, from food production to the disposal of the waste, does not do harm to the land, air, water, plants, animals and micro-organisms which provide our food.

In fact, food security is really a way of thinking about the entire food system. This means that even though the majority of people in BC have enough food, BC as a whole does not enjoy food security. For example, let's look at the 'bio-terrorist' aspect of food security.

There is a good reason why bio-security, as it is called, is the first thing that people think of when they hear the term food security: our food system in North America is peculiarly vulnerable to any kind of threat of contamination and disruption. That's because the system is fully integrated throughout the continent (and beyond). Just as the computer on which I am writing this has components from Korea, Taiwan, and China, as well as Canada, so our food has become a construct of components which are globally sourced and assembled, rather than simply grown, cooked, and eaten. The average morsel of food consumed in North America has travelled some 1,800 kilometres. Sometime when you are in a grocery store and have a little extra time, look at where the food comes from. Of course the coffee and bananas are imported, but so is just about everything else, from garlic (China) to tomatoes (Israel) to canned fish (Thailand) – to say nothing of the ingredients in packaged foods. A careful study of labels will also indicate a very small number of companies – using a wide variety of brand names – which actually sell the foods.

A system in which most of our food is coming from a handful of companies, shipped huge distances, and put together in an industrial assembly line would be pretty easy to disrupt or contaminate. So the first part of the definition of food security – keeping it safe from accidental or deliberate contamination – requires that food is produced and processed close to where it is eaten.

The BC Government has recently announced new regulations requiring that all animals killed for meat must go through a licensed, inspected slaughterhouse. Unfortunately, the standards for such facilities are designed for large-scale, export-oriented plants which process thousands of animals a day and are far too costly for the small local plants that dot the BC countryside. There is considerable discussion about how the guidelines can be adjusted to ensure that these abattoirs don't have to close. In this process we have found evidence that small-scale plants in the UK have fewer health problems than large-scale ones, and the difference seems to be related only to the number of animals processed and the distance they have to travel to get to the plant. This is just one example of the way in which food safety can be increased by decreasing the distance between producer and consumer.

I should add that there is nothing inherently wrong with trade in foodstuffs. I eat chocolate and drink coffee, which we can't produce here, and I am happy to have them. However, I could give them up (if I absolutely had to) and still survive. It's a bit different when staple foods – grains, protein foods, dairy foods, fruit and vegetables – are all imported, and local farmers cannot compete with prices which are kept artificially low through subsidies to transportation and processing. Then we are dependent on outside forces for our basic nutrition – a situation which can only lead to insecurity.

More on this in future columns.

by Cathleen Kneen
Executive Director
BC Food Systems Network

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