

Corner Brook Status of Women Council

NEWSLETTER - August 2020

There Goes the Neighborhood

Although I am very aware of the disarray in my own home (Newfoundland and Canada) I find myself daily, nay hourly, peeping over the fence into my neighbor's yard. Truthfully this is not a new habit. American news broadcasts have always been more sensational than the CBC, but over the last six months it's being impossible to look away. Seriously, their house is on fire, they are putting it out with dynamite and it's looking likely that a train and jumbo jet are going to collide in the middle of it all.

I admit I am a nosy neighbor. But I am no longer a snooty neighbor. Recent Canadian events have cured me of my delusions of moral superiority. I have done my best to mind my own business. I'm not sure that it's my place to tell my neighbor's firefighters that dynamite isn't the best solution. They should already know that, right? Maybe it's me who is uninformed. Maybe Antebellum homes should always be put out with dynamite.

All I know for sure is that I am a worried neighbor. I'm worried about the millions of innocent people trapped in that burning house. Every minute more people are dying in there and the police just showed up with heavily armed secret police to solve the problem with tear gas and violence.

As much as my heart bleeds for my neighbor's, I'm in full blown panic mode. I know full well those embers are blowing this way and my watering bucket is full of holes. Canadian nationalists and Trump sympathizers have left the shadows to walk and talk loudly amongst us. And like their American counterpart their "economic reasons" cover has been blown to reveal only greed and hate.



Fortunately, the flames haven't taken hold in our house, yet, but we need to act now. Tolerance requires us to not tolerate the intolerant every single time. Every ember of hate and intolerance must be extinguished or our house is going up too.

Be warned, when shutting down hate, the intolerant will tell you that you are not being tolerant to their ideas. Their ideas are greed and hate, don't pause, don't doubt, shut them down! They are trying to trap you in the tolerance paradox, don't let them. Defending tolerance requires us NOT to tolerate the intolerant.

In January I hope my neighbor will be able to rebuild wisely, but that depends on if each and every member of the household vote in November. They need to vote as if their lives depend on it. Because they do.

Upcoming:

Sunday August 9th - International Day of the World's Indigenous People - this day is set aside to encourage people from around the world to spread the UN's message on the protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples.

Wednesday August 12th - International Youth Day - celebrated around the globe to focus on the development and protection of youth in the society. The UN's 2020 theme of International Youth Day is "Youth Engagement for Global Action".

Wednesday August 19th - World Humanitarian Day - observed annually around the world to honour the women who work in crises throughout the world and to pay tribute to all aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service.

In the news:

Local: On August 3rd the Liberal Party of Newfoundland will hold a leadership vote. The winner will become Premier. The race is between Andrew Furey, a likable philanthropist, and John Abbott, a man with a plan.

Neither candidate has ever been an elected official, however, John Abbott has twenty years in high level provincial advisory roles and a developed plan for navigating Newfoundland's post-covid economic recovery. To combat his lack of government experience, Andrew Furey intends to hire experts to tell him how to run the province.

Perhaps he'll hire John Abbott and we'll benefit from the best that each have to offer.

Nationally: While the world struggles daily to survive Covid the federal conservatives would like to draw our attention to possible corruption on parliament hill. The conservatives are calling foul on the awarding of a massive youth support contract to a large international charity based out of Toronto.

The issue being that Trudeau and finance minister Morneau have family members who have had contracts with the organization. For that reason both Trudeau and Morneau should have recused themselves, which they did not.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time Trudeau has been accused of unethical behaviour. Moving forward he may want to employ his own ethics watchdog to preview any planned meetings and emails so that the country can continue to focus on real issues.

The Final Word:

If all of the above and the world in general is a bit too much please remember you are not alone. It is okay to turn off the t.v. and turn off your notifications. Focus on the things you can control.

Look for the many positive things that are occurring in our communities and country as we come together to work through this pandemic. Check out the signs of positivity around Corner Brook that were erected by the city's youth advisory committee or RBC's celebration of generosity and kindness at <https://randomactsofcanadian.com>