

FIX CANADA

17th Edition

Jeff Willerton



This is not meant to entertain but inform.
That it's ridiculously entertaining is
just a pleasant coincidence.

FIX CANADA

17th Edition

Jeff Willerton

Copyright © 2000-2018 by Jeff Willerton

ISBN 978-0-9938835-6-9

PRINTED IN CANADA

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Willerton, Jeff, 1964-

FIX CANADA / by Jeff Willerton.

-- 17th edition. Revised and Updated

Includes bibliographic references

ISBN 978-0-9938835-6-9

1. Canada -- Politics and government -- 1993-.
2. Alberta -- Politics and government -- 1971-.
3. Conservatism-- Canada. I. Title.

FC60.W45 2006 971.064'8 C2006-905082-1

Published in Canada by Emmanuel Publishing
a division of
Emmanuel Marketing Enterprises Ltd.
BOX 20008 East RPO
Airdrie, AB T4A 0C2

Cover Design by Patrick Glenn
Typesetting by Myron Achtman

**Dedicated to the memory
of
Norman Ross Willerton**

a genuine servant-leader
who taught me how to read and write
and stand up for what I believe in.
And lick a bowl of ice cream clean.

*A guy couldn't have asked
for a better example
of how to do life.*

Who Is Saying What About This

"I wasn't expecting much when I opened this book. Was I in for a surprise! Absolutely fantastic!"

Ritchie Johnston, Retired Consultant

"I don't do politics and have never read a political book in my life... until now. Wow!"

Jennifer Gardiner, Executive Administrative Assistant

"Willerton's words are infectious and refreshing, and I've read this collection of them four times – thus far!"

James Hansen, Stock Car Racer

"This is the only book I've ever read – five times!"

Ernie Boehm, Retired Chef

"The only other author I've read seven times is Tolkien!"

Dmytro Kushneryk, Prep Cook

"I might disagree with half of what Willerton wrote here, but I don't care! I've never read anything that stimulated so much intelligent political debate – and this book will be mandatory reading for my son one day."

John Telehanic, Sales

"The Mrs. and I are downsizing. She wanted to sell my books. 'Okay,' I said, 'but not this one. This one's for the grandkids!'"

Bob Timmins, Retiree

FIX CANADA

“There’s no small amount of truth between the covers of this book.”

Bill Mann, Service Writer

“It’s perfect the way Willerton put this together. A twelve-year-old or even a retired grease monkey like me could understand it.”

James E. Bonsor, Retired Mechanic

“Willerton hits the bull’s-eye in the middle of the bull’s-eye... every time!”

Ben Hildebrandt, Businessman

“Willerton uses language the way it was intended to be used: well and to convey truth.”

Tom Podollan, V.P. Operations

“This isn’t just good; *it’s epic!*”

John Sehn, Computer Consultant

“I’m 90 years old, and I didn’t think I’d ever read a book like this. *It’s about time someone wrote it!*”

W.V. (Wilf) Russell, Veteran

“If you really want to know what’s happening in Canadian politics, you have to read this book. But you can’t borrow mine. I’m not letting it out of my sight!”

Joleen Chouinard, Clerk

“The pen is mightier than the sword, and Willerton’s could literally bring down governments.”

Paul Romaniuk, Entrepreneur

“The only disappointment in this book is that it ends! I could read Willerton forever.”

Elsie Schmidt, Administrative Assistant

Prologue

There is a right/left paradigm in the political universe, and there are assuredly crackpots aplenty in both camps. On the far right is 0% government or anarchy, and only complete loons aspire to it. On the far left is 100% government or communism which, if history means anything, is equally undesirable. The space to the left of center is shared by liberals and socialists who, insofar as they contribute to society's leftward drift, (and thus toward 100% government) were once referred to by V.I. Lenin as communism's "useful idiots."

This book is a collection of columns about a variety of political issues and personalities, many of whom could safely be described as such. These are followed by updates on the issues contained therein, with just enough history mixed in to make things make sense. As one reader exclaimed, "It's like (Willerton) has taken what are sometimes obscure historical facts and current events, pieced them together into a puzzle and presented it in a way that anyone can understand it."

So in very readable prose, like the fabled bean stalk that, having climbed it, gave young Jack a different perspective on this world, so too *FIX CANADA* could change the way you view the sociopolitical events of our day.

Table of Contents

Who is saying what about this?.....	7
Introduction	15
Provincial Issues:	
Orientation a choice?.....	27
Tolerate this!.....	31
One 'Conservative' who isn't	33
Klein + Truth = Cannot Compute!	35
VLTs must go	38
They call it 'Gaming'.....	40
There will be ramifications.....	43
It can be done	45
No funding, fewer abortions	48
Abortions not reduced by murder	50
The man of many faces	54
This is (NOT) bunk	56
Pass the buck.....	58
Taking aim at Ken	60
Pontificating about eviscerating.....	62
More heat for Ken	64
Just call me Cassandra.....	66
Like absolves like... surprised?	68
So many secrets	70
Bring back the hangman.....	72
Ferreting out Fibber Magee.....	74
Quit yer whinin'.....	77
Of cover ups and tax cuts.....	79
Of napalm and health care	81
Bureaucrats – the unscathed menace.....	84
Divided we fall – or not.....	87
Socialists and other monkeys.....	90
Every job has an upside	92

Federal and International Issues:

Child care conspiracy..... 97
Indifference to our political system..... 99
Unite the right..... 101
ABC: Anybody But Clark..... 103
Chretien stokes separatist fires..... 105
Grits, Tories and dinosaurs 108
Hats off to George 110
Sheila's got Bubble trouble 112
And justice for none..... 114
Grits willing to oust God 116
A useless United Nations 118
Thanks for reading..... 126
More guns, less crime 129
Promote higher values (and bear arms?)..... 132
Two organizations I won't support 134
One organization I will support 136
Another one I won't support..... 138
Not your average identity crisis 140
The greatest Christmas present of all..... 142
Bomb Belgrade into submission..... 144
Pacifists deeply misguided..... 146
It's all about faith 150
Taxation: For Good and Evil..... 152
Taxation: For Good and Evil, part II..... 154
We are a study of bad taxation 156
The good, the bad and the ugly 158
Gone truckin' 160

Conclusion:

Conclusion 165
Bibliography 192

Introduction

This book comes about as the result of the death of a very fine man. John Moerman was a teenager in WWII Holland where he worked with the Dutch underground protecting downed Allied airmen. One day he had coffee with an SS officer at his kitchen table while hiding one such airman directly underneath. It's the stuff movies are made of!

After the war, John married his sweetheart Corrie before the happy couple immigrated to the country of their liberators where they pastored churches in the Edmonton area for forty years. Retiring to a small acreage, John would there go on to become a prolific writer of letters in which he would articulately take on the left-leaning establishment and defend those who could not do so themselves, a cause to which he often returned. As son Jack eulogized, his father fearlessly took on both Nazis and Canadian politicians alike!

His work was sent regularly to over 200 publications across Canada. And thus it happened that when the editor of our local weekly needed a conservative columnist to complete his revised editorial page, the retired pastor heard the call. That is to say he heard the phone ring, accepted the offered promotion and became a very fine weekly columnist. Sadly, it would be his last paying gig. Six months later, without so much as a hint of either physical or mental decline, he was gone.

To understand how John affected the lives of the people he touched, one need only consider the example of the receptionist at the doctor's office where he had been taking his beloved Corrie before his passing. The two had been there about a dozen times. When informed of why a forthcoming appointment had to be

canceled, (his passing) she — the receptionist — simply exploded into tears right there in the office. Such was the effect he had on people who knew him even casually. I know because I count myself among them.

It had been my privilege to meet John on three occasions. The first was in my role as a salesman in 1997. I introduced myself. He interjected: “Would that be the same Jeff Willerton who ran for Social Credit down in Calgary two weeks ago?” Note that there were probably 300 candidates across the province in that election, Alberta is three times the size of a unified Germany and I was a long way from home. Obviously this gentleman had a mind for details. He and Corrie and I coffeed away the balance of a very enjoyable afternoon.

The second time we met was at their 50th wedding anniversary into which I almost accidentally stumbled. I didn't particularly want to be back in their town that day but had been cornered into competing in a karaoke contest at the local hotel. So it was a bit of happenstance that I was in their town that day, and a little bit more that I stopped to coffee with another acquaintance on the way out of it. He informed me of the festivities in town to which I informed him we simply had to go. Again a good time was had with the Moermans.

The third, two days later, was a brief encounter in which I gave John some literature he'd requested. It was brief but, as always, meaningful. He concluded it by looking me in the eye and, with a little twinkle in his own, saying “I think we think alike on a lot of issues.” It was a meaningful encounter with a great man made more so by his sudden departure from the world five days later.

John's passing, of course, left more than an ache in the heart of those who knew him; it also left a column-sized void on our editorial page. And I wanted that

Introduction

space! I'd been writing letters to the editor for some time, as had John before being elevated to the status of weekly columnist. His last words to me were, in effect, that we were of the same mind on many issues – a veritable passing of the mantle if you will!

In the beginning the space he had occupied became a guest column. Your humble scribe filled it every week but three in the ensuing six months, at which point the powers that be finally succumbed to mounting public pressure (I'm public!) and gave it to me as my own byline. Much of what you hold in your hand is a compilation of those columns written over the year and a half following John's passing. Or, more accurately, close approximations thereof.

When a column or article is republished with a date included, it is implied that what follows was originally published, verbatim, on that date. As the columns collected herein have been edited at times for brevity and/or clarity, so as not to contravene the above, the dates of publication have been removed from them. To provide context, it will be helpful to know that the original columns appeared in three small weekly newspapers in north-central Alberta between April 1998 and September 1999.

That little housekeeping detail out of the way, I will conclude this portion of the introduction by repeating that the book you're presently reading came about in no small part as the result of the passing of a very fine man, and truer words would be hard to find. His name was John Moerman, and I hope here to have in some small way honoured his memory.

The column was largely a critique of the liberal policies imposed on us by various levels of government. Left-leaning federales, whatever they may have called themselves, have done more than their share of damage

to this country. Unfortunately, the provinces have marched lock step with them to the edge of the abyss.

Ralph Klein, for instance, the country's then most supposedly conservative premier, spent money more liberally per capita than any other provincial leader in the history of Confederation. He had it to spend you might argue, but so did Peter Lougheed, (the province's first in a long line of Conservative premiers) and it was clearly the latter's unbridled spending that landed Alberta in the soup in the first place. Both men's enduring reputations as conservative hawks simply testifies to the efficacy of double-speak and smoke and mirror politics, as you will see.

Of course both Ralph Klein and Jean Chretien, another prominent figure in the book, have long since departed the political stage. So why read about them? Why did your humble scribe read a book about Lougheed twenty years after he left office? Or why would one ever read about Trudeau Sr., or Napoleon? Because it's history, of course, and we all know what happens if we don't learn from it....

The columns were written as issues arose, so to read them chronologically would be to bounce from one issue and jurisdiction to another and back again. To simplify, the book has been divided into two sections. The first deals primarily with provincial issues in Alberta, issues largely shared by other provinces. The author might have written a similar column in P.E.I., for instance, but it's probably a good thing this unfolded in Alberta as Ralph Klein cut a somewhat more national and obviously more colourful figure than Pat Binns. Who? Exactly! The second section deals with federal and international issues. An attempt was also made to gather issues together, when possible, without violating the above divisions.

Introduction

Being somewhat controversial, obviously the column was not without its detractors. One memorable day a reader tore a strip off me for A) spilling too much ink on the provincial Tories [understandably, as he was a member of their local constituency association] and B) being overly negative.

To respond to the second accusation first, I confess my guilt: I was negative. One must add, though, that it would be a poor columnist indeed who put a positive spin on events while being governed into the proverbial toilet. The author is no defender of socialist governments, (perish the thought) but the NDP didn't create the mess that was Alberta in 2015. Rather they inherited it, and as can be expected from an overtly socialist government proceeded to take a bad thing and make it demonstrably worse by growing government, raising taxes, shutting down an entire industry, (in this case, coal) and generally turning what was an ailing economy into a veritable briar patch.

In response to the accusation of spilling too much ink on the provincial Tories, A) it was a political column, B) they were in power, and C) in the words of another reader, "They deserved every last drop!" And that they did. They're far from alone, of course, but if the most notably conservative government in Canada was as liberal, and thus duplicitous, as revealed in these pages, we obviously have a lot of rooting out to do. And not only provincially.

The federal Liberals and what was the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada have not only been almost equally culpable for our nation's decline, they've been virtually indistinguishable. They've been aptly compared to two vehicles splashing each other with mud, travelling on the same road, in the same direction to the exact same location, and sadly what

is now the Conservative Party of Canada is becoming more 'progressive' by the day, but I'll come back to that.

The players were, of course, well aware of the overarching similarities between the parties and apparently entirely comfortable under either banner. Tory cabinet minister Jean Charest, for instance, served as the Liberal premier of Quebec for three terms; admitted Trudeau fan and long-time card-carrying Liberal Ralph Klein likewise served as the Conservative premier of Alberta for almost fourteen years; and one-time Conservative Prime Minister Joe Clark was seen campaigning for our very own Benedict Arnold (aka Scott Brison) in Nova Scotia in 2004.

If you can't quite place the name, Benedict Arnold was BFF with George Washington and a general in the revolutionary army before defecting to the British, making him pretty much the ultimate floor-crosser. If you're over seventy and unfamiliar with the acronym, BFF stands for 'best friends forever', the closeness of their relationship making the defection that much more egregious.

North of the 49th, many Canadians seem determined to vote as they and their families have for the last hundred years, apparently more concerned with maintaining tradition than seeking good governance. I'm referring now to those who persist in voting Tory no matter how liberal they become; Liberal no matter how corrupt they're revealed to be; or NDP regardless of the carnage they leave behind every time they manage to grasp the levers of the economy.

Many Albertans, for instance, will go to the polls and vote Tory again, A) because they always have, B) because once upon a time that party balanced the budget and paid down the debt, C) because they've taken a fancy to the leader du jour, or D) as this goes to print in 2018,

Introduction

to rid themselves of the NDP. That last point is entirely laudable in the author's view, but my objective in publishing this book is, in part, to disabuse readers of the first three.

It was, of course, a privilege to write the column that got this ball rolling. I have no formal training as a writer nor in the subject matter contained herein. I'm just a high school educated layman who likes to play connect the dots and has a passion for promoting better government. To do so, obviously it would help to know a little bit about the subject.

To that end you might say I've built a sort of grid of information over the years through which new information and events are filtered. To the extent the grid is faulty, so too will be said interpretations. Likewise to the extent the grid is properly built. You will be the judge as to its construction.

To understand the early columns, one must be made aware of what were then some recent developments in the province. One was the Supreme Court's Vriend decision in April of 1998 in which the high court agreed with an Alberta Court of Queen's Bench ruling to read 'sexual orientation' into the province's Individual Rights legislation. Another was that over the previous years the Tories had brought electronic gambling devices known as Video Lottery Terminals into the province and placed them pretty much anywhere a person could sit down for a cold one.

Vriend, VLTs, judge-made law, major political cover-ups and many other issues are dealt with in these pages. Occasionally some good news even creeps in. Depending on one's existing paradigm, or world view, one might find points with which one agrees and others with which one will perhaps even strongly disagree. Hopefully more of the former than the latter.

Should the column itself, though, have been written? It was well received by the readership, so probably, yes. But what of the book? More to the point, should it have been honed and redesigned these several times as I approach the publication of this seventeenth and (keeping in mind that I've said this twelve times now) presumably final edition? In fact, I was almost daily asking myself a similar question in the spring of '07 for reasons that will later be made clear. The answer came while reading a book on 18th century philosopher Adam Smith.

Smith is widely revered as the Father of Capitalism for his work, *Wealth of the Nations* (1776). This much I knew. What I discovered therein was that *Wealth* was almost an addendum to his earlier, seminal work entitled *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*. This he first published in 1759 – and republished, “honed and redesigned,”¹ five times in the thirty-one years following.

Hold the phone(!) and note the timing: questioning if I was on the right road publishing and republishing a book to a significant extent on Smith's ‘moral sentiments’ – otherwise known as social issues – it came to my attention that the one I was on had been well trod by no less than the Father of Capitalism himself! *The moment was nothing short of surreal!* After it there was simply no question about continuing with this project. Not everyone will share my enthusiasm.

Comparing the home of the brave with our native land, one McGill University economist surmised: “You can be a social conservative in the U.S. without being labeled a whacko. Not in Canada.” If this is true, some will be tempted to write me off in short order.

I believe, for instance, that it's wrong for society to normalize, promote or, disregarding a little thing called freedom of speech, in any way discourage

Introduction

the legitimate criticism of what many consider very harmful lifestyles. I likewise believe that it's wrong for governments to place what is known as the crack cocaine of gambling devices under people's noses in bars and restaurants across the land, and like John Moerman before me, I also do my editorial best to defend those yet incapable of doing so themselves.

One is, of course, free to disagree with any or all of these positions. Unfortunately for those who do, those issues are the first three dealt with in the book you're presently reading and comprise the first approximately dozen columns. And then like a dog with a bone buried in the back yard, I occasionally return to them.

Winston Churchill defined a fanatic as "one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject." Again you will be the judge, this time as to whether I qualify.

I by no means have the final word on the issues contained herein, but humbly submit my thoughts on them to you for your consideration. They may enrich or enrage you—or both—but I suspect they won't leave you entirely unmoved. Enjoy!

Provincial Issues