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WHY THE CFL'S DIVERSITY IS STRENGTH CAMPAIGN FALLS SHORT

Diversity separated from unity is generally not a good thing. We need unity of purpose, on the field and in life

By Fr. Raymond J. de Souza
Editor-in-chief of Convivium

Diversity concerns have been front and centre in recent days. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau characterized a woman's view as "racist" after she heckled him; Maxime Bernier criticized "extreme multiculturalism" before he left the Conservative Party to set up his own.

Rhetoric about diversity can be both heated and so routine as to be boilerplate, obscuring clear thinking about it. And if thinking about diversity is muddled, our common life together will suffer. I offer as an example the Canadian Football League's Diversity is Strength campaign, launched in 2017 as the CFL's contribution to Canada 150.

The campaign continues this year, with the recently CFL stating: "We know that our strength comes from diversity - be that of heritage, orientation, religion, ability, thought, and so much more. This league has a longstanding tradition of welcoming players, people, from all types of backgrounds; from signing the first black quarterback to the first openly gay player, we consider diversity to be an integral part of who we are."

Routine enough, as it goes. But why does "ability" appear in the list of "our strength comes from diversity?" Does a professional sports league honestly feature diversity in ability? Is the league made stronger by including slower receivers as well as faster ones, weaker players as well as stronger ones?

Actually, the CFL favours a rather narrow spectrum of ability. It also tends to favour younger players (cheaper salaries) over older ones, and American players over Canadian ones. Hence the minimum quota system for the latter.

We know what the CFL means, namely that it gives opportunity to those from diverse racial, ethnic and immigrant backgrounds on the basis of their ability to play football. That's a fair claim and an important one.

But sloppy rhetoric makes a false claim. The CFL doesn't celebrate diversity of ability, but rather seeks to celebrate a fairly narrow definition of it.

CFL commissioner Randy Ambrosie is enthusiastic but makes the same false claim: "[The 2018] initiative builds on the strength of the campaign we launched a year ago, when CFL coaches, players and fans rallied around this positive message by donning Diversity Is Strength T-shirts. Football is the ultimate team game because it welcomes and includes participants from every background as well as of every shape and size. It's in this spirit that we invite and welcome all Canadians, be they Canadians by birth or Canadians by choice, to join us in our stadiums." Every shape and size?

I suppose that a safety is of a different shape and size than an offensive tackle, but while the general population includes many men who are five foot five and 140 pounds, the CFL can't be said to "welcome and include" them on the field. And one might also note that the league is a bit short of women players.

The CFL's main point remains. That a player who can play should not be excluded because he's of a particular "heritage, orientation, religion," etc. But the very criteria of who can play are determined not by a diversity of abilities but by a unified purpose: Do you have the physical talents, mental acuity and necessary character to be a good football player? If so, you are welcome. If not, you get cut.

Diversity in sports is a delicate matter, to be sure. Should a mostly white school think twice about fielding a mostly black team? Is it better for diversity or is it somehow unrepresentative? Some American universities determine there too many Asian students and limit their admission. Could it be argued there are too many football players of one race or another? Nobody makes that argument, for good reason.

In sports, diversity is supposed to serve a unity of purpose, namely the success of the football team in winning games. And that can be extended further. Diversity needs to have a centre of unity, a common mission and purpose. That's why the same prime minister who speaks endlessly about diversity also speaks endlessly about Canadian values: diversity united by a common purpose. Indeed, the same prime minister who celebrates diversity of identities moves quite strongly against diversity of opinion.

Diversity separated from unity is generally not a good thing. Football teams and coaches insist on unity of purpose, unity of discipline and unity of performance.

Diversity is strength, but on the football field and in our common life, unity is stronger still. And that provides the context in which diversity can be welcomed and can thrive.

First Weekend of Sports Betting Nets State of West Virginia \$29,541.75

CHARLESTON, WV – The State of West Virginia will yield a tax of \$29,541.75 from the first official tax week of sports betting at the Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races, according to acting Lottery Director Doug Buffington.

The Charleston Gazette-Mail reported actual taxable revenue of \$320,631.70 in a story published Wednesday, however that amount is prior to applying a tax rate of 10% that yields actual tax revenue to the State of \$32,063.17. Of this amount, 15% or \$4,809.48 will go toward administrative expenses and the remaining \$27,253.69 will be transferred to the Lottery Fund to be used by the State of West Virginia in accordance with appropriations.

In addition, it should be noted that the \$320,631.70 is spread across two taxable periods (which end on Saturday). Thus, the Casino has already submitted a tax form for the first three days of operation that shows taxable revenue of \$295,417.50 which will yield a tax of \$29,541.75 for the first official tax week of sports betting in West Virginia. The remaining two days will fall on the next tax form.



Logic

By Joe Ingino b.a.
Editor/Publisher

"I live a dream in a nightmare world"

TRUMP SUCKS, HE IS A CRIMINAL, A WOMANIZER... AND BEST PRESIDENT IN A LONG TIME... MAKING AMERICA GREAT.

Say what you want about Donald Trump. At the end of the day he has proven himself to be the best President America has had since Kennedy. The man is living history. He took on the campaign trail with the outmost confidence. He won with grand style and he has stayed true to his word of making America great.

Since Trump took office the American economy has boomed. The dollar has skyrocketed and jobs are becoming ample and wide. We no longer live in fear of where terrorists will strike. We no longer live wondering...

He said we will put an end to terror and he did. He went to the Middle East and put a stop to this so called threat that the Democrats so cowardly ran from. He put an end to the the Iranian bullshit. He put Hamas in it's place and life seems to have taken a harmonious turn for the better with the American boot on those that opposed us face.

Terrorist have become a thing of the past... with of course the odd exception of some nut wanting to make CNN. The days of living in fear are gone.

Tell me what other President would donate his entire pay to charity? Tell me what other President tells you how it is... Most don't like it as it breaks social protocol. Tough. The man is a man of conviction. A man that is an expert in social systems. A master of his domain.

A true President. You want to criticize someone... Criticize, Canada's prime minister. There is where we should be considering erecting the wall. Forget Mexico. At the least we know that those coming in from Mexico are just poor people looking for a better life.

Those coming from Canada are all those responsible for the terror movement. I had people land at Toronto International and call me in fear thinking that their airplane had taken a wrong turn at albuquerque... Everyone at the airport foreigners. You would think that you landed in the Middle East some place.

In one of my only questionable Trump decision is the wall. In a 1950's mentality it would make sense to build a wall. Have we not learned anything from the Berlin wall. Hell, the Great Wall of China... Even the wall that separates North from South Korea. Wall are not the answer are they become challenges for those we are attempting to keep away. I think the answer should be to open the borders wide. Anyone violating laws on either side of the border should be prosecuted in either or both countries. We need to unite not divide. In the Mexico model. The U.S. threatens to build a wall. Canada signs a treaty allowing Mexican's under the guise of tourism to enter Canada with little or no documentation. Canada has welcome more refugees then any other Prime Minister. In my opinion the threat is not to the south of the border... It's to the north as the mexicans will continue to flood in through Canada. The terrorist will continue to cross the borders into the U.S. via Canada.

Think about it. Canada does not have the experience in dealing with illegal immigration as those that guard the border to the south. This means Canada is an open crossing point back and forth to either countries.

Hell, it has been documented that if anyone tries to enter Canada illegally with a refugee claim. They are welcomed open arms... little or no background check.

We live in a changing world. In a world that is constantly transforming. We need to adapt. President Trump has brought America out of a position of retreat. To one of advancement. CNN and other fake news organizations... keep harping the Russians, the Russians. Like reality. It be the best thing that could happen to America. To align themselves with the Russians. What better way to keep peace and harmony across the planet.

One has to wonder... CNN even though always on the attack against Trump. CNN gives him huge exposure by naming him every 15 seconds. Could it be that Trump is manipulating them in a sublime fashion.

Could it be that CNN is working with Trump making it look like they are opposing him? Question and more questions to keep the general population confused and aroused in a shroud of misinformation. Wait is that not what government strive. Keep the population ignorant in order to sway public opinion.

Interesting.... GO TRUMP GO... Make America Great.

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