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Joe Ingino

**"I live a dream in a nightmare world"**

Always Remember That The Cosmic Blueprint Of Your Life Was Written In Code Across The Sky At The Moment You Were Born. Decode Your Life By Living It Without Regret or Sorrow.

- ONE DAY AT A TIME -

## 2026 AN ELECTION YEAR..

By Joe Ingino BA. Psychology  
Editor/Publisher Central Newspapers

ACCOMPLISHED WRITER/AUTHOR OF OVER 800 ,000

Published Columns in Canada and The United States

It has been four long years since the last election. Has the quality of your life improved? Did you make the right choices back in 2022? The other day in conversation with a very good friend of mine. He asked. "How would Oshawa been different if you had won in 2022?" Well, I can tell you. My conscious would have been cleared. That I would have taken care of all those in need. That our streets would today be free of crime and the homeless. I bring to question everyone sitting in City of Oshawa council how they can put their heads to rest every night knowing people are sleeping on our sidewalks.

They should all do the honorable and resign.... but then.... What is expected. We elect people with no real life experience. No real business sense. Limited intellectual aptitude. You get what you get. People that become numb to reality and only care about cushioning their pensions and or a weekly pay check that they would not be able to obtain if not in office. Just look at where most of these politicians end up working after politics? Or look at where they have been working.... Not even close in responsibility and or pay. If you recall. During my candidacy, I had made it public that I would not be taking a penny in renumeration until I rid our core of crime, drugs and the homeless. I had also made it public that I would have cut wasteful expenses and un-necessary projects like the 30 million wasted on the 'ED Broadbent' park. There was no need to put a park next to a park.

I would have not wasted 70 million of your hard earned tax dollars on the GM Center expansion. I would have not wasted 30 million on the outdoor Rotary pool. I would have surely not wasted another 10 million on the downtown Oshawa 'Veterans' Park.

These major announced waste of taxpayer money. Sums up to about 140 million. This all money that could have gone to better the quality of life for all taxpayers. The City is so morally bankrupt that they are considering the creation of an Auditor General. A position that would pay well over 100k a year and for what... to tell you what the City manager should be telling you... But NO. Instead. We pay, pay, pay for staff that only does it's job and pass off responsibility. This is not acceptable. This is in part why your taxes keep going up. Under my administration I would have cut all that and cut anyone not contributing to the success that Oshawa would have become.

No instead what do we have to show for it? Tax increases, year after year. Crime at an all time high. People being shot and stabbed all over Oshawa. I know what you are thinking... Ok, Joe. How would you have handled the homeless and crime problem. Simple, With 140 million, I would have saved from not going forth with wasteful projects. I would have searched for the largest empty warehouse we have. Possibly one of GM former complexes. I would be interested in a 400,000 sq. ft plus. I would have it retro, so that it would be able to have four parts. The first, would bring people from the cold. A screening place where people cold sleep, shower and eat. Anyone on our streets or living in tents would be brought there. Once there they would be assessed. If in need of mental health. They get moved in the same building to an area dedicated to mental health. With paid professionals out of the 140 million wasted. Those that needed jobs and a chance at life. We would move them to the third part of the facility. There they be given a job through the city... Or at the facility. We could implement a garbage squad program where they would get paid to clean up our city. We would create work programs in all kinds of disciplines.... Those with families would be moved to the fourth part of the facility. A place where you could raise a family based on a program that would promote building character through special programs that would assist those families in need. These families would have to volunteer and contribute through various social programs. Anyone caught using drugs would be arrested and banned from Oshawa. Anyone with a substance abuse would get treatment.

We need to give these folks hope. We need to be pro-active. We need to rid our streets of crime due to desperation. Crime is an animal of desperation not so much of choice. Those that actually choose crime. The police will deal with them. Change can come you have to want it. Remember 2026 is your chance to make real choice and clean your City.

### JOE INGINO

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### Ottawa's Bubble Problem: Why Political Staffers Should Step Outside Before Running for Office

by Maj (ret'd) CORNELIU, CHISU, CD, PMSC  
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Canada does not lack political talent. What it increasingly lacks is political leaders who have lived meaningful working lives outside politics before asking voters for power.

Over the past two decades, Ottawa has quietly normalized a narrow career pipeline: university, partisan internship, political staffer, senior adviser, nomination contest, elected office. Many MPs now arrive in Parliament fluent in messaging, strategy, and procedure—but unfamiliar with payrolls, private-sector risk, frontline public services, or life outside the political bubble.

#### This is not renewal. It is monoculture.

If Canadians want better policy and greater public trust, political parties should adopt a clear expectation: no one should run for elected office without substantial work experience outside politics. Not as a symbolic suggestion, but as a serious norm shaping nominations and political culture.

#### A Closed Political Ecosystem

Ottawa has become an echo chamber. Political staffers work long hours, but within a narrow universe dominated by polling, communications strategy, stakeholder optics, and partisan warfare. Over time, reality is filtered through briefing notes rather than lived experience.

This helps explain why governments increasingly confuse announcements with outcomes. Billions are "invested," strategies unveiled, targets proclaimed—yet housing remains unaffordable, infrastructure projects run late and over budget, and health-care access deteriorates. Politics becomes performative, while results lag.

When people who have never left the bubble write the rules, they often mistake motion for progress. They know how to manage process, but not consequences.

#### Why Outside Work Experience Changes Judgment

There is a fundamental difference between studying how the economy works and participating in it. Someone who has run a small business understands regulatory burden in their bones. Someone who has managed people knows that labour shortages are not solved by press releases. A nurse, teacher, engineer or tradesperson understands burnout, staffing gaps, and operational reality in ways no departmental memo can capture.

These experiences create judgment. They teach trade-offs, limits, and humility. They discourage ideological rigidity and bureaucratic fantasy.

Canada's political class increasingly lacks this grounding. Too many MPs arrive skilled in social media but inexperienced in balance sheets. Too many cabinet ministers have negotiated caucus politics but never negotiated a commercial contract. Too many critics of "corporate greed" have never tried to keep an enterprise alive through inflation, interest-rate shocks, and supply-chain disruptions.

This gap shows up in policy failure after policy failure—across party lines.

#### Policy Made by People Who Don't Bear Its Costs

Consider housing. Ottawa produces endless plans, funding envelopes, and targets, yet affordability worsens. Why? Because policymakers underestimate timelines, misunderstand incentives, and overestimate state capacity. Few have ever tried to build anything—literally or figuratively.

Consider infrastructure. Anyone who has managed projects outside government knows that missed deadlines and cost overruns carry consequences. In Ottawa, they generate reviews and task forces.

Consider health care. Decisions about staffing models, compensation structures, and reform are routinely made by people who have never worked a night shift, covered for a sick colleague, or faced a waiting room full of frustrated patients.

These failures are not abstract. They shape daily life for millions of Canadians. And they are exacerbated by a political class trained in politics before life.

#### A Crisis of Representation

There is also a deeper democratic cost. Voters increasingly distrust politicians not only because they disagree with them, but because they do not recognize them. When candidates have spent their entire adult lives in politics, empathy sounds rehearsed. Outrage feels performative. Solutions feel disconnected.

Canada once sent farmers, factory workers, engineers, nurses, entrepreneurs, and veterans to Parliament in large numbers. Today, staffers and lawyers dominate. Both groups have value—but neither should dominate to this extent.

Politics should not be a profession you enter before you have lived under the rules you intend to write.

#### Answering the Objections

Defenders of the status quo argue that political staffers gain deep insight into how government works. That is true—but incomplete. Knowing how to move a file through a department is not the same as knowing whether the file makes sense in the real world.

Others worry that valuing outside experience could disadvantage young or marginalized candidates. In reality, the current system already favours those who can afford low-paid internships and precarious Hill jobs in expensive cities.

Valuing experience gained in trades, community work, small business, or frontline services could broaden—rather than narrow—the pool.

This is not about age. It is about perspective.

#### How Parties Can Act—Now

This reform does not require new laws. Political parties control nominations.

They could:

- Discourage staffers from running without a minimum period in non-political employment;
- Explicitly value outside work experience in nomination criteria;
- Introduce cooling-off periods between senior staff roles and candidacy; and
- Require transparent disclosure of candidates' work histories so voters can judge for themselves.

None of this bans anyone from running. It simply changes incentives—and expectations.

#### A Healthier Politics

Political staffers are not the problem. They work hard and are essential to democracy. However, working in politics is not the same as living outside it.

Canada would be better governed if fewer politicians learned politics first and life second.

Until then, Ottawa will remain trapped by its most dangerous illusion: that understanding government is the same as understanding the country.

Before we trust people to run Canada, we should insist they first live in it—beyond the bubble. Hope somebody will listen.

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