



A Weekly Column by Dean Hickey

THE FINAL TAKE

AN UNVARNISHED LOOK AT THE MANY
SOCIAL & POLITICAL ISSUES OF OUR TIME...



TWO PROVINCIAL POLITICAL PARTIES WORTH WATCHING - IN BRITISH COLUMBIA AND ONTARIO

AMONG THE TEN PROVINCES AND THREE TERRITORIES that make up the Canadian fabric, no two have yet existed in which conditions have been so equal as to give rise to completely identical principles and policies that guide their legislatures. That being said, there are two provincial political parties that do share certain similarities – the one being the newly formed OneBC party and the other being the Libertarians here in Ontario, both of which I suggest are worth watching in an age of increasing voter discontent.

Their similarities include support for lower taxes, private healthcare options, and opposition to certain government mandates and regulations. Both parties advocate for policies that actually reduce the size and scope of government interference in our lives, including significant reductions in taxes. OneBC proposes immediate cuts to personal and corporate income taxes, while the Ontario Libertarian party views compulsory taxation as “theft” and aims to someday eliminate both income and corporate taxes. Imagine that.

On the matter of healthcare, there is a certain shared vision towards allowing private options as a way to reduce wait times, with the Libertarians going so far as to advocate for the repeal of the Canada Health Act to allow provinces more autonomy in their decision-making.

If you believe parents should have greater choice in their children's education, you'll easily relate to OneBC supporting equalized funding for public, private, and homeschooling options – all the while opposing “woke” activism in schools. The Libertarian's also support increasing the availability of non-government education providers as part of their manifesto.

Another similarity, and the one I'd like to focus on, is the recognition by both parties of the importance of property rights and the need to reduce government regulations they believe do nothing but burden individuals and businesses. This is of particular importance in the wake of the recent BC Supreme Court Cowichan decision that seeks to legitimize Aboriginal title over about 800 acres of land in South Richmond, specifically along the Fraser River. The ruling stated that existing private property rights in this area, which past generations of the Cowichan Tribes used as a summer village site, are an unjustified infringement on their “title” to the land. In my opinion, that decision is nothing less than monstrous, and it must be challenged in every way possible.

The OneBC party is led by former Conservative MLA, Dallas Brodie, who has publicly questioned what many in her province – and I suggest the rest of Canada – see as a growing reconciliation industry. Victoria, the BC capital, initiated what they describe as a voluntary ‘Reconciliation Contribution Fund’ where property owners can choose to donate five or ten percent of their property taxes to local First Nations. The fund is separate from the regular property tax bill and directly supports Indigenous people. There are fears it could become mandatory under the provincial NDP government, and at some point be taken up by the federal Liberals in Ottawa.

On the overall Indigenous question in this county, OneBC goes even further by arguing that, without physical excavation of human remains, the “discovery” of graves at residential schools remains unproven, and constitutes what they call “the worst lie in Canadian history”. That may be seen as a reference to claims of ‘genocide’ that are being tossed about against what has become fashionable to label as “settlers” here in Canada.

The Tkémlyúps te Secwépemc Nation, which announced the initial findings of 215 potential burial sites at a former Kamloops Indian Residential School in May 2021, later clarified that these were preliminary findings of soil anomalies detected by ground penetrating radar (GPR), consistent with burials and supported by oral history, not physically excavated “mass graves”. While many sites identified by GPR technology have not yet been excavated, some limited excavations including the former Pine Creek Residential School site in Manitoba have not found any human remains.

There's a lot there that could be further discussed, however I want to simply remind my readers of some of what I have already shared in a previous column. Governments at all levels in this country appear ready to continue enacting policies with regard to ever-increasing claims for land, money, and power on the part of Canada's indigenous population. The federal government has tripled its annual Indigenous spending, from \$11 billion to over \$32 billion, since Justin Trudeau initially took office in 2015. During that time, Canadian taxpayers have been made to support several significant settlements with First Nations, totaling well over \$57 billion.

The Province of Ontario has also settled claims with First Nations, paying out a total of \$14.9 billion in compensation, and has reached 65 land claims and other agreements, settling for close to \$11.1 billion up to March 2024. With regard to ongoing treaty negotiations, a proposed \$10 billion settlement was reached to compensate for unpaid past annuities, with the Ontario government contributing \$5 billion. Additionally, the Province has committed over \$3 billion for loans, grants, and scholarships to encourage Indigenous participation and ownership in the mining sector, and also funds various programs and initiatives through Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. That's a lot to take in, and the dollars involved are nothing less than staggering.

OneBC is attempting to push back against the reconciliation industry, in an attempt to bring at least a modicum of sanity into what has been a one-sided debate, and I suspect others, including the Libertarians here in Ontario, may eventually join in that effort. Time alone will tell.

Overall, the list of key policy positions advocated by OneBC is impressive. It includes ending mass immigration, banning mandatory indigenous land acknowledgements, erasing “gender ideology and woke policies” from schools, banning teacher strikes (which should have been done decades ago), and putting an end to mail-in and early voting during elections, with all votes to be counted by hand.

Those are solid proposals, the arguments for which cannot be broken – either by politicians or by the angry woke mob that seeks to dominate all aspects of our political and cultural institutions.



Former or Fashionable - Why Teens Are Choosing Older Items Over the Newest Edition in Everyday Life

By Camryn Bland
Youth Columnist

In modern society, pieces of everyday life are constantly changing, such as technology, fashion, and entertainment. There is always something newer, better and updated being advertised, as companies produce more and more products. Despite this, many individuals choose what is oldest, the most nostalgic. This preference of older editions is becoming more and more common. Despite the fact we are in a digital, high speed age, people often choose mature, vintage items time and time again.

It can be expected for older generations to choose items which they grew up with, as the product serves more than a practical purpose; it also comes with nostalgia, familiarity, and enough back in my day comments to last a lifetime. Even to older adults, radios aren't inherently better than Spotify or Apple Music, however, they come with memories of dancing in the kitchen or learning to drive. There's nothing wrong with a new wardrobe, but older clothes can bring an instant sense of nostalgia and comfort to those growing up with different fashion.

It is easy to understand why adults and seniors appreciate what is now vintage, but the appreciation doesn't just stop adults. Adolescents are beginning to turn away from new trends, instead loving anything older than they are.

Record players, digital cameras, and wired headphones are all technologies which have been replaced by modern inventions, yet continue to trend. Any song can be found online with the click of a button, but record players are found in millions of teenage bedrooms. Practically all cellphones have a high quality camera, yet countless adolescents, including myself, choose to use a digital camera for photography. Wireless earbuds, such as AirPods, are owned by most youth, yet many individuals prefer their headphones wired for reasons other than the price. These examples raise the question of why? I can't help but wonder if there is a specific reason younger generations choose items older than themselves as opposed to newer auditions crafted for human convenience.

One of the most obvious reasons for this oddity would be the quality. In the example of record players, most music lovers believe sound quality is much richer coming from a vinyl or CD. One of the reasons I love my digital camera is the nature and appearance you cannot get anywhere else. In a lot of situations, classic items are believed to have a higher quality, or a cheaper price, when compared to modern items.

However, the genuine quality is not the only reason individuals choose vintage over modern additions. I believe a primary reason is the personality and individuality which is interconnected with tangible items.

In 2025, almost every Canadian teen uses a cellphone daily, giving them access to a world of content at their fingertips. Although this may be convenient, it has caused many actions to lose the deeper meaning they previously had. Pictures are now taken to be posted online, not remembered and appreciated. Texting is anticipated, not a choice of real compassion. With older items, normal tasks such as photography or contacting a friend feels less about convenience and more about memories and connection.

When using a less modern item, everyday tasks turn into something special, partly due to the time and process involved. Dialing a phone number, downloading images from a memory card, or selecting and placing a vinyl all take time, even if only a moment. In an overwhelming and technological period, these moments which force us to slow down are crucial. It compels us to appreciate an average routine, making mundane moments stand out from the rest of the day.

A trending example of the dismissal of recent items comes in the form of thrifting. This is an activity loved by practically all teens, as it combines shopping, saving money, and unique items. However, it also exposes teens to older styles, as thrift stores are a forest of timeless variety. It may take time and a whole lot of faith, but you can always find something unique and antique at a good thrift store. They're the perfect way for anyone to access the trend of old-age style at an affordable price.

Whether it be through second-hand stores or pricey record players, it is clear older items have gained their popularity once again. This comes partly from memories and quality, but also from the personality and experience which comes from these items.

Vintage technologies allow younger generations to experience a history which was normal life only a few years prior. It's easy access to nostalgia and memories different from our own, a different time period filled with more interaction and care than we have now. They hold a story, and allow you to add something new with every usage. Older concepts, whether it be related to technology, fashion, or entertainment, all feel unique, personalized, and tangible in our modern world of screens and convenience.

With the modern disconnect and technology reliance currently experienced by teens, I believe we could use anything which forces us to pause and connect, even if it comes in the form of a record player, digital camera, or a pair of wired headphones.

