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LOGIC

By *Joe Ingino*

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OVER 800,000 COLUMNS

— According to AI —
"I live a dream in a nightmare world"
was coined by Joe Ingino, a Canadian editor, publisher, and local media figure based in Oshawa, Ontario. He regularly uses this specific statement as a personal tagline and signature for his published newspaper columns and social media posts.

Joe Ingino

— INGINO MAKES HISTORY —

— 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 —

an incumbent has more experience than any new candidate. Here is where the problem lies. The experience that many incumbents hold is not necessarily experience that has proven to benefit taxpayers. So, when faced with the choice of an incumbent versus a new candidate, go with the new candidate.Let's look at the shit show in Oshawa. For mayor, you have nine candidates running for the position. One would think someone left the door to the pig trough open, and it is open season for anyone looking for a step up in the job market—or incumbents looking to legally get a pay raise. In Oshawa, out of the nine candidates, three are former or current council members. Three council members who have served and have little or nothing to show for their achievements. The problem with having a nine-person race is that the three council members are splitting the incumbent vote. The other six candidates get to split the general vote and possibly a fraction of the incumbent vote. So, what does this add up to? Well, if any of the readers believe in miracles, one had better happen—one that will bring forward, from among the six new candidates, someone who can capture both the general vote and some of the incumbent vote. On one side, you have candidate Henry. He has shown potential but needs work. On the other side, you have Tito, a self-proclaimed winner whose confidence appears heavily dependent on the belief that his years of working within the political establishment have given him enough momentum to take the mayor's seat. After all, the City of Oshawa is coming off the Carter era. The three-way split may prove to bring some surprises. As for the rest of Oshawa: Ward 1: Being an open ward, it is a total toss-up. The level of ignorance displayed by some of the candidates in this ward makes the selection scary. I would refrain from supporting Martin Franssen. I would go with someone else.Ward 2: I would put my vote on Olaleye Oluwaolorunlanke—a professional with the right attitude and intentions. Regional Ward 3: I would put my vote on Rizwan Javed. He has a lot of learning ahead of him but appears to have potential.Local Ward 3: Anyone but Roger Bouma.Regional Ward 4: Jeff Davis is the people's choice. Even though he is rough around the edges, he connects with the people. Kerr is fighting to keep the gravy train flowing, while Sanders wants it back. These are two council candidates who have had their chance and, in my view, failed taxpayers. Local Ward 4: This is an important ward. I think the best person for the job is Dave Thompson. Through the years, he has proven himself to care about Oshawa. Regional Ward 5: I know what I said at the beginning: If faced with a two-horse race, go with the new candidate. I think this should be the exception. Out of the two choices, I think Brian Nicholson would be the better choice.Local Ward 5: This is a mess of a ward. Out of the ashes, I believe the best choice is Scheshawna Lemaire. She is heavily involved in the community, and she genuinely cares.Another interesting battle is happening in Pickering.The vacant City Ward 1 seat appears to be an open run to the finish. All are new candidates, and most do not appear to have a strong understanding of the inner workings of the city. Taxation seems to be a foreign word, as each candidate interprets it differently.This is an important seat that appears likely to be won by someone with limited experience in the position.On the upside, Regional Ward 3 is a two-man race. Pickles, by his actions, appears to be campaigning as though he has already won. Azmat Mujeeb, however, may be coming from behind and could make the race much more competitive than expected. The City Ward 3 battle is between incumbent Shaheen Butt and Nada Rajkumar.This race could produce a major surprise, particularly as rumours have begun circulating concerning current Councillor Butt and questions surrounding the purchase of a number of properties following his 2022 election victory. These remain allegations and rumours unless supported by verified evidence.The rumours have also brought Regional Ward 3 candidate David Pickles into the discussion. If credible evidence were to substantiate any allegations involving either individual, the political consequences could be significant. Stay tuned for next week, when I take another look across Durham and offer more predictions.

IF I HAD A DIME FOR EVERY TIME I GET ASKED THIS!!!

By Joe Ingino

It is no secret that for the past 35 years, I have earned the reputation and status of being the only bona fide political critic across Durham Region. As such, it carries a huge responsibility. The question I get asked all the time is: Who should readers be voting for? In the past, the question was hard to answer, as most candidates had some sort of qualification. In today's world, anyone can fly, and everyone is an expert. Across the region, quality of life is slowly eroding. Taxes keep going up, and people are fed up. So, my advice: If you have a choice between an incumbent and a new candidate, take a chance on the new candidate, as the incumbent is responsible, at least in part, for the current state of our community. The thinking often leans toward the idea that



Canada Cannot Build a New Future With an Unreformed Public Service

by Maj (ret'd) CORNELIU, CHISU, CD, PMSC FEC, CET, P.Eng.
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Canada has entered a period in which infrastructure and national security can no longer be treated as separate policy files.

Ports, railways, energy systems, critical minerals, communications networks and defence production all affect our ability to protect our sovereignty and sustain our prosperity.

Political leaders can recognize this reality and announce ambitious plans. However, announcements will accomplish little unless the public service is equipped, organized and expected to deliver them.

The federal government has created a Major Projects Office to coordinate projects of national importance and improve the speed of decisions. It has also launched a Defence Industrial Strategy intended to strengthen domestic production and accelerate procurement.

These are welcome signs of urgency. They also raise a harder question: can the machinery of government carry out the transformation that ministers are promising?

Consider what it takes to build a strategic port.

The project may require federal and provincial approvals, Indigenous consultation, environmental assessment, financing, rail connections, labour, electricity and security planning. Each issue deserves serious attention. Yet when responsibility is divided among many offices, a project can spend years moving between them without anyone being accountable for the whole result.

The same problem affects defence.

A government may decide that Canada needs new equipment or a stronger industrial base. The armed forces must define the requirement; procurement officials must run the competition; industry must have confidence that orders will materialize; and equipment must eventually reach personnel who can use and maintain it. If these steps are

disconnected, increased spending will not necessarily produce increased readiness.

Public-service reform is therefore a condition of effective political change.

It should begin with a simple principle: every major national priority needs a person with the authority, expertise and duty to see it through. That leader must be able to bring departments together, resolve disputes promptly and report honestly when a deadline or budget is at risk. Ministers remain answerable to Parliament, but the public needs to know who is responsible for delivery.

Reform also requires restoring technical capacity inside government.

Canada needs experienced engineers, project managers, procurement specialists, scientists, digital experts and people who understand the industries with which government works. Consultants can provide useful advice, but the state cannot make sound long-term decisions if it lacks the knowledge to evaluate that advice. A government that wants to build must understand construction, operations, maintenance and risk.

This is particularly important in defence procurement. Buying equipment is more than signing a contract. It involves training, spare parts, upgrades, domestic production and the ability to keep a system working in a crisis. Procurement officials should be judged on the capability delivered over time, alongside fair competition and prudent use of public funds. Canada's new Defence Industrial Strategy acknowledges the need to connect military requirements with industrial capacity. Public-service practices must now make that connection real.

Approval processes need reform as well.

Faster decisions should come from clearer requirements, coordinated reviews and firm timelines. Indigenous rights, environmental protection and public accountability are essential. Agencies should identify concerns early, work through them together and give proponents a dependable path to a decision. An approval that takes years because government offices cannot coordinate does not serve the public interest.

There is also a cultural challenge. Public servants are often rewarded for avoiding mistakes within their own area of responsibility. Major projects require people to identify risks, make judgments and solve problems across departmental boundaries. Leaders must permit well-founded decisions, including decisions that may attract criticism. They must also distinguish an honest error from negligence. If every difficult choice is passed upward or deferred indefinitely, no organizational chart will create momentum.

At the same time, reform cannot be reduced to cutting positions.

The federal government is pursuing a broad expenditure review intended to reduce duplication and spending. Efficiency matters, but a smaller public service is not automatically a more capable one. Eliminating a vacant technical post may save money on paper while delaying a project worth billions. The test should be whether Canadians receive better decisions and measurable results.

Parliament has a role in changing those incentives.

For major infrastructure and defence programs, the government should publish realistic milestones, estimated costs, responsible officials and regular progress reports. When a project slips, the explanation should identify the obstacle and the proposed remedy. Public reporting would make it harder to conceal delay behind optimistic announcements and easier to recognize teams that solve difficult problems.

Federalism must also be part of the solution.

Provinces, territories, municipalities and Indigenous governments have their own authority and legitimate interests. Ottawa cannot simply order a railway, transmission line or port into existence. It can, however, convene partners early, negotiate practical agreements and coordinate its own decisions. Respect for jurisdiction should encourage disciplined cooperation, not become an excuse for years of drift.

Canada faces a strategic choice.

We can continue to announce nation-building projects while accepting the administrative habits that prevent them from being built. Or we can match political ambition with a public service designed for execution: technically

competent, transparent, accountable and able to act across institutional boundaries.

That reform would honour the many capable public servants who already want to deliver. It would give them clearer mandates and the tools to do their jobs.

More importantly, it would give Canadians something they have been promised too often and shown too rarely: completed infrastructure, stronger security and a government whose actions keep pace with its words.



JOE INGINO

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JOE INGINO IS A PROFESSIONAL JOURNALIST & ACCOMPLISHED WRITER/AUTHOR OF OVER

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