

## A Message to the Electorate

Two years ago, I wrote an essay on the dangers posed by Donald Trump, were he to win the 2016 election in the USA.

I was called “ignorant of American politics” and told to mind my own business. Well folks, I told you so. Racism, cronyism, and lying have become Political currency under that man. He, who never reads anything longer than four lines\*, can determine that NAFTA is a “disaster” and threaten Canadian jobs, and economic prospects. He can back out of an agreement to clean the air, and he enabled further Iranian nuclear development regardless of the negative impact on people NOT in the coal, oil or the business of war. Trump-ism is hurting our American friends.

Trump has turned out to be, to Canada, a threat to our trade plus the creation of imitation “mini-trumps” who use bully tactics, lies and threats to gain public support. Trump’s brand of politics appeals to our worst instincts related to race, religion and where you stand on the economic scale. Now we see “trumpism” rear its ugly head in Ontario.

Do we fire somebody because we do not like their salary (or wish we stood in their shoes?) Does a country and province that separates Church and State, bow to religious fundamentalism to alter our public school curricula? Are our children better off learning about sex “by accident”?

Do we target foreign nationals who arrive in Canada as being undeserving of our assistance? No. We do not. We are not racists or xenophobes. We reach out and subsequently benefit by the diversity our immigration policies provide. We donate money when a Hockey team in another Province is destroyed by a collision with a truck. We do not kill outright the offender in a van-driven mass murder. We know that the expense of a trial is the cost of Justice, but we also learn the motivation from the offender which would help, (even in Trump-land), determine better ways of prevention and where to accurately fix the blame. In our Province we do not shoot first and ask questions later. Well, not always.

In Ontario do we have the choice between a mini-Trump and a Spendthrift Liberal? No we do not, the Spendthrift Liberals are doomed and will not be a force in Ontario for another decade. That leaves the

NDP versus the mini-Trump party. To my American readers, that is like choosing between Donald Trump Enterprises Inc, and Eugene McCarthy. On the whole, we’d be better off with Gene.

So, to segue from Trump to Ontario’s election, I would warn you that anger is the worst attitude to possess when making an electoral decision, unless one Party has personally assaulted you and your citizenship. That may determine AGAINST whom you vote, but not FOR whom you vote. The only negative concern in Ontario is that bullying and lies, could dominate the agenda that needs more thoughtful debate and discussion. To one leader, deliberate debate and discussion do not hold the same appeal of bias, envy and any number of “isms” from which you can choose, or avoid.

This time, vote with your brain, and avoid the importation of Trump-ism into our Province. We are a bigger and better society than that.

*Barrie P. Richardson*

*\* His lips get tired after four lines of written text.*

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