

# CAP/PAC NEWS

## An Information Publication of the Canadian Action Party

99 Atlantic Ave., Suite 302

Toronto, ON M6K 3J8

Phone: (416) 535-4144

Fax: (416) 535-6325

Toll Free (877) 629-0841

www.canadianactionparty.ca

info@canadianactionparty.ca

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## CUSP Conference An Unqualified Success

**T**he Canadian Conference on Unity, Sovereignty and Prosperity which was held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> was rated an unqualified success by everyone who attended. Nicholas Bassel of London, Ontario said it for the consensus. *“To all who made the CUSP Conference happen. Thank you for a superb conference. Outstanding speakers, topical focus, good pace and excellent implementation. Loads of good information. It’s unfortunate that the attendance was much lower than I expected. Good job!”*

The stellar cast of thirteen speakers and six panels performed brilliantly. From the opening O Canada, through the brief introductory remarks by Doris Anderson, David Banerjee, J. Patrick Boyer and Paul Hellyer, to the Riverdale Collegiate Institute Choir which closed the Conference, the production maintained a fast and steady pace.

It would be invidious to single out any one of the speakers as more outstanding than any one of the others. They complemented each other by covering different subjects and different aspects of the main themes. The lead off speaker was Mel Hurtig – “The Four Things That Must Happen if Canada is to Survive as an Independent Country”. He has to qualify as one of Canada’s leading patriots from the days he helped found Canadians for an Independent Canada and later the Council of Canadians

It was a bit ironic that two strong nationalists, Mel Hurtig and John Godfrey, M.P. spoke immediately before the keynoter from the United States. John Godfrey – “What’s a Country for? Iraq, Free Trade and Canadian Sovereignty”, is one of the few outspoken Liberal patriots in the House of Commons today and effectively debunked most of the propaganda one reads in the newspapers and hears on air. He asked what’s a country for if it is not to manage its own affairs and own interests rather than taking direction from and being subordinate to a powerful neighbour. At the end of his very thoughtful presentation Dr. Godfrey introduced Congressman Dennis Kucinich, Democrat-Ohio, who had cut short a holiday to deliver the keynote address.

**Dennis Kucinich: Legislation to Ban Space-Based Weapons.** Kucinich is probably the leading liberal in the U.S. Congress and Chairman of the Democratic Liberal Caucus. An almost certain candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2004, Congressman Kucinich is well known in the United States for his opposition to the Bush administration’s plan for a war in Iraq.

His trademark is his total opposition to U.S. plans to put weapons in space. He has introduced legislation to ban weapons in space and called on Canada to take the initiative in organizing an international conference to launch a treaty banning weapons in space, very much along the lines that we did with the land mine treaty. (continued on page 2)

**CAP Leader: A Vision for an Independent Canada.** In his wrap-up address to the CUSP Conference, Canadian Action Party Leader Paul Hellyer provided evidence to show that Canadians have not been well served by NAFTA. Most of the increased trade with the U.S. is in automobile parts and energy.

The bottom line is that Canadians, on average, are worse off, in relation to the average American than they were when the Free Trade Agreement came into effect. Our GDP per capita fell from 86% of the U.S. level in 1989 to 79% in 2002. The disadvantage of further economic and military integration with the U.S. would be that we would become vulnerable economically when we have nearly all of our eggs in one basket. (continued on page 2)

(Kucinich continued)

Kucinich thinks that Canada is well placed to undertake such an initiative. Instead of putting weapons in space Kucinich suggests making it a cooperation zone where exploration and use is carried out on a multilateral basis for the benefit of all nations. Without spelling it out his position is the opposite to the unilateralism presently being pursued by the U.S. government.

Following his address and an extended question period Kucinich met the press and was interviewed for 20 minutes by CBC Newsworld.

Canadians who are deeply involved in the Institute for Cooperation in Space, including Jim George and Alfred Webre, two of the CUSP panelists, will be pushing the Congressman's message in trying to recruit Canadians in support of a Canadian initiative in this crucially important area.

**R**elelevance for Canada. An aspect of the initiative which has not been discussed in the Canadian media is the fact that Canada has just agreed to send naval and army officers to Colorado Springs to join their airforce colleagues. Although the government is hiding the real relationship by saying it is an extension of NORAD, the sad fact is that Canadian troops will be under the direct control of the Commander-in-Chief of Northern Command, the new command that has been created for continental defence. The Commander-in-Chief of NorthCom will be directly responsible for the implementation of star wars and after that, for putting weapons of mass destruction in space – a proposition so diabolical that it defies description. This is totally contrary to Canadian values and it is happening without Canadians being aware of what is involved. A wake up call to the mainline media fell on deaf ears.

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(Hellyer continued)

Worse, with the continued sale of our best industries and assets, it is almost inevitable that we will lose our country.

Hellyer called for a complete reversal of policy including the abrogation of NAFTA and its replacement with a "fair trade" treaty.

In addition he said that we should take back our monetary sovereignty and use the Bank of Canada intelligently as we did between 1939 and 1974 when Canadians were happier and more prosperous than they are today. If we adopted CAP's policy of splitting the money-creation function 50/50 between the government of Canada, through the Bank of Canada, and the private banks we would have about \$15 billion a year more to spend on essential services. There would be enough money

available to end the political buck-passing. He then listed a number of the most important items to address.

At the top of the list, of course, is health care. It appears to require an additional \$5 billion a year in order to cope with urgent needs, expanded coverage and shorter queues. With 88% of Canadians opposed to higher taxes to pay the bill, it is just a pipe dream to believe that our system can be sustained without monetary reform.

Another urgent requirement is education. No qualified student should be denied access to post-secondary education due to high tuition fees. No doubt \$2 billion a year would go a long way.

Another project close to my heart is affordable housing. The extent of homelessness in Canada is a national disgrace. Any wealthy civilized country should be able to afford a roof over the head of its citizens. certainly in a cold country like Canada. Two billion a year for housing would soon make a dent. Closely allied, is municipal infrastructure and public transportation. Old sewers and water-mains are in need in replacement. Unsafe water purification plants have to be upgraded. Worn out buses and subway cars have to be replaced. It all costs money. Perhaps an extra \$2 billion a year.

And how about a Kyoto transformation fund. It is going to cost money to reduce greenhouse gases and we all have to pay a share. A fund to ease the transformation would reduce fears and increase enthusiasm for a program to become a world leader in alternate energy sources. No doubt a billion a year would help a lot.

Finally, our beleaguered armed forces are desperately in need of help, they have been run into the ground. Thirty years of under-funding has taken a dreadful toll to the point where they are flying helicopters and transport aircraft bought on my watch. An extra three billion a year won't solve all the problems, but it will help.

If you have been counting you will know that these items alone would eat up the total \$15 billion in extra revenue. But there is more good news to add. Undertaking all of these essential expenditures would reduce the unemployment rate, increase the GDP, and provide governments at all levels with additional tax revenues that would be available for other priorities, including tax reduction and debt retirement. It's a win-win situation.

Hellyer ended his address by saying that if we moved in this direction business would be humming, jobs would be available, and the quality of life would improve significantly.

"Long live Canada," he proclaimed at the end of his address.

**In addition to those speakers already mentioned.**

**J. Patrick Boyer - "Phantom Parliament: How the Loss of Democratic Accountability Affects our Unity, Sovereignty and Prosperity"**. Boyer showed how the system has deteriorated and how in fact, now, parliament is just a shell.

**Michel Chossudovsky - "War and Globalisation: The Truth Behind September 11"**. Chossudovsky weaved a story in an attempt to implicate the Bush administration in the events of 9/11. One came away feeling there is certainly more behind the story than we have been told.

**Murray Dobbin - "Canadian Culture Wars: Ideas have Consequences"**. Murray's views run parallel to those of some other speakers who believe that trade agreements are undermining our way of life.

**Wendy Holm - "Water, NAFTA and Canadian Sovereignty: Democracy at the Brink"**. Wendy provided an excellent visual display of where we are headed. She is currently leading a cross-Canada farmer initiative to exclude water from the NAFTA.

**Donald Lidstone - "Implications of International Trade Agreements for Municipal Government: Land Use; Water, Waste and Other Services; Procurement; Environmental Measures; and Local Sovereignty"**. Lidstone's lecture was one of the most informative in the sense of breaking new territory which most of the audience was unfamiliar with. He points out that as municipalities privatize their water, sewer, or other programs they cannot reverse policy without the risk of having to pay extensive damages to foreign companies.

**Elizabeth May - "Canada's Role in the World: Why we must ratify Kyoto"**. Not surprisingly Elizabeth May made the case that Canada should ratify Kyoto and really has no choice. One observer remarked, "She made a number of points of which I was totally unaware."

**Linda McQuaig - "Greed, Lust and the New Capitalism"**. A gifted author and speaker Linda trashes the value system that has become the norm for international business.

**David Orchard - "Canadian Sovereignty: Key to our Health, Environment and Economic Well-being"**. Orchard made his pitch for an independent Canada. He was one of the first to oppose the original Free Trade Agreement and has been consistent ever since.

**Jim Stanford - "My Day in the Free Market: Why the Private Sector Doesn't Have All the Answers"**. Jim ended the Saturday night session with a fascinating presentation. He took the audience through a day in his life and all the frustrating things that happen as a result of the many inefficiencies of the "market system".

**Electoral/Parliamentary Reform** chaired by Doris Anderson lived up to expectations by demonstrating how totally unrepresentative our current electoral system really is. Consequently there is no guarantee that the

government's policies will reflect the will of the people. Fellow panelists Dennis Pilon and John Deverell are strong proponents of proportional representation. Duff Conacher, wants greater transparency in government and the elimination of corporate and union donations that warp the value system in party politics.

**Agriculture and the Biosphere** chaired by the Hon. Ralph Ferguson opened the eyes of many – especially city folk. Not only are we in danger of losing the family farm and rural culture, large corporations are warping the whole value system. Dr. Jim Mackenzie, a general surgeon from Sarnia, gave a chilling example. Public policies are often based on research provided by the affected companies. The same companies that make the toxic products used on the fields own seed companies making genetically engineered crops to withstand higher doses of pesticides. They make the pharmaceuticals that treat the diseases caused by their products. And they build the machinery such as mammography units that diagnose the diseases. Talk about the fox in the hen house. Christine Elwell the other panelist sounded a similar warning bell.

**Health Care** chaired by Armine Yalnizyan took a good look at the Romanow Report and called for early implementation. The fear is that procrastination will result in continued pressure for a two-tier system. Natalie Mehra, Provincial Coordinator of the Ontario Health Coalition concurs. Dr. Carolyn Bennett, MP gave a fascinating rundown of questions and answers that force people to think critically concerning the subject.

**Monetary Sovereignty: What is it? And is it important?** chaired by Jordan Grant with colleagues Ann Emmett and Herb Wiseman, was the first for a conference of this size. It explored the origins of money in a way that provided a fresh revelation. The question period indicated that there is a yearning to understand more about the subject.

**Canada/U.S. Economic and Military Integration** chaired by James George with colleagues Steven Staples and Alfred Webre was primarily a follow-up to the plea of U.S. Congressman Dennis Kucinich for Canada to get involved in the ban weapons in space movement.

**Canada's Institutions and Culture** chaired by Walter Pitman with colleagues Brian Fawcett and Rocco Galati, and Ian Morrison and Rick Telfer (who replaced Ian Boyko), was considered by many to be a highlight of the conference. From the problems of under-funding of education and the consequences of high tuition fees and debts for students, to the destruction of the Canadian publishing industry, the erosion of public broadcasting, and the establishment of a police state in Canada, the information provided was both illuminating and alarming.

It was the consensus that all six panels were equally good and well worth the effort.

**W**e would like to thank all of you who sent in your ballot to vote on the resolution to postpone the Canadian Action Party biennial convention to next year. It was a unanimous vote to and we thank you for giving us the opportunity to participate in the CUSP Conference. It truly was a rejuvenating experience to be around all those people who have spent their lives working to raise awareness of global and local issues, usually through insurmountable odds. Their drive, dedication and enthusiasm were inspiring. Now it is up to the rest of us to support their efforts and add our voices to implement the power of the people.

We are currently working on producing recordings of the conference content due to demand. Please let us know if you are interested in purchasing any material and we will get an order form off to you in the new year. It will be available online as well at [www.cusp-online.ca](http://www.cusp-online.ca).

**What Action You Can Take.** People often ask what they can do to help end the erosion of Canadian sovereignty and democracy. There are so many causes to fight, but the following are two that are current and important.

Oppose Bank Mergers. The Senate report recommends that allowing banks to merge would make Canada more competitive in the field of international banking. Our banks have already been buying banks in the U.S. and Argentina. They have lost a lot of money and are consequently paying less taxes in Canada and raising fees. The real reason for the mergers is to reduce

competition. We can see what the banks have done over the years to eliminate competition. First they buy the brokers and put them out of business, then they buy the trust companies. Now they want to merge to eliminate even more competition. We should say no in the strongest possible terms!

In addition to expressing your opinion in letters to the editor, on open-line shows, and to friends you can write a letter of protest to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, and your own M.P. Just tell them the banks already have too much concentration of power.

Oppose Canadian Involvement in Star Wars and Weapons of Mass Destruction in Space. Canada has just signed a pact with the United States which will see our naval and army officers going to Colorado Springs to join their airforce brothers. They claim that they will be under Canadian control but that is not true. They will be under the command of the Commander-in-Chief of NorthCom, which has been given the responsibility for continental defense. This same Commander-in-Chief is responsible for the national missile defense system. The government has deliberately withheld the information necessary for an intelligent decision. So in addition to the usual things write letters of opposition in the strongest possible terms to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and your own Member of Parliament and let them know that they are letting Canada down.

Act now so that the letters will be waiting for the ministers when they return from their holiday.

### MERRY CHRISTMAS, A HAPPY NEW YEAR AND PEACE ON EARTH

**D**ear CAP supporters, to all of you who have renewed your memberships recently and made donations to the party we thank you for your continued support. For those who haven't renewed yet there is no time like the present. You will find your membership renewal date on the address label. As you know we are wholly dependent on our supporters for financing as we do not receive corporate or union funding. Please note that tax deductions for political contributions are very generous. A \$100 donation after tax rebate only costs you \$25 and would be a great boost to us. **Donations dated before December 31 qualify for 2002 tax credits.**

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