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Rebel with a Clause



Rebel with a Clause

Otter know better

By ALEX G. TSAKUMIS

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Few efforts in public life can be more perilous to the greater public good than having any politician wantonly over-indulge a special interest or minority.

When I reprimanded Premier Gordon Campbell in this column prior to the election for pandering to First Nations with the reckless 'Reconciliation Act', the cacophony of his sycophants was entertaining. "Why don't you write about something else you jerk?" "What do fat Jews know about running the province?" (I note for the record that while I am loyally and logically pro-Israel, I am not a Jew ... although I am, currently, fat.)

And my personal favourite: "Our premier's recognition of aboriginals in this province will bring about a calm and they will never take advantage of his best intentions".

Hold that thought, particularly if you are as utterly appalled as I am that staff of Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, along with federal fisheries swivel servants, have drafted a mind-numbing plan to allow aboriginals all along the coast the right to kill sea otters, who have been a threatened species for some time, all in the name of First Nations "aboriginal spiritual rights".

It's "wind in our spirit" as one dupe was reported to have said.

The killing of defenceless animals because the wearing of sea otter pelts "gives them [aboriginals] tribal status", is about as horrible and immoral an aboriginal cause and consequent explanation as I have ever heard.

I do not object to culling intra-city (aggressive) crows, raccoons or coyotes that pose a threat to Granny walking home from Safeway in the evening or you pushing along your stroller full of joy after dinner.

Nor do I oppose the seal hunt in Labrador, since it is inextricably intertwined to the survival of an entire industry based in dozens of east coast Canadian towns: Sealers and fisherman depend on the hunt to live and support their families.

And I was never entirely comfortable with sport hunting unless the meat was something you ate. I used to hunt, but promptly found that deer was about my limit.

More to the point, to allow for the killing of any endangered animal just for aimless, religious fashion is dreadful.

The First Nations of this province should be ashamed for even thinking that this is their "right" or "religious tradition".

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Furthermore, what of the possible boycotts from U.S. and European countries during the aboriginal-themed and eco-responsible Olympics? Europeans, in particular, are quite intolerant of any kind of hunt.

What this issue clearly illustrates is that the premier and his treacherous, megalomania and undeterred theatrics with respect to First Nations issues has created such a fierce culture of entitlement in the aboriginal leadership of this province that it will likely not stop unless there is a massive outcry and protest.

The otter hunt is only the beginning.

You have read here before of how a B.C. First Nations child is more likely than his non-native counterpart to suffer neonatal abuses, develop an alcohol or drug habit, not graduate from high school, or even find a job, as he advances through cognitive years and into adulthood.

Instead of spending on better education or job training and health care for our native brothers and sisters, our shameless Premier, fueled by his runaway-train stupidity, is more interested in giving away, for a song, always-valuable agricultural land, signing treaties of whimsy and posing for the cameras.

What insufferable fakery. Most native leaders in this province clearly believe not in special-status, but in supreme-status, aided and abetted by Campbell, over the rest of us.

Mind, he is, after all, the "wind in [their] spirit".

And a bloody foul wind, at that.

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