

· EDITORIAL ·

Leader wants more than empty promises

Reconciliation is on the minds of the nation.

We feel the sting of collective guilt, finally beginning to glean the truth of Canada's systemic racism and shameful treatment of First Nations people.

As we read and listen to the evidence of the continuing inequity, it is easy for us to view Indigenous Canadians as living in a perpetual state of victimhood.

But when you talk with Regional Chief of Ontario Isadore Day, it's clear this strong, intelligent leader is anything but that.

He's a man hell bent on leading his people to equity and justice. And a big part of that is economic reconciliation.

The chief spoke to a roomful of Torstar community editors recently, as we seek to be better informed on Indigenous issues and bring that perspective to our readers.

"We are First Nation People, treated as second Class Citizens, living in Third World conditions," he said.

He then appeared at Canada 2020's Indigenous Economic Symposium where the discussion centred on the concept that for Indigenous people to prosper, the way forward must be grounded in the recognition of legal rights and economic reconciliation.

Also at the forum was Minister of Indigenous Services Jane Philpott who said, "The goal of economic reconciliation in Canada is to ensure that a First Nations, Inuit or Metis child will grow up in a country that will provide the opportunities, the investment, the systemic capacity to breathe life into their dreams."

After the symposium Day tweeted, "It's clear that 20/20 vision is a struggle for a federal government that continues to have this notion that First Nation Rights could be legislated and that the 2% cap / 30B\$ debt is forgotten!!"

In 1996 the Canadian government put a two per cent cap on social transfers to First Nation's communities, regardless of need, population growth or inflation. For Day this translates into \$30 billion owed from the federal government.

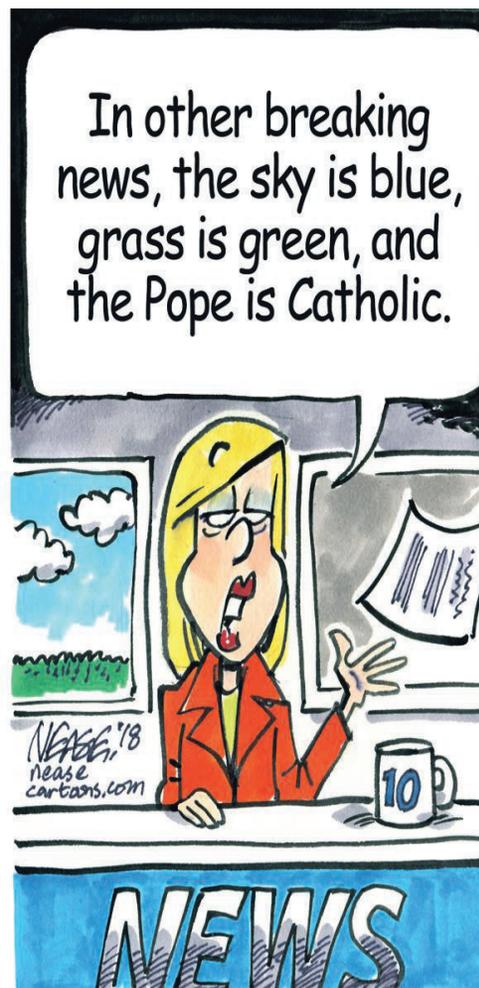
Prime Minister Trudeau pledged to remove the cap as soon as he got into office.

Another promise broken, only half delivered. Day isn't remotely satisfied with the government's plan to make restitution by providing programs and services over future years.

"What if another government comes in, and those investments are reproduced, removed, or altered?" he asked.

The country is talking, and people in power are listening to leaders like Chief Day.

But talking isn't enough; the Canadian government needs to deliver on many levels to make economic reconciliation more than just another promise.



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· LETTERS & COMMENTARY ·

Do not spend your savings, warns reader

I am very sorry, but there are two political parties that do nothing for pensioners unless they are taking more taxes off them.

Stephen Harper did nothing to increase the Canadian Pension Plan.

It was the Harper government that brought the defined benefit pensions in, not a certain fact that you would get anything upon retirement.

Look at the companies that have declared bankruptcy while the Liberal and Conservative governments have held power, and all workers and retirees are at the back of the queue.

So whatever you, please do not spend your savings.

Gordon Robinson

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Time to recognize importance of protesting

The word "protest" seems to have taken on a negative meaning in today's society.

People view it as the fool's errand and those protesting are kidding themselves because they can't change anything.

In reality, protests unite people and create massive change in society.

Without protest, there would have been no Civil Rights Movement to make all men equal and no push toward democratic states.

It's time we recognize the importance of protesting, because it gives peo-

ple a voice against the government, organizations and businesses that oppress them.

A perfect way to get involved is learning how to be a "hero in waiting." Psychologist Philip Zimbardo's theory of the "hero in waiting" explains that people should see themselves as waiting for the perfect moment to step up and act.

It is time for people to be heroes in action, not in waiting, and express their views.

Carlee Moran

Green Party worth a look

I am writing in response to Ron Horner's April 26

Letter to Editor.

He ended with "Where does that leave us? Green Party?"

I want to say "yes."

The Green Party is the best choice for 2018 and beyond.

It's time for a new way of government.

I like what the Green Party is saying about accountability and collaboration with All parties.

I like their policy solutions around affordable housing, climate change, green energy, health care access, childcare, job creation, indigenous rights, cannabis and Ontario's debt.

Get to know Green Party candidate Laura Campbell, as she continues to travel around Dufferin-Caledon over these next five weeks.

Gloria Campbell

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