



# COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

## It's not government's job to bail out hockey

Kudos to local MP Julian Reed for speaking out against his own party regarding the federal government's proposal to subsidize Canada's NHL hockey clubs.

His criticism was delivered early Wednesday morning -- before the overwhelming public outcry that quickly nixed the deal -- which leads us to believe he was speaking from good old-fashioned common sense rather than popular opinion.

Even the most diehard of hockey fans, none of whom want to see any more Canadian NHL teams close up shop and head south, would be skating on extremely thin ice when arguing the virtues of offering financial assistance to the Ottawa Senators and others while our nation faces problems with education, health care and affordable housing -- just to name a few.

The NHL got itself in this mess and shouldn't expect anyone else to clean it up. And any advocates of the now-defunct deal should note that the death of Canada's NHL clubs doesn't mean the death of all Canadian hockey.

Some of us are more than content to follow junior hockey, where we can go watch a game without emptying our wallets.



## OUR READERS WRITE

### Citizen appalled by federal NHL funding

Dear Editor:

(The following letter was sent to Halton MP Julian Reed and a copy was filed with The Champion.)

I'm writing concerning the financial bailout to the NHL by the federal Liberals.

Your party's action in this matter has made me ashamed to be a Canadian (not the first time, I might add, the federal Liberal Party has embarrassed and outraged this voter and this nation.)

You flaunt the fact that you have a financial surplus while provincial health care falters, while Prairie farmers beg

for funding and homelessness increases in sub-zero temperatures. You face an overtaxed nation that desperately deserves a rebate and you subsidize the NHL?

Sir, the only plausible explanation is that somebody had a gun to somebody's head. I suspect a Liberal-funding gun, and you've taken it and shot yourself in the foot.

Your party deserves what it gets and I can only hope you share my shame. You've given the nation and international media fodder for depreciation.

Linda Webster  
Regional Road 25

### Smoking can hurt your eyes as well as lungs: eye doctor

Dear Editor:

More fuel to the flame... my support in 'Zak's cause to help others quit smoking!'

What happens if you don't quit smoking, might be another way to put it.

Dealing with healthcare directly, smoking has been found to be a significant cause of cataract formation, increasing its occurrence as much as 50 per cent especially in the female population.

Cataract formation (the lens in your eye clouds over becoming opaque) is the leading cause of blindness in the world, and the most common surgery in North America.

Also, smoking tobacco you are inhaling 75 chemicals other than the 22 per cent of oxygen in our atmosphere. Your eyes need the oxygen to see and smoking is a major factor in the development of muscular degeneration (degenera-

tion of your central retina leading to the inability to read this newspaper and other material).

Muscular degeneration will steal your sight from you, and has been found to occur even if you quit smoking, usually beginning 15 years after you quit.

The skill-testing question to the contest should therefore be: 'Why did you start smoking?'

If you need help quitting smoking, ask anyone who can't see as well, or has lung problems, or suffers from any health ailments.

Pick them as your support partner for motivation.

You can't buy your health back, but you can sure buy the products to destroy it.

Smiles are nearly impossible with a cigarette in your mouth.

Smile, it will improve your face value and your health as well!

Dr. Ron Strohan, optometrist  
Milton

### Letters welcome

The Canadian Champion welcomes letters to the editor.

We reserve the right to edit, revise, and reject letters.

Letters must be signed and the address and the telephone number of the writer included.

Mail your letters to:  
The Canadian Champion  
Box 248,  
Milton, Ont.  
L9T 4N9

or leave them at our office, 191 Main St. E., or fax your letters to 878-4943.



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### Pud

by Steve Nease

