

COMMENT

Make informed choice on immunization issue

Whether to immunize a child is one of the most important decisions parents can make regarding the health of their offspring.

For many parents, the decision is difficult. Some feel uncertain about which risk is greater. Parents asked themselves, are the affects of vaccines riskier than the diseases they prevent?

This is National Immunization Week and we encourage parents to make an informed decision on the issue.

Health officials maintain regular immunization is a child's best shot at health as polio, diphtheria, mumps and measles still exist and continue to cause disease and death elsewhere in the world.

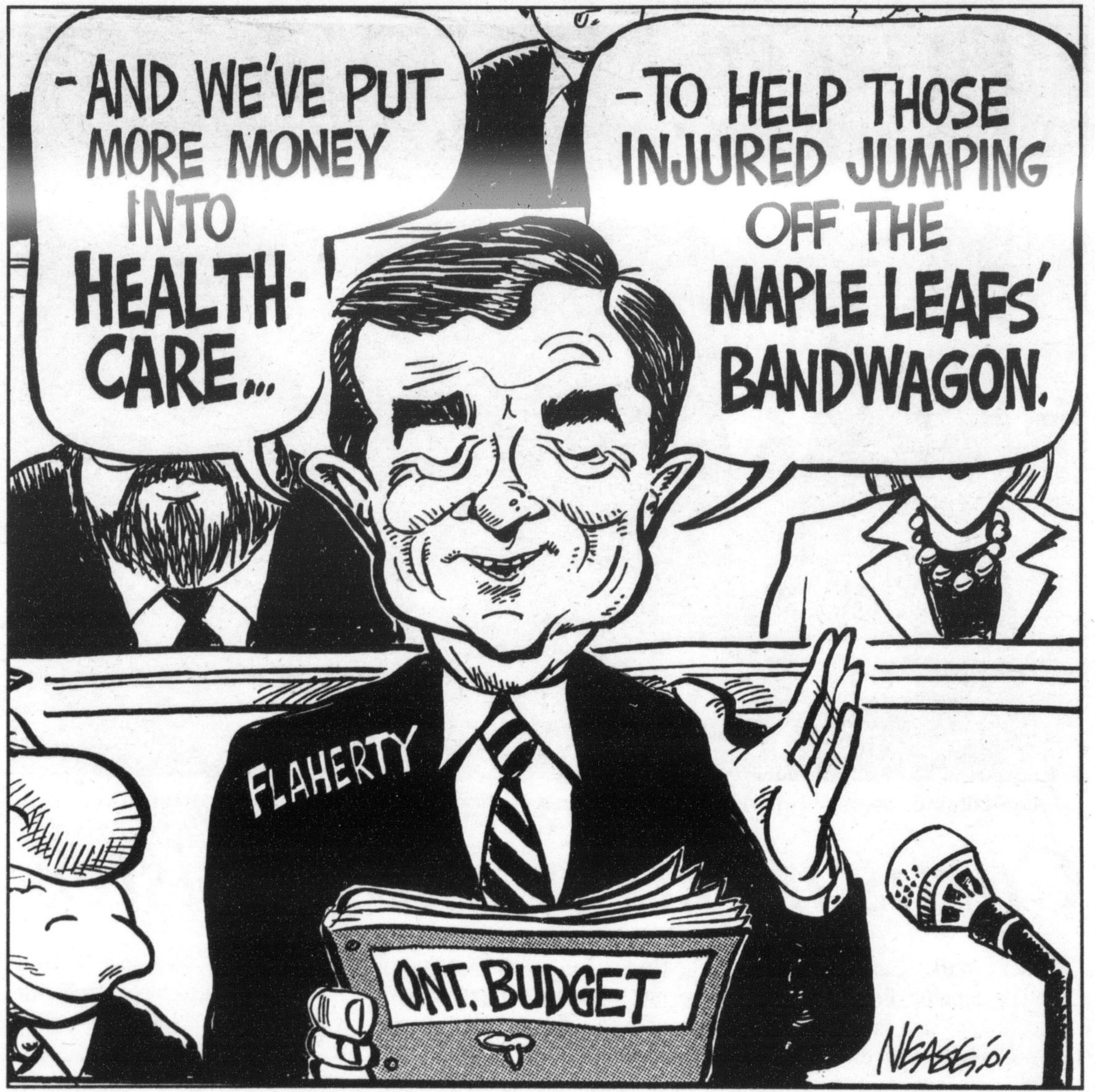
And we have to agree.

For many years Canadians haven't felt the impact of these diseases, and that can be attributed to immunization.

But travel and immigration can import the diseases, leaving anyone who isn't immunized at risk of exposure.

Yes, there can be serious side effects to vaccines, but they're rare.

Whichever decision you make on the issue, please be sure you carefully weigh the pros and cons.



OUR READERS WRITE

It appears there's still much work to be done, Mr. Chudleigh

(The following letter was addressed to Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh and a copy was filed with *The Champion*.)

Dear Editor:

If memory serves correctly, when you made your decision to become "part of the solution" by way of joining the team for "common sense" in government, it was because you wished to make a difference. Albeit, I'm still a Harris and Chudleigh fan, however, it appears there's still much to be done.

My significant other and I just returned from Cuba where we found courtesy in traffic, no graffiti, no drug problems, sparkling clean streets and beaches. Even

in Havana we weren't accosted by anyone begging, (try going to a downtown Toronto theatre some night), even though the population seems poor. I use the word "seems" as they're a joyous bunch who miss no opportunity to be of service to the visitor.

Back to Canada and into the fray, instant aggressiveness and rudeness met us in an all too familiar smog-filled environment. Off the plane and grab a paper to find that teachers don't teach, police don't police, graffiti is the vernacular of an idle youth, crime is rampant and drugs are to be had everywhere. Our doctors, if you can find one, don't answer phone calls, don't make house calls, but can be found in the centre

of several offices — each crammed with a waiting patient on an assembly line. Did I miss the nurses? Well, like the teachers, "it's about better service and care," so my friend who badly needs an operation to save his life is re-scheduled for another week and a half because it's time to work to rule.

Recently I had a \$20,000 painting stolen. The police, when they finally got around to us, reported: "Yes, we believe we know who did it, but we're too busy to go to Hamilton and give them a polygraph test."

Now, I know where I can find a police person quite quickly. They are, in pairs. They are, in pairs, behind the church on Derry Road or the fire departments or occupying a plethora of coffee shops around and out of town.

Oh, and lest I forget, the insurance, you ask? Well, after two years of stalling, denying, and being unavailable, they finally found a gallery that would appraise the lost piece at \$600 and that's what they offered.

Our roads have become a war zone. Have you tried to do the posted limit anywhere lately? If you have I'm sure you'll agree that you're lucky to have survived the experience. You know, Ted, we take great pride

in not being Americans, however, you don't find this kind of highway behaviour in the United States. Zero tolerance.

You know going to Cuba was a lot like returning to the '50s for me. No franchises. Courtesy. A good educational and medical system. Inexpensive transportation. My son just returned from Bali and Singapore. Same thing. No crime, no drugs, kind courteous people and gas is 15 cents/litre.

As you know, Ted, I run a small business in Milton, a business that in the '90s cost me my house and all my savings. We have survived but much of the difficulty, as I see it, rests with government. The GST when it came in cut my sales by 50 per cent. Government — municipal, regional, provincial and federal — all wanting a slice of a very meager pie.

For us, because of something called perceived value, the taxes (sales added), become part of the asking price and therefore end up eating my profit and coming out of my own pocket.

Oh Canada, wounded and bleeding, we are thee.

Peter D. Haight
Main Street

Have an opinion on a local issue? Have your say. Write a letter to the editor. Fax to 878-4943.

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9

(905) 878-2341

Editorial Fax: 878-4943

Advertising Fax: 876-2364

Classified: 875-3300

Ian Oliver Publisher

Neil Oliver Associate Publisher

Wendy McNab Advertising Manager

Karen Smith Editor

Steve Crozier Circulation Manager

Teri Casas Office Manager

Tim Coles Production Manager

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by Steve Nease

