

# EDITORIAL

## Correctness... Aw, Canada.

The federal government is backing off on a plan to change some of the lyrics to Canada's national anthem to make it more gender neutral.

O Canada includes the lyrics "true patriot love in all thy sons command," and there was some discussion about changing the line to be less gender-specific.

The proposed plan received such an outcry from the Canadian people that the idea was scrapped and our anthem remains safe. But is this the end?

But back to the gender debate.

Any talk about inclusive language brings to mind the tinkering of job titles to make sure they are gender neutral.

Does it really change a woman's life if she is called a police officer? Does that erase any obstacles she has to face in her career or her life because we have tinkered with the name of her position?

Does calling someone a chairperson provide her with adequate daycare so that she doesn't have to spend half her salary on babysitters while she is at work?

This kind of manic attention to language does nothing except make the haves in this world feel a little better about the position of the have-nots.

Calling someone a server instead of a waitress doesn't mean she makes more than minimum wage. It probably doesn't help her aching feet at the end of the day either.

## SHOTGUN WEDDING



Arlene Craig submitted this photo taken in the early 1960s at a fundraising social for the fire department at the Orange Hall in Fitzroy Harbour. Taking part in the shotgun wedding skit, in the front row, from left, are Rusty Ringland, Eddy Reitsma Eddy Muldoon (up front), Maurice Wilson, Anton Reitsma and Jimmy Dolan; and in back Joe Bowman, Elmar Craig, Dick Reitsma, Bert Reitsma, Jim Turnbull, John Reitsma and Howard Carry.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# City needs a project control officer

To the editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to make a comment on the city bringing in the American Public Transit Association (APTA) to conduct a peer review of OC Transpo. While I commend council for doing something, I strongly feel that unless a change takes place in how the city operates, these types of "reviews" will be more and more common.

While I am not privileged to the nature of the agreement, I assume that the APTA is not doing this for free. How and who decided that APTA was the most suitable? Was the study put out for public competition? When are the results expected and what commitment has council made to incorporating the recommendations (if any) which are submitted? Once again, it seems that council is throwing money, our money, at a problem for which they are fundamentally the root cause.

I also disagree with the suggestion which was made by Glenn Brooks to have the city auditor general take a

look at OC Transpo. The city AG does a commendable job looking at items in retrospect and with a financial focus. Unfortunately, from my perspective they do not seem to have the mandate to actively monitor and control ongoing projects and policies. What is needed, in my opinion, is to establish a project control office (PCO) with the mandate to be councils' eyes and ears on all capital projects and policies. This group would liaise with all of the city departments and would be comprised of trained and accredited project managers. I would hope that the city has several of these types of PM's available on staff now, but failing that, expertise could be brought in. Yes, it would cost money but if a dollar is spent to save a thousand, that dollar was well spent.

The PCO would be mandated to be responsible to council for the following areas: project integration management, project scope management, project time management, project cost management, project quality management, project human resource man-

agement, project communications management, project risk management, and project procurement management. It is time we see the city put accountability and visibility at the forefront.

Last, let me also point out that because the city did not factor in the actual 6.3 per cent decline in revenue due to reduced city water consumption, water rates in 2010 are going to go up to offset the \$16 million shortfall. The current council is circling the wagons, and pointing out that the 2010 increase is due not only to this but to infrastructure and other improvements. It strikes me that unless the city water consumption magically went to zero for approximately the last three weeks of the reporting period, that somebody somewhere missed the anticipated versus actual revenue received variance, or if they saw it, blindsided Council with the results. Change starts somewhere.

Alex Aronec  
City council candidate