

HEARTLESS AND ABSOLUTELY ATROCIOUS

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Not long ago, a friend of mine who lives in Alberta decided to write to all Alberta MLAs. Guess what? He received replies from all but six. Nearly every MLA wanted to thank him for writing. No complaints; just good old plain discourse. What a difference between the real people in Alberta and some of the habitual whiners we have nesting in BC's legislature. Please don't misunderstand me - the majority of you probably do an admirable job, but some of you just couldn't care less and that's why **the Ministry of Children and Family Development has developed into a state unto its own - above the law.** The sad part is, some of your own constituents have had difficulties with the MCFD, and you can't help them or you refuse to help them. The Ministry's Iron Curtain of all things judicial is always wrapped so quickly and tightly, you don't stand a chance. **Even though you are a minister of the crown, you have no authority to question the alarming treatment British Columbia families are subjected to by certain employees in the MCFD. "Sorry, can't talk to you; the matter is before the courts."** Balderdash and using that word is being far too kind.

Do you realize what you have created? I say "you" because you really did create this method of torture affecting thousands of innocent British Columbians. Well let me say this: **If the people of this province knew what certain individuals in the Ministry of Children and Family Development were up to, the premier and all Liberal MLAs would be thrown out on their ears.** As it is, the whole bloody lot of you should be ashamed of yourselves but at this point I'm not going to blame all of you or Members of the NDP. Wait a minute, does that make me a socialist? Hell no, I voted for Gordon Campbell's Liberals, and I'm still a card carrying member of the Social Credit Party. The next time 'round I might look at the NDP. By your continued silence and remoteness, you hectic **Liberal MLAs have condoned every crime committed by the MCFD.** Conveniently, you have forgotten every past terrible government decree dealing with children.

Only twenty three of you decided to reply after I wrote mentioning serious policy problems exist within the MCFD, and certain individuals working for that ministry are vindictive and immoral. Many of you who did respond didn't want to discuss what I call the "Gestapo Ministry." Some of you were actually upset that I wasn't a member of your constituency. Listen here those of you who actually believe you're better than anyone else "you represent all British Columbians not just the people that sign cheques when you run your campaigns. Get into the real world for goodness sake. Why should I have to bring major MCFD flaws to your attention? If you had been doing your job properly you would know full well **many thousands of British Columbians are thoroughly upset and are demanding policy and employee changes within that ministry.** You won't read or hear about it in our so-called media and Mr. Campbell and Mr. Christensen won't tell you about the amount of mail they receive, but you'll get your eyes opened when you review **the fury taking place throughout the communities in British Columbia, on the Internet and on undisclosed personal sites. All over British Columbia a steadily growing list of decent citizens meet daily to discuss their disappearing children.** They can't ask where their children are or why they were taken away. They cannot speed up the intentionally slow MCFD and court processes, and their phone calls go unanswered. If parents do get through to their social workers, the answer is usually, "We're not going there today." In other words keep your mouth shut.

These are parents who wrote to MLAs for help but you didn't do anything. You know you've had complaints - don't say you haven't. Are you listening? You know you've had them. Decent hard-working BC parents plead daily for your help and you look the other way rather than assist them in getting their children back. Well now don't you feel proud of yourselves? I'll bet you do. You should feel ashamed.

Whether you participate or not, constructive changes must take place within that ministry and these changes cannot start until the premier places someone who cares in the minister's seat. Someone who can recognize the existence of elusive MCFD crime and moves instantly to obliterate it. Wow, strong words, eh? **If the truth were known many, many people working for the MCFD would be jailed for conspiracy in all things immoral.** Presently, Tom Christensen ignores and waves away verbal complaints, refuses to reply to letters of concerned parents, and by his lack of interest seems to have absolutely no idea what is going on within his ministry. He's like an ostrich - what he can't see won't hurt him. The whole government appears to be this way when it comes down to matters concerning the MCFD. I seriously wonder what Tom Christensen does during the day. The news I receive from the other side of

his ministry's iron curtain is that he hides behind his rose-coloured glasses shaking hands at as many photo-ops as possible. Nothing else. In my humble opinion Minister Tom Christensen met the Peter Principle long ago. Why the premier allows this never-never land charade to continue I'll never know. It must be that Minister Christensen doesn't rock the boat. Well as MLAs you know the MCFD boat doesn't just need rocking, it needs a total refit.

Hiding behind that same "untouchable wall of secrecy and eagerness" sits an army of highly paid toffee-nosed civil servants well aware they don't have to answer to ministers of the crown or for that matter God Himself. Yes, you created this predicament, and what a predicament it is. Just what did the people of this province do to deserve such a travesty of justice? They elected you, that's what they did. You should not listen to the phrase, "The matter is before the courts!" **ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AND FIND OUT WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING TO CHILDREN OF YOUR CONSTITUENTS. THAT'S YOUR JOB! FILES CAN BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE COURTS AT ANY TIME! YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT!**

I would imagine it started with the idiom, "Better to be safe than be sorry." In other words, be cautious rather than take a risk." Hey, I agree with that. When it comes to the welfare of children we must be cautious. You bet, and that's what this ministry is supposed to be all about. But it isn't. It has turned into a totalitarian meat grinder with over-paid outside and inside lawyers and money-spinning overused psychiatrists, and psychologists saying, "Yes, sir, Massa, you tell us what you want us to say and we'll find a way to hide and keep those kids, Massa."

Do these bottom feeders support the social workers who constantly complain they are overworked and need more staff? You bet they do. When asked to write impartial assessment reports, these so-called professional psychiatrists and psychologists are fed every made up story, innuendo and lie the MCFD has in its files. Now isn't that just bloody lovely; talk about the fox trying to secure the chicken coop. Do I have to tell you how those assessment reports turn out? As for the ministry's well-paid lawyers ... Ah, those lawyers. These lawyers know the judges so well they recognize the certain twitches, out of place eye movements, thumping pen actions, a variety of throat clearing sounds, and probably the brand name stamped on the judges' golf balls. It's become a mutual admiration society. The judges know they have major responsibility towards the parents cowering in front of them with their begging bowls at the high port, but as far as they are concerned man-made judicial processes must come before the passing and awareness of any actual facts or common sense. As well, the judges know the MCFD lawyers standing in front of them must know what's best because they're wearing finer garments.

So what happens after children have been legally kidnapped? This is what happens. "Mr. and Mrs. Smith, I don't wish to hear from you - I wish to hear from your lawyer. What's that ... you don't have a lawyer? Oh, you can't afford one. Well, Mr. Smith, get a legal aid lawyer. Meanwhile your children will remain in custody. Next case."

"But Your Honour, I need to know where my children are? This is the first time they've been away from home. My wife is crying her eyes out. All I want to know is where they ... "

"Uh, of course you do. But, er, we won't worry about that right now. **Get yourself a lawyer, Mr. Jones.**"

In the next case when a worried parent questions a social worker who continuously lies, the judge states, "I'm not going to listen to this. I refuse to hear the character of a social worker being torn down."

What is going on in this province? Social Workers don't lie? Maybe the majority of them don't, but hordes do. Parents are being treated like slaves by judges, social workers, and hired government lawyers who behave like the goose-stepping baboons we had to eradicate sixty-some-odd years ago. And when concerned citizens write to the Attorney General, their last bastion of hope, nothing happens. No, let me rephrase that - their letters get sent to Tom Christensen. Talk about connivance. Writing to the premier doesn't help either; he passes the letters along to Tom Christensen as well and then writes back wishing you the best.

I often wonder what Tom Christensen does with all those tear-stained letters from the majority of parents WHO HAVEN'T DONE ONE THING TO HURT THEIR CHILDREN OR PUT THEM IN DANGER. Parents whose children were picked up and taken away, and who haven't been told where they are or why their children have been in custody for years. Parents who contemplate suicide or commit suicide because the pain of losing their children is just too traumatic. Parents and family relatives who will never recover from the agonizing distress of losing their children. And what about the children being yanked away from loving homes and do not know why? Their terror is beyond belief. What about the children who have been abused by foster parents, social workers and other children in supposed care? Don't give me the malarkey that this is the best system possible. It's the worst system possible. It

mirrors Stalinist thinking. Without displaying any sign of understanding children are being ripped away from their parents for absolutely no reason whatsoever, and you look the other way, saying, "There's nothing I can do." Well thank goodness I haven't got high blood pressure. Just thinking about this legal kidnapping and your lack of compassion gets me furious.

Now it takes a while to get a legal aid lawyer because legal aid lawyers don't grow on trees. But when a legal aid lawyer is obtained, he is usually a fellow that has numerous MCFD cases on the go just to complete with the remuneration his non-legal-aid friend makes in a much shorter period. When he goes to bed at night he kneels and prays that the MCFD gets another increase in its budget, or that he receives more cases. In all the cases I've seen, I've yet to see one of these guys stand up to a judge. Maybe some of them try, but from what I've seen it just isn't done. The game isn't played that way. Judges make certain when it comes to matters where children have been snatched by rogue members of the MCFD, that MCFD lawyers rule, and those lawyers are controlled by the social workers and their team leaders' and even the team leaders' supervisors, right up the line. In court, legal aid lawyers should be seen but not heard. And when they do manage to get a word in, the judge usually waves it aside. Remember, only highly paid MCFD lawyers make sense; everyone else, including parents aren't aware of the facts. That's right, and you know why they're not aware don't you? No one has told them what is happening.

Now for some untold reason it appears only poor to lower middle class people are the ones who require legal aid lawyers when dealing with the MCFD. Oh I'm certain there are MCFD snatchings at the higher end of the wage scale as well, but the majority of those children are usually released very swiftly after well paid and well dressed lawyers confidently and aloofly assure the judges that everything is fine and then put the social workers in their place. That simply isn't done at the other end of the scale. Certain social workers guarantee justice isn't done at all. Government approved crime starts when children are legally kidnapped, placed in foster homes and every effort is made to ensure parents and family members know nothing, see nothing, say nothing, do nothing and are treated like mushrooms until mountains of phony paperwork, phony psychiatric reports, and phony physiological reports are completed. Add to this family counseling and whatever else the MCFD demands. Time flies when you are not having fun and when dealing with the MCFD court dates decide when matters are discussed. Judges set cases aside for three months, followed by another three months, followed by another three months or whatever and from what I can see these judges show no remorse whatsoever.

Reason: these are not their children. Parents are not told where their children are or who is looking after them, and are told not to try and find them. They are also told that when they see their children they will not show any feelings or emotion whatsoever. The children are told this as well. "Do not ask your children where they live! Do not pass them notes! Do not ask them about their lives! In other words, Mrs. Jones, you're just seeing your children, nothing else. There will be no emotion whatsoever! If you break these rules, and if you keep rocking the boat, you may never see your children again. Do you understand me, Mrs. Jones; if you rock the boat, you may not see your children again - is that clear?" On the other side of MCFD's iron curtain children are told if they rock the boat they will be drugged. That's another story we'll cover in a moment.

When parents are with their children for an hour or two a week at a place run by an outfit called Tin Harbour, employees of that agency ensure MCFD rules are never broken. Every child is watched and so are the parents. In 99% of the cases, parents are never allowed to be alone with their children. As I stated earlier, the MCFD kidnapping system is so dreadful and thorough, it mirrors the Gestapo actions in Germany. From the top of the ministry to the bottom, all employees work on the basis of secrecy. And I mean all employees. The smugness of these employees is beyond belief. Now don't misunderstand me, I'm certain there are decent hardworking social workers and others in the MCFD, but under this structure it is damned hard to find them. People within that ministry operate like robots, and you dear MLAs put up with it. These people kidnap children 365 days a year; yes even days before Christmas.

Unfortunately members of the various police forces are also involved with this arrangement. Police policies work along with MCFD policies. Isn't that just the icing on the cake? I have seen RCMP members take out their guns to stop enraged parents simply trying to find out what was going on. I've seen parents thrown to the sidewalk trying to inquire where their children were going. Parents have been arrested and strip searched just because they found out where their children were and parked near the house to pray or just to see their kids. These parents knew they shouldn't be near the place, but do you know what it's like when you lose your children? Do you really know what it is like? You see, parents can't ask the MCFD what caused them to kidnap their children; maybe way down the road they might be told but only after these parents walk the gauntlet of phony assessment reports and court delays. It's possible the neighbour across the street phoned the police or the MCFD and surreptitiously mentioned something that they saw and took it totally out of place. It doesn't have to be serious. You know, from the very start I've often

wondered how many MCFD employees make certain they keep their jobs at the expense of traumatized children and parents; probably enough that would make normal people who are not as hard as you MLAs want to cry. But these aren't your kids so why would you need to worry.

Now let's get on the homophobia part of this letter. Homophobic is a really big word. It refers to someone being afraid of homosexuality, or supposedly describes differing prejudice and discrimination against gays and lesbians. Am I homophobic? No. Do I hang around with homosexuals? No. Do I know any homosexuals? Yes. Are they decent people? Like straight people some are, some are not. Do I believe homosexuals should work with young children? Yes I guess so, but not people with pedophilic tendencies.

What about the twelve year old boy in care and his social worker indiscriminately touched him and tried to hug him. They boy complained to someone who complained to the RCMP and shortly thereafter the whole matter was brushed under the rug. Was the boy drugged afterward? Yes, and he was told by his foster mother that it just didn't happen and he'd better get it out of his mind, and quickly. The boy had to agree. I don't have to mention this because I'm certain thousands of children have been sexually abused while in care and I'm certain the abusers are straight and homosexual. In the courtroom a judge asked a social worker in question if he was homosexual and he proudly stated, "Yes, Your Honour." Of course he denied the boy's allegations and the man still works for the MCFD. How many others of his ilk work for the MCFD? What about the straight guy with an eye for young girls? Is he a pedophile? Hell, I don't know. You're the MLA; find out by turning your neck in the direction of Mr. Christensen and ask him how many children are sexually abused each year while in care. What matters is these children are going from the fire to the furnace, or in most cases from the penthouse to the --- house.

The paint on prisons turnstiles is worn out from the number of children who have been abused while in care. Many of these children grow up to become institutionalized and spend their whole life in prison. Why? Because untrained social workers looking for work decided to rip them from their loving parents and placed them in foster homes, that's why. And children are not supposed to be taken unless they are in danger. What about social workers who take kids and those Social workers have never visited the child's home, never spoken with the child's parents, never spoken with the child's relatives, never spoken with the child's friends and neighbours, and never visited the child's school. It just doesn't make sense what is going on. From what I've seen, mixing well-mannered kids together with Similar-aged ruffians in foster homes is not the answer. It's an invitation to an upcoming nightmare. Common sense just doesn't find itself around this ministry.

And what about foster parents who live a marriage of convenience? Whoa, Nelly, this is really opening up a Pandora's Box isn't it? Only Mr. Christensen is qualified to discuss this one with you. Now I'm beginning to understand why he doesn't reply to letters or phone calls. Two young First Nations children once complained that their foster father liked bathing the boys and the foster mother only bathed the girls. Under no circumstances would the foster mother bathe the boys, and vice-versa. I could go into it deeper but it is bloody sickening. Needless to say both children got yanked in one hell of a hurry and placed back with their real mother. Native kids are open prey for rogue members of the MCFD, and in many decisions concerning Native children, judges appear to lack common sense. Try and get the list of parents who have committed suicide after going out of their minds from losing their children. I'm not going to discuss the loss of children both Native and otherwise. That's for you to catch up on.

Is there a better way? Certainly there is. Any system is better than the present one. Parents should be called in and be counseled before their children are apprehended. And these children shouldn't be touched unless they are heard. Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (which Canada has agreed to) gives children the right to freely express their views directly or through a representative in any proceedings that affect them. Article 12 also gives children the right to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings that affect them." Do judges or social workers advise the children or parents about this? Hell no.

Not that long ago noted psychologist Dr. Tana Dineen was asked to attend a convention of the Provincial Court Judges' Association held in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Here's what she said: "It is with honour that I have this opportunity to address such a distinguished audience. The topic I was given for today's luncheon is the question: Are we manufacturing victims? The short answer is yes and simply put ", " Dr. Dineen presented Judicial Skepticism - Judging Psychology and Psychologists. Her message to the assembly exclaimed:

(1) Psychology is an industry masquerading as a profession;

(2) Psychology is aggressively targeting the judicial and legal systems as growth markets for its services;

(3) The current business formula of the psychological trade is person equals victim equals patient equals profit;

(4) Trusting psychologists is so dangerous to the Justice System that judicial skepticism is not only warranted but urgently needed!

In other words, the MCFD is using these continuous psychological and psychiatric reports as delaying tactics and a means of creating work. This is deviousness at its best and sooner or later it must stop.

Taking children away from their parents should be the last move in a long, long, long, long, list of stipulations. Also many of these children are taken away because their parents are turned down for welfare, or their welfare is turned off. Interesting, eh what? Let me ask you knowledgeable MLAs a very simple question? Why do foster parents with one child receive the same amount as a father of five does when he's on welfare? Think about that if you will. I'm not saying anyone is on the take, I'm just asking you to think about it. I'm also not saying any of these psychiatrists or psychologists or lawyers are giving kickbacks. Another method would be to place the children that are unsafe with a family member or trusted friend. Under the present system children are just yanked away and family members are not contacted. Now if no one wants the children then at least one more effort must be made to save the situation, and then the parents must not be kept in the dark, and that goes for the children as well. Get the children out of the system as soon as possible. And if that means sticking a thumbtack on the judges' chair so be it.

I know a family who plays charades, monopoly, and chess after supper. They watch Jeopardy together, the kids wrestle with their dad, listen to music, build model planes and cars, and the family gets around the kitchen table and talks about the day's activities. Each night mom and dad assist their children with homework problems. They go ice skating as a family, swimming as a family to the movies as a family, hiking as a family and the mother of the home helps the children deliver newspapers. That isn't good enough for the MCFD. They sent a Gestapo employee to the house and everyone sat around the kitchen table painting rocks to ensure family cohesion. There could be no complaints otherwise the kids would be taken again. Why were the kids taken in the first place? Because dad is full of arthritis and they lost their house lease in Surrey. The parents scraped up enough cash to find a cheap farm in Aldergrove but it took three truckloads to move the furniture and the parents left their boys aged twelve (nearly thirteen) and ten (nearly eleven) on their own while they moved the third truckload. These boys were unloading boxes when the police got involved and the Gestapo arrived.

Secrecy must be removed from the MCFD. All parents are citizens and should be treated with total respect. The toffee-nosed employees of this ministry must be made to pull in their horns and not be so bloody arrogant. Who in the hell do these people think they are?

Presently employees in the MCFD are tripping over themselves. Boy, they're going to hate me for saying that. Everyone in that ministry must bow to the east ten times a day thanking old man Parkinson for coming up with his law. Parkinson's Law runs wild in the MCFD.

Well, you get the gist I hope. I say again - decent employees of that ministry know who they are. I wouldn't walk across the street to stop the others from drowning. Now your job is to straighten out this bloody mess and to fully understand that the phrase, **"Stay out of it; the matter is before the courts," means nothing.** Give your constituents the pleasure of your company. Isn't that why they elected you? Or did the judges elect you? A lot of people are crying out there.

I'll be writing more on this subject if nothing is done about this horrible situation ruining the lives of many British Columbians.

J.H. Aitken
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