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We live in a sick society within the borders of a sick nation. With a relatively small population, a vast land base and a, as yet, not fully appraised but enormous resource potential, Canada is, on a per capita basis, the wealthiest nation on this planet! Yet, unemployment is on the increase, poverty is spreading and deepening, the health system is being decimated, the educational system is crumbling and the rate of functional illiteracy is rapidly rising. The cracks in the social safety net, are, for the sake of political expediency and in the name of good fiscal management, being deliberately widened to force the weakest and most vulnerable through those cracks and out onto the street. Our leaders representing the political, labour, clerical, judicial and industrial complexes are being increasingly held in disrespect and even contempt. Many consider them hypocrites, liars and worse. Some opinions are unprintable! How many of you obtain your tobacco or cigarettes on the black market because you can't to afford to buy

them at the store? How many buy their booze from a friendly neighbourhood bootlegger?

The fact is, people are beginning to see their government as the enemy and the smuggler and the black marketeer as public benefactors. These are signs and symptoms of a sick society. Our only hope, to avoid anarchy or revolution, is for ordinary people to stand up, DEMAND accountability from our elected representatives and at the polls, to perform the radical surgery necessary to eliminate those unworthy of leadership. Failure by the citizenry to discharge these duties, whether due to apathy, neglect or to indifference, can have only one result. Our nation, reputedly the most wonderful in the world, can only look forward to the inevitable prognosis: Terminal!

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