



**Local Government in Canada:
What Keeps City Managers
Up at Night**



MODERN DEMOCRACY



GoodSpaceGuy

Advocate for the Colonization of Outer Space &
King County Council Candidate



Mr. Peanut

Candidate for Mayor of Vancouver, 1974



Mr. Peanut
Campaigning with “The Peanettes”



Mr. Floatie

Lobbying for
sewage treatment.

Aspiring Candidate
for Mayor of
Victoria, 2005

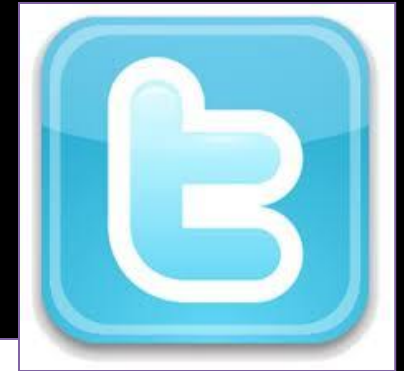
Modern Democracy

- Voter turnout is declining.
- Those elected represent only a small minority.
- Life in the fishbowl deters good people from running for office.



**TECHNOLOGY &
SOCIAL MEDIA**

Today's Internet



One of our Twitter Followers (Really.)





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Canada

Canada



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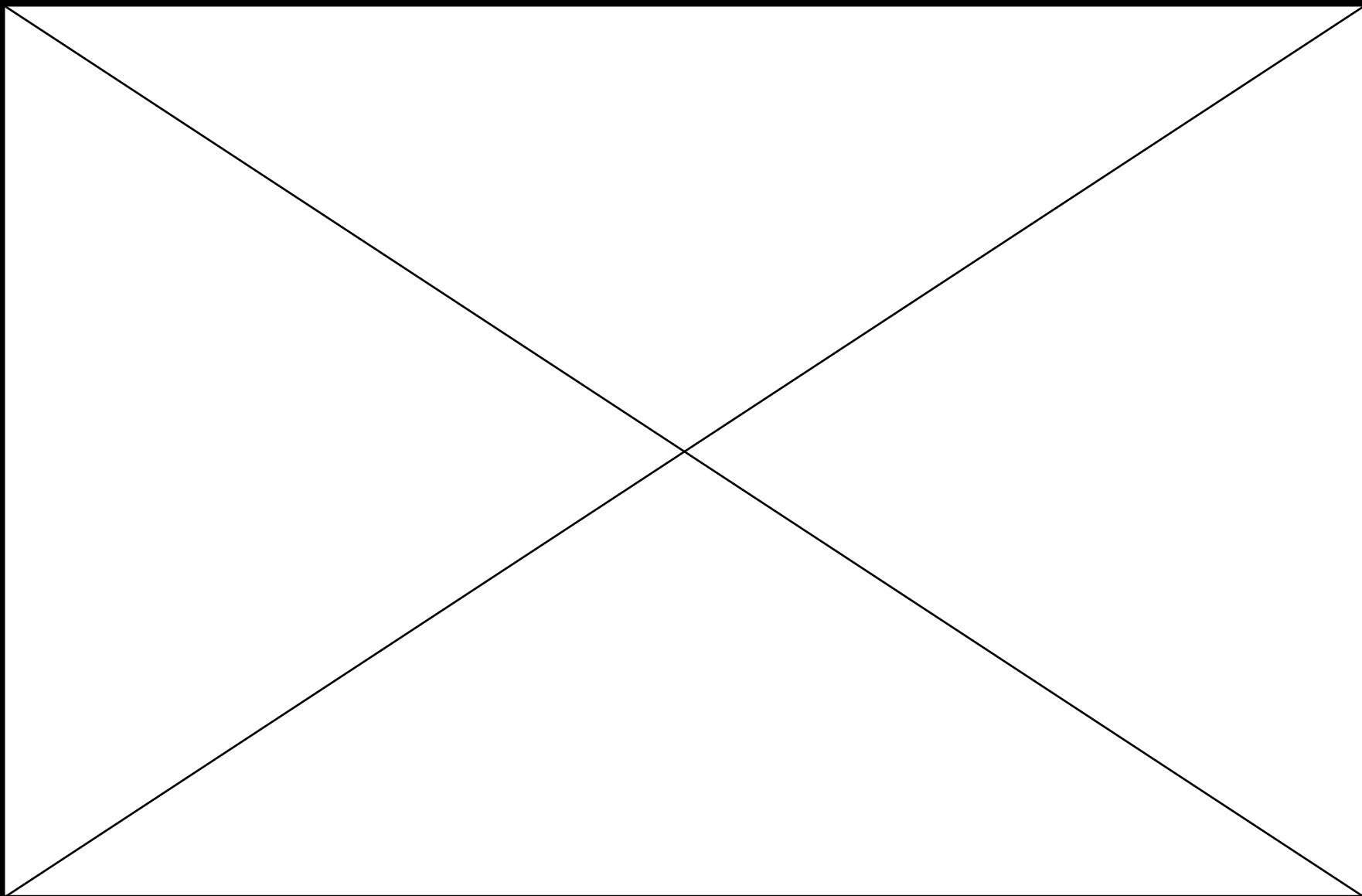
In the news

May 27, 2011 - Kelowna, British Columbia

Active transportation infrastructure provides *bitchin* new multi-use pathways for Kelowna residents.

[More >>](#)

Active transportation infrastructure provides *bitchin* new multi-use pathways



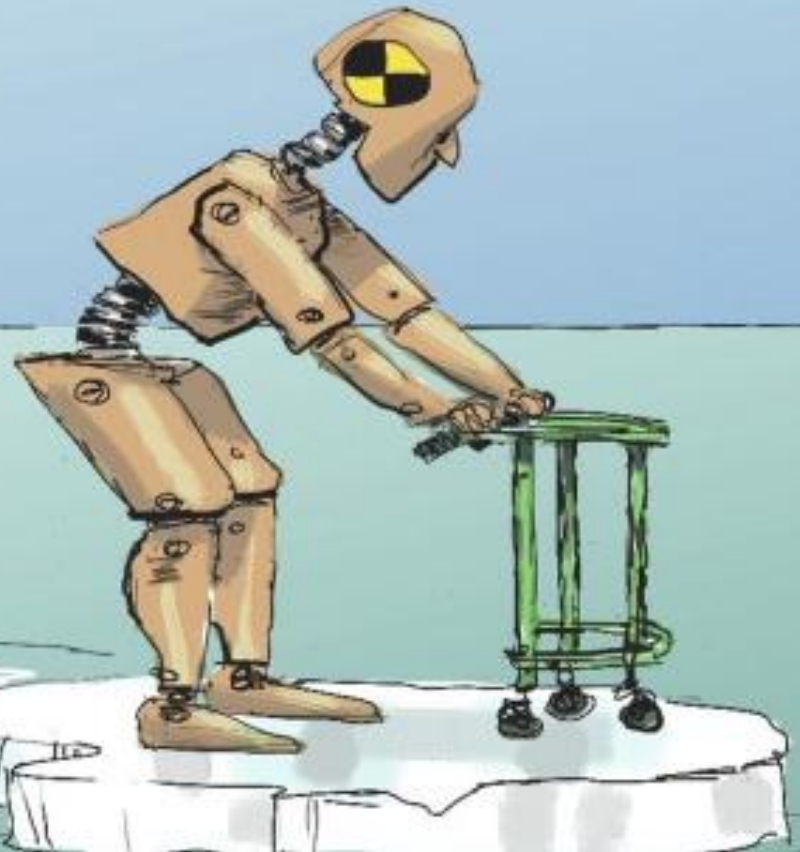


DEMOGRAPHICS

Canada

RAPIDLY AGING
WORKFORCE
DEMOGRAPHIC

POLICY DEVELOPMENT
TESTING LOCATION



CLUB MAIL
GAT

Canadian Demographics

- Canada and the United States share a similar baby boomer bulge.
- Cities are struggling to make their communities (and workplaces) more senior friendly.

Canadian Demographics

- Lots of retirements in Canadian local government; possible slower pace with the elimination of mandatory retirement.
- Geography and price of housing are big factors. Hard to keep the younger generation in small towns; but the younger generation can't afford urban housing.



SOCIAL ISSUES



\$1.4 Million in Vancouver



Somewhat more affordable

Other Social Issues

Canadian local governments are tackling:

- Homelessness
- Addictions / Harm Reduction
- Health Care - Lack of physicians in rural areas

These are not, under the Canadian constitution, responsibilities of local government.



THE ENVIRONMENT

No one has a single, fix-all
solution to address
climate change.



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Hopes GoodSpaceGuy knows
what he's doing.

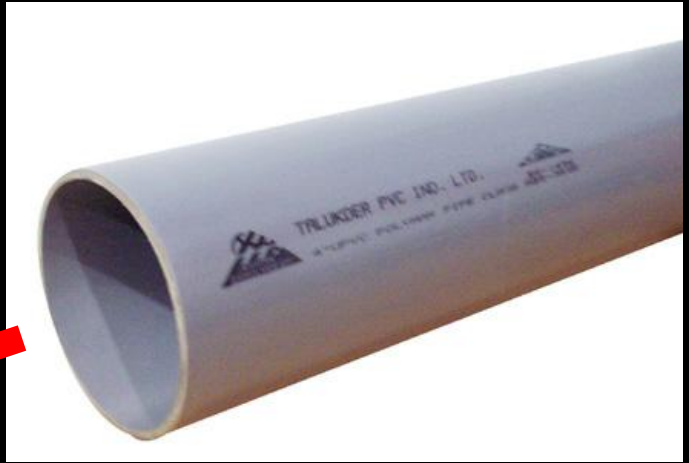
THE VANCOUVER SUN

Make room for a wheat field beside the chicken coop

From chicken coops in backyards and vegetable plots at city hall, Vancouver is branching out into experimental wheat plots in place of lawns.



FISCAL CHALLENGES



In 2007,
Canada's Infrastructure Deficit
was estimated to be
\$123 billion

Other Fiscal Challenges

- Disproportionate distribution of tax dollars that favors provincial and federal governments.
- Downloading is a problem.
- Costs and liabilities rising faster than revenues.
- Citizens unwilling or unable to pay more; leads to taxpayer revolts.



**RELATIONS WITH
FIRST NATIONS**



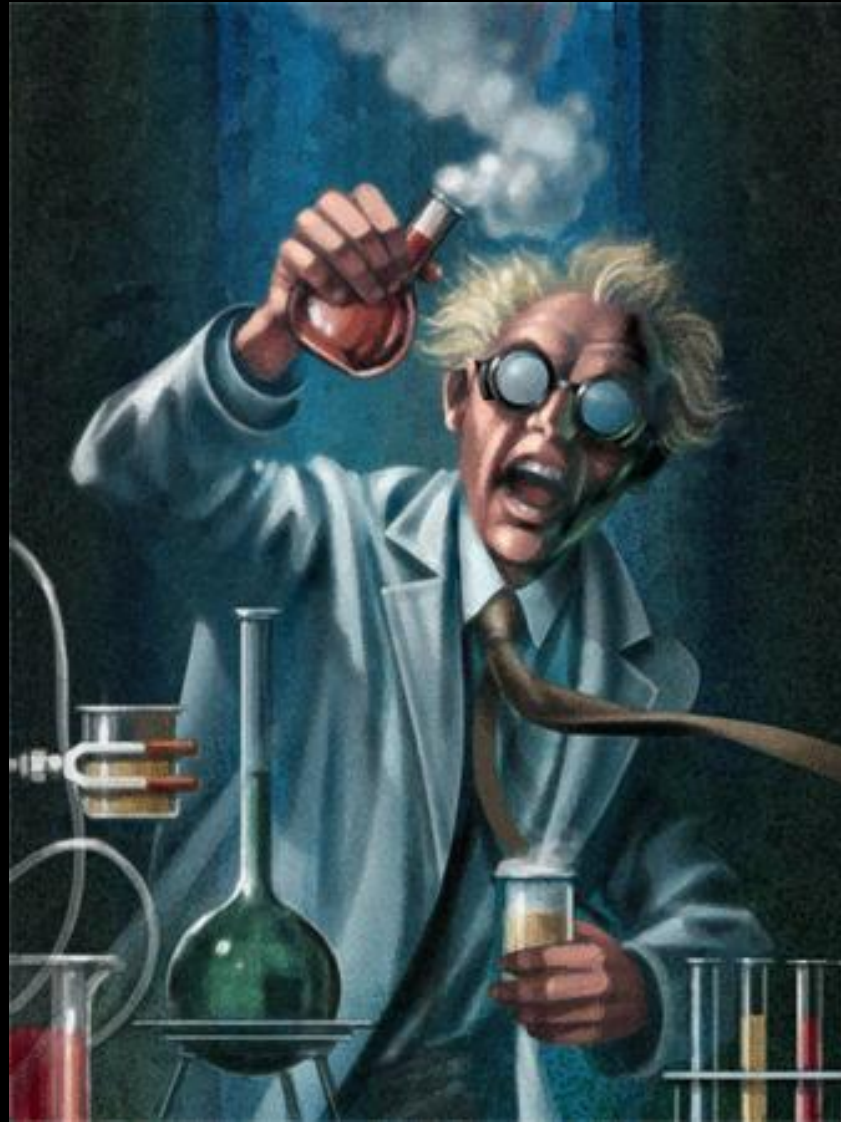
A New Level of Government

- Municipalities and First Nations are coming to realize that as community based governments, they have shared issues and objectives.
- Co-operation; integration of services; is essential. Regional economic development depends on this.



CONCLUSION

The typical Canadian
City Manager
is expected to be...



Political Scientist



Cat Herder



Animal Control Officer



Computer Nerd



Communications Professional



Accountant



Health Administrator



Tree Hugger



Economic Guru



Expert in Interplanetary Travel



THANK YOU

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