

The Legacy We Leave

Leo Oja, March 7, 2025

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There comes a time in life when we begin to ask ourselves: What was it all for? The careers we built, the families we raised, the wisdom we accumulated—what remains when all is said and done? Many of us, now in the Baby Boomer generation's heart, feel this question's weight more heavily than ever.

Some might say that in the grand scheme of things, we are just "dust in the wind", our efforts and ideals destined to fade. But I reject that notion. We are not merely passing through history—we are shaping it. And right now, as Canada drifts further from the values we once held dear—democracy, freedom, personal responsibility, and fairness—we have a choice: fade away quietly or stand up and make a difference while we still can.

Many of us remember a Canada where hard work was rewarded, free speech was truly free, and government existed to serve the people—not control them. The institutions we trusted may never have been perfect, but they were grounded in common sense, personal accountability, and fairness. It was a country where government overreach was limited, where people could build businesses, own homes, and raise families without the constant interference of bureaucrats dictating how they should live.

But today's Canada is unrecognizable compared to the one we grew up in. Runaway government spending, ever-expanding nanny-state policies, and an erosion of free speech

and personal freedoms have transformed this nation into something foreign. Where we once believed in earned success, we now see government dependency encouraged. Where we once encouraged open debate and diverse opinions, we now see censorship and ideological conformity imposed. This is not the Canada we worked so hard to build.

The generation that grew up watching massive social and political transformations must now recognize that our role in shaping history is not over. While some may be tempted to retreat into disillusionment, convinced that the system is beyond repair, that is precisely what the political elites want. They hope we will be too tired, too discouraged, or too distracted to fight back. We cannot let that happen.

The truth is, we are not powerless. Baby Boomers hold enormous influence in Canadian society. We vote in higher numbers than any other generation. We have lifetimes of experience, leadership, and wisdom to share. And, perhaps most importantly, we still have the power to shape what comes next.

Imagine the impact of thousands of engaged Baby Boomers standing together to restore democracy, individual freedoms, and responsible governance. Imagine a Canada where our children and grandchildren are not burdened by government overreach, debt, and a loss of national identity. This is not just about politics; it is about preserving the very foundation of what made Canada great.

While the Liberal and Conservative parties have become mirror images of one another, both embracing big government policies and political correctness, the People's Party of Canada (PPC) stands as a true alternative.

The PPC is not interested in maintaining the status quo. It is a movement dedicated to restoring the core values of democracy: freedom, fairness, responsibility, and respect for the individual. These are not radical ideas; they are the foundation of any truly democratic nation.

We must ask ourselves: Do we want to be remembered as the generation that stood idly by while Canada fell deeper into authoritarianism and fiscal ruin? Or do we want to be remembered as the generation that fought back?

Throughout history, the burden of leadership and resistance has fallen upon those who refuse to let their nation fall into decay. One of the most stirring examples is Winston Churchill's "Their Finest Hour" speech (1940), where he implored the British people to stand firm against tyranny. Churchill reminded his countrymen that their struggle was not just for themselves, but for future generations who would inherit the world they fought to protect. His words ring true today—our fight is not just about the present, but about the kind of Canada we leave behind for our children and grandchildren.

This theme is also echoed in J.R.R. Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings, where great leaders like Gandalf, Aragorn, and Théoden face their own moments of decision. They recognize that each generation must stand up against the darkness of their time, whether it be tyranny, corruption, or complacency. Théoden, in particular, struggles with his duty as a leader, nearly succumbing to despair before ultimately rising to fight for the survival of his people. In our own time, we too must ask ourselves: will we surrender to political apathy or take a stand?

History reminds us that a people's awakening begins with a choice—to accept oppression or to fight for their freedom. The Hungarian revolutionary poet Sándor Petőfi inspired his people in 1848 with these words:

"Talpra magyar, hí a hazá! Itt az idő, most vagy soha!"

"On your feet, Hungarian, the homeland calls! Now is the time, now or never!"

Petőfi's words sparked a revolution, urging Hungarians to reclaim their sovereignty. His message transcends time and borders—it is as relevant to Canada today as it was to Hungary then. We, too, face a moment of decision: Will we stand up or watch our freedoms disappear? Let's pray that simply standing up and being counted is sufficient for our cause, and we do not travel down the road of revolution too far.

For those who feel that politics is frustrating or corrupt, I understand. But disengagement only strengthens the forces of control. The solution is not to walk away—it is to get involved, speak up, and take action. Here's how:

1. **Vote with Purpose** – Our generation is the most politically active voting bloc in Canada. Instead of voting for the "lesser of two evils," vote for a party that actually stands for your values.
2. **Volunteer and Organize** – Whether it's knocking on doors, distributing pamphlets, or attending local meetings, your involvement can tip the scales in ways you might not imagine.
3. **Have Conversations that Matter** – The greatest political change happens not in Parliament but in everyday conversations. Challenge people's assumptions, encourage critical thinking, and introduce others to the PPC's vision.
4. **Support Independent Media and Free Speech** – Legacy media has done its best to discredit dissenting voices, but alternative platforms and independent journalists are reaching millions. Help spread the message.
5. **Consider Running for Office** – If you have experience in business, education, law, or leadership, why not take the next step and become part of the political movement firsthand?

One day, your grandson or granddaughter may ask you, "*What was it like when Canada was free?*" What will you tell them? Will you speak of a time when personal responsibility, fairness, and mutual respect were the norm—but how those ideals faded because not enough people fought to preserve them? Or will you proudly say that when the country stood at a crossroads, you chose to stand up and make a difference?

The question is no longer: "*What was my life all about?*" The question is: "*What will I do with the time I have left?*"

Let's make it count.