

## Conclusion

### Implementing the Solution

So there you have it ...a liberating and comprehensive solution to all of our most pressing economic and social problems ...a daring, yet simple initiative which, when fully implemented, will shine out like a beacon of hope in a world gone mad. Such a monetary system would free all Canadians from the soul-destroying struggle to *“earn a living”*.

Think about that phrase for a moment. It reveals a lot about our culture. It does not say that all human beings, by reason of their birth, inherit the right to expect a decent minimum standard of living which is reasonable, fair and common to anyone who is a member of our species. It does say that human beings must work in order to “earn” their keep and implies that they have no inalienable right to live unless they do so. It allows us to rationalize our own self-interest and to dismiss any responsibility that we might have for caring for each other. It allows us to plunder and exploit the weaker individuals and nations of this earth who must also learn to “earn” their living according to our rules and standards. Today, it is even more offensive than it was in the past, since so many people who are eager to “earn” a living are unable to do so

simply because there are no longer enough decent “livings” available for everyone. What person alive has the right to deny another person their equal share of the earth and the natural abundance that it contains? What human being has the wisdom to judge whether or not a fellow human being “deserves” an equal share of the gift of life? By whose culture and standards do we judge?

Under the proposed new monetary system, the oppressive economic aspects of work would be abandoned and the drudgery of work, as a means of survival, would be replaced with the excitement of work, as a means of self-expression and personal fulfillment. People would measure success in terms of their level of satisfaction not their level of income. The nature of your work and the quality of your workmanship would reflect who you really are as a person. Working would no longer be just a necessary burden, a means to an end. It would become a passionate partner in a life-long journey of self-discovery, a creative ally, a welcome friend. The external stimulation and reward for a job-well-done would come from the thanks and the praise of your customers, and from the “value-added” to your public reputation.

Under the new monetary system the dignity of all human life would finally be fully acknowledged and the inter-generational baton of opportunity would be passed on to everyone. Simultaneously, the leading causes of poverty, violence, crime, sickness and abuse (of both self and

others) would be eradicated. The clouds of pessimism and despair would recede and a new attitude of hope would redefine what is “possible” for humankind in the future.

But can such a radical program ever be implemented? Will the “powers-that-be” ever allow such an *economic democracy* to be achieved? If enough Canadians support the idea, then the existing elite will really only have two choices. One is to adopt the new system in response to the clearly expressed, democratic will of the people. The other is to reveal that “democracy” is merely an illusion under the present system of government, by blocking the legitimate demands of the people. In either case, the public would be better off; in the first, because the new monetary system would be implemented; in the second, because the cost of maintaining the illusion of democracy could be eliminated.

We don't have a great deal of time. The federal government is giving away our sovereignty at a furious pace. The Bank Act is up for review again in 1997, and there are rumors in the air that the government has even been considering abolishing the Bank of Canada and allowing the U.S. Federal Reserve to take over our monetary policies. Both the federal government and the provinces have been selling off public assets and privatizing and downsizing their operations. Our governments seem to be setting us up for a major financial crisis. Once much of our best public collateral is gone, the banks and foreign

money markets will demand even higher risk premiums (interest rates) which will push our economy to the brink. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) will then “have” to step in to “help” us out, and you don’t have to look very far inside any Third World country to see how their “help” affects the living conditions of most of the country’s citizens.

Then, of course, there is the issue of Quebec. If Quebec separates, it will drive a wedge right through the center of Canada. Shared Canadian values and interests will be reduced even further as east-west trade across Canada turns, more and more, towards the south. “Free Trade” has already eliminated many of the subsidies and advantages that held this country together. As our national identity crumbles, so too will our determination to resist a complete merger with the United States.

Canadians have been sleeping like children, while their political parents dismantle the country. It’s time to wake up and dust off democracy. Either we use it now, or it will be lost forever in the “New World Order”. The only way that this idea will ever be adopted is if a majority of Canadian citizens *demand* that the federal government hold a legally binding national referendum on the issue. It will definitely take time and a lot of hard work to build the necessary public awareness and support, but there is no other way to make democracy work!

*What you can do to help.*

You have already started to help by buying this book and educating yourself. Get as many copies as you can afford and start mailing them to all of the people that you know. Form local reading and discussion groups, organize larger public seminars and link your local action group to the national network. Locate the right councillors in your community and begin building support within your municipal government. When the time is right, have your municipality pass a resolution supporting the call for a national referendum. *Organize the communities, and the provinces and the nation will soon be united!*

Don't waste your time writing letters to the provincial or federal governments. The time for that will come, but first we must build grassroots support from coast-to-coast. Don't waste your time trying to get any support from the union bureaucracies either. Their leaders are not likely to support any system that will make them redundant. Go to the membership ...*go to the people themselves.*

A vast majority of citizens will be much better off under the new system, so you will get the support of all types of people. Network with other local community organizations that are already involved in social and economic justice issues; church groups, seniors organizations, food banks and poverty groups, students groups, women's groups, immigrant support groups, literacy groups, social service agencies, job-finding clubs, small business net-

works and entrepreneur organizations, service clubs, arts and recreational groups, etc. Encourage young people and the unemployed to volunteer their time. They are more likely than most to be already aware of how urgent the need for change really is.

Be creative when it comes to publicity. The mainstream media will not likely give you much support. Dream up some attention-getting publicity stunts that your main daily newspaper can't ignore. Use any independent community newspapers in your area to get the message out. Ask your cable TV station to broadcast a local phone-in talk show. Write a book review and get it published in as many local newsletters as you can. Don't forget your local radio stations, you may find some supportive people there. As public support builds in your community begin to get municipal councillors involved in the publicity.

Build a financial base. Use this book as a fundraising tool. *Substantial volume discounts are available.* Community fundraising campaigns are an excellent way to build public awareness and can be used to gain access to popular malls and shopping centres. Your group will need funds to help pay for the local portion of a national media campaign which will be launched just prior to the referendum. The financial elites will spend a fortune on media advertising to discredit this idea and defeat us in the referendum. *Start saving now.*

Above all else, don't lose hope. We are going to win

this campaign. The solution is simple and understandable, the benefits are comprehensive and obvious. The need for change has never been greater and the will of the public is awakening everywhere. Once the public is informed, their passion for justice can be aroused. Once the public has been aroused, their collective determination is unstoppable. *Economic democracy will be achieved!*

In case you ever get discouraged, I will conclude this book with a hopeful tale which illustrates how the power of co-operation can be used to achieve the seemingly impossible.

*The Ants and the Elephant*

Once upon a time, there was a place where ants and an elephant lived together. The elephant, being much larger and more powerful than the ants, made the ants work all day fetching peanuts for him. If the ants worked hard enough, at the end of the day they could keep a few of the peanuts for themselves. If, however, the ants had not worked hard enough to please the elephant, they got nothing. Although the ants were not happy working for the elephant, they were all certain that there was nothing that they could do about it. Whenever they complained to the elephant, or tried to stop working, the elephant simply crushed them with his huge and mighty feet.

One day, one of the ants had an idea. After work he called some of the other ants together to discuss his plan.

“We have been working for the elephant for so long that we now eat like the elephant, sleep like the elephant and even think like the elephant. But we are not elephants, we are ants, and if we are ever to be free, we must do what ants do, we must dig!” exclaimed the ant. Most of the ants, upon hearing his plan, just laughed and called him crazy. A few, however, met later that night and began digging tunnels deep into the sand. A few days later, several other brave ants, bringing peanuts, joined the rebellious ants in the tunnels. As time went on, news about the progress of the project spread to every ant hill, and thousands more ants joined in.

But the elephant was getting suspicious. “Where are the rest of the ants?” he screamed, as his huge foot stomped down on an ant hill. “Find them and bring them back to me” he demanded. The rest of the ants went into the tunnels to bring back the others, but when they found them, they were surprised by how close to completion the plan now was. Instead of returning to the surface, they all worked together to finish the job.

The next morning, all the ants returned to the surface and waited together for the elephant to come to his usual command post. But when he arrived, the ground beneath his enormous feet caved in and he dropped down into a pit that the ants had created just below the surface. Knowing that the weight of the huge beast would cause the remaining ground to give way once he set foot upon



his spot, they were delighted to have finally trapped the elephant in a place that he was far too big and clumsy to ever climb out of.

From that day forward, all the ants made a solemn promise to never again act like the elephant, who thought only of himself. Instead, they would always be proud to be ants and would continue to co-operate together forever.

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Those of us today who believe that we can “dig in” like the ants and tunnel away the ignorance and lies that support the enormous weight of the financial beast that has enslaved us, may at first be ridiculed by our peers. But as we progress with our plan, more and more people will understand what we are really up to and will join with us, and their support will accelerate the momentum of the project. Once the groundwork for the referendum has been completed, it will be the very strength and power of the democratic system itself that causes the downfall of those who now manipulate that power for their own corrupt purposes.

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