

### Censorship

Section 2.b of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms reads;

Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms;

(b) Freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication;

Although we live in a free and open society, and despite constitutional protection, challenges to our own as well as other's personal freedoms are a constant reality. The act of **Censorship** is one such challenge to our fundamental freedoms that we are most familiar with because of the extensive role media plays in our lives. A recent example of censorship occurred on January 12<sup>th</sup> 2011 when Canada's Broadcast Standards Council ruled that the Dire Straits' musical hit from 1985 "Money for Nothing" should be censored because of the homosexual slur "Faggot" in its lyrics. Another recent example of censorship can be seen by a publishing firm's decision to remove the word "Nigger" from Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* after years of controversy. In both cases, debate is heating up over the censorship of language which, although undeniably offensive and politically incorrect, is a reflection of society at the time each was created.

**Be it resolved that... The recent censorship of the words "Faggot" from "Money for Nothing" by Dire Straits and the word "Nigger" from "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain are justified and necessary.**

#### A few suggested readings for both the Affirmative and Negative:

Press Release - Use of Derogatory Word for Gays in a Song Breaches Broadcast Codes, Says Canadian Broadcast Standards Council: <http://www.cbsc.ca/english/documents/prs/2011/110112.php>

You Tube - Huckleberry - Song for Banned Books Week 2008:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNBMgmfaXxk&feature=player\\_embedded#!](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNBMgmfaXxk&feature=player_embedded#!)

WorldNews.com – Defending Huckleberry Finn: [http://article.wn.com/view/2011/01/13/Defending\\_Huckleberry\\_Finn/](http://article.wn.com/view/2011/01/13/Defending_Huckleberry_Finn/)

The Canadian Encyclopedia – Censorship:

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1ARTA0001478>

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms: [http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/charter/1.html#anchorbo-ga:l\\_l-gb:s\\_1](http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/charter/1.html#anchorbo-ga:l_l-gb:s_1)



**The Peace Bridge**

In September of 2008 Calgary City Council approved the construction of a pedestrian bridge over the Bow River west of Prince's Island Park. The location of the bridge is designed to create a convenient link for users of Calgary's pathway system and pedestrians wishing to travel between the Sunnyside LRT Station and central downtown destinations. The bridge was designed by award-winning and world renowned architect and bridge designer Santiago Calatrava and is estimated to cost a total of over \$20 million dollars. Currently, the bridge is 10 months behind schedule and planned to be completed by June of 2011. During the delay, the "Peace Bridge" has become an increasingly divisive issue amongst Calgarians. Many believe that the bridge could have been constructed for far less than its staggering \$20 million dollar price tag while others believe that there are more important issues for the city to tackle. Collectively, those in disagreement are unified under the belief that the bridge is nothing more than a symbol of unnecessary and irresponsible public spending. However, there are many others who see the construction of the bridge, and its price tag as necessary, citing that world class architecture is just one step Calgary must take to attract attention and become the "global city" it has for so long aimed at becoming.

**Be it resolved that... The price the City of Calgary paid for the "Peace Bridge" is not only acceptable, but a necessary step towards becoming an internationally recognized "Global City".**

**A few suggested readings for both the Affirmative and Negative:**

City of Calgary Website:

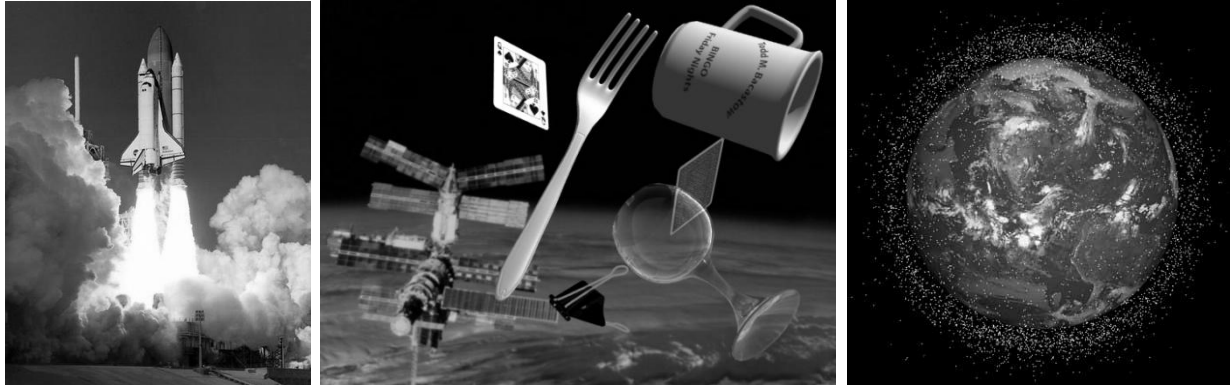
[http://www.calgary.ca/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\\_0\\_0\\_104\\_0\\_0\\_35/http%3B/content.calgary.ca/CCA/City+Hall/Business+Units/Transportation+Infrastructure/Construction+Projects/Bridges/Peace+Bridge/Peace+Bridge.htm](http://www.calgary.ca/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_0_104_0_0_35/http%3B/content.calgary.ca/CCA/City+Hall/Business+Units/Transportation+Infrastructure/Construction+Projects/Bridges/Peace+Bridge/Peace+Bridge.htm)

Calgary Herald Online - Calgary's \$24.5M footbridge unveiled to cheers, jeers:

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/Calgary+footbridge+unveiled/1837221/story.html>

Architect Santiago Calatrava's Website:

<http://www.calatrava.com/#>



**Space Junk**

There are many issues which plague the world, and many center around the concept of sustainability. Perhaps the most visible and perhaps even most troubling of these issues is the amount of garbage produced by the planet every year. In the United States alone in 2001, Americans collectively disposed of 409 million tons of non hazardous waste. In Canada, statistics on garbage disposal put the average amount produced per Canadian per year at just over 1 ton. On average, 35% of waste is recycled in North America, with an average of 65% ending up in landfills, rivers, the ocean, or out on the street. As the global population increases, garbage is rapidly becoming one of, if not the greatest challenge facing the planet. Reducing, Reusing and Recycling efforts are helping, but simply aren't helping enough. One possible solution to the garbage problem that has been suggested is to launch the garbage into space, beyond Earth's gravitational pull and hopefully, if possible, directly into the sun. This proposition carries with it immense challenges and costs, however if the garbage problem on this planet gets bad enough, it may be our only hope.

**Be it resolved that... the best way to deal with the garbage we can't managed to recycle, incinerate, compost, bury or convert into energy is to launch it into space.**

**A few suggested readings for both the Affirmative and Negative:**

Space.com – Space Junk Problem Detailed:  
<http://www.space.com/7279-space-junk-problem-detailed.html>

Windows to the future – Junk in Space:  
[http://www.windows2universe.org/games/junk\\_intro.html](http://www.windows2universe.org/games/junk_intro.html)

Physicsforums.com – NASA offers reward for trash removal:  
<http://www.physicsforums.com/showthread.php?t=164952>

Satellitepollution.com:  
<http://satellitepollution.com/articles.html>

North American Space Association- NASA for Students:  
<http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/index.html>



**Cellphones in the Classroom**

Unquestionably one of the most controversial issues amongst students is the restriction of cellphone use in school. Alongside cellphones, students are often restricted in their use of MP3 players or handheld gaming devices while in school. Just as they are while driving, cellphones are often a distraction to their user – especially when they are supposed to be paying attention to something more important than texting their friends. There are several assertions to the positive role cellphones can play inside the classroom, however many of these assertions are unfounded and untrue. Cellphone use in schools can be linked to reduced performance, lessened attention span, cheating, and bullying. Still, students continue to use their electronic devices despite the fact they have been told not to.

**Be it resolved that... Cellphones and other handheld technologies are a distraction that takes away from the learning environment of a classroom; Cellphones should not be allowed in the classroom.**

**A few suggested readings for both the Affirmative and Negative:**

Chalktalk.wordpress.com – Teens and cellphones: some startling statistics:

<http://chalkandtalk.wordpress.com/2009/11/27/teens-and-cellphones-some-startling-statistics-2/>

BC Teachers' Federation - Education and technology; Cell phones: to ban or not to ban:

<http://bctf.ca/publications/NewsmagArticle.aspx?id=14906>

Suite101.com - Cell Phones and the Classroom: Schools and Parents Should Adopt Clear Policies to Benefit All:

<http://www.suite101.com/content/cell-phones-and-the-classroom-a12470>

Readwriteweb.com - Cellphones in the Classroom: Distraction or Tool?:

[http://www.readwriteweb.com/archives/cellphones\\_in\\_the\\_classroom\\_distraction\\_or\\_tool.php#](http://www.readwriteweb.com/archives/cellphones_in_the_classroom_distraction_or_tool.php#)

Wired.com – Cellphones in the Classroom: Bad Idea, Inevitable, or both:

<http://www.wired.com/geekdad/2010/09/cellphones-in-the-classroom-bad-idea-inevitable-or-both/>

Global News; Toronto – McGuinty open to cell phones in the classroom

<http://www.globaltoronto.com/McGuinty+open+cellphones+classroom/3530207/story.html>

Cell phone usage in teens:

[http://www.ehow.com/about\\_6374501\\_cell-phone-usage-teens.html](http://www.ehow.com/about_6374501_cell-phone-usage-teens.html)



### **Cruelty to Animals**

One of our society's greatest obligations is to protect those who can not protect themselves. Most commonly we witness this through social welfare programs, financial aid, food banks, shelters, and deeply rooted within the law that governs our country. This same obligation to protect those who can not protect themselves even extends to animals through laws which prohibit and punish animal cruelty. Despite this commitment and obligation, there are still many atrocities which occur every day against animals in Canada which range from the obvious to the less obvious ie: the seal hunt, the Calgary stampede, circuses, and even pet-hoarding. Animal activists are constantly fighting an uphill battle, and are often at the mercy of the apathetic, and perhaps even the legal system which could be doing more to deter cruelty to animals.

**Be it resolved that... Animals should have greater protection under the law and more equal rights to humans than they currently do.**

#### **A few suggested readings for both the Affirmative and Negative:**

AnimalCruelty.com

<http://www.animalcruelty.com/>

Duhaime.org – Cruelty to Animals:

<http://www.duhaime.org/LegalResources/CriminalLaw/LawArticle-135/Animal-Cruelty-Law-Canada.aspx>

Alberta Farm Animal Care – Criminal Code of Canada Cruelty to Animals Bill:

<http://www.afac.ab.ca/lawsregs/crueltyanimals.htm>

\*\*Bill S-203 is opposed by the vast majority of Canadians and all animal protection groups from across Canada.

World Society for the Protection of Animals:

<http://www.wspa.ca/>

CBC.ca – The Fifth Estate; Cruel Camera:

<http://www.cbc.ca/fifth/cruelcamera/>

CATCA - Campaigns Against The Cruelty to Animals:

<http://www.catcahelpanimals.org/>

Dailymail.co.uk - Cruelty to animals soaring due to 'affluent, throwaway society' says RSPCA:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1039748/Cruelty-animals-soaring-affluent-throwaway-society-says-RSPCA.html>