

## [We Need To Grow A Spine](#)

Saturday, December 13, 2008 at 8:21am

### **You are solely responsible for your own well-being**

If there's one thing I've learned this year, it's that every single advertisement, offer *ordeal* is all about taking your money and giving you something that's worth less. Unfortunately, most people don't realize that. It's as though we really think somebody's trying to do us a favor.

I've never looked at a flyer, or read any bank offers without a grain of salt. Nobody cares about you; they just want your money. If I had a company, I think I'd be the same way. Tell me the name of a single person who is completely satisfied with the fees and services from telecommunications companies alone.

You see, when you can check out [how your MP voted](#) on every bill, and see that they've voted Absent on half of the ballots, you'll know you don't have somebody who cares about you in office.

How about the [cure for cancer](#) developed at the U of Alberta that nobody wants to fund? Have you not heard? They won't pursue it because it isn't profitable.

### **Here's how to grow a spine: Stay informed, and discuss it with others**

I cannot stress the importance of both. Speaking about issues with others, eventually *will* promote action for your idea.

When you actually hear of disgusting shit [like this](#), write to your MLA. When they think their jobs are on the line, you'll see change. Write to the paper. You don't have to be a good writer—even a small paragraph will do. It's the fact that you took the time to send *any* letter at all that shows you care. If somebody thinks they will lose their job or profits, they'll respond accordingly.

### **If I were a politician...**

I can just imagine it now: I'd set a maximum timeframe for all insurance companies to settle claims, say to within three years and cap premium levels. Those who have been in accidents are fully aware of the Hell of making a claim, and only receiving a percentage because insurance companies wait several years while claimers remain in agony. I'm sure they'd all threaten to leave the province, they'll blackmail and bribe. I'd go ahead anyway, and they'll stay because there's still a ton of money to be made. In the wise words of my father:

Fucking *duh*.

**Edit:** Changed MP to MLA after stating what is clearly a provincial issue.



[Nick Dzedzic](#) at 8:32am December 13  
TESTIFY! :) Well said, Andrew.

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



[Michael Leukert](#) at 12:00pm December 13

i was too busy to go to the anti-surveillance demonstration in the city today. 4 million videocameras watch public areas in britain...we dont want that in germany. but i was too busy...too bad we have the american style of university degrees now. always busy.

successful, but too busy.



[Sarah Burke](#) at 5:38pm December 13

I agree with many of the opinions you express in your notes/posts/blogs; however, I cannot help but bring attention to a couple points you made about MPs.

In terms of how our MPs vote - or not as you are implying - in the House of Commons, I have to say that most of the work that happens on 'The Hill' doesn't happen in the House. When they vote ... Read More in there, most MPs ask their desk partner what the bill is about; when they speak, they often receive their speaking notes moments before the debate begins. I've seen staffers rushing around the lobbies, waiting for the notes to be faxed in and brought to the MP by a page. So, don't necessarily look to CPAC, the Hansard, or other non-parliamentary stats to judge if someone is rightfully representing you in the House of Commons... unfortunately. But maybe look toward other things they have done to represent their constituents at the regional and federal caucus, in committees or in other projects they have undertaken.

As for writing to my MP about NB Power issues, I'm pretty sure he'd return my letter with a nice note about contacting my MLA. I agree that it's important to make our voices heard to our representatives through direct letters, faxes, emails, phone calls or through the media. However, our voices are better heard when they reach the appropriate people.

Good note... can't wait to discuss issues over the holidays!



[Andrew Manderson](#) at 5:54pm December 13

You're totally right, Sar. I kind of feel silly for letting my emotions publish the note right away, as opposed to letting it sit for a little while. I'll edit the note on the MLP/MLA mixup now.

Thanks for the insight on Parliament Hill. I definitely learned from it =)

Cheers Hzi. Talk to you soon!