

OPINION EDITORIAL

REPEAT OFFENDERS + CCTV CAMERAS

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by Lindsay Wincherauk

(665 Words)



*A man commits 500 crimes and is still on the street.
Civic Leaders debate if more CCTV cameras will reduce crime.*

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I turn on the news.

STORY 1

A man who has committed hundreds of offences is still on the street.

Politicians are up in arms → citizens walk the streets in fear.

How can this be?

Violence is everywhere.

We must get a handle on it.

Keep our people safe.

Keep our people scared.

Get re-elected.

A task force is created.

A town hall is organized.

Oh, please.

How stunned are we?

A man commits hundreds of offences, and he's still on the streets.



Collectively, can we find a solution? A solution to greed and poverty?
Don't answer; it's rhetorical.

One apple costs \$2.00.

A cup (without coffee) 25 cents.

Solutions are hard to come by.

So, we stick our heads in the sands.

2 *Are we all living in a state of denial by not acknowledging the real culprits are mental health, addiction, depression, inflation →, and the bloody gap between 'have' and 'have not'?*

Could the man with hundreds of offences be trying desperately to end his homelessness, starvation, and struggles, by committing crimes to get indoors?

STEAL: a slap on the wrist.

PUNCH A STRANGER IN THE FACE: a slap on the wrist.

FRAUD: a slap on the wrist.

What do I have to do to get inside?

Three Hundred More Crimes: slap.

What do I have to do?

STORY 2

Should we increase the number of CCTV cameras to capture criminals?

A heated debate is about to ensue.

Frick, → a man, commits hundreds of offences and he's still not helped (he's left on his own to struggle as he desperately tries to survive). We seem to already be capturing the criminals.

Wouldn't more cameras only lead to more slaps?

Don't we need to address the root of the problem instead of creating fear and then debating the best thing to do to calm the fear we've created?

*Does anyone else see the irony in **television** news reporting on CCTV cameras?*



STORY 3

A man on an Abbotsford bus is caught assaulting other passengers.

Slap.

3

We're failing.

HOW ABOUT THIS

1. Regardless of societal standing, every citizen has the inalienable right to modest housing with a private bath.
2. Regardless of societal standing, every citizen has the inalienable right to fresh, nutritious food delivered to their homes weekly.

I know what the pundits would think. They'd think it would lead to a lazy population. The loudest would scream **I WORKED HARD FOR EVERYTHING.**

It has been drilled into us we're all created equal.

Oh, please.

Have you heard of birthright, entitlement, and privilege?

In reality, we are only created equal in spirit; everything else is bullshit. The bottom rung is as high as many will ever climb. If we treated all citizens with dignity and a modicum of kindness, addiction and crime rates would free fall. And, the streets would become safer, cleaner, and a better place.

THE ALTERNATIVES

- More wrist slaps
- More prisons built
- More divisiveness
- More despair, addiction, + mental health issues
- More crime
- More endless debates
- More stigma

I lost my 15-year-career at the start of Covid just as I was about to turn 60. Ever since I've been watching my life savings spiral down the drain. I'm fucking scared. Homelessness and the stigma attached to it are a possibility.

If I end up homeless, I cannot say I won't commit a crime (out of desperation) in hopes to be moved indoors. I don't think the lost souls in need of compassion and empathy care if there is a story on the news about them being repeat offenders. The crimes they (or he) committed are definitely despicable and need to be addressed. But c'mon, most words drift into the ether only to be replaced by the next news cycle or a CCTV camera scaring us with a story of a man on a bus.

Whew. Thankfully, the man is new to the area → I'm not sure how that makes the story better?

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LAST THOUGHTS TODAY

Maybe it is time we stopped labelling each other.

Once someone is labelled homeless, how can they possibly not commit another crime?

www.lindsaywincherauk.com

CONTACT INFORMATION

LINDSAY WINCHERAUK

Author/Journalist/Photographer

1001-1225 Richards Street

Vancouver, BC

V6B 1E6

www.lindsaywincherauk.com

lindsaywin@outlook.com

778.329.3820