



Lindsay WINCHERAUK

GUEST SHOT: 2 MAY 2007

WE MUST KEEP US ALL IN MIND

Unlimited growth increases the divide

- Del Mar Hotel

These words are emblazoned on the front of the Del Mar Hotel on Hamilton Street, suggest our way of life may hang precariously close to the point of instability.

I can't help but think, have we finally reached a breaking point where something must give—our wallets have thinned to the end of absurdity.

THE FACTORS AT PLAY

Housing, fuel and food costs—all necessities for continual indoor living. The messages are mixed. We are told in Vancouver that we need 74 percent of household income for our mortgages, while articles claim it's a myth to think the market will crash and come tumbling down.

We're left with 26 percent of our income for fuel, clothing, electricity, food, savings, leisure, charitable donations, and Canucks pay-per-view.

THEN BAM

Gas rises and every product relying on transport rises accordingly.

Can you feel it—our wallets + purses filling with air as they suck the last coins out.

Where do we cut the fat?

Thanks to the Canucks, we start with charity.

NEXT

Climate change and the thirst for luxury in developing nations have placed a tremendous burden on the supply of our staple foods.

IN THE NEWS

Food riots have broken out in some impoverished nations, yet we just stick our heads in the sand, believing we're immune to these problems.

THEN BAM

Housing and gas prices rise again, and those who barely hold on fall or are pushed down another rung of society's ladder and become the working poor...change that... working homeless.

Don't believe me?

I transport several working homeless to construction jobs every day, the keywords: Every day.

For most, the thoughts of living in one of the towers help build are nothing more than a pipe dream, as they have little fat left to cut.

Housing, Fuel and food, how much more can we take?

Have we reached a perfect storm of economic conditions where society fractures?

I think the Del Mar Hotel's pearls of wisdom are highlighted for all to see as we move toward the Olympics.

We wonder why despair and drug addiction run rampant on our streets.

Isn't it obvious?

We need to put humans first over profit.

I suggest we start with family.

As the DTES gentrifies, despair is being spread.

Last year, it filled the park across the street from my home with homeless pot smokers.

This year, they're smoking crack.

WHO IS LINDSAY WINCHERAUK?

Lindsay Wincherauk is a fearless writer. He has published two books and has had more than eighteen OPEDs appear in major commuter newspapers. Lindsay wasn't born with a silver spoon in his mouth. His father (who wasn't his father) worked as a mechanic. His mother (who wasn't his mother) worked as an excellent chef in a diner. In fact, his birth was in a secret place where | society deemed | unfit mothers were sent to give birth in isolation — shading families from shame. If the babies survived being born, usually, they were sold to wealthy Americans or adopted out to farm families.

Lindsay's life began with a lie.

Despite Lindsay's perilous beginnings, starting with deception, Lindsay knew no better and went through life excelling at things, usually in two-year stints. Be that athletics (hall of fame, record holding, one-eyed quarterback), scholastically, career-wise (generating more than \$70 million in revenue for one company), socially, + without question: creatively!

Lindsay's challenging beginning instilled in Lindsay heaping doses of compassion and empathy. Lindsay's life starting out as a lie gave him a keen sense to spot BS from miles away. It also provided him with a dry sense of humour and an understanding those born with silver spoons in their mouths will never be self-aware enough to understand (or admit) their good fortune.

During Lindsay's work career, he was well-liked by all coworkers. Lindsay was also well respected by his diverse collection of clients, developing several fantastic friendships, primarily because Lindsay is known for his unflinching integrity and ability to hold conversations on most topics.

Lindsay's life mantra is:

The most valuable part of life is the fabulous people we meet during our journeys. If you treat people with respect (leaving judgment at the door), and more importantly, by opening doors for those less fortunate or who can't speak up for themselves, you are living a good, compassionate life. Making money at all costs is not the only thing mattering. Life can be difficult + devastatingly unfair.

Lindsay believes sharing vulnerability is what makes us human. Lindsay will never shy away from being honest about his pain.

Lindsay also believes we must stand up for ourselves, + more importantly, for those who are too burdened by the injustices of life, they can't find the strength to stand up for themselves.

SOME THINGS LINDSAY IS MOST PROUD OF ARE WHEN:

- A sixty-year-old employee of his, who had entered a point of life where life had become more struggle than joy (it happens to all of us as we age), said to Lindsay, *"I must thank you. I've listened to how you treat people, + by listening, I've learned so much about compassion and patience. Thank you. I consider you a great friend."*
- Another employee who was struggling with addiction thanked Lindsay for his kindness, presenting Lindsay with a Christmas card from him and his girlfriend. Tucked inside the card: lottery tickets.

LINDSAY WINCHERAUK, *compassionate, empathetic, well-read, kind, blessed with unflinching integrity, humour in balance, loved by coworkers + friends alike.*

Lindsay will always stick up for the underdog. Lindsay understands there are countless older people suffering job loss because COVID gave some companies an opportunity to — Lindsay thinks it is essential to draw attention to this life-threatening issue by being the voice for those too broken to speak up for themselves.

Lindsay is currently pitching four manuscripts to publishers and literary agencies. One of the manuscripts (he can't talk about) will blow the roof off the predatory practices of — Lindsay is writing relentlessly and is also pitching OPEDs and short stories, fiction, + non to literary magazines around the globe.

Lindsay has appeared on Breakfast Television, radio programs in Montreal, + several others in the Vancouver area. Lindsay has also been a featured guest on CKNW + CBC, both on several occasions. And Lindsay was a vital witness of a Hate Crime. This led to the first Hate Crime conviction in Canadian legal history, resulting in him being a speaker at an Enough is Enough Rally (anti-violence rally) with dignitaries, politicians, law enforcement, and community leaders in front of a crowd of approximately five thousand.

Lindsay was the **#1 MIXED-TAPE DJ** at the **UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN** for most of the nineteen-eighties, a fact bringing him joy.

Lindsay resides in Vancouver.
