



## Lindsay WINCHERAUK

GUEST SHOT: 8 JUNE 2007

### MINDING THE GAP MINDING THE GAP

What happened?

We have security guards in our grocery stores protecting the food.  
We have police officers impersonating journalists so that they can arrest anti-poverty activists who use intimidation tactics and vandalism to push their agenda.

Gentrification of the DTES has begun a process where the pain and suffering of addiction, consequence, and neglect have started to spread throughout the city to the point where you can't walk through any park, at least in the downtown core, without literally stepping over bodies.

The body count continues during a simple journey to the store as people sleep on the sidewalks all over town. A man with his hand out opens the door at a convenience store. On the way out, I wait for the door to open automatically. *The man is gone.*

If you live downtown, Clipboard People ask you every day, *Do you have time?*

I lie, I just want to go to the store.

On the way, you pass protesters in front of a chicken restaurant trying to organize a boycott; the staff inside just want to earn a few dollars.

Speculators buy multiple units of condominium projects and play a big-money game of *"flip this house."*

At the same time, we're trying to find solutions for homelessness.

No wonder homelessness is now at our doorsteps.

Perhaps, if residential real estate weren't for-profit, homelessness would be significantly reduced. Dare to dream.

*How can we call ourselves free when the water that we drink comes from some factory?*

- The Swollen Members

Some make fortunes off the sweat of the less fortunate – live in penthouses, drive fancy cars, and at the same time forget who really gave them the keys.

I think I need to stop looking if I want to keep smiling.

Vancouver is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful cities globally, world-class.

We seem to have forgotten what's truly important: people, including us, the tourists, and those less fortunate – who happen to be brothers and sisters.

*Maybe the walk to the store has made us all cold and bitter. Have we become self-absorbed?*

## THE SOLUTION

We can't welcome the world with open arms unless we start being kinder to each other; therefore, smile, drop the attitude, and when you're buying your water, realize some aren't as lucky as you.

The announcer shouts out in London's Underground, "*Mind the Gap.*" I'm not so sure if Vancouver, is minding ours.

**WE HAVE SECURITY GUARDS IN OUR GROCERY STORES PROTECTING THE FOOD**

## 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.

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