

Rees' Pieces

Root of troubles: Five Words

There are five words, which, depending how they are used, are the basic cause of our current economic woes. If correct, it demonstrates we, ourselves, are the initial cause of inflation and we have the power to stop it.

In this role of "**understanding**" let's look at the dictionary - Wikipedia definition of each word:

Demand: In economics, demand is the quantity of a good that consumers are willing and able to purchase at various prices during a given period of time. The relationship between price and quantity demand is also called the demand curve. *Wikipedia*

Greed: Greed is an uncontrolled longing for increase in the acquisition or use of material gain; or social value, such as status, or power. Greed has been identified as undesirable throughout known human history because it creates behavior-conflict between personal and social goals. *Wikipedia*

Need: A need is dissatisfaction at a point of time and in a given context. Needs are distinguished from wants. In the case of a need, a deficiency causes a clear adverse outcome: a dysfunction or death. *Wikipedia*

Supply: In economics, supply is the amount of a resource that firms, producers, labourers, providers of financial assets, or other economic agents are willing and able to provide to the marketplace or to an individual. Supply can be in produced goods, labour time, raw materials, or any other scarce or valuable object. *Wikipedia*

Want: The idea of want can be examined from many perspectives. In secular societies want might be considered similar to the emotion desire, which can be studied scientifically through the disciplines of psychology or sociology. *Wikipedia*. (Perhaps consider using - **DESIRE:** Desires are states of mind that are expressed by terms like "wanting", "wishing", "longing" or "craving". A great variety of features is commonly associated with desires. They are seen as propositional attitudes towards conceivable states of affairs. *Wikipedia*).

Already you might feel I am off my "rocker", for suggesting we can control or influence inflation.

As consumers have far more control than we give ourselves credit.

This fight with inflation can be linked to problems caused by CoVid-19. Let's see what has evolved during CoVid-19. (Applies to all categories of employment: manufacturing, farming, forestry, fishing, restaurants, schools or hospitals).

People got sick or scared - less workers in major manufacturing plants or farmers. Plants shut down and produced less. Ocean Transport (containers), less crew to man cargo ships. When they arrived in port, less teamsters to off load containers. Truckers were restricted, resulting in less trucks available for deliveries, or it took longer. Retail stores were forced to close. General public / consumers were forced to isolate and not permitted to go shopping; became, "Shack Wacky".

People were forced to isolate and keep away from friends. When restrictions were reduced they "went wild".

Semiconductors are in short supply. Wait time for appliances, computers, automobiles and parts is unbelievable. Grocery items are in short supply, or selection is limited. Restaurants can't get the food selection they want, or workers for kitchen or dining room. As examples: Campbell's soup used to be on sale for 50 cents. Now it's \$1.49 per can; Kraft dinner is facing similar price increase. With the price of gasoline, be selective on your trips to the store, or car pool with a neighbour.

Now that you have the background. What is the solution to avoid inflation?

When there is a shortage of **SUPPLY**, **GREED** causes price increases. When there is a shortage our desire becomes a **NEED**. When there is a shortage, we permit ourselves to let our **WANT** anxiety to work us up to a point of **DEMAND**.

THE SOLUTION: If there is **supply** shortage, find a substitute or boycott purchasing. Turn **want** into **desire** - wait until available at favourable price. Observe patience and avoid **demand**. When you demand a product or service you are willing to pay higher price, which is **greed**. When you are greedy, you create **inflation**.

We alone can control inflation. We must eliminate pressures on Supply and Demand, turning wants into desire, purchase it is available. As a result there may be an oversupply and prices will drop.

Let's not "Keep up with the Jones". Let's change to: "We do it more economically than the Jones".

Maurice

Letters to the editor

This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.

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Letter to Editor

To the healthcare staff, physicians, patients and community members of Cumberland County:

Recently there have been concerns expressed about the future of the Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre redevelopment project in Amherst. I'm writing to let you know that this important project will continue.

In December 2020, the previous government announced a \$2.7 million investment in this project. The money was to conduct a feasibility assessment, schematic design and development work for the hospital's emergency department and a new, 12-station dialysis unit. We remain committed to this work.

It's important to do feasibility and functionality assessments before we begin a project. They

determine how we can best address the volume of patients being seen in the ED, and improve patient privacy, staff and physician safety. They also consider the demand and capacity for dialysis services, and it's important that we don't underestimate the current and future trends. They tell us how much space is needed, what the schedule will be, what services are needed, and how much it will cost.

This project is on schedule. Work on the feasibility study began in January 2021, and is on track to be completed in early 2023.

As everyone in the community is well aware, there was a flood in May at the emergency department. It continues to operate from a temporary location within the hospital. Renovations are underway to address critical

space and safety concerns within the emergency department, and these are separate from the broader redevelopment effort. They will include private exam rooms, new registration and triage areas. Those renovations are expected to be complete in the fall, but they do not replace or detract from the broader redevelopment project.

We know dialysis services are much needed in Cumberland. In April, we allocated \$900,000 to establish a temporary, six-station dialysis unit at Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre this summer. The temporary dialysis unit can support up to 16 patients when it opens, with capacity increasing to 24 patients after the first year. This temporary dialysis unit, again, does not replace or detract from the broader redevelopment effort. It also does not impact dialysis in

Springhill. The temporary unit will remain in place until the redevelopment project is complete, to ensure dialysis patients can continue to receive care close to home.

I hope this answers any questions members of your community may have about this project. Our Government is committed to it, and looking forward to seeing it become a reality.

Sincerely,
Michelle Thompson
Minister of Health and Wellness

The
Shoreline
Journal

Here's where
to find us:

BASS RIVER:
Bayside Pharmacy
Dominion Chair Factory Store

BIBLE HILL:
C.W. Fraser Pharmacy
MacQuarrie's Pharmacy
Kennedy's Deli - Ryland Ave

DEBERT:
Debert Mini-Mart

FIVE ISLANDS:
Masstown Market Five Islands

GLENHOLME:
Double "C" Truckstop

GREAT VILLAGE:
Wilson's Gas

MAITLAND:
Frieze & Roy General Store

MASSTOWN:
Masstown Market
MTM Retail Gas (Petro-Can)

MILLBROOK:
Super 8 Motel
Hampton Inn & Suites

NORTH RIVER:
Grant's Grocery

PARRSBORO:
CrossRoads Co-op
Ken's Grocery
Wright's Pharmasave

TRURO:
Atlantic Superstore
Best Western Glengarry
Holiday Inn
MacQuarrie's Pharmasave
(Esplanade)

Rath Eastlink Comm Centre
Colchester East Hants Health
Centre - Coffee Shop

**NEWSPAPERS IN
EDUCATION:**

Each classroom at the following schools will receive a copy of the Shoreline Journal:
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OP-ED

Nova Scotia Loyal Program

By Tom Taggart

(When Premier Houston attended the province-wide launch of the Nova Scotia Loyal at Masstown Market a couple months ago, he asked MLA Tom Taggart to write an OP-ED for publication in several newspapers. It is hard to explain what happens in bureaucracy, but Taggart's OP-ED never reached our desk. The following is Taggart's original version, untouched by hands in the caucus office).

Our Government is in the process of rolling out the Nova Scotia Loyal Program. It will reward those who choose to purchase Nova Scotia products. As a rural member of this Government, this is a program that I am very proud of.

Many will see this as a program to support food producers most notably farmers. I have a much different view! I believe this is a program that by supporting the food producers and farmers, we are in fact supporting ourselves and our food security.

Much is being said about food security. The war in Ukraine is a frank reminder of how critical and precarious our food supply is. However, very little is actually being done. I believe if we are not constantly aware of the need to produce our own food we will eventually end up in crisis.

To illustrate, I wish to point to recent history. Over the past 10 or 15 years we often said "we have an aging population"! How will it impact our

Mental Health Support Always Available

labour force? How will it impact our Health Care system? Will we have enough long term care beds? We only need to look at today's Health care and labour crisis to see we did not take this near seriously enough! We just focused on the problems / challenges of the day.

It is my opinion we are in that same place today with respect to food security. Whether it is as a Government struggling with Health Care/ seniors care/ homelessness or any number of provincial / national challenges, or as a society working hard to feed and house our families. Everyone has their head down working on the challenge of the day.

What is going to happen in the future?

We get a large portion of our vegetables from California or Mexico. Climate change will make that a challenge. Almost every day we hear about the drought in these food producing regions. The Rio Grand River which provides irrigation to thousands of acres of horticulture crops as it passes between Mexico and USA is in danger of running dry because of the lack of snow melt in the mountains and water removal to irrigate crops. We all see pictures of the very alarming rate of low water levels in places such as Lake Meade. There will be pressures to use that water for human consumption as opposed to growing crops. As the world population continues to grow in developing nations such as India and China, the demand for food grows, we will be challenged.

Will our friends of today be

our friends tomorrow when it is crunch time, when other country's residents start to get hungry, loyalties will change. Again, I point to the Ukraine, Europe's bread basket.

Back to my point. Supporting local food producers is in fact supporting ourselves.

A perfect example just this month. I will speak about strawberries only because I am very familiar with them but it could be potato's or carrots or beef or grains. Farmers put millions of dollars in the ground in the spring on the expectation, if they are not damaged by frost or drought or pests they will sell at a profit when in season. If they do not sell the farmer suffers. This month, as the strawberry season was just getting started there happened to be a bumper crop or a glut of berries in California, so they are dumping. At least one national retailer transported truckloads clean across North America. What about the GHG produced and sold for less than the cost of production of local berries.

When we do not support food producers, we run the risk of losing them or them not expanding.

Nova Scotia imports approximately 80% of what we eat. I genuinely believe food security will become a crisis in the not so distant future.

When we are loyal to our Nova Scotia producers, we are loyal to ourselves and our families.

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