Fear, Loathing and Your Health Freedom
Naida Geisler, General Manager, HANS

"A 4-year-old was 'growling like a dog.' A B.C. naturopath’s cure? Rabid dog saliva" Global News, Global News, April 17, 2018

"Chiropractors accused of spreading anti-vaccination theories" The National, CBC News May 3, 2018

If it's never occurred to you that our health freedoms are being played with here in BC on a provincial level, you may need to pay more attention to the headlines. Seems to me the information given to the media via government issued releases is designed to evoke fear and loathing: fear of quack practitioners cavalierly treating our children with profoundly disgusting substances or choosing complicity in the next big pandemic. The desired result? Fear creates loathing and reasonable conversation ceases. This is no more evident anywhere than around the vaccine issue.

I must admit that these headlines created fear and loathing in me as well. Fear of a provincial ministry of health and media that seems to lie in wait to pounce, exploit and sensationalize at any opportunity. Is there a concerted effort to undermine our health freedom? I don’t know, but there’s certainly a sense of entitlement to narrow the parameters of it. As an equal human with internal agency and a sense of my physical domain, this interference creates loathing.

HANS exists to empower people to make their own best health decisions; equally important is our ability to empower people to do what it takes to hang on to their health freedom.

As is the case with everything, it starts with awareness. We need to hear, discern and discard the constant barrage of messages that indirectly tell us what's wrong with us and what we're at risk of. We need to dig deeper into misleading headlines and gain a more thorough understanding of issues and hidden agendas. The solution lies in individual awakening - not one that cultivates cynicism, but one that builds each of us up to a place of power over influence.
The presence of objectified women and girls is a widespread issue and as a society we are confronted daily with images of women’s bodies used to sell products. These images reinforce the value of women and girls solely as sex objects or things, and contribute to an environment of power imbalance and gender inequality. This has consequences for all people as we struggle to situate ourselves in the gender roles defined by objectification and sexualization.

Sexualization suffers from multiple – often imprecise – definitions. At its core, sexualization is the act of placing value on a person’s appearance and sexual appeal above all other characteristics. This person then becomes an object solely for others’ sexual use and not an individual with the capacity for independent agency.

While sexualization does happen to people of all genders and ages – it is overwhelmingly targeted towards young women and children. Turn on the radio, surf social media or catch any of a range of TV shows and commercials and you will see women portrayed as sexual objects used to sell products. In addition to using sex to sell products often not relating to women (Hardee’s Burgers, Excel Gum and Sodastream to name a few), many products use this tactic to impose demeaning, damaging and devaluing sexual “ideals” and expectations on women. These contribute to the societal view of women as objects, and are also linked to the three most common mental health challenges women face: anxiety, depression and eating disorders.

Most people who I have engaged with around the issue of sexualization see it as primarily a “youth issue”. While I do agree that without media literacy skills, youth can be the most vulnerable to the sexualized messages in the media, current events have shone a glaring light on how this issue continues to surface at the highest levels of our society such as government.

YWCA Metro Vancouver’s Culture Shift project is a Status of Women Canada-funded advocacy project focused on shifting attitudes and practices that promote the sexualization and objectification of girls and women, and the glorification of hypermasculinity in boys and men. We’ve spent the last two years gathering sources, researching connections and analyzing sexualization in media. Following the release of our research, project staff have concentrated on community engagement and public education, as well as seeking out opportunities for policy implementation.

We are thrilled to be partnering with the Health Action Network Society to screen the documentary film The Illusionists. Collaborations like this allow us to amplify our message and educate the public on the harms of sexualization.

Lori Boland is the project lead for Culture Shift and can be reached at lboland@ywcavan.org or 604 895 5819. You can read more about the Culture Shift project at ywcavan.org/cultureshift.

The Illusionists
A film by Elena Rossini

From Harvard University to the halls of the Louvre Museum, passing by a cosmetic surgeon’s office in Beirut, to the heart of Tokyo’s Electric Town, The Illusionists explores how the body has become “the finest consumer object.”

The preoccupation over physical beauty is as old as time; what is different today is the central role that the pursuit of the perfect body has taken: it has become our new religion. A beautiful body is seen today as key for personal and also, more importantly, economic success for both women and men. The Illusionists explores these themes through the testimonies of sociologists, politicians, magazine editors, scientists, artists and activists in North America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia.
THE ILLUSIONISTS - POST-SCREENING DISCUSSION PANELISTS

Moderator - Tessa Russel
Acting Manager, YWCA Culture Shift - Youth Advisory - High School Mentorship

Lori Boland
Project Lead, Culture Shift Project, YWCA Metro Vancouver

Sukhi Ghuman
Media Personality, Marketing Professional Photographer, Activist

Ryan Avola
IGuy Facilitator, Saleema Noon Sexual Health Educator

Madeline Shaw
Social Entreprenuer, Co-founder Lunapads and G Day for Girls
A TALE OF IGNORANCE

By Dr. Anke Zimmerman, ND

Dr. Zimmerman's response to health official's concerns over her use of homeopathic remedy, lyssin

It's a sad day for Canada when the senior public health official of British Columbia, a medical doctor no less, causes alarm in the population by publicly expressing 'grave concern' that a homeopathic remedy made from rabies might somehow infect someone and should perhaps be removed from the market.

If Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Office, had any understanding of homeopathy, this thought would never have crossed her mind. She may be a medical doctor; however what the media has missed is that she doesn't seem to understand how rabies is transmitted.

According to the Centres for Disease Control (CDC): "Transmission of rabies virus usually begins when infected saliva of a host is passed to an uninfected animal. The most common mode of rabies virus transmission is through the bite and virus-containing saliva of an infected host. Though transmission has been rarely documented via other routes such as contamination of mucous membranes (i.e., eyes, nose, mouth), aerosol transmission, and corneal and organ transplantations." In short, the virus must enter the body through infected saliva, usually via a bite.

Homeopathic remedies don't contain any active viruses or other pathogens. They're also not administered via sharp teeth, saliva, organ transplants, etc. The remedy I administered consisted of a few medicated lactose pellets containing NO viruses of any kind.

The dissemination of this misleading information is part of a concerted, well-orchestrated attack on homeopathy worldwide.

The usual accusation is that homeopathic remedies can't possibly work because they are so diluted. They are just water, a placebo. But now the claim suddenly is that they are somehow deadly or injurious.

The thing is, homeopathy either works or it doesn't. If it's so diluted - just water or a placebo- what does it matter what it's made of, be it dog saliva, elephant's dung or badger's pubic hair?

You can't have it both ways

But considering that it could work, and in this case, did work - in fact helped a child with some behavioral and sleep issues - is not an option for the powers that be, even though it is the truth.

I would be happy to give Dr. Bonnie Henry and several hundred of her colleagues a riveting introduction to homeopathy. Once people, particularly medical doctors, understand it, they usually find it most interesting. Most doctors are highly intelligent and sincere in their pursuit of effective treatment.

Further, the media is in a feeding frenzy. Mention of a naturopath, a child, and rabid dog saliva in the same sentence certainly riles up people who don't read more than the headlines.

Where has our intelligence and attention span gone? To twitter and facebook where sound bites rule and critical thought is left in the dust? It takes more than reading and reacting to a headline or tweet to fully understand an issue or story enough to form an opinion.

The tweets and social media posts should read: "Wonderful news: Child greatly helped by a safe, effective, homeopathic remedy costing pennies. Great promise for children with behavioural and developmental disorders, a blessing for mankind."
Saturday, September 8, 2018

Optimizing your Chances of Conception - Dr. Nora Shilo, ND
Pre-Conception Cleansing - Dr. David Wang, ND, Pranin Organic
Common Pregnancy-Related Health Issues - Dr. Stephanie Peltz, ND
Homeopathy for Your Baby in Utero and Beyond - Dr. Anke Zimmerman, ND
How To Be a New Parent - Ultrasound to Newborn - Dr. Patrick Callas, ND
Natural Childbirth Options - Dr. Nora Shilo, ND

Sunday, September 9, 2018

Building Allergy Immunity in Infants - Antonina Bureacenco, CNP, OHP
Post Partum Wellness - Dr. Cathy Carlson-Rink, ND
Plant-Based Baby - Shawna Barker, RHN, Synergy Nutrition
Optimizing Your Vaccine-Related Choices - Dr. Taylor Bean, ND
Raised Good: The Lost Art of Natural Parenting - Tracy Gillett,

Tickets: $40 Per Day (ticket price includes a one-year HANS membership)
HANS Members: $30 Per Day
Available Through Eventbrite
For Information call 604.435.0512
The vaccine industry is concerned with the increasing number of “vaccine hesitant consumers” and the declining trust in the medical industry. An increasing number of parents are questioning vaccine safety, effectiveness and necessity. **In response, the medical industry has been actively lobbying governments to enact legislation to make vaccines mandatory and to remove or limit a consumer's access to religious and personal belief exemptions.**

This action by the medical industry represents a clear intent to impose this medical practice by coercion rather than consent. Will the strategy of forced vaccination increase consumer confidence and reduce “vaccine hesitancy”? Below are thoughts by a “vaccine hesitant parent” on what will work.

1. **Provide Solid Clinical Evidence of the Safety and Effectiveness of the Vaccine Schedule.**

   Parents want evidence. Producing solid, verifiable evidence of safety and effectiveness will go a long way to convincing parents to vaccinate their children. Currently there is a lack of solid scientific evidence of vaccine safety and effectiveness. Until there is clear and compelling evidence any efforts to assure vaccine hesitant parents will fail. The lack of evidence includes the following:

   - There are no long-term clinical trials that prove the safety of the current vaccine schedule.
   - Most effectiveness trials are limited to the measurement of anti-bodies in the blood rather than producing verifiable evidence that the vaccine actually prevented the targeted disease.
   - No safety trials exist that determine the safety of giving multiple vaccinations at once.
   - No large safety trials using an unvaccinated population as the control group have proven that vaccines are safe and effective.
   - The current vaccine schedule has never been tested for safety in the real world way in which the schedule is implemented.
   - No clinical proof exists to support the claim that vaccines are responsible for the decline in mortality, let alone the claim of millions of lives saved.
   - There are no biological studies that show injecting mercury is safe in any amount.
   - No clinical trials have been conducted to establish the safety of using aluminum in vaccines.

2. **Open and Honest Dialogue**

   Honesty, openness, and public accountability are important safeguards. Currently the medical industry and mainstream media actively discourage open dialogue and honest debate about vaccine safety, effectiveness and necessity. This censorship undermines confidence in the medical industry and implies there is something to hide. If trust is eroded, the vaccine program will collapse.

3. **Fully Informed Consent**

   Current efforts to increase vaccine compliance include coercion, fear-mongering, financial incentives and disincentives, punishment, restriction to education, childcare and employment, even imprisonment. The lack of fully informed consent undermines trust, erodes the doctor-patient relationship, and undermines an important safeguard to ensure products are safe and effective. When medical products are imposed by coercion rather than consent the consumer’s ability to choose what works best for them is undermined and our rights as citizens are eroded.

4. **Independent Oversight**

   Currently the medical industry is challenged by significant conflicts of interest. Federal public health agencies that are responsible for monitoring vaccine safety are also responsible for increasing vaccine uptake. And those responsible for licensing vaccines routinely benefit from the sale of vaccines. As of June 2017 all nine voting members of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization in Canada declared direct or indirect financial or intellectual conflicts of interest. There is increasing concern that our public health institutions have become instruments of corporate interests. Providing truly independent oversight will contribute to consumer confidence.
5. Vaccine Injury Compensation
Canada is the only G7 nation without a national vaccine injury compensation program. If you or your child is injured or killed by vaccination, you are on your own. It is unacceptable that Canadian parents and health consumers carry all of the risk and responsibility when vaccines cause harm or death. An independent, easily accessible, fair and transparent vaccine injury compensation program would assist in reducing vaccine hesitancy.

6. Long-Term Safety Testing
Vaccines have not been tested for carcinogenicity (the ability to cause cancer), toxicity (the ability to damage an organism), genotoxicity (the ability to damage genetic information within a cell), mutagenicity (the ability to change the genetic information of an organism), the ability to impair fertility, the impact on pregnant women and fetuses, and for long-term adverse reactions. Product information inserts make this clear. The lack of testing to determine the long-term impact of vaccination undermines confidence in industry and government claims of vaccine safety. To reduce vaccine hesitancy the vaccine schedule must be tested for long-term impact.

7. Tell the Truth About Autism Research
It is unscientific and perilously misleading for the Centre for Disease Control and Health Canada to assert that vaccines and autism have been exhaustively studied and that no connection has been found. While there are a handful of industry-funded studies that are regularly cited by critics of the vaccine-autism hypothesis, these studies examine only one vaccine product (MMR) and one vaccine ingredient (Thimerosal). It is illogical and dishonest to exonerate all vaccines, all vaccine ingredients, and the total vaccine schedule based on a handful of epidemiological studies of just one vaccine product and one vaccine ingredient. If the medical industry is committed to reducing vaccine hesitancy, it must tell the truth.

8. Provide Evidence Vaccines Improve Health
Vaccine manufacturers are not required to demonstrate vaccines actually reduce the rate of disease contraction, contagion, complication or mortality and improve health. It is simply assumed that elevated antibody levels equate to immunity despite the lack of supporting evidence. Vaccines are the only medication where evidence of improved health and absence of harm are not required before approval. This is clearly evident with the HPV, birth dose of Hep B, and influenza vaccines. To reduce vaccine hesitancy and increase confidence, evidence of vaccine effectiveness in reducing contraction, contagion, complication or mortality and improving health is necessary.

9. Conduct Vaccinated vs. Unvaccinated Studies
Most vaccine safety trials use control groups consisting of other vaccinated populations or placebos containing aluminum. These are not true placebos. The failure of the vaccine industry to use a neutral placebo undermines the integrity of Federal health agency claims that vaccines have been proven to be safe and effective. Until true vaccinated vs. unvaccinated research is conducted any claims of vaccine safety and effectiveness is an assumption and not scientifically proven.

In this fear-based scenario, the questioning voice of reason is drowned out amid the hysteria surrounding the emerging ‘killer infections,’ which are such a favorite media topic. The propagation of fear by the media and by its sources in the public health industry has resulted in a growth of power in this industry far beyond the usual checks and balances of our democracy.

~

Dr. Philip F. Incao MD
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