**Voice of the People, May 8**

**<http://thechronicleherald.ca/letters/94056-voice-of-the-people-may-8>**

**Nurses, doctors a team**

Physicians in Nova Scotia would like to acknowledge the province’s dedicated nurses during National Nursing Week (May 7 to 13).

Registered nurses, nurse practitioners and licensed practical nurses play an essential role in our health care system and are a critical part of the overall health care team. Beyond the patient­centred care they continually provide, nurses in Nova Scotia often offer the needed emotional support to patients and their families.

Whether in hospitals, community clinics, schools, private homes, doctors’ offices, nursing homes, rehabilitation centres or business/industrial work­places, the province’s nurses remain committed to providing safe, compas­sionate, competent care to patients.

Doctors and nurses work as a team to provide the best possible care to pa­tients across Nova Scotia. This partner­ship contributes to improving the health outcomes and quality of life for all Nova Scotians.

The doctors of Nova Scotia would like to thank the province’s nurses for their continued commitment and con­tributions to public safety, the health and well-being of Nova Scotians, and to the health care system.

**John Chiasson, President, Doctors Nova Scotia www. doctorsns. com**

**It’s about time**

I was amazed to hear that Nova Scotia was going to follow other provinces in regulating the cellphone business.

Most of my amazement had to do with the fact that the carriers were able to do the things they were doing. I have never run into so much “flim-flam" in my life.

Contracts were misleading, unclear, almost if they were designed to confuse the buyers while they bought a largely hidden agenda.

The companies pass off all the double-talk as if it were the most natur­al thing in the world, while purchasers were treated as idiots for having to inquire about penalties, surcharges, hidden charges, etc.

These companies should be ashamed. The government should be ashamed for letting these tactics be employed for such a long time.

**Peter McCurdy, Halifax**

Voice of the People, May 8

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/letters/94384-voice-of-the-people-may-9>

**Negative message**

I believe in diversity, freedom of speech and the freedom to openly speak about our individual faiths. Yet I felt bad about the message “Life is wasted without Jesus” on a Christian student’s T-shirt. My feelings and my beliefs seemed out of line, until I realized that the student may be a Christian, but his T-shirt is not a Christian T-shirt.

Rev. Ian Harrison’s May 6 letter pointed out the same, now obvious, point. The T-shirt’s message has the word Jesus in it, but that doesn’t make it a Christian message anymore than a message with the word devil in it makes it a satanic message. The message is a negative one because it refutes other religious beliefs. I am embarrassed that non-Christians might think this message is a Christian message. It in no way represents my beliefs.

Jesus is not the issue here. The medium is the message. The medium is negativity. The message is if Jesus is not in your life, your life is a waste. The message is intolerance.

I would like to thank William Swinimer for beginning a conversation about all people feeling open to express themselves. I agree wholeheartedly with your asserting your right to express your love for Jesus, Buddha, Allah, or no one. When your message is a loving one, I will support it.

**H.A. Martin, Dartmouth**

**Re-read teachings**

Apparently, William Swinimer hasn’t actually read Jesus’ teaching as recorded in the Bible. Jesus never said anyone’s life was wasted, though He did criticize some folk — namely the ones who insisted they could divide the world into worthy people and unworthy people.

And anyone with even a passing acquaintance with Scripture knows that Jesus was also criticized for spending time with, and even sharing meals with, people labelled as “sinners” by the self-righteous people of that day. You can look it up!

**Rev. Glenn Cooper, Pictou**

**Eating crow?**

It has been a full year since Stephen Harper and his Conservatives won a majority in the last election. The country hasn’t disintegrated. The sky hasn’t fallen. The economy is not in ruins. Jobs are coming to Atlantic Canada. Combat troops are out of Afghanistan. Crime rates are dropping. A lot of good has been done by this government and with at least three more years, a lot more policies of benefit to all Canadians will see fruition.

Mr. Harper is not the best PM we have ever had, nor is he anywhere near the worst. I hope all the pessimists who insisted on the idiotic labels like dictator, tyrant or autocrat are enjoying the taste of crow.

It’s moronic to actually believe that a group of Canadians elected by Canadians would actually govern in a way as to destroy our Canadian fabric. I trust that now this hateful rhetoric will be toned down. Shame on those who would continue their diatribes based on political bigotry.

**Ken Whitehead, Dartmouth**

**Laws wrong before**

Kudos to MP Stephen Woodworth for continuing to strive for the recognition of when human life begins. Just because the law says that some humans are not human, it does not mean we ought to accept that proposition. History certainly supports that laws have been wrong before. Take, for examples:

Virginia Supreme Court, 1858: “In the eyes of the law … the slave is not a person.”

George Canfield, American Law Review, 1881: “An Indian is not a person within the meaning of the Constitution.”

Supreme Court of Canada, 1928: “The meaning of ‘qualified persons’ does not include women.”

German Supreme Court decision, 1936: “The Reichsgericht itself refused to recognize Jews … as ‘persons’ in the legal sense.”

Supreme Court of Canada, 1997: “The law of Canada does not recognize the unborn child as a legal person possessing rights.”

It’s time to have this discussion!

**Ellen C. Chesal, Fall River**