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Vaccination and the struggle for health freedom

By Edda West –

Thirty years ago, a small group of determined parents won their fight against the Ontario government's 'mandatory' Immunization of School Pupils Act. The two year lobby effort culminated in an amendment to the Act on December 14, 1984 giving parents the right to obtain legal vaccine exemptions for their children for reasons of 'conscience or sincerely held convictions'¹. On this thirtieth anniversary, it seems fitting to revisit the events that brought about this victory and the long road we've travelled since.

Absent any public consultation or discussion in the media prior to its passage in 1982, the new law was foisted on the public as a 'fait accompli'. It required all school children be vaccinated against six diseases - diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, or prove they had natural immunity.² The haste with which it was hustled through the legislature was highly unusual and left many people blindsided, especially the families whose children had been injured by vaccines and those who were philosophically opposed to vaccination. Although medical and religious exemptions were permitted under the new law, few people had religious affiliations that opposed vaccination, and medical exemptions were difficult if not impossible to obtain even if a child had suffered overt vaccine damage. Many faced the possibility that their children wouldn't be able to attend school.

The new law threatened our most basic human right - the right of autonomy over our own bodies and the right to self determination. It violated our fundamental Constitutional guarantees of 'freedom of conscience' and 'security of the person'. Government had suddenly gotten bossier, pushier and nastier and had just made a bold move toward medical tyranny. The new legislation gave the government the power to threaten our children's education if we refused to medicate them according to their rules. At stake was our most sacred right - the right to determine what is best for our children and to protect them from harm.

It didn't take long for public anger to swing into action and the Committee Against Compulsory Vaccination was formed in protest of this oppressive new law. We were a small group of parents with little political clout, but soon realized that on our side was the newly patriated Constitution of Canada and the human rights enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Two years of lobby efforts, numerous meetings with Ministry of Health officials and submission of briefs culminated in victory and amendment of the Act. Our legal argument was based on the unconstitutionality of the Immunization of School Pupils Act and its violation of the right to freedom of conscience and security of the person.

This quote, taken from the eloquent Brief we presented to the government, is as relevant and inspiring today as it was 30 years ago;

"The state has no business telling us what we must think, believe, read, eat or what medicines we and our children must take. Such imposed conformity is antithetical to the ideals of a free society. The state acts completely illegitimately

when, for instance, it compels us all to accept the tenets of a particular religion. And the government acts with equal illegitimacy when it decides what particular medical point of view all individuals in society must accept and adopt. Such a question is in the realm of culture and there are, understandably, a great variety of opinions about which methods are best as there are varieties of opinions on other cultural matters. There is no room in a free society for a state-mandated medical dogma which we all must accept.”³

Perpetuating the ‘mandatory’ vaccination lie

Although our victory in Ontario many years ago set an important legal precedent that dissuaded most other provinces from similar attempts to legislate ‘mandatory’ vaccination, government health bureaucracies have never stopped trying to force vaccines on the people. Parents are still lied to and told, “*your child must be vaccinated to attend school or daycare*” – even in provinces where no legislation exists governing immunization of children. The ‘mandatory’ vaccination mantra drones on and on, and unless parents are somewhat politically savvy, they are easily duped by the lies.

Complicit in perpetuating the ‘mandatory’ vaccination lie is mainstream media that willingly prints the disinformation handed them by health officials about vaccine mandates and threats of school suspensions if student vaccine records lag behind. For decades, media articles have consistently omitted mention of legal vaccine exemptions leading the public to believe that vaccination is mandatory for school attendance. When we filed a complaint with the Ontario Ombudsman a few years ago, along with a thick dossier of media articles threatening school suspensions, we hoped for an intervention that would direct health units to include facts about vaccine exemptions in their media press releases. At the Ombudsman’s suggestion we met with officials at Ontario’s Ministry of Health & Long Term Care (MOHLTC) to request full disclosure of availability of vaccine exemptions in all government literature. So far, the meeting and back and forth dialogue has changed nothing.

On its immunization web pages⁴, the MOHLTC uses language that implies vaccination is mandatory for school attendance; only a few brief sentences vaguely allude to exemptions. The Act itself does not contain the word ‘mandatory’. Instead of providing links to both the Act and exemption forms⁵, people are directed to contact their local health units where they will then be challenged and forced to defend their right to obtain the vaccine exemption forms. Rather than enable people to read the legal instrument that governs vaccine policies, the government prefers to keep the public in the dark about its legal right to refuse vaccines. As such, the people remain obediently compliant with the manipulated version of the law.

The Mature Minor doctrine

The “mature minor” doctrine is another insidious legal maneuver used by public health officials to coerce underage children to submit to vaccines, usually in the school setting. Children as young as 10 or 11 can be vaccinated without parental knowledge or consent. The “mature minor” clause is incorporated into most health care Acts in Canada and permits under age children to make their own decision about vaccines, obtain birth control and abortions.

Every year parents contact us, outraged that their children have been vaccinated without their consent. Recently an Ontario mother informed us that her 11 year old son had been injected with hepatitis B vaccine and meningococcal vaccine without her consent. The child was threatened with suspension if he didn't get the shots and had to sign a consent form fearing he would be barred from school if he didn't comply. He wasn't given any information about the risks and side effects of the vaccines, nor given the option of a legal vaccine exemption. His consent was not informed and was obtained by coercion which violates Ontario's Health Care Consent Act - the same Act that bizarrely also enables the medical treatment of minor children without parental consent.

The "mature minor" doctrine usurps parental authority giving governments the power to coerce children into making health care decisions that conflict with family values. Every reasonable person knows that an 11 year old child does not have the maturity or life experience to evaluate the risks or benefits of receiving one or multiple vaccines. A child this young is incapable of making an informed decision about complex medical issues. Added to this insult is the pro-vaccine propaganda disseminated in the public school system which paints a rosy picture of vaccines without disclosing the very real risks of injury from a vaccine. It is one of the most challenging vaccine issues we face in Canada.

The disconnect between vaccine dogma and emerging science

Clinging to its obsolete vaccine dogma, monopoly medicine ignores the fact that emerging science is disclosing the many ways that vaccination harms health.

The recent CDC whistleblower scandal in the U.S. rocked the autism and vaccine awareness communities when it was revealed that the government had suppressed crucial information showing that African-American boys receiving their first MMR vaccine before 36 months are 3.4 times more likely to develop autism vs. after 36 months. *"The CDC knew about the relationship between the age of first MMR vaccine and autism incidence in African-American boys as early as 2003, but chose to cover it up"*, said Dr. Brian Hooker who reanalyzed the study data provided him by William Thompson, the whistleblower.

Thompson who'd worked at CDC as a senior research scientist for over a decade, said, *"Oh my God, I did not believe that we did what we did, but we did. It's all there. This is the lowest point in my career, that I went along with that paper. I have great shame now when I meet families of kids with autism, because I have been part of the problem."*

The CDC's record of malfeasance is stunning in its manipulation of vaccine research, including deliberate alteration of data showing substantial increased risk of neurological injuries from mercury containing vaccines, and research manipulation of Danish studies that are still upheld as proof of vaccine safety.

Parent activist Marcella Piper-Terry said, *"When it comes to lies about vaccines and autism, the CDC is very good at what they do.....What we know at this point is that the CDC buried the knowledge of a significant increase in the risk of developing autism for African-American male children who received the MMR vaccine according to the CDC's Recommended Childhood Vaccination Schedule. That one lie is responsible for at least*

*250,000 cases of autism in African-American male children. And that number is a vast underestimate of the true extent of the damage."*⁶

Coming on the heels of these revelations is Dr. Theresa Deisher's research which correlates autism disorder increase and human fetal DNA, retroviral agents in vaccines. She has found that 'change points' in autism disorders are **"clearly associated with the introduction of vaccines produced using human fetal cell lines."**

"What we have found is that across continents, and across decades, change points in autism disorder are clearly associated with the introduction of vaccines produced using human fetal cell lines," said Dr. Deisher. *"Each time we inject our children with one of these vaccines, we are also injecting them with residual fetal human DNA."*

Even more alarming, said Dr. Theresa Deisher, *"Not only are the human fetal contaminated vaccines associated with autistic disorder throughout the world, but also with epidemic childhood leukemia and lymphomas."* In North America 10 vaccines are produced using the human cell lines WI-38 and MRC-5.^{7,8,9}

Vaccines containing human fetal cell lines

Adenovirus

DTaP-IPV/Hib (Pentacel)

Hep A (Havrix)

Hep B (Engerix-B)

Hep A/Hep B (Twinrix)

MMR (MMR-II)

MMRV (ProQuad)

Rabies (Imovax)

Varicella (Varivax)

Zoster (Shingles – Zostavax)

The FDA has known for decades about the dangers of insertional mutagenesis in using human fetal cell lines, yet they chose to ignore it. Instead of conducting safety studies they regulated the amount of human DNA that could be present in a vaccine to no greater than 10ng. Dr. Deisher's team discovered that the fetal DNA levels ranged anywhere from 142ng - 2000ng per dose, way beyond the so-called "safe" level.

"There are a large number of publications about the presence of HERV (human endogenous retrovirus - the only re-activatable endogenous retrovirus) and its association with childhood lymphoma", noted Dr Deisher. *"The MMR II and chickenpox vaccines and indeed all vaccines that are propagated or manufactured using the fetal cell line WI-38 are contaminated with this retrovirus. **And both parents and physicians have a right to know this!**"*^{7,8,9}

Vaccines enjoy an elevated, sacrosanct status as the most protected class of drugs on the earth. Placed in a lofty category of their own, vaccines aren't even thought of as drugs, even though by any medical definition they are. Vaccines are exempt from the safety standards demanded of other pharmaceutical products and prescription drugs. As such, they enjoy extraordinary immunity from independent oversight and rigorous testing with control groups and are promoted with religious fervor. This, despite the fact

that vaccines are compounded with complex biochemical substances that, when injected into the body trigger a cascade of biological reactions on the cellular level impacting the immune system, the neurological system and the brain. As highly bioactive drugs, all vaccines should carry 'black box' warnings indicating that damage to the immune and neurological systems is a known risk.

Health effect of chemicals and vaccines

There's little doubt that the burden of toxic chemicals permeating the environment is seriously impacting children's health, adult health and all life forms. Children are the most vulnerable to severe and permanent damage from these toxic exposures. Key to understanding the urgency of the destructive effects of chemical exposures on children is grasping the fact that the biochemical ingredients in vaccines interact with chemicals from the exterior environment, thereby compounding the potential for harm.

The field of Developmental Immunotoxicology (DIT) focuses on the damaging effects of exposure to biological materials, drugs, medical devices, chemicals and other environmental factors on the developing immune systems of fetuses, infants and children. The immature immune system is infinitely more sensitive to toxicants than that of the adult. DIT emphasizes a broad spectrum of diseases associated with chemical and drug induced disruption of critical prenatal and postnatal immune maturational events.¹⁰

The infant and young child immune systems and brain are uniquely different from that of an adult, and are particularly vulnerable to toxic assault. It is well known that the developmental "road-map" to a well functioning immune system in the infant has numerous "windows of susceptibility"- a time when vulnerability to damage is high. Researcher Rodney R. Dietert writes, *"These critical maturational windows display a particular sensitivity to chemical disruption with the outcome usually taking the form of persistent immune dysfunction and/or misregulation. For this reason, health risks are significantly increased following early life vs adult immunotoxic exposure."*¹⁰

Toxic exposures during these critical developmental "windows" can result in irreversible damage to growing nervous systems and cause immune dysfunction, alter behaviour patterns, and have serious reproductive effects. If a toxic exposure occurs during critical growth stages, the damage can be permanent. DIT research suggests that early life exposures to a range of toxicants increases risk of asthma, autism, diabetes, leukemia, cancer and other diseases associated with immune dysfunction.^{10,11}

Phillippe Grandjean and Philip Landrigan whose work on the effects of chemical exposures on brain health is well known, said in a recent interview that their "sense of urgency now approaches panic", and that their greatest concern is that "children worldwide are being exposed to unrecognized toxic chemicals that are silently eroding intelligence, disrupting behaviors, truncating future achievements and damaging societies."¹²

Vaccination – an environmental issue

On the most fundamental level vaccination is an environmental issue. On the micro level, children are injected with multiple vaccines that contain a stunning array of chemicals, biologicals (viral & bacterial particles), adjuvants, foreign protein particles

and DNA residue. On the macro level, via air, food and water, children are bombarded with external environmental chemical toxicities unparalleled in the history of our species. Few are asking, "*what are the synergistic effects?*"

The critical question that needs to be asked is - if exposure to toxicants from the external environment can damage the immune and neurological systems of infants and young children, wouldn't their vulnerability to injury be magnified when toxic exposures are delivered by injection? At least when exposures come from the external environment through the normal portals of entry, there's a reasonable chance the body's detoxifying mechanisms can lessen the impact. But when complex biologicals and chemicals are injected directly into the fragile and vulnerable young body, bypassing the defensive filters that could mitigate the impact of the toxicants, free rein is given to toxic compounds to profoundly alter and injure the child's developing internal micro-ecology.

Vaccines can derail the network of "*balanced cascades*" between the immune system and the brain. It is well known that there is extensive communication or 'cross talk' between the immune and nervous systems in both health and disease. As well, immune molecules play integral roles in the central nervous system throughout neural development. In the past 10 years it's been shown that immune molecules are expressed in the central nervous system and are **essential** for healthy brain development.^{13,14} In other words, what affects the immune system also affects the neurological system and the brain.

A 2011 study found that children on the autism spectrum have elevated 'cytokines' (immune cells) which is associated with immune dysfunction and impaired behavioural outcome. Furthermore, it was noted that "*increased cytokine levels were predominantly in children with regressive autism.*"¹⁵

When immune molecules (cytokines) are forced into heightened activity, inflammation occurs. The function of vaccines is to create inflammation – the enemy of normal brain development. The evolutionary, developmental blueprint for the human infant is to remain in a non-inflammatory state for a period of time after birth because inflammation disrupts normal brain development.

Russell Blaylock MD writes, "*A great deal of the brain is formed in humans during the first two years after birth and continues until age 25-27. Excess vaccination disrupts this critical process and can result in a malformed brain, which manifests as either subtle impairment in thinking, concentration, attention, behavior or language, or serious problems with these processes.*"^{16,17}

As children are increasingly exposed to pervasive chemicals in our eco-system, there is mounting evidence that vaccines compound and intensify the effects of these contaminants. A few scientists are now speaking of their concern about the impact of vaccines on infants during the critical development period and the affect these substances have on the internal micro-ecology and developmental blueprint of the child.

This 'double whammy' of outer environmental toxicity and internal vaccine toxicity is driving the epidemic of chronic and neurodevelopmental diseases today.

Vaccines & GMOs - The partnership from hell

Glyphosate is the most widely used agricultural chemical in the world. It is the primary ingredient in Roundup and is used on most genetically modified crops (GMOs).

Glyphosate is absorbed by the plants it is applied to and when we eat industrially grown food, we also absorb this chemical. Once it is in our bodies, glyphosate damages crucial metabolic functions of our beneficial gut bacteria (the microbiome) and leads to many diseases.

Dr. Stephanie Seneff, PhD is a senior research scientist at MIT. Her extensive review of the scientific literature documents the magnitude of health damage now linked to Roundup. She lifts the veil on how grim the glyphosate story really is. Her work confirms that we should all be very, very worried. She has concluded that glyphosate intensifies and exacerbates the effects of certain vaccine ingredients like aluminum.

Aluminum is the primary adjuvant used in many vaccines to drive a heightened immune response. It is also a potent neurotoxin. In a recent interview, Dr. Seneff stated, *"Aluminum is very toxic, and many of the vaccines contain aluminum. And it's injected directly in, past all the barriers. Ordinarily the body is quite good about keeping aluminum out. The gut will absorb very little of [aluminum] in the diet...assuming you have a healthy gut. Glyphosate produces a leaky gut, and that's going to help the aluminum get in. What I believe now is that the aluminum in the vaccine is far more toxic as a consequence of the glyphosate that's also in the blood. The two of them are synergistic, because the glyphosate forms a cage around the aluminum and keeps it from getting expelled. The aluminum ends up accumulating, getting trapped with the glyphosate, and then the aluminum ends up in the pineal gland, and messes up sleep, and causes a whole cascade of problems in the brain. The glyphosate and aluminum are working together to be much more toxic than they would be, acting alone."*¹⁸

In her detailed presentation at the Autism One Conference in May, 2014, Dr. Seneff, discussed the numerous ways glyphosate disrupts metabolic functions and the diseases that result. A central aspect of her thesis is the suppression of cytochrome P450 enzymes which enable amino acid biosynthesis by the gut microbiome. These enzymes produced by our beneficial gut bacteria play a critical role in detoxifying xenobiotics - the chemicals, pesticides, herbicides and carcinogens that are not found in nature and are foreign to living organisms. When the microbiome is disabled by these chemicals, we develop the diseases and conditions associated with a "Western" diet, i.e. the food produced by industrial agriculture. Diseases include obesity, gastrointestinal disorders, diabetes, heart disease, depression, autism, cancer and Alzheimer's disease.^{19,20}

Dr. Seneff discussed her concern about the tremendous rise in autism which parallels the increase in the use of glyphosate in agriculture. *"The number of children diagnosed with autism in America has risen alarmingly over the past fifteen years, in exact step with the rise in the use of glyphosate (Roundup) on corn and soy crops. Coincidence? I think not. In parallel, children in the United States have been burdened with an increased aluminum load from the world's most comprehensive vaccination schedule. Glyphosate has a number of known biological effects that align with the known pathologies associated with autism. Glyphosate also likely promotes aluminum uptake into the tissues. Aluminum, a well-documented neurotoxin, is the established cause of dialysis dementia. I propose that aluminum accumulation in the brain, synergistically*

promoted by glyphosate, is the principal cause of autism in the US." She predicts that by 2025, half the children born will be diagnosed with autism.^{19,20}

Another researcher, plant scientist Don Humber, has long been studying the health effects of glyphosate. He says it is many times more toxic than DDT and is alarmed that it's been found in breastmilk. His concern for future generations on the under-researched and flawed science of genetic engineering is "fact-based and comprehensive." He states: **"We've pretty much sacrificed an entire generation of children. The longer we go, the more damage that is going to accumulate."**

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