



The WorldVoter

the newsletter of

Vote World Parliament

— democratic world parliament through a global referendum —

www.VoteWorldParliament.org

Vote World Parliament co-presidents are Ted Stalets and Jim Stark

www.RescuePlanForPlanetEarth.com

This site, above, is for the VWP companion book, *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*

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(This issue and all previous issues are posted at <http://voteworldparliament.org/about/newsletter/>)

THE SCORE

As of December 15, 2010, 21,541 people have voted. So far, the votes are 95.4% in favor of creating a democratic world parliament.

Quote of the month

The common good of all nations involves problems which affect people all the world over: problems which can only be solved by a public authority ... whose writ covers the entire globe. We cannot therefore escape the conclusion that the moral order itself demands the establishment of some sort of world government. Pope John XXIII in *Pacem in Terris*

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News in brief

Voting booth campaign beginning

After a ton of work (mostly by Ted Stalets), we are now the proud owner of a portable voting booth, a device that allows anyone (including you) to upload onto your website (or Facebook or Twitter account) a graphic link that, when clicked on, opens our ballot up. It keeps track of how many votes came in through your voting booth, and it automatically adds each new vote to the main VWP tally! Cool, eh?

Ted and Jim are now busily emailing our Board members, all 123 supporting authors, the member organizations of WATUN (the World Alliance to Transform the UN) and finally the 48,000 member organizations of WANGO (World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations). Let's hope people respond favourably, because this plan has the potential to lift the referendum from its sleepy present state to a viral Internet phenomenon.

To upload a voting booth, full instructions are on a new video done by Ted, and posted at www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAIe-wIsU7U, and in an illustrated but static document at www.voteworldparliament.org/votingboothinstructions.pdf. (There is a shorter version at www.voteworldparliament.org/shadowbox/getballot.html.)

Please consider adding a voting booth to your Internet presence, and feel free to invite all your friends, family and contacts to do likewise.

Total transparency overwhelmingly supported in Canada?

Editorial, by Jim Stark

Canada's very popular public broadcaster has an all-news TV channel called CBC News Network, and they ask viewers to participate by replying to a "question of the day." On November 26, 2010, in anticipation of the release by WikiLeaks of tens of thousands of classified or secret (although not "top secret") diplomatic cables, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called US allies, including the prime minister of Canada, warning that this "leak" (more like a tsunami) was likely to be highly embarrassing to the USA (and other countries). The CBC asked its viewers to indicate whether they thought WikiLeaks *should* release all these ill-gotten documents.

Bearing in mind that the public at that time had no idea what was in those documents, the CBC reported November 27 that they received a mountain of emails and other responses, more than they had ever received in the past, on any subject. And they reported that 85% of those "votes" were positive, indicating overwhelming support for the general decision by WikiLeaks to publish that material. How do we explain and interpret this astonishing result?

In my view, such a result should have been expected. There is a huge thirst among people everywhere for transparency in government, for more transparency than is customary, *far* more; indeed, for a form of *total* transparency, as recommended in my book, *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth* (available as a paperback or as an eBook from Amazon.com).

Here's what I wrote in 2008:

There is no government at any level (that I am aware of) that is clean enough or sufficiently immune from corruption to serve as a model for the DWG [democratic world government]. The governmental traditions of the past and present seem to dictate that everything is (or may be) kept secret *unless* there is a very good reason to make it public. There must be a new tradition at the DWG, such that *everything is public unless there is a compelling reason as to why it should be kept private*, and even in such instances, the reason for privacy must be made public, and there must be an affordable appeal procedure whereby a decision to conceal

information can perhaps be overturned. The people of planet Earth deserve this level of transparency, and therefore we must insist on it. **Anything said or done in the public interest must be public. Anything not public is likely not in the public's interest.**

I stand by that analysis and that prescription. Also, as I went on to say in the book, if we manage to establish a democratic world parliament (and/or world government) that has to abide by this inverted rule of thumb, and it works, people are likely to love it, even when their personal opinion turns out to be a minority view worldwide. Such is the reality of the politics of democratic countries, provinces, municipalities, NGOs, unions, and so on. Sometimes the majority gets it wrong, but we must always defend their right to be wrong or we will slide back to the bad old days when arguments that couldn't be settled through thoughtful words get fought over with weapons (and with today's weapons, that can spell an omnicidal war). In my view, this virtually total access to information from government is essential if we are ever to criminalize war and protect the future of the planet from all human abuse, and if that happens on the global lever, soon there will be sensible voices calling on national, provincial (state) and municipal governments to implement similar policies of total transparency at these other levels of governance. To which I say hoorah!

Universal Internet access coming soon

VWP received an email (dated Tuesday, November 30, 2010 8:35 PM) from a long-time supporter named John Kintree. It concerned a recent project of his that bears on our work here at VWP. It read:

I just created a wikipage at WiserEarth with the title "[PC, Tablet, Smartphone Sales.](#)" It contains recently updated projections for global sales of Internet access devices for 2010-2014.

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| 2010 | 612 | million devices sold worldwide |
| 2011 | 814 | million devices sold worldwide |
| 2012 | 980 | million devices sold worldwide |
| 2013 | 1,265 | million devices sold worldwide |
| 2014 | 1,553 | million devices sold worldwide |
| ----- | | |
| Total | 5.2 | <i>billion</i> Internet access devices sold worldwide 2010-2014 |

We may have achieved Internet access for practically everyone by the end of 2014; such a powerful tool for globally coordinated cooperation!

Well done, John. Kudos. Very helpful.