

Corporate Blight: Wal-Mart

by **Tim Aiken**
CONTRIBUTOR

People in small towns are making their voices heard. They want a Wal-Mart. With their competitive low prices and the few jobs that they may generate. Having a Wal-Mart in your community sounds like a great idea...if you are an idiot.

Wal-Mart has the best prices in town. That's not all, they also employ numerous small children in countries all over the world. These kids would have no future if it weren't for Wal-Mart. They will never have to put up with nagging parent again. Since most children are kidnapped to work in these sweatshops. They are also getting the skills they need to be exploited by companies such as Nike in later life. Skilled labour in that part of the world must take home twenty cents a day -- if they don't stop to use the bathroom for a minute or two.

Wal-Mart also prides itself on introducing Big Brother to all employees. Nothing says welcome to my store like forcing some guy to stand by the door, force a smile and pretend he cares about your life. All the while Big Brother is

watching. You drop that smile for just an instant, and you are out of there. Even in the most casual of settings, if you somehow let it slip that you are in a bottom-of-the-pack-low-income-job, then turn in your smock and get out.

Having a Wal-Mart in your community sounds like a great idea...if you are an idiot.

There has been a wild fire spreading across this continent -- Wal-Marts popping up everywhere. Maybe calling it a wild fire was a mistake, maybe it would be more suitable to be compared to a virus. Huh, well a virus attacks a cell, stealing all of its resources. Gets enough energy from the first cell to move to the second. When all the good stuff from the first cell is gone, the cell dies along with the virus. Wal-Mart on the other hand moves into a town and undersells the local businesses. They continue this until all the local companies are bankrupt.

Then they raise the prices because they now have a local monopoly. This works for a little while until everybody who used to work at the now bankrupt companies runs out of money. Then Wal-Mart stops making a profit.

With all the money they made in the town, they use it to start a new branch in the next area.

The new town is just overjoyed. 'Finally, a Wal-Mart in my town,' local idiots might say. They will enjoy a period of boom.

But as for the people in the first town, well they are just fucked. Wal-Mart ran all the local businesses to the

grave and then took off when the money was gone.

If you want to save yourself the trouble of having a Wal-Mart in a community near you, but still want to get the overall Wal-Mart effect, all you have to do is the following: kidnap the kid next door and make him do all your dirty work, when he turns 18 send him to prison where he can earn big money doing prison laundry, tell the CIA all your neighbors most intimate secrets, and finally unleash the biological epidemic at every major international airport.

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periods.

"I think when you look at the numbers of students supported by Canada students loans, I think what we're finding is that we do have to have strong partnerships at all levels of government and with individual citizens to ensure that we create a tradition of life-long learning in Canada," she said.

But Stewart also maintains there is a greater need for corporate involvement in Canada's education system.

"In the new economy all jobs are knowledge-based jobs," said Stewart. "I think that what we're finding is that we need partnerships."

"We've set out in the Speech from the Throne the priorities we feel we're in a position to undertake," she continued. "I'm glad to see they include a focus on our children, and in the longer term a focus on skills and a strategy that includes all partners."

But despite Stewart's insistence that the Liberals are looking towards "partnerships" with the provinces, the government has come under repeated attack from some provincial governments for meddling in provincial affairs.

In November, the provincial finance ministers called on the federal government to increase transfer payments to the provinces for education by \$3.7-billion a year. Transfer payments to the provinces for post-secondary education and training have been cut by \$7-billion since the

Liberals took office in 1993.

Stewart herself had to step in to mediate negotiations between the Millennium Scholarship Foundation and the government of Quebec, after the province accused Ottawa of trying to control education through the scholarship program. Education is designated as a provincial jurisdiction in Canada's constitution.

And while Stewart says her government has no intention of taking control of education away from the provinces, government documents indicate the Liberals recognized the provinces' dissatisfaction with educational funding.

In documents obtained from the Privy Council Office under an Access to Information request, speaking notes for the Prime Minister warned that there would be opposition to the Millennium Scholarship Fund's creation.

"Provinces see themselves as key stakeholders, as education is a provincial jurisdiction, and they may seek a role in designing the Fund and/or the scholarships," say the documents from late-1997 and early-1998. "Further, to date, both Quebec and Alberta have indicated that their share of the funds should be transferred to them."

The documents indicate the Millennium Fund would serve to "compliment" existing provincial programs, not to replace them.

Other documents show a greater concern on behalf of the federal government to monitor the

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