

# mc<sup>2</sup>

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Canada's Smartest Person, Peter Dyakowski, and Toronto Mensan (and *MC<sup>2</sup>* contributor) Mary MacDonald let their competitive natures loose at the RG in Niagara Falls. See page 12 for a profile of Peter.

## Readers reply

### Reader negative on lack of *MC<sup>2</sup>* option

Please send me a hard copy of the July *MC<sup>2</sup>*. And just a hard copy.

I read the announcement regarding the Board's decision to send the July issue of *MC<sup>2</sup>* electronically while I was a passenger in a vehicle on the 401 bound from Glen Robertson (near the Ontario-Quebec border) for Cambridge, Ont. Having been able to put the hard copy of the May 2012 aside to take with me on that trip made it possible to do that. I also often take the mag with me as reading material when I retreat to my off-the-grid northern property. I enjoy reading it there — away from the busyness of everyday life. I sometimes make marginal notes if impressed or piqued by an article or comment.

Here are some observations.

The practice of reverse onus, whereby clients have to opt out of a proposed change, is looked upon with disfavor in the commercial world. Various companies have been chastised by regulatory agencies for attempting to foist new revenue-generating or expense-saving options onto their clients unless the clients notify them that they do not want to "take advantage" of the impending change. Yet that seems to be what is planned for the July issue. Whoa!! The exercise of initiative should be mindful of the fact that the default has been hard copy, and a less aggressive/confrontational approach to gauging readers' preferences (i.e. by putting the choice to members beforehand instead of trying to herd or manage them) is a viable and, I would submit, a preferable alternative course of action. I don't need to or want to be led by someone else's preferences or brilliant inspirations.

Polemic? Yes! But perhaps a

needed reminder about the importance of board members respecting other individuals' druthers.

In a note to the Board last year on the previous/initial proposal to distribute *MC<sup>2</sup>* electronically, I asked what the Board planned to do with the moneys saved thereby. I heard nothing by way of a response (although I was pleased to note that Mensans who chose to receive an electronic version would enjoy a lower annual membership fee). The silence suggests there may be an element of change for change's sake at play, or gung ho enthusiasm for newness. Is there a plan? What is the plan? Would you share it with the members?

Hey! Why not do a survey instead of a executing a reverse-onus tactic? That way the Board can find out who wants the electronic version, who wants hard copy, and who does not care. That would be responsible exer-

cise of executive functions in a voluntary organization.

That's my dime's worth. Please think on it.

### Editor advised to exercise discretion

I am dismayed to see yet another incoherent, hate-filled letter from

This man has nothing to say to the readers of this magazine. You have no obligation to print letters just because someone sends them to you.

If you want this magazine to have any credibility exercise your power as editor and keep diatribes such as this out of it.



Mary Susan MacDonald