

Entitlements? What About Understanding UNentitlements?

by Stephen Elliott-Buckley - Friday, November 28, 2014

<https://politicsrespun.org/2014/11/entitlements-what-about-understanding-unentitlements/>



Punishing irony.

OK, I'm fine admitting it. I focus on entitlements a lot. I'm often trying to encourage people to examine our unexamined entitlements: race, age, economic class, gender, sexuality, etc.

But one way to understand entitlements is to understand how unentitlements work.

I'm guilty of overlooking this. Until today.

Read this, below, then read the rest of it. See if you don't weep.

And ask yourself if BC Liberal MLAs can read this and understand what they don't know about unentitlements.

This same boy, earlier in the year when the weather was just getting cold, was wearing flip flops to school. I asked him if he had another pair of shoes, and he said no. I took him to the clothes room at our school to pick out another pair. Yes, we have a clothes room. He chose a pair and he looked proud. When he ran off to go join his friends at the playground he called back to me: "I'll bring back the shoes at the end of the day." You see, he thought I'd given him the shoes for his time at school only. He felt so unentitled to shoes that he thought he had to give them back. That lack of self-worth is devastating. It prevents you from opening your mind to learning. It makes focusing on adding, or writing persuasive paragraphs, or learning about the water cycle, nearly impossible.

[In My Class, Child Poverty Is No Numbers Game | The Tyee.](#)