

# IS THE GROWTH IN CHEATING WITHIN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM BECOMING THE NORM THROUGHOUT SOCIETY AND WITH LAW MAKERS IN GENERAL?

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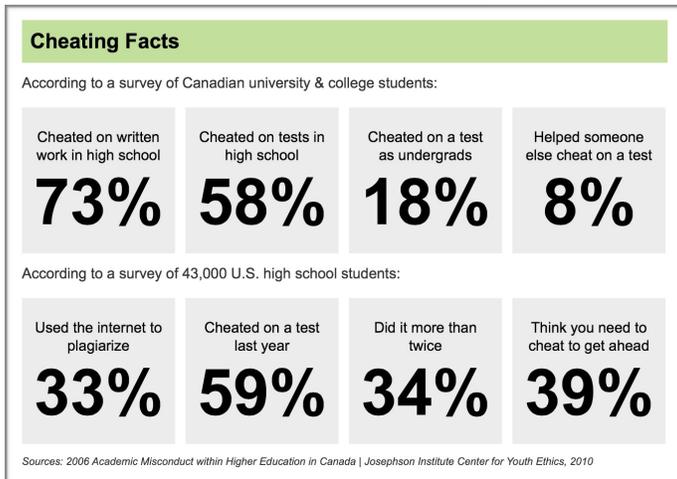
Has cheating become a societal norm?

What happens to you if you're the only person honest enough to play by the rules when all those around you are cheating?

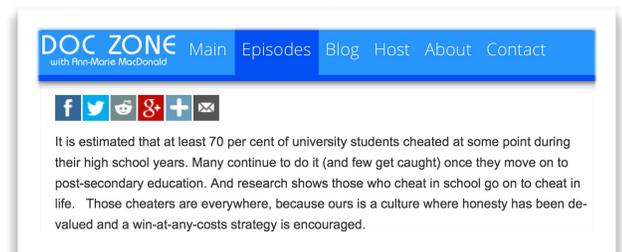
What is society doing to limit the rewards reaped by Cheaters?

When Cheaters are rewarded by their cheating activities, do they carry these characteristics beyond the education system into everyday life?

CBC's Doc-Zone conducted an in-depth analysis of



students cheating in the education system. The findings are disturbing (<http://www.cbc.ca/doczone/episodes/faking-the-grade>). The findings suggest the problem now includes institutional involvement wherein teachers and professors who want their teaching institutions to look better in comparison to others, help the Cheaters cheat. But the problem is now taking on life traits learned through the successful application of cheating during the educational phase. With graduation, the problem has now moved well beyond the education system and has become rampant and acceptable practice throughout the broader society and into business, legal and political arenas.



The participants in the process of educational cheating become winners through better marks and thus have greater success in the job search markets post graduation. Positively reinforced by a successful cheating experience, Cheaters are now applying those cheating practices and skills within their job careers and so cheating continues as a post education practice.

One of many interesting points in the research was that cheating is something that is being sponsored and supported by many parents. These parents seek to have their children succeed in the face of ever increasing competition, so they become active participants in the act of cheating by funding the whole affair, including participation in acquiring the latest high-tech gadgetry to make it all possible, less detectable, or just plain easier as the case may be.

The research suggests that those who admitted cheating claimed a need to compete for limited academic positions or job opportunities against other Cheaters, and a failure to keep pace with the offenders would put them at a critical disadvantage to someone who was cheating if they were not. The resulting assumption being that the system will not catch the Cheaters, so those that wish to succeed must keep up with the Cheaters by joining them. It's not a new concept. We've all heard the argument: "If you can't beat them, join them." But what does that do to the end result, when the chips are down and the Cheaters actions have a life and death outcome. The doctor who cheated on the examine, now facing a difficult procedure or situation mid-operation, with no one to rescue him/her with skill, answers or training. The engineer designing the footing of a building that won't stand the earthquake which it must. The result is that Cheaters and the rampant growth of cheating puts peoples lives in grave danger.

We see this problem elsewhere in our society as well. We see it in politics, with politicians who make a mockery of the election act by ignoring the rules, and failing to follow both the letter and the spirit of the law.

Cheating and Cheaters now permeate our local municipal government election process in BC with politicians accepting developer and union donations in trade for favours to follow. It also hits at the very core of both the provincial and federal government electoral processes by way of support pledged for big ticket projects on the basis of vote gathering, and not based on true needs and unbiased priorities.

Cheating is front and centre in the Senate scandal involving Mr. Duffy, where we now learn that there are no Senate rules which determine how a primary residence is to be decided. We're also informed that a Senator must reside in the region for which they have been appointed. With these two simple facts in mind, it is quite reasonable for Mr. Duffy to have claimed his primary residence as P.E.I. In fact, as I understand the Crown's witness Mr. Mark Audcent, Mr. Duffy was compelled to claim P.E.I. as it's primary residence because Prime Minister Steven Harper appointed him as the Senator from P.E.I. If we are to blame anyone for Mr. Duffy's morally wrong, but not legally wrong conduct, it is in fact Steven Harper who is to blame. Duffy should never have been appointed from P.E.I., and that was Harper's doing.

Harper knew full well that Duffy lived in Ottawa. Harper also knew or ought to have known that if he appointed Duffy to the Senate on behalf of P.E.I., Duffy would be compelled to change his primary residence to P.E.I., on paper, even if not in fact. Thus it was Harper who was facilitating the conditions which made it possible and necessary for Duffy to lie about where he lived. Harper must have known that, given the absence of definition as to what constituted a primary residence, Duffy could legally make the claim that P.E.I. was his primary residence. In turn, that made Duffy's submissions for both meals and travel expenses possible, and so all Duffy's cheating truthfully is the fault of Harper for having appointed Duffy from P.E.I.

The closing questions put to the witness Audcent by the Crown in reply sought an admission that Senators were compelled to act with 'Honour', and honour dictated that Duffy declare his primary residence as Ottawa. But then Duffy could not have been appointed the Senator from P.E.I. The Crown is attempting to perform the impossible. They're trying to suck and blow at the same time, and the actions are mutually exclusive. The whole process is made even worse by the fact that the Senate tossed Duffy out based on pressure brought by the PMO, which is the same office that appointed Duffy.

Cheating and Cheaters now run the full gamut from students in school, to teachers and administrators, professors, and after school to politicians, insurers, lawyers, you name it. I once stood in the BC Supreme Court and listened to a lawyer, a QC tell a bald face lie to a judge. He was caught in that lie by me, compelled to admit that lie to the judge, then partially rewarded despite having admitted that he had indeed lied. If that had been any lay person, they would have been cited for contempt. In fact that QC was not only in contempt of court for having lied, he was in breach of the Law Society Rules and his oath as an officer of the court, yet he was let off the hook with nothing more than a harsh look. Why, because there is a double standard for QC's which apparently allows them to lie to the court and get away with it.

With reward being a greater prize than risk of penalty is a deterrent, students, educators, institutions, politicians and lawyers all practice the art of cheating, in their own unique way and circumstance, because the reward is great, and the down side risk is manageable. Putin only now admits that he filled the Crimea with Russian soldiers before the vote on unification with Russia, and would have used atomic weapons to win if necessary. How can you then tell kids, with credibility, not to cheat, when everyone around them is cheating, and winning for the enterprise. How do you make and enforce laws to stop Cheaters when lawmakers are the biggest cheats of all? Please answer that question Darrell?