

You've Carried that Weight for a Long Time

I worked for a Canadian tax software company for several years. Since this was Canadian tax, our programs had to be bilingual and we employed a French translator. Our French translator was named Caroline. Caroline and I shared an office. She related an interesting story once.

The manager of our company's tech support department was dating this French-Canadian woman. The French-Canadian woman's daughter was going to university to study to be a French translator. The daughter was enrolled in the university's co-op program and she needed a job for her co-op term. The mother got her boyfriend to convince Caroline to hire the daughter for the term. Caroline, always anxious to help someone get started in the lucrative world of translation, readily agreed to mentor the daughter.

The daughter worked out well. Caroline liked her and thought she had talent. At the end of the work term, the daughter gave Caroline an evaluation form to fill out. These evaluations got turned into the school in lieu of grading. Caroline had to complete two main areas. One was "Student's Strengths" and the other was "Student's Weaknesses". Caroline had some trouble with the Student's Weaknesses section. She had to think a bit what the daughter needed to improve, since there was nothing really wrong that time and experience wouldn't solve. Caroline decided to write down what felt was some practical advice.

A few months later Caroline was at our company Christmas party. Caroline saw the mother at the party. She went up to her to say hello. The mother gave Caroline an icy stare and sniped "How *dare* you talk to me, after what you wrote about my daughter in her work term report!" The mother stormed away and avoided Caroline for the rest of the party. Caroline was stunned.

Days, weeks, and then years went by. Caroline regularly racked her brain trying to think what she wrote in the daughter's work term report that was so terrible. What words did she use that might have been so insulting?

A few years after this bizarre incident, the daughter graduated and became a translator in her own right. Caroline was at a week-long government conference and discovered the daughter was also there doing translation. Caroline avoided her for most of week, fearing a repeat of the experience with the mother. Caroline eventually realized avoiding the daughter was pointless. They were working in the same industry and would no doubt run into each other many more times. Avoiding her for the next 35 years was probably not the way to go. Caroline bit the bullet and approached the daughter. She said hello and made some small talk before broaching the subject.

"I think I might have been unintentionally harsh on your work term report that time."

"Huh?"

"That work term report you gave me to fill out when you worked for me in 1990. I think I might have said something in there that I didn't intend. I'm very sorry if I seemed too critical."

"I don't understand. There was something wrong with my work term report?"

"I saw your mother the Christmas after and she got mad at me for what I wrote in your report."

"Oh. My mother. *Everyone knows my mother is crazy!* That was the best work term report I ever got!"

Caroline said upon hearing that a half decade of emotional weight she had been carrying around vanished in an instant.



© 2003 Karl Mamer

kamamer@yahoo.com

www.yrad.com

La Petite Lesson en Français

Lesson Numerux 20

La Holidays Canadian D'Explained



By
Karl Mamer

La Intro

En les Etats d'Canada-Eh, les Canuckians est la 'oliday jourslack unique curious et particular confusing. Prochain below est une brief peekaboo a la holidays unique au les Canuckians et un attempez d'clarify c'est crazy Canuckian merde.

La Lesson

L'Holiday: Labour Day

La Date: Fait dans la premier Lundnesjour day en la month de Septembr

La Explanation Attempted: Mucho like la Labor Day en L'Etats-R-Us de Eh mais la word "labor" est spelt incorrect avec un "u" extraneous. C'est spelling silly avec la "u" extraneous est considered un gesture tres patriotic par la Canuckians.

* * *

L'Holiday: Thanksgiving Day

La Date: Fait dans la trios Lundnesjour day en la month de Octobr

La Explanation Attempted: Aussie much like la Thanksgiving jourslack en L'Etats-R-Us de Eh, les Canuckians mangez la pie gâteau de pomme de pumpkin et la turkey de butterball hormone fed. La Canuckians aussi de voir la spécial Charlie Brown animé et hear something ou autre about la Pilgrams myth. The first half hour of a Canadian football game is watched and then the channel is turned to *Survivor*. La difference principle est c'est holiday pig out est un bit earlier dans la year ans parce que la depanneurs The Bay et le Sears demandez un post-thanksgiving 'appymass shopping season plus long compared au L'Etats-R-Us de Eh. Les Canuckians est tightwads légendaire la monde over. La depanneur retailers needez une month extra de pry crowbar a dime dixième from c'est Canuckians, hein.

* * *

L'Holiday: Remembrance Day

La Date: Fait dans la Novembr 11

La Explanation Attempted: Une jour de make la school kids bambino feel guilty et row-on-row elle cough up la allowance cash pour la fleur de poppy plastique. La fleur de poppy plastique est purchased avec un "donation" (une donation toonie minimum) by la groveling a la pied ou wheelchair tires scuffed double amputee de la guerre veteran drooling so-that's-what-death-smells-like. C'est "donation" est goes a la veteran d'affairs charitable, maintaining la buildings shack condemned de Canadian Legion Halls buck a beer nights, et hiring la sécurité de strong armed goons de keeping la Sikh veterans Victoria Cross holders de turbans out of la Canadian Legion Halls racist.

* * *

L'Holiday: Boxing Day

La Date: Decembr 26

La Explanation Attempted: Un 'oliday slack d'unknown en L'Etats-R-Us de Eh. Par la tradition quaint, les Canuckians needez une jourslack extra de box up la ChristMassey-Ferguson cadeau pathetic more Turtles et preparez de bring them back au Canadian Tire pour la cash beer.

* * *

L'Holiday: Hoggy Playoffs

La Date: Avrillbr au about, fuck, Juinvrier

La Explanation Attempted: Un 'oliday slack pour trios months qui est begin en la premier night d'hoggy playoffs first blood and dragez on au until la game finale de Cup Silver Stan Les Pierre. Dans c'est trios months la attendance au work est spotty at best, la ligne de beer store est plus long, et la wagering hoggy pool est increase la GDP domestic par 3% extra minimum.

* * *

L'Holiday: May Two Four

La Date: Fait dans la trios Lundnesjour day en la month de Mais.

La Explanation Attempted: C'est une 'oliday similar au la jour L'Etats-R-Us de Eh de Memorial Day. Mais no stupid sanctimonious parades et making la chein pet doggies wear American flag kerchiefs et un petite straw hat cowboy. La Canuckians est load up en la cases multiple de 24 beer da brewski et head out a la crèche d'cottage family trash the place. La bonfires, la dipping skinny du lac fridged, et la bang bang sex wilderness sur pine needles est standard.

* * *

L'Holiday: St Jean Baptise Day

La Date: Juinvrier Two Four

La Explanation Attempted: Une 'oliday au Quebec seulement, celebrating whatever the hell it is these frenchies celebrate. La Francolaphones est light la bonfires, coup de tete la Anglais, et riot en la streets de Quebecville City, smashing les windows de Étoile-Starbucks de assertez la Quebec independence.

* * *

L'Holiday: Canada Day

La Date: July 1

La Explanation Attempted: Une jourslack taken grudgingly par les Quebecois parce que it celebrates titular la independence de Canuckians qui threw off bravely la chains au their British taskmaster par un guerre de words debating and talking about stuff pour 200 years until la Brits had enough est dit "Sweet Jesus won't you Canadians ever shut up? I mean, like, fuck. Be your own bloody country!" Aussi la jour national tout everyone moves au to une nouveau apartment.

Fin!