

CAMPAIGN DOCUMENT / PUBLIC-INTEREST OP-ED

Trump and the Father-Figure Problem in Modern Politics

Why voters often look for strength, protection, and recognition when institutions feel cold.

Prepared for Great Scott for Mayor of Vancouver | DrainTheSwamp.ca | June 2026

Suggested website placement: The Bigger Vision; optional opinion section; do not use as homepage lead.

The real question is not whether politics should have father figures. It already does.

A country is not a family, and a president is not literally a father. But politics has always carried family psychology inside it. When people feel abandoned by institutions, humiliated by elites, priced out of basic life, or ignored by experts who speak over them, they often look for a leader who signals protection before policy and recognition before bureaucracy.

That is why Donald Trump functions for many supporters as a father figure. Not because he is gentle in the conventional sense, and not because every act or statement should be excused, but because he performs an ancient public role: the man who says the household has been disrespected, the doors have been left open, the children have been lied to, and the people in charge should be confronted.

The public is not looking for a perfect father. It is looking for someone who notices when the house is on fire and refuses to call the smoke normal.

What the father figure provides

- Recognition: people want to hear that their suffering is real, not statistically inconvenient.
- Protection: voters want a leader who names threats plainly and appears willing to fight them.
- Pride: damaged communities need a story in which they are not merely managed, pitied, or studied.
- Permission: many voters want permission to say what official language has made them afraid to say.
- Continuity: families and nations both need a future that feels bigger than decline management.

This is the part of Trump that conventional critics often miss. They argue against his tone while ignoring the vacancy he occupies. A father-shaped hole appears when official institutions become procedural but not protective, funded but not accountable, moralizing but not effective.

The Vancouver lesson

The lesson for a municipal campaign is not to imitate Trump at every level. Vancouver does not need a president. Vancouver needs a mayor. But the city does need a civic version of that protective role: someone who looks at East Hastings and says that tents, needles, overdoses, human waste, impossible detox access, and endless public reports are not compassion. They are evidence of a broken household.

A mayoral father figure does not mean control for the sake of control. It means responsibility. It means the city cannot ticket cars faster than it can offer detox. It means an alley cannot have more official excuses than bathrooms. It means police, health agencies, nonprofits, and City Hall should be judged by whether the vulnerable are safer, cleaner, housed, treated, and employed.

A father figure at City Hall should not ask residents to worship him. He should make the city harder to neglect.

A useful campaign frame

For Great Scott for Mayor, the father-figure theme belongs on a secondary “Bigger Vision” page, not as the first line of the Vancouver campaign. The homepage should lead with local deliverables: the Hastings Recovery Plan, same-day detox, beds and bathrooms, safer streets, lower costs, and AI-assisted City Hall. The Trump/father-figure essay can then explain the broader philosophy: leadership as protection, recognition, and accountability.

The strongest version is not cultic, dynastic, or sentimental. It is operational. Good fathering is visible in outcomes: children who can stand, families that can function, communities that can recover, and institutions that can no longer hide failure behind language.

Source and verification note

Based on prior campaign discussion about Trump as a father figure, the Great Scott brand, and the need to keep national/Trump material secondary to Vancouver municipal policy on the campaign homepage.

Authorized by Scott Gilbert, Financial Agent for Scott Gilbert. Contact: scottgilbertvan@gmail.com. Campaign contributions and expenses will be reported as required under B.C. local election campaign financing law.