

## Edith Watson

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**From:** Lovena Harvey <lovena@gatheringplacetrading.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 17, 2019 9:51 PM  
**To:** Email - administration@strathconard.ca  
**Subject:** To the Chair and Board of Directors

Dear SRD Chair and Board of Directors,

I am very disappointed in the handling of correspondence by the SRD Board and in the delays and inconsistencies regarding our non-binding referendums that took place in October 2018.

I read in the Campbell River Mirror that Director Leigh received correspondence from Cortes Island residents. Why wasn't this correspondence entered into public record and shared with Director Anderson who represents Cortes Islanders?

I would like to have access to this information that has swayed the SRD Board into reversing its position around our non binding referendum. I refer to this as the rather pointless referendum to have a referendum. Our tax payers money was spent on this non binding referendum, and now there is indication that the promised expedition around the hall tax referendum is being rejected by the SRD Board! This appears to have happened because of the communications received by Director Leigh.

Were other directors informed as well? Are Regional Directors in the habit of blocking and delaying voter initiatives from other Areas which do not affect their own Area? Or is this a special consideration for Cortes initiatives? If so, why?

While the above items threaten our Cortes Island democracy, the item I am **most concerned about is the defamation of Director Anderson** by a small group of vocal and dissident Cortes Islanders. What was the reason to keep this information in camera for months? Why were we not informed? The timing of the defamation was immediately after the election and coincidentally the people launching this campaign did not vote for Noba. I believe this attack on her character and the character of other Cortes Islanders, myself and my husband included, was directly related to the political loss these people suffered. There could have been quick resolution to this matter had the Board decided to be open with the people it affected. These allegations did not just affect Director Anderson but the many generous people who donated to her fathers Go Fund Me campaign. There is no accuracy stated in the court petition. How much time did the SRD Board spend over these ridiculous and unfounded accusations? By what process was a private investigator hired? Will his report be made public? I would like to know the cost of the creation of this report.

**As a resident of Cortes Island, I request that Director Anderson's legal fees be covered by SRD Board insurance, as there is no merit or truth in the accusations. Upon reading the Community Charter it is very evident that this case should be thrown out.**

**Why was it given any consideration given the clarity in the Municipal Act around council members accepting fees or gifts?**

Section 105 states that a council member must not accept a fee or a gift that '*is connected with the member's performance of the duties of office*'. Clearly the Go Fund Me page raising funds for Noba's father after a tragic fire is in no way connected to her performance in office. Section 106 state that a disclosure of gifts (if connected to duties of office) only '*needs to be disclosed if it exceeds \$250 in value*'. None of the donations from Cortes Islanders on the Go Fund Me page exceeded that amount.

Lastly, the harassment of Cortes Island voters post election is truly frightening. It should be pointed out that the scrutineers of the election are **some of the same people** who launched the defamation allegations about Director Anderson and **are the same people who are trying to get our fair non binding referendum thrown out**. What are the regulations that govern scrutineers? In our next election I demand a wider range of unbiased scrutineers. Interestingly, not a singly voter accused was actually an illegal voter. I wonder if they scrutinized the oppositions voters?

While I feel let down by my local government office and Board, I also feel compassion for each of you. I believe these same people who are responsible for the above disturbances, accusations, lies and defamation are purposefully doing all of this to disrupt the SRD, throw the Board into chaos and confusion and have you fighting amongst yourselves, so that no other work will get done. Unfortunately, it's working! Can we name this for what it is and move forward together? We are allowed to have a diversity of opinions, but when those differences turn into accusations and legal action, we have a real problem on our hands.

I request a response to my letter. I have a lot of questions that need answering and am planning on contacting the BC Ombudsperson if the answers are not forth coming in a timely fashion.

With Respect and Regards,

Lovena Harvey

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