

Edith Watson

From: Bryan McKinnon <bryanjmckinnon@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2019 9:54 AM
To: Email - administration@strathconard.ca
Subject: Cortes Needs Some Answers

To The Chair and Board of Directors

I am very concerned about recent events taken against Noba Anderson, and I am writing with a specific list of questions that I believe need to be addressed.

1) Handling of Correspondence by SRD Board:

- Why are Directors from other Areas such as Oyster River receiving undisclosed lobbying emails from Cortes Island, and allowing these emails to influence their votes on Cortes affairs?
- Why are these emails not being shared with Cortes' elected RD and with the rest of the Board?
- How are we to know whether these emails are from a hundred people, or six people, or one person?
- How are we to fact-check their content?
- Do they represent in any way the majority opinion on Cortes?
Is this normal operating procedure at SRD?
- Or is it only Cortes issues which are interfered with in this way?
- What is SRD's policy on Correspondence Received? Is there any policy?
- What does SRD's Code of Ethics for Directors say about this issue?

2) Delays and Inconsistencies:

- Why did SRD reverse its position between summer 2018 and Nov 2018, rescinding the promise that the long-delayed hall tax referendum would be expedited if the "non-binding" referendum passed?
- Why were we ever forced to go through the pointless non-binding referendum, whose results showed the same 66/33 percent Pro/Anti percentages that have been consistently demonstrated by petition?
- Why is the majority will on this issue being blocked and delayed?
- Is the minority opposition (to the tax service, and to the holding of a vote on the issue) somehow taking precedence at SRD, and if so how and why is this happening?
- 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 only happening to Cortes initiatives? If so, why?

3) Defamation of our Regional Director:

- At what point were these allegations against RD Anderson made known to SRD?

- Why were they not made known immediately to the voters of Cortes? Why did we not find out about this until public record showed the filing of petition on Jan 2/3 2019?
- What process has taken place at SRD regarding this matter and why has it been kept secret? The community could and would have responded sooner in defence of our RD's integrity if there had been more transparency in this process.
- Have there been in camera meetings and if so, how many?
- By what process was the private investigator hired, how much has all this cost, and when will his report be made public?
- Is SRD supporting its Board member who is under attack from a tiny handful of her constituents, or is it joining in the attack? If so, why?
- How can any elected representative do his or her job if SRD responds with credulity to any random accusation no matter how unlikely, from that rep's political opponents? Are libel and litigation to replace the democratic vote as our method of choosing an RD?
- How is our RD, who is not wealthy, expected to pay for her legal defence against these absurd allegations? If SRD is not going to follow normal Board practise (use Directors' Insurance to cover her legal fees), why not?
- If SRD refuses to bear our RD's legal fees, and her community rallies to support her by creating a legal defence fund, will we face further libellous accusatations of bribery?
- Since the case against RD Anderson is so flimsy, is the object to force her resignation by applying financial pressure?

4) Post-Election Harassment of Cortes Voters:

- Who made this claim of illegal voting and obliged RCMP to come to the island with a list of names to investigate?
- Is this an official claim by our legal scrutineers?
- If our scrutineers made the claim, why did they not raise the issue on voting day as per normal process (tallying questionable votes separately, pending voter verification)?
- Were any of these claims valid? Has anyone's vote been struck?
- What purpose was served by the expenditure of so much RCMP time and resources?
- How many of our scrutineers were political opponents of RD Anderson?

thanks,

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 Cortes Island