

Edith Watson

From: ashe biela <ashebiela@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 20, 2019 2:23 PM
To: Email - administration@strathconard.ca
Subject: To the Chair and Board of Directors

Dear SRD Chair and Directors,

I am very disturbed by the situation Cortes Island residents are presently dealing with. How is it possible that a small minority of people can create so much chaos and ill will, not only in our own remote community, but now splashing outside to other Regional Directors and into Campbell River? Perhaps while the rest of us stay busy being actively involved in our community, our children and relationships, and stewarding this good island, the dark, damp under shadows have moved in.

My name is Ashe Biela. I have lived here 15 years. We moved here with a baby and a backpack, without much money or skills. Just our dreams and our youth. We bought raw land, built the house, grow the food and raise the farm animals, and are super active in this community. I have been on many boards like the Shellfish Growers Coop, the Whaletown Community Club, and The Forest Trust for the Children of Cortes Island. I work as a paramedic with BCAS here on island, and my husband is a volunteer firefighter. When families have a new baby, I make them a meal. When an elder is in need I go and chop wood, tidy the house, or just share a beer and stories. I help decorate the hall for Christmas Community dinners, and every year me and the kids clean up garbage from the Gorge Harbour. This is the very fabric of our community. The fact that I now have so much: resources, skills, and true friendships, is a very real example of living in a community which cares, uplifts, and shares resources with one another.

As a mother to 3 boys, all of whom I home school, and an active member in my community, I haven't prioritized hounding the SRD or attending every meeting. Instead I came out to vote and I trusted that my representative would represent me. I am very happy with Noba Anderson. I support hall taxes and I support community. I am very upset that the SRD board has even allowed these issues to get to this level of dysfunction in the first place. Surely there is a professionalism and a code of ethics within the structure of your job duty that would not allow a few discontents to take the reigns and lead us all down this dark rabbit hole! Surely, we still run as a democracy. I believe these disturbing tactics being played out and allowed, are a threat to our freedom, democracy, and community. It is with hope that you will read my letter and step up to help support this beautiful island in a time of great need. I remember learning early on here that true self-sufficiency is unrealistic. To survive and thrive we need each other, no one person can do it alone. I believe Cortes Island, as a living entity, is needing some outside support so that we can continue to be a sweet, colorful, children ridden haven. Many people visit us from all over the world, and leave with a smile on their faces. Please help to protect this gem of an island. Please allow the hall tax referendum to go through. Rip off this uncomfortable band aid, which is clearly festering, and let us just move on with it.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ashe Biela