

## Edith Watson

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**From:** Anne Dzakovic <annedzakovic@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019 9:16 PM  
**To:** Email - administration@strathconard.ca  
**Subject:** letter of concern

To: The Chair and Board of Directors,

As a member of the Cortes community I have several serious concerns and questions as to how the SRD has been conducting itself over the past months. Below are a summary of my concerns.

### **Irregular process at SRD**

Brenda Leigh, representative for Oyster River, explained her vote on a Cortes Island issue as follows: She said she had heard concerns from Cortes residents via email. (Campbell River Mirror Nov 28 2018). Brenda Leigh has not made the number or contents of these emails public, has not entered them into the SRD record as Correspondence Received, has not shared them with other Board members or even with our own Regional Director.

#### **Questions on this issue:**

- 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?
- 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?

### **Why the Delays and Inconsistencies in the Referendum Process?**

Despite a clear majority (in both the 2017 petitions and delegations and the October 2018 vote) in favour of proceeding with a hall tax referendum, SRD has delayed that referendum at considerable cost to the taxpayer. In the summer of 2018, SRD promised us that if the October vote passed, SRD would expedite the process so that we could have a deciding vote in the Spring of 2019. However, in November, further indefinite delay was imposed. Brenda Leigh cited receiving undisclosed emails as the reason for her own vote for delay.

#### **Questions on this issue:**

- How many times has any Regional District held *a referendum on whether to have a referendum*? If this is as rare an event as local knowledge suggests, why was this costly half-measure used in the relatively simple matter of a tax service for Cortes Island?
- 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 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?

### **Allegations against our Regional Director**

In early January 2019, 14 Cortes residents filed a petition to litigate against our re-elected Regional Director (RD) Noba Anderson, accusing her of bribery and corruption. The 14 signatures on this petition are entirely those of our director's political opponents. Meanwhile, a private investigator has appeared on the island, hired by SRD, to investigate these allegations against our RD.

#### **Questions on this issue:**

- 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?
- 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?

Thank you for your time, I look forward to hearing back from you.  
Anne Dzakovic