

Edith Watson

From: Becky Knutson <beccasbeans@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 22, 2019 5:02 PM
To: Email - administration@strathconard.ca; Email - administration@strathconard.ca
Subject: to Chair and Board of Directors of the Strathcona Regional District
Attachments: Noba1.docx

Please see attached letter and enter into the record for reading at the SRD Board meeting on Thursday January 24, 2019. Thank you.

Rebecca Knutson

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January 22, 2019

To the Chair and Board of Directors of Strathcona Regional District,

Re: Letter of support for Noba Anderson and concerns about the democratic process

My husband Scott and I have lived on Cortes Island for 14 years. We have a home based small business here on our property. We moved to Cortes for the same reasons many people do. Its beauty, its relative remoteness and quiet, and for its strong sense of community. Previously, we had been city dwellers in Washington. Hardly knew our neighbours. We were struck by how much the community could accomplish with the dedicated work from many hands and hearts who committed to working together and getting things done. We are saddened and dismayed that this seems to be getting eroded by some who have come here and, not appreciating the community spirit, are trying to change the culture that originally brought us to the island. That culture is one that is necessary for many small communities. The culture of helping each other out in times of personal disaster. Such as a house fire. A number of people here have had help getting homes rebuilt after fires. This was not an isolated incident.

For this small group of people (petitioners) to try and make the help Noba's father received into some nefarious fraudulent deed is absolutely ridiculous! This is just what we do here. I am truly offended by the suggestion that anyone donating to that cause had some other motive in mind. We do not know Noba well, personally. We are not neighbours, nor do we socialize in the same groups. We know her on a professional level only. She has always been professional and forthright with us. I never had any reason to doubt her integrity. I DO NOT BELIEVE she would engage in anything illegal or unethical for her personal gain. We did not contribute to the fundraiser effort. If we had, we would now be called co-conspirators! So, who hired the private investigator and how much of our tax dollars did it cost? Who do they report to? Inquiring minds want to know, ridiculous as it is.

It seems to us that the SRD has significantly contributed to this fiasco we now find ourselves in. It has caused many of the problems we are now facing. By there being a delay in the binding referendum we were to get to vote on this spring, we now will have to wait another 2 years to have the First Responders trained and our Halls' services will need to wait. WE VOTED, THEY PASSED! One thing I failed to mention above is that Scott and I became Canadian Citizens in December of 2017. We were so excited to vote for the first time as Canadians! Now it feels like our votes didn't even count! That makes us very angry. The vote is THE BASIS OF DEMOCRACY! The majority of voters supported the non-binding Refs. The majority of the voters want bylaws and the SRD was instructed to create them. Somehow, a small group of folks are allowed to move things away from the will of the majority? This is highly irregular and hardly democratic. Now, they want to unseat the Regional Director ELECTED BY THE MAJORITY! I think they are just really sore losers.

It seems to us that the SRD has some major clean-up work to do within your Board of Directors. For Jim Abrams to have insinuated himself into some unfounded conspiracy theory during the campaign for the RD election was really out of line. For Brenda Leigh and possibly other RD to receive correspondence from Cortes Islanders and keep them secret is a foul smelling issue. For our RD to have asked on multiple occasions for this practice to stop, and it hasn't, is not only a horribly unfair situation to her but, it creates the appearance of our representative being treated differently than the other RD and that IS a problem for us and Cortes. The letters that have been received and kept hidden from Noba and the SRD Board need to be entered into the record. The letters should have been sent to her to begin with and Ms. Leigh should have supported Noba by being transparent about them. She also should have returned the letters and informed the people sending letters to her that they need to send them to Noba as she is their representative. These are pretty basic courtesies for how we treat co-workers. You folks need to grow up and get along! The Board Chair better get things cleaned up soon. The BC Ombudsman will be called if not. Brenda Leigh also needs to know that a FOI request will have to be fulfilled if she doesn't enter those letters ABOUT NOBA AND/OR CORTES ISLAND into the record. The majority of the people on Cortes Island elected Noba fair and square. This harassment needs to stop.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca and Scott Knutson