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Tuesday January 29, 2019

To: Chair and Board of Directors of the Strathcona Regional District.
By e-mail to: administration@srd.ca.
By mail to: Strathcona Regional District, 301 - 990 Cedar Street, Campbell River, BC, V9W 7Z8

Dear Sirs/Mesdames

We are writing to express our support for Director Noba Anderson as she faces corruption allegations in a lawsuit filed by a group of Cortes Island residents.

As you will be aware the main issues in the lawsuit concern the characterisation of contributions to a Go Fund Me campaign (organised to raise funds to build new accommodation for Ms. Anderson's father after a fire) and whether those donations created a conflict of interest in the context of Ms. Anderson's voting on grants to various community organisations.

We understand the SRD is carrying out its own investigation into the circumstances detailed in the lawsuit. We can only hope that the SRD's investigations result in the conclusion that the gifts made to the Go Fund Me campaign were just that, gifts, with no strings attached and no expectation on the part of the giver or receiver, of any debts owed or owing. This conclusion would be in keeping with our knowledge of the character of the people involved, and the way in which community members on Cortes help one another in times of crisis.

We wish to state clearly that as 10 year residents of Cortes Island, we have never known Ms. Anderson to conduct herself other than with the utmost honesty and integrity. We also believe that she conducted herself openly and scrupulously in relation to the Go Fund Me campaign and the grants referred to in the lawsuit.

We call on the SRD to support Ms. Anderson to the full extent legally possible in her defence of the lawsuit. Ms. Anderson will undoubtedly need substantial resources to be able to defend herself adequately in these court proceedings. The lawsuit seeks an extreme remedy in the removal of our elected representative, and without support with her legal defence costs, there is a very real risk that, even if innocent of the charges against her, Ms. Anderson could face the prospect of removal from office through lack of the financial resources to mount an adequate legal defence. We hope you agree with us that this would represent a grave injustice as well as undermining democracy in our community.

Yours truly

Andrew Smyth

Jason Andrews