

Edith Watson

From: Ian le Cheminant <ianlecheminant@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2019 11:34 AM
To: Email - administration@strathconard.ca
Subject: The Suspension of Cortes Island Business
Attachments: Letter to SRD Board final.docx

Cc: BC Office of the Ombudsperson
PO Box 9039, STN PROV GOVT, Victoria, BC V8W 9A5

January 29, 2019

To the Strathcona Regional District Chair and Board of Directors

Re: The Suspension of Cortes Island Business by the SRD Board

As a result of a groundswell of response from thoughtful and concerned Cortes Island residents it has come to our attention that there has been a breakdown of normal business conduct and relations between the SRD Board and the reasonable interests of Cortes Islanders, as expressed through our elected Regional Director Noba Anderson. Prior to the most recent meeting of the board there were already concerns expressed to the board in speech and in writing by Director Anderson with regard to the influence of some emails from Cortes Islanders addressed to members of the Board and referenced in meetings of the Board, but not made publicly available. The SRD Board's conduct and decisions at the meeting held on January 24th took matters a step further.

We refer to the decision recorded in the minutes as follows: "That the agenda be amended to remove items J6, K2 and K4 until the implications of the legal petition filed by Cortes constituents is fully understood by the Board." Not explicitly stated in the minutes but part of the original agenda is the information that J6, K2 and K4 refer to the appointment of individuals to a new Advisory Planning Council (since the October 2018 election), the hall service funding, and the first responder service. These are all matters of substantial concern to Cortes Islanders, who wish to see them proceeded with in a responsible and timely manner. The minutes give us to understand that the delay in these matters was required by the Board's need to "fully understand the implications" of a baseless nuisance lawsuit brought against our regional director by a small interest group of political opponents.

The Board's deliberated action in tabling these issues is not neutral. It is an active disservice to the interests of Cortes Island residents, just as it precisely serves the intent of the petitioners in the lawsuit, which many Islanders would characterize as obstructionism and troublemaking.

- On what information was the Board acting when it made its decision to suspend Cortes Island business?
- What are the consequences of the Board's decision with respect to the appointment of a new Advisory Planning Council for Cortes? Does the Board intend that there will be no Council for some period of time? What will that period of time be?
- What are the consequences of the Board's decision with respect to the provision of Hall Services funding for Cortes in the SRD 2019 budget?
- What are the consequences of the Board's decision with respect to the establishment of a first responder service for Cortes. Since this is a health and safety issue and it is hence clearly in the interest

of Cortes Islanders that the matter be expedited, how quickly will action on this file be allowed to resume?

- What actions will the Board take to remedy the negative consequences of their suspension of regular Cortes business on January 24th?
- Will the Board demonstrate that it is in fact accountable to its constituents on Cortes Island by responding openly and transparently to their reasonable concerns regarding this matter?

We will look for your timely response to this letter, which raises clear issues bearing on the responsible conduct of business by SRD Board members.

Ian & Jean Le Cheminant

Note: Printable Word file version attached.

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