

REQUEST FOR DELEGATION TO REGIONAL BOARD

Name of Organization: Delegation of Cortes Island Residents

Name and title of person(s) making the presentation: Christine & Cec
Robinson

Phone No.: (250)935-6428 Fax No.: _____

Email: emrobinson54@gmail.com / ccrobinson999@gmail.com

Address: Box 68, 1457 Bayview Rd, Whaletown,
Cortes Island, BC, VOP 1Z0

Details of Presentation:
Presentation of cover letter to the Open Letter AND
Presentation of the Open Letter to Cortes Islanders
10 minute presentation.

Date of Board Meeting Requested: February 13, 2019
(if possible, please include an alternate meeting date that is acceptable) _____

The current meeting calendar may be viewed at www.srd.ca.

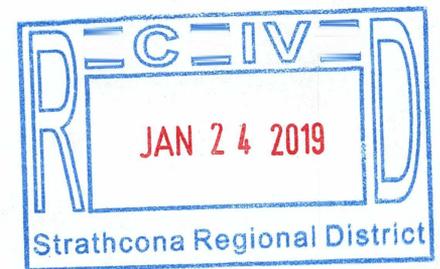
Please email this request to administration@srd.ca. If a confirmation has not been received within 48 hours please call the Corporate Services department at 250-830-6700.

Please Note

- The maximum length of the presentation is **10 minutes**.
- It is recommended that you submit a brief letter outlining your request by 3:00 p.m. on the 11th day prior to the requested meeting so it can be included with the Board's agenda package.
- A laptop and projector are provided in the boardroom for electronic presentations. It is recommended that you bring a copy of your electronic presentation on a memory stick and email a copy to administration@srd.ca to include in the electronic agenda.

For Office Use Only	
Date of Board meeting confirmed:	_____
10 minute time limit confirmed:	_____
Letter provided for agenda:	_____ electronic copy of presentation emailed: _____

Christine & Cec Robinson,
1457 Bayview Road, Box 68,
Whaletown, Cortes Island, BC, V0P 1Z0



Strathcona Regional District,
309 – 990 Cedar Street,
Campbell River, BC, V9W 7Z8

Attention: Chair and Board of Directors of the Strathcona Regional District.

January 22, 2019

We submit for the attention of the SRD Chair, Board and staff, the attached document, an 'Open Letter to Cortes Islanders', which bears the names of 196 community members, dated January 21, 2019. We request that this cover letter and 'Open Letter to Cortes Islanders' be accepted and recorded into the minutes of the SRD Board meeting of January 24, 2019.

These names include *residents*, whether they own property or not, and *property owners*, whether resident or not. All of the individuals are considered Cortes Island community members, though not every name on the letter is a registered voter, but all are stakeholders in our local affairs.

Every person who signed this letter was personally contacted and offered the opportunity to read background information (including newspaper articles and the full text of the petition against RD Anderson) prior to their consent.

This Open Letter is not a petition to the Strathcona Regional District but an exhibition of great concern by 196 individuals regarding the democratic process at the SRD and the lack of SRD support for our elected official, Director Anderson.

The legal petition submitted by 14 individuals with the accusations against our Regional Director, 8 community organizations and 30 individuals represents a tiny minority of Cortes Islanders. The majority of Cortes Island residents are incredulous and outraged.

Furthermore, the Open Letter with the 196 names was initiated and completed without any involvement or enquiry of Director Anderson.

We thank you for your attention to these important issues, and expect a thorough and honest investigation by the SRD into the concerns outlined in the Open Letter to Cortes Islanders. We do expect an explanation on these issues to the Cortes community.

Christine & Cec Robinson (residents of Cortes Island for 28 years)

Christine Robinson
Cec Robinson

cmrobinson54@gmail.com
cerobinson999@gmail.com

Open Letter to Cortes Islanders

January 21, 2019

By now most of you have heard the news: **14 Cortes residents filed a petition (Jan 2/3 2019) to initiate a lawsuit to remove our Regional Director, Noba Anderson, from office.**

The primary allegation in this petition is that Director Anderson solicited bribes and delivered kickbacks in return. A quote: *Anderson took money from her constituents for personal gain and a number of those same constituents received gifts and grants in return.* (Campbell River Mirror, Jan 7 2019). According to the signatories, this bribery took place in the late spring of 2018. During that time a GoFundMe page was established by Lovena Harvey to ask the community to support a fundraising effort for Noba's dad Bernie -- an elderly man suffering from dementia who burned down his small cabin and was lucky to survive the fire. The cabin was completely destroyed, and so were all his possessions.

Money collected via the GoFundMe page was placed in a separate bank account in Bernie's name. Noba used it to cover part of the cost of adding a bedroom for Bernie to her house, as he now requires more supervised care. 28 people contributed. \$2700 was raised locally to help Bernie. The petitioners allege that donors to this GoFundMe effort had connections to island organisations which receive GIA funds from SRD, and that Director Anderson preferentially directed funding to these organisations in response to bribes received.

We, the undersigned, believe these allegations to be unfounded and mean-spirited. While some of us disagree with Noba on various issues, and not all of us voted for her in the last election, we feel that this lawsuit is politically motivated and not in keeping with Cortes community spirit.

We are asking you to consider seriously whether you truly find these allegations against our Director -- and against several of our community organisations and their members-- believable. We ask you to consider the following questions, regardless of whether you voted for Noba Anderson or for George Sirk in our last election:

1. Defamation of our Regional Director...

Most of the 14 signatories to this lawsuit are political opponents of Director Anderson. SRD has also been apprised of these allegations against her. Their CAO, David Leitch, with the agreement of the SRD board, has hired a private investigator to look into the matter. This investigator has been interviewing Cortes residents during the first half of January. **Was this costly response appropriate, given such flimsy and partisan allegations?**

2. Irregular Process at SRD Affects Cortes Issues...

Regional Director Leigh, representative for Oyster River, explained her vote to further delay our tax service referendum as follows: *She said she had heard concerns from Cortes residents via email.* (Campbell River Mirror, Nov 28 2018) **Does this mean some people on Cortes are lobbying a Regional Director other than their own, to influence SRD votes on Cortes affairs?** RD Leigh has not made the number or contents of these emails public, has not entered them into the SRD record as Correspondence Received, and has not shared them with our own Regional Director.

3. Delays and Inconsistencies in Referendum Process...

A clear majority desired a tax service referendum in petitions and delegations in 2017; the October 2018 vote favoured proceeding with a referendum by the same margin. In the summer of 2018, SRD promised that if the October vote passed, SRD would expedite the process with a deciding vote in the spring of 2019. However, in November, a further indefinite delay was imposed. **Why has SRD delayed that referendum at considerable cost to the taxpayer?**

4. Voter Harassment on Cortes Island...

In December 2018, RCMP appeared on Cortes Island, questioning individuals about their length of residence and ID. They said a complaint had been filed alleging "illegal voting" in our most recent election, and that they had been given a list of names. Only nine names were given to the RCMP and as of this date we know of none who were disqualified from voting. **Is this a case of partisan voter harassment?**

For quite some time now there has been apparent resistance at SRD to proposals brought by RD Anderson, even when they reflect the majority opinion of her constituents. SRD appears to be influenced somehow by minority opinion on Cortes. This seems to be encouraging more and more extreme and un-Cortes-like political tactics from Director Anderson's opponents, culminating now in an attempt to remove her from office.

If you are concerned, as we are, about any or all of the above questions as indicators of an erosion of our democratic process and community spirit, we encourage you to join us in expressing your opinion in an individual letter to the SRD: administration@srd.ca
Please address your letter clearly to SRD Board of Directors.

We feel SRD needs to explain... why secret lobbying is permitted; why Cortes issues are handled differently from those of other SRD Areas; why they have imposed so much delay and expense on a simple referendum issue; how much they have spent on their acceptance of weak allegations against our RD; plus any other questions you may have about this situation.

More complete information may be found at this URL:

http://www.daclarke.org/Cortes/RDNA_Litigation.html

or by contacting De Clarke who is hosting these documents and can help you access them. At this URL, you can read the complete text of the original petition.

Yours for a kinder and more democratic Cortes,

Aaron Ellingsen	Derek MackMumford	John Shook	Phil Allen
Adam McKenty	Devon Johnston	John Sprungman	Priya Huffman
Adam Schick	Diane Brussel	Jon Knowles	Ralph Garrison
Amanda Glickman	Diane Elliott	Jonas Fineman	Ray Kendall
Amber Sprungman	Dilani Hippola	Joy Kerfoot	Rex Weyler
Amy Bockner	Donna Dryer	Juli Nelson	Richard Andrews
Amy Robertson	Dr Peter Elliott	Kai Harvey	Richard Gaudette
Andrew Baskin	Elinore Harwood	Karen Hansen	Richard Yensen
Andrew Smyth	Elizabeth Anderson	Kate Archibald	Rick Bockner
Andrew Weil	Emilie Hansen	Kate Maddigan	Risa Salsberg
Andy Ellingsen	Emilie Wapnick	Kirsten Vidulich	Roland Boudreau
Angela Hales	Fawn Baron	Kristen	Ron Bazar
Ann Hiatt	Gabriel Dinim	Schofield-Sweet	Ron Wolda
Anna Ochsenbein	Gail Ringwood	Kristina Purcell	Rose Fitcyk
Anne-Lise Hollier	Gary Cork	Laura Heslin	Rose Wooldridge
Ashe Biela	George Lerchs	Lella Gmeiner	Roy Hales
Ashley Zarbatany	Gerry Watson	Leonard Woywitka	Ruth Riddell
Barry Glickman	Gillian Nagle	Lisa Gibbons	Ryan Harvey
Becky Knutson	Giorgio Giovinazzo	Lloyd Yendall	Sachia Kron
Bernice McGowan	Glenna Foerster	Lore MackMumford	Sadhu Johnston
Bill Dougan	Grazyna Trzesicki	Lovena Harvey	Sandra Wood
Bill Weaver	Hannes Grosse	Lucas Biela	Scott Knutson
Bill Wheeler	Hannu Huuskonen	Lynne Barker	Sean Sprungman
Blanca Scanlon-Sharpe	Hanyu Wasyliw	Manda	Serene Watson
Bob Katzko	Hayley Newell	Aufochs Gillespie	Sherry Sprungman
Bob Tracy	Heather Ogilvy	Margaret Verschuur	Sheryl Thompson
Brian Genn	Heidi Gerrard	Mark Braaten	Siobhan Robinsong
Brittany Baxter	Helen T	Mark Vonesch	Sonya Friesen
Carie Fischtein	Cliffon-Wooldridge	Martha Abelson	Steve Brady
Carina Verhoeve	Henry Verschuur	MaryClare Preston	Steve London
Carol London	Howie Roman	Matt Cusciana	Steve Ringwood
Carole Thacker	Hubert Havelaar	Maureen Williams	Sue Ellingsen
Carole Waddell	Ian Le Cheminant	Max Thaysen	SueJohn Allen
Caroline Baker	Ian Ross	Maya Buckner	Susan Blackburn
Carrie Saxifrage	Ian Watson	Meinsje Vlaming	Suzanne Minogue
Catharine Bushe	Irene Blueth	Michelle Mailey	Tamara McPhail
Caz Ratcliffe	Iris Steigemann	Mike Malek	Tammy Allwork
Cec Robinson	Isabel Steigemann	Mike Moore	Theresa Hargrave
Chris Napper	J Wayne Roberts	Miki Bellemare	Thomas Huffman
Chris Walker	Jane Newman	Miranda Cross	Toby Roman
Christine Robinson	Janet Turpin	Mitchell McCoy	Toni Smorodin
Connie Brill	Jason Andrews	Myann Woolley	Tony Toledo
Dan Peters	Jean Le Cheminant	Nancy Kendall	Travis Pawlak
Dana Bass Solomon	Jessica Pinder	Natasha Meredith	Valerie Wernet
Daniel Nagle	Jodie Brady	Nori Fletcher	Victoria Watson
David Hiatt	Joe Grassi	Norm Gibbons	Wendy Havelaar
David Hughes	Joel Doyle	Odette Auger	Xuan Ly Betz
David Rousseau	Joel Solomon	Paul Kirmmse	Yifan Li
De Clarke	Johanna Robertson	Peter Henbury	Yvonne Kip
Denise Wolda	John Preston	Peter Jackel	