

Subject: [Fwd: Re: Ombudsman]

Date: Fri, 11 Jul 2003 12:05:03 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Re: Ombudsman

Date: Fri, 11 Jul 2003 18:23:52 +0100 (BST)

From: Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

To: Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>, "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, projectsupport@cagebc.com

CC: Senior Management Committee <managecomm@dnv.org>, Mayor and Council - DNV <council@dnv.org>

11 July 2003

Dear Clr. Crist:

If the Ombudsman's report was only just released, it must be the 'official' release, since this was written up in the Press +/- 3 weeks ago. Also, Mr. Kushner was interviewed in February, following his announcement that, due to budget cuts, he would no longer be in a position to assist citizens who felt they had been abused by local government.

As I asked in some of my earlier material, what on earth is the point of spending years and hundreds of thousands of dollars to morph the old Municipal Act into the LGA, and the LGA into the upcoming Community Charter, when citizens have no way of enforcing the legislation unless they have money and time enough to initiate a sorely-needed court case?

Moreover, what is the point of any legislation that contains clauses allowing for a member or members of council to be held personally responsible for certain actions, even barred from holding office for five years, when all the miscreant needs to do is have an *in camera* meeting with the nearest municipal counsel who promptly applies to the Minister to 'make things all better' retroactively?

To add insult to injury, citizens have no control, either, when a local politician, despite admitting to the press that he knew full well that a contract contravened the LGA at the time it was being written, has the brass to write himself a larger paycheque out of the taxpayers' pocket.

Democracy in Canada and especially in BC is, I'm afraid, a sham.

Sincerely,

Liz James

Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org> wrote:

ELIMINATING THE UNDERPINNINGS OF DEMOCRACY.....

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