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Greenpeace web-site that mocks Alberta tourism, paid for by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund Inc., through Tides Canada

From: VIVIAN KRAUSE <vivian.krause@mac.com>

To: Ross McMillan <ross.mcmillan@tidescanada.org>

Cc: communications@rbf.org, Kevin Libin <klibin@nationalpost.com>, Fizal Mihar <fmihlar@png.canwest.com>, Tim Renshaw <trenshaw@biv.com>, Joel McKay <jmckay@biv.com>

Date: January 31, 2011 4:54:05 AM

Mr. McMillan & Mr. Solomon,

Below, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund Inc. has admitted that it paid Tides Canada \$50,000 for a derogatory web-site (www.travelingalberta.com) about tourism in Alberta. As far as I can tell, it was Tides Canada that was paid yet the web-site is presented to the public in the name of [Greenpeace](#), and is promoted by [DeSmogBlog](#).

As it appears to me, you must have known all along that Tides Canada had been paid by RBF Inc. for this Greenpeace web-site. Why didn't you say so?

In the campaigns that you run to "reform" forestry, mining, oil & gas, and aquaculture, you demand transparency and openness. Do you hold Tides Canada to the same standard?

As I believe that the questions and concerns that I am raising are matters of public interest, I will be posting this at my blog: www.fair-questions.com.

If I have the wrong impression, please let me know.

Sincerely,
Vivian Krause
604.618.8110

Begin forwarded message:

From: communications <communications@rbf.org>
Date: January 27, 2011 6:44:17 AM
To: "Vivian.krause@mac.com" <vivian.krause@mac.com>
Subject: RE: "Oil Sands Tourism" web-site funded by RBF Inc.

Ms. Krause,

My apologies for the delay in responding. I have been out of the office. The answers are "yes" to your first question; and after reviewing the grant files, "no" to your second question.

Take care,

Gail

From: Vivian.krause@mac.com [mailto:vivian.krause@mac.com]
Sent: Tue 1/25/2011 3:14 PM
To: communications
Cc: Ross McMillan; Fizal Mihar; Kevin Libin
Subject: "Oil Sands Tourism" web-site funded by RBF Inc.

Ms. Fuller,

I thought that I might have heard from you at the end of last week with regards to my two questions about the web-site on "Oil Sands Tourism" for which RBF Inc. Paid \$50,000 to Tides Canada, and the RETHINK ALBERTA campaign.

These two questions are fairly straightforward, yes/no questions, I believe.

Perhaps you could let me know when I might receive your response?

My questions are below.

Sincerely,
Vivian Krause

On 2011-01-20, at 7:53 PM, "Vivian.krause@mac.com" <vivian.krause@mac.com> wrote:

Ms. Fuller,

Thank you for your reply.

Which web-site did Tides Canada develop with \$50,000 from RBF Inc.?

Has funding that RBF Inc. provided to Corporate Ethics International been used for RETHINK ALBERTA?

I look forward to your reply about RBF Inc.'s investments, next week.

Sincerely,
Vivian

On 2011-01-20, at 4:08 PM, communications <communications@rbf.org> wrote:

Ms. Krause,

As promised, I am following up on your inquiry from January 19, 2011. I have responded below to each of your questions.

1) Which website did RBF Inc. pay Tides Canada to develop? Is it the website which is attributed to Greenpeace, and promoted by DeSmogBlog?

In February 2008 a \$50,000 grant was made to the Sage Foundation for the development of a Web site: Oil Sands Tourism. This site's goal was to educate American tourists and tour operators about the damage being done to Alberta by the unsustainable extraction of tar sands. The grant reflected the Fund's interests in biodiversity protection, mitigating climate change, and promoting clean energy alternatives.

Also, in November 2009, a \$20,000 grant was made to Tides Canada Initiatives Society for its project, the DeSmog Blog. The purpose of the grant was to help increase the amount of onsite reporting of the Copenhagen climate change conference.

2) Did RBF Inc. re-write the grant to the Sage Foundation/Tides Canada for the \$50,000 grant for a web-site about Oil Sands Tourism? If so, why was this grant re-written?

In regards to your inquiry about the \$50,000 grant to Sage Foundation (Tides Canada) in 2008, the grant was not rewritten.

Our grant recommendations follow a standard template, which includes: proposal, grant objectives, program relevance, and previous interest. Please see screen shot below.

<image003.jpg>

From 2007–2008 our grants were uploaded onto our Web site with the grant objectives. In spring, 2008, we underwent a grantmaking process review that examined both our internal grant review process and grants data on the Web site, www.rbf.org. Following that review, we decided that the proposal language provided our Web site users with a more succinct description of the grant purpose. In December 2010, we launched a new and improved Web site that included a new grants database. You will note that grant detail results now include: grant amount, term, award date, proposal, and program goal to which the grant corresponds, along with information about other grants given to a grantee. These changes reflect our usability research.

3) How did Tides Canada use the \$255,000 that RBF Inc. paid to Tides Canada for its Climate Change

project? Did that \$255,000, or part of it, also go towards DeSmogBlog?

Three grants, totaling \$255,000, were made to Tides Canada from 2004-2006. Below is the proposal and objective information for each grant.

- **2004 Grant (\$60,000) for its Climate Project:** The objective of this grant was to offer support for efforts to model practical strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- **2005 Grant (\$120,000) for its Canadian Climate Project:** The objective of this grant was to aid an effort to create and implement a long-term greenhouse gas reduction plan for Canada.
- **2006 Grant (\$75,000) for its Canadian Climate Project:** This grant's objective was to encourage Canada to remain an international leader on global warming.

Also, as promised, I am working on getting the information you need regarding your questions around our investments. If you require further information, please let me know. Please note, I will be unavailable tomorrow, without access to email, until about 2:00 p.m. ET; and will respond to any further inquiries as soon as possible.

Take care,

Gail

Gail Fuller, Director of Communications
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Philanthropy for an Interdependent World
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From: VIVIAN KRAUSE [mailto:vivian.krause@me.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2011 3:20 PM
To: communications
Subject: Re: RE: Did the Rockefeller Brothers Fund Inc. RE-WRITE ITS GRANT to Tides Canada for an Oil Sands Tourism web-site?

Ms. Fuller,

Thank you for getting back to me so quickly. I look forward to hearing from you later today.

Sincerely,
 Vivian Krause
 604.618.8110

On Jan 20, 2011, at 12:14 PM, communications <communications@rbf.org> wrote:

Ms. Krause,

My apologies for the delay, but I am reviewing the grant files, so that I may provide you with the answers you seek. I will respond to you later today.

If you have other questions, please let me know. Thanks.

Gail

Gail Fuller, Director of Communications
 Rockefeller Brothers Fund | 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 900 | New York, NY 10115

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From: VIVIAN KRAUSE [mailto:vivian.krause@me.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2011 4:37 PM
To: communications; Ross McMillan
Cc: Fizal Mihlar
Subject: Fwd: Did the Rockefeller Brothers Fund Inc. RE-WRITE ITS GRANT to Tides Canada for an Oil Sands Tourism web-site?

Ms. Fuller and Mr. McMillan,

I am going to be writing about this in a column that I'll be submitting to The Vancouver Sun. My deadline is this Friday, January 21, 2011. If I don't hear from you to the contrary by the end of the day on Thursday, I will assume that the Rockefeller Brothers Fund Inc. re-wrote its grant to Tides Canada for a web-site about "Oil Sands Tourism."

You'll notice that I've copied Mr. Fazil Mihlar at The Vancouver Sun.

Sincerely,
 Vivian Krause
 604.618.8110

Begin forwarded message:

From: VIVIAN KRAUSE <vivian.krause@mac.com>
Date: January 19, 2011 12:58:06 PM
To: communications <communications@rbf.org>, Ross McMillan <ross.mcmillan@tidescanada.org>, Kevin Libin <klibin@nationalpost.com>
Subject: Did the Rockefeller Brothers Fund Inc. RE-WRITE ITS GRANT to Tides Canada for an Oil Sands Tourism web-site?

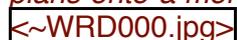
Ms. Fuller,

I look forward to hearing from you next week.

As you can see, I'm copying Kevin Libin at the National Post.

Further to my earlier questions, I would like to inquire about whether the Rockefeller Brothers Fund Inc. has **re-written its grant** to Tides Canada for \$50,000 for a web-site about Oil Sands Tourism. I would also like to know which is the web-site about Alberta tourism that Tides Canada was paid produce with funds from RBF Inc

As shown below, as of last fall your web-site said that RBF Inc. paid Tides Canada \$50,000 to produce a web-site "*to educate American tourists and tour operators about the damage being done to Alberta by the unsustainable extraction of tar sands, and by doing so, to increase pressure on Alberta policymakers to shift development plans onto a more sustainable track.*"



Tides Canada Initiatives Society was formerly known as the Sage Foundation.

As of today, the grant description shown above is no longer

found at the web-site of RBF Inc. Instead, there is information about a grant to Tides Canada for \$50,000 that was simply "*To develop a web-site Oil Sands Tourism.*" The part about increasing pressure on Alberta policymakers is gone. The date for this grant, February 13, 2008, is exactly the same as the date in the previous grant description, the one that is shown above but is no longer on-line.



I note that a web-site called Oil Sands Tourism is located at a web-site called [Travelling Alberta](#). This web-site is promoted by DeSmogBlog. I also note that in 2010, RBF Inc. paid Tides Canada \$20,000 for DeSmogBlog as part of its Climate Change project. According to your on-line database, RBF Inc. also paid Tides Canada **\$255,000** for its Climate Change project (2004-2006) - not including the \$20,000 for DeSmogBlog.

My questions are:

- 1) Which web-site did RBF Inc. pay Tides Canada to develop? Is it the website which is attributed to Greenpeace, and promoted by DeSmogBlog?
- 2) Did RBF Inc. re-write the grant to the Sage Foundation/Tides Canada for the \$50,000 grant for a web-site about Oil Sands Tourism? If so, why was this grant re-written?
- 3) How did Tides Canada use the \$255,000 that RBF Inc. paid to Tides Canada for its Climate Change project? Did that \$255,000, or part of it, also go towards DeSmogBlog?

In advance, thank you for taking time to consider my questions.

Sincerely,

Vivian Krause
604.618.8110