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## Response to Tides Canada's letters in the Financial Post & the Vancouver SUN

From: VIVIAN KRAUSE <[vivian.krause@me.com](mailto:vivian.krause@me.com)>

To: Drummond Pike <[drummond@tides.org](mailto:drummond@tides.org)>, Ross McMillan <[ross.mcmillan@tidescanada.org](mailto:ross.mcmillan@tidescanada.org)>, [joel@renewalpartners.com](mailto:joel@renewalpartners.com), [treasurer@votevision.ca](mailto:treasurer@votevision.ca)

Cc: Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca, [dana.bertrand@vancouver.ca](mailto:dana.bertrand@vancouver.ca), Patricia Graham <[PGraham@png.canwest.com](mailto:PGraham@png.canwest.com)>, Fizal Mihlar <[fmihlar@png.canwest.com](mailto:fmihlar@png.canwest.com)>, Charlie Smith <[charlie@straight.com](mailto:charlie@straight.com)>, Sean Holman <[editorial@publiceyeonline.com](mailto:editorial@publiceyeonline.com)>

Date: 02 November 2010 12:54:42 PM

To: Mr. Drummond Pike, CEO of Tides U.S.  
Mr. Ross McMillan, CEO of Tides Canada  
Mr. Joel Solomon, President of Endswell  
Ms. Martha Burton, Treasurer of Vision Vancouver

c.c. Mayor Gregor Robertson, Mayor of Vancouver

As you know from my [letters](#), I have concerns and questions about some of the revenue, expenditures and activities of Tides Canada and Tides U.S. I have posted new material at my blog: [Rethink Campaigns](#). For your reference, I have provide it below.

If anything that I have presented is factually incorrect, or if I have missed any important points, please let me know.

Sincerely,  
Vivian Krause  
604.618.8110

## A response to Tides Canada's letters in the Financial Post and the Vancouver SUN

The [Financial Post](#), the [Montreal Gazette](#) and the [Vancouver Sun](#) have reported that Tides Canada and its parent organization, Tides U.S., have paid at least \$6 million to 36 organizations that campaign against Alberta oil. Tides Canada [responded at its web-site](#) by saying that this reporting, "challenged the integrity of our organization and the motives of our philanthropic partners concerned about the environmental impact of Alberta's oil sands development." Tides Canada also published a letter in the [Financial Post](#) and the [Vancouver Sun](#). The letter says that there's "nothing nefarious" about Tides.

[Tides Canada says](#) that it is Canada's "first and only national public foundation focused on the environment and social justice" and that it has funded [hundreds](#) of organizations. Tax returns for Tides Canada show revenues of [\\$178 million](#) since 2000. In 2009 alone, Tides Canada reported revenues of \$22 million.

Last year, Tides Canada reported to Revenue Canada that only [12 percent](#) of its activity was for environmental and wildlife protection; the other [88 percent](#) was to provide support and services for the charitable sector. Over roughly the same period that Tides launched a multi-million dollar campaign against Alberta oil, salaries and overhead have doubled and tripled. If Tides Canada is setting an example for the charitable sector, I believe that Tides Canada has some explaining to do.

One of the big funders of Tides Canada is the [Endswell Foundation](#), a charity registered in both Canada and the U.S. Tax returns show that since 2003, Endswell has granted \$8.7 Million. Of that, [99 percent](#) went to Tides

Canada.

U.S. tax returns say that from 2007 to 2008, the salary of Ross McMillan, the CEO of Tides Canada, went from [\\$53,092](#) to [\\$143,236](#). The number of hours worked was the same in both years: 37.5 per week.

At Endswell, payments to Joel Solomon more than tripled from \$50,203 in 2004 to [\\$186,189](#) in 2008. Since 1997, Endswell paid Joel Solomon and his company a total of [\\$872,519](#) including unspecified payments to "[JSCO](#)."

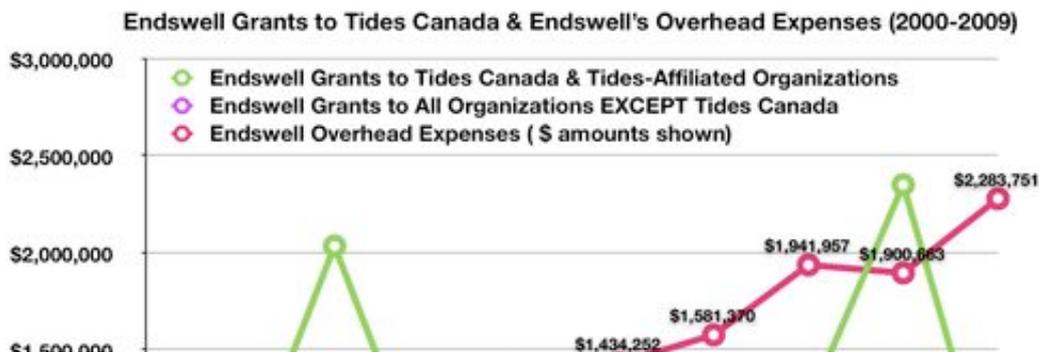
The Sr. Vice-President at Endswell is Martha Burton. Her salary nearly [doubled](#) from 2007 to 2008. Martha Burton is also the treasurer of [Vision Vancouver](#), the political party of Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson. Prior to that, Burton was the assistant treasurer at Tides Canada.

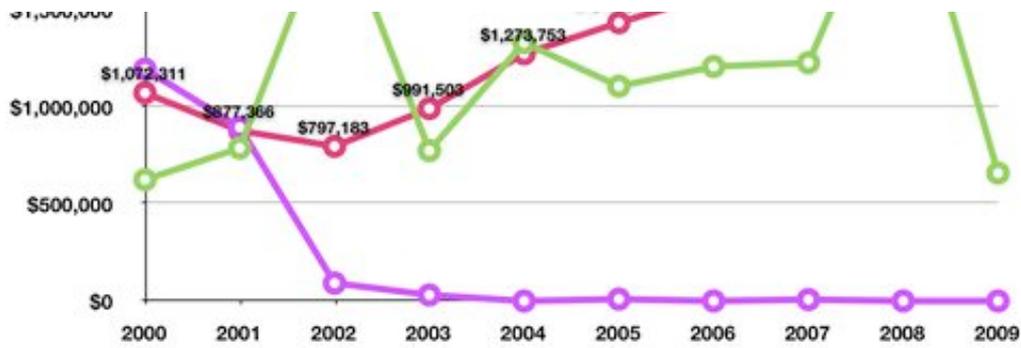
U.S. tax returns say that since 1997, Endswell has paid [\\$1.2 Million](#) to Interdependent Investments Ltd. Little seems to have been reported about this company except that it contributed [\\$6,000](#) to Vision Vancouver. A [B.C. Company Summary](#) indicates that the officers of Interdependent Investments Ltd. are Joel Solomon and Martha Burton. Why did Endswell need to pay \$1.2 million to a company whose only two officers are also the two most highly paid employees of the charity?

U.S. tax returns show that between 2004 and 2008 Endswell paid nearly [\\$1.9 million](#) to staff at a [Renewal Partners](#), a seed capital "investment firm" where Joel Solomon is president and Martha Burton is vice-president. According to the Vancouver SUN's on-line database for campaign finance, Renewal Partners and [Strategic Communications](#) (of which Renewal Partners is a major client) contributed [\\$153,783](#) to Vision Vancouver & Mayor Gregor Robertson's 2008 campaign. Would that have happened without Endswell to cover staff salaries and who knows what else?

At Tides U.S., Tides Canada and Endswell, the same people are in charge: Joel Solomon is [chair](#) of Tides U.S., the [Vice-Chair](#) of Tides Canada and the [president](#) of Endswell. Drummond Pike is the [founder & CEO of Tides U.S.](#), the "[founding chair](#)" of Tides Canada and the [chair](#) of Endswell. James Morrissey, an accountant at Ernst & Young, is the treasurer of [Endswell](#), [Tides Canada Foundation](#) & [Tides Canada Initiatives Society](#). Considering that the people at the top are the same and that Endswell's grants went to Tides Canada it seems to me that these charities are virtually one and the same.

Since 2003, even though Endswell made virtually no grants at all to any organizations except Tides Canada, Endswell spent [\\$11.4 Million](#): \$2.3 million for [office expenses](#), \$2.6 million for staff costs, \$5.9 million for "other expenses" and \$427,973 for consultants. Why did Endswell need to spend \$11.4 million so that it could grant \$8.7 million to Tides Canada? In my opinion, this is the \$11.4 million dollar question for Tides Canada.





Name	2008 Campaign Contribution to Vision Vancouver	Positions Held			Salaries Paid by Endswell Foundation					
		At Renewal Partners "Investment Firm"	At Endswell, a registered charity	At Endswell as of	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004 - 2008
Joel Solomon	\$9,165	President	President	23 Dec. 2003	\$50,203	\$112,203	\$144,142	\$160,692	\$186,189	\$653,429
Paul Richardson	\$250	Managing Director President of Renewal2	Vice-President	29 Dec. 2004	\$55,656	\$85,929	\$148,995	\$148,865	\$150,094	\$589,539
Martha Burton	\$1,050	Partner, Sr. Advisor to Tides Canada	Sr. Vice-President	23 Dec. 2003				\$72,036	\$135,325	\$207,361
Pam Chalout	\$725	Managing Director V.P. Renewal2	Chief Operating Officer	23 Dec. 2007				\$96,395	\$108,201	\$204,596
Alexandra Pearson		Controller	Controller	2006			\$59,365			\$59,365
Jacqueline Zhu		Controller	Controller	2007				\$60,155	\$74,231	\$134,386
Deborah Maitland		n/a	Executive Assistant	2006			\$51,298			\$51,298
Sub-total:					\$105,859	\$198,132	\$403,800	\$538,143	\$654,040	\$1,899,974

Note: The compensation noted above for Joel Solomon does not include amounts paid to Joel Solomon Co. or "JSCO."