

Request for Tides Canada to please post its U.S. tax returns at its web-site. Now.

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

Cc: Charlie Smith <charlie@straight.com>, Fizal Mihlar <fmihlar@png.canwest.com>

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Mr. McMillan,

The purpose of this open letter, which I will post at my blog, is to request that Tides Canada please posts its U.S. tax returns at its web-site, particularly for 2010. As you know, I have been making this request for over a year.

Since Tides Canada is registered in the U.S. has received substantial American funding - at least [\\$60 million](#) according to my calculations- and is using foreign money to run multi-million dollar campaigns that would hamper some of the resource-based industries that are the backbone of the Canadian economy, I believe that the very least that Tides Canada can do is to provide its U.S. tax returns [at its web-site](#) so that Canadians can see for themselves what Tides Canada is funding with American money.

Given that Vancouver is now on the eve of a municipal election, I believe that the time for Tides Canada to make available its U.S. tax returns, is now.

Earlier this year, [Tides Canada announced](#) that it is supporting Vision Vancouver's green agenda with funds from the Bullitt Foundation. I believe that it is also relevant to note that in the past, the Bullitt foundation has also provided substantial funds to block infrastructure development projects in the lower mainland. For example:

- Bullitt paid [\\$70,000](#) to the Canadian Society Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC). That included [\\$32,000](#) in 2006 "*to prevent highway expansion and bridge construction in the Lower Mainland*" and a further [\\$25,000](#) in 2007 "*To continue building a diverse coalition to advocate for transit and oppose efforts to widen Highway 1 and build a second bridge across the Fraser River.*"
- In 2008, Bullitt paid the Dogwood Initiative [\\$30,000](#), "*To strengthen and enforce a 34-year moratorium on oil tanker traffic in the mid and north coast of British Columbia, and to prevent expansion of oil and gas infrastructure in Georgia Strait and the lower Fraser Basin.*"

Indeed, if one's agenda is to block infrastructure development in the lower mainland, it wouldn't hurt to have the Vancouver mayor and council on side.

Tides Canada reports to Revenue Canada that it has made [zero expenditures for political activity](#). However, at the federal, provincial and municipal levels, Tides Canada has funded several projects that appear to me to be inherently political. In at least three instances, these projects are supported with foreign funds from American foundations:

- Tides Canada [supports the Dogwood Initiative](#) which seeks, among other things, a federal ban on coastal oil tanker traffic. At least three U.S. foundations have supported the Dogwood Initiative through Tides Canada and/or Tides USA: [Wilburforce](#), [Bullitt](#) and [Brainerd](#).

- Tides Canada runs [Organizing for Change](#) which sought, among other things, to influence the leadership pick of the B.C. Liberal Party. Through Tides Canada/Tides USA, Organizing for Change was funded by at least two American foundations: [Wilburforce](#) and [Bullitt](#).
- As mentioned earlier, Tides Canada has channeled at least \$50,000 [towards Vision Vancouver's agenda](#) to make Vancouver the greenest city in the world. These funds originated from the Seattle-based [Bullitt foundation](#) and were channeled through Tides USA.

I also have questions about whether Tides Canada [supports or supported Open Media](#) which successfully got a CRTC decision over-turned earlier this year (re: user-based internet decision).

As we know, charitable status is a privilege and with that privilege comes responsibility. One of the responsibilities, I believe, is for registered charities to exercise some degree of transparency about their activities. Since the I.R.S. requires greater disclosure than the C.R.A., Canadians such as myself have no alternative but to read U.S. tax returns in order to figure out what Tides Canada and other U.S.-funded Canadian foundations, are paying for.

In light of the above, I respectfully request that Tides Canada posts at its U.S. tax returns at its web-site.

Sincerely,

Vivian Krause
