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Tides Canada's "strategic plan" to address oil and gas development in British Columbia

From: VIVIAN KRAUSE <vivian.krause@me.com>
To: Ross McMillan <ross.mcmillan@tidescanada.org>
Cc: Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca, Jessica Hyatt <jhyatt@cknw.com>, Fizal Mihlar <fmihlar@vancouver.sun.com>, Harvey Enchin <HEnchin@vancouver.sun.com>, Charlie Smith <charlie@straight.com>, Brian Hutchinson <BHutchinson@Nationalpost.com>
Date: November 22, 2011 12:04:01 PM

Mr. McMillan,

Below, please find the open letter that I sent earlier today to Mayor Gregor Robertson. As I have mentioned Tides Canada here, I am sending you this letter for your reference.

As I have asked many times before, perhaps you could explain, what does Tides Canada's "strategic plan" involve to address the development of oil and gas in British Columbia? At my blog, I have written a post ([Tides Canada's "Strategic Plan"](#)) in which I have tried to present my questions about your "strategic plan," funded by the Hewlett foundation. I would welcome your response. In particular, if I have presented anything here that is factually incorrect, or if I have missed an important points, please let me know.

Sincerely,
Vivian Krause
604.618.8110
@FairQuestions

Begin forwarded message:

From: VIVIAN KRAUSE <vivian.krause@me.com>
Date: November 22, 2011 11:58:20 AM
To: Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca, Jessica Hyatt <jhyatt@cknw.com>, Fizal Mihlar <fmihlar@vancouver.sun.com>, Harvey Enchin <HEnchin@vancouver.sun.com>, Charlie Smith <charlie@straight.com>, Brian Hutchinson <BHutchinson@Nationalpost.com>
Subject: **Open Letter In Response to your CKNW Interview on Campaign Donations**

November 22, 2011

Mayor Robertson,

I wish you and your team great success in making Vancouver the greenest city in the world and ending homelessness. I support many of your initiatives, in particular, your promise to put a moratorium on the expansion of gambling in downtown Vancouver.

As before, I am writing to you as a member of the public and am posting this open letter at my blog: www.fair-questions.com. I am not part of any campaign or any political party.

Yesterday, in your [CKNW interview with Bill Good](#), you referred to my questions about your campaign funding as "baseless allegations." I find this comment difficult to reconcile with your own [statements to the editorial board of the Vancouver Sun](#), on November 10, 2011.

According to [the blog of your Vancouver Sun editorial board meeting](#), one of the questions asked by columnist Harvey Enchin, was about Interdependent Investments Ltd. (II Ltd.), a low-profile "investment firm" that made two modest contributions to Vision Vancouver for a total of \$6,000 between 2008 and 2010.

Mr. Enchin drew your attention to the fact that II Ltd. doesn't appear to have any revenue streams other than the Endswell Foundation ("Endswell"). "Ergo, a registered charity donated to Vision Vancouver," Mr. Enchin surmised.

The Vancouver Sun's blog reports that you responded by saying that corporations are allowed to donate to

political parties. Mr. Echin then asked, "Do you know what the company does?" "*I don't drill down to the details and the operating backgrounds of all our donors,*" you replied, according to the Vancouver Sun's blog.

Of all the donors to Vision Vancouver, I would think that II Ltd. would be one of the easiest donors for you to find out about. After all, Joel Solomon, your biggest financial backer in the previous election, is the president of II Ltd. One of Joel Solomon's "investment firms," Renewal Partners, is supposedly the big investor behind your company, Happy Planet. Furthermore, the treasurer of Vision Vancouver, Martha Burton, is the long-time secretary of II Ltd. I note that she is also the vice-president of Renewal Partners and a senior advisor to Tides Canada.

Incidentally, I have noticed that according to company records, Ms. Burton's long-standing involvement with II Ltd. was quietly discontinued in April of 2011 - one week after I sent you an open letter asking questions about II Ltd.

U.S. tax returns show that over the years, the Endswell Foundation paid staff at Renewal Partners a total of \$2.3 million in salaries. Endswell also paid \$1.4 million to Interdependent Investments Ltd. That's a total of \$3.7 million that went from Mr. Solomon's charity to Mr. Solomon's two "investment firms," and towards the payment of staff salaries at at least one of those firms. That included \$979,529 for Mr. Solomon himself, U.S. tax returns say.

If you "don't drill down to the details and the operating backgrounds of donors," as you told the Vancouver Sun, how do you know that \$194,000 from Mr. Solomon's "investment firms" and Strategic Communications did not originate from the millions of dollars that Mr. Solomon's charity paid to these firms?

If II Ltd. has no sources of revenue other than Endswell, it follows that campaign donations that were attributed to II Ltd. must have originated from Endswell. In my opinion, this would then call into question all of the campaign finance reporting by the treasurer of Vision Vancouver as she was closely involved in both "investment firms," the charity, and your political party.

I have no doubt that Vision Vancouver has not received money *directly* from a registered charity. That would be too obvious. My question is whether Vision Vancouver *indirectly* received campaign donations (a total of \$339,265, according to my calculations) that originated from Endswell or Tides Canada. In other words, was a substantial amount of money passed through these so-called "investment firms" and P.R. firms that were used, for lack of a better term, as a front?

I also hope that you help to bring about some answers with regards to Tides Canada's "strategic plan to address the development of oil and gas in British Columbia," and whether campaign donations to pave your path to power in B.C. politics is any part of that.

Sincerely,

Vivian Krause

