

# LeadNow's funding & involvement with OPEN

October 17, 2016 at 11:34 AM

From VIVIAN KRAUSE

To adam.shedletzky@leadnow.ca, jamie.biggar@leadnow.ca, jamiebiggar@gmail.com, lyndsay@leadnow.ca, amara@leadnow.ca

Adam/Jamie/Lyndsay/Amara,

If you would be willing to reply to my inquiries and need more time, please let me know today.

Sincerely,  
Vivian

Vivian Krause  
@FairQuestions  
(604) 618-8110

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** VIVIAN KRAUSE <vivian.krause@me.com>  
**Date:** October 11, 2016 11:02:15 AM  
**To:** adam.shedletzky@leadnow.ca,jamie.biggar@leadnow.ca,jamiebiggar@gmail.com,lyndsay@leadnow.ca,amara@leadnow.ca  
**Cc:** The OPEN Ben Brandzel <ben@the-open.net>  
**Subject:** Re: LeadNow's funding & involvement with OPEN - Typo

Well, that was a funny typo. I bet you all got a good laugh over that! As you probably figured out already, the word that I meant to use was "deadline," not "decline." Apologies for the confusion.

On Oct 11, 2016, at 11:12, VIVIAN KRAUSE <vivian.krause@me.com> wrote:

Dear Adam, Jamie, Lyndsay & Amara,

Please see the attached.

As I have said in the attached letter, I am writing an article about Leadnow's funding and involvement with OPEN. My decline is a week from today, Tuesday, October 18, 2016. I hope to hear from you before then, preferably before the end of this week, if possible. If that is not possible for you, please let me know.

In Vancouver, you can reach me at (604) 618.8110. Please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,  
Vivian Krause  
@FairQuestions

On Aug 11, 2016, at 06:01 PM, VIVIAN KRAUSE <vivian.krause@me.com> wrote:

Adam and Jamie,

I left a voice mail messages today at both of your phone numbers.

I am writing again to inquire about your funding and also to request Leadnow's financial statements for 2015.

As before, you can reach me by email or at 604.618.8110.

Sincerely,  
Vivian Krause

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** VIVIAN KRAUSE <[vivian.krause@me.com](mailto:vivian.krause@me.com)>  
**Date:** March 29, 2016 2:50:52 PM  
**To:** [adam.shedletzky@leadnow.ca](mailto:adam.shedletzky@leadnow.ca)  
**Cc:** [jamie.biggar@leadnow.ca](mailto:jamie.biggar@leadnow.ca)  
**Subject:** **Fwd: LeadNow's funding**

Adam,

I left a voice mail message for you again today at (647) 213-6591.

Since we spoke last fall on the day before the federal election, I have tried several times to reach you by telephone. When we spoke you told me that you would return my call but I have not heard from you.

As you can see from the email below, in the absence of any response from you, I have been in touch with Jamie Biggar about LeadNow's funding.

LeadNow takes credit for defeating 24 Conservative incumbents. That's roughly one third of the ridings that the Conservatives lost. Evidently, LeadNow's impact in the 2015 federal election was anything but insignificant. As such, it is fair to inquire about your funding.

Below, here are the questions to which I have been trying to ask you for over six months now. These questions are legitimate and fair. I would appreciate it if you would please get back to me during the course of this week. If this is not feasible for you, please let me know. If I don't hear back from either you or Jamie by the end of this week, I will assume that LeadNow refuses to provide answers to these questions.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. In Vancouver, I can be reached at 604.618.8110.

Sincerely,  
Vivian Krause  
604.618.8110

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** VIVIAN KRAUSE <[vivian.krause@me.com](mailto:vivian.krause@me.com)>  
**Date:** March 29, 2016 2:39:03 PM  
**To:** [jamie.biggar@leadnow.ca](mailto:jamie.biggar@leadnow.ca)  
**Cc:** [adam.shedletzky@leadnow.ca](mailto:adam.shedletzky@leadnow.ca)  
**Subject:** **Fwd: LeadNow's funding**

Jamie,

I hope you are well.

Its been nearly a month now since we spoke. I've tried to call you several times since then and have left voice mail messages. I haven't heard back from you.

Would you please reply to my e-mail by the end of this week? If I do not hear from you by Monday, April 4, 2016, I will assume that you refuse to answer the questions below. If its not feasible for whatever reason for you to reply to me during the course of this week, please let me know.

Hoping to hear from you.

Sincerely,  
Vivian Krause  
604.618.8110

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** VIVIAN KRAUSE <[vivian.krause@me.com](mailto:vivian.krause@me.com)>  
**Date:** March 01, 2016 6:27:08 PM  
**To:** [jamie.biggar@leadnow.ca](mailto:jamie.biggar@leadnow.ca)  
**Subject:** **LeadNow**

Jamie,

Thank you very much for taking my call today. It was a pleasure to speak with you. I appreciate your openness and I hope that I was able to reassure you of my intentions. I know all too well how it feels to be mischaracterized, and I assure you, I have no intention of doing that.

As I see things, LeadNow has become an influential organization so its fair, and I would say, important for Canadians to know about who funds you. I take your point that the majority of your funding comes from a large number of Canadians who contribute small amounts.

Attached, here's the document that I referred to during our conversation.

My questions:

1) Financial statements for 2015

I see that the financial statements for 2014 are dated September 21, 2014 so I imagine that you probably don't yet have financials for 2015. Any chance that you will have LeadNow's 2015 financials earlier than you did for 2014?

In the absence of your official financials for 2015, could you give me an unofficial figure for LeadNow's revenue and expenditures for 2015?

2) Grants & Major Donations: \$465,758 (2013 & 2014)

By my analysis of your financial statements for 2013 and 2014, LeadNow had total revenue of roughly \$2 million of which \$465,758 was from grants and major donations.

Would it be possible for LeadNow to disclose a list of your major donors and how much they have contributed? For example, who are your five biggest donors and how much have they each contributed to LeadNow?

3) Funding from Sisu Institute Society

How much has LeadNow received from the Sisu Institute and what is the origin of these funds, besides Tides?

Sisu doesn't have a web-site and it seems to be a pretty low profile organization. I can't find any programs that it supports other than LeadNow. This leads me to ask about the extent to which the Sisu Institute's work consists of supporting LeadNow. In other words, what else does Sisu do? If you can put me in touch with Jennifer Lash to ask her this question myself, I'd be most grateful.

4) Seed capital/Anonymous Donor back in 2010

As we discussed, I hope that you will be able to speak with your anonymous donor and get him/her

to agree to be willing to identify him/herself. Especially given the impact that LeadNow had during the federal election, and given that you are pushing for electoral reform, my guess is that sooner or later people will want to know who was the anonymous donor behind LeadNow when you got started.

5) Ben Brandzel & the Citizen Engagement Laboratory

I notice from his Twitter feed that Ben came to Canada to work with LeadNow in 2011. At the time, if I'm not mistaken, he was employed by the Citizen Engagement Laboratory, based in Oakland, California. When Ben came to Canada to work with you in 2011, was he doing that as part of his job at the CEL?

Does LeadNow get grants or any other type of support, either funding or in-kind support from OPEN or the Citizen Engagement Laboratory?

I couldn't find any mention of OPEN in any of the material at LeadNow's website nor on your Twitter feed nor in any of the media coverage about LeadNow. Seems that LeadNow has kept this pretty low key, no?

6) Staff hired for the Federal Election Campaign

As far as I can tell, LeadNow advertised to hire at least four people, full-time for six months, specifically for the election campaign. In the end, were these people actually hired? And if so, who did LeadNow hire specifically for the election?

In particular, in the case of the Winnipeg riding of Elmswood-Transcona, did LeadNow hire a full-time person?

7) Funding from the Tides Foundation during 2015

Would it be possible for you to tell me how much LeadNow received from the U.S. Tides Foundation during 2015, both directly and indirectly, through the Sisu Institute Society?

Once again, Jamie, thank you very much for taking time to speak with me.

Looking forward to hearing from you, either by phone or e-mail, whichever you prefer.

Sincerely,  
Vivian

Vivian Krause  
604.618.8110

<Letter from Vivian Krause 11Oct2016.pdf>  
<Lead Now Business Plan 2010-2013.pdf>