

1641 Lonsdale Avenue Suite # 1046
North Vancouver, BC V7M 2S5
April 7, 2011

Mayor Gregor Robertson
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

by e-mail

Mayor Robertson,

RE: Campaign Finance: Did you cheat, sir?

I am writing again to re-iterate my concerns, questions and opinions about your campaign finance with the N.D.P. and with Vision Vancouver. As I believe that this is a matter of public interest, this is an open letter. I will post this at my blog: www.fair-questions.com. For your reference, I have attached my original letter of September 23, 2010.

My over-arching question, Mayor Robertson, is whether have you cheated by accepting a large amount of political campaign finance that originated from Tides Canada, a foreign-funded, registered charity, and its side-kick, the Endswell Foundation. If you have funded your political career on the back of these registered charities then my second question is about why these charities have funded you. To put it bluntly, what's in it for them - and their funders?

The amount of campaign finance about which I have concerns is at least \$255,298: \$205,446 towards your 2008 mayor campaign and Vision Vancouver, and at least \$59,508 for your 2005 provincial N.D.P. campaign, perhaps more.

As I see it, accepting political campaign finance that originated from a charity like Tides Canada which is backed by billion-dollar U.S. foundations, would be like an athlete using steroids. Undetected, it works but its not honest. Its not fair. Its cheating.

My concern isn't about whether Tides Canada **directly** contributed to your political campaigns. Indeed, Tides Canada's lawyer has clearly stated, "*No funds or support whatsoever have been given by Tides Canada to any political party or candidate for public office.*" My questions are about whether U.S. interests, through Tides Canada and the Endswell Foundation, have supported your political career **indirectly** through various investment firms and P.R. companies. Rinsing charity money through such companies doesn't change the fact that it originated from charity and should be used exclusively for charitable purposes.

The investment firms that I am referring to are Renewal Partners and Interdependent Investments Ltd. while the P.R. companies are Strategic Communications, Convergence Communications, Communicopia and possibly, FD Element. To the best of my knowledge, all of these companies have been funded in various ways by Tides Canada and/or the Endswell Foundation. For example, between 2004 and 2009, the Endswell Foundation paid staff salaries at Renewal Partners - to the tune of \$2.3 million. Strategic Communications says that it is "partner" of Renewal Partners. Strategic Communications and Renewal Partners alone contributed \$188,353 to your political campaigns, according to my calculations.

If you are confident, Mayor Robertson, that none of your political campaign finance originated from a registered charity, I assume that you would have no hesitation to say so - without delay. I assume that you would also answer my questions, such as who is Interdependent Investments Ltd.?

A major thrust of Tides Canada is the Great Bear Rainforest Initiative which has been heavily backed by U.S. foundations. The Hewlett foundation and the Packard foundation alone have granted \$36 million for this initiative and for other projects that thwart the Canadian energy industry, especially in B.C. and Alberta.

What has gone largely unnoticed, I believe, is that the Great Bear Rainforest Initiative sets the stage for blocking Canadian oil exports to Asia - all in the name of banning tanker traffic for the sake of marine conservation and protecting the kermode bear, now referred to as the Great Spirit Bear. I can see how it would be advantageous to the U.S. to continue its virtual monopoly on Canadian oil exports but I don't see how this is good for Canada or for other countries.

My next question is about how far back you go with Tides Canada. Canadian and U.S. tax returns show that Tides Canada and Tides USA have granted at least \$1.1 million (possibly far more than that) to various projects on Cortes Island, including \$755,208 to the Linnaea Farm Society where your wife was president from 2000 to 2005. According to internet archives for the web-site of Tides Canada, you worked with the Linnaea Farm Society from 2002 and 2004, prior to entering B.C. politics in 2005. Payments from Tides Canada to the Linnaea Farm Society spiked sharply to \$298,415 in 2004 and \$192,406 in 2005. This leads me to ask whether your work with the Linnaea Farm Society and various other Cortes organizations was supported financially by Tides Canada and/or Tides USA?

Incidentally, I notice that in 2004, the Hewlett foundation paid Tides Canada \$70,000 to develop a "strategic plan to address the oil and gas industry in British Columbia" and \$615,000 for the Rainforest Solutions Project which is part of the Great Bear Rainforest Initiative.

My third question, Mayor Robertson, is about whether Tides Canada and Tides USA, Joel Solomon in particular, has supported your political career in order to have you as a spokesperson for a broad, long-term initiative to create public and government willingness to landlock Alberta oil within North America under the guise of the Great Bear Rainforest Initiative and a legislated ban on oil tanker traffic on the north coast of B.C.

In light of the above, Mayor Robertson, and your thoroughgoing refusal to answer any of my questions over more than six months, I believe that its fair to ask whether perhaps you are the Ben Johnson of B.C. politics, a title-holder of whom we were once so proud. You won elections in both 2005 and 2008, but did you win honestly? Or, did you cheat by accepting a large amount of campaign finance that originated from a foreign-funded charity with an agenda that is clearly not in the best economic interests of our country?

If, Mayor Robertson, you continue to refuse to answer any of my questions as you have since September of last year, perhaps a proper investigation should be called for.

Please do not hesitate to give me a call or have your staff contact me to arrange a meeting.

As before, I can be reached at 604.618.8110.

Sincerely,

Vivian Krause