

5 July 2010

To: Mr. Ross MacMillan, President, Tides Canada Foundation  
Mr. James Morrissey, Treasurer, Tides Canada Foundation  
Mr. Michael Magee, Chief of Staff, City of Vancouver (past Sr. Policy Advisor, Tides Canada)  
Ms. Carol Newell, Endswell Foundation, Founder  
Mayor Gregor Robertson (past director of Tides Canada Foundation)  
Mr. Joel Solomon, Renewal Partners, Endswell Foundation/Tides Canada/U.S. Tides Foundation

*sent by e-mail*

**RE: Revenues and Expenditures of Tides Canada Foundation**

As a member of the public, I am writing to present my concerns, opinions and questions about the foreign funding that has been channeled through Tides Canada Foundation, and how these foreign funds have been used. U.S. tax returns and other information suggests to me that since 2000, Tides Canada has received at least \$US 43.7 Million from U.S. foundations.

This is an open letter. I will post this at [www.fair-questions.com](http://www.fair-questions.com)

**Background:**

According to my calculations based on the Vancouver Sun's database about election donations, three P.R. companies and various individuals affiliated with Tides Canada Foundation contributed at least \$242,000 to Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson's campaign, and Vision Vancouver. Other than CUPE, the single largest election campaign contributor was Joel Solomon and Renewal Partners. Since 2000 or perhaps earlier, Solomon has been a director of both the U.S. Tides Foundation and Tides Canada Foundation.

According to the web-site of Tides Canada, both Mayor Gregor Robertson and the City of Vancouver's current Chief of Staff, Michael Magee, have been intimately involved with Tides Canada: Mayor Gregor Robertson is listed as a director of Tides Canada from 2002 to 2005. Mr. Michael Magee is listed as a Senior Policy Advisor to Tides Canada from 2002 to 2007.

In light of the above, I believe that it is fair to inquire about the operations of Tides Canada during the time that Mayor Robertson and Mr. Magee were involved. It also seems fair to inquire about Tides Canada since so many individuals and companies that are affiliated with this organization seem to have made substantial financial contributions to Mayor Robertson's 2008 election campaign.

**Funding to Initiate Tides Canada:**

According to the web-site of Tides Canada, the initial money for its donor-advised funds was granted from a) the Endswell Foundation, b) the David & Lucile Packard Foundation ("Packard"), c) the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, and d) James Morrissey.

As I have outlined in detail, the Packard foundation has extensively supported Alaskan commercial fisheries while "reforming" aquaculture, especially in British Columbia. Since 2000, Packard has granted at least \$US 75 Million to sway consumers and retailers towards wild fish, especially Alaskan salmon.

Packard paid Tides Canada at least \$US 640,000 to initiate the Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform (CAAR) and about \$US 1 Million for its campaign, Farmed and Dangerous. Over roughly the same period, Packard also paid about \$7.8 Million to "encourage" Wal-Mart to preferentially sell Alaskan 'wild' fish. The web-site of Tides Canada has reported that Mayor Gregor Robertson was involved with the Wild Salmon Fund and the Happy Planet Fund.

## Revenues and Expenditures:

According to my calculations based on publicly available information from Revenue Canada, between 2000 and 2008 Tides Canada had total revenues of about \$124 Million. Of that, \$26 Million was from tax-receipted donations; nearly half of that seems to have come from a single source, the Endswell Foundation.

Renewal Partners says that over the past 15 years the Endswell Foundation made over 700 grants totaling over \$20 Million. According to my calculations based on information from Revenue Canada, between 2000 and 2008 Endswell had total expenditures of \$25.2 Million. Of that, \$11.8 Million (47%) appears to me to have been overhead (salaries, consulting fees, office expenses, etc.). Of the \$10.2 Million in Endswell grants for which the recipient is identified in information publicly available from Revenue Canada, **98 percent** was granted to Tides Canada.

My calculations indicate that of the \$124 Million that Tides Canada had in revenues since 2000, about \$95 million was from other registered charities, gifts and "other sources." Thus, about **85 percent** of the revenues of Tides Canada seems to have been money that was simply passed from one charity or source, through Tides Canada, to another. In the process, tens of millions appears to me to have been spent on salaries, consulting fees and other "administrative" expenses.

In light of the above, I believe that its fair to ask:

- Where did Tides Canada Foundation get \$95 Million reported as revenue from "other registered charities," "gifts" and "other sources?" How much of that originated in the U.S.?
- To whom did Tides Canada re-grant the \$US 43.7 Million from American sources, and for what purposes? Specifically, to whom did Tides Canada and the Tides Foundation re-grant the \$US 7 Million to "address" oil and gas development in Canada?
- Did the David and Lucile Packard Foundation provide the initial funds for Tides Canada (at least \$US640,000) as part of its Market Intervention strategy to support marine fisheries?
- Between 2000 and 2005, Tides Canada overhead (salaries, consultants' fees, office supplies, etc.) was 28 percent of total expenditures. Why so high? Who are Tides Canada's consultants paid \$3.1 Million since 2003? How did Tides Canada spend \$1.1 Million on "other expenditures" in 2004 and 2005?
- According to my calculations, three P.R. companies (Strategic Communications, Communicopia and Convergence Communications) that are affiliated with Tides Canada Foundation contributed a combined total of \$111,094 to Mayor Robertson's campaign and Vision Vancouver. How much has Renewal Partners paid Strategic Communications and from where did those funds originate?
- Did Mayor Robertson's company, Happy Planet, contribute to the Happy Planet Fund at Tides Canada? Or did his company receive money from this fund? Or both? How much did Renewal Partners "invest" in Happy Planet and in Communicopia? What was Mayor Robertson's involvement with Tides Canada's Wild Salmon Fund?
- Without all the help from Tides Canada affiliated people and P.R. companies, how would Mayor Gregor Robertson have won the 2008 Vancouver municipal election?

I would appreciate your response.

Sincerely,

Vivian Krause