

TOLLSTAM GOES WILD OVER COUNCIL IN-CAMERA INFORMATION LEAKS SHOULD WE CALL IT THE 'SLATE' OR THE 'SIEVE'

By Kerry Morris



Here are your Council members (left to right): Councillor Linda Buchanan, Councillor Holly Back, Councillor Rod Clark, Mayor Darrell Mussatto, Councillor Craig Keating, Councillor Pam Bookham, and Councillor Don Bell.

It has long been said that 'Information-Is-Power' which may account for the reason so much of the City's business has been transferred from open council chambers to the current day 'In-Camera' procedures, away from the prying eyes of the public.

But does the public have a right to know? 'Yes' is the conclusion reached by the majority of North Van City residents I have consulted on this point. But this opinion is not shared by the City's not so loveable CAO Ken Tollstam. Tollstam is reported

to have gone apoplectic upon reading that the Harry Jerome relocation concept, which would see the facility relocated to the Telus site at 11th and Lonsdale, had made its way into the public domain. In typical Tollstam fashion it has once again become time for the City to 'Lawyer-up' and lecture everyone and anyone he can on the 'Power-Of-Ken'.

My information sources in the legal community tell me the boys and girls from Bull Housser were called last week and are on route to North Vancouver City Council for a closed session lecture on the do's and don'ts, and ramifications of disclosing privileged information to the public. It goes without saying that all 'Non-Slate' council members will be grilled over the proverbial coals, and accused of all manner of wrong doing. And so as usual, Ken will wildly miss his mark, and alienate another management group.



While there is no doubt that I am not a fan of this Mayor, as the silent 'Mud-Liner' in the last municipal election, I am compelled to point out that the 'Slate' are something akin to a 'boy with a new toy' that has them so excited they simply can't help bragging about their new found powers to everyone and anyone who will listen. With sanctimonious supremacy they tell everyone in their club all the things they are doing behind the scenes to further their various causes. They wrongly assume that all those they tell are loyal members of their club and will not share the information with others. Surprise-surprise! The Mud-Liners have muskrats in their midst. Not all of their devoted fans are really fans, and the leaks abound.

For that matter, Mr. Tollstam should not be too aggressive in his tactics of finger-pointing at Council. The number of City staff who have been alienated with threats of law suits or terminations has Staff morale at its lowest point in history. Maybe the problem isn't with Staff or Council, maybe the real problem is the CAO. Maybe, after a career of; How Long? Too Long! It's time to go and allow fresher minds and skills to take charge. After all, if we stopped terminating everyone who had a competing opinion, and paying them out with a huge settlement for wrongful dismissal, as we have done for so many, and will likely soon do for Mr. Stainton, we would not only be in better financial condition, we might actually achieve the mental state of mind the Mayor claims as our mantra: 'Happy City-Friendly City'. Not right now, but maybe soon!