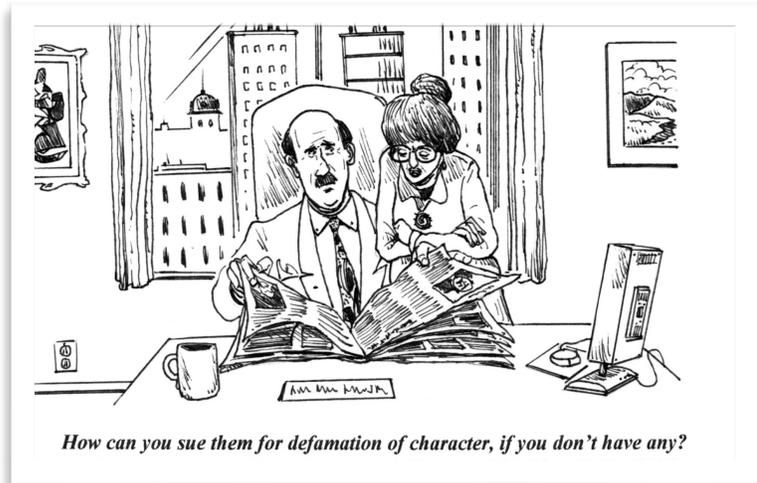


'HAPPY CITY - FRIENDLY CITY, PURR PURR PURR' LETS SUE THE CRAP OUT OF EVERYONE

By Kerry Morris

It's not new news that the City is occasionally required to legally defend the taxpayers interests. But should we be threatening to sue councillors, ex-councillors, employees and members of the public for taking issue with the activities and general conduct of our City, its councillors, Mayor and administrator.



One of the fundamental rights of the Canadian Constitution is freedom of speech. More often than ever before our City believes freedom of speech and the right to question the actions of our government are beyond our rights as simple residents. It would appear they believe we should simply confine ourselves to footing the bill, no matter how wrong or stupid the cause.

As some of you know, our City is being sued for wrongful dismissal by Mr. Glen Stainton. The grounds for that action are alleged in part as '*...insubordination...*', the code word for '*I disagreed with the CAO!*'

Those who were up early this morning and on their 'Twitter Feed' may also have heard that the City has now threatened to sue retired councillor Guy Heywood, for disclosing confidential information regarding the RCMP shared services contract between the City and the District (*'Quick everyone download Guy's Blog'*). The issue Guy Heywood has brought out into the open with his public disclosure of the RCMP documents is the fact the City may owe the District upwards of \$2,000,000, and not the other-way around, as the CAO told council prior to the election. The role of CAO is not to be untruthful with council in order to support a political objective or maintain the City's independence from the District.

The CAO is now alleged to have forgotten that he signed an agreement in 2012 with the District that suspended payment of a portion of the shared services for the RCMP, and never told City Council. A failure to disclose the payment suspension lead some members of council to take a stern hand on several matters involving the District, on the false premise they owed the City \$1.3ish million, when in fact we the City may owe the District \$2 million. I don't know about you, but I'm not likely to forget about an agreement like that, if I were to have signed it. Mayor Walton has asked the City for an apology.

So what do we do about this RCMP document disclosure Issue? Well, we 'Lawyer-Up' and threaten to sue Heywood for telling the public what they obviously had a right to know. We demand he remove the documents from his Blog, and we demand he post an apology of sorts, admitting he made an error by informing us of this wrongful disclosure. In short, we attempt to cover-up another City blunder!

What has until now been confined to a small group of insiders is the fact that the City's penchant for law suits has not been limited to the big-fish like Guy Heywood. We threaten to sue the crap out of the little people as well. 'REALLY !!!!!, Your kidding'. I'm sorry to say, it's true.

Last week I was delivered a copy of a letter authored by CUPE National, on behalf of CUPE 389, in which it is disclosed that the City is currently threatening to sue Mr. James Barnes. You will recall that Mr. Barnes was the 22 year long-service employee of the City who refused to activate a new potable (drinking) water pipe that he had installed as an employee of the City, at the intersection of 21st and Lonsdale. Mr. Barnes, the only person on the job with the requisite certification, had witnessed groundwater leaching out of the City supplied gravel in the hole, mined in part from North Vancouver graveyard tailings, generated at the City's facility adjacent to the graveyard, located on Lillooet Road. The groundwater was entering and contaminating the new pipe installed by Barnes. He refused to activate the system without proper flushing. Its alleged he was bullied and eventually terminated for this refusal.

Mr. Barnes is being told that he must somehow arrange the removal of the Vancouver Coastal Health investigation documents disclosing this water system contamination from my campaign website, which materials were supplied to me through a Freedom Of Information ("FOI") request filed in July 2014. <http://t.co/Us9Vt9xGrf>

I myself have been twice threatened with legal action during the last election cycle, and my sources tell me their are more than half a dozen others, councillors, employees and the like who have had similar experiences. During the last election, I was accused by the Mayors 'Mud-Liner' George Pringle of being an overly litigious individual. At least one member of the Court-House Area Residents Association made similar claims, as did several people from Moodyville. But I confess, the legal goings on at City Hall under the Mayor's watch are beyond my wildest imagination. That said, they are all being done on our collective nickel. I don't know about you, but I think our taxes could be better used to improve our services, and rebuild Harry Jerome.

The apparent objective of all this legal wrangling is to limit information already in the public domain, and to acquire public apologies in favour of the City. I don't believe these public interest issues should be hidden from public scrutiny, and if apologies are in order, we might start with the CAO complying with the apology request sought by the District when we dragged their good name through the dirt, alleging they owed us money, when they clearly did not. Instead of suing Mr. Heywood and Mr. Barnes, we should apologies to them. And we might consider giving Mr. Barnes back his job. After all, he was only looking after our collective best interests.