

DO YOU BELIEVE ELECTED OFFICIALS SHOULD PAY LESS FOR UTILITY INSTALLATIONS THAN EVERY OTHER RESIDENT OF THE CITY

As a regular City resident, it is probably unthinkable for you to imagine that our elected officials might acquire special treatment which would allow them to avoid the payment of standardized underground utility service installation fees, but apparently the unthinkable is not impossible.

Some years back, the City was asked to install a new 3/4" water service connection to a residential address in CNV. The worker tasked with the installation read the requisition order, and proceeded to stores for the required materials. After preparing his kit for the worksite, he was instructed by his supervisor to return the 3/4" service materials and to pull, in their place, the materials necessary to provide that address with a 2" water service connection.

The City worker tasked with the job pointed out to his supervisor that the residential address had only paid the permit/install rate applicable for a 3/4" water line and that a 2" water line had a premium of nearly twice the price. He was instructed to deviate from the work order despite the fees paid and make the 2" installation. The 2" installation was made in accordance with the instructions given. The City employee who was instructed to make that installation by his supervisor was Mr. James Barnes. That City employee was terminated in July of 2014, after 22 years of service. He had recently refusing to reactivate a fresh water pipeline at 21st and Lonsdale after the City refused to follow proper flushing procedures. He complained of Bullying.

I would not normally become aware of matters of this nature, but as recently as last week, I came into possession of an email written by CUPE 389 informing me that the City's CAO, Ken Tollstam, intended to press forward will a legal action against that employee for allegedly releasing information to me in regard to the 21st Street and Lonsdale water pipeline contamination story (<http://kerrymorris.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Fresh-Water-Contamination.pdf>). I acquired this information through a freedom of information request made directly upon Vancouver Coastal Health ("VCH"), but the CAO, who is already aware of this fact, continues to threaten legal action against the employee. The letter sent to the employee by CUPE confirmed that despite 22 years of service for the City, the employee should not expect any legal support from CUPE 389. CUPE supported a City request that I remove the information from my website despite it being legally acquired from VCH. Evidently, the City is still smarting over being caught taking shortcuts with the water safety of North Van City residents.

Water contamination is not the only issue confronting our little City utility. We have lost somewhere north of \$400K in water billings to Lions Gate Hospital due to a meter reading error. We have likely lost a similar amount in sewerage fees which are calculated based on fresh water feed supply volumes. We have terminated long service employees, paid out severance, squandered thousands on legal fees, we're being sued by Mr. Stainton and now its alleged we have failed to recover the cost of installing a new 2" water line. Today, a 3/4" water service connection goes for \$4,700. A 2" water line costs twice that price, at minimum \$10,000. So in addition to all the other monies lost, it know appears that the City failed to recover the premium for installation of the 2" water line valued at \$5,000, for the connection at 935 St. Andrews. Oh, did I forget to mention, 935 St. Andrews is owned by his worship, Mayor Darrell Mussatto. I'm reminded of Arnie on the TV show 'Laugh-In': **Very Interesting!**



