

WHAT ARE BC NDP PRESIDENT CRAIG KEATING 'S POLITICAL TACTICS DAM THE MORALS, ANYTHING TO WIN ?

By: Kerry Morris - June 25, 2015

For those of you that haven't been paying attention to the goings on in the newly minted Alberta NDP government, there has begun a firestorm of renovation to provincial laws. I must admit, so far I like what I see.

On May 24th 2014, Rachel Notley became premier of Alberta. Less than 30 days after taking office Notley has introduced Bill-1 in which she proposes massive positive changes to Alberta's election finance laws effecting both Provincial and Municipal election campaigns.

Notley has put forward legislation creating an outright ban on political donations by Corporations and Unions, and limits on the amount of personal donations. All good stuff to a guy like me who had to spend a fortune to campaign against a group selling votes for campaign donations in the last election.

Monday night last, at North Vancouver City's regular council meeting, Councillor Rod Clark put forward a Notice of Motion which read:

Clark was obviously taking a page out of the BC NDP

WHEREAS the newly elected government of Alberta has introduced legislation to prohibit political campaign contributions from Corporate and Union sources.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of North Vancouver petition the Government of BC to prohibit political campaign contributions from Corporate and Union sources at the Provincial and Municipal level in the Province of BC.

June 22, 2015 Updated: June 22, 2015 | 12:15 am

Rachel Notley's Bill 1: Keep big money out of politics at every level

By Jeremy Kiazus For Metro

Share this Article

Tweet 13 +1 2 Submit

NY Times

Recommend 29



Alberta Premier Rachel Notley opened legislature with a throne speech that promises laws to increase taxes on the wealthy and large corporations. The Canadian Press

That was quick. Mere weeks after being elected, Alberta's new NDP government introduced a bill to ban corporate and union donations to provincial political parties.

Such donations are already forbidden at the federal level. But they're perfectly legal on the municipal level — and they shouldn't be.

Everyone applauded Premier Rachel Notley's Bill 1. Well, almost. PC interim leader Ric McIver was irked. "It's a naked attempt to tilt the political scale in the current government's balance," he said. "It's not a surprise to anybody that conservative parties have done well raising money from businesses."

campaign book, which has been making noises similar in nature to the campaign promises made by Rachel Notley before the Alberta election. So you can imagine the anticipation everyone held for the pontification pending from the jowls of BC NDP President Craig Keating who said:

"I have no problem supporting this resolution with the amendment that I have made as well... ...A Cap on the size of individual contributions."

Keating spoke last and longest. Leading off the discussion was Councillor Pam Bookham. She made clear:

"...The reason the province has not acted is because it is not in their interest. They are amongst the greatest beneficiary of the existing policy so there has not been a lot of incentive for them to make the changes..."

Buchanan contributed the least of any speaker, but reignited the controversy regarding her independence:

"Well depending on umm,...I'd like to hear what councillor Keating has to say..." Of course you would Linda.

Buchanan's major concern appeared to be the potential for an independently financed individual putting vast financial resources to work trying to get elected. Put another way: '...trying to get Darrell, Craig, Linda and Holly unelected.'

But it was Keating who drilled home the point of most significant when he stated to all in attendance:

"...It's noteworthy to note the NDP government as well, and I would be remiss if I didn't read out the WHEREAS as well, is bringing this legislation. Prior to the legislation it won an election by adhering to the law that existed at the time that it was able to take union and corporate donations... ...I think the experience of the NDP government in Alberta is very clear that you get to power by playing by the rules that exist at the time..."

The message from Keating is very clearly a contradiction, summed up by the phrase: 'Do as I say, not as I do.'

Meanwhile, Keating in his role as BC NDP president has been fighting against the membership's will, by creating and supporting financial barriers to internal party competition. The BC NDP executive voted on and unanimously approved a change to the candidate filing process under which change a candidate standing for nomination in a riding must pay to the Party \$2,000. Keating told the rank and file membership this change was necessary as a method of cost recovery. <http://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2015/05/05/BC-NDP-Candidate-Entry-Fee/>

Keating's support for a North Vancouver City council motion that ends the practice of taking Corporate and Union donations, and places a cap on the size of individual contributions, while a good thing, appears to work at cross-purposes to his party's long term goal of forming the next government, and has all the earmarkings of a tax grab on the membership. Some have even called it a method of ensuring an elitist membership remains in control of the party, which has been described by many as the "Party-Of-The-Poor". By pursuing the \$2,000 candidacy nomination fee, do Keating and the rest of the executive seek to limit competition for their own party positions? Question to you J.J.?

But the new issue which arises is the fact that with a personal campaign contribution of \$1,500 to \$2,000 now being proposed by Keating in his City council discussion on Clark's City motion, the nomination buy-in will consume all, if not more than all, of a candidates personal donation limit, leaving him or her nothing for the race. This raises the questions weather the new BC NDP policy will disadvantage candidates, and ultimately the party?

In answer to this issue, in a private email sent from the City's council website address provided to Keating, he sent to Kerry Morris, North Vancouver City mayoralty candidate in the last municipal election, an explanation or work-around as to how BC NDP candidates could thwart the campaign finance limits and still pay the entrance fee. This is what Keating had to say:

Insofar as this relates to the nomination candidate fee introduced by the BC NDP, there is absolutely no inconsistency. Candidates for a nomination would, for instance, be able to ask 20 friends to each contribute \$100 to raise the \$2000 necessary for the fee. This would fall well within any campaign contribution limit I envisaged with my amendment.

But despite what Keating claims, the payment by the candidate to the party would be a personal contribution, singularly consuming a candidates entire election cycle budget, no matter if he received the money from others. In fact, in theory it could have the dual effect of consuming twice the amount allotted unless of-course others are allowed to sponsor a party candidate, and that of-course would once again lead down the slippery slop of debt to a third party that will one day come back upon a candidate in the form of a quid-pro-quo debt repayment request, as it has on our own developer funded 'Slate'.

On this one, Keating seems to have pitted his own party executive against the "Party-Of-The-Poor" rank and file, and it remains to be seen if they will revolt and throw-up, and possibly even throw-out, the elitist mindset of the Keating brain trust.

Meanwhile, back in the City of North Vancouver, our illustrious mayor Mussatto is the only member of council to oppose and vote against Clark's motion. In typical 'I-Drink-At-The-Public-Trough' fashion, Mussatto, instead of opposing Corporate and Union donations and personal limits, proposed a government funded campaign mechanism whereby the taxpayers foot the campaign bill for candidates standing for election. Nothing new here for Darrell. After all, with declared expenses of \$100K in the last election, and Corporate and Union donations in the same amount, Darrell contributed a paltry \$100 of his own money. Seems the mayor is uncomfortable putting his own skin-in-the-game, wanting instead to ride all the way to the throne on the wallets of everyone else.

The screenshot shows the top of a web page for 'THE TYEE NEWS. CULTURE. SOLUTIONS.' with navigation links for NEWS, CULTURE, Opinion, NATIONAL, and MEDIA. The article title is 'Bad Optics for BC NDP \$2,000 Candidate Entry Fee' by Bill Telemann, dated 5 May 2015. It includes social media sharing options (Email, Print, Facebook, Twitter) and a quote from the BC NDP Constitution Preamble: 'The New Democratic Party holds firm to the belief that the dignity, freedom and equality of the individual is a basic right that must be maintained and extended.' An image of Craig Keating speaking at a 'UNITED FOR CHANGE' event is also visible.