

# LOTTO BC & PLAYTIME GAMING'S PROPOSAL GOES DOWN TO DEFEAT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DARRELL MUSSATTO SLATE ?

By: Kerry Morris - June 22, 2015

It's Monday night Council meeting, and item 21 on the Agenda is a proposal to lift the Gaming moratorium to allow LottoBC slot-machines into the City of North Vancouver.

You may recall during the election, back in October and November of 2014, the Mayor and his slate did not say a peep about the possibility of lifting the City's moratorium on Gaming. It was completely off the radar of voters, and there had not been an inkling that removal of the moratorium was being considered.

Fast forward about three months, and rumours begin to surface that the 'Slate' is going to revisit the issue of Gaming in the City. Then the bomb drops! The Slate releases its campaign finance disclosure statements and Tom Nellis, owner of Playtime Gaming, turns out to be the single largest donor to the Mayors re-election campaign. The Mayor records a cash donation from K&T Properties Ltd., a business owned and controlled by Tom Nellis, who is the same Tom Nellis that just happens to own Playtime Gaming. Nellis and K&T also figure prominently into the finance disclosure statements of Craig Keating, Linda Buchanan and Holly Back, all of whom will have to preside over any decision to relax the City's existing moratorium on Gaming.

Sure enough, the City holds a Public Meeting for the sole purpose of exploring the potential of developing a Gaming facility in the City. A vice-president from LottoBC takes the podium, along with Tom Nellis. The public and council are all given the opportunity to ask the proponents representatives, Lotto BC and others, questions about Gaming generally, and specifically about the potential for a Gaming facility within the City.

Vancouver Coastal Health's ('VCH') local medical representative (Dr. Mark Lysyshyn) is also on hand and takes the podium to speak to the mental health risks to residents associated with expanded Gaming in the City. Remember, we already have Gaming in the form of bingo and lottery tickets. He makes a powerful argument against lifting the moratorium on the basis of the negative impact Gaming has in relation to the mental and physical health of residents. One of the alarming statistics, all most half of the populations 'Problem Gamblers' consider suicide on a regular basis. Dr. Lysyshyn presents facts and figures to support the VCH recommendation that the moratorium remain in place. In an unprecedented move, councillor Linda Buchanan attacks Lysyshyn's submission and recommendation, claiming to be privy to more up-to-date VCH data which, she says, suggests that the 'Problem Gambler' issues are in fact on the decline, and that the City would be unharmed by the expansion of Gaming to include a facility in the City. She further suggests that on-line gambling for youth is also on the decline and does not pose a real problem.

LottoBC takes its turn at the podium and tells everyone that they have preselected Playtime and Nellis to come to the City of North Vancouver and operate a new Gaming facility. He further admits that LottoBC has held talks with both First Nations Bands and the District, and he clearly states under questioning that both the District and the Squamish Indian Band have declined to consider a Gaming facility in their respective jurisdictions, due to the impact such a decision would have on their communities. An elder and Chief of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, formerly known as the Burrard Indian Band also attends and speaks in strong opposition to lifting of the moratorium.

In response to questions brought by councillor Pam Bookham, Playtimes Tom Nellis takes the stand. Bookham, in what can best be described as a Mulcair moment, begins her enquires of Nellis' campaign donations to the Mayor and his 'Slate'. Councillor Rod Clark is the Chair for this evenings Public Meeting, and he gives Pam the greenlight to 'Go-To-Town' on Nellis. It's not long before the Mayor's campaign finance submission to the province is determine to be a gross misrepresentation of reality. Turns out that neither Nellis, K&T Properties or Playtime gave money to the election campaigns of the Mayor or his 'Slate'. Turns out that instead of cash, Playtime staff operated a wholly separate telephone bank which contacted and lobbied voters throughout the City, to support the Mayor and his entire 'Slate', including Matt Clark, Kathy McGrenera and Iani Makris. You remember Iani, he's the man with the gun, and the links to porn sites from his Facebook page, apparently hooked on use of the 'C' word to describe woman. For more on this story view this link: <https://www.straight.com/news/739696/north-vancouver-council-candidate-iani-makris-under-fire-over-facebook-posts>



The big news here is that K&T Properties has no employees. How is it that you can donate employees to operate a telephone bank, when the company making the donation has no employees? Good question! We're still waiting on an answer to that one. ElectionsBC are doing the investigation. See the following link for more on this matter: <http://kerrymorris.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Morris-Responds-to-Elections-BC-May-1st-2015.pdf>.

What's even more interesting is that the Mayor, who acted as his own financial agent, now claims he had no discussions with Nellis or Playtime prior to the election, and no advance knowledge of Nellis' support of the Mayor and his 'Slate', including Nellis' financial support by way of the Langley phone-bank operated by Playtime. Go to this Link for the NSNews interview with Mayor Mussatto: <http://kerrymorris.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Mussato-Discloses-26K-of-Additional-Election-Expenses-A-Once-Upon-Time-Teacher-That-Cant-Add.jpg>.

In addition to the revelations about Playtime's involvement in getting the Mayor and his 'Slate' re-elected using some pretty unsavoury telephone campaign tactics, which by most accounts bordered on, if not crossing over the line on, slander and defamation in regards to many non-slate candidates, Tom Nellis has some pretty interesting history in his own right. Seems his business has been previously caught by the LRB for terminating staff on the basis of their union membership. See this link: <http://kerrymorris.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/LRB-Decision.pdf> It also seems that Mr. Nellis' company, Playtime, has engaged in tactics to decertify unionized operations by means often described as 'Union-Busting'. See this link: <http://kerrymorris.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Union-Busting.jpg>.

It doesn't take a genius to figure out that the labour movement, which comprises the vast majority of the BC NDP membership, were less than enamoured when they discovered that BC NDP President and North Vancouver City councillor Craig Keating had joined up with Tom Nellis, was now supported by Nellis' Playtime election machine, and intended to lift the City's 'Gaming' moratorium so that Union Buster Tom Nellis could expand his empire.

You can almost see NDP Leader J.J. Horgan doing back flips and chasing Craig Keating around the room with a baseball bat trying to knock some public relations sense into the absent minded professors brain. The whole bating cage action must have worked, because when it came Keating's turn to speak on lifting the Gaming moratorium he supported the motion as put forward by councillor Bookham, and spoke and voted against Playtime and LottoBC.

LottoBC's vice-president was on hand to watch the shenanigans and twice I went for my phone and began to dial 911 to get a ambulance over to City Hall post haste. He just kept moving his gums like he was about to vomit, opening his binder and staring at his notes. But try as he might, he couldn't get that binder to change the outcome.

When it came time for Linda Buchanan to speak, she oohed and ahed and waxed about how she was uncertain as to how to proceed, but eventually followed her master, the professor, rejecting Gaming and putting her support behind Pam's motion to maintain the moratorium.

Next up was Holly, who just couldn't see what all the fuss was about, and made it clear she supported the Gaming initiative and would be voting in favour of lifting the moratorium, and against Pam's Motion.

Finally, the Mayor, the man of the hour who has now admitted that he took \$11,000 from K&T Properties in the form of an in-kind donation associated with an in-dependently operated Langley based phone-bank. But he still denies that donation is in any way attached to his support for Playtime's Gaming proposal in the City. Mussatto goes public for the first time, claiming he supports Gaming and the establishment of a casino in the City of North Vancouver. Until now he has sat the fence claiming we need to study, contemplate, explore, evaluate, and all the rest of the political jargon crap that goes along with selling a vote, but not wanting to be caught doing so.

Mussatto finishes up his spiel with the statement: "...I can count...". All evidence to the contrary, after all he's still under investigation for not having added up and disclosed all his election expenses and donations. His meaning in making the mathematical reference is simply to identify that the Gaming motion of councillor Pam Bookham is going to pass by a margin of 5 to 2, with support by Bell, Buchanan, Clark and Keating all voting with Bookham, with only Mussatto and Back voting in opposition. Imagine how Nellis feels. The words 'Jilted Lover' come to mind. I wait with baited breath to see how Tom-boy will react. Likely going to be difficult getting more dollars out of Nellis!