

## IS CHRISTY CLARK LAUNDERING ILLEGAL CAMPAIGN DONATIONS THROUGH LIBERAL PARTY TO CREATE FALSE IMPRESSION OF LEGALITY ?

Kerry Morris - May 8, 2016

### Shady Corporate and Foreign Donations Don't Belong in B.C. Elections: New Poll

By Carol Linnitt • Wednesday, April 27, 2016 - 16:57



*"So you ask companies, 'why would you donate that money to a political party?' It's not charity; it's an investment because you get something back," Nagata said.*

*"You get policy decidedly tilted in favour of people who are able to fund political campaigns and ordinary citizens have their voices diluted in this process."*

(DESMOG Canada, Carol Linnitt - April 27, 2016)

It is clear from the polls that this issue will be front and centre in the next provincial election, and so it should be. But what are our real choices, and is it fair to say that every party at every level of government is equally dirty and lacking of a functional moral compass?

It is clear from Christy Clark's own words that she doesn't understand or care about the opinions held by the vast majority of British Columbians on this topic. How she could be so disconnected from reality is the question we should be asking when she says:

***"The disclosure is the most important part of it," Ms. Clark said. "The rules we have currently – although there can be some improvements to that – I think do help us to help protect people in making sure that ethical behaviour is respected."***

(<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/christy-clark-defends-position-on-private-political-fundraisers/article29548657/>)

I say Christy's answer is Bull! The fact is that Christy Clark is selling access to her ear in exchange for campaign donations through private meetings, then receiving a portion of those donations from each event which go toward paying her a top-up salary. And why are those donations being made? Well it isn't because they like her hair-do, or the colour of her dress, or her new shoes! It's because she is the premier and for each of these donors ***"...it's an investment because you get something back." "...You get policy decidedly tilted in favour of people who are able to fund political campaigns..."***. And in all honesty, if you don't understand and believe that, then you need to visit a shrink, right away!

But what is the other side offering? At this point, nothing any better! Here is what J.J.Horgan has to say on the topic in a Toronto Globe and Mail article by Justine Hunter:

***"...Mr. Horgan will not reveal who attends his own fundraisers, such as a \$2,000-a-plate event this week in Vancouver with 30 individuals" wrote Justine Hunter. "I'm not going to unilaterally disarm ... If I have someone who wants sit down and talk to me, and they want to give me 50 grand, I'll take that..."***, said J.J. Horgan

(Justine Hunter - Apr 6, 2016)

(<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/christy-clark-defends-position-on-private-political-fundraisers/article29548657/>)

Sound familiar, well it should. These are the same words that fell out of the mouth of BC NDP Party president and North Vancouver City councillor Craig Keating back in 2013 when confronted with the issue of campaign donations at the municipal level. City council of the day proposed a motion limiting donations to which Keating said:

*"...to suggest I am going to declare unilateral disarmament when in fact that's not the lay of the land. And I do not intend to do that..."*

(see vimeo segment @ 20:15 20:20 (<https://vimeo.com/90363651>))

So what does one party really get you over another? I believe the answer, unfortunately, is 'Not Much'. Christy will tell you she is a great fiscal manager, that she has delivered repeated balanced budgets, and strong jobs numbers. But to be truthful, her singular jobs initiative, the LNG vision for future financial prosperity, has not delivered a damn thing to date, and likely has no chance of success until such time as oil prices recover. The vast majority of the new employment in this province has come from the movie industry, and that is being driven by the low Canadian currency, the fact Vancouver shares a common time zone with LA, and an abundance of work hungry employees. Christy's decision to reduce the tax credits to the movie industry has the very real chance of hurting BC's status as the premier place to shoot, 'a movie'.

So when we go to the polls in 2017, will the BC NDP present voters with a better solution than Christy Clark? As Rachel Notley has shown, the NDP is no more able to influence world oil prices than the Liberals have been. And in BC at least, the NDP seem to suffer from the same moral deficiency as Christy Clark's Liberals. In fact, there is a strong argument to be made they would be even worse. When Craig Keating and the rest of the NDP leaning City council he rules over were confronted with the Centre View development proposal by Onni, Craig Keating who was at the time the NDP candidate for MLA in the riding North Vancouver/Lonsdale, along with Mayor Darrell Mussatto, supported the Onni proposal against the wishes of every North Van City resident. Later we learned that in the same week that the Centre View proposal was approved the BC NDP received a \$78,500 cash donation from Onni. When a complaint was filed with the province, regulators responded it is not illegal for councillors to trade their support of a development proposal for a provincial campaign donation. Like Christy, Keating laundered the donation through his party, but analysis shows that an amount equal to the entire Onni donation flowed through the BC NDP campaign coffers and into the election bank account of Craig Keating.

With both J.J. Horgan and Craig Keating, respectively the Party leader and the face of the BC NDP executive, being on the take both for their party and for their personal campaigns, there is little chance that the 'Wild-West', as BC has come to be known in political campaign finance circles by the rest of the country, will offer any better solutions to the current moral crises befalling BC's Liberal leadership. Armed with this knowledge, Christy seems willing to ignore all calls for change, and appears willing to stay the course suggesting that she sees influence peddling as proper and appropriate conduct for today's politicians. Well I beg to differ. It is the stuff of crooks, and we need to route those crooks from office if they don't and won't follow our wishes. That's a tough task in a two party system, but one we should rise to accomplish. We need to remember that Christy rules through a majority contingent of MLA's who themselves are motivated by self interest. It's time we tell them, with blunt and clear words, that if they fail to support meaningful campaign finance reform and tougher conflict of interest legislation we will throw all their crooked asses out of the comfy MLA seats they currently occupy in Victoria. Lets put the fear of god into all these crooks, or at least the fear of losing a continuing paycheque. Maybe they will break rank and do the right thing for the wrong reason, their personal self preservation! They can acquire a stronger moral compass, or we can instil that attribute by showing them the door. It won't be easy to do, but then again nothing good ever is, is it?

