

## A Letter to the Residents of Anmore

We feel compelled to write this letter to provide information and clarification about some troubling issues in our Village. Recently statements made in a mail drop notice and on the Anmore Alternative website have been misleading at best, and at times inaccurate. The Anmore Alternative was created and is operated by Lynn Burton, the spouse of Councillor Mario Piamonte. From viewing the content of this political website over the past two years, one of its primary purposes is to present some Councillors in a positive light, while making negative statements about the remainder of Council. This political website cannot be relied upon as an accurate source of information about the issues occurring in our Village.

Recently, Anmore has been involved in a court case. Anmore Council has always discussed legal issues in In-Camera (closed) meetings as in accordance with the Community Charter, the Provincial legislation which governs municipalities. This practice ensures that the interests of the Village are protected in legal and other confidential matters. All other Municipal Councils we are aware of address these issues in the same manner. It is expected that the topics discussed in an In-Camera meeting will not be exposed to the public by any member of Council. However, some confidential information from these meetings has been given to some members of the public. In response to these concerns, Council passed a policy, and then replaced it with an amending bylaw, to try to maintain the confidentiality of these meetings. This amending bylaw states that In-Camera meetings cannot be audio or videotaped by any member of Council and that confidential documents will be available at the beginning of the meeting and retrieved by staff at the end of the meeting. These changes only apply to In-Camera meetings, not public meetings.

It was surprising when residents, Mary Atkins and her lawyer (spouse) Larry Barron, took the Village to court over this issue, given as members of the public they cannot attend In-Camera meetings. It was also concerning to us when Councillors Piamonte and Sedergreen submitted affidavits supporting this lawsuit against the Village. One thing we have learned from this legal action is that just because documents are filed in the courts, does not mean they contain accurate information. This court hearing occurred on February 15 and 16, 2011 and we are waiting for a decision from the judge. Once that decision has been made, we will be able to provide more information on this lawsuit.

On a separate matter, the Anmore Renewable Energy Foundation has been discussed lately. This foundation was created as a separate entity from the Village. We have been repeatedly told that the foundation no longer exists. Western Diversification, the federal government agency which issued a grant to the foundation, recently confirmed that the Village is not responsible for the debts of the foundation. Council has confirmed that the Village does not have a claim to the solar panels, which are located beside the Village Hall. Still, a few Anmore residents keep suggesting that the Village has an interest in the foundation. No one, outside of Anmore, has ever suggested that the Village is responsible for any debts of the foundation. However, it seems that the Anmore residents, who continually discuss this issue, want the Village to be legally liable for debts which are not the responsibility of Anmore taxpayers.

The negative consequences of these issues, and others, are the significant waste of Council and staff time and your taxpayer dollars. Despite this difficult situation, we are still moving forward on a number of important projects in Anmore. Our focus is to continue to work for our Village in a positive manner which unites and improves our community, rather than polarizing it. We hope to have your continued support.

Heather Anderson  
Mayor  
(604) 469-0929

Kerri Palmer Isaak  
Councillor  
(604) 469-2594

John McEwen  
Councillor  
(604) 461-3384

(This mail notice was written and paid for by the authors of the letter.)