

Written by Letter to the Editor
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There is clear evidence that Penticton's city council and mayor are seriously disconnected from the short and long-term interests and well-being of taxpayers and citizens. In just a short while, we've seen council behave as though they can't comprehend basic financing much better than kids in elementary school. A quick look at the list reveals they'd like to grant a 20 year freebie on taxes to anyone that would place a grocery market somewhere in the downtown. This is basically a million dollar handout to the private sector; it would amount to a million dollars scooped out of public tax revenue & the dollars that pay for our roads and their maintenance, power infrastructure, policing, library, and a whole long list of other, increasingly-dwindling, public services.

We can only speculate how many of these sweet deals exist in this city & quite possibly dozens & that grant corporations that generates tens of millions of dollars in revenue in Penticton alone & a tax exemption that were it not there & would pay millions of dollars into the public's tax fund. Instead, you and I, working people, seniors, some small businesses, prop up major corporations. Apparently that's council's version of free enterprise!

Then the mayor sounds off about how the federal government isn't returning enough tax dollars to the city. Seems to me that there are a couple cards missing in this deck.

And just preceding that, the mayor and council decide it's in our interest & yes, it's good for you and I, citizens and taxpayers, some of us property owners & to cut two people from the fire department because & surprise & they can't afford it.

One of the issues that seriously annoys Canadians is the inequality of treatment that taxpayers and citizens receive relative to the preferential treatment of corporations and private sector interests. Penticton city council and the mayor are aggravating this prejudicial behavior, ever widening the gap between the majority of citizens and those special interests they seem to like doing the heavy lifting for.

Pentictonites may continue to tolerate this kind of governance abuse; if they do, they can blame no one other than themselves. I personally hope they don't because the consequences of doing so are serious and escalating.

This is not a case of "just letting a just sleeping dog lie because it's not biting you"; the reality is council is taking a big chunk out of you, "handing millions of our tax dollars to their ideological friends," perpetuating long disproven economic myths, distorting the market place and deliberately creating inequality, all by exploiting our very shaky democracy.

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