

Subject: Direct Democracy Supporters: Langley Bylaw 1946

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Hi Colin:

It would certainly help if Councillors Louis and Bass would put forward a by-law like Langley's by-law 1946 which was passed by former Mayor Lopushinsky and Council. By-law 1946 allows any citizen to organize a referendum on any subject within municipal jurisdiction. " Vancouver City plan" sessions with the public at present are just dog and pony shows since the citizens have no real power. They can only present their ideas and "hope for the best" which means they will likely get lost in the mill.

Frank: It would certainly be great if they passed such a bylaw. Frankly, I was not aware that they had such a bylaw in Langley -- they sure do not seem to use it

Colin: I don't know if it was ever used. I met Joe some years ago and he was major for two terms but he passed the by-law just before he lost the next election so that impeded its usage. He said that it was a tough battle even to get it passed.

It is a popular cause. In 1991 some 80% of BC voters voted for direct democracy legislation in the 1991 general election. That means >50% in each of the three major parties voting supported it. The winning party (NDP) which formed the government got only 40%. But we should also pay attention to what happens as soon as people get elected. If 80% of us are pro-direct democracy and 20% are not, how come that figure gets more or less reversed as soon as people get elected to office? And it doesn't seem to matter what the level is. Langley Council wasn't so enthused about it as Mayor Lopushinsky found out. It is certain that 80% of the NDP MLA's post-1991 weren't gung ho on dd or they wouldn't have taken until 1996 to pass the Recall and Initiative Act which was pretty lame compared to what I expect people voted for. So back to "WHY"? My answer?

POWER CORRUPTS

Even the whiff of it on Council for a small city like Langley. I have no other way to explain what Alliance/Reform has done (ie not done) over 10 years even with dd as a major part of platform. POWER CORRUPTS. Alliance

MP's have almost all of the seats in BC. We know that >50% of BC people have Internet access. What if Alliance were to send out those standard newsletters and tell constituents how to subscribe to online constituency associations? Would you subscribe? Sure you would. So would lots of others. And the beginning of EDD would be established. Alliance won't do it. Why? Because POWER CORRUPTS.

Colin