

To: Mr. Lorne LEWIS, Area "E" (Elphinstone) Representative

Fm: R. J. (Ron) Joyce
1585 Grandview Road
Gibsons, B. C.
V0N 1V5

(604) 886-1490

Re: **Chapman Creek Watershed Defence – Where is the SCRD?**

Mr. Lewis:

This is the third email message I have sent to your office. After the first two, you responded that you were/are "...*giving a lot of attention to* (The Chapman Creek Watershed Issue)" and that "(your) position is well known." These feelings are my own and may not be shared by those with whom I struggle who may feel that you are "on-side". But, my *feelings* are approaching absolute outrage.

No doubt you are now aware that as of yesterday, the only barrier to the inevitable, if not "imminent", destruction of our drinking water supply was effectively removed by a Judgment and injunction of the **Supreme Court of British Columbia (SCBC)** (*Mr. Justice Stephen F. Kelleher*) which has granted the right of, in this case, **Western Forest Products** (WFP) to build roads and log within the watershed that provides drinking water to over 23,000 residents of the Sunshine Coast, unfettered by the rightful and understandable protestations of those very people who are now denied their right to pure, clean drinking water. This group includes almost all of those within your area of responsibility, including me and my family. It is possible, indeed *probable*, that part of His Lordship's reasons for his judgment is that "*Nobody has filed an application for a judicial review*". I remind you that several people have attended before SCRD meetings requesting that this be done. This includes a recent letter from the lawyer representing those people who dared to confront WFP. In his letter, Mr. John Conroy, QC, made an "urgent" request that the SCRD Board either make such an application or make a declaration with respect to the Watershed Reserve status of the area. In response to the many pleadings and Mr. Conroy's urgent and informed request, the SCRD chose, instead, to send their legal counsel to the Hearing in Vancouver to do nothing more than stand by and "witness" proceedings, in what I suggest was a public relations gesture, and not one in the *best* interest of the persons you people were elected to represent.

I draw to your attention the thoughts of **Mr. Hans Penner**, a gentleman of great personal courage and integrity, who is willing to present himself physically to protect the best interests of his friends and neighbours. He is among our few *champions*. In a recent writing, following the issuance of the aforementioned Injunction, complete with an Enforcement Order, he said:

"It is truly shocking when you think about the significance of today's Court Order. By force of law and the threat of arrest, a community is being forced to allow a faceless corporation, interested only in maximum profit, to enter into our source of drinking water in order to destroy an irreplaceable thousand year old forest. What is wrong with this world?"

It is my opinion that it was the SCR D's **duty and responsibility** to apply for the judicial review and their oversight, neglect, ignorance, and/or procrastination on that subject may very well have derailed our effort to prevent the rape of the watershed. The SCR D's absence certainly did not lend support to the group of honest citizens who were carrying out (and, hopefully will continue to carry out) the very mission that should have been of the highest priority to the elected members of the SCR D!

Following your last two responses to my previous messages, I conducted a poll of my own among your constituents. You should be surprised to know that despite your belief that your "position is well known", among my friends and neighbours it is not known at all. The fact that the issue has been given "a lot of attention" must be frustrating to you, as any attention you may have given it did nothing but abandon those people who are doing what the SCR D should be doing in the first place. To be rewarded only by the fact that our representatives are "witnessing" the whole affair affords little solace. Imagine how consoling that is to those who now have a significant legal bill to pay. Fortunately, there are a lot of your constituents willing to step up and assist with those bills. I would have thought that, for this issue, I had already paid through my taxes for my representatives to lead the initiative.

Once again, I urge you to assume the position as a "leader" and display those dimensions of "initiative", "problem confrontation", "decisiveness" and "courage", and stand up for and with those people who have already done so in our name. "**Courage**" **above all!** You may find a significant amount of courage in the character of those few who stared at the "faceless" corporations in Vancouver yesterday, as well as those who stand or stood on the line in the forest these past weeks. I suggest you start by not relying on what you *think* we might know about where you stand on this issue but make yourself well-heard and well-seen. You should also clearly demonstrate to your constituents your position on this issue by publicly challenging those members of the SCR D Board who may have vested interests in current or future logging operations in or near our watershed at the earliest opportunity, to announce publicly their commitment to abandon any intentions they may have to begin or continue logging in any areas that may service the watershed(s) on the Sunshine Coast.

Make no mistake, we are watching closely for **action** and not just words. I expect your leadership to include standing with those who stand up with our champions. I suggest the days of being a witness are over.

R. J. (Ron) Joyce
Elphinstone