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Dennis Patterson, MLA  
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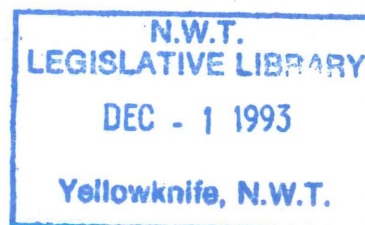
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I'm sorry it took me so long to send you this, but I wanted to collect my thoughts carefully. I've read Mr. Todd's written return and have the following comments:

First let me say that everything I have seen from Cabinet on this issue has been biased, the truth is stretched to the point of lies and the attack on Miss Garven is nothing but a way to take the heat off Cabinet and MACA for the very bad way they've handled this. I'll go through each item in the return and give you some background.

I have been discussing this issue with Mayor Pat McMahon. Her city has been subjected to the same kind of treatment from MACA in the past and I value her advise. I was very upset when Mr. Menard wrote a letter to the Town about the debentures in December 1992. That letter was wrong. It told us that over 2 million dollars from a lower base pipe project was part of the Apex Hill subdivision project. Any child knows that these parts of town are 2 km. away from each other. When this incorrect letter was leaked in Yellowknife, MACA did nothing to stop it. A great deal of damage was done to the Town and to Miss Garven. I believe this is when the ratepayers started getting upset.

This letter was later withdrawn and replaced with one saying the lower base matter was "resolved". They never acknowledged their first letter contained a huge mistake. I see now it was probably part of the plan to put the Town down.



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I did meet in Yellowknife as noted in paragraph 2. I called the Minister's office to request a meeting. I expressed my concerns regarding the following subjects: 1. I did not appreciate the treatment given to Town staff or myself at the meeting held in early March. 2. The evaluation report was discussed. MACA had said they would withdraw the report and send a re-written one. 3. The incorrect letter sent to the town in December and the fact MACA did not say publicly the letter was withdrawn because of errors on their part.

In this meeting Mr. Menard said I should have called him. I had called him. He was out of town and I left a message, which was never returned.

When we discussed the debentures, Mr. Menard said the SAO was a problem. I said I would look into it and would deal with Miss Garven. I also said we should wait for the report that Mr. Ferris was writing.

I felt at the time that the Yellowknife meeting was open and friendly and that we had accomplished what we set out to do. At no time do I recall being told to fire Miss Garve,

The matter of Council being dissolved only came up because of my understanding that a letter had been sent to MACA suggesting this. I wanted MACA to know that I was aware of the letter.

I remember expressing a concern to you at the time that the Regional Superintendent of MACA and the Regional Director were talking around town about the debentures and were being quoted by their titles and not as individual ratepayers. I felt this was wrong. In fact, the Regional Director only

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came to Council sessions about our dog bylaws - he wanted dog teams to get special treatment and didn't want to pay for dog tags. He never called me or the Town Manager for debenture information.

When I returned to Iqaluit after the meeting with the Minister and the Deputy Minister, I spent a lot of time investigating the status of the debentures. After a thorough review of the history and current situation, I came to the conclusion that Miss Garven's position on the matter was correct and that MACA was ignoring the original deal and that the government overall owed the town large sums of money on this and other projects.

There is no way I would have disciplined, warned or fired Miss Garven for defending a position on behalf of the Town which I strongly felt was correct. I encouraged her to continue to defend the Town the way she had been. Dennis, you'll remember my comments when the Town first got into this subdivision deal - how I felt the government would try to stick the ratepayers with the cost even though MACA promised this would not happen. I guess I was right all along.

I felt at the time that MACA was mad at us because of my actions regarding the evaluation report. Yes, there were more than 50 recommendations. At least 26 of them were minor or housekeeping items. The research for this report was done so quickly the report had many errors. Recommendations were made to do things that had already been done - eg. - bring Inuit staff into recreation, make a bylaw index, etc. I was also upset that the report contained confidential personnel information on the Town Manager's contract and on

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the union negotiations which were underway. If publicized, these items would have been damaging to the Town's negotiations and no doubt would have proven costly.

It's interesting that the Written Return does not say the report was withdrawn and partly re-written. I was instructed by MACA to destroy all copies of the first report and to replace it with the new version. Now the Minister is using the first report against us.

Mr. Todd and MACA seem to be calling me a liar. They say I and Council were clearly told we should fire that Town Manager. They did tell me they saw the SAO as a problem. I felt then, and even more now that they wanted her out of the way so they could change history and dump the Town with the land deal. I repeat, at no time did they tell me to fire the SAO or else. I don't know why they now claim they did. Here's a list of the times they did not tell me :

- : first version of the evaluation
- : second version of the evaluation
- : Mr. Menard's letter of April 14th.'93. In fact, Mr. Menard said in this letter he was relying on the SAO to assist the Regional Superintendent in writing his report on the history of the subdivision.
- : the Ferris report - the report backed up the Town's perspective on the project
- : the letter from the Minister saying how pleased he was that we accepted the Ferris report and how the report gave the town the benefit of the doubt.
- : the agreement signed between the Town and MACA in preparation for the FMB submission - there was formal acceptance of the Ferris report in this document.

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: the meeting in Yellowknife in July between the GNWT departments of Finance and MACA and the Town - no reference to firing the SAO except an informal comment during a cigarette break made by Martin Hanly to me, the SAO and our Director of Finance that "someone's head is going to roll because of this". I thought at the time he seemed afraid it would be his own.

: the initial reports done by our labour negotiator and our organizational specialist - there were no indications of any problems with the SAO's management approach. These reports did point out problems in other areas - eg. labour relations and operational problems in Public Works. I directed Miss Garven to deal with these areas. I believe she has told you of some of the accomplishments she was able to make in this area, certainly the union of northern workers has strongly backed up her efforts - in writing- to the Council.

: MACA meeting with Council at lunch on March 5th.

: private meeting with Mr. Adams March 5th.

March 17th. meeting in Yellowknife

I have never received a letter from MACA saying the SAO should be fired.

In the October meetings/calls to the Regional Superintendent we discussed my concerns about Council's poor decisions regarding the Cucheran firing and the possibility of the liability we might incur. We did not discuss the performance of the SAO. I resent the Minister now trying to turn these discussions into something they were not. I did bring up the matter of MACA stepping in because Council was not taking the advice of either our labour lawyer or the SAO when in my own extensive knowledge of labour matters, I knew we were getting good advice. Mr. Todd's twisting of the facts is cruel and malicious.

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It's obvious to me that MACA and the government will treat you well as long as you agree with them. I didn't agree with them and I've been thrown out. Our SAO challenged them and she has been fired without notice and without a dime. MACA has hired an accountant to fix the books the way they want. This accountant has been on contract to MACA and there's no way he can be professionally objective. Are they going to get away with this conflict?

The Cabinet and MACA seem to be saying I ignored the debenture issue. That is a lie. They say they told me to fire the Town Manager. That is also a lie.

As you know, everyone was surprised that Miss Garven and I had a good working relationship. I feel it is because we were both honest and open with each other and because I spent a great deal of personal time at the town office keeping up to date on events there. I was able to review issues thoroughly and on many occasions asked tough questions to the Town Manager and other staff. I was satisfied that things were in order and pleased with progress made on major major objectives. If some of the critics had taken even a little time to get the facts, their criticisms would be directed elsewhere.

Once the final evaluation report was completed it was discussed in public. Likewise the debenture issue, likewise the labour negotiations. The Ferris report was available to anyone who asked. All this was ignored and now the government is pretending these things don't exist.

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The government is trying to use Town funds to pay off interest they promised the Town would not have to cover. The action by cabinet has ruined my chances of ever again being elected to political office in the NWT. I've had to seek legal advise at my own expense.

I know I have taken a great deal of your time on this, but it's important that someone get the facts out and tell the truth, the whole truth. You know that I could not live with myself if I were not being honest and open. I wish the cabinet and MACA and other government departments would adopt the same policy and quit trying to use us to justify their actions.

Please call me if you need any further information.

Yours truly,



Charlie Ruttan