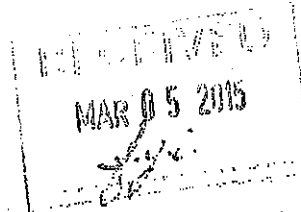




Bureau 322  
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March 3, 2015

Mayor Nolan Crouse  
City of St. Albert  
5 St. Anne Street  
St. Albert, AB T8N 3Z9



Mayor Nolan Crouse,

As Chairman of the Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord Board of Trustees, and as the trustee for Legal/Morinville/St. Albert, we wish to express our gratitude to you and your fellow municipal councillors who voted in favour of adopting the revised Joint Use School Site Allocation Agreement.

We viewed the video clips from the February exchanges on the matter and were very disappointed that the City Manager and the three highly respected school superintendents were publicly disparaged by Councillor Sheena Hughes for doing what they are designated to do in the current School Site Allocation Agreement, including making suggestions for changes to the four-partner document. Contrary to Councillor Hughes' response, we can clearly hear her use the term 'corrupt' to describe our senior officials while reading her personal notes (4 minutes, 37 seconds into the clip).

This appallingly disrespectful term deserves, at very least, a full and public retraction, and preferably a full and public apology. With respect to the revised School Site Allocation Agreement, we are very thankful for your leadership role in having guided its adoption by Council. At its very core and in its original spirit, the 10-year old Agreement provides a fair and equitable process that is free of political involvement. St. Albert was an innovator when the agreement was designed primarily as a result of the divisive debate surrounding the location of École La Mission. Since, many Alberta municipalities have seen the wisdom of a JUA for site allocation and followed suit. The Agreement frees elected officials from being untowardly influenced by citizens who do not fully understand the community's greater needs, rather than personal motivations.

By way of illustrating the strength, flexibility and collaborative values central to the Agreement, Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord was able to accept St. Albert Public's request to give up their right to the Erin Ridge/Eldorado Park site to our district for the construction of École Alexandre-Taché, thus giving them the ability to better serve a newly developed area of the city in Erin Ridge North. Simply, the entire process consisted of conversation, consultation and collaboration among the four partners resulting in a quick, efficient and positive transfer. It is critically important that the four signatories maintain and respect the Agreement's core pillars and administrative principles and processes. We are proud signatories of the Agreement and are grateful that City Council shares our belief in its long-term benefits for all St. Albert residents.

In conclusion, we wish to commend you personally for your unwavering support for École Alexandre-Taché despite prolonged, and very recent, attacks by a few citizens who persist in making our francophone school and students feel less than welcome in one of Western Canada's earliest and most prominent French-Canadian communities.

Sincerely,

Kevin Bell, Chair  
Ronald St-Jean, Trustee  
Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord

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PHONE: 780-458-0205  
FAX: 780-460-0662

ÉCOLE

# Muriel Martin Elementary School

RECEIVED

JAN 15 2014

January 10, 2014

Dear Ms. Hughes:

As principal of Muriel Martin School, I feel compelled to write this letter to you about the actions you conveyed during a presentation on municipal government on December 13<sup>th</sup> to our grade six students and staff. Your responses to a number of questions that day in my opinion were not appropriate and seemed to be directed to your fellow council members. I am disappointed that the students and staff were subjected to these thoughts and actions during a presentation that was to be informative and motivating to the students.

The following are some responses that are of concern in a school setting :

One student asked if you needed a university degree to be in politics and you replied, in obvious reference to the other councilors, "No, you can be as dumb as a sack of hammers and still get in!"

Another student asked why you ran for local council. You replied because "you were bullied by our council four years ago" and then you went on to state how surprised you were even now at "how little of a voice you actually have, as a councilor, in the running of local government". This is definitely not the messages, we, as teachers, are trying to communicate to our students about the working of democracy. As teachers, we try to encourage students to become involved in government and appreciate the democratic government that we have. We want students to become active citizens. For a politician to tell them how little their voice is actually heard in government is not the best message for eleven year olds!

A student then asked you if you would ever consider running in provincial politics and you explained how "closed it is". You went on to discuss how you need "to know people and be nominated by a party to run". One of our teachers had to actually correct you about this misinformation and let the students know that people can run as independents in provincial politics.


Overall, the teachers were very impressed with the other council members. They were professional and knowledgeable. We felt it was unfortunate your fellow councilors had to be subjected to such a negative attitude from a co-worker in front of the students. We certainly hope these three did not have a negative experience at our school because of this. During the presentation, you physically positioned

your chair away from the other councilors, who all sat side by side. Your negative body language and sarcasm was shocking to the adults who witnessed the presentation. Again, we try to teach the students that in a democracy one person does not always get his/her way because the majority rules. We teach them that in a democracy everyone has a say and that even if you are unhappy with the outcome, you should treat others with respect and with professionalism. You clearly did not demonstrate that and we do not feel this was the proper venue or audience for that behavior.

The purpose of this presentation was to answer questions about services the government provides to the community and how they do this. ~~You used this opportunity to criticize a council that you are part of. It was disappointing to us that you attempted to discourage the students from having a positive attitude about their local government.~~

We always look forward to local council members coming and allowing students to meet them and ask questions. It certainly brings our municipal government unit to life and gives it more meaning. We are very fortunate that we have a council and mayor that are so willing to meet with the students. However, your conduct on December 13<sup>th</sup> was not appreciated and we hope that you will consider your actions when you are asked to attend this type of presentation in the future.

Sincerely,

  
Les Kirchner  
Principal, Muriel Martin

cc: Mayor Nolan Crouse

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## Rayann Lloyd

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**From:** Carol Bergum  
**Sent:** October 2, 2015 3:47 PM  
**To:** Patrick Draper; Mayor of St. Albert  
**Cc:** Gilles Prefontaine  
**Subject:** Incident with Councillor

Just a heads up. I understand that today Councillors Hughes and MacKay were outside Jack's Burgers where they encountered [FOIP S 17] and [FOIP S 17] from [FOIP S 17]. What has been conveyed to me is that Councillor Hughes proceeded to scream and yell at them in public. [FOIP S 17] and [FOIP S 17] did not engage and walked away.

Needless to say, I am shocked to hear of this kind of behavior. We have asked [FOIP S 17] to document the details of the incident and I will forward that to you when I receive it, likely next week.

**Carol Bergum, RPP, MCIP, MES**  
Director, Planning and Development  
City of St. Albert  
2nd floor, 5 St. Anne Street  
St. Albert, Alberta T8N 3Z9  
Phone: 780-459-1598 Fax 780-458-1974

*Bringing our best to cultivate an amazing community.*

## Rayann Lloyd

---

**From:** Cam MacKay  
**Sent:** October 29, 2015 12:30 PM  
**To:** Mayor of St. Albert; Robert Russell; Cathy Heron; Sheena Hughes; Tim Osborne; Wes Brodhead  
**Cc:** Patrick Draper  
**Subject:** RE: Update to the postponed public hearing motion

Nolan;

I understand your position whereby you will defend any action that the staff take, however I would also ask what benefit there is to council to support, accept and promote a culture of dishonesty? I am glad that councillor Hughes took the time to point out that we were told incorrect information in camera. Rather than chastise someone for telling the truth perhaps council should show some leadership and promote a culture of accountability rather than promote a culture of dishonesty.

Many of the backgrounders that we receive routinely contain incorrect or politically biased information and often when questions are asked the answer is not truthful.

We should be addressing the lack of truthfulness and lack of accountability in the organization rather than to chastise a council member for having the courage to do the right thing.

Cam MacKay

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**From:** Mayor of St. Albert  
**Sent:** October-29-15 8:36 AM  
**To:** Robert Russell; Cam MacKay; Cathy Heron; Sheena Hughes; Tim Osborne; Wes Brodhead  
**Cc:** Patrick Draper  
**Subject:** FW: Update to the postponed public hearing motion

Council members

Accusations and innuendos such as are included in the email below are unacceptable for any member of Council to submit in such a fashion.

**Regards,**

**Mayor Nolan Crouse**

City of St. Albert, The Botanical Arts City

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The information contained in this e-mail is intended for the person named above only. Any other distribution, copying or disclosure in whole or in part to others, shall include providing copy by e-mail to the Mayor for thorough record keeping purposes.

**From:** Sheena Hughes

**Sent:** October 28, 2015 9:43 PM

**To:** Wes Brodhead; Tim Osborne; Robert Russell; Patrick Draper; Mayor of St. Albert; Cathy Heron; Cam MacKay

**Subject:** Update to the postponed public hearing motion

I noted last week that Mr. Belke was able to return to his position the day after the October 19 council meeting to attend the agenda committee meeting; he was not away for the entire week as was stated by Mr. Draper that night, nor does he have plans to take time off in the next month to justify the extra long postponement to review 3 simple motions and a flow chart which would improve the public hearing process.

A second incorrect statement made by Mr. Draper at in camera meeting was that FOIP S 23

**FOIP S 23**

I expect accurate information to be provided to council when debating a motion or getting clarity about a situation. While not impressed with the overstatements, I am also no longer surprised.

**Sheena Hughes**

*Councillor*

**P: 780-240-9889 | F: 780-460-2394**

**City of St. Albert | 5 St. Anne Street | St. Albert, AB | T8N 3Z9**

**shughes@st-albert.net | www.stalbert.ca**