



June 4, 2004

An open letter to friends and supporters of dbappleton:

Over the past few days, our company, and our personnel, have been singled out and unfairly maligned by politicians and the Vancouver Sun. These accusations and erroneous news reports are in response to a financial audit of the Vancouver Coastal Aboriginal Planning Committee (The Committee) and the work performed by our company as the secretariat for the Committee.

We have responded in detail to every one of the Auditor's recommendations. The Committee has approved these responses. The Auditors have stated that there was no impropriety or missing money. Every transaction, every detail, has been willingly opened to scrutiny. A copy of our response to the Auditor's report is posted on our website at www.dbappleton.com.

We have accepted full responsibility for any clerical, technical or bookkeeping errors that were of our doing. We anticipate complete vindication in the final report from the Auditors, as long as this process is kept free from political interference. Aboriginal members of the Committee, who have also been unfairly maligned, will for their part, have more to say once the final Auditor's report is released.

The Minister responsible, the Honourable Christy Clark, in a deliberately calculated move, has taken control of a process that was intended to be managed by aboriginal people. We feel strongly that we have been hung out to dry as the Minister's scapegoat; a carefully considered plan to transfer the blame onto the consultants as a foil for the Ministry's own lack of a policy framework, a consistent lack of focus, and constantly evolving reorganization plans.

This situation was made worse by the Vancouver Sun's false and misleading headlines, and the repetition of erroneous information that has been brought to their attention on several occasions. Our lawyers are presently corresponding with the Vancouver Sun, and we do not wish to compromise that process with any further comment at this time.

What has been missing in this entire public episode is the end objective: creating a system that will protect Aboriginal children in need of care.

We remain committed, open, and proud of what we've achieved to further this process, given the many obstacles that were thrown in our path along the way.

We are gratified by the daily show of support from our friends, colleagues and clients, who recognize the good work our people perform, and we are committed to protecting the reputation that we have worked tirelessly to maintain.

John Appleton

Dave Baspaly

Dave Pranteau

For further information: 604.683.0556