

GAUNTLET BLOG APRIL 3/09

the posting. The one which follows is the same posting with that mistake repaired.

I apologise for the trouble.

Madeleine,

With all due respect, I have seen the receipt book for memberships and donations, as well as the 'trial balance sheet' that were submitted to the new executive and while I am not a financial wizard, I cannot find records that show deposits to accounts that can be verified by names in the receipt book or on the membership list.

That is to say... there are some receipts... and some deposits (in various sums, but without names with which to cross-reference and check). There is also a list of members, but that list does not jive with the membership and donation receipts in many cases.

What I am saying is from what I have seen, the records that were passed to the new executive were incomplete and not done very professionally.

As I say, I am not a financial professional but I do run a small business of my own and I know that my accounts can be cross-referenced by way of receipts for money and deposits (carefully logged as to what the deposit was from). This is not the case with the jumbled box of records that I saw.

Also, I have seen the letters between the legal counsel for both groups. One more than four occasions did the counsel acting on behalf of the new executive ask for certain records. The responses to those requests promised to forward records but those records were not forwarded in a timely way.

I have also seen evidence that Mr. Crowe prepared and sent records directly to Elections Alberta at the end of March (2009) long after his tenure as CFO of the AGP. I cannot fathom why he would do this.

What I am getting at is that the records that I have seen are very confusing and lead me to understand why Edwin Erickson would not accept the post of CFO and why Mr. Anglin has chosen not to appoint someone who may be legally responsible for the mess we now find ourselves in. This point of view has been affirmed by legal opinion that I have sought... there might be liability incurred if a new CFO signs off on the incomplete documents.

I have also found that Mr. Crowe's offer to figure out the books at his consulting rate of \$180 per hour to be somewhat ironic.

All this notwithstanding, the documents that have been passed on to

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the new executive are now all in the hands of Elections Alberta. If, as you say, they were all sent and are reconcilable, they we will be given a clean bill of health and we will allowed to proceed. That is my great hope.

If Elections Alberta cannot make sense of the documents, they will have to preform a forensic audit. If this is the case it will be more than Mr. Anglin who is suggesting some disarray.

Then there is the question of the loans made to the Party by two members of the previous executive in contraviance to Election Law in the province of Alberta, wherein it was agreed to have the loan paid off at 7% per annum. The motives may have been pure, but the previous executive ought to have been aware loans to political parties in this province must be made from chartered financial institutions.

I have also seen a letter from one of those who loaned the funds that acknowledges (and apologises) for this loan and asks that the outstanding balance be paid back before the end of the financial year so the loan would not have to show on the official books as a loan made my other than a chartered finanacial institution.

I cannot for the life of me understand how a loan made would not have to be reconciled on the official books of a political party. The lender in question quotes a regulation that I cannot find in defense of this request. Perhaps you can help me to understand.

Add to the fact that nowhere I can find in the minutes of the executive meetings prior to these loans being made is there any record that the executive voted to have these two lenders make these loans, or that the Party should accept the terms of repayment. Who made the decision that these loans were acceptable?

This is perhaps the most distressing aspect of the records that I have seen, and I venture it is one that Elections Alberta is having a hard time with as well... much more than the incorporation issue, which I admit I don't truly understand.

If I made it seem that Joe Anglin, Connie Jensen, Midge Lambert or myself should be let off the hook for not issuing tax receipts, I was unclear. We owe everyone who donated to the Alberta Greens a tax receipt. The fact that it cannot be done because of our inability to reconcile the books with the receipt books and the membership list is unfortunate and I am upset that we are unable to do that.

I did not mean to say that Mr. Anglin's efforts vis-a-vis Bill 19 excuse him of his responsibilities to the Green Party of Alberta. Not at all. However, my point that he has moved the public of this province more than any other single person on this issue is worth noting.

I was in Innisfail last night and again met none of the older guard Greens. I will be in Innisfail again on Wednesday night when the

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Minister is there in order to put his feet to the fire. The meeting organisers have made it clear that Joe Anglin is not welcome at the meeting so I feel somewhat obliged to go and ask some questions myself.

I am often closely associated with Joe Anglin in people's comments. I want to note that before I went to the September meeting I had met Joe Anglin twice; once at the Green meeting of debriefing after the election and once at a town hall meeting about democracy in Alberta. I am not "in league" with Joe Anglin, nor have I ever been.

I went to the September meeting in good faith and wanted simply to gain a higher profile in the party. I did not expect to win the position of Deputy Leader, but I did. After the debacle at Morningside, I made three attempts through David Crowe to try and organise a compromise. I was told by Mr. Crowe each of those times, something to the effect of, "it is being handled." I was never brought into the loop or ever asked for an opinion or for my help.

On the other hand, Joe Anglin and Connie Jensen have opened all the records they have available to me and answered my questions with veracity... as far as I can tell.

Sadly, I am very busy with two full time jobs and am still rather naive about politics. I have been confused by the events of the last six months and very much wish they had not happened. However, I find that I must stand up for what I have seen of Joe Anglin and Connie Jensen.

I understand that Joe is provocative and sometimes abrasive. He could not have done what he has done with Bill 19 without that hard edge. He has rallied many of the rural folks in this province against a government they themselves have elected. What an amazing thing to have seen.

It is an effort that will become even more important as this government tries to allow nuclear power into Alberta.

For me, the proof of Joe Anglin is "in the pudding"... seeing him make government ministers squirm... seeing him work with Paul Hinman, David Swann and Brian Mason, even though he does not have a seat in the legislature is something of value in a political landscape as apathetic as Alberta's

I compare Joe Anglin's actions to the "under-the-radar" history of the Green Party under previous leaderships between elections and I know that Joe Anglin has roused something in rural Alberta that previous Greens have been unable to rouse. To me that is worth something, if only recognition that he has done it.

Most respectfully,

Will Munsey

7:04 AM 

David Crowe said...

The books for Alberta Greens were converted by me to the MYOB accounting package in 2004 and that file was provided to the new executive. I also provided some select Excel files exported from the main accounting file but of course you need the accounting file to have access to all the cross-referencing etc. At no point was I asked how to obtain MYOB software or consulting assistance. MYOB is an extremely powerful tool and while it cannot produce tax receipts directly, it can certainly produce all the needed information in printed reports or Excel export files. I produce basic reports, but I don't have ESP and can't know exactly what method the new executive would want to use to do tax receipts and other functions. If they needed other reports why did they never ask for them?


Membership forms do not correspond with membership records because the vast majority of members paid via our website. I challenge anyone to come up with a paper record of a membership that is not in the accounting system (of which I still have a backup copy). If it was felt that records were missing why was I never asked for them?

The box that I provided was extremely well organized with related records in a marked envelope in most cases. I understand it was thrown in the back of a vehicle. It may have overturned and documents spilled everywhere. That is not how I delivered it to our lawyer. If it was felt that documents were missing why was I never asked for them?

I am only aware of three requests, which were all fulfilled, although the first two took some time. The first was to transfer the PO Box, the second was to transfer the ING account and the third was for login information. In the first two cases it took quite some time for Connie Jensen to ask for the transfer. In the case of the PO Box they never sent me the cheque that I needed to pay for the transfer, and eventually decided to do it from Buck Lake. In the case of ING, ING kept screwing up the transfer, which is very complex, requiring the exchange of signed documents among the three parties. In the third case, login information for one website was provided in less than 24 hours. If there were other things missing why was I never asked for them?

I offered to provide any missing documents AT NO CHARGE. Additional consulting I offered to provide at my standard consulting rate. Obviously I have produced tax receipts, audited financials, government financial reports etc. about 6 times and am very familiar with the process and the legislation. Given the hostile nature of the takeover I didn't see why I should provide assistance and expertise for free. Since this would have been 'blood money', imho, I was planning to donate it to a charity or the formation of a new party, not keep it.


If the new executive felt that I had a responsibility to provide more than just missing documents at no charge why did they never ask me?

7:26 AM 

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