

## Matthews, Rayanne

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**To:** Proton, Adriana  
**Subject:** RE: NO to Permissive Tax Exemptions for Religious Organizations and any Not for Profits that spew hate and Contravene BC Human Rights Legislation

**From:** Dianne Goldberg <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** October 24, 2023 at 2:14:16 PM PDT

**To:** CouncilAlias <[Council@courtenay.ca](mailto:Council@courtenay.ca)>

**Cc:** "Cole-Hamilton, Will" <[wcole-hamilton@courtenay.ca](mailto:wcole-hamilton@courtenay.ca)>, "Morin,Wendy" <[wmorin@courtenay.ca](mailto:wmorin@courtenay.ca)>, "McCollum, Melanie" <[mmccollum@courtenay.ca](mailto:mmccollum@courtenay.ca)>, "Jolicoeur, Evan" <[ejolicoeur@courtenay.ca](mailto:ejolicoeur@courtenay.ca)>, "Wells, Bob" <[mayor@courtenay.ca](mailto:mayor@courtenay.ca)>, "Hillian, Doug" <[dhillian@courtenay.ca](mailto:dhillian@courtenay.ca)>, "Garbutt, Geoff" <[ggarbutt@courtenay.ca](mailto:ggarbutt@courtenay.ca)>, "Frisch, David" <[dfrisch@courtenay.ca](mailto:dfrisch@courtenay.ca)>

**Subject:** NO to Permissive Tax Exemptions for Religious Organizations and any Not for Profits that spew hate and Contravene BC Human Rights Legislation

I urge Mayor and Council to take the next steps to ensure that all property tax exemptions and any other grants to religious and other non profit organizations are given ONLY to those applicants that:

1. meet specific criteria and are aligned with Courtenay's strategic plans and priorities
2. do not promote hatred and
3. comply with Human Rights intent and laws in BC.

Councillor Jolicoeur helpfully set the path for the next steps at the last Council meeting.

Please ask yourselves before you vote - Do Council priorities reflect the "**Statement from BC Human Rights Commissioner in response to the hate fuelled marches planned for Sept. 20, 2023**"?

<https://bchumanrights.ca/news/statement-from-b-c-s-human-rights-commissioner-in-response-to-the-hate-fuelled-marches-planned-for-september-20-2023/>

### **Courtenay experiences on Sept 30, 2023**

Dealing with [REDACTED] Aaron House [REDACTED], is not 'heresay' for me. I was harangued [REDACTED]

I am a proud ally who participated in the Comox Valley Pride walk to counter the 1 Million March 4 Children. The [REDACTED] Aaron House [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and a few [REDACTED] followers made insulting comments to us and paraded with their hateful posters/signs as we peacefully walked in front of the school district office.

Several district school trustees participated, I am sure for them its not hearsay either.

<https://www.comoxvalleyrecord.com/news/courtenay-1-million-march-4-children-protesters-vastly-outnumbered-by-counter-protesters-4419484>

It wasn't the first time such hatred was out loud in our city! In the last school board election all candidates meeting, Anita Devries (associated with Youth For Christ AKA Youth Unlimited) ran as a school trustee [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] She paraded in front of a couple of Schools with her Action4Canada leaflets (Tanya Gaw, founder of Action4Canada, recent speaker in a Black Creek and a Comox church) promoting the same hatred. Plenty of evidence in the newspapers and on the televised candidates meeting.

"When asked about the SOGI 123 initiative and whether she aligned with the Action4Canada stance that the initiative is there "... to promote homosexuality and transgender ideology, and normalize sexual deviancy," Devries said that is how she interprets it.

<https://www.comoxvalleyrecord.com/community/courtenay-school-board-trustee-candidate-distributing-anti-sogi-material-1636411>

These "leaders" supporters/followers are not new to this hate agenda. I am old enough to recall how some of their 'their allies' led the campaign against books in Surrey schools. The leadership has changed but not their mission in promoting hatred. AND the Supreme Court ruled:

'Chamberlain v Surrey School District No 36, [2002] 4 S.C.R. 710, 2002 SCC 86, was a case in which the **Supreme Court of Canada held that a local school board could not impose its religious values by refusing to permit the use of books that sought to promote tolerance of same-sex relationships.'**

**"The court today has affirmed the right of children in same-sex parented families to see themselves and their families reflected in the school curriculum," said John Fisher, Egale Canada's Executive Director. "This is an unequivocal victory not only for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Canadians and their families, but for all Canadians, in that it affirms the right of children to a bias-free curriculum that teaches the values of equality, tolerance and respect for diversity that we as a society hold so dear. ..The Supreme Court sent the clear message to educators across the nation that families come in many diverse forms, and that all are equally entitled to be treated with respect. Ultimately, the Court has recognized that children benefit from learning respect for those who are different. In the words of the Chief Justice, "tolerance is always age-appropriate."**

<https://nawl.ca/surrey-book-banning-case/>

I urge all of you to ensure that Council implements changes so that Courtenay is truly a city that has NO SPACE FOR HATE and that no taxpayer dollars that Council approves are directed to support the hateful words and actions of people and organizations in our city!

Sincerely,  
Dianne Goldberg  
Courtenay