

Tasha Buchanan

From: Andy Thomsen <andersethomsen@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 11:55 AM

To: Inquiry <inquiry@barriere.ca>

Subject:

Hi there.

I was a municipal councillor in Fruitvale, B. C., a few miles east of Trail.

I am writing to you, because our politicians and the media have denied public input into resolving what has become ridiculous claims for lands, resources, and compensations for Indigenous people.

Land acknowledgements have become common in Canada, and have become the single biggest obstruction to ever realizing Reconciliation.

They were adopted because politicians were confused about the interpretation of ceded and unceded lands versus title fee simple and adopted them as disclaimers. They must be rescinded because they do nothing but obfuscate the issue of ownership, at a time we desperately need clarity.

While we readily acknowledge the presence of the earlier arrivals in Canada, and commonly refer to them as Indigenous, we fail to recognise the later arrivals and their rights to occupy and use the same lands in their search for more sustainable life styles. The land was never stolen by anybody. It was and still is, occupied and used by everybody.

It is also important to be reminded anybody born in Canada, whose parents were Canadian citizens at the time of their birth, are bona fide Canadian citizens.

About 27 million people or 75% of all Canadians are Canadian born, and nobody could possibly have more rights than them.

To add to the confusion, we have two title systems. Occupy and use with restrictions, and fee simple with no restrictions, but every square inch of Canada is Crown land. The Crown is the people, and the people collectively own the land.

Today about 65% of Canadians live in owner-occupied homes, valued at about 6.1 trillion dollars, virtually all on fee simple titled land.

The purpose of the treaties was to help the earlier arrivals transition from their migrant hunter-gather lifestyle into our more stable farming and industrial lifestyles, producing the foods and supplies we need to sustain our forever changing lifestyle. It's called evolution.

Indigenous people are adapting, and enjoying the freedoms and opportunities we all take for granted, except ownership of land.

According to tribal laws, Indigenous people are not allowed to buy, own, and or sell tribal municipal lands they occupy.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and BC Premier Eby's attempt to defy the spirit and intent of the UNDRIP protocols to segregate Indigenous people to award them special rights and VETO powers over the occupancy and use of Crown land has also been a huge obstruction to reconciliation.

The BC legislature is currently entertaining legislation to change that. Then there will be only one title system.

We can only hope common sense will prevail, and with the support of the opposition parties, put an end to that nonsense.

The land acknowledgements are insinuating title fee simple is no longer valid, and that we are all trespassing, when nothing could be further from the truth. They have paralyzed the reconciliation process, and must be rescinded.

Thank you for reading this.

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