

March 2, 2007

City Clerk
City of Richmond
Richmond City Hall
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

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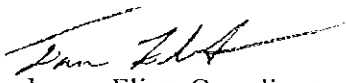
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I am writing at this time to request the opportunity to speak before the Richmond City Council at its March 12, 2007, meeting to voice concern about the pending implementation of the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA), recently signed by the premiers of British Columbia and Alberta.

I will be speaking both as a member of the national Council of Canadians and as the coordinator of the Council's Richmond/Delta Chapter. The Council of Canadians is an independent, public interest organization of 80,000 members and supporters committed to safeguarding Canada's social programs, promoting economic justice, strengthening Canadian sovereignty, and preserving the environment. The Council strongly believes in the democratic process and in the right and responsibility of all citizens to participate in the decisions affecting their lives. The Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement has had no such public consultation or legislative debate. Furthermore, as it currently stands, TILMA allows businesses and individuals to challenge any government policy or regulation they feel "restricts or impairs" trade, investment or labour mobility. Because it can be argued that virtually all government regulations restrict trade and investment in one way or another, such regulations, even those of local governments, could be vulnerable to challenge and possible law suits. Clearly, TILMA gives power to the corporate sector by taking it away from the public.

In addition, Richmond/Delta Chapter members are very concerned about the slow erosion of our local government's say in critical issues facing the community as the federal and provincial governments wield ever-increasing power in such matters. They fear that TILMA will further decrease local government's ability to operate in the best interest of the area's citizens. We are encouraging the Richmond City Council to take an active role in resisting the implementation of the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement in its current form. Thank you.

Background information and further arguments against TILMA can be found on The Council of Canadians website, www.cocanadians.ca.


James Flint, Coordinator
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The Council of Canadians
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