

Walmart the High cost of Low Price

Oct 8th, 2013

The United Food and Commercial Workers Union of Canada reported that after Walmart workers in Jonquiere Quebec unionized within a couple months, ^{the store was closed} resulting in 200 people losing their jobs. In a Polara poll 80 % of people dismissed the claim that the store was losing money and believe the store was closed to frighten other walmart employees from unionizing.

Walmart is bigger than Home depot, Kroger, Target, Sears , Costco and Kmart combined. Walmart averages a profit of 36 billion per year. It does not help the local economy when 92 % of what Walmart sells is made in China. Walmart employs 1.6 million people and only 1.2 % make a living above the poverty line.

Walmart has lawsuits pending against it in 38 states in USA over allegations of cheating employees out of overtime pay.

It is no secret whenever Walmart appears, independent businesses mysteriously start to dry up. Walmart undercuts everybody else on every single consumer item they can.

Smart Centers bought Capilano mall in Edmonton, Alberta and they walled off the entrance to the rest of the mall and established stores recalled an almost instant loss of business. Walmart is not a good neighbour , not a good boss and not a good landlord.

The City of Richmond should require Walmart to pay for an impact study taking a hard look at all the ways Walmart would affect the neighbourhood, including:

- *The impact of workers of low wages and benefits
- * Whether they would drive wages at competing retail stores to the bottom
- *How many local stores would be driven out of business
- * The cost to the province and city of providing public benefits to walmart employees

Los Angeles has made such a study a requirement of big box store application.

Richmond City Council needs to protect our established businesses from annihilation , protect our residents from poor working conditions and protect the land from un reversible environmental destruction.

Please say no the Walmart application until the concerns of the people of Richmond can be addressed.

Carol Day 50 year resident of the Island City by Nature