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Mayor Brodie, Councillors, Residents of Richmond and Members of the Musqueam First Nation,

It stuck me from listening to yesterday's presentations by the Musqueam Band representatives and the Canada Lands Company that their objective is not in the best interest of the residents of Richmond.

It saddens me to hear how the Musqueam want to milk the land for its real estate value, and how the CLC is there to assist in any way they can.

I would like to help ^{you all} ~~both these parties~~ understand why we are so passionate about saving this land for Urban Gardens.

Many have seen Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth". Fewer yet have seen the documentary entitled "The End of Suburbia", a Canadian production that examines our global demand for fossil fuels and the consequences to our lifestyle as we begin to outstrip the supply.

Many are living under the delusion that our oil reserves are still limitless, but anyone who follows the news is aware of the following:

- Oil supply has significantly reduced, resulting in \$100 a barrel price limit.
- Venezuela's government has cut off their oil supply to the US.
- Nigeria's oil supply is threatened as the people of the Niger Delta, whose lives are being ruined by Western Oil companies, are taking up arms and shutting down production.
- China, our international manufacturing center, is not tapping into their own oil reserves, but purchasing the majority of their oil from the same sources we use. They are protecting their future.

The US economy has been fuelled by the abundance of cheap oil. So has the US military machine. The consequences of a fuel shortage goes way beyond our current concern for the high price of gas and how that will affect our driving habits.

The large percentage of the fresh food we eat, the clothes we wear and the items we purchase are imported from far away. Not only will the cost of those items go up, but any deliveries by land or water will be affected by fuel shortages.

And how about our roads, they are made from oil? Tires, car and truck parts, hoses, belts... all are made from oil.

How many transportation companies will continue shipping fresh food if the roads from California are not maintained to their current standards, and they start suffering broken axles?

On top of that, the fertilizer and pesticides used heavily in the production of our fresh vegetables and fruit imported from the US is made from oil and natural gas.

No oil, no food.

Do you think our neighbour to the south will stand idly by as their cheap oil based economy goes down the tube? They have already demonstrated by their foreign policies that they will protect their own interests, to the detriment of the rest of the world.

Can you now understand why local agriculture is critical to the sustainability of our city... and why paving and turfing over prime agricultural land make no sense?

Now Vancouver has the honour of being one of the most liveable cities in the world. However Vancouver is seriously lacking in a couple of ingredients to sustain that title:

1. A supply of good agricultural land.
2. A dwindling supply of industrial zoned land.

Our city has the potential of leapfrogging Vancouver to become the most liveable city in the world. We have already adopted New Urbanism in the design of our downtown core.

To take this to the next level, we need to ensure that we have places to work (i.e. urban industrial zoned land) and a supply of food (i.e. urban agricultural land) in close proximity to where we live.

I don't think that the Musqueam First Nations or the CLC is taking these needs into consideration.

The Vancouver Sun printed an article last week on Mr. Don Manning, who fought tirelessly for years to save the parkland at the entrance of Stanley Park, and who died recently.

If I may quote from the article "*Manning was a guy with a sense of civic duty. He felt that keeping the approach to Stanley Park in public hands was the right thing to do. Arrayed against him, and the dozens of other like-minded activists, were successive pro-development Vancouver city councils and a parade of development companies that, over two decades, tried every trick in the book to build hotels or high-rises on the property.*"

Thankfully for all of us, the right decision was made, and the city finally bought the land.

I truly believe that we are in transition from fighting to protect parkland to fighting to create urban agriculture and industries.

The Musqueam Band, the Canada Lands Company and the City of Richmond cannot continue develop our city based on 20th century thinking and land use practices.

I'd especially like to remind the Musqueam First Nations of a Cree First Nations Prophecy

*"Only after the last tree has been cut down.
Only after the last river has been poisoned.
Only after the last fish has been caught.
Only then will you find that money cannot be eaten."*

Do you want to be remembered as visionaries and leaders in the creation of a 21st century self-sustaining city? Now is the time to think beyond land control to real land sharing.

Whether you keep the lands in the ALR or take them out...

Please use the Garden City Lands to develop the forms of agriculture we all will need for the future.

Thanks you for your attention.



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