

SCHEDULE 47 TO THE
MINUTES OF THE GARDEN
CITY LANDS PUBLIC HEARING
HELD ON MARCH 11, 12, 13, 17,
18, & 19, 2008

To Richmond City Council

Regarding GardenCity Lands ALR exclusion application

We have heard many nights of arguments and it is obvious that there is great concern in the community. The speakers who speak for the application consistently say that the land is not suitable for a commercial farm operation, the garden city coalition has repeatedly spoken of Urban agriculture and education. I find it odd that the speakers and council cannot pick up the huge difference. No one is planning a big commercial farm, the reality is smaller operation work best for the city and the farmers.

Urban agriculture has great possibilities and the city has a last opportunity to make that happen here on the garden city lands. The province has shown support for helping communities with brown lands. These are lands that should be farmed and are not. I think we should contact the provincial and federal governments before deciding whether or not to proceed with this ALR exclusion application. I believe there is support for a partnership in urban agriculture and the cities green needs.

The MOU has been extended until the end of 2008 so there is no rush to proceed to the ALC with this application. The true community need is green space not more high density development in the city centre. The council has a responsibility to explore all the options open to the people of Richmond and not just charge ahead without proper consideration. I have spoken to members of the sports community and the chamber of commerce and they are very angry that their chair persons have come out in support of the MOU when they absolutely do not agree.

Most of the speakers have submitted a written form of their presentation so I feel it would be responsible for the council to make a motion to allow Councillors Linda Barnes and Sue Halsey Brandt to return from their vacations and review the material and allow them the opportunity to vote on this critical issue. Once again what is the rush? The MOU is extended until Dec 31 st , 2008 !

The ALC has a responsibility to preserve farm land and since there is such strong opposition from the public it is logical to perceive they will deny this application, I believe it is irresponsible to move forward with this application to remove the Garden City lands from the ALR for community need when in fact this is just a land grab from the Musqueam. The council should not neglect their responsibility and send the burden of their decision to the ALC.

The Musqueam have just received a ground breaking huge settlement outside the treaty process and their need for the land is no longer viable. New negotiations need to be started with the Musqueam to see if it would be possible to share the land while maintaining the ALR status. There is a treaty process in place which has been greatly undermined by the recent gift by the province and the recent election proves the general public has little support for Gordons Cambells position on this issue.

The ALC has a mandate to save land ,not destroy it, it should also be the City of Richmonds mandate to save land for the future. It is not necessary to develop every last piece of land before our children have a chance to have their input into the future of Richmond. You have heard from the children, you have heard from the public now stop and do the right thing put this application aside until more research can be completed into all the options this public hearing has heard.

I realize there are councillors that have made up their mind long before these hearings started , but please remember how you felt before you were elected to office. Remember the efforts some of you made into saving the Terra Nova Lands, remember your commitment to represent the people of Richmond.

We are going to remember how you vote on this issue and that will greatly affect your re-election capabilities. When there is doubt then the right thing to do is more research to confirm the truth and explore the possibilities.

It is time to take a break allow Councillors Barnes and Halsey Brandt to return and defer this decision until everyone cools off and has all of the relevant information available. Smart decisions are never rushed decisions.

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The Canada Lands Company has been operating in bad faith. They have told the citizens of Richmond half truths and attempted to confuse the citizens into believing the Musqueam had more power than they do. The Canada Lands company is the Landowner.

The truth is the Musqueam do not own the lands they only have a unregistered "Beneficial Interest". They could have sold this interest for all we know.

with the injunction the Musqueam stopped the sale of all the lands to the city of Richmond. In that injunction the musqueam stated "The payment of a cash settlement is simply not sufficient to wholly replace the loss of our land. Musqueam reserves lands are small and are almost entirely developed. We will need additional land to provide for our people today and into the future. Our ^{current} land base is wholly inadequate."

Since Mr. Cambell has ^{given} the musqueam, approx 250 million, to 20 million dollars cash and many parcels of land both near their reserve and in Richmond. Their argument is no longer valid, they no longer can make this claim. The musqueams injunction is no longer a threat. Save the ALR lands should be their Canada's top priority.