

YLA Whistle Blower Committee Intervention from RG Hopkins

Robert G. Hopkins

January 22, 2010

Hon. Ted Staffen, Chair
Select Committee on Whistle – Blower Protection
Yukon Legislative Assembly Office
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Dear Mr Staffen:

Whistle blowers have been needed in the Yukon for a long time starting over 100 years ago with the practice of having known paedophile priests protected. The church would cover up and shift around some really bad characters that repeatedly abused kids all across the north. Whistle blowers in those days were threatened with a life in perpetual hell, or worse.

I experienced first hand abuse that proper and effective whistle blower legislation would have benefited. I witnessed an incident at a public government service counter where a supervisor treated an honest working employee worse than a dog for sale in a Chinese meat market. There were no less than 6 other government employees witnessing this event and it appeared to me that this was a typical day for this woman. This was clearly harassment and severe humiliation, which is illegal in the workplace.

It should be a **mandatory** requirement of Civil Servants to report illegal activities happening in government. Much the same as it is now that if I witness a non-consensual gang rape and do not report it then I am guilty of a crime as an accessory after the fact.

A negligent government employee should be **held liable** for not taking the initiative to properly notify and point out that abuse, corruption and graft is illegal, especially when they are a witness to this first hand in the presence of others.

An example of this shady underside of YTG is government representatives that pocket money, run mini empires for personal profit, take kick backs in cash and in-kind, bribes and other illegal bonuses. Examples of illegal gains to name a few would be: prepaid phone cards from suppliers, air mile points transferred from government accounts to employees personal accounts, sample products and services for personal use, insider stock trading, fixed bid contract price rigging, stock options in preferred companies, forced prostitution services, working ebay on company time, trading in online stocks, receiving concert and event tickets as perks, propping up foreign companies, anticompetitive practice (stifling local business), withholding public information and services, paid working holidays to exotic trade shows and pseudo business junkets, excessive and wasteful catered affairs, insider sole source consultant “convenience contracts” for retired civil servant buddies, etc, etc. You get the picture.

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What happens to all the wealth from these illegal activities? Once a whistle blower points out a crime, where there was proven illegal gain, how do we ensure adequate restitution is repaid? How do we calculate this, when these illegal gains have paid for example, to the convicted criminals offspring university education fund? Paid for a house in a new subdivision or an expensive boat?

There was theft of public funds, it must be paid back to the common pool. Seize land and assets from those who profit illegally. If they blew it all then go after their kids and family who benefited. Someone has to pay.

In the case where corruption and negligence is clearly proven, the mechanism to transfer back those assets from the people that benefited must be for real and genuine. Otherwise, we will not get any substantial whistle blowers to come forward if there will not be any tangible results.

This brings us to a compelling argument from the other side of the equation, that is the loss of income and loss of opportunity for those people and groups that had to suffer and do without, because services were being withheld and there was no one able to speak out. In the case of the paedophile priests, they stole countless lives and cause todays society as a whole to suffer.

I saw first hand this system of protecting the guilty by intimidation to kill potential off a potential whistle blower. As in they are now in the ground dead. The primary reason for their premature death was not having a fair and open process, to correct wrongs against us taxpayers. They died partly of a stressful life working in a toxic YTG environment that just wore her down in a bad way. This was not my sole observation but witnesses tell me outright as years go by, what had happened to this person.

My mom lives in Toronto and worked over 25 years as a Public Servant in Library Sciences - Canadiana. I include this statement to give some history of the household I was raised in and to clarify that I do not think that every single government worker is corrupt or evil. In my humble opinion, for the most part, Civil Servants are just trying to do their jobs to the best of their abilities.

I would hope that in another hundred years we are not "talking and discussing" this same subject again.

Fix this problem. Now.



Robert G. Hopkins