

RM COUNCIL STALLS FOR TIME

REGINA, SK: The Legal Challenge (RPA & Devon Hack) against the Council of the RM of McKillop has been adjourned until December 20th at the request of RM lawyer Merrilee Rasmussen. This challenge was regarding the RM Council's admitted failure to comply with *The Municipalities Act* when creating the August 2018 tax bylaws.

After hearing arguments for and against a second adjournment of the Court Application on Tuesday November 13th, Judge Kalmakoff stated that, although he was 'loath to do so', he would grant the RM Council a second adjournment.

Why did he grant the adjournment? Because the RM Council has not provided any brief of law documents or affidavits to the Court for review regarding this Court Application. This lack of eagerness to give instruction to its lawyer is uncharacteristic given how much Council has spent on that lawyer in the last 16 months at the drop of a hat.

So What Happens Now?

Council has had 4 closed (secret) meetings (all attended by the Government appointed Supervisor) to try to fix the 2018 RM Budget. It is the hope of the Council to come up with revised tax notices that are more acceptable for ratepayers and hopefully more equitable across groups of ratepayers.

These revised 2018 tax notices are supposed to be in the hands of ratepayers before the end of November. RPA has no information on payment due dates for the new notices but will be vigilant on whether the new tax notices are done legally, with proper purpose, without bias and are reasonable. **IF** the revised tax notices meet all these criteria, then on December 20th Deron Kuski, MLT Aikins, will be seeking legal costs from the RM Council. The Judge has the discretion to grant these costs based on the following considerations:

- 1) The results of the proceedings.
- 2) The importance of the issues.
- 3) Any written offer to settle or any written offer to contribute.
- 4) The conduct of any party that tended to unnecessarily lengthen the proceedings.
- 5) A party's denial of or refusal to admit anything that should have been admitted.

RPA and Devon Hack started this court application knowing that unless we did, as a collective, RM Council would not take any action to revise the significant tax increase that was placed primarily on the residential ratepayers. And while Council is currently attempting a 're-do' of the budget, tax bylaws and tax notices, they have not admitted their role in the 2018 tax mess created by their overspending and not properly managing the finances or employees of the RM as is their duty.

The costs of this Court Application were taken on in the interests of ALL ratepayers in the RM to protect us from unreasonable, arbitrary and illegal Tax Bylaws imposed by this RM Council. Until the representative applicants (and the extended group of over 400 advisory ratepayers) are satisfied by the outcome, the Court Application will remain in effect.



HOLD THEIR FEET TO THE FIRE

The Rural Municipality of McKillop No. 220 lies along the east shore of Last Mountain Lake, north of Lumsden. There are 732 permanent residents and approximately 2,000 ratepayers in the RM. The RM 220 RPA is a citizen's group dedicated to ensuring fair taxes, minimizing waste, reducing spending, and holding RM Council accountable.

If you have any questions please contact us at rm220rpa@gmail.com, www.rpa220.ca or visit us on Facebook