

737 Fraser Street, Prince Rupert, B.C. V8J 1R1 • 250-624-8088 • publisher@thenorthernview.com

BY EMAIL: cdafoe@tvsbarristers.com

June 13, 2016
Taylor Veinotte Sullivan
300 – 1168 Hamilton Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 2S2
Attention: Christopher M. Dafoe

RE: Donald Wesley and “Lelu Island Protestors told to get out by Chiefs”
Published May 17, 2016

As promised last week, I have undertaken a review of the matters you raise in your letter dated June 10, 2016.

It is obvious from your letter that your client, Donald Wesley, disagrees with the sources relied upon by the Northern View in its report published online May 17, and, as you note, in our follow up report of June 8, 2016.

We are aware of the various legal propositions that you raise in your letter including the “defence of responsible communication on matters of public interest”, the “repetition rule” and the paragraph respecting “reportage.”

We are grateful for your comments on these subjects. Generally speaking, we agree that it is highly desirable for our journalism to fairly report all sides of all controversies respecting matters of public interest.

As a result of harbouring that objective, we endeavoured to reach your client, in advance of publication of the story that first appeared on May 17 and the follow-up on June 8.

Unfortunately, your client, Donald Wesley, has not made public a telephone number, an email address or any other contact information that I can discover or that can be discovered by our reporters (present or past).

We have documented our attempts. For example, the day before the first of the publications, I myself personally attempted to reach Donald Wesley through Facebook in the following terms:

“Todd Hamilton from the Northern View here. I was hoping to do an interview with you to respond to the hereditary chiefs release.

Can you call me at 250-600-6233.

I do not believe Donald Wesley has ever responded to that request.

I ask you to accept that we do not want to publish only one side of any story. To the best of our ability, we report what we are told to the extent we judge it to be news-worthy, and we seek balance by inviting debunking, rebuttal, contradiction or denunciation by opposing factions. That said, it is a matter of editorial judgement whether when a faction does not respond to overtures, that the entire story be “spiked” on the one hand, or published notwithstanding, on the other hand. Rightly or wrongly, in the present circumstances, with national attention to the liquefied natural gas terminal proposal respecting Lelu Island, it was our judgment to publish as we have.

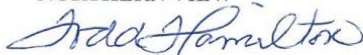
Accordingly, making the best judgment of which I am capable, I do not believe it is appropriate for our paper to retract or apologize as you demand.

That said, we will give every consideration to publication of your client’s response and point of view. We invite your client to respond to what has been published, express his point of view, and we invite him to criticize our journalism. We will give every consideration to publication of his point of view.

I invite him to contact me directly, as we would like to schedule an interview. In the alternative, he can write a letter to the editor or arrange that someone else write a letter to the editor on his behalf and, subject to our usual rules respecting brevity, legality and clarity, we will give it every consideration for publication with prominence.

I look forward to working with you directly to see matters resolved by these means. Thank you for your attention.

Yours truly,
NORTHERN VIEW



Todd Hamilton
Publisher

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BY EMAIL: cdafoe@tvsbarristers.com

June 16, 2016
Taylor Veinotte Sullivan
300 – 1168 Hamilton Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 2S2
Attention: Christopher M. Dafoe

RE: Donald Wesley and “Lelu Island Protestors told to get out by Chiefs”
Published May 17, 2016

Thank you for your letter of June 14, 2016.

We remain hopeful that your client’s concerns and complaints can be resolved.

You suggest that nobody at our paper thought to attempt to reach your client through directory assistance. We did and your client was not listed. He is still not listed. We have attempted to reach him, but he has not responded, other than through you, and as a result, we have concluded he does not want to speak with us.

You advise us of your view that this story (or perhaps you think all stories) should be held until all possible reply and response has been obtained. We do not agree. It is a matter of editorial judgement.

We are prepared to publish your client’s point of view as soon as we get it, in whatever form you and he care to provide. That has always been true. As it is we will publish the following based upon your letters:

CLARIFICATION:

On May 17, 2016, the Northern View published portions of and quotes from a press release by hereditary chiefs of the Nine Tribes of Lax Kw’alaams stating that Donald Wesley was not, as he claims, a hereditary chief and that Wesley has disrespected ayaawx or Tsimshian law.

Since publication, Mr. Wesley’s legal counsel has informed The Northern View that Mr. Wesley advises he is a hereditary chief of the Waaps Saxsa’axt, Gitwilgyoots tribe and was given the hereditary name - Yahaan at a feast held in October 2008.

Additionally, Mr. Wesley’s attorney, Christopher Dafoe, stated that three signatories (George Bryant, Jack White and Donald Alexcee) to the original press release and letter were, in fact, at Donald Wesley, Yahaan’s, feast in 2008.

Wesley’s counsel also claims that the Nine Tribes of Lax Kw’alaams is an ad hoc organization and not recognized in any official manner.

The Northern View has not been able at this point to independently verify Mr. Wesley’s legal counsel Christopher Dafoe’s statements as fact, nor has Mr. Wesley directly contacted this newspaper in response to our requests.

Signatories or spokespeople for the Nine Allied Tribes of Lax Kw’alaams have also not immediately replied.

After that clarification, we remain open to a follow-up interview with, or a letter-to -the -editor from your client. Please send us contact information in respect of the former and deal directly with me in respect of the latter.

Yours truly,
NORTHERN VIEW



Todd Hamilton
Publisher