



Facebook post by Don Darling, 6 hrs ago. The post discusses the challenges of communication in the digital age and the importance of transparency in local government. It mentions a Facebook group and a letter to the Mayor of Saint John.

In today's world, it's very difficult to effectively communicate, in terms of context, accuracy and facts. I've often said that social media, can be wonderfully ugly.

As your Mayor, I've done my best to engage in a variety of ways, both traditional (in person, by phone, email, public events, etc) and using social media channels available.

My objective from day one and remains today, to have Saint John be the best place in Canada to live and work and play. A place where citizens are proud of where they live and are invested in their community and it's future. Every minute of the day I'm reminded of my oath of office and do my best to serve the 67,000 people of this city and want our region of Greater Saint John, to grow and thrive.

Dealing with issues like this today, are a complete distraction from developing a sustainable path forward for the city. I urge you all to demand more of those, who engage in the city's future. That includes elected officials, the business community and citizens.

Over the last number of months, a Facebook group and a very small number of members of that group (4) have decided that I am singularly responsible for 60 years of challenges. This has resulted in frequent personal and slanderous attacks. Some would say, that's what I signed up for. No it's not. I have no problem with fact based, rational and solution based discussions. Those are rarely present.

It should also be known, that the group has declared publicly that they will be running a slate of candidates in the next election. That's fine too, however the constant attacks of the Mayor's office, should be looked at through two lenses. Are the attacks warranted, valid, factual. Secondly, why is the group not being honest with the public about their intentions and offering detailed solutions and not telling us what we already know.

Now, to the point. Here's a letter that was sent to council by Randell Goodwin and I will answer in bullet form.

I'll remind you of my earlier statement, I wanted to be your Mayor, to make a difference in our community and do meaningful work. Any suggestion that I have not acted in the best interest of the community is I suppose a right of the author, however a view that I outright reject.

Being your Mayor is the most meaningful work I have ever done, the most difficult and I continue to keep my two promises made on the first day of the campaign. 1) that living my values and principles, will be my daily guide. post. 2) that I will not make promises, that I can't keep.

Thank you for your time and especially if you've read to the end.

Answers to the questions in the letter.

1) GrowJS is not a private initiative, it's brand that was created during my campaign and it's sole purpose is to present a vision for a growing and thriving Saint John. I do not and have not benefited personally in any fashion.

2) Yes at times, I require these tools to stay connected to the community.

Continuation of the Facebook post, listing 12 points and a list of questions for the Mayor.

3) No

4) Yes, my one employee would help on occasion.

5) Myself and some outside help on occasion for content creation.

6) Myself and support on occasion.

7) Myself and support on occasion.

8) Myself, my one staff member and volunteers on occasion.

9) I didn't appreciate that use of the city logo by the Mayor would be deemed inappropriate and any use of the logo has been stopped.

10) I would need to consult with a lawyer and have no plans to do so. The city manager can decide if taxpayers money should be expenses.

11) I own the website and paid for this registration with my own money.

12) A privacy statement will be added.

13) Free space has been donated by business owners who care about the city. All other expenses have been paid for by me personally, including photocopies of budget documents, handed out at the event.

With this in mind, we believe the citizens of Saint John has the right to know the following:

1. We understand GrowJS is physically located in the Mayor's City Hall office. If so, why is Mr. Darling permitted to use premises that are designated for official business and reported to be dollars for a private initiative?
2. Is the Mayor using any city owned/funded equipment, computer etc, to write and/or record tweets, posts, videos etc. concerning GrowJS?
3. Is any city owned/funded equipment (i.e. computers, cellphones, keyboards etc. being used by anyone working on Mr. Darling's personal behalf?
4. Do any city employees currently work in any aspect of GrowJS? Have any done so in the past?
5. Who administers the GrowJS Facebook page?
6. Who prepares and sends the GrowJS newsletter to subscribers?
7. Who designs video and other graphics used in GrowJS sponsored presentations?
8. Who sends Mr. Darling in regarding City Budgets and Bills and other events that may hinder the purpose of his private brand?
9. What authority does Mr. Darling have to use the City of Saint John's corporate image on his Facebook page, website, inclusion in Budgets and Bills and any other promotional material? Who gave him this authority and why?
10. Is the number "50000" not itself a trademark violation that confuses the public, given that the City of Saint John owns the rights to similar monikers such as PlanJS, DonJS and GrowJS?

DRIVE.GOOGL.COM
Randell Goodwin letter.pdf

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Colleen Biddiscombe Don, you are the best Mayor that Saint John has ever had. how you do it, while putting up with bs from these "people" is beyond me... please don't let them get to you, although it must be very difficult, please continue to be you and keep doing the... See More

Like Reply 5h

Linda Baxter replied 1 Reply 5 hrs

Donna Briggs Don, wow, someone has their knickers in knot about growjs... seems like someone feels threatened by your initiative and oh, wonder how long it took them to format the questions?

Like Reply 5h Edited

Tara-Lynn Coopers replied 3 Replies 4 mins

Facebook post by Colleen Biddiscombe Don, you are the best Mayor that Saint John has ever had... how you do it, while putting up with us from these "people" is beyond me... please don't let them get to you, although it must be very difficult, please continue to be you and keep doing the wonderful job that you have been doing since you became Mayor. Saint John needs you... I personally can't stand seeing posts from this particular person, or his "group"... and I know I'm not alone when I say this. Take care.

Linda Baxter Me too Colleen...

Donna Briggs Don, wow, someone has their knickers in knot about grows... seems like someone feels threatened by your initiative and drive. Wonder how long it took them to format the questions?

Kathy Jackson Anyone with that many questions has way too much time on their hands. If they are that intrusive with this non-issue, I suggest they get off their keyboard and busy their fingers by offering to help you with Growd, instead of interrogative criticism. That way, they will get all their questions answered (and shut them up) and give them something to do (until some other pet peeve catches their fancy) other than bothering you and taking your time away from the really important things that matter to the people who elected you (which might not be this guy).

Donna Briggs well stated

Darlene Hershey Seriously, well as a citizen of Saint John that person is not speaking for me Don Darling and secondly sometimes you just have to look at where things come from if you get my drift!

Debbi Knopp Mr. Goodwin is constantly complaining about things in SJ. I wonder why he stays here? Being a relative newcomer (2007) I love it here.

Linda Baxter Exactly, why DOES he live in SJ, if he has a problem with EVERYTHING... I'd like to see Randy do the job that Don has been doing... if he thinks he can do any better why didn't he run for Mayor. I guess because he knows he'd never get elected.

Facebook profile page for Don Darling. The page shows a timeline of posts, a list of friends, and life events. The timeline includes posts from Colleen Biddiscombe, Linda Baxter, Beth McCann, Terra-Lynn Coggan, and Colleen Biddiscombe. The friends list includes Keith Bragdon, Mark O'Sullivan, Julia Radwan, Donoran, Terry Wagner, Cheryl Davidson, Wayne Long, Dawn Arnold, Judy Mitchell, and Mark O Osborne-Ozbe.

Life Events: Started New Job at City of Saint John (May 24, 2018), Married Patti Darling (January 30, 2011).

Posts:

- Colleen Biddiscombe: Don, you are the best Mayor that Saint John has ever had... how you do it, while putting up with us from these "people" is beyond me... please don't let them get to you, although it must be very difficult, please continue to be you and keep doing the wonderful job that you have been doing since you became Mayor. Saint John needs you... I personally can't stand seeing posts from this particular person, or his "group"... and I know I'm not alone when I say this. Take care.
- Linda Baxter: Me too Colleen...
- Beth McCann: Neither of you must have very high standards.
- Terra-Lynn Coggan: Colleen Biddiscombe "These People" are citizens of SJ... You are NOT helping Mr. Mayor's position. It's illuminating to see how the 'upper crust' view the lowly everyday common SJ'er. You SHOULD be ashamed of yourselves. My people and I, we the common SJ'er are observing you and hear what you say. #TRUSTATORY #UTHINKNOT
- Colleen Biddiscombe: I am entitled to my opinion... same as you are entitled to your opinion... and I'm not one bit ashamed of anything I said... nor am I "upper crust"... I find your comments laughable to be honest...
- Terra-Lynn Coggan: Beth McCann Neither of who "two" and, why are you pulling me into Mr. Mayor's DRAMA? I do NOT appreciate being pulled into drama, I steer clear of people like you and yours for good reason, and for that reason I appreciate you leaving me and mine out of it. I need not say again: You and Double D's 'supporters' are seriously NOT helping his nor council's bid for re-election. #UNKNOWNOT #IDUGETMEMOR?
- Colleen Biddiscombe: Terra-Lynn Coggan... not sure what you are talking about... you are the one that has been commenting on everyone's posts and pulling yourself into the drama... everyone has a right to their opinion... you say that you don't want to be pulled into the drama?? So why are you commenting then? And I'd also like to ask what you meant by saying "my people and I am observing you"...??

Facebook post by Don Darling. Comments include:

- Bob McVicar Goodwin is bad news. Not credible. Dont lose focus.
- Judy Mitchell This is so sad that someone is so intent on sidelining our growth that he would use our valuable resources for something like this. Pitiful, distracting and unproductive. SAD day for our city.
- Kayla Dawne Don Darling is Saint John's Leslie Knope a la Parks and Recreation: committed to making his city better in any way he can, even when a few ungrateful citizens find every way to undermine him.
- Lisa Walker As you stated, having to deal with these types of slanderous attacks takes you away from the things you are truly passionate about which is making this city even better than it already is. I do applaud your ability to provide a well thought out, factual, public response to this nonsense. Keep up the good work Don!
- Rosey Goodman Small minded twits.
- Terra-Lynn Coggan Rosey Goodman You are NOT helping Mr. Mayor's Case. Not in the least.
- Lori Nell Ring Never doubt yourself or your intentions. I believe in all that you do and thank you for it as the majority of people in Saint John do. Those who have no vision can not see.
- Terra-Lynn Coggan Four members... To be transparent, no one from SJCC is attacking you, moreover your attack upon SJCC and it's reps, and lack of respect for due process is highly questionable. Was due process NOT discussed in last rights common council agenda... No one is seeking to smear your name, nor to beat you down to build themselves and their platform up, in all sincerity, if you continue to conduct yourself in the way you are choosing to do you do not need to worry about concerned citizens, you'll have no issues tarnishing your name and reputation. We are well aware that the issues SJ has faced over the last 2.5 decades has little to do with the actions of one individual alone, rather a collective failure to understand and implement the running of SJ as a nonprofit, which is how municipalities are structured to function. I like you as a person, however you have much to learn to assist you

Continuation of the Facebook post by Don Darling. Comments include:

- Terra-Lynn Coggan Four members... To be transparent, no one from SJCC is attacking you, moreover your attack upon SJCC and it's reps, and lack of respect for due process is highly questionable. Was due process NOT discussed in last rights common council agenda... No one is seeking to smear your name, nor to beat you down to build themselves and their platform up, in all sincerity, if you continue to conduct yourself in the way you are choosing to do you do not need to worry about concerned citizens, you'll have no issues tarnishing your name and reputation. We are well aware that the issues SJ has faced over the last 2.5 decades has little to do with the actions of one individual alone, rather a collective failure to understand and implement the running of SJ as a nonprofit, which is how municipalities are structured to function. I like you as a person, however you have much to learn to assist you in your personal and professional development.
- Lynaya Astephen You are part of spc right?
- Terra-Lynn Coggan My involvement with any citizens advocacy group is irrelevant, however in the spirit of transparency, I have no issues disclosing that I am a member of SJCC, as I am of many advocacy groups and organizations. What is the point you are attempting to make?
- Darlene Hersey Terra-Lynn Coggan is there four members or should that be for members... anyways the letter references taxpayers. If you are part of this group, none of you represent me the taxpayer and I have nothing but total respect for Don Darling. So, maybe you should reference your members only. Gotta love armchar quarterback.
- Dave S Hodgson Wall "Randall" attacks him (and others) personally on a daily basis. That part is transparent.
- Terra-Lynn Coggan Dave & Dafene "Armchar Quarterbacks" I am not playing offence nor defence. As a matter of fact this is not a game, nor should the fate of our municipality and citizens be played like a game, monopoly or otherwise. For the record I am NOT into playing games, that's not my style, nor will I ever stoop to the level of making a mockery of my municipality and it's people collectively, playing them like a game. I am an advocate, an independent advocate, advocating to #SaveSJ #EngageSJ #ImproveSJ, because #ILOVESJ. To say the least it is eye opening to witness the ignorance with which others employ "critical" thought, very little

Facebook post by Terra-Lynn Coggan Dave & Darlene. The post discusses the "Armchair Quarterbacks" and the role of citizens in the municipality. It includes several replies from users like Dave S Hodgson, Rachel Bryant, and Lynaya Astephen. The right sidebar shows friend requests from Mauro Koneporek and people you may know like Gino Adriano Pascon and Deb Ellis. The bottom of the post shows a reply from Kimberly Doyle.

Terra-Lynn Coggan Dave & Darlene

"Armchair Quarterbacks" I am not playing offence nor defence. As a matter of fact this is not a game, nor should the fate of our municipality and citizens be played like a game, monopoly or otherwise.

For the record I am NOT into playing games, that's not my style, nor will I ever stoop to the level of making a mockery of my municipality and it's people collectively, playing them like a game.

I am an advocate, an independent advocate, advocating to #SaveSJ #EngageSJ #ProsperSJ, because #LOVESJ.

To say the least it is eye opening to witness the ignorance with which others employ "critical" thought, very little whatsoever. It is evident based upon the attitudes witnessed herein, that our city and its people do not have a chance to overcome the adversity it has faced, with the same attitude that has dragged the municipality and people into a game they had no business engaging in to begin with.

Like Reply 1h Edited

Dave S Hodgson Because we are trying to stay on point instead of making personal attacks?

Like Reply 1h

Terra-Lynn Coggan Dave S Hodgson

Correct, as it should be. However when "we" distract ourself from where the collective focus needs to be, it detracts from the goal and objective.

I am not here to attack, berate, nor tear others down to build myself up; gaslight is the way of fools who lack confidence, they are in the habit of creating drama to garner themselves attention, regardless of how it reflects upon themselves personally.

I highly recommend, NOT stooping to the use of gaslighting, it reflects badly; unless you are seeking to blow yourself up.

Like Reply 50m

Rachel Bryant Terra-Lynn Coggan oh please. The other day I tried to get you to stop viciously tashing Area 506 and you went full throttle ad hominem. Don't act like your internet club is some kind of empowerment initiative.

Like Reply 5m

Lynaya Astephen Terra-Lynn Coggan can you tell everyone what sjcc has done in the past besides their fb page?

Like Reply 2m

Write a reply...

Kimberly Doyle Please try not to let people like this change the way you doing your job. You are an amazing mayor. You have the best interests of the city. You are a true gentleman.

Like Reply 2h

Friend Requests: Mauro Koneporek (Confirm | Delete)

People You May Know: Gino Adriano Pascon (Add Friend | Remove), Deb Ellis (Deb Dykeman) (Add Friend | Remove)

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Continuation of the Facebook post by Terra-Lynn Coggan Dave & Darlene. The post continues with replies from users like Yan Del Valle, David Merrithew, Darlene Henney, and Lynaya Astephen. The right sidebar shows friend requests from Mauro Koneporek and people you may know like Gino Adriano Pascon and Deb Ellis. The bottom of the post shows a reply from Lynaya Astephen.

Kimberly Doyle Please try not to let people like this change the way you doing your job. You are an amazing mayor. You have the best interests of the city. You are a true gentleman.

Like Reply 2h

Yan Del Valle It only means you are doing a great work. Please don't be discouraged by these small factions, keep pushing forward. This city is pumped with optimism and you are also to be blamed for that.

Like Reply 2h

David Merrithew This guy and his small group of cronies are not credible. They say they will run in the next election. God forbid. Just key board courage.

Like Reply 2h

Darlene Henney David Merrithew funniest thing I heard today... imagine... imao

Like Reply 2h

Terra-Lynn Coggan David Merrithew

"cronies", Mr Merrithew...

You did NOT refer to citizens as 'keyboard warriors'... Did you really mean to do that...

Do you always speak about the citizens of SJ this way?...

Wonder who else you don't mind speaking badly about. It's never good to drag innocent people into your drama.

If you've not yet caught on, the above are rhetorical questions. They do NOT require a response, nor do I, they are for your thought, and that of the Citizens of SJ to ponder.

Again, as above, so below, you are NOT helping your, nor Mr Mayor's position, NOT in the least.

Gaslighting reflects badly Mr Merrithew.

As stated, I do not require a response from you, nor do I expect one.

PS: Your true colours are bleeding through, and it is NOT I alone who is witnessing Mr Mayor, 'his people', and right hand hangman representing him; for the record you and yours Mr Merrithew are the minority.

Me and my people, the common SJ'er, those who truly care about our city and people, over all else, we out-number those like yourself who behave badly.

#OTHERNOT #KIDUSETNEMO

Like Reply 31m Edited

Lynaya Astephen You dont represent me either sjcc!

Like Reply 25m Edited

Write a reply...

Friend Requests: Mauro Koneporek (Confirm | Delete)

People You May Know: Gino Adriano Pascon (Add Friend | Remove), Deb Ellis (Deb Dykeman) (Add Friend | Remove)

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Facebook post by Paula Jalliet Carroll: "Why don't these people spend their energy doing something useful and make the world a better place?"

Comments:

- Angela Carleton: Paula Jalliet Carroll because... morons
- Scott Waddell: Don Darling, you would do yourself a huge disservice if you ignored the noise. He personally doesn't like you obviously... he's an idiot. But by feeding the idiot with a rash of replies only hurts things.
- Karen Powell: So sorry you have to deal with useless citizens like that.
- Terra-Lynn Coggan: Karen Powell, Every citizen is useful. Such a calloused mindset and disrespect of all citizens, who you and they like yourself collectively deem to be "useless". PS: You are definitely not helping Mr Mayor's position.
- Sam Dugas: don you shut down haters so flawlessly. it's starting to piss me off as a citizen of Saint John, that loves our major and everything he does and continues to do, that people constantly try to create something to blame you for. it's pathetic, and distracting keep doing what we all appreciate you immensely for the work you're doing.
- Carol Black: Does this person not have anything better to do with his time? I could not do your job!
- Corey Childs: Don as we discussed before, don't lose focus for someone like this. You have been making leaps and strides during your time in office. We have not had this kind of passion and dedication in a mayor in years! Remember, if you stop at every dog who bar... See More
- Don Darling: Thanks Corey Childs.
- Darlene Hensley: Corey Childs and mine too, goes without saying.

Right sidebar: Friend Requests (Masa Konepene), People You May Know (Gino Adriano Pascon, Deb Ellis), Language (English (US), Français (Canada), Español, Português (Brasil), Deutsch), Privacy, Terms, Advertising, Ad Choices, Cookies, More, Facebook © 2019.

Facebook profile page for Don Darling.

Header: Don Darling, Timeline, 2019, July. Add Friend, Follow.

Friends: 5,000. Grid of friend photos including Natalie Long, Cheryl Steadman, Paula Haden, Mike O'Driscoll, Terry Wagner, Jack Manning, Mark C Osborne-Ozzy, Keith Brabant.

Life Events:

- Started New Job at City of Saint John, May 24, 2018.
- Started New Job at The Shaw Group, Inc., June 1995.

Timeline posts:

- Brandon Hines: Lots of armchair quarterbacks out there Don, thanks for all your effort.
- Susan Clarke-French: The twist and whatever others that follow suit with him are the reason the city has struggled to grow... ignore them and keep doing what you are doing... the city has new life being breathed into it 😊 and it's awesome.
- Darlene Ricketts McNeil: This makes me livid. Our city is finally coming around and Don Darling is largely responsible for the growth and revitalization! As a Mayor, he goes far above anything I have ever seen. He truly cares and loves his city. These people that attack in this... See More.
- James Stewart: Ohhh... the Saint John Citizens Coalition sounds so official... I just made one too, the Saint John (Contributing) Citizens Alliance... who's in?
- Eric Robichaud Randall: It's been 45 years... you need to get educated and employed... Besides a security guard or selling Avon.
- Cathie Gibson: People like this Randall Godwin turkey are the reason that SJ stays stuck instead of progressing faster... keep on Mr Mayor, even though I live outside the city. I have huge respect for your openness and engagement with the public.
- Debbie Harrity-Stanton: I support Don Darling. He should be able to use this logo. He is Saint John's biggest advocate.

Footer: English (US), Français (Canada), Español, Português (Brasil), Deutsch. Privacy, Terms, Advertising, Ad Choices, Cookies, More, Facebook © 2019.

Logo: A circular logo featuring a stylized plant with two leaves growing from a base that resembles a book or a stack of papers.

Facebook profile page for Don Darling. The page shows a cover photo, a profile picture, and a bio. The bio states: "Cathie Gibson People like this Randall Godwin turkey are the reason that SJ stays stuck instead of progressing faster... keep on Mr Mayor, even though I live outside the city, I have huge respect for your openness and engagement with the public." The page also shows a list of friends, including John Morgan, Mike O'Sullivan, Wayne Long, Chris O'Sullivan, and others. There are two life events listed: "Started New Job at City of Saint John" (May 24, 2016) and "Married Patti Darling" (January 30, 2011). The page is in English (US) and has 5,000 friends.

Facebook post by Don Darling. The post is a text-based comment in response to a post by Terra-Lynn Coggan. The comment reads: "Darlene Hersey Terra-Lynn Coggan wah wah wah". The post also shows a list of replies, including comments from Lynaya Astephen, Matt Payne, and Mandy Oling. The page is in English (US) and has 5,000 friends.

The screenshot shows a Windows taskbar at the top with various application icons. Below it, a Google Chrome browser window is open, displaying a Facebook profile page for 'Don Darling'. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'https://www.facebook.com/dondarling/'. The Facebook page header includes the name 'Don Darling' and the text '36 today · 36 today · 36 today'. The page content area is partially visible, showing a post from 'Don Darling' with a profile picture and a post text starting with 'For those who are not...'. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the system clock as '1:54 PM' and the date '11/11/2017'.

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Terra-Lynn Coggan For those who are not familiar with recall legislation, it is in place in jurisdictions around the world and provides for voter to formally petition to have a elected official removed from office for decent, which Mr. Mayor's unethical and unacceptable behaviour herein constitutes substantial grounds for removal.

In addition to the aforementioned there are a great number of citizens who are genuinely concerned about Mr Mayor and his state of emotional well-being

I've said it before I will say it again, I like Don as a person, however over the course of his elected appointment and more so recently it is evident that he is placing more focus upon creating drama to garner Sympathizers than he is to the appropriate management of the municipality.

How can the people expect Mr Mayor to do the job he promised to do as Mayor if he continues to distract himself with the drama he is creating and retract from all the good he could do if his priorities aligned with his campaign promises...

Like Reply · 1d

^ Hide 11 Replies

Darlene Hersey Terra-Lynn Coggan good luck removing Don Darling. You win first prize for funnest post today... refmao
 Like Reply · 1d

Darlene Hersey

 Like Reply · 1d

Terra-Lynn Coggan Mr Mayor,
 You and your sympathizers seriously are not helping the your position speaking about the citizens of SJ as you are while condoning and acting unethically.
 Our municipality and citizens deserve far more and expects better then what we are witnessing hereon.
 The citizens will speak and have their say in a meaningful way if this unethical and highly questionable behaviour continues.
 Mr. Mayor please reconsider the shame you are bring upon yourself, the municipality, and our citizens by acting as you are, you are NOT helping your position, nor are you increasing the citizens confidence in you.
 It is obvious you are in need of stress leave. I recommend you take some time to identify your priorities and place the focus

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 1,315 members [+ Join Group](#)

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Don Darling - In today's news...

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It is obvious you are in need of stress leave. I recommend you take some time to identify your priorities and place the focus where it needs to be, before you destroy yourself and our municipality further then what the mismanagement of the last 25 decades has already succeeded in achieving.

I know you want what's best for the municipality, however you can not expect to achieve it by detracting yourself and focus from where it is required most.

Mr Mayor, I appeal to you and Council to employ better judgment and immediately cease and desist making a mockery of yourself, our municipality and citizens, collectively.

Like Reply 1d

Tara Morrell Cuto

Like Reply 1d

Terra-Lynn Coggan A reply to Mayor Don Darling's answers to 13 questions from the Saint John Citizens Coalition

Mayor Don Darling today responded publicly to 13 questions posed by the Saint John Citizens Coalition with regards GrowSJ. We list below the original questions, Mr. Darling's responses and our replies.

#1 We understand GrowSJ is physically located in the Mayor's City Hall office. If so, why is Mr. Darling permitted to use premises that are designated for official business and supported by tax dollars for a private initiative?

Mr. Darling's response "GrowSJ is not a private initiative. It's a brand that was created during my campaign and its sole purpose is to present a vision for a growing and thriving Saint John. I do not and have not benefitted personally in any fashion."

SJCC reply: In an email dated July 22, 2019, Mr. Patrick Beamish, Strategic Advisor to the Mayor, stated that GrowSJ is "the Mayor's entity" and is "not affiliated with the City of Saint John". He described the GrowSJ web presence and events as being "the personal property of Mayor Don Darling". If it is not a public initiative, it must therefore be a private initiative. Mr. Beamish also confirmed that Mr. Darling is running this personal entity out of the Mayor's office.

Article 7.1 of the Code of Conduct for Elected Representatives states that "No members of council shall make use of or permit the use of any City premises, other than for carrying out the business of the local government".

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SJCC reply: In an email dated July 22, 2019, Mr. Patrick Beamish, Strategic Advisor to the Mayor, stated that GrowSJ is "the Mayor's entity" and is "not affiliated with the City of Saint John". He described the GrowSJ web presence and events as being "the personal property of Mayor Don Darling". If it is not a public initiative, it must therefore be a private initiative. Mr. Beamish also confirmed that Mr. Darling is running this personal entity out of the Mayor's office.

Article 7.1 of the Code of Conduct for Elected Representatives states that "No members of council shall make use of or permit the use of any City premises, other than for carrying out the business of the local government".

I repeat the question that Mr. Darling has failed to answer. Why is the Mayor permitted to use premises that are designated for official business and supported by tax dollars for a private initiative? I trust that this time, he will reply with the openness and transparency that he so often demands of others.

#2 Is the Mayor using any city-owned/leased cellphone, computer etc. to write and/or record tweets, posts, selfies, videos etc. concerning GrowSJ?

Mr. Darling's response: Yes, at times I require these tools to stay connected to the community.

Like Reply 1d

Terra-Lynn Coggan SJCC reply:

Article 7.1 of the Code of Conduct for Elected Representatives states that "No members of council shall make use of or permit the use of any City resources (computers, networks, websites, social media) other than for carrying out the business of the local government". Mr. Darling has acknowledged that he uses city-owned/leased property for promoting GrowSJ, an entity that has been described as having nothing to do with the City of Saint John.

#3 Is any city-owned/leased equipment i.e. computers, cellphones, furnishings etc. being used by anyone working on Mr. Darling's personal behalf?

Mr. Darling's response: No.

SJCC reply: We'll let this one pass.

English (US) Français (Canada) Español Português (Brasil) Deutsch

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Don Darling - In today's news...

https://www.facebook.com/dondarling/posts/10156377106301301

Search

Gary Home Find Friends Create

Terra-Lynn Coggan SJCC reply

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Mr. Darling's response: No.

SJCC reply: We'll let this one pass.

#4 Do any city employees currently work on any aspect of GrowSJ? Have any done so in the past?

Mr. Darling's response: Yes, my one employee would help on occasion.

SJCC reply: Presumably, that one employee is Mr. Patrick Beamish, as he is the one who responded to my email about GrowSJ. The follow-up question is whether Mr. Beamish is a paid city employee. If so, Article 7.1 of the Code of Conduct would apply, given his own admission that GrowSJ has "nothing to do with the City of Saint John". This article prohibits the use of city staff other than for the carrying out the business of local government.

Another follow-up question is now required and that is whether any summer student hired by the City of Saint John is or has been working on GrowSJ, specifically preparing graphics and other material for presentation at Budgets and Beers or any other events. If so, this would be another violation of article 7.1.

#5 Who administers the GrowSJ Facebook page?

Mr. Darling's response: Myself and some outside help on occasion for content creation.

SJCC reply: If any of this work is done in the Mayor's City Hall office, it is also in violation of Article 7.1 of the Code of Conduct.

Like Reply 10

Terra-Lynn Coggan #6 Who prepares and sends the GrowSJ newsletter to subscribers?

Mr. Darling's response: Myself and support on occasion.

SJCC reply: Follow-up question: What support? Are any city staff used for this purpose on or off city premises? Do they use any city-owned/leased equipment? If so, this is in violation of Article 7.1 of the Code of Conduct.

#7 Who designs slides and other graphics used in GrowSJ sponsored presentations?

Mr. Darling's response: Myself and support on occasion.

SJCC reply: Same as the reply to answer #6 above.

#8 Who assists Mr. Darling in organizing City Budgets and Beers and any other events that may fall under the purview of his private board?

Mr. Darling's response: Myself, my one staff member and volunteers on occasion.

SJCC reply: Is the one staff member Mr. Patrick Beamish or someone else? Does the City pay their salary while working on your private board initiative? If so, this is in violation of Article 7.1 of the Code of Conduct.

#9 What authority does Mr. Darling have to use the City of Saint John's corporate image on his Facebook page, website, invitations to Budgets and Beers and any other promotional material? Who gave him this authority and why?

Mr. Darling's response: I didn't appreciate that use of the city logo by the Mayor would be deemed inappropriate and any use of the logo has been stopped.

SJCC reply: Ignorance of the law is no excuse, especially given that this issue was dealt with by Common Council previously. Using the city-owned property for a personal initiative was a violation of the Code of Conduct and of trademark legislation. Follow-up question: Why did the city manager or another appropriate city employee not inform the Mayor that use of the corporate logo was not permitted?

#10 Is the moniker GrowSJ not itself a trademark violation that confuses the public, given that the City of Saint John owns the rights to similar monikers such as PlanSJ, ZoneSJ and MoveSJ?

Mr. Darling's response: I would need to consult with a lawyer and have no plans to do so. The City Manager can decide if taxpayers' money should be expenses.

SJCC reply: The Mayor apparently plans to continue using the moniker GrowSJ even though he is aware of the possible confusion this causes within the community. He doesn't seem to care. The corporation of the City of Saint John has a responsibility to protect its brand, in all forms. The Mayor's last sentence in the above answer is nonsensical and irrelevant.

#11 Why is all information on ownership of www.growsj life redacted? Who registered the website? Who owns the website?

Mr. Darling's response: I own the website and paid for this registration with my own money.

Friend Requests See All

Masa Konepne Confirm Delete

Suggested Groups See All

Saint John Daily News 4,189 members + Join Group

the JOSHUA & GROW Joshua Group's For The Kids Online Auctions 1,916 members + Join Group

English (US) Français (Canada) Español Português (Brasil) Deutsch +

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Don Darling - In today's news...

https://www.facebook.com/dondarling/posts/10156377106301301

Search

Gary Home Find Friends Create

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Chat

Don Darling - In today's news...

https://www.facebook.com/dondarling/posts/10156377196301801

11 Why is all information on ownership of www.growSJ life redacted? Who registered the website? Who owns the website?

Mr. Darling's response: I own the website and paid for this registration with my own money.

SJCC reply: Mr. Darling fails to explain why the information is redacted or kept private. It is, of course, his right to do so given that GrowSJ is a private initiative. However, this hardly fits in with his repeated calls for openness and transparency from others.

12 Why is there no privacy policy on the website, given that it requests personal information in order to subscribe to a GrowSJ newsletter?

Mr. Darling's response: A privacy statement will be added.

SJCC reply: Please ensure that an email is sent to all subscribers to date asking them to confirm that they wish to continue subscribing and providing them with an unsubscribe option.

13 What, if any, free space has been donated to the Mayor for Budgets and Deers or any other GrowSJ sponsored event? Has the Mayor accepted any other donations related to the activities of GrowSJ?

Mr. Darling's response: Free space has been donated by business owners who care about the city. All other expenses have been paid by me personally, including photocopies of budget documents handed out at the event.

SJCC reply: Article 6.1 of the Code of Conduct states that "A member of council shall not accept any fees, gifts, gratuities or other benefit that could reasonably be seen to influence any decision made by him / her in the carrying out of his / her functions as a Member of Council". One would expect that Mr. Darling would declare a conflict of interest should any matters come before council in the future related to any of these "business owners" including UbiStation and BMO, not withstanding the fact that article 6.2 does not prohibit "rewards, gifts or benefits not connected with the performance or duties of office".

In summary, Mr. Darling has removed the trademarked corporate logo from his personal webpage and Facebook page, and he has assured us that he will post a privacy policy on his website that serves only to garner email addresses from newsletter subscribers. There are many other answers in which he has ignored the question entirely or danced around the issue. In other cases, if he has used city property and possibly city staff on his personal initiative as he appears to indicate, this is a very serious violation of the Code of Conduct for Elected Representatives. He must be held to account by Common Council and anything and everything to do with the Mayor's personal initiative known as GrowSJ must be removed from City Hall.

Sincerely,
Concerned Citizens of the City of Saint John

Like Reply 1d Edited

Darlene Ricketts McNeil Terra-Lynn Coggan Who is creating the drama here??? Take a look in the mirror!

Don Darling

Timeline · 2019 · July

Friends · 5,000

Life Events

Started New Job at City of Saint John May 24, 2018

Married Patti Darling January 30, 2011

English (US) · Français (Canada) · Español · Português (Brasil) · Deutsch

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Terra-Lynn Coggan Ryan N Kate

For those who are not familiar with recall legislation, it is in place in jurisdictions around the world and provides for voter to formally petition to have an elected official removed from office for decent, which Mr. Mayor's unethical and unacceptable behaviour herein constitutes substantial grounds for removal.

In addition to the aforementioned there are a great number of citizens who are genuinely concerned about Mr. Mayor and his state of emotional well-being.

I've said it before I will say it again, I like Don as a person, however over the course of his elected appointment and more so recently it is evident that he is placing more focus upon creating drama to garner sympathizers than he is to the appropriate management of the municipality.

How can the people expect Mr. Mayor to do the job he promised to do as Mayor if he continues to distract himself with the drama he is creating and retract from all the good he could do if his priorities aligned with his campaign promises.

Like Reply · 10h

Terra-Lynn Coggan The problem is, these arrogant self-serving politicians are too used to sheep following blindly behind them.

They not only put down citizens who stand up and speak out, they do so in a demeaning fashion in order to rile up others against us. It is the antithesis of democracy and exactly how people get dragged down the path to totalitarianism, one step at a time.

Matthew's comment is a clear violation of the Code of Conduct and he should be ashamed of himself. As for his diminishing of those with keyboard courage, I will remind this tin pot politician that the greatest achievements of humankind have come from a pen or a keyboard.

Sincerely,
Concerned Citizens of the City of Saint John

Like Reply · 9h

Tara Morelli I think he means that you are the mess.

Like Reply · 5h

Mandy Oling Tara Morelli

Your skeletons are escaping 🙄

Like Reply · 55m

Write a reply...

Jerrod Theriault Your job as mayor comes with a lot of criticism and not every decision you will make will be the best decision for everybody and even though you inherited issues that has plagued this city over the last several years, you can only be accountable for it... See More

Like Reply · 9h

Facebook profile page for Don Darling. The page shows a cover photo, profile picture, and a bio. The bio includes: "2019: Mayor, etc.", "Went to Saint John High School", "Lives in Saint John, New Brunswick", "From Fredericton, New Brunswick", "Married to Patti Darling", and "Joined May 2007". The page also displays a grid of photos and a list of friends. The right sidebar shows a timeline of posts and comments.

Don Darling Timeline · 2019 · July

2019: Mayor, etc.
Went to Saint John High School
Lives in Saint John, New Brunswick
From Fredericton, New Brunswick
Married to Patti Darling
Joined May 2007

Photos

Friends · 5,000

See what you have in common with Don's friends

Life Events

Started New Job at City of Saint John
May 24, 2018

Married Patti Darling
January 30, 2011

English (US) · Français (Canada) · Español · Português (Brasil) · Deutsch

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Timeline

Jarrod Thériault Your job as mayor comes with a lot of criticism and not every decision you will make will be the best decision for everybody and even though you inherited issues that has plagued this city over the last several years, you can only be accountable for th... See More
Like · Reply · 9h

Terra-Lynn Coggan Jarrod Thériault
Obviously not the best decision, if citizens are objecting.
Like · Reply · 9h

Jarrod Thériault There are always going to be citizens who will object to different topics or decisions. I object at times over different matters that others may not. That's the society we live in and I respect that freedom. You cannot satisfy 100% of the people 100% of the time and that's the burden of being a public official. Our views may differ but are simply subjective. I also respect that but in the end, it's going to be the ability to move past differences of opinions and find even ground to be able to reach compromise and work together. That's what will save Saint John.
Like · Reply · 9h

Terra-Lynn Coggan Jarrod Thériault
iHereHere!!
Like · Reply · See Translation · 9h

Darlene Hersey Jarrod Thériault it is okay to not agree and I am betting you do it respectfully though and not with a hidden agenda that the SJCC appears to have.
Like · Reply · 9h

Mandy Oling Darlene Hersey
Hidden agenda, at least SJCC agenda is transparent and accountable. There is no shame in holding elected officials to account, that is what diplomacy is about. However, diplomacy is severely lacking by the mayor and his 'supporters'.
Like · Reply · 53m

Terra-Lynn Coggan Andrea Anderson-Mason,
Should Saint John City Council not be addressing this matter collectively during City Council?
As opposed to upon the Mayor's personal Facebook...
What happened to Ethics and Due Process?
What happened to democracy?
Does this questionable and unethical behaviour constitute grounds for the citizens of Saint John, New Brunswick to petition to remove all individuals involved from their elected position for decent, ie. Don Darling & David Menzies.
Write a reply...

Continuation of the Facebook profile page for Don Darling, showing the timeline of posts and comments.

Shawn Verner why are you tagging that MLA in this post?
Like · Reply · 5h

Andrea Anderson-Mason Shawn Verner because SJ is in my riding too! And I do believe we need to have open and full disclosure communications.
Like · Reply · 2h

Shawn Verner this whole thing is ridiculous and a waste of time.
Like · Reply · 2h

Leanne Anderson Shawn Verner 100%
Like · Reply · 1h

Terra-Lynn Coggan Shirley McAlary
Is this appropriate behaviour, are you and council aware of this unethical and questionable behaviour?
Like · Reply · 5h

Don Darling I believe in balanced discussion and in fact really appreciate a diversity of perspective. I believe you've seen an example with Terra Lynn of a lack of balance and relentless posting. These are my personal social media pages and I retain the right to block certain abusers. In total there are well over 10,000 followers on my social feeds and I've blocked maybe 6 real accounts. I'm now blocking Terra Lynn. Like any constituent, she'll be able to write, email or call any member of council. Thank you.
Like · Reply · 5h

Shawn Verner is she a real account/person? Or another one of those ones created to just argue nonsense.
Like · Reply · 5h

Mike Morrison Wow. That person really fell off their rocker. I wish them well. A quick look at her FB profile and a few links to the SJCC is a cross between disheartening and downright scary. For the record, the SJCC DOES NOT represent this citizen of SJ.
Like · Reply · 5h

Don Darling Shawn Verner real
Like · Reply · 5h

Shawn Verner Don Darling that's scary.
Like · Reply · 4h

Facebook profile page for Don Darling. The page shows a cover photo, a profile picture, and a bio. The bio states: "Darlene Hersey She blocked me because I kept telling her they do not speak for me. I have a big enough mouth to speak for myself. lol. The name rhetoric being posted was unreal... have you all seen this craziness https://www.facebook.com/_jpermalink/2473713519358735/". The page also shows a list of friends, including Mike O'Don, Wayne Long, and others. There are several posts on the timeline, including one from Darlene Hersey and another from Abby Coggan. The page is viewed on a desktop browser.

Facebook post by RobLeger N Kelly Williston. The post text reads: "The mayor pulled my mom into his drama and blocked her out. Why steal my mom's intellectual property and pull her into your drama. What are you hoping to achieve. The only damage you are doing is to yourself. You are a low life liberal, bully and coward. What is done and said in the dark will come to the light of knowledge". The post has 20h of engagement. Below the post, there are several comments from users like Abby Coggan, Lynaya Astephon, and Darlene Hersey. The page also shows a list of suggested groups, including Saint John Daily News and Joshua Group's for The Kids. The page is viewed on a desktop browser.

Don Darling

Timeline 2019 July

Abby Coggan RobLeger N Kelly Williston

The mayor pulled my mom into his drama and blocked her while he and his trolls speak badly about her so she can not defend herself. You are a bunch of classless cowards and clowns. The city will be far better off without the lies the mayor and his supporters are destroying and beating down the citizens. There are far more who will be happy to see this Croyda crew gone for good. Hopefully in advance of the election.

Like Reply 28m

Write a reply...

Write a comment...

Debbie Harrity-Stanton shared a post

Yesterday at 8:30 AM

I support Don Darling. He should be able to use this logo. He is Saint John's biggest advocate.



See what you have in common with Don's friends.

Life Events

Started New Job at City of Saint John May 24, 2016

Married Patti Darling January 30, 2011

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Saint John Citizens Coalition

Public group

About

Discussion

Chats

Announcements

Members

Events

Videos

Photos

Files

Group Insights

Moderate Group

Group Quality

Search this group

Shortcuts

- Serenade of the Sea...
- Symphony of the Sea...
- Chillers of the Carib...
- Arthem of the Seas Ma...
- Saint John Citizens Coa...
- Saint John Talk of the T...
- Fredrickton News site
- wholesale motorcycl...
- Royal Caribbean Cr...
- Saint John NB Co...
- Saint John NB Sen...
- Shippotting Canada...
- CoastGuardCanada...
- See more

Announcements

See All (5)

Douglas James Admin 4 hrs Add Topics

Saint John Common Council: Paying Lip Service to Ethics?

Today, Mayor Don Darling responded to 13 questions about GROWSJ, which were included in a letter sent to Common Council by the Saint John Citizens Coalition. I will deal with those in my next post later today or tomorrow. First, however, I will reply to the Mayor's general 'declaration of war' against citizens that he has posted on his Facebook page as a lead-in to his responses.

Once again, rather than accept responsibility for his mistakes, Don Darling has defended his abhorrent behaviour and called on his fan base to reach out and love him. In doing so, he has violated the city's new Code of Conduct for Elected Representatives no fewer than six times. That's just in the preamble to his responses, where further violations are likely to be found.

Rather than face up to his shortcomings as Mayor, Mr. Darling believes it is perfectly acceptable in a democracy to pick on citizens and turn others against a citizens group that is serving the best interests of everyone by acting as a watchdog in demanding accountability, openness and transparency in municipal government activities. This is itself a violation of the Code of Conduct for Elected Representatives which clearly states as a value, that 'Members of Council shall treat... the public with dignity and respect'. Putting down a citizens group, whether it has one member or 620 members, is hardly treating members of the public with 'dignity and respect' nor does it comply with the need to behave in a manner that 'Demonstrate(s) a high level of integrity and professionalism when representing the local government and in dealing with members of the broader community'. Indeed, Mr. Darling's attitude shows nothing but disdain and contempt for the community.

Furthermore, by naming one specific group and trying to publicly humiliate its members on a personal Facebook page where key members of that group have been blocked from participating, Mr. Darling is violating article 3.6 of the Code of Conduct which prohibits bullying.

Indeed, Mr. Darling violates other sections of the Code of Conduct dealing with social media. Article 8.1 states that 'Members of Council shall use communication tools, such as newsletters, websites and social media in a responsible and respectful manner'. Mr. Darling is doing just the opposite.

Article 8.6 states that 'Members of Council shall not use communication tools and social media to engage in criticism of other Members of Council, the City staff or the general public'. He clearly failed to read that section before publicly criticizing the Saint John Citizens Coalition.

Furthermore, Article 8.7 states that, 'Members of Council shall not engage in or encourage bullying, flaming, or shaming of any other social media users. These types of interactions on social media misplace the focus of interaction on attacking individuals rather than engaging in constructive discussion or debate. This manner of communication is inconsistent with the Code of Conduct and unbecoming of the office that Members hold'.

CATEGORIZE POSTS

+ Create Topic

Add topics to posts to help group members find the information they're interested in.

INVITE MEMBERS

Enter name or email address.

MEMBERS

624 Members

You have 5 new members this week. Write a post to welcome them.

DESCRIPTION

Welcome to the new Saint John Citizens Coalition Facebook group! See More

GROUP TYPE

General

LOCATION

Saint John, New Brunswick

This location is set based on your group's name

RECENT GROUP FILES

GrowsJ with Photos.pdf Updated last Thursday

Letter to Council GrowsJ July 24, 201... Updated last Thursday

See More

CREATE NEW GROUPS

Groups make it easier than ever to share with friends, family and teammates.

Create Group

RECENT GROUP PHOTOS

See All

John, New Brunswick

10 ON

SAINT JOHN

seest Little City in

Cheryl Power

Mary Kleemann

Stan Shinko

Roy Meneses

Nan Grosman

Amy Alexander

Greg Bursey

Kate Worden-Letch

Nideric Keith

Kevin Farrer

Nan Rosenberg

Samantha Shea

Ki-Sweet Heeb

Bob Hoenig

Bue Camis

Robb Baar

Nan Swanner

DL McGrath

Romeo Peguero

Jessica Carbone

Douglas James

GROUP CONVERSATIONS

Paul, Andrea, John, 3...

MORE CONTACTS (17)

Adam Byrne

Facebook page for Saint John Citizens Coalition. The page includes a navigation menu on the left with options like About, Discussion, Chats, Announcements, Members, Events, Videos, Photos, Files, Group Insights, Moderate Group, and Group Quality. The main content area features a post by Terra-Lynn Coggan discussing the Mayor's behavior and the Coalition's stance. The post includes a photo of a waterfront area and a video titled 'Area 506'. The right sidebar shows a list of group members and suggested groups, including 'Warning Ranting Ahead' and 'Saint John Babble 'n' Bitch'.

Facebook page for Saint John Citizens Coalition, showing a different view or a continuation of the previous page. The main content area features a post by Douglas James titled 'A reply to Mayor Don Darling's answers to 13 questions from the Saint John Citizens Coalition'. The post includes a photo of a waterfront area and a video titled 'Area 506'. The right sidebar shows a list of group members and suggested groups, including 'Warning Ranting Ahead' and 'Saint John Babble 'n' Bitch'.

Facebook interface showing the Saint John Citizens Coalition group page. The page includes a navigation menu on the left with options like About, Discussion, Chats, Announcements, Members, Events, Videos, Photos, Files, Group Insights, Moderate Group, and Group Quality. The main content area displays a post by Douglas James titled "A reply to Mayor Don Darling's answers to 13 questions from the Saint John Citizens Coalition". The post contains several numbered questions and answers regarding the coalition's status, funding, and activities. A sidebar on the right shows a list of group members and a search bar. The bottom of the page features a status bar with the time 11:00 PM and various system icons.

Continuation of the Facebook interface showing the Saint John Citizens Coalition group page. The page displays a post by Douglas James titled "A reply to Mayor Don Darling's answers to 13 questions from the Saint John Citizens Coalition". The post contains several numbered questions and answers regarding the coalition's status, funding, and activities. A sidebar on the right shows a list of group members and a search bar. The bottom of the page features a status bar with the time 11:00 PM and various system icons.

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