



CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN – A Society for Eastern and Western Studies

Galiano Island, BC, Canada www.crystalmountain.org

April 13th, 2022

Dear Trustee Rogers, Trustee Rockafella, Trustee Wolverton and Planner Smith,

As a long time member of Crystal Mountain Society board of directors I would like to take this opportunity to respond to a few of the misrepresentations in a recent letter addressed to you from a concerned Galiano island resident. Here I limit my responses to those addressed to the structure and running of the society.

1. It has been put forward that CMS should not qualify as a Public Benefit to the Galiano community. In fact, whether we are a public benefit is not an opinion but the federal government designation of Charity. This designation does not depend on any particular percentage of the community being in agreement or unprejudiced toward our programs or religious activities. In short, one can not qualify as a charity without meeting the public benefit test. It is recognized by charity regulations that not all members of the public will benefit directly from each charity but it must be accessible to the public. At CMS all classes and retreats have always been open to any member of the general public who has interest in attending.

2. How a charity spends money is highly regulated by the CRA. CMS has met government standards consistently since inception in 1981.

3. The courses and retreats we run are referred to as our charitable activities as they fulfill the mandates for our charitable status. The fees charged to attend help offset the expenses to run the programs and are subsidized for those who need financial assistance. Fees are listed as the sale of *"goods and services"* by the CRA even though we sell no goods and all services are, by law, limited to our approved charitable activities.

4. It has been claimed CMS charges fees and *"It pays out almost all of its generated revenue to administration and management."* This statement is grossly misleading. CMS runs on a volunteer basis entirely with 0% of expenditures for salary ; 11.88% for Management and administration (ie insurance, taxes, water study) ; and 87.44% on Charitable activities (ie courses and retreats focused on "the teachings of Buddha Dharma and by the study and practice of natural history and science", as per our constitution). These are the 2020 Canadian Government published figures for Crystal Mountain Society.

5. And lastly it is claimed *"It has a pecuniary interest in multiple properties on the north end of Galiano"* ; the only properties CMS owns or has any financial interests in are the 2 lots in the rezoning proposal. These two properties were purchased with funds donated for that purpose, are lien free and no money has been spent on acquiring further property since December of 1999.

Thank you for your kind attention,

Helen Foster,

Board President

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