

Larry,

Good news, Larry...

Yesterday was a historic day. Write it down: January 24, 2018 was a turning point for B.C.

I can hardly believe it myself but after 20 years of nearly everybody being afraid to take on the U.S. foundations, someone is finally stepping forward. Who? Its First Nations individuals like Ellis Ross, fed up with the poverty in their communities and how the resource-based industry that can do more than anything else to lift First Nations out of poverty, are being shut down by outside interests with U.S. funding.

1) First Nations Breakfast Meeting - Ellis Ross speech

As part of Roundup, the annual mining conference, Premier Bob McLeod (NWT) hosted a First Nations breakfast. Ellis Ross, a former elected chief of the Haisla First Nation, and current MLA was the guest speaker - and what a powerful speech he gave. It was extraordinary.

Ellis began by saying that he wants "to get non-Canadian interests out of Canada." "Non-Canadians have no business making decisions for us," he began. He went on to explain the he felt that he needed to help British Columbia "because if B.C. fails then First Nations fail. And if First Nations fail, then B.C. fails."

Speaking native to native, Ross told the room that First Nations people have been used, taken advantage of. He urged everyone to open their eyes to what U.S. foundations are actually doing. "As soon as they stop a project, they leave. They don't come back. Band members receive nothing. Maybe a few people get cash awards but the rest get nothing," he said.

"Worse, they divide communities. They put native against native. Natives end up threatening other natives. Death threats. Slashed tires. They don't care if you are fighting your brother," Ross warned.

Ross also cautioned First Nations about getting involved in the law suits that are backed by U.S. funding. "We don't need more court cases to divide our communities," he said, telling the audience that U.S. foundations are "using First Nations to stop the Government of British Columbia and Canada."

That's the gist of what Ross said. Very powerful. He said a lot more about First Nations poverty, suicide, culture and what First Nations need to do for themselves. I will write it up and get it published. In the meantime, have a look at this video clip that Ellis Ross posted in December under the heading, "Canada needs to wake up," This has had 115,000 views so far: <https://www.facebook.com/ellisb.ross.9/videos/327987934347140/>

I tweeted about this, you can RT too (if you haven't already!): <https://twitter.com/FairQuestions/status/952586683920166913>

2) First Nations GoFundMe Campaign RE: Tanker Moratorium

Yesterday also, Calvin Helin and the Chiefs Council with which Helin is working, launched a GoFundMe campaign to take on a legal battle to stop the federal government from legislating a formal ban on tanker traffic on the B.C. coast. This is a very positive initiative that deserves widespread support. The goal is to raise \$100,000. So far, they have \$7,000 from 95 donors.

I have kicked in \$500 and will use Twitter to encourage everyone to contribute what they can.

Money talks.

We need to show these First Nations that when they stick their necks out like they are doing, they are not alone.

Here's the link to the GoFundMe Campaign: <https://www.gofundme.com/chiefs-council-against-bill-c48>

Cheers,
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