

## Nareka Jacques

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 8, 2025 11:58 PM  
**To:** Municipal Hall  
**Subject:** Urgent Need for Transparency & Accountability in Civic Redevelopment

**Importance:** High

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Attn: Mayor Ryan & Council Members,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the revelations about the Central Saanich council's handling of funds and property expropriation on Hovey Road, now resulting in a lawsuit. According to information shared, it has become apparent that the council has used community funds to expropriate property and initiate a massive land speculation and development project without public knowledge or input. **This lack of transparency and engagement with the community is alarming and unacceptable.**

The Civic Redevelopment Q & A document outlines a complex and illogical plan that was conceived, discussed, and implemented behind closed doors. **The community did not ask for a new municipal complex, and yet we find ourselves paying for it through increased property taxes and an infrastructure and debt levy added to our taxes in 2022—before the project was even announced! This is a clear example of the council's disregard for the community's wishes and destroys any prudent spending practices.**

Furthermore, the document's claims of potential savings of up to 30% on development costs are baseless and unsupported by any concrete estimates. The absence of land sale estimates, construction and development estimates, financing and revised land cost estimates that factor in possible litigation, is simply salesmanship at its worst. Never mind the completely redacted report that was provided (how very shady). **As residents and taxpayers, we deserve transparency and accountability, not vague promises and misleading statements.**

The most alarming revelation from the Q & A document was the council's apparent readiness to sell the community's Mt. Newton property before the new building on Hovey Road is even constructed! This indicates a clear bias towards developers and a total disregard for the community's interests. It is time for the council to start over, and for you, Mayor Ryan, to come clean with the residents and taxpayers.

The events at the Central Saanich Community Association meeting, where you refused to allow the community to view the secret consultant's report and responded with a disjointed and confused harangue, along with the resulting lawsuit, only further erode public trust in your leadership.

Mayor Ryan, though faith in your leadership may never be restored, you and the Council are urged to take immediate steps to address the community's concerns. This includes:

1. **Transparency in Decision-Making:** Provide a clear and detailed explanation of the decisions made regarding this redevelopment project, and any future projects, along with all relevant data and estimates.
2. **Community Engagement:** Implement regular public forums, inquiries and town hall meetings where residents can provide input, voice their concerns and receive honest answers.
3. **Accountability Measures:** Establish a transparent system for holding ALL officials accountable for their actions and decisions. (The Central Saanich Community can and will help you with this)
4. **Re-evaluation of the Project:** By returning the expropriated Hovey Road property to it's original owners, or return it to the community (who have unwillingly funded it), and start over with an affordable project that reflects the community's needs and desires, not Council's or developers.

Please keep in mind that as elected officials and public servants, you serve the community that you represent, and thereby need to respectfully listen to your members and be accountable to the community.

**The community deserves to know how you plan to move forward from these troubling events, and what measures will be put in place to prevent similar issues in the future. We expect a comprehensive and transparent response to these very legitimate concerns.**

Sincerely,  
Cheryl & family, residents and We the People of Central Saanich

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