

NORTH BAY TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

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Letter to Dave Dale and the Nugget editor

Your recent column on the wisdom of Mayor McLaren's public discussion of the details of the strike in Bonfield was way off the mark.

He and Bonfield council stood virtually alone against the CUPE leaders and their supporters for over ten months. They managed to get a contract signed that represents a net saving to the people of Bonfield rather than just another in the never ending increases in public sector wages that has become the norm.

He also managed to relate events that demonstrate once again what is well known by everyone; that unionized public service employees, in addition to being overpaid for the positions they occupy, are the most inefficient workforce in the country.

Your suggestion that McLaren should show more maturity, humility or class might carry more weight if he was dealing with an organization that possessed any of those qualities. In this case, he was dealing with a group who are hypocrites and bullies whose negotiation tactics consist solely of threats, intimidation, misinformation and outright lies.

The union's rebuttal to the Mayor's communication calls it inflammatory, inaccurate and unproductive. I suppose in the eyes of union leaders exposing the facts concerning their actions during a strike passes for inflammatory, inaccurate and unproductive communication.

My favourite was the story of the contractor who looked after three emergency flood related incidents in five hours as an example of the inefficiency of the union workers. That tale reminds me of the comment made by one of the Hydro board members during the strike there some years ago. He said "Now we know how long it takes to change a light bulb."

We can only live and hope that other municipal leaders follow the lead of Bonfield politicians and let us know about the union antics that we don't hear about. Perhaps more information like this will put an end to the ridiculous idea that has taken hold somehow that taxpayers are put on this earth to support union workers in the style they would like to become accustomed.