

An open letter to Abbotsford City Council

Re: SLOT-MACHINES IN ABBOTSFORD —WHY ARE YOU IGNORING VOTERS?

Dear Abbotsford Mayor & City Councilors,

- Why, in light of the referendum that was held several years ago showing 67% of Abbotsford voters are opposed to expanded gambling in the city, did you allow the slot-machine proposal to be submitted to city council in the first place?
- Why haven't you voted-down the slot-machine proposal when independent polling clearly shows the voters of Abbotsford are predominantly opposed to it? [Scientific poll data released September 26th shows 46% opposed versus 29% in favor]
- In a report submitted to you on January 31st of 2007, the staff at city hall informed you that you could commission a telephone survey or hold a public referendum on the slot-machine issue. Why did you reject these more scientifically-accurate options and instead choose to only hold a non-scientific and highly-subjective public-hearing?
- Why did you consistently move the date around on the public hearing that was finally held on September 10th? Did you not realize that by turning the date into a "moving target" you would make it difficult for the citizens of Abbotsford to organize themselves and plan to attend?
- Weren't you concerned that the public-hearing process was being turned into a farce when you saw the "Yes" side bussing people into the hearing and rewarding them with "free food" on City Hall premises? Didn't this undermine the legitimacy of the public hearing?
- Why did you allow the public hearing to turn into a circus of "heckles" and "boos" each time someone on the "No" side got up to speak? Did you not realize that many on the "No" side felt bullied and intimidated?
- Did you know that 54% of Abbotsford voters say your decision on this issue will affect how they vote in next year's municipal election? [Scientific poll data released September 26th]

The families and children of Abbotsford don't have the lobbying clout or the money of the pro-gambling industry, but we do represent the majority. Please listen to the majority of Abbotsford voters and vote "No" to the slot-machine proposal.

Respectfully for the family,

Trish Kolsto
Abbotsford Families United

www.AbbotsfordFamilies.org

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