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Federal Bureaucrats Up to Dirty Tricks

OTTAWA—“Department of Finance and Indian Affairs officials are advising media that my statements on the effect of the taxation provisions in the Tsawwassen Treaty are wrong,” said John Cummins, M.P. (Delta-Richmond East).

On Friday, November 30th I issued a statement and a more detailed report on the implications of the taxation provisions of the Treaty. The report was entitled “Tsawwassen Treaty and Taxation - Follow the Money: Who Pays and Who Gets to Keep the Money.”

My report was based on statements made by the Chief Federal Negotiator, the Department of Indian Affairs, the B.C. Treaty Commission and the Tsawwassen Band government.

Since the release of the statement on taxation and the accompanying report, Department of Finance and Indian Affairs officials have been contacting reporters and media outlets in Delta and Richmond and perhaps elsewhere advising them that my statement and report on the taxation provisions of the Tsawwassen Treaty were incorrect and could not be relied upon.

“I stand by my comments on the taxation provisions of the Treaty and side agreements to be negotiated on income taxes and GST. The Tsawwassen Band government will in the future reap a windfall from these taxes, a significant portion of which will be paid by *non-citizen* residents of the Tsawwassen Reserve.”

“If federal bureaucrats identified fundamental errors in my statement on taxation, instead of trying to silence the press, they should have had the courtesy to advise me of the errors so that I might have corrected the record.”

“Now they have no choice but to state publicly what they have been stating in private and make clear the specific errors they have allegedly identified in my report,” Cummins said.

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