

Keep a close eye on Langdon-Ladner

You would see him, usually, shuffling at the back of every NPA meeting room, with, eventually, arms folded

king-like, pausing in arrogant, reflective distance – ruler of all he surveyed. Shh! The King, he thinketh...

Otherwise, he was glued to his cell-phone trying desperately to find yet another participant for one of his political plays. Meet Allen Langdon, Vancouver Coun. Peter Ladner's political henchman and chief operating officer of something called Team Ladner.

24 hours broke the story yesterday of how Mr. Langdon resigned from the NPA Board of Directors this week, coincidentally, as Sean Holman called Mr. Langdon's boss at Legacies 2010, inquiring about some of Mr. Langdon's overt political activities on company time.

You see, Mr. Langdon, while being paid with your tax dollars at 2010 Legacies as their Director of B.C. Community Committees, liked to dabble in partisan political campaigns and activities – an absolute no-no for anyone over at 2010 Legacies, where non-partisanship isn't just an absolute minimum bar requirement of your employment, it's supposed to be celebrated.

Apparently, Mr. Langdon felt that this rule didn't apply to him.

In the fall of last year, Mr. Langdon was caught doling out tickets from his Legacies office for the NPA annual bun-toss at the Hyatt Vancouver. Undeterred, he didn't hesitate, through the entire public outcry, to continue to work for the B.C. crew of Michael Ignatieff's ill-fated campaign-a-thon. Incredible.

But you have to won-



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GUEST SHOT

der how much work Langdon did from his office for Peter Ladner, possible heir to the throne of Vancou-

ver's city council. Team Ladner is the vehicle that (they hope) will eventually catapult Coun. Ladner into the mayor's chair in 2008 and it is run, yes, you guessed it, by Langdon. E-mails, calls, time, all on your dime, so that Team Ladner ran efficiently? One can only hope otherwise.

Other than the troubling base issue of a tax-paid employee working on partisan political projects, it raises all sorts of judgment issues for 2010 Legacies, but, particularly, for Ladner himself. How could Mr. Langdon's superiors not have known about his extra-curricular activity when it was so prominently noted in the press? Why would they have allowed it to continue after the first couple of incidents? And where was the Captain of the good ship Ladner in all this?

I am told by reliable sources inside the civic NPA, that party hierarchs were very frustrated with Mr. Langdon's inability to see what he was doing as terribly wrong. A few even confronted him about it, and related matters, but he was too busy thumbing his nose at them to lend an ear. Oh dear.

If Langdon is the fellow who will be leading gladiator Ladner into battle to win the NPA mayoral nomination, only a year and a half off, against a methodically reassembling Team Sullivan that will unflinchingly draw blood with zeal, if they must ... then I'll be watching the Weather Channel with considerable interest in the fall of 2008 – for hell to freeze over.

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