

Women we love

I've always loved a woman's inherent, God-gifted ability to exit any given situation or circumstance for a better one, at will, flawlessly, seamlessly and

without the penchant for fireworks. (Note to inexperienced males: They get nasty only when there is no upside).

Men will, as first practice, set their hair on fire to light the fuse with, regardless of any upward mobility, if only to get in one last word – or something like that.

We're hard-wired to be quite dim that way. Women don't care.

It's not that they're callous. They just know how to move on when something better comes along, without being unkind or duplicitous, and sometimes they're even delighted about it.

Delighted must be how star school board trustee Eleanor Gregory must have felt with the announcement this week of her endorsement of Vision Vancouver Mayoral front-runner Gregor Robertson's candidacy.

The NPA's Gregory, a first-rate lawyer and highly respected child and youth advocate, apparently had enough of the Sam Sullivan Show, and sought something better. "I just couldn't stand the secrecy and game-playing ... and the fact Sam's people are so vicious ... he's never done anything to stop the B.S. ..."

Truth be told, Gregory speaks from experience, after having been accused last year by the mayor and some of the mayor's staff of leaking information to the media – an absurd contention considering not one kernel of proof existed.

And dismayed with Pistol Pete Ladner's unwillingness to step in front of the Sullivan



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REBEL WITH A CLAUSE

caravan, until the almost last possible minute, Ms. Gregory looked across the political divide at Gregor Robertson and found someone who is most likely to bridge

that distance.

Says Gregory, "Gregor's not selfish and has integrity ... he's attracting people from every political stripe. They all want to work together like the old NPA used to – Sam's killed the NPA".

Of course he has.

The mayor, you see, demands deference. It's precisely what drove, in no particular order: Pistol Pete to his own mayoral aspirations; NPA superstar parks rep Ian 'The Commish' Robertson to the Ladner camp; as well, equal superstar parks commissioner Heather Holden to the same camp. Adding Eleanor Gregory to that list is a stunning accomplishment for Mayor Sullivan: He has managed to take every single one of the top NPA performers of the last two-and-a-half years, Ladner, Robertson, Holden and Gregory and alienate each of them. There's at least one "success" Sam can trumpet.

Though, there's a message in all of this to those choosing between Sammy and Pete for NPA mayoral nod: Mr. Ladner, to his significant credit, doesn't intentionally alienate. Peter isn't self-centred and while demanding a higher standard of himself than even those around him, would never put up with rumour-mongering minions. The mayor has all that backwards.

It's quite remarkable. One can only aspire to have a fraction of Sam Sullivan's ego, which, no one except any of his zombies knows how to stroke into shape.

Just ask Eleanor Gregory.

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