

# Accountability

*Anna Moscardelli - September 2020*

How sad. Today I drove by what was once known as St. Clair High School. Who knows what is it called now? The contract was given to a construction company, and for whatever reasons the parties parted ways and the school renos appear to be in limbo. And guess what? Most likely no recourse without huge court costs.

This is not unfamiliar. We've seen this before, whether it was at the Sarnia Bay/Centennial Park revamping, the Consortium Lands, the over run costs of the hospital build that cost former MPP Caroline Di Cocco her seat, the recent WE controversy's, and so many, many more.

Why is it ok that those who are put in some of these positions aimed to put projects in place and send request for tenders to go out, later say, "Oop's, we didn't budget for that!" How is that considered acceptable?

Recently the former federal finance minister stated, "oh, I couldn't find receipts so I gave the money back to Revenue Canada" or whatever his exact words were. How is it that it appears there is no accountability placed on these individuals? It appears that so many are protected to where we are led to believe that it's a don't worry about that, we will just get the taxpayer to fork out more money.

In my opinion, it is just wrong. There is no way that these things should be allowed to happen. If it were you or me doing things as some have done, holy crap, Mr. Tax man would be paying us a visit to where we would be joined at the hips for weeks while an audit is done. Why can't this same policing happen when government "muckies" up? Maybe they are audited, and we just do not hear about it.

Years ago, we heard about Andre Morin from the ombudsman's office. Now a days, either I am out of touch, or there are no investigations taking place. I just do not know. Even when investigations were costing millions were spent to do inquiries, what were the outcomes?

Most recently we heard about many wanting an independent inquiry on nursing homes. Please do not take this in the wrong way, but why spend millions and waste hundreds of hours on finding out what we already know. There is a lack of staffing to take care of one of our most vulnerable people. Here is a thought. Let's take all that money that would be wasted on an inquiry and put it into hiring more front-line staff to help care for those in nursing homes.

Workers have spoken up for years and their voices fell on death ears. Doug Ford has admitted that government has screwed up. Accept it and let us move forward by changing how things have been done. Moving forward, hold those accountable for wrongdoings, not only in nursing homes but anyone who is responsible for publicly funded projects.

For the latest WE investigation, will anyone who benefited face charges or will he or she be forced to pay back monies? Probably not.

No wonder people tend to shake their heads and say WTH, and that is the nice way of putting.

Anyway, enjoy September. We are coming into a new era with our kids going back to school. Recently I read a note from a nurse which focused on the unknown and the fears that go along with it.

Thinking of you all as you decide on whether to send your child to school or not. Remember, everyone has a reason for their own choices. Whether you agree or not, please respect whatever decision they choose.

Take care all. Remember to wake up, kick butt and repeat.



