

Dear Editor

I am a founding member of OURS-Winnipeg (Outdoor Urban Recreational Spaces-Winnipeg). After reading "[CUPE ripped as golf-course leases die](#)" by Bartley Kives on May 30, I dropped my cup of morning coffee immediately to respond to this analysis.

Mr. Kives has given far too much credit to Councillor Wyatt's tirade in the Council Chambers yesterday against CUPE.

In fact, I was totally incensed by his report in the Winnipeg Free Press.

The defeat by Council of the sale of the 7 publicly owned golf courses, and the subsequent defeat by council of leasing 4 of the city owned public golf courses was due to the fact that the citizens of Winnipeg amassed in all 4 corners of our fair city and the inner city, and petitioned, phoned and emailed the mayor and council continuously to inform the mayor and the city administration that this decision was so undemocratic.

The Expression of Interest of October 26, 2011 was issued in such a manner that folks at city hall thought no one would notice. It was hoped that the 7 publicly owned golf courses could be sold without any consultation with Winnipeggers.

To Councillor Wyatt, I want to set the record straight. The citizens of Winnipeg were incensed at the quiet, untransparent moves at city hall. **THIS IS WHAT DEFEATED YOU AT CITY HALL.**

To Mr. Kives, I would say, that OURS-Winnipeg and the thousands of our fellow citizens are the true champions of this defeat. OURS-Winnipeg was not mentioned in his reporting, and I would say, that this looks somewhat biased and rather unprofessional to ignore so many interested folks in our entire city.

One thing Councillor Wyatt had right in the chamber yesterday is the following:

All Winnipeggers are indeed looking to the next election. The actions of the mayor and a few Councillors have produced an invigorated public who is truly concerned about how decisions are made at great democratic institution called City Hall. The file of the 7 publicly owned golf courses is just the microcosm of the many other decisions that the citizens of Winnipeg will be watching until the election of 2014.

Regards,
Wilma Sotas
OURS-Winnipeg