

Councillor Pribil,

I am lead to believe that you voted in favour of Reptilia. With the impressive CV that you put forward, I voted for you with high hopes of having a mature, progressive representative at City Hall. I hope that this can still be realized.

As a firm believer that humans have historically oppressed all of Nature's creatures, including themselves, it disappoints me that you support Reptilia. This is regressive and furthers the human abuse of Nature. How more abusive of Nature can we be than by perpetuating the archaic and immoral exploitation of animals! At the very least, civilized society, to some degree, has retreated on its support of small, compact zoos that do not attempt to replicate natural habitats for their animal charges. Indeed, such human stewardship should only exist to help preserve endangered or injured species. Optimistically, the extensive abuse of circus animals appears greatly diminished and its purveyors, the zoos themselves, are disappearing. Support of Reptilia is a blatant step backwards from this epiphany that Society finally realized.

Looking locally, Council has previously created bylaws opposing the private ownership of exotic animals. It strikes me that the promotion of an undertaking such as Reptilia contradicts that stance. Indeed, I understand that previous Councils have resoundingly twice rejected applications from Reptilia. Should approval of Reptilia proceed, it would demonstrate that conscience and nature's creatures take a backseat to mercenary interests.

Please reconsider your vote when this comes before Council. This is a matter of animal health and security - not just a crass business venture that intrudes into the world of Nature's creatures. Let's not let the almighty dollar overshadow the real issues here, animal welfare and mature human attitudes towards those creatures that share our planet.

Respectfully,

David Leckie, P.Eng. (Retired)

PS - by copy of this I am requesting that this communication be placed on Council's agenda when this issue is debated and hope that other members of Council oppose Reptilia's application.