

Dear friends and citizens of Baie-D'Urfé:

I read with great interest an op-ed piece by Sue Montgomery in the Gazette of February 11. She says, "[This story is](#) about who should be in charge at city hall — the civil servants or the elected politicians? It's about elected officials being hobbled in their efforts to carry out their work on behalf of the voters. It's about accountability." She goes on to talk about "a powerful bureaucratic machine that should be there to support us in our efforts but ... often outright blocks us."

So who is in charge at our Town Hall? Many citizens have noted that the size of the Town's administration has grown substantially over the last few years, while service to citizens has not improved. If anything it has deteriorated. What I have seen is an administration that has progressively taken control over Council's agenda. Over the last 18 months I have also seen a Council that is willing to let the administration take more and more control, and a marked lack of respect and support for Council by the administration.

In this mandate, Council seems to be blindly following the administration's recommendations and to be unwilling to question them. The prime example of this was Council allowing the premature approval of the DG's new contract in December, when the four new Councillors were just weeks into their mandate.

There are no Council portfolios in this mandate. While we still have committees, there are considerable areas that are not the responsibility of any Councillor (for example, the industrial park, public works, and transportation). In fact we have moved so far in the direction of shared responsibility that Council meeting items are now assigned at random to councillors, rather than being moved by the person most involved in the file.

By way of illustration, here are some recent experiences:

- being told by a senior member of the administration that they saw no need to respond to an email from me;
- learning that several volunteer applications for the Town Planning Committee had been rejected by the administration and not passed on to Council for consideration;
- finding that my key to the Public Works building no longer works, and having my request for a replacement dismissed.

I hoped, when this Council was formed last November, to be "the voice of experience". Instead I have found myself slipping more and more into the role of "opposition Councillor", in frequent disagreement with some of my colleagues and with the administration. It is not a role that I am comfortable with.

After much reflection, it is with deep regret that I inform you all that I am no longer willing nor able to continue working in this environment. While I will always love this Town and have enjoyed serving as Councillor for the last 16 years, at this point I feel that I am unable to effectively carry out the job for which I was elected, and I have therefore submitted my resignation to the Town Clerk.

Janet Ryan

SNOWMEN CONTEST 2022

The snowman contest was a success. We thank everyone who entered the contest. First, second and third prizes will be gift certificates from Provigo and all entries will receive a ribbon with our appreciation. Here is a selection of photos...

Le concours de bonhomme de neige a été un grand succès. Nous remercions tous ceux qui ont participé au concours. Les premier, deuxième et troisième prix seront des cartes-cadeaux de Provigo et toutes les participations recevront un ruban avec notre appréciation. Voici une sélection de photos...



**** Please note that letters and other articles from the community that are not signed by the CA do not necessarily represent the views of the Citizens' Association**