

The Saga of CEDCO and the Street Newz

Posted by

Saturday, 16 April 2005 05:16 - Last Updated Saturday, 16 April 2005 05:16

The Saga of CEDCO and the Street Newz

PEJ News: The Victoria Street Newz finds itself in an interesting predicament. Here's the story so far ...

I've been working out of the CEDCO Victoria office for almost a year, and had been promised the space for another couple of years. It was wonderful - a comfortable office space for people to gather, a computer, software, phone, photocopier, email, internet, and interesting others around me including the Victoria Car Share Cooperative, the Housing Trust, and the Financial Literacy Project.

I'll admit there were some problems, every office has them, and I began to document my concerns starting late last year. Mostly I was concerned with issues of privacy - I'd go to the office and the computer I'd been assigned was logged on with my username and password, my files were sometimes moved around without my notification, and once an email was sent from my account as if from me and with words I didn't write.

During the month of March I began to notice rumblings of more significant concerns, and these culminated with the then Board of Directors changing the locks on the office so that certain individuals were denied entry. I began to suspect that the Street Newz might have to vacate the office, and luckily changed my contact information on the current issue.

A day or two prior to the end of April, representatives from the Board of Directors telephoned me at home to say they were concerned about the future of CEDCO, and wanted to be sure the Street Newz was protected. They brought me the computer I had been working from for a year and showed me a letter they'd recently found that had been sent, without their knowledge, to the landlord of the building saying everyone would be vacating the space by April 1st.

At a CEDCO AGM in early April most of the board resigned, and a police report was filed over \$10,000 in missing funds.

On April 12th I received a phone call from Maureen Doherty asking that I return the computer. The Street Newz will be in a very precarious position if we don't have access to that computer and all the necessary software.

The Saga of CEDCO and the Street Newz

Posted by

Saturday, 16 April 2005 05:16 - Last Updated Saturday, 16 April 2005 05:16

Another AGM has been called for Monday, April 18th, 5:15 to 6:45 pm, at the Victoria Police Station at Quadra and Caledonia. The former Chair of CEDCO has asked that CEDCO members, "who happen to be outraged by an admin who considers itself unaccountable," please attend.

I'm very thankful to the previous board for their concern for the Street Newz. It's been very disruptive, not having an office space to meet with vendors, writers, and anyone else who might drop into an office to chat with the Street Newz editor, but we're coping.

I'm at the Human Rights Coalition office - #418, 620 View St. (Central Bldg) on Tuesdays between 10 and noon, and at the Open Door (Pandora between Quadra and Vancouver) on Fridays between 10 and noon if anyone wants to drop by and chat.

My new email is streetnewz@islandnet.com or streetnewz@pej.ca.

Our website continues at <http://streetnewz.communitypipe.org>

Thanks so everyone who's helping to hold the Street Newz together. I'm confident we'll continue, but it'd sure help if the CEDCO membership could help encourage the current management/board of directors to make the right decision and let Street Newz keep the computer and stay alive.

Namaste,

Janine