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From: **info** <info@stalbertthinktank.com>

Date: Thu, Oct 3, 2013 at 3:01 PM

Subject: Response to Mr. Crouse's Comments on St. Albert Think Tank

To: mjparker@telus.net, mackaycam@shaw.ca, wesleybrodhead@gmail.com, cathyheron@shaw.ca, garethj@telus.net, teddurham1@gmail.com, sheena@sheenahughes.ca, tim@timosborne.ca, djclimenhaga@gmail.com, electgilles@gillesprefontaine.com, marksold@hotmail.com, voterogerbradley@gmail.com, robertr@telusplanet.net, goldsmithj2013@gmail.com, hughenaburke@outlook.com, nharley@telusplanet.net, nolanc@telusplanet.net, shelley@shelleybiermanski.com

Mr. Crouse:

We have become aware that you have e-mailed all candidates about your position on attending the St. Albert Think Tank forum or responding to the survey.

It would appear that your sole concern is determining the name behind the questions, as a distraction to real issues that you are unwilling to address. The full membership list of the Think Tank is of no consequence. It is a group of concerned citizens that have researched the issues thoroughly and are not interested in fame – only the issues facing St. Albert as we proceed into the election.

The public deserves to know each candidate's response to these issues, and so we have offered all candidates 2 venues to present their positions. The residents of St. Albert are not evaluating the people asking questions – they are choosing their next set of elected officials, based on their intentions and plans for our city over the next 4 years.

We have not simply stated facts to the public and closed the book. Instead, we are giving all candidates the opportunity to express their thoughts on the issues we presented. In contrast to your accusations, we are providing absolute openness and transparency, by organizing a venue for the public to interview all the candidates on these issues and

make up their own mind. Your attempt to twist the situation to excuse your behaviour is disappointing.

Your decision to boycott the forum and the survey questions sends two clear statements to St. Albert:

1 –You can not defend your position on these issues or correct the information presented and therefore agree with all the statements made by the St. Albert Think Tank.

And

2 –You are unwilling to be open or transparent with the public about your intentions for the next council term regarding these issues.

Mr. Crouse, the Arden theater will be filled with residents, regardless of your attendance. We have already received RSVPs from many of the candidates who are planning to attend, and we are looking forward to an interesting, composed, fair, and informative debate on the 16th.

Your name placard will state that you have chosen not to attend and share your position on the issues with the voters. Your cowardly actions will speak volumes about how you demonstrate transparency to the public.

Some candidates have asked for the names of the moderators. To protect the moderators' privacy and to prevent them being harassed by some people who are on a witch hunt to distract the public from the true issues, the names of the moderators will be protected at this time. We can tell you that the moderators are professionals with moderating experience. The format of the forum will be questions and answers both from the moderators and from the public. The sole objective of the forum is to provide an open venue to discuss and debate these pressing issues in a professional context.

Mr. Crouse, if you choose to hide away from the public instead of defend your decisions, that is your choice. However, your attempt to influence other candidates to follow suit to hide your personal cowardice is unprofessional.

Thank you,

St. Albert Think Tank Team