

[Back to previous page](#)



document 1 of 1

Power to the people

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Abstract (summary)

As we report in this issue, an out-of-court settlement was filed Monday related to the lawsuit Julian Renaud, Alex Davenport and Dana Hartt launched against the City of Fredericton, Mayor Brad Woodside and chief engineer Murray Jaymer in April 2012.

Renaud has already raised a flag about the settlement cheques, saying they were issued by the city treasury instead of the personal accounts of the mayor and engineer, and in a process that could have been in violation of Fredericton bylaws.

Full Text

It's unfortunate the settlement between Occupy Fredericton protesters and top city officials has been marred by questions over whose bank account covered the financial compensation the plaintiffs received.

Not only does the controversy rob all participants of a clean end to the 15-month ordeal, it threatens to overshadow the broader lesson we could pull from the saga.

As we report in this issue, an out-of-court settlement was filed Monday related to the lawsuit Julian Renaud, Alex Davenport and Dana Hartt launched against the City of Fredericton, Mayor Brad Woodside and chief engineer Murray Jaymer in April 2012.

The full details of the settlement will be made public early in the new year, including the exact sum of money awarded to the plaintiffs.

Renaud has already raised a flag about the settlement cheques, saying they were issued by the city treasury instead of the personal accounts of the mayor and engineer, and in a process that could have been in violation of Fredericton bylaws.

He said he won't be able to let the matter rest until this issue is resolved or clarified, but it's definitely not the headline he was hoping for this week.

For Renaud, the case has always been about the principle of the thing.

The plaintiffs believed they bore witness to violations of civil liberties and abuse of power, and they used the law in an attempt to correct it, regardless of who they'd be up against.

Fine details aside, that's a powerful sentiment.

As Renaud put it to reporters this week, "If we want to live in a democracy, I think we have a certain democratic obligation that goes along with that.

"When we're confronted with injustice, and we have an opportunity to correct that injustice, I think we should do that."

- JON MACNEILL

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