

Independence in doubt

In the interests of fairness and transparency, the question needs to be asked: Is mayoral candidate, Maurice Cutforth "Independent" as was claimed on the Election Forms delivered to mailboxes this week?

Reliable evidence indicates that he is not.

Northland Regional Councillor, John Bain arranged to meet with Warren Slater on June the 23rd and Vince Cocurullo on June the 24th to request that Mr Slater and Mr Cocurullo stand down as mayoral candidates, so as to avoid splitting the vote.

Mr Bain advised Mr Slater there was a "massive" sum of money that had been put forward by the "big" business people of this town for Maurice Cutforth.

Thus it appears that if one votes for Mr Cutforth, one's vote is going to a man beholden to big businesses.

One would have thought that to be deemed "independent," one would be self-funded, or virtually so, rather than be a recipient of a significant sum of money, from a group likely to have special interests which may conflict with those of the residents of Whangarei?

CLARE SWINNEY
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29th Sept. 2010