

April 22, 2024

Rick Tipping Thornbury, On.

The Town of the Blue Mountains Thornbury, ON

Re: Bloomberg Grant - For Council's Discussion and Consideration

Attn: Mayor Matrosovs

It is very apparent our climate is changing as we are continually bombarded daily with reports of some serious weather events, from around the world. As a resident, I do question our ability to act when by any measure the Town of the Blue Mountains cannot be considered a significant contributor. I suggest our greatest contributors to carbon emissions are tourism, unnecessary travel to other areas of the world and development.

So, I question why, out of all municipalities across the country and around the world, a person such as Michael Bloomberg would invite-a Mayor from our small community, - the how and why our Town, your name would surface. It makes very little sense.

Some facts:

- Bloomberg, both LLP and Philanthropies, are heavily invested financially in China.
- His Criticism of China's government is far less critical and intentions are suspect..
- How does one ignore the elimination of Hong Kong democracy, the two Micheals, aggression against Taiwan, support of Russia against Ukraine, human rights violations and finally the Federal inquiry into China's election inference.

Having said this, I'm sure the various agencies investigating these matters will take the appropriate actions.

My concerns are much more immediate and directly affect our Town and Council's credibility and functionality.

My concerns:

- Information contained in several COP28 staff reports is confusing or contradictory. You and Council have a responsibility to question staff's ability to report factually and without bias. This leads to distrust within Council and the Community.
- Any affiliations with Bloomberg and/or associate groups is questionable and do not provide any visible benefits for the Community
- You unilaterally revealed the Bloomberg grant without any discussion with Council or even Council approval. What are the string's attached to this grant and possible future grants?
- As a past educator, did you not question why a foreign entity would commit to funding to climate initiatives specifically targeting our impressionable youth? Did you not believe our educational system is more than capable of delivering the message? Did you not ask yourself why a foreign entity would fund such initiatives in our community?

- Frankly, as a Canadian, I find this offer questionable, suspect and insulting. It suggests we, as Canadians, are not concerned and not committed to addressing climate change. How do you justify your actions by recognizing a foreign entity(s) attempt to dictate our response to issues.
- Your actions appear to be primarily focused on using this platform as a means of promoting yourself rather than serving the needs of the Community.
- Lastly, your continued lack of response to the Community's concerns is, also, a failure of your responsibilities and duties as Mayor. I am aware that you and Council have, over the past weeks, received much more explicit correspondence addressing these and other concerns.

As a resident, you need to bring your Council together, in a public forum, to ensure a thorough examination of these issues. There is no better opportunity to demonstrate your leadership, transparency and accountability.

Respectfully, Rick Tipping

cc: Town Clerk- Ms Corrina Giles, Deputy Bordignon, Councillors Porter, Hope, Ardiel, McKinlay, Maxwell.