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- [Georges Bank](#): [interview with Stephen McNeil](#)
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our strategic plan approved by the council last year." The government hopes that this kind of project will bring new opportunities for wind development around the province.

12may2010: **Bail out SWSDA mess again, says d'Entremont...** in what many political observers in South West Nova Scotia are seeing as a "no-win game" for former Tory minister and **Argyle MLA Chris D'Entremont**, the opposition member is now telling the NDP government to bail out political friend **Frank Anderson** and his embattled **SWSDA** organization to the tune of \$500,000, according to a allNovaScotia.com report today. Calling the governments refusal to pay for missing monies in the reportedly "messy" SWSDA accounting system a "personality conflict", d'Entremont's comments were not well received by government officials. Chris D'entremont says if there is any money missing, Anderson probably spent it on other positive projects demanded by the previous government.

**Economic Development Minister Percy Paris** reportedly said "we're not paying twice for it." (the Tuskent community centre project). **Premier Darrell Dexter** says there are difficult questions about how money was managed and where monies went. "We don't know what exactly is going on with SWSDA".

Saying that the region has been done a disservice, Dexter also said that it was SWSDA's mess" and was for SWSDA to clean up. SWSDA and Anderson have been the subject of several audits and investigations over the past year, including one from the **Ombudsman** referred to the **RCMP**.

12may2010: **Extend moratorium say Suzuki and Lunenburg council...**

noted Canadian environmentalist and author **David Suzuki** said the Nova Scotia government should [never drill for oil and gas on Georges Bank](#). The **Municipality of Lunenburg** has sent a letter to the **Minister of Energy** urging the government to extent the **Georges Bank** moratorium.

12may2010: **Yarmouth to have independent candidate for MLA spot...**

former Vanguard deputy editor **Belle Hatfield** has tossed her eater bonnet into the ring for the upcoming by-election in Yarmouth to fill the seat of **Richard Hurlburt**, who resigned after becoming the poster boy for the MLA expense scandal.

Telling CBC Radio that Yarmouth's status has steadily degraded under the eight years of Hurlburt's care in the assembly, Hatfield said there was a strong aura of mistrust and disgust in the Yarmouth area from the attitude of entitlement displayed by MLAs regarding expenses and expense claims.

Hurlburt is part of a now-completed and exhaustive investigation by **Auditor General Jacques Lapointe**, who some say is likely to recommend criminal proceedings in the most egregious of the MLA expense violations. Because of the outrageous nature of some of his expenses, Hurlburt was named by CBC as a leading contender for further action.

Hatfield is part of a long-time Tory family and is the sister to famed Yarmouth lawyer **Cliff Hood**, who was one of the architects with Hurlburt and embattled SWSDA CEO **Frank Anderson** in the "**Oceans First Task Force**." As a result of investigative reporting by SCT, the project was discovered to be a sham designed to provide backing and support for the **Department of Energy** headed by Hurlburt in their quest to drill for oil and gas on **Georges Bank**.

After a bogus and luxurious fact-finding trip to Norway by Hurlburt and staff, Hood, Anderson and others, and without the agreement or knowledge of Oceans First members, Hood issued a news release saying that the group had determined that oil and gas development would not impact the fisheries or ecosystem on Georges Bank. One of the first actions of the new NDP government was to axe the project.

Hatfield will compete with Liberal candidate Zack Churchill. Former Mayor Charles Crosby has indicated he will run for the Tories and the NDP has not announced a candidate. It is thought by some observers that the announcement of the bye-election will coincide with a decision on the Georges Bank Moratorium.

8may2010: **Churchill wins Yarmouth grit nomination in one ballot...** It

took only one ballot for Liberals in Yarmouth to decide **Zach Churchill** will be their candidate in an upcoming byelection. The results of the Liberal nomination meeting yesterday at Mariners Centre was not even close. Churchill took 410 ballots, with **Fraser Mooney Jr** a distant second at 214 and **Delores Atwood** collecting 99 votes.

The expected scenario had Atwood ceding here votes to Churchill on a second ballot. It is thought that, in an attempt to secure some footing in the by-election, the NDP government will announce the bye-election date just before or after they announce the continuation of the **Georges Bank** moratorium, a key issue in the area. That announcement is expected within days. >>> [see Zach Churchill videos](#)

8may2010: **Another \$367,000 missing from SWSDA's books?... Frank Anderson at centre of yet another financial scandal... emergency meeting called... audit being withheld... \$1.75 million SeaCoast mortgage likely to default... pitch to government to forgive \$450,000 loan....** Word is out now after being hushed for two months or more by the NDP government that, under embattled CEO **Frank Anderson's** direction, the South West Shore Development Authority (SWSDA) is overdue more than

\$367,000 on a final payment to **Garian Construction Ltd.** for the development of **Ecole Secondaire de Par-en-Bas** project.

A senior **Department of Economic Development** official confirmed to SCT Friday that they have known for two months or more that federal, provincial and federal monies which are required to be segregated from SWSDA's operating funds have gone missing and are unavailable to pay the final payment on the \$3 million-plus project in Tusket, which includes a community centre and 300-seat auditorium/theatre.

The official confirmed that the department has also recently received the financial audit of SWSDA's books, but refused to say if or when the audit would be shared with SWSDA board members or public and press. "I wouldn't be surprised if there were criminal charges coming out of this," said a source familiar with SWSDA's operation. The audit was demanded by the Ombudsman's Office after a year-long investigation of SWSDA and Anderson. The investigation was sparked by citizen complaint after a previous 500-person petition to the Rodney MacDonald government was ignored.

Unbeknownst to his board of directors, Anderson has apparently also appealed to the government for a bailout on the missing funds and has suggested that the loan could be repaid from the \$22,000 per month now due on the questionable sale of the former Canadian Forces property at Sandy Point to a pair of American land speculators. Only one of the pair is allowed entry into Canada now, as the other partner was arrested in Shelburne for drunk driving last year and has apparently told local officials that he cannot enter the country legally.

**Mary Barstow** visited Nova Scotia some weeks ago with some funding partners in tow and reportedly met with Anderson and also with lawyers in order to delay or avoid payments on the property Anderson gave the couple a "sweetheart deal" on the property, which included two years of no payments. The sale was investigated by the Ombudsman, who referred his concerns to the RCMP. "Hell, they haven't even paid taxes on the property for two years," says a source familiar with the situation, "and the property looks like it is abandoned, so how are they going to make payments of a quarter a million a year?"

News reports state that Anderson has also approached the government to forgive (or convert to a grant) the \$450,000 loan he negotiated just after SWSDA acquired the property more than decade ago. There has never been an accounting of the monies nor any attempt to repay any portion of the loan. Such a move would require approval of cabinet, which would seem unlikely under the current regime.

**Premier Darrel Dexter** told the assembly and a media scrum following recently that Anderson was largely the cause of much of the economic havoc in this region and that he had no intention of further funding organizations headed up by Anderson. Since Anderson was driven out of Shelburne County economic development recently, the recent creation of **Team Southwest** is seen by many in the region as a concoction by Anderson and **MP Greg Kerr** to further establish Yarmouth's domination of the regional development apparatus. "It's just a way to suck money, time and attention out of Shelburne County and other places, while most of the development funds flow to Yarmouth," said one disillusioned economic development expert.

8may2010: **Drilling for oil and Belliveau's broken word...** Nova Scotia **Fisheries and Environment Minister Sterling Belliveau**, picking up on several years of low-key oil company pressure on the issue, mused a couple of weeks ago about fish and oil being able to co-exist as the deadline to review the Georges Bank moratorium on drilling loomed. That went around the coast here like political oil slick. Belliveau, MLA for Shelburne, had championed the no-drilling-on-Georges campaign. Now, he had "become a politician," and broken his word. >>> [read Ralph Surette's column](#)

6may2010: **Not worth the risk to drill on Georges, says Herald editorial...** with the black eye for the oil industry growing each day visible from space, the full force of the man-made disaster in the Deepwater Horizon rig explosion, fire and spill still not evident, the PR disaster is in full swing and politicians are in full retreat... >>> [read editorial](#).

6may2010: **Renew moratorium now, say Stoffer, Regan and others....** win exclusive interviews with SCT, federal fisheries critic and MP (NDP) from Sackville-Eastern Shore **Peter Stoffer** and Halifax-West (liberal) **MP Geoff Regan** encouraged the