

## Corporate Control – The Goliath vs David battle

Corporate control is increasing worldwide. Amalgamation and corporate take overs have resulted in very few companies controlling whole sectors or product lines. In this way corporations can control profits and amass power. In many ways corporations have become the new monarchies, exerting power and influence over the masses. It is rather ironic that revolutions have been fought to overthrow kings and governments for doing exactly what corporations are being allowed to do.

As John Dalberg-Acton (an English historian, politician and writer, 1887) said “Historic responsibility has to make up for the want of legal responsibility. Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men, even when they exercise influence and not authority, still more when you superadd the tendency or the certainty of corruption by authority.”

Average citizens have great power. The challenge is that the battle against the consolidation of power is on-going and the benefits of resistance are long term rather than immediate. It is hard to see the results of the resistance in the short term. However, is less corporate control not worth the struggle?

If you believe in the rights of the small producer/business owners and the benefits of a diverse economy, that supports local jobs and strong rural communities, then you need to actively support them. You need to think long term and make conscious decisions in support of your long term goals. Even though it may cost more to support a local business in the short term, it has real long term social benefits. When we support large corporations we are assisting them in the march toward the company town scenario, on a global scale. The “I owe my soul to the company store” scenario, to quote a song, is still very real. The difference today is that it is no longer a company town; it is a company city, a company province or a company country. The corporate influence is global and growing.

The old saying that actions speak louder than words, is very true. Politicians react to votes, demonstrations and protests. Corporations react to loss of sales. Saying that you do not approve of the business practices of a company and then continuing to support them financially, by shopping at their store, or buying their products is a contradiction. Stand up for what you believe and make a difference.

I challenge average citizens to unite with other like-minded people. Stand up to government and corporations. Vote with your dollars and your voice.

Marketing Boards are one way to unite and try to wrestle some control back from corporations. Marketing Boards need your support. They need your verbal support to government, your local MLA, your friends and community leaders. They need your emotional and financial support as well. They are fighting on your behalf!

Join us at our AGM on October 11<sup>th</sup> at the Fredericton Inn. Come and show your support of the Marketing Board structure and the private woodlot owners. Make your voice heard.