David Hutton

Introduction as Guest Speaker, Ottawa Centre Rotary Club
David Kilgour
Marriott Hotel
13 February 2012
Ottawa

Before introducing the speaker, permit me to quote the first two paragraphs of Neil Reynolds' column in today's Globe and Mail:

> A Chicago lawyer named Paul Harris organized the world's first Rotary Club- "service above self"- in 1905. He was looking for a way to preserve, in a big bustling 20th- century metropolis, a sense of small town 19thcentury goodwill as he remembered it from his 1870s childhood in Vermont. It seems now, in retrospect, that he found it. With 34,000 clubs worldwide, Rotary is a global get-together with 1.2 million members-and a mission to eradicate polio from the face of the earth.
>
> Remarkably, Rotary has essentially succeeded in doing so. When Rotary International took on the task of wiping out this highly infectious, crippling disease in the 1980s, more than 350,000 people, most of them children, were infected every year. Only 650 people were infected last year—and all of them lived in four countries (Afghanistan, Nigeria, Pakistan and India).

David Hutton

David Hutton is the Executive Director of FAIR (Federal Accountability Initiative for Reform), a Canadian charity whose mission is *to protect whistleblowers who protect the public interest* (Its website is http://fairwhistleblower.ca/) (Full disclosure: I'm on the volunteer advisory board of FAIR.).

David frequently writes and speaks about transparency and accountability, and the vital role played by honest employees who speak out about misconduct in workplaces. He is also a published author and former management consultant, internationally recognized as an expert in management systems and organizational change. In his previous career, he served as a senior executive in industry, led a successful consulting practice for 20 years, worked with clients in many countries, and published two authoritative books on quality management that have been translated and distributed on four continents.

Civil society organizations, including FAIR, Canadians for Accountability and Democracy Watch, all three based in Ottawa, are doing much that is important to better governance in Canada. Don Butler in a Feb. 3 Ottawa Citizen piece(Original article on Ottawa Citizen website) noted in part:

Public servants who disclose wrongdoing invariably face workplace reprisals despite laws promising protection, says the head of an organization that promotes integrity and accountability within government.

David Hutton… said he's received hundreds of calls from whistleblowers since assuming his volunteer position in 2008. "What's absolutely consistent is the reprisals," Hutton said. "It's almost like there was a procedural manual that people pull out…It's the whole array of isolation, harassment, daily humiliation, cutting them out of the communications loop, making their work conditions impossible to the point that their lives at work are just a living hell and they suffer psychological injuries. In some jurisdictions, those who punish whistleblowers can lose their jobs, go to jail and be sued. Australia and the United Kingdom are "decades ahead of us" in comparison to the "absolutely dreadful" whistleblower law in Canada, Hutton said.

I see that Zabia Chamberlain, who is an excellent example of a dedicated public servant of 22 year who was treated outrageously by management, has now been able to join us. She is not a whistleblower-indeed her restraint in not 'going public' about what happened to her for so long is remarkable-but I'll leave it to David to speak about her.

It's a great honour to present to you my friend, David Hutton. David…