

## A look at public-private partnerships

Parksville-Qualicum Beach News

August 8, 2008

To the Editor:

There is a significant difference between a public-private partnership, such as Stanford Place, and a publicly run operation, such as Trillium Lodge - and this difference has a lot to do with the taxpayer's interest.

A public-private partnership is an arrangement whereby the government uses our tax dollars to pay a corporation to provide a service, rather than provide the service itself. The significant difference is this: the primary objective of all corporations is to create a profit which is achieved by spending as little as possible, by providing as little as possible, and charging as much as the consumer can possibly bear.

The exaggerated and wondrous spin that the advertisers put out sells the operation. On the other hand, when the government provides the service via public employees there is no profit objective; the goal is to provide as good a service as is reasonable given the available resources. It makes absolutely no sense that we would get more or better service for our public tax dollars from a private corporation - Stanford Place, private power projects, highway maintenance, or postal service. So let's not do it.

Susan Croskery,  
Nanoose Bay.