

'Vexatious litigant' goes after banks

THE COURTS: Law society wants Surrey man banned from filing lawsuits in court

BY JOHN BERMINGHAM
STAFF REPORTER

A Surrey man taking on Canada's big banks says the banking system may collapse if he wins a class-action lawsuit.

John Ruiz Dempsey — who has been ruled a "vexatious litigant" by the B.C. Court of Appeal and who the B.C. Law Society is trying to ban from the courts — says he is David against Goliath in his B.C. Supreme Court action against banks and credit unions. The father of four said that when the banks give out loans, they don't have any money. They're making computer or bookkeeping entries but don't have the cash.

"They are creating money out of thin air, and they loan that created money to you and me," the 59-year-old said yesterday. "That money is being created illegally." It may be a long shot, but should he win, Dempsey says it could void every loan in the country.

"On principle, John is right. He really has a case," supporter Bruce Margoese said from Montreal. "But he won't win the case, because if he wins the case, we've no banking system."

Dempsey is no stranger to class-actions. He's fighting Revenue Canada, claiming the Income Tax Act was never properly enacted and doesn't exist and is also involved in

lawsuits against the B.C. government on behalf of Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley residents. Dempsey said he has a criminology degree and a law degree from the Philippines but is not a lawyer. And he admits he's lost several homes for not making the mortgage payments, claiming the loans weren't legal.

The Law Society of B.C. applied this month to prevent Dempsey from acting as a lawyer and wants him prohibited from taking legal actions in court. The judge has reserved decision.

Last year, the B.C. Court of Appeal ordered Dempsey to stop filing writs in a B.C. Supreme Court case.

jbermingham@png.canwest.com



John Dempsey is spearheading a lawsuit against banks. RICH ERNST — THE PROVINCE

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