

**Subject: Agenda Item: 2002 Tax Exemption**

**Date:** Mon, 17 Sep 2001 14:14:42 -0700

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**To:** "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@district.north-van.bc.ca>

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Dear Mayor & Council:

Agenda Item: 2002 Tax Exemption

Taxpayers are being asked to forego \$335,000 in municipal taxes on 45 District properties used for anything from dance studios to tennis clubs, childcare & the BC Maritime Employee Association.

I regard this lost revenue as a form of grant by District taxpayers & should be given the same degree of transparency & scrutiny as other community grants awarded by our Community Services Advisory Committee.

This Bylaw was advertised as exempting 'Places of Worship' which of course is a complete exaggeration. Only 2 of the 45 properties fall into this category.

Identification of the beneficiaries was not published on the District's web site, until I brought to staff's attention the glaring omission of fact.

A major omission on the list is the Canlan Ice Sports arena, whose tax exemption rendered that private/public partnership nothing more than a sad joke perpetrated on taxpayers in the form of a secret deal by our land department.

Ask staff how much money the Rec. Commission is saving over the wholesale cost of ice time compared to the retail rate & they can't tell you the answer. Factor in the lost taxes & the savings on ice time disappear. It's another one of those money-losing deals, which the District is so famous.

The bottom line: **ALL District grants**, tax exemptions, donations or services in kind, **should go before the Community Services Advisory Committee**. It is only when all applicants are examined together & in context with each other, can one determine need & justification.

All I'm asking for is fair play in how you dole out our money.

I've brought this to Council's attention in the past & you have taken no action. I will persist in bringing this item back until you act. You can bet your political lives on it.

Yours truly, Dave Sadler