

**Subject: [Fwd: Way to Go Staff & Council]**

**Date:** Thu, 04 Apr 2002 13:08:49 -0800

**From:** Brian Platts <brian\_platts@telus.net>

**To:** Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

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**Subject: Way to Go Staff & Council**

**Date:** Thu, 4 Apr 2002 00:04:32 -0800

**From:** "Dave Sadler" <davesadler@telus.net>

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

**CC:** "FONVCA" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, "Councillor Doug MacKay-Dunn" <macdunn@dnv.org>,  
<lmuri@dnv.org>, <jharris@dnv.org>, <hdunsford@dnv.org>, <ecrist@dnv.org>, <dbell@dnv.org>,  
<bdenault@dnv.org>

Dear Mayor, Council & District Staff:

Congratulations on this evenings Financial Workshop, which combined with last weeks presentation from the Citizens Budgetary Finance Committee has provided Council with valuable insight into District finances. It's too bad that this information wasn't provided in this format when Council first took office.

In regards to some issues which were bantered about this evening:

In the referendums of '96 (LV Library) & '99 (Dollarton Bridge), the public were provided with cost estimates. I believe these were taken at face value as to the cost of these projects. As estimates now far exceed what the voters originally approved, I believe the District has a moral obligation to put the questions back before the electorate in a referendum this November. I'm disappointed that the artificial turf field was also not addressed in this manner.

I do not believe it prudent that chemical industries should be located in an urban environment. As such I believe that they should be subject to an environmental tax or categorized in a different & higher tax class. Hopefully the increased revenue would provide some tax relief to the remainder of the waterfront industrial group. However I continue to have concerns over the export of sulphur from the North Shore and it's effect on air quality & human health.

Regarding the state of District reserves, I can not agree with the Mayor or District staff that they are at 'reasonable' levels. This is contrary to all other GVRD municipalities with the exception of Delta. Considering we have the second lowest per capita reserves in GVRD, we are kidding ourselves if we think they are adequate. This is especially true considering our geographic circumstances & the increased potential of risk. We're situated on the side of mountains in the middle of a rain forest. We're faced with debris hazard flows, more snow & rain, bridges etc. as well as the unknown effects of climate change which predict even greater precipitation. In my opinion, the District should have one of the highest per capita reserves in the GVRD rather than the lowest. Instead of \$300 per capita I believe they should be \$600 per capita minimum, which is nowhere near the top end of the GVRD scale.

Regarding Northlands Golf Course, it is this Council which has betrayed the spirit & intent of the agreement by improperly diverting their substantial profits from the last two years to general operating rather than back to the Heritage Fund.

However, I believe District residents should get a break. In that regard I support Councillor Denault's idea to provide preferential booking times. I do not believe that the offer need to be extended to NVCity residents. It is a simple task to make a directory of District Only addresses. Further, I don't believe residents should be hard pressed to produce a drivers licence to prove they do reside in the District as they produce their Visa card. Assuming local golfers may play more frequently than those travelling from Surrey, a frequent user card could also be offered. Failing that, enter the names of all golfers & issue District residents a free voucher after so many games.

The GST issue was unnecessarily confusing. The rate comparison should have had the GST removed in all cases. The bottom line is that Northlands is proposing to increase fees 7%.

I did not understand the 2002 Tax Rate Options but look forward in reading Mr. McCormick's report.

Thank you for providing the hand-outs. I suggest this should be a matter of course for all public meetings.

Those are my comments. I hope Council will continue with their initiative to control spending while increasing revenues. I strongly recommend that the issue of subsidies be addressed in the near future as they too are clearly out of control and need prioritising.

Yours truly, Dave Sadler