

Subject: Response to letter from Mr. William H Cassidy dated Jan 7-2003

Date: Tue, 7 Jan 2003 23:15:10 -0800

From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: "Nathalie Valdes" <Nathalie_Valdes@dnv.org>

CC: "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Directors Team" <managecomm@dnv.org>, "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Dear Mr. Cassidy;

I very much appreciate your letter and update on BC assessment policies and examples of unfairness of assessments on the North Shore and in the District in particular.

You will recall that this item was dealt with by Council before including on at least one occasion when you appeared before Council as a delegation. Council appeared to be impressed by your detailed knowledge as well as by your sincerity and presence. The evidence you presented was overwhelming that the whole BC assessment policy as it applies for the District is eminently unfair. This was evident beyond any reasonable doubt. The general trend appears to be that the greater the value of the home the less the assessment relative to its market value. This is another way of saying the more modest your home the more you pay.

Council, as I recall, supported your concerns in the form of a letter to BC Assessment. I also remember that in its reply BC Assessment attempted to explain this phenomena away in a manner which was less than convincing. This is quite apart from what, on the surface at least, appeared to be a far heavier per capita administrative burden for District residents compared to other assessment jurisdictions.

Since this is a newly elected Council I suggest that you bring your concerns before Council directly along with up to date examples of your concerns. While it is technically true that this issue is outside our municipal jurisdiction, I believe it is imperative that we, as elected representatives at the local government level, bring this matter to the attention of the appropriate authorities again.

I suggest you get in touch with the Municipal Clerk to make the necessary arrangements to appear before Council as a delegation. Council policy allows a five minute period for such purposes. It will enable you to present your case to Council directly. If you feel that this is not sufficient, you may ask the Clerk for an extension. This of course is up to Council.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to our attention. I have sent a copy of your letter to the Federation of North Vancouver Community Associations FONVCA.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

