

Subject: Release of the Northlands (Wolrige) Audit to the public.

Date: Wed, 21 May 2003 10:10:23 -0700

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Notice of Motion - Northlands Audit - Report Councillor Crist.

That Mayor Bell release the Northlands (Wolrige) Audit forthwith as committed to by the Mayor in public and in line with the responsibilities of Council to provide open and transparent government to the residents of the District of North Vancouver.

Rationale:


The District of North Vancouver has recently been rocked by the "Northlands scandal". According to press reports an employee of Don Mac Holdings, a company contracted to provide services for the operation and maintenance of the Northlands Municipal Public Golf Course, is alleged to have embezzled the District taxpayers in an amount of up to \$300,000. The results of the criminal investigation have, as yet, not been completed and/or have, as yet, not been released.

Independent of the investigation conducted by the RCMP and in an attempt to provide a full and open account of all financial transactions of public moneys and assets, the District Council, in response to public demands, hired a private firm to conduct an independent audit of the Northlands operations.

This audit was completed several weeks ago. Following completion, Mayor Bell committed in public to release the results of the audit. However, so far he has failed to live up to his commitment. Indeed even Council has as yet been denied access to the Wolrige report.

Failure to do so has had a serious adverse impact at least on the appearance of the integrity of District Council as well as District staff. Recent actions by the Mayor in connection with the termination of the employment of the Municipal Manager Gord Howie, in which Mayor Bell informed the manager, that he (Bell) will recommend to Council that the employment of Mr. Howie be terminated without consulting with Council first, have added to widely held suspicions that instead of openness surrounding "Northlands", there is an attempted cover-up. Notwithstanding the validity of such suspicions or otherwise, failure to release the audit is extremely damaging to Council as a whole.

In an effort not only to provide but also be seen to provide open and transparent government and "come clean" of the suspicions surrounding the "Northlands scandal" it behooves Council to challenge Mayor Bell to release the (Wolrige) Audit to the public forthwith.

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