

**Subject: RE: Water Rates**

**Date:** Wed, 10 Nov 2004 17:55:49 -0800

**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>

**To:** "wdl" <wdl@3web.net>

**CC:** <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>

Sir/Madam:

Since you did not sign your email, I do not know how to address you. However, in response to your question about water rates and why the rates in the District are \$ 100 dollars higher than they are in the City of North Vancouver - this is exactly the same question I asked of staff during our last Council debate which was televised live. The answer I got from staff was that the District is much larger than the city and the distances much greater whereas the city is more compact.

Whether you accept this explanation or not is up to you. I am merely telling you what I was told. I also asked the question whether the liquidation of our Infrastructure Reserve Fund originally set up to pay for such expenses and which in 1997 was \$ 1,100 per capita but is now virtually zero, played a factor in these high rates and the answer I got was similarly vague.

I do know that the City has a per capita Infrastructure Reserve Fund of \$ 1,300 while that of West Vancouver is \$ 1,700 per capita. That money or the interests generated by this Fund takes care of much of the capital cost for renewing the infrastructure and indirectly impacts the water rates whereas in the District with this money gone, it will have to be added either directly or indirectly to the taxes and/or water rates.

The danger of liquidating both the Heritage Fund and the Infrastructure Reserve Fund has been alluded to by myself and community activists on numerous occasions in the past but the residents of the District were largely silent.

However, if you get in touch with Dr. Corrie Kost of FONVCA he will be more than happy to explain the situation in more detail to you I am sure. Dr. Kost has followed this issue for many years and is probably the best authority on the matter. All I can say is that I have pointed to the dangers of liquidating this Fund for many years but without success.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

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