

Subject: [Fwd: URGENT MESSAGE: Western Stevedoring taxation issue: Newsletter and request: City Mayor Barbara Sharp]

Date: Sun, 22 May 2005 19:08:24 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: URGENT MESSAGE: Western Stevedoring taxation issue: Newsletter and request: City Mayor Barbara Sharp

Date: Mon, 16 May 2005 20:02:08 +0100 (BST)

From: Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

To: Mayor Lois Jackson and Council <clerks@corp.delta.bc.ca>, Mayor Herb Pond & Council <hpond@princerupert.ca>

CC: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>, Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>, fonvca@fonvca.org

16 May 2005

Good Morning:

Most of you will be familiar with the recent decision of the BC Assessment Appeal Tribunal which is the subject of this email.

In brief, the Tribunal has decided that, between them, the City and District of North Vancouver must return \$2.6 million in taxes paid by Western Stevedoring for the years 2002, 2003, and 2004. They have been given less than one month to repay the amount, 40% of which will go straight back to the provincial and federal governments in taxes. If it stands, the decision will set a precedent and the Western Stevedoring operation is not the only industry on the North Shore waterfront.

In addition to the obvious, this decision gives rise to several difficulties - the crux of which is the question: If we must pay it, where is the money to come from, how is it to be raised?

Following months of review, revision and public input, the City and District 2005 budgets have already been established and approved. Yet in each community, the rebate equates to just over a 2% hit on property-tax rolls. Are the two councils, can the councils, should the councils amend their budget bylaws? Do the councils, instead, cut back on services to the tune of over a million dollars? Do they defer commencement of important capital projects?

Another subject to be dealt with is the matter of municipal services provided to the Ports waterfront industry - water, sewer, fire and, most of all, policing services.

Today, this issue directly affects two North Shore municipalities. Tomorrow, however, it is likely that waterfront industry in every port community in British Columbia will cite this precedent against their local councils.

My letter today, is to petition every port community in BC to stand behind the City and District of North Vancouver in their appeals against this arbitrary decision.

Additional information can be found online at:

www.cnv.org/c//DATA/1/259/2005%2005%2010%20MAYOR%20SHARPS%20NEWSLETTER%20APRIL%202005.PDF by contacting City Mayor Sharp or District Mayor Harris directly. Also, I am confident that District CAO, James Ridge would be pleased to assist and he can be reached at: "James Ridge, CAO" <james_ridge@dnv.org>

Your early response would be much appreciated and I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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