

Subject: [Fwd: Recreation facilities in the DNV and the the civic strike.]
From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>
Date: Thu, 30 Aug 2007 09:36:37 -0700
To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Recreation facilities in the DNV and the the civic strike.
From: Ernie Crist <criste@shaw.ca>
Date: Thu, 30 Aug 2007 00:27:47 -0700
To: fonvca <fonvca@fonvca.org>

The editor:

The recent civic strike in the DNV is behind us. Most people will agree that, on balance it was a win for all of us. Compare what happened in the DNV with the mess in Vancouver where Sam Sullivan and his big business NPA are clearly hell bent on teaching their workers a lesson at the expense of risking the health of Vancouver's residents.

The question is who will win the upcoming battle about our public recreation facilities in the District of North Vancouver? Will it be those who have failed to provide leadership or even contrived their demise, or will it be the residents with whose money and for whose benefit they were built?

This battle will be far more complex and will have far reaching implications for all of us including even our recreation staff whose jobs are on the line.

District recreation facilities continue to deteriorate for lack of capital maintenance. The issue goes to the very heart of the way the District has been run for the last 20 years.

The City of North Vancouver spent in the neighbourhood of a million dollars annually on maintenance but the District with nearly 3 times as many facilities spent only \$600,000 annually. This was not enough and was so stated.

Year after year District Council was told by staff that a minimum of \$ 1.5 million is required annually for normal maintenance. If this is not done the facilities will deteriorate beyond the point of practical use it was said. Even the District manager said so in his report to council. Numerous resolutions to prevent the inescapable outcome, including by me were ignored.

There are only two choices left. One, either the facilities will have to be rebuilt costing hundreds of millions of dollars at a time when the District is close to bankruptcy or the District twill be looking for takers at giveaway prices. This will undoubtedly be done in the name of Public Private Partnership. Either way it will be costly for District taxpayers.

It is no secret that, unlike public facilities, private facilities have only one function and that is to maximize profits. The scenario will be a repetition of the health care scene in British Columbia where more and more people suffer as a result of not having the money to pay for rising health care costs once affordable or free altogether.

What is the more regrettable is that all efforts to make public recreation part and parcel of the preventive health care system and make fees for public recreation tax deductible was also nixed. This is why the term

contrived is totally appropriate for what could possibly make more sense than instead of sending people suffering from stress related illness to public or even private recreation centers for exercising rather than give them medication.

Ernie Crist

Recreation facilities in the DNV and the the civic strike..eml

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