

Subject: North Van City OCP / Recipe for Madness

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Dear NSN Editor: Nov. 23 /01

North Van City OCP – Recipe for Madness

The City of North Vancouver's new Official Community Plan should be cause for alarm to all North Shore residents who value their quality of life. The Plan calls for expanding the population from 47,000 to over 62,000. The growth will occur at a horrendous annual rate of 3%. Checking world population statistics, I discovered only 12 (out of 151) countries, all of which were classified as 3rd world, exceeded the City's annual rate of growth.

NVan City wants to build another West End in Lower Lonsdale without the benefit of a Stanley Park. People are being housed in postage stamp sized apartments without sufficient park space. I'm not surprised there is a lot of crime. According to the A.G.'s Police Services Division, the NVan City has the 9th highest crime rate in the GVRD, while neighbouring North Van District & West Van are the lowest at 19th & 20th.

Citing a lack of sufficient green space in the area, Council recently nixed an exciting outdoor youth facility including a climbing wall. This is somewhat perplexing, as the City owns significant land in lower Lonsdale. Why build high rises on public land, when it should be used for more parks?

Fifteen thousand more residents will add 10,000 more cars to our local roads & bridges. City Council points their finger to the Seabus & Lonsdale Bus Terminal, yet only 12% take transit. What about the other 88% who use their cars & join the commute? Moreover, the latest proposal by Translink will solve nothing. Because of skytrain, by 2009, 39% of Translink's budget will be used to service debt, leaving nothing to improve transit on the North Shore.

Of major concern to our ageing population will be the effect on our medical services. I am aware of no plans to expand Lions Gate Hospital or any other facility. Considering the chronic backlog for surgery, it would seem cruel & irresponsible to exacerbate the problem by adding more & more people to the overburdened system.

Contrary to the belief of some politicians, development is not a right, it is a privilege. Under the circumstances, growth should be limited to less than 1%. Massive development should not be allowed unless accompanied by supporting infrastructure. Fix transportation & health care before allowing more densification!

I hope North Shore residents who care about their liveability will speak out against this madness, before the Plan is approved.

Yours truly, Dave Sadler