

**Subject: Oink! Oink!**

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Dear Editor:

May 22, 2001

Council Benefit Package

The last time Council voted themselves a raise, it caused much consternation amongst District taxpayers. It was regarded as unacceptable that elected officials should award themselves a pay increase. Oink! Oink!

Because of the hue & cry, Mayor Bell promised that this issue would be addressed in the future by referring the matter to a public committee whose decision would be accepted by Council.

Not surprisingly this promise has been broken. Following the trend of this Council to undermine the public process (Whey-au-wichen & Seymour Local Plan), disregard public opinion (Budget 2000 & Larco) and attack FONVCA (Federation of North Vancouver Community Associations), Council has voted itself a whooping raise.

Depending on family status, Councillors voted themselves a new benefit package worth up to \$4300. A councillor's taxable wages will increase 10% for a single, 18% for a couple, or 23% for a family.

The issue came up late on Council's agenda when the public gallery had all but emptied. The issue was obviously too much of an embarrassment for Councillor Muri who without explanation, vacated Chambers when this item came up for debate, but who returned after the vote.

It is interesting to note that the same issue came before NVan City Council a month earlier. Recognizing the conflict of elected officials voting themselves a raise, the issue was properly referred to a public committee.

Mayor Bell's distasteful handling of this affair is yet another incident for the District's Hall of Shame.

Yours truly, Dave Sadler

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