

**Subject: Recreation Fee increases**

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Notice of Motion:

That the Chair of the North Vancouver Recreation Rec Commission be requested to appear before Council to report on the proposed fee increases for 2002/2003.

Rationale:

The Rec Commission is once again increasing fees. The increases will become effective in Sept 2002 and follow hefty increases during the last few years. These increase have been far above the cost of living index and include a 54% increase for Senior fees in 2000.


These increases are taking place at a time when the Commission is moving farther and farther away from the concept of providing services to extend optimum health benefits to the maximum number of people at minimum cost. An example is the allocation of swimming lanes in pools. While adults, frequently urged to exercise by their doctors are crammed into 2 lanes, individual lessons are frequently provided at a one lane one client basis.

The one client, one lane, lesson approach has allowed the Commission to build up a large bureaucracy paid for by the District taxpayers. While only a few children taking lessons may be occupying 4 lanes, the many adults are forced into 2 lanes with the result that they simply leave the pool area. This is the exact opposite of the concept of accommodating the maximum number of people to achieve maximum health benefits and encouraging adults to swim and exercise.

This is but one example of the growing discrepancy between the Commission's mandate to serve the many who are subsidizing the Commission to the tune of \$ 6 million annually. It is but one example of the fact that the Commission is mismanaged and is totally out of control.

The two District Council representatives to the Commission have failed to inform Council of the Rec Commission's decision to increase fees. In light of the importance of public recreation as an integral part of preventive community health care, this matter should be dealt with during a regular Council meeting as part of a public debate as has been done in the City of North Vancouver.

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