

January 24/2002

From: Corrie Kost
2851 Colwood Dr.
North Vancouver, V7R2R3

To: Mayor & Members of Council
District of North Vancouver

Re: Elimination of clear plastic bags for yard trimmings.

Your Worship & Members of Council,

The following question, by Points of View Research and Consulting was conducted in a telephone survey to gather reaction to the proposal to eliminate the use of clear plastic bags for our yard trimmings.

It led to a 90+% positive response. However, on reading the question put to the public I have concerns that the whole truth was not revealed. The results are thus highly suspect. The question phrased was:

The North Shore's weekly curbside yard trimming collection program had been a huge success with more than 8,600 tonnes of yard trimmings collected in 2000. Removing these yard trimmings from the garbage stream has helped our community divert 49% of our waste from going to landfill or incineration.

But due to inflation, the costs of the program have increases to the point where our community needs to make some changes to make sure the amount paid by taxpayers for the service does not increase. At the same time, your municipal government recognizes that the yard trimming collection program is important. In order to reduce costs, your municipality is considering eliminating the use of clear plastic bags for yard trimmings collection. Weekly collection would continue and residents would have the choice of using reusable standard sized 77 litre garbage containers or biodegradable kraft bags, or both, but not clear bags. Bundled branches would still be acceptable.

The municipalities would issue free "yard trimmings" decals for residents to place on their cans to identify

these as "yard trimmings containers" and there would be no limit to the number of decals a resident could have.

The benefits to the taxpayer would be.

-a savings of \$90,000 by eliminating the cost of cutting open the plastic bags.

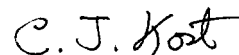
-an environmental savings by removing the plastic bags from the waste stream

However, ignored was the added annual expense imposed on the taxpayers - which can readily be shown to far exceed the savings resulting from the proposed changes. Due to the limited number of reusable containers at the disposal of the average residence, even the occasional use of heavy, expensive Kraft Paper Bags is both economically and environmentally a step backwards. The excuse "*that there is only so much information you can give over the phone*" is unacceptable.

Please justify this change taking into account the total economic and environmental factors.

In addition, in a memo to DNV Mayor and council, dated January 14/2002, by Allen Lynch, Manager, North Shore Recycling Program, it clearly indicated the intent to impose additional charges on those who produce more yard trimmings. This may encourage some to do more composting, but it would encourage others to reduce the source of these yard trimmings. This is contrary to our policy to keep the North Shore green. On the one hand we encourage others to keep their trees and bushes - while now we punish them for doing so. Consider carefully what you are doing - you might just get what you wished for.

Yours truly,



Corrie Kost

cc: Mayor Ron Wood, West Vancouver
Mayor Barbara Sharp, City of N. Vancouver
FONVCA