

**Subject: Budget Meeting Saturday Jan. 12, 2002**

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I for one want to extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to all citizens who made submissions at Saturday's District's Budget meeting.

A special bouquet to Dr. Corrie Kost, and Mr. John Hunter.

Their contributions were well researched and touched on the fundamentals of the District's fiscal and management problems, including that the District has the highest residential taxes in the Region, to mention but one example. Such information has traditionally been dismissed as unfounded or expressions of ill will. The evidence can no longer be dismissed as "going off on a tangent" as has been the case only far too often. This new recognition will provide the groundwork for future meaningful changes in the running of District affairs.

The contributions of Dr. Kost and Mr. Hunter are even more admirable considering that both speakers were subjected to provocations, an experience which I have to endure frequently. That the Mayor applies two yardsticks in running meetings was once again revealed in no uncertain terms.

The old adage that truth fair and democratic procedure are the first casualties of poor government or worse was borne out once again.

I find it extremely disconcerting that instead of being grateful that we have citizens who are willing to devote both effort and time to provide input including critical input, such persons are being subjected to abuse. That the Chair allowed this to happen is further evidence of some serious shortcomings.

Notwithstanding the above, it was a good meeting for the simple reason that quite a few members of the public took the trouble to show up and provide valuable input this includes representatives of the Lynn Valley Seniors as well as others.

Ernie Crist

