



February 6, 2002  
File: 3010-01/09.1

Mr. Dave Sadler  
277 Roche Point Drive  
North Vancouver, B.C.  
V7G 2G4

Dear Mr. Sadler:

**Re: Formal Complaint (District Leasehold Properties)**

You are welcome, and thank you for the compliment in your February 5, 2002 letter as we do strive to provide timely responses to complaints. We also try to distinguish the rhetoric, the accusations, and the personal attacks from fair comment. Because you seem to have difficulty separating fair comment from your apparent need to attack people, I am obligated to further respond.

In this case we will address the issue from the perspective of fair comment which rightly identified the inaccuracy of Mr. Sigston's comment on the rate of return on one segment of the district's land lease portfolio. As you are well aware Mr. Sigston was answering a spontaneous question in the budget workshop of January 12, 2002 and was trying to be helpful by answering a question from memory. Mr. Sigston, in retrospect, should have deferred answering until he could provide a response based on his department's reference material on district leasehold properties. His answer constituted a representation of what he believed to be true. This constitutes "thoughtful response" by my standard.

After the meeting he checked the files and discovered the discrepancy between the actual figures and what he believed to be true. Upon discovery on January 14, 2002, he immediately brought the matter to my attention at which time it was decided we would correct the record at the public presentation that we had been planning to do for Council and the public on the district lease policy for some time. The presentation was received by Council on January 28, 2002 during the televised Council meeting.



The rate of return stated during the January 28, 2002 presentation corrected the January 12, 2002 discrepancy. By my standards this demonstrates Mr. Sigston's commitment to set the record straight for Council, the public and the organization.

Incidentally, the rate of return figures have been public since the October 3, 2001 report on district leasehold properties provided to Council for information and recirculated with an update on January 14, 2002. The recirculated report was also attached to the district's January 22, 2002 response to your formal complaint.

On the issue of performance, Mr. Sigston will continue to be reviewed on the basis of his overall performance. In general he is an outstanding performer and any adjustments required for improvement will be addressed in the context of the district's performance review program.

Your reference to Mr. Sigston's information as being misleading and deceptive is not fair comment. By my standards there was no intent to mislead or deceive Council or the public. Mr. Sigston made an honest mistake, therefore, the request for you to withdraw and apologize for accusing Mr. Sigston of misleading and deceiving Council still stands.

And finally with respect to my standards being called into question, I would tread very lightly in that regard if I were you.

Yours truly,



Richard Zerr  
Director of Planning, Engineering, Parks & Regulatory Services

Cc: Mayor Don Bell  
District of North Vancouver Council  
G.M. Howie, Municipal Manager  
A.S. Hilsen, Municipal Clerk  
D.G. Sigston, Manager – Regulatory Services  
FONVCA