

**Subject: [Fwd: Lynn Valley Library]**

**Date:** Wed, 31 Jul 2002 12:45:59 -0700

**From:** Brian Platts <brian\_platts@telus.net>

**To:** Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

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**Subject: Lynn Valley Library**

**Date:** Tue, 30 Jul 2002 20:37:21 -0700

**From:** "Dave Sadler" <davesadler@telus.net>

**To:** "FONVCA" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Dear NSN Editor:

July 30/02

The proposed Lynn Valley Library should give all District residents pause for concern. This was part of a 1996 referendum package approved by the narrowest of margins: 51% to 49%. Moreover official District referendum advertisements at the time portrayed the library as costing \$6 million & not the \$14-\$35 million bandied about today.

The track record of the District on other mega-projects is less than stellar. Canlan Ice Sports is frequently held up as the 'shining star' of a public/private partnership. The District leases 25% of the available ice time through the NV Rec Commission at a bulk rate. Long after the public consultation, the District quietly exempted Canlan from paying property tax on its 3 ice surfaces. When this loss of revenue is factored in, the actual cost of ice time far exceeds fair market value. Not a very good deal for District taxpayers!

Northlands Golf Course illustrates how easily politicians can betray the public's trust. A Citizen's committee agreed to fund construction with a \$12 million loan from the Heritage Fund on the proviso it was repaid with interest. The District has broken every aspect of this agreement. Part of the loan has been forgiven, the interest rate reduced & repayments postponed when the facility lost money. Since turning a profit, our spendthrift Council has re-directed almost \$1 million in loan repayments to cover their own budgetary shortfalls.

District incompetence was clearly evident in the Dollarton road re-alignment project. Lack of due-diligence saw construction begin before the road's land assembly was complete. While their private partner wrangled over the missing link with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, taxpayer money was tied up in useless asphalt for two years instead of collecting interest in the bank. The lost interest, legal fees and extra cost of building the road in fits and starts will cost taxpayers almost \$500,000.

Recently Council postponed the long awaited Lower Capilano Community Centre, a relatively straight forward \$3 million project, also part of the 1996 referendum. It has become mired in conflict of interest & questionable behaviour in trying to select a project manager & architect. To avoid another embarrassing election issue, the community centre has been mothballed until 2003. Considering the escalating cost of the Lynn Valley Library, I wouldn't be surprised to see it scrapped altogether.

I don't believe District Council or their management team has the business smarts to pull off a \$35 million public/private partnership deal. They have betrayed the public's trust in the past & can be expected to do so in the future. Remember the last public private partnership promoted by this pack of politicians was 35 double-sided 10 foot by 20 foot billboards scattered throughout our community.

I believe District voters should decide the Lynn Valley Library this fall through referendum. After all, we're the ones who get stuck with the bill. At the same time, to restore trust & responsible municipal government, a clean sweep of District Council is required.

Yours truly,

Dave Sadler

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