

**Subject: Response to letter form Mr. Bruce Higgins re North Shore Winter Club surcharge for repairs.**

**Date:** Sat, 15 Nov 2003 15:53:24 -0800

**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>

**To:** "Nathalie Valdes" <Nathalie\_Valdes@dnv.org>, "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James\_Ridge@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>

**CC:** "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>, <MayorandCouncil@cnv.org>, "Heather Fleming" <flemingh@northvanrec.com>, "Gary Houg" <HougG@northvanrec.com>, "Audrey Diamond" <DiamondA@northvanrec.com>

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Higgins:

A number of Winter Club Curlers who are None Winter Club members and have been affected by the illegal surcharge by the Winter Club for repairs, appeared before Council in support of the motion I had submitted re this issue.

My motion was that the Winter Club either absolve the None Winter Club Curlers from such charges and/or that they be reimbursed by the North Vancouver Rec Commission for this amount.

My rationale was that District residents are already subsidizing the North Vancouver Rec Commission by close to \$ 6 million annually and by City residents by over \$3 million annually. This is over and above the fees the Rec Commission charges. It was also because the affected Curlers were unceremoniously evicted from a public facility notwithstanding that most of them were North Van residents and are paying taxes for those facilities. The Curlers were evicted to make room for a private club. This is apart from the fact that the surcharge by the Winter Club is contrary to the existing contract.

Unfortunately District Council refused to accept my motion. Still, as a result of my efforts, but primarily because there was a delegation from the Curling Club present to protest, Council was compelled to take further action.

It is truly unfortunate that you, as a residents of the District, felt obliged at the time to pursue your curling activities elsewhere in order to protest against the insensitive action by the North Van Rec Commission at the time. You may recall that I opposed this measure but the rest of the District Council, some of whom are still on Council, supported this step.

I wish to congratulate all the curlers who appeared before Council to speak against this latest attempted injustice and I want to congratulate you also for writing a letter of protest. I also want to bring to your attention that you do not have to wait until the item comes up for debate by Council to speak since an opportunity to do so on any given item is provided between 7 and 7.30 pm before Council meetings start. I am informing you about this in case you wish to have your input on the matter recorded.

I will send a copy of this letter to the Federation of North Vancouver Community Associations, FONVCA, to the North Shore based Coalition for Accountability in Government Spending, CAGEBC, as well as to my own list.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

