

Subject: [Fwd: Re: FW: Notice of Motion - Bank of Montreal branch in Lynn Valley.]

Date: Mon, 29 Sep 2003 14:30:26 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Re: FW: Notice of Motion - Bank of Montreal branch in Lynn Valley.

Date: Mon, 29 Sep 2003 18:01:15 +0100 (BST)

From: Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

To: Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>, "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Dear Clr. Crist:

This issue, I think, justifies further investigation. The availability of convenient banking services of one's choice is essential to the smooth-functioning of any community.

Last week, I had occasion to visit both the Royal Bank and CIBC branches on Lonsdale Avenue....the Lynn Valley Branches of which are closed on Mondays.

When leaving the CIBC branch, I saw an informal 8 1/2 x 11 sheet on which was the message, "Welcome to all our Parkgate customers..." What an insult. To expect that Parkgate bank customers should have to travel over from a considerable distance up Mt. Seymour Parkway, for the 'privilege' of doing business with their bank - and being charged hefty fees to do so - is an insult.

In simi8lar fashion, I wouldn't doubt that many Credit Union customers are not that happy with having to access that business on the busier side of Lynn Valley Rd. with all of the traffic/parking problems at the 1200 Lynn Valley Rd. site. {On an aside, how much longer will MDS lab facilities be available to Lynn Valley if the traffic situation is not solved? Right now, the lab is way under-used because it's easier to access the traditional Lonsdale facility]

I'm not sure what influence Council can bring to bear on these bank decisions, since banks are, in a sense, private businesses. Nevertheless, perhaps Council could use some of Clr. Nixon's arbitration devices to 'suggest' to banks that their behavior is less than 'service-minded'. Does the District have any way of 'requiring' a certain level of commitment to a community in return for zoning and business licence permission?

I doubt it, but something sure needs to be done.

Sincerely,
Liz James

Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org> wrote:

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Ernie Crist

> Sent: September 26, 2003 6:19 PM

> To: Nathalie Valdes

> Subject: Notice of Motion - Bank of Montreal branch in Lynn Valley.

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> Motion - Report Councillor Crist

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> That the Mayor be requested to send a letter to the President of the Bank of Montreal urging him to re-open the North Vancouver Lynn Valley Branch.

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> Rationale:

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> Lynn Valley is the largest neighborhood in the District and has close to 20,000 people, many of whom are seniors.

The concentration of seniors is especially acute in and around the Lynn Valley Mall where many of the Senior Housing projects are located. This same area is also the home of many lower income people without single vehicle transportation capability.

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> Until approximately a year ago the Bank of Montreal had a branch in Lynn Valley close to the Mall, which it closed with the result that the nearest branches are now in the Inter River area or on Lonsdale in the City of North Vancouver which, for many seniors, is too far and too inconvenient to access, transportation being one of the problems. The Bank of Montreal did open a booth at one of the food stores in the Lynn Valley Mall but this is not the same as a regular branch where regular transactions can take place. The advantage of having a Bank Branch in Lynn Valley was that people could walk to and from their dwelling units to the Bank, save on gas, be relieved of parking problems and cut down on traffic.

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> The concept of having a Bank Branch in one's neighborhood is also in line with the District's neighborhood and development philosophy which stated that neighborhoods shall be self-contained wherever possible. Unlike other municipalities the concept of sustainable and self contained neighborhoods is based on neighborhood driven development as opposed to developer driven development as is the case in other municipalities where this concept and the subsequent livability and quality of life have been seriously challenged.

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