

Subject: Statement of Financial Information for Fiscal 2002

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Your Worship & Members of Council,

The District of North Vancouver held a Special Meeting of Council on Monday June 23/2003 in which agenda item #1 was to deal with the approval of the Statement of Financial Information for Fiscal 2002. I had previously commented that there should be some time interval between the public access to the Financial Statement and when it would appear as an agenda item at a Council meeting where the public could comment. The Community Charter, to come into effect next year will require 14 days for the public to examine the Statement before there would be a public meeting.

So what did the District do? Council failed the test of leadership by not allowing the public an opportunity to examine the statement before adopting it. In an unprecedented move, the document was released just minutes before the Council meeting, without allowing any public input, then when tabled, adopting it with not one word of debate! Needless to say, the published Council agenda did not indicate that public input would not be allowed on this item. Some accountability! Some leadership!

The relevant report has now been posted on the District web site at:
http://www.dnv.org/upload/documents/Council_Reports/00212.pdf

What struck me most was:

- how much certain staff members are being paid
- the apparent lack of accountability when numbered companies are listed as receiving payments
- the inclusion of roads as "physical assets" ... that the district may borrow against?
- the \$5 million difference between 2002 Actual and Budgeted Revenue listed as "Other"
- some \$14 million difference between Actual and Budgeted for "Fund Balance"

There are numerous other questions, but without an open forum the public (and I suspect Council as well) will be kept uninformed. I can only hope that someday we will have true accountability in local governance.

Yours truly,

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Cc: FONVCA / OUTLOOK / NSNEWS

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