

Subject: [Fwd: Ambulance Service East of the Seymour River]

Date: Wed, 19 Mar 2003 15:51:44 -0800

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Ambulance Service East of the Seymour River

Date: Wed, 19 Mar 2003 14:26:31 -0700

From: Allan Orr <allandorr@shaw.ca>

To: daniel.jarvis.mla@leg.bc.ca, Colin.hansen@gems6.gov.bc.ca, eric_g_andersen@hotmail.com, councildnv@dnv.org, fonvca@fonvca.org

Mr. Dan Jarvis, MLA
North Vancouver Seymour.

March 19, 2003

Re: Ambulance Service East of the Seymour River.

Dear Mr. Jarvis:

At the March 12 joint meeting of the Blueridge and Seymour community associations we reviewed the issue that response time of the B.C. ambulance service is often considerably behind that of the local fire service. The primary reason why Seymour residents are at a disadvantage in receiving prompt emergency ambulance service is that the ambulance service is based at Lions Gate Hospital.

Seymour residents may be in a precarious position with respect to receiving emergency ambulance service because any serious congestion around the transcanada highway delays all traffic moving east and west. Seymour residents are frustrated by this situation. It has economic implications as well for the east-west movement of goods coming to and from this area.

We are aware that District Council has brought to the attention of the Provincial government the need to establish an ambulance site east of the Seymour River. We have many seniors in this area who are at risk when the ambulance service is unable to reach them promptly. As well, Seymour attracts many recreational users from skiers to bikers who place themselves at risk on occasion and must be serviced. Of special concern is that the community of Woodlands is vulnerable because of its distance from Lions Gate.

There are close to 24,000 residents in Seymour who have an equal right to the services of paramedics who have the highest level of training in order to deal with medical emergencies. As you know, hundreds more people are slated to move here in the future. As population increases in Seymour, the need for a local site for the emergency response services of the paramedics becomes more vital.

The B.C. Paramedics have stated 'paramedics reach 90% of the most critical emergency calls in less than 8 minutes.'² (Vancouver Sun, March 19, p. B14) In ideal conditions a resident in Deep Cove or Woodlands would probably not see paramedics in under 25 or 30 minutes. In times of peak hour congestion travel times will be longer. In the case of an earthquake or other disaster, Seymour residents would be without the services of paramedics until a helicopter or a boat arrived.

Please consider and try to act upon these concerns.

Yours truly,

Allan Orr, Chair Seymour Community Association.

cc. Colin Hansen, Minister of Health
North Vancouver District Council
Eric Andersen, Chair of the Blueridge Community Association
Federation of North Vancouver Community Associations

