

**Subject: [Fwd: Input]**

**Date:** Sun, 16 Nov 2003 18:22:05 -0800

**From:** Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

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

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**Subject: Input**

**Date:** Sun, 16 Nov 2003 16:41:38 -0800

**From:** John Harvey <joharv@vcn.bc.ca>

**To:** dnvCouncil@dnv.org

**CC:** FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>

First, - Just a friendly info piece that may be of interest to you –

In that to multiply - 111,111,111 x 111,111,111 comes to

12,345,678,987,654,321

Dear DNV Council & Fonvca, As the weather this weekend is pretty wet, I am taking the time to give more of my input in respect of North Van thoughts.

Due to time, I hope to follow up from time to time from this part input

I have unfortunately not as yet given much input with regards to past experience etc of the North Van Recreation Commission. With their received approx 6 Million subsidy I find it amazing that Dist Council members other than Cllr Crist do not want to fully review this organization in detail as millions are **poured here every year**.

However before getting initially into more detail, I feel I have to first make comment on an outside agency's that possibly due to them receiving core funding do not attempt to make comment and how they themselves should be involved.

The outside agency. - The North Van Chamber of Commerce.

This is one of the core funded agency's I have indicated earlier to Council for assessment.

An organization that was recently attached by Catherine Barr on behalf of N.Van.com in that they were not fulfilling their mandate to support local business's.

Recent publicity has to me has shown how lacking in accountability C of C have been.

Does the District Council etc really need these people. Mr Wayne McIntyre has now replaced the outgoing Judy Ainsworth. The staff make up, somehow includes Yvonne Perrault (daughter of City Cllr Barbara Perrault). This lady somehow first appeared at another core funded organization – namely N.Van Arts Council some time ago, without any Arts background that I know of. Then somehow she moved on to another Core funded organization – The N.Van Chamber of Commerce. In Nov 2002, to me somehow desperation was surrounding C of C, apparent that Mayor Sharp may lose her Mayorship to Bill Bell in the upcoming local election

Connections to the Chamber appeared to make anti Bill Bell remarks. I say no more.

However, in respect of the Chamber, -- **to their supporting business claim**.

Why when the Golds Gym make complaint some time ago of the business taxes they pay that goes towards subsidizing the Rec Commission. Why then did not the Chamber of Commerce appear before Council in backing them and other fitness business's in respect of this taxation etc area? No, they were not to be seen.

C of C have amazingly supported a cap on ports business tax here.

Which duly happened. But, But, But, the Washington group who took over Cates / Seaspan etc and who built the fast ferries at increased costs, then amazingly found the approximately \$19 mill Canadian to buy, at a questionable Auction, the whole THREE fast ferries. What a complete give away.

The comment I have heard is the Washington Group are just waiting to eventually flip them. Time will tell.

So does the District need to core fund this Chamber of Commerce Agency.

Two questions are. 1. How many business's operate in North Van.?

Some thoughts are must be around 5,000. So from this.

2. How many business's are members of the Chamber of Commerce.? Is the response of around 800. ? So why are these remaining business's not members. ?

What are the membership fees ? What are the benefits.? All are proper questions.

We realize that during the June to Sept months C of C operate the tourist booths.

One in the District – off Cap Road. One in the City – adjacent the Sea Bus.

The question is – does the District's role here need to be reviewed..?

The answer from my view point is Yes.

That the N.Van Chamber is to be informed that the District's core funding in 2004 is to be withdrawn. But, that to support the small Tourism aspect, that the District will currently support the District tourist office by allowing the land and the tourist office to remain. Possibly on a non profit lease basis of \$1 per year, this subject to review.

That the new Executive Director (if that is the title) Wayne McIntyre is expected to mount a full N.Van campaign to have all business's become members of the Chamber.

From their business income, they will then possibly continue undertaking (without any core funding from the District) the operation of the Tourist Office on Cap Road.

If it's their own business interest, then they will.

Also, personally I think if for some unforeseen incident – Ie: Property burnt down etc, that reluctantly I would have to say very little tourist reduction difference would be observed here from our part of the Vancouver tourism scene aspect.

Note, the Lonsdale Quay tourist area decision would be the responsibility of N.Van City.

However, not to be forgotten is the District's (sorry to say – overpaid ?) appointment of Laura McMaster, Arts, Culture and Tourism (and since added Film !!! ?)

I am unsure what everyday work Laura does. Therefore if this staff position is to be continued then I can see no reason why Laura, if Council decide, on her own or plus any Dist Social planning or environment staff cannot assist here, in this **only part** year area, which assists to allow for the removal of core funding from District coffers.

If the City then follows the Districts lead and also removes core funding, then Laura can possibly be associate hired out to the City to offset her annual District salary.

Finally, the Chamber has again if I am right, obtained a freebee down on West Ist with brand new offices and expensive furnishing. No comment -other than just stating a point.

I feel I am entitled to write the above as at one time I was the North Van Arts Council Rep to the Chamber of Commerce and attended meetings at the old Chamber office.

So Chamber get your membership etc in order and come and represent business's at Council and the Rec Commission and School Board etc.

School Board - part input - re lack of Accountability of Rec Commission etc.

First, due to claimed Provincial cuts the School Boards are having to respond to budgets.

So last week I attended the second half of the School Boards public meeting at Carson Graham. Whether any City or District Councillors initially attended I do not know.

But the only North Shore people I saw was Mayor Bell (who later left near the end) and Ralph Sultan from West Van. I saw no other City/Dist elected official in attendance .

I attended because I live in North Van and in one way Premier Campbell by his current policy of cuts has **eventually sometimes** (unfortunately not all) forced those with power to really take stock of where past monies have been spent and to be thoroughly reviewed.

What publicly emerged, to which I had been stating **some time ago** to Rec Commission staff and a crap publicly unknown Sports Council, **was the acknowledgement and admittance that the gymnasiums etc were and have been under utilized for some considerable time.**

So at last among the suggestions was that basically the School Board would be in contact with the Rec Commission to **offer investigation of these after school facility's.**

The b-s I had when past trying to obtain the then becoming vacant Memorial Gym for a popular additional sport not available on the North Shore, that there was a Gym shortage as Junior Grizzlies were needing additional space and basically not entertain was a joke.

So ladies and gentlemen, have you currently heard of the Junior Grizzlies organization.

Who runs this ?. Where do they operate ? Never even saw them at a pathetically political Sports Council meeting. Why was not my request for the underused school gym facilities not properly followed up. Is there no overpaid staff - report. ?

**To be continued.            Respectfully,    John Harvey.**