

Subject: [Fwd: Re: FW: 2004 Municipal Taxes]

Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2004 11:58:17 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Re: FW: 2004 Municipal Taxes

Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2004 18:29:50 +0100 (BST)

From: Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

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

CC: Senior Management Committee <managecomm@dnv.org>

13 April 2004

Dear Clr. Crist:

There is another, extremely onerous, component to the overall taxation picture which has not been mentioned here - GVRD.

The taxes/fees/levies imposed by GVRD and its component parts are being suffered by all 21/22 municipalities in the region, yet citizens have virtually no control over or input to regional decisions. Of particular note, of course, are the fees imposed by GVWD and TransLink. In fact, in the context of paying for regional services - or, indeed, for dog licences, building permits or the like - I believe use of the words *fees* and *levies* should be discontinued. Let's call them what they are - taxes.

The same applies at the provincial level. The Liberals tell us over and over again that they "gave" us all a tax cut. Well, yes, they did - an *income* tax cut. For most of us, however, that cut was immediately eaten up by an increase in PST but, more importantly, by an increase in *taxes* to use or enter provincial parks, monthly *tax* rates for the Medical Services Plan, in ferry fare taxes for the highway extension to Vancouver Island, and a deduction of services rendered - physiotherapy, chiropractic and Pharmacare. There are other examples, but these will suffice.

All in all, my prediction is that British Columbians - especially those in the GVRD - will discover that their tax freedom day has advanced from last year's July 3rd to an effective July 15th.

My other prediction is that taxpayers' backs are only millimetres away from the wall - and, personally, I can't wait for the collision. When it happens, maybe the people will wake up from their collective sleep at the switch - maybe.

Cheers,

Liz

Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org> wrote:

-----Original Message-----

From: Ernie Crist

Sent: April 12, 2004 9:12 AM

To: 'Corrie Kost'; Don Bell2; Janice Harris; Lisa Muri; Maureen McKeon
Holmes; Alan Nixon; Richard Walton; Agnes Hilsen

Subject: RE: 2004 Municipal Taxes

Dear Dr. Kost:

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention. Both you and I know the reasons for this phenomena. These are difficult times for municipalities. At the heart, first and foremost, is Canada's constitutional backwardness which treats municipalities with little more respect and independence than medieval chattels. This despite the new Community Charter which turned out to be nothing more than yet another hoax perpetrated on the public like so many others before and since.

However, we also know that the number one reason for the consistently high tax increases in the District of North Vancouver is the plague of incompetence taking hold of the DNV some 12 years ago, give or take a few years and which includes among others, the Heritage Fund fiasco - just to mention one.

However, I suggest that, in addition to making Council aware, you bring this matter to the attention of the press. It is always possible that at some stage the local media will expose this DNV phenomena with the same diligence as they do issues of lesser importance.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

-----Original Message-----

From: Corrie Kost [mailto:corrie@kost.ca]

Sent: April 11, 2004 11:04 AM

To: Don Bell2; Ernie Crist; Janice Harris; Lisa Muri; Maureen McKeon
Holmes; Alan Nixon; Richard Walton; Agnes Hilsen

Subject: 2004 Municipal Taxes

Your Worship & Members of Council,

I want to remind council that a 5% increase in municipal taxes would again exceed what most (if not all) other Lower Mainland municipalities are proposing.

Using the mill rate of 3.30842 (stated at the April 7 Council workshop) would result in a 7.2% increase in municipal taxes for my modest home.

Your truly,

Corrie Kost

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