

**Subject: December 2nd E-Mail - Copy to FONVCA for Posting**

**Date:** Tue, 21 Dec 2004 21:59:15 -0800

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

**To:** Ernie Crist <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>

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

**Federation of North Vancouver Community Associations**

Mandate: *"The Federation is a forum for the common concerns of member associations and its purpose is to strengthen these organizations through the sharing of information and experience."*

Dear Councillor Crist:

As part of FONVCA's regular monthly agenda there is an item concerning "non-posted correspondence" whereupon the membership reviews incoming e-mails that have been 'flagged' for discussion as to whether or not to post on our web site.

On the correspondence page it states quite clearly that, *"The FONVCA web site is intended to promote the free exchange of information and opinions. Content of messages sent for posting should enhance the debate of district issues."*

The policy states further that, *"all correspondence will be posted, unless the author explicitly requests that it not be posted, or in the opinion of the secretary of FONVCA that it is inappropriate to do so. In the latter case this correspondence will be distributed at the next regular FONVCA meeting for a final decision. Note that if a named third party (which would normally also have received a copy of the email) requests the email not be posted then FONVCA would consider that request at its next meeting (and in the meantime not post or unpost it as appropriate)."*

On December 2nd you copied to FONVCA (and others) an e-mail concerning the Lynn Valley town Centre project. In this particular case, a named third party objected to the e-mail and as FONVCA's secretary I agreed the letter in question should be reviewed at our December 16th meeting.

When the letter was read-out and discussed, FONVCA members unanimously agreed that some of the language used was inappropriate and offensive. Moreover, it was concluded that the e-mail did not promote the free exchange of information and opinion, but rather, was seen as an attack upon a member community association and certain named volunteers. In light of this, it was further agreed that the letter would not be posted.

FONVCA felt it was important to write to you and explain this decision and our policy on posting correspondence. I can assure you the decision on your e-mail was not taken lightly, but in this case we believe that if posted, the e-mail would serve only to impugn the reputation of dedicated community volunteers and the community association to which they belong.

Sincerely,  
Brian Platts  
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