

**Subject: [Fwd: Re: Surrey has the fastest growing rate of drug incidents in Canada]**

**Date:** Tue, 23 Mar 2004 16:39:42 -0800

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

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

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**Subject: Re: Surrey has the fastest growing rate of drug incidents in Canada**

**Date:** Tue, 23 Mar 2004 18:38:21 +0000 (GMT)

**From:** Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

**To:** Ernie Crist <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>, "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, Cagebc@yahoo.com

**CC:** Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>, Senior Management Committee <managecomm@dnv.org>

23 March 2004

Good Morning, Clr. Crist:

An interesting email - the more so because I did not catch the Province article. It provides us with a snapshot of the larger picture in the Lower Mainland. If they were not included, it would also be useful to take a look at the statistics in the two Langleys and Abbotsford.

Moreover, because Chilliwack is beginning to ramp up its own rate of development, it would behoove that community to begin monitoring now, in order to maintain control and to nip problems in the bud....no pun intended!

It would be worthwhile, I think, to follow up your email with two actions:

1. To have Mr. Ridge send a copy to his counterpart in the City. I know some members of that council are struggling with the issues of growth-rate, density and development; the information could be helpful to them in their deliberations; and.....
2. Also, it would be enlightening to have reports from TransLink, GVRD and the police as to a micro-shot of what has happened to the areas directly around Expo and Millennium-line stations. We know they have becoming gathering spots for both crime and drug-related incidents but the general public in the region has little idea as to the seriousness or otherwise of the problems that have erupted. How do they compare with the general experience?

Although we have gone wanting for TransLink to release *expert* analysis as to the ideal mix of transportation technologies for the region, my own impression is that an at-grade, hop-on/hop-off LRT system would provide much less opportunity for crime and hidden-from-view drug transactions, than does SkyTrain.

As with most everything else, though, we are deficient in accurate information upon which to base valid assumptions.

Thanks again,  
Liz James

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#### A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

A recent story in the Vancouver Province sheds some very interesting light on the social consequences when the philosophy of fast growth takes hold in a municipality. It should be of interest also to the District of North Vancouver Council as well as its staff and the residents of the District.

When it comes to drug incidents, fast growing municipalities are outdistancing slow-growing municipalities, such as the District of North Vancouver, by a wide margin. It is no coincidence, therefore, that the drug incidence rate in the District, with its slow growth rate, should, judging by the statistics, also be the lowest in the region or even the province when it comes to crime.

Fast-growth municipalities cannot cope with drug problems and subsequent crime as well as do slow-growth municipalities. West Vancouver may be an exception, for although it boasts some growth, its drug-incident rate is one of the highest in the Region. On the whole, however, it seems that slow-growth communities are better equipped to handle crime than faster growing communities.

This may have something to do with increased alienation. Surrey does not have the highest drug-incident rate. That distinction is reserved for White Rock where it is 866 per hundred thousand of population, followed by West Vancouver with 842 and Richmond with 651. Both White Rock and Richmond are fast growing, however. But Surrey with 531 has the fastest growth of drug-incident rate in the region, it was revealed.

We already know that, in addition to the fastest growing population, Surrey has the highest drug-incident rate in Canada. It should,

therefore, not come as a surprise that it also has the highest crime rate, for the two are obviously closely related. The District of North Vancouver with a mere 179 drug incidents per hundred thousand of population by comparison is the lowest on the totem pole, not only in the region but in the province as a whole.

It stands to reason that if the pro-development forces in the District had won the day - and it was certainly not for lack of trying - the situation would be different today. They came close and they still have considerable support, both in and out of Council. Community-driven development as enunciated in the District Community Plan and a policy supported by the Federation of North Vancouver Community Associations has been the difference, I dare say. As it is, the District, has a mere 179 cases, while the City of North Van has 458. This is a dramatic increase in the City of North Van since the increase of high-rises.

It is something Planners, politicians and ! residents in the District and all those who are thinking of turning the District into another West End, Surrey or Richmond may wish to think about when the issue of community-driven and, subsequently, sustainable development [as opposed to developer-driven development] rears its head again.

As for the perennial affordable housing issue, it has already been exposed for what it is - a hoax which has done nothing either for the community or for the people who need truly affordable housing.

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