

Subject: [Fwd: BURNABY MAYOR THANKED FOR BLOWING THE WHISTLE ON SECRET RAV DEAL]

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Subject: BURNABY MAYOR THANKED FOR BLOWING THE WHISTLE ON SECRET RAV DEAL

Date: Sat, 27 Mar 2004 01:19:34 +0000 (GMT)

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MEDIA RELEASE

BURNABY MAYOR THANKED FOR BLOWING WHISTLE ON SECRET RAV DEAL

The *Coalition for Accountability in Government Enterprises* is thanking Burnaby Mayor Derek Corrigan for blowing the whistle on at least part of the secret wheeling and dealing behind closed GVRD/TransLink doors.

"We have known that something serious was afoot since the February 27 GVRD vote," said *Coalition* Chair, Liz James.

She went on to explain that, when GVRD Finance Chair, West Vancouver Councillor Victor Durman decided to vote against approval of TransLink's 3-year/10-year plans, it was because the TransLink Board had been discovered to be withholding important financial information from GVRD directors.

"Today, Mayor Corrigan has shown us more of the picture; we applaud his actions and thank him for uncovering at least part of the plot," said James.

The *Coalition* contends that, if a referendum or, at the very least a counter-petition, is allowed, those GVRD directors who voted to approve TransLink plans on Feb. 27, contravened important sections of the Local Government Act. Moreover, she claims they can be held personally responsible for so doing.

The intent of the LGA clauses in question, is to prevent citizens from being bound to an agreement which extends beyond five years, beyond a certain dollar amount and beyond the life expectancy of an activity or service. James recalled that the Districts of Maple Ridge and North Vancouver have fallen afoul of these sections of the Act in the recent past.

"One could have hoped by now that council members on GVRD or TransLink committees who voted to approve the plans would have been more alert to the risks they were taking," she suggested.

The *Coalition* believes the GVRD directors who made up the 57 weighted *Yea* votes on February 27, should be polled again to determine whether they wish to confirm their position.

"Our guess is that at least some of them now realize they were denied full and accurate information upon which to base their decision.

"In light of today's disclosures - thanks to Mayor Corrigan - let's hope they're prepared to recall their votes and do right by the taxpayer," she said.

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