

**Subject: Financial Workshops - "Rebate" programs**

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Your Worship & Members of Council,

There are three Provincial/Federal government "rebate" programs that have, to date, been given little attention at the Financial Workshops held by the District of North Vancouver. The first involves the Provincial rebate of the Traffic Fines - amounting to about \$500,000 for the DNV, while the second involves the Federal GST rebate of a similar magnitude. The third involves a gasoline tax rebate - amounting to 1cent/litre, starting April 2005 and expanding to 2 cents/litre by 2009. The latter amounts to some \$2Billion/yr across Canada by 2009 - approximately \$150/household). Each "rebate" is mandated to be spent according to the rules and conditions spelled out by the respective governments.

Given the above background, I would like to see a public debate (preferably with input from District taxpayers) on how these funds will be spent. Specifically, policies need to be discussed and determined on the dispersal of these funds. Needless to say, since the taxpayers ultimately paid those GST's, it is my opinion that this rebate should flow directly back to them in a form of a tax cut. I look forward to discussions and the rationale which would see that particular rebate used in a contrary manner.

Of equal interest is how the Traffic Fines rebate will be dispersed. According to Premier Campbell's announcement at the UBCM this rebate should be directed to "enhance crime prevention, traffic safety & community policing". Note that the "amount of money a particular municipality receives will be based on its share of total municipal policing costs. Those who spend more on policing will receive more funds." The latter is a quote from [http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/nrm\\_news\\_releases/20040TP0070-000747.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/nrm_news_releases/20040TP0070-000747.htm) According to the Hon. G. Campbell, the commitment to disperse the funds will take place prior to May 17/2005. I look forward to council discussing (in an open forum) the policies which will determine the specific dispersal of the Traffic fines rebate.

Finally, the gasoline tax rebate - initially amounting to some \$75/household needs some discussion - if only on principles and possible feedback to the Federal government.

In summary, I urge members of council to bring forward the discussion of the above three "rebate" programs.

Yours truly,

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