

**Subject: Council Remuneration**

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

**To:** councilremuneration@dnv.org

**CC:** FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>

In response to the appeal by the *Council Remuneration Task Force* for public feedback, I would like to state for the record that I am strongly in favour of a significant increase in the mayor's salary. The position of mayor should be considered a full-time position, with the remuneration commensurate with the required duties and responsibilities associated with the job.

If one were to account for the rate of inflation in the years since the last increase in the mayor's pay, I believe the level of remuneration today would be approaching \$80,000. But more than anything, we should consider that our mayor is essentially the CEO of an annual \$100 million-plus corporation. As we move forward into an increasingly uncertain future we must therefore be able to attract the very best mayoralty candidates with applicable life experience. If we expect our mayor to forgo what could otherwise be a sizable private-sector salary, then we can not expect him or her to be unduly penalized financially because of the desire to serve the public.

When it comes to the position of councillor, I also believe a sizable increase in remuneration is warranted. In my view, however, the position of councillor is a part-time position (although I am not opposed to those who choose to make it a full-time position). The level of remuneration for councillors should strike a balance between attracting the best candidates and compensating them accordingly, with the desire not to exclude those who would like to remain in the workforce.

In closing, I would urge the Task Force to include in its final report, a recommendation that any increase in Council remuneration be made effective in 2006 following the November '05 Civic Elections. And further, that some sort of mechanism be put in place to automatically adjust the annual level of remuneration to the rate of inflation, together with an overall periodic review of remuneration levels.

Sincerely,  
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