

Mayor Pamela Goldsmith-Jones and Council members
District of West Vancouver
#750-17th Street West Vancouver V7V 373

December 13, 2009

1610-20-4414/
1603-00
(3)

Dear Mayor and Council members

RE. OIL TANK REMOVAL PERMIT FEES

From information obtained from the newspapers I see that the above issue is being reviewed by municipal council at this time.

I would like to make my thoughts known on this issue. First, In the fall of 2008 I was made aware of the potential environmental impact that an oil tank might have on the environment if it had not been properly decommissioned. Accordingly, being concerned for the environmental impact, I proceeded to arrange for the identification and location of any tanks on my property a personal residence at () in West Vancouver.

I was advised that a permit would be required from the District. I was more than shocked to that the cost of this was \$535 including GST. I had anticipated a small fee such as \$50 or \$100. To be very frank, I was somewhat angry at what appears to be not only a rip off but an negative approach to what is being touted by the "District of West Vancouver" as an environmentally friendly Municipality. As a resident of West Vancouver, I pay property taxes and correctly believe that the cost to process the permit and maintain information is included in the taxes I pay.

It will also be noted that neither the District or City of North Vancouver charge for a permit to remove an oil tank. They do however encourage the removal of oil tanks and do not penalize their residents for good environmental management practices.

Several other residents who obtained permits are also very upset. It is not equitable where the municipality is penalizing current residents who are trying to correct a potential problem and be in compliance when prior generations of owners were responsible. In fact to be fair ,when the District first started with the oil tank recording project it should have taken precipitatory action at that time.

I would suggest the following be implemented if West Vancouver Council is really trying to to be environmentally friendly and wants the co-operations of the citizens who live here:

- 1) That the fee for the Permit for Oil Tank removal be reduced to a nominal amount of say \$25 for owners who are residents of West Vancouver. Corporate developers would pay a fee for a tank removal on a redevelopment site.
- 2) That the reduced rate be made retroactive for all such Permits issued in 2008 for owners who are residents in West Vancouver. Corporate developers would commence paying a higher Permit fee commencing in 2010.
- 3) That those residents that have already paid for a permit in 2008 and 2009 be refunded the difference and have it applied to either the Property tax account, utilities account, or if the District wishes in the form of a cheque to the payor.

Many-Thanks for you consideration of the contents of this letter.

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cc: Fire Chief Jim Cook
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