

May 14, 2015

To: Gail Given, Chair, Regional District Board of Directors, Central Okanagan

Wayne Carson, Regional Director, Central Okanagan West,

This letter is intended to bring to your attention a number of concerns that directly impact our community. The role of the North Westside Community Association is "Working with our members and our local government partners to provide services built by the community for the community." In this capacity, it is our mandate to provide you with a list of community concerns in the expectation that you will forward them to Central Okanagan Regional District management with a directive to resolve them to the satisfaction of the community.

Our first issue is in regard to the new signs that have been placed on our Killiney Beach Fire Hall, the Shorts Creek Fire Hall, and the Fire Boat House. The KB Fire Hall was built in large part by community monies and volunteer labor, with financial input from the RDCO for the final phases; the Shorts Creek Fire Hall was built with monies received through Ridgeview Developments and the labor of community volunteers; the Fire Boat House was built with partial funding from the community. The new signs featuring "Central Okanagan Regional District" with minimal acknowledgement of the participating community are misleading and an injustice to all those individuals who contributed to the building of these community assets. The Regional District **must** remove these signs immediately and replace them with signs that properly acknowledge that these are community assets, and represent the strong sense of volunteerism that exists in Central Okanagan West. As an option, should the RDCO wish to purchase these buildings to make them true RDCO assets, then the proper steps must be taken.

The second issue is in regard to the condition of two of our community parks in the North-West area. At Killiney Beach the beach road is narrow, and covered with potholes which get larger and more numerous every year. This road was last maintained approximately 10 years ago. The dust raised by passing vehicles is a major health concern; during the summer, when the beach is heavily used by local residents and tourists daily, the dust levels are a constant irritant, making the experience of enjoying the beach or trying to picnic extremely difficult. In addition, the hydro pole situated by the Fire Boat House simply doesn't belong on the beach. The BC Ministry of Environment informed the community over three months ago that the pole was to be removed, but to date nothing has happened. The taxes assessed in the Central Okanagan West for parks raise a substantial amount of money annually, so it is not unnatural that we feel that we should be receiving more investment in local parks other than the basics of garbage disposal and some weeding. The community, through a Community Advisory Committee for Parks, submitted a list of projects to the RDCO prior to the budget process this spring, and yet the only item that appeared from that list in the 2015/2016 budget was an electrical hook-up for Westshores Community Park, something that was promised would be installed almost three years ago. There is no water fountain in Westshores Community Park, but there is a bright, shiny plaque that lauds the contributions of various levels of governments to the building of the park but omits the names of the community members who were the driving force behind the creation of the park. There was no consultation with the community on the plaque or its' placement, and indeed it is situated in a location that could be dangerous to children running on

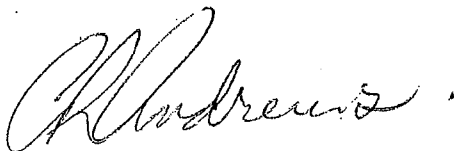
the main grassy area. One more example of the blatant disregard of the RDCO for the contributions of the community to what the RDCO considers "their" assets.

Our third issue is the amount of \$3,200 we are being charged for servicing the tax monies received for the Killiney Beach Community Hall. The involvement of the RDCO is minimal, consisting mainly of cutting one cheque each April for the tax revenues, reviewing the annual 5 year budget prior to the RDCO budgetary process each fall, and reviewing the annual financial statement at the end of the fiscal year. Our community voted for an additional assessment to be added to each property tax bill in order to support the general maintenance and capital investment for the community hall service area, not to add more tax dollars to the coffers of the RDCO. If there is a reason for us to be charged what amounts to approximately 15% of the total tax monies collected, (and we have been told represents .01 of a person year), we require a complete accounting of where this money was spent, and a justification for withholding these monies up front. If this accounting is not forthcoming, the withheld amount is to be forwarded to the Community Association within a month of this letter.

We expect full accountability from the RDCO for the expenditures made with Central Okanagan West tax monies. We will be submitting a request to the Provincial Government for an independent forensic audit on where our communities' tax monies are being spent. We have carefully reviewed the Regional District Central Okanagan's 2015 Budget and Financial Plan (General Revenue Fund), and we suspect that our tax dollars are being disproportionately expended out of our local service area. It is very clear to us that there is a serious lack of local governance. The single voice of our elected representative is silenced by the majority on council, particularly when voting on issues that are strictly local to our area. The community has no say, and is unable to exert any influence on how our tax monies are being spent or on how our communities are being developed and maintained. The gross increase in our local water bills over the past two years, and the lack of information from the RDCO on expenditures and future plans is a prime example of lack of consultation with the community on issues that affect all of us. Lack of community input prior to decisions for major expenditures is not acceptable.

Director Carson, you have been elected to represent our community, and we are cognizant of your desire to represent us and our concerns to the Board of the Regional District of the Central Okanagan and the staff of the RDCO. A community meeting is, organized by the Board of the North Westside Community Association is planned at the Killiney Beach Community Hall on June 4, 2015 at 7 pm. We request that you join us at this meeting to answer our questions and provide feedback on our issues.

Thank you for your support of the Central Okanagan West and the North Westside Communities specifically.



Bob Andrews
President
North Westside Communities Association