



July 5, 2007

Lower Mainland Mayors and Councils OK with Big Wage Increases for Themselves

Even though municipal employers and GVRD bargainers insist on concessions and resist reasonable wage increases for civic workers around the region, most Mayors and Councils had no problem voting for big pay increases for themselves in recent years.

Most of the last, now expired, CUPE municipal collective agreements around the Lower Mainland had a term of 2003 to 2006. CUPE wage increases during those four years were 2.5%, 2.5%, 2.5% and 3% (as of April 1, 2006). Those increases are quite a bit less than the amounts many municipal Mayors and councillors awarded to themselves.

Here's a round-up of some of the pay increases municipal councils voted themselves between 2003 and 2006:

City of North Vancouver:

In September of 2005, the Mayor's salary was increased **16.7%** while salaries for councillors were increased **21%**. In April of 2006, the salary for Mayor and Council was increased a **further 2.3%** to \$81,384 per year for the Mayor and \$28,152 per year for councillors. One third of the salaries for both Mayor and councillors is tax exempt.

District of North Vancouver:

The Mayor received a **43%** wage increase to \$85,000 per year in January of 2006. One third of that salary is tax exempt. Pay for councillors went up **40%** to \$34,000 per year (also one third tax exempt).

Delta

The pay for the Mayor of Delta was increased **9.1%** in 2004/05, while councillors had their pay increased **8.71%**. In April of 2006, Delta Mayor and councillors increased their pay by a further **10%**, for a total increase since 2004 of **19.1%** for the Mayor and **18.71%** for councillors. The Mayor's salary in 2006 was \$85,437 per year (one third of which is tax free) while councillor pay was \$33,590 (also one third tax exempt). Currently, the Delta Mayor is also Chair of the Greater Vancouver Regional District. For that role, she is paid an additional \$47,600 per

year by the G.V.R.D. Councillors in Delta are also now eligible for a \$250 per month car allowance.

Vancouver

The 2007 salary for the Mayor of Vancouver is \$122,358 and is taxable. Councillors are paid \$53,902, which is also taxable. Councillors are also eligible for \$2,243 per month for every month served as Deputy Mayor. Pay for council members is based on the average wage of a person employed full-time in the Vancouver area. The Mayor's salary is 2.27 times the salary of councillors. Pay is automatically increased on January 1st each year to reflect the formula. The Mayor's pay increased **2.66%** in 2007, while councillor remuneration (including pay as Deputy Mayor) went up **3.1%**.

Richmond

Richmond Mayor and Council increased their pay **27%** in June of 2006. The Mayor's salary is now \$92,000 per year (one third of which is tax exempt) while the councillors are paid \$41,000 per year (also one third tax exempt). Salaries for the Mayor and Council are automatically increased each year to match the Consumer Price Index and are reviewed every three years (next review 2009).

White Rock

Salaries for White Rock Mayor and Council were increased **28%** in December 2006. The Mayor's salary is \$54,200 (one third of which is tax exempt) while the councillors are paid \$23,600 per year (also tax exempt). The Chair of the GVRD Labour Relations Bureau is Stewart Peddemors, a councillor from White Rock.

Coquitlam

Coquitlam Mayor and Council received a **25%** pay increase in February 2004. This was followed by a further 5% increase January 2007. These two increases took the annual pay of the Coquitlam Mayor to \$98, 655 (one third of which is tax exempt) while pay for councillors is now \$37, 562 (one third also tax free).

New Westminster

Pay for New Westminster Mayor and Council was increased **26.5%** in December 2006. At the top of the range, this takes the annual pay of the New Westminster Mayor to \$83, 595 (one third tax exempt) and councillors to \$29, 510 (also one third tax exempt).

Burnaby

Burnaby Mayor and Council received a **3.77%** increase in 2003, **2.5%** in 2004, **2.1%** in 2005 and **2.56%** in 2006. Burnaby Mayor and Council pay is increased each year based on a formula that uses a combined average of the Vancouver Consumer Price Index, the B.C. average weekly wage increase and wage increases for members of CUPE Local 23. The 2006 increase took the Mayor's annual salary to \$90,057 while councillors are paid \$40,026 (also one third tax exempt).

G.V.R.D.

Mayors and councillors from around the region who sit as Directors of the G.V.R.D. receive a payment for every Board and committee meeting they attend. In February of 2004, this per meeting payment was increased by **60%** to \$200 per meeting. This amount was increased by a further **22.5%** to \$245 per meeting in October of 2006. That's an increase of **82.5%** over the last three years.