

# Lions Gate Waste Water Treatment Plant ('WWTP') Support

By: Kerry Morris - April 25, 2015



It's 7:00 AM on April 24th 2015, and the North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce is holding its annual breakfast meeting with the three North Shores MLA's, to discuss what is happening politically within the Province.

A pre-submitted question via the chamber asks for an update regarding Federal and Provincial support for the pending Lions Gate WWTP rebuild project. The question goes to Jane Thornthwaite, and the lead-in is packaged with recognition of her tireless work in bringing about the recently announced Hwy #1 interchange upgrades in NVan District, and the fact that it is Federal election season. The crux of the question is in relation to whether the Federal and Provincial Governments

will soon announce a positive decision to fund the WWTP project, which is being pushed hard by Metro and our own local mayor. For those that can't wait, the short answer is 'NO', the funding is not on the way.

Jane tells the assembly: 'When my phone rings its most often someone asking me when were going to fix the traffic mess. When I talk to Andrew Saxton (he lives near me), it's usually while on my way to work as we both complain about being stuck in traffic (Jane, what are you doing texting/talking while driving?). Do you know how many email's and phone calls I get saying to me; we really need to fix that WWTP. None!'

And it isn't hard to understand Jane's comments. The WWTP isn't sexy. It isn't front and centre in most our lives. In street vernacular: 'Shit flows down hill', and as long as it continues to do so most people won't even understand the need for change other than a need generally to lesson our impact on ocean dumping, contamination of our seas and beaches and the ongoing damage to our environment. The WWTP is not on our daily radar. It's not sexy.

Jane goes on to speak about the fact the deadline for rebuilding the Lions Gate WWTP has been imposed on BC by the Federal Government and that: 'We're going to have to push to have that deadline moved back further'. Code for; 'There is no money on route for this \$650 million project.'

Ralph Sultan is asked to weigh-in on this issue, and generally on the issue of further Federal funding announcements for BC. He explains that he has spoken to Mayor Mike Smith's people, coaching them to get a funding application in to the Fed's for several million dollars for beach restoration projects, given the recent oil spill. Ralph has been working the phones with the Fed's greasing the skids so his community can make lemonade-aide out of what amounts to a truck load of lemons (black-oil) dumped on our local beaches recently by the Marathassa. He tells us the stars are aligned for that request to be funded. Ralph is probably the most capable MLA we have in the entire province but lost a Ministerial portfolio, taken away by the Premier, as penalty for his refusal to resign his seat so the Premier could run in a by-election there when she failed in her initial election bid.

So that's it folks, until the pipes plug and the flow of shit no longer follows the basic rules of gravity, or the Squamish Nation kick us off the property (unlikely), the funding for the new Metro WWTP is not going to be forthcoming. Jane also commented on Metro's need to endorse, in a greater way, the P3 redevelopment model desired by both the Feds and the Province. This initiative is attempting to force the WWTP expertise we already have within Metro to contract off design, development, funding and operation to a third party like SNC-Lavalin or others, as we have done for TransLink. Do we really want to model our well run Metro WWTP operations after TransLink? Arguably one of the most dysfunctional administrative mechanisms we have in the Lower Mainland!

So hold your nose, the WWTP project is going to backup, and until the shit on our beaches is not just Bunker, we're unlikely to see any real improvement. Income splitting or a new WWTP, which would you prefer? VOTE!