

Nancy Van Insberghe
Temporary Address: #200 - 2232 Marine Drive, West Vancouver, B.C., V7V 1K4

November 9, 2005

Mayor Janice Harris,
District of North Vancouver,
355 West Queens Road
North Vancouver, B.C.
V7N 4N5

Dear Mayor Harris:

Re: January 19, 2005 Landslide, 2430 Chapman Way

I was completely devastated to be told in the last few days that the District may no longer be willing to purchase my home at 2430 Chapman Way, as both the District and the Province promised three months ago.

As you know, the January 19, 2005 landslide came within twenty feet of destroying my home as it did my next door neighbours', the Kuttners. Of the nine homes that were promised to be purchased, two actually are on the hillside – the Kuttners and mine; the others are either at the top of the slope or at the bottom of the slope. If the landslide had hit my home, or if a future landslide were to hit my home, it would almost certainly be fatal.

Although the January 19, 2005 landslide did not directly hit my home, it resulted in movement of the land underneath my house and structural cracking and distortion of the frame of my house.

As I stated before, I cannot live in my home for fear of another slide. I do not believe that anyone else would live in that home. The home is virtually unsaleable, particularly now that, right outside my front door, the District has built a huge catchment basin surrounded by a chainlink fence, part of which occupies what used to be my front yard.

If you wish to picture what it looks like, please look at the front page of the August 18, 2005 North Shore Outlook. The picture shows the catchment basin and the landslide, with Mr. Daniel Jarvis, MLA standing on what remains of my front lawn.

On July 21, 2005, I was called to a meeting with Mr James Ridge, the District's Chief Administrative Officer, and Mr. Jozsef Dioszeghy, the District's Director of Engineering Services, at which Mr. Ridge told me that the District was going to buy my home. I was subsequently called by our MLA, Mr. Daniel Jarvis, to say that my home was to be bought and that the funding would come through the Provincial Emergency Program.

On August 17, 2005, MLA Daniel Jarvis and John Les, the Provincial Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, announced that there would be a full buy-out of nine homes, including mine, at market value.

On August 18, 2005, The District issued a Media Release announcing the purchase of the nine homes, including mine, at full market value. You, Mayor Harris, said “Because of the risk, we felt that it would be in the best interests of public safety for the District to purchase these homes. This will allow the families to move forward and also allow for further remediation in the area. Our priority remains ensuring the safety of our residents.”

You and Mr. Ridge subsequently held a press conference, attended by most of the major local, as well as national, newspaper and television stations, in which you again announced very publicly the purchase of the nine homes, including mine. As a result, my home and the landslide were on local and national television that evening.

I never again want to live through the trauma of January 19, 2005, when it took over three hours for me to be rescued. If that was not bad enough, I cannot begin to describe the physical, mental and emotional trauma that I have been through since then. For the last three months, I have been waiting on a daily basis for the arrangements to be made to purchase my home, in the full expectation that I could again have a home and begin my life again. Now this latest, absolutely unimaginable development. I am absolutely distraught.

The District, and you Mayor Harris, promised to buy my home, the Province promised to buy my home, and these promises could not have been made more publicly.

I need to know, and I need to know urgently, that you and the District will live up to your commitment and resolve this intolerable situation.

Yours sincerely,

Nancy Van Insberghe

c.c.: Councillor Ernie Christ
Councillor Jim Cuthbert
Councillor Maureen McKeon Holmes
Councillor Lisa Muri
Councillor Alan Nixon
Councillor Richard Walton
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Delivered to the District Office on Nov 9

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