



May 1, 1980

Riverside Drive
North Vancouver, B.C.
V7H

Dear Mr. :

Re: Land Slides in the Seymour River Area

Thank you for sending me a copy of the circular letter which you recently received from Mayor Bell of the District of North Vancouver. I agree with the Mayor that a geotechnical survey would be helpful. But I can't see why the residents in your area should admit at this stage that "any remedial action which may be recommended is the responsibility of the property owner or occupier concerned".

Municipalities are organized with the view to protecting the interests of it's citizens. You pay taxes in order to protect you from fire and floods. It seems to me, therefore, that the district municipality may have an obligation to protect you from further slides on the East Side of the Seymour River.

Indeed, if the possibility of a slide is great enough in a particular area than that area should be re-zoned and, where appropriate, measures such as the planting of grass and trees should be taken in order to keep future damage to a minimum.

You ask what the provincial government can do in this regard. It can arrange for compensation for "acts of God" and other unexpected catastrophes. But if, the results of this survey, a slide is predictable then it seems to me that the municipality itself, has a duty to anticipate the event and prevent any loss of life or property which might be expected to result from a heavy rain etc.

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As you probably know, the province named a coordinator to look after the problems faced by residents in your area who suffered damage from the recent downpour. They are being compensated in full for loss of structure, furniture, vehicles etc. Damage to the land itself however, has to be worked out in cooperation with the District Municipality. These deliberations are also underway.

In your case the damage may be said to be "potential" but first you and the district need a proper survey. I hope that it can proceed without local residents like yourself having to save the cooperation of the District of North Vancouver harmless in respect to future slide damage.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jack Davis". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Hon. Jack Davis, M.L.A.
North Vancouver - Seymour

JD:dl