

mediarelease

For Immediate Release

December 22, 2005

North Van District committed to careful review of potential property purchase

North Vancouver, B.C. The District of North Vancouver is continuing to work towards a successful solution with the owner of a property on Chapman Way partially impacted by the January landslide.

While it has successfully completed the purchase of eight other properties known to be at risk in the immediate area, negotiations for this property have not yet resulted in a sale by the current owner to the District.

The District's preliminary assessment determined it necessary to buy only a portion of the 2.2 acres, specifically the driveway area impacted by the 2005 landslide, which has the only known geotechnical safety risk on the property (this report is available on the District's website at www.dnv.org). There is no known geotechnical risk to the rest of the property or the house.

The District is continuing discussions aimed at finding a successful outcome for Nancy Van Insberghe, the property's owner, who wishes to divest herself of the entire property. Because there are insurance coverage issues associated with the District's assuming ownership of the property, the municipality is trying to resolve the ongoing concerns of Ms. Van Insberghe without exposing its taxpayers to the risks of owning a potentially uninsurable property.

The Province and the District are still actively seeking a solution, and Council will be reviewing an upcoming report on the relative landslide risk of all properties along the Blueridge Escarpment, including potential information on Ms. Van Insberghe's property and those adjacent to it. The District will receive this report in mid-January 2006, and will gain a more thorough understanding of any risks that might exist on Ms. Van Insberghe's property, as well as other properties along the escarpment.

"This situation is very challenging for Council as it attempts to address both Ms. Van Insberghe's and the District's concerns," says Mayor Richard Walton. "The Community Charter clearly requires us to consider the well-being and interests of both the

municipality and the community. Achieving both is not always easy and we are working very hard to reach a mutually satisfactory outcome.”

In light of the upcoming geotechnical report, additional information concerning the insurability of lands purchased along the escarpment, and Council's desire to fully understand any potential risk the purchase of this property might present to District taxpayers, Council has committed to a careful and thorough discussion of all aspects of this situation.

- 30 -

**For more information, contact the District's
Communications and Community Relations Office at 604-990-2459.**