

7067 Gray Avenue
Burnaby BC V5J 3Y9
March 13, 2016

Mayor and Council,
City of Burnaby,
4949 Canada Way,
Burnaby BC V5G 1M2

SECTION 2
COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE
Acting City Manager
Deputy City Manager
Dir. Finance
City Solicitor
Financial Management Committee - March 24

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to you because I am greatly concerned about the property assessments and resulting taxes in Burnaby. My husband and I have lived in our home for 42 years and would like to continue doing so. However, like many others, we are facing hardship because of the huge increase in property assessments. The increased value of our property from 2014 to 2015 was 35.653% and we no longer qualify for the Homeowners Grant. I have read that Burnaby is likely to increase its taxation by 2.95%. This represents a triple Whammy for us.

I applied for an appeal of the assessment but was told there was no chance of winning because the figures are based solely upon the value of other properties in the area. It was recommended that we defer our taxes but this is not something we want to do. Having worked hard to own our home, we do not want, in effect, to have a loan against it.

We are two pensioners living on a reduced income. We do not have a secondary suite or any other source of revenue from our property. Many houses in our neighbourhood do have illegal suites and operate businesses on the premises. They are in a position to afford the increase while we, who are law abiding citizens, cannot.

In addition to being concerned about how this affects us personally, we are also very worried about the impact on the future of Burnaby. We were able to raise our children here. We have been actively involved in and contributing to the community. Families with children will not be able to afford to live here. Burnaby needs young families to keep it balanced and vibrant. There will be a decrease in the school population which will affect many community programs. The Burnaby of the future will not offer the quality of life that we have had in the past.

I urge you to continue lobbying the government to stop this madness and to not increase the tax rate for Burnaby.

Sincerely,



Margaret Stevens