

NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Release on college costs by Coordinating Committee of
proposed North Shore College, Saturday, February 17th, 1968.

What will the college cost -- now and later?

An estimated 1968 budget has been accepted by the four School Districts and shared among them in an agreed ratio.

The budget provides for operating expenses in 1968 (September - December) for an expected 350 students plus a sum of money for "setting up", the major part of which is the cost of the initial library essential for work of university calibre.

Under the provisions of the 'Public Schools Act', the Provincial Government pays 50 per cent of the approved operating costs. The remainder comes from student fees and local taxes.

Operating costs in the early years will be moderate, because the college will use existing school facilities. There are no capital charges for land, buildings or equipment.

For the year 1968, taxpayers in North and West Vancouver are asked to pay two-thirds of a mill; those in Howe Sound and Sechelt about one-third mill. This means that a home in West Vancouver valued at \$25,000 would pay a tax of \$7.00 (just over 50¢ a month). One in Howe Sound or Sechelt valued at \$12,000 would pay \$2.00.

In 1969, assuming eight months' operation and 600 students, local tax contributions would be about the same because:

- (a) The Provincial Grant and student fees would increase.
- (b) There would be no "setting up" costs.

From 1970 on, the amount of money needed to operate the college would vary in proportion to changes in enrolment and expansion of curriculum. Increases would tend to be offset in the four Districts by the development of new taxable properties, both domestic and industrial.

The plebiscite you are asked to approve on March 7th, therefore, asks:

- (a) Permission to plan and operate a college in existing buildings.
- (b) Permission to use a small amount of local taxes to do this.

Projected costs estimated

After several years -- at least three -- the college will need its own campus, buildings and equipment. The Provincial Government will also pay 50 per cent of the cost of these, except for the land.

A money referendum will then be put to the taxpayers to raise the necessary funds. They may approve or reject this expenditure separately at this time.

If this referendum is passed, what would the college then cost the taxpayer?

While it is difficult to estimate far ahead, costs have been worked out for 1973, assuming:

- (a) The campus and permanent buildings are constructed, costing \$11 million.
- (b) There are 2,000 students (the present size of the B.C. Institute of Technology).
- (c) The taxable assessments in the four Districts have risen to \$500 million.

On this basis, the mill rate for the college is estimated to be 3 mills in North Vancouver, 2-1/2 mills in West Vancouver, and 1-3/4 mills in Sechelt and Howe Sound.

This includes all charges, both capital and operating, including debt repayment.

Grade XIII will be dropped

The North Shore has for many years run a Grade XIII program. This will disappear when the college starts. Experience in Vancouver City College is that the cost per pupil of the college program and of the Grade XIII program are equal.

If no college were started and the existing Grade XIII program continued, much of the projected cost would have to be met by the taxpayer anyway, and met to support an outmoded program instead of a much better college program.

All School Boards are working towards a finance formula where the provincial share will be bigger. A change in formula could materially reduce the local burden.

Assessment growth rates assumed are moderate; for example, in the Committee study, predicted increase for the next five years in North Vancouver has been 4.5 per cent per year.

We have just got information that the increase from 1967 to 1968 is about 14 per cent. A more rapid increase in total assessment than assumed value will reduce the load on the individual taxpayer.