



The District of North Vancouver has failed 2 generations of youth in Lynn Valley.

For the past 24 years, Lynn Valley has been trying to get a Youth Centre for teenagers to have a safe place to gather, connect and have some fun. For those that were 13 years old in 2000, would now be 37 years old and could have teenagers of their own.

It is my understanding that in 2001 there was \$175,000 for the Youth Centre; but this was not enough funds to go ahead with the project. Then I believe the project as presented was not accepted by some of the neighbors and then again shelved as there were shortfalls as cost of construction had gone up.

In July of 2017, the balance was \$250,000 set aside for the Youth Centre. I believe some funds had come from the development levy. I am not sure what the value of the fund is today; but with the rate of inflation we have had the last few years; there may not be enough to build something, definitely not a stand-alone Youth Centre.

If we had invested \$250,000 in a money market fund since July 2017, it should be worth at least \$281,000 today. If we had invested in a Balanced Mutual Fund, we would have approx. \$385,500 today. If we had invested the original \$175,000 in a Balanced Mutual Fund, it would be worth over \$529,000 today. I realize that we would not have invested in a Balanced Mutual Fund as the time frame was not expected to be this long, but my point is on the opportunity that has been lost for taking so long to even get this project started.

As the old saying goes, "Time is money." and sitting on the sidelines for 24 years has cost taxpayers a lot of money.

We have been told that this project will only happen in tandem with redevelopment of other public owned facilities. Yet very recently Council demonstrated that it is willing to add items back into the budget; items that had previously been removed; even though adding them back in had an impact on the property tax increase. The projects that were added back in were not 24 years in the making. It cannot be stated more clearly than “24 years is too long for a project to get done”.

Lynn Valley is one of the designated Town Centres, with one of the fastest growing populations in the District. Yet there is a singular lack of investment for youth.

Will Council finally commit to moving ahead with this project by directing staff to identify a location?

Will council commit to funding this project as they have done many others? (e.g. Artificial Turf Fields, Running tracks, Bike lanes?)

How much is currently being held for the Lynn Valley Youth Centre?

We believe that this space is not only useable for youth, but for the community as a whole as the youth will not be using the space while they are attending classes. There is a myriad of activities and groups that could share this space. This is a win / win for the youth and the community.

Finally, how can Lynn Valley Community Association help bring this project forward and support the youth and families in our neighborhood?

We now need Mayor and Council to support and prioritize this long overdue project. We look forward to your response.

Lynn Valley Community Association