

Circular No. 97:04

Original Issued: February 25, 1997

**To: All Municipal and Regional District Treasurers**

**Re: Parkland Development Cost Charges**

Bill 55, introduced in the Spring 1995 Legislation Session, amended sections of the *Municipal Act* to authorize the collection of development cost charges (DCC) for improving parkland, in addition to providing parkland or reclaiming land as parkland.

The amendments were as follows:

1. Section ADevelopment Cost Charges Generally - subsection on parkland was repealed and the following substituted:
  - b) providing and improving parkland
2. Section AUse of Development Cost Charges - subsection on parkland was repealed and the following substituted:
  - (6) to pay the capital costs of
    - (i) acquiring parkland or reclaiming land as parkland, or
    - (ii) providing fencing, landscaping, drainage and irrigation, trails, rest rooms, changing rooms and playground and playing field equipment on parkland.

The government, as illustrated by comments made in introducing the legislation, intended that the increase in DCC resulting from the addition of expenditures to improve parkland would not be significant. For this reason, the allowable parkland improvements were specifically listed, and deliberately excluded many elements that are usually present in most developed parks. Those elements which are not specifically listed must be funded from other sources of revenue. In furtherance of the direction from government, the Inspector of Municipalities, in reviewing submissions for purposes of approval, will apply a very narrow interpretation of the legislation. While most of the allowable expenditures are self-explanatory, the following comments are offered as an illustration of the position the Inspector will take in his review:

- Landscaping includes the construction of playing fields (levelling ground, planting grass and other plant material) but does not include the construction of parking lots or access roads.
- Irrigation includes sprinkler systems.
- Playground and playing field equipment includes items normally classified as equipment such as swings and slides but does not include buildings or structures such as dugouts, bleachers, or field houses. The term also does not include the construction of tennis or basketball courts, baseball diamonds, tracks or the installation of lighting systems.

This policy remains in effect until such time as the issue can be dealt with in a more comprehensive fashion. As you are aware, work of the Development Finance Review Committee may lead to changes in this particular policy.

If you have any questions, please contact the financial analyst for your area.

(ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:)

Ken MacLeod  
Inspector of Municipalities