

**Public Submission dated August 31, 2011 – Francisca Swist**

There is a crucial piece of information that was omitted in the article in The Edmonton Sun's August 31, 2011 article, entitled "Water work\$", what was the total collected under the existing system?

I find it insulting that the taxpayers are considered such fools that they can't see that if the current fee of \$17-\$21 continues (and it certainly won't go down), and there is an additional fee of \$29 (supposed average, I'm sure that will be higher too) on the already confusing Epcor bill, that the city takes in more than double of what they were collecting to begin with. It would be interesting to know whether the amount being collected with the property taxes, is being used for other things, such as the Mandel/Katz arena.

The city of Edmonton really needs to start taking a more transparent approach to dealing with taxes, fees, bylaws, etc. I, for one, am getting fed up with this non-democratic approach, and I'm sure that people will start looking to move outside of the city to get away from the money-grabbing.

On a different topic, why is the construction of the arena not going to a plebiscite? Silly me, any referendum held is totally ignored anyway -- just like the municipal airport situation.

I'd like to think that there are a few councillors that still have the ability to take a common sense approach to the city's issues, and realize that increasing taxes and/or diverting them to alternate bylaws is not always the answer.

As a long-time resident and taxpayer of Edmonton, get the message that enough is enough. Stop with the gouging!!

Francisca Swist