

## Nareka Jacques

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**From:** Pieta VanDyke [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** April 20, 2026 10:32 AM  
**To:** Municipal Hall  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed District Spending

note: This email is intended for Mayor and Council

## Pieta VanDyke

On Mon, Apr 20, 2026 at 10:21 AM Pieta VanDyke [REDACTED] wrote:

On behalf of the members of the Central Saanich Community Association, I would like to commend the District for the work that has gone into preparing the draft 2026 – 2030 Financial Plan. We recognize that as a District, we are moving into an era of increased uncertainty and unpredictability due to edicts from senior levels of government and worrisome world events.

We understand that the District's proposed 3.67% tax increase is only a portion of the overall 7.37% increase but given that a significant portion of our population consists of householders on a fixed income, we urge Council to adopt a prudent approach, both in planned expenditures, and with the program of projects and initiatives it takes on.

There is a perceived disconnect between service delivery and staff increases- both hiring and remuneration. For example, it is questionable if a Planning department that has increased to six is justifiable, or a Communications department that has grown threefold. In difficult economic times it is hard to justify a staff increase of 10.6 FTE over the past 2 years.

A hard look is overdue by Council at all budget requests put forward by Staff.

The staff salary increases have consistently exceeded the rate of inflation. Some of these now six figure salaries are conspicuously over generous.

The reserve fund now exceeding 50 million is grossly oversized for a community of this size. There is room here to allow Council to make some adjustments which will lower the increase. This is no time to keep growing a fund that can afford to be frozen for at least the foreseeable future.

The current economic climate is one of increased uncertainty whether it is the impact of tariffs, inflation, and now the growing pressures arising from war. This is not the time for large expenditures funded by large tax increases on an increasingly stressed taxpayer.

This is, however; the time to show some restraint: to consider freezes or applying the brakes to hiring, staff salary increases and new equipment purchases.

The concept of affordability and of restraint must make far more of an appearance in the District's fiscal expectations and management.

Taxation levels must be sustainable. We look forward to Council showing more leadership in this regard.

Sincerely,

**Pieta VanDyke**  
**President**  
**Central Saanich Community Association**

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