

**Subject: FW: Council & staff expenses**

**Date:** Tue, 25 Sep 2001 11:08:49 -0700

**From:** Ernie Crist <CristE@district.north-van.bc.ca>

**To:** Ernie Crist <CristE@district.north-van.bc.ca>

**CC:** "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Ernie Crist  
> Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2001 11:07 AM  
> To: Nathalie Valdes  
> Subject: Council & staff expenses

> Motion:

> That in light of the recent Audit of Council and Staff expenses conducted  
> by "Grant Thornton" which found not only violations of District policies  
> pertaining to Council expenses authorized by District Management but also  
> found violations of District policies pertaining to Staff expenses  
> authorized by District Staff to themselves, Staff be requested to produce  
> a new policy which would establish far more stringent and clearer  
> guidelines and policies pertaining to such expenses.

> Reason for Report:

> In the course of this last year and a half facts have come to light  
> indicating that District Management not only authorized expenses to  
> members of Council in violation of policy and without Council's knowledge  
> but also authorized expenses to themselves contrary to policy.

> When Councillor Crist made a motion that an external auditor conduct a  
> professional audit to determine all relevant facts, Council, by unanimous  
> vote, refused.

> However, there is a provision in the existing legislation stating that,  
> notwithstanding that a Council refuses a request made by a member of its  
> own body to conduct an audit, such an audit be conducted if the request  
> is made by a citizen. Subsequently, when a District citizen made a  
> request that such an audit be conducted, Council had no alternative but to  
> accede to the request. Council subsequently hired Grant Thornton to  
> conduct the audit.

> The findings of the Grant Thornton audit were not only that District  
> Management authorized expenses to at least one member of Council in  
> violation of District policy and without Council's knowledge but also that  
> members of District management were reimbursed for expenses in violation  
> of policy and that members of District management have, in fact,  
> authorized their own expenses.

> The requests by District Councillor Ernie Crist to receive a copy of the  
> full Grant Thornton report including the amount of the expenses handed out  
> in violation of policy and also the names of the violators, after first  
> being agreed to by the FOI Officer of the District was later denied with  
> the remark that the report ordered and paid for by the District of North  
> Vancouver could not be released since it was not the property of the  
> District but was, in fact, the property of Grant Thornton and that if  
> Councillor Crist wanted the original report he would have to appeal to  
> Grant Thornton himself.

> Notwithstanding the specious arguments presented by the FOI Officer, it  
> behooves District Council to tighten up the existing rules and polices  
> pertaining to both Council and Staff expenses

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