

Subject: [Fwd: THE NEW COMMUNITY CHARTER AND THE DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER]

Date: Mon, 27 May 2002 14:22:56 -0700

From: Brian Platts <brian_platts@telus.net>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

CC: Dave Sadler <davesadler@telus.net>

Subject: Re: THE NEW COMMUNITY CHARTER AND THE DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER

Date: Mon, 27 May 2002 09:03:18 -0700

From: Bill Tracey <bill_tracey@telus.net>

Organization: Systek Engineering Ltd.

To: Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

CC: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, Directors Team <managecomm@dnv.org>

Ernie,

I think you've lost it. How can you state so positively that NET (North Vancouver Electors Team) is anything but the "civic minded residents and progressive civic groups" such as you promote in your diatribe? You have told me before that you think I am naive to think it doesn't have the right-wing agenda you describe, but when I challenged that you could give me no evidence for your stand. I have invited you to attend one or more meetings (which are open to anyone), but you refuse. I have suggested we get together over coffee or whatever to discuss it, and you have only said you would "think about it". That's not good enough, when you toss around accusations like you are doing.

I suggest if you have evidence (not just suspicions) to support your stand, you make it public so we can all be well-informed. If you do not have evidence, your musings sound very much like Chicken Little's cry that the sky is falling -- and may have about as much effect.

Why the paranoia? You complain constantly about the CCA, but when a group forms to try to ensure that residents have a better choice in the coming election, you see sinister motives. I think you owe it to me and others like me, and to yourself, to give some concrete evidence that what you say is true. Otherwise, you should stop attributing sinister motives to well-meaning people and groups who you simply do not know enough about.

I know where I stand, and I resent very much being accused of being a party to an attempt to "seize complete control of District Council and it will not be to represent the interests of District Neighborhoods or the District Taxpayers at large but business and developer interests eagerly anticipating new opportunities". You know (or should know) my record with the Seymour Community Association and with FONVCA, and you know I would not be a party to an attempt with such undesirable goals.

Ernie, you have served the District long and well, and your service is much appreciated. Please don't cast a shadow over that record by attempting to scare the public with unsubstantiated accusations about other people's motives. Your challenge now is to get involved in a real way with what is going on, instead of just tossing rocks from the sidelines.

Bill

Ernie Crist wrote:

> *FROM ERNIE CRIST.*

>

> *PLEASE READ THIS MESSAGE CAREFULLY.*

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> *Back in February the North Shore News published my review of the draft
> Municipal Charter and its implications for municipalities. In the meantime,
> the Charter has been officially introduced and tabled in the Legislature.*

>

> *The Charter will have far reaching implications for 80% of BC's population
> living in cities and municipalities across the Province.*

>

> *It replaces the Municipal Act(Local Government Act), a relic from a bygone*

> era where the property tax, the only source of income, was totally
> inadequate as cities and municipalities faced mounting challenges. This
> absurdity is still in place, however, and makes Canada uniquely backward
> since today in all modern countries municipalities are constitutionally
> recognized and subsequently have the power of taxation over and above the
> property tax. This allows them to deal with urban challenges far more
> effectively.

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> The Community Charter attempts to overcome this contradiction by giving
> municipalities far reaching powers. But not powers to access additional
> sources of taxation by being recognized as a legitimate level of government
> under Canada's Constitution, but powers only to enter into partnerships with
> the private sector. What is at stake, therefore, is not only the control and
> delivery of municipal services but the continuation of providing such
> services altogether.

>
> Business has recognized the opportunities arising from the NEW Municipal
> Charter and is positioning itself for this event. Hence the formation of
> not only one but two civic "NET" parties in the District of North Vancouver.
> The purpose of this can be none other than to seize control of the District
> Hall this coming Fall for the benefit of special interests.

>
> Both the North Vancouver Electors Team (NET) and the North Shore Electors
> Team, also (NET), have announced that they are vying for control of
> District Council. One NET party has already announced that it does not want
> anybody on its slate even remotely perceived as being "left of center".
> Clearly, once elected, it intends to proceed with large scale development
> and full scale privatization of municipal services. The other NET party
> also announced that the NEW Municipal Charter will require a Council who
> "understands the NEW Charter" and that what is required is "team work".

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> In addition to the two NET parties the Concerned Citizens Association (CCA)
> too intends to run a slate. Representing the special interests of a group of
> homeowners on the District waterfront, it clearly wishes to maintain its
> present control of District Council which has served it so well during the
> last three years. Since we are still in the early stages of the upcoming
> civic election campaign it is entirely possible that additional civic
> parties will be formed or that alliances between existing parties will
> take place between now and the municipal election this Fall.

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> One thing is certain, however, unless the District's civic minded residents
> and progressive civic groups form their own slate of candidates with their
> own pro taxpayer and livable neighborhood oriented program, either one or
> the other NET and/or the CCA or all three together will seize complete
> control of District Council and it will not be to represent the interests of
> District Neighborhoods or the District Taxpayers at large but business and
> developer interests eagerly anticipating new opportunities.

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> This after all is the intention of the NEW Municipal Charter. This is
> notwithstanding assurances given by spokespersons of one or the other civic
> party, this or that candidate or even by government spokespersons
> themselves that this will not be the case. Indeed such assurances are
> nothing more than a smokescreens to confuse the District taxpayers just as
> the erstwhile CCA did during the last District election, unless of course,
> such spokespersons are too naive to understand the full implications of all
> this. The point to be made is not that municipal private partnerships are
> necessarily all bad but for whose benefit such partnerships are made and
> above all who is in charge of making the decisions.

>
> Ernie Crist.