

**Subject: [Fwd: Letter to the Editor]**

**Date:** Sun, 10 Feb 2002 19:57:49 -0800

**From:** Brian Platts <brian\_platts@telus.net>

**To:** Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Corrie - did you receive this one?

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**Subject: Re: Letter to the Editor**

**Date:** Thu, 07 Feb 2002 18:04:38 -0800

**From:** Pat Munroe <pat.munroe@shaw.ca>

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

**CC:** FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Ernie:

The are two regimes at play in Local government at all times. These two are the elected Council and the Senior Staff Bureaucracy. In North Vancouver the Bureaucracy continues to be in control. It does this by supporting the interests of such groups as the CCA. In return CCA, and other such before them, have been gratefully willing to allow the public wealth of the People of the District of North Vancouver to be used as a 'Slush Fund' by the Bureaucrats. This 'Bureaucratic Slush Fund' has been completely uncontrolled because the accountability of the Bureaucrats is to themselves.

When 'Slush Fund' system of bureaucratic spending comes under question by concerned responsible residents, the Bureacrats are asked to report on themselves. Surprise! Surprise! Each and every time the system is justified by them and found to be just fine, thank you.

Until there is a Council which will fulfill its responsinbilty to the People by not selling out to the Bureaucracy, you can be sure that the Bureaucrats will alwas report that their 'Slush Fund' culture for fiscal controls is 'Just Fine'.

Pat.

----- Original Message -----

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

To: FONVCA (E-mail) <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2002 3:19 PM

Subject: FW: Letter to the Editor

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>

> > *The Editor*;

> > *February 7, 2001*

> >

> > *Our District Mayor Don Bell is in a denial mode but facts are stubborn  
> > things as the philosopher said. See News story "District finances  
> > criticized". So let us set the record straight. To begin with the  
> > District not only has the highest taxes on the North Shore but are you  
> > ready for this? It has the highest in the region. How is that for  
> > openers? But that is only half the story and it is the one that has not  
> > been reported as yet.*

> >  
> > *But there is more - in addition to having the highest taxes, the  
District*

> > *continues to supplement its budget by raiding not only its  
infrastructure*

> > *reserve funds, which are virtually gone, but also the Heritage Fund  
which*

> > *is also virtually gone.*

> >  
> > *Members of the public who have taken the trouble to dig beyond bafflegab  
> > and just plain misinformation have discovered that there is indeed  
> > something wrong with the District. One Council watcher, presenting a 7  
> > page detailed analysis of NVD's 2002 - 2006 "Draft Financial Plan", said  
> > that traditionally the District has sold land to supplement its income  
but*

> > *now that the Heritage Fund is almost gone, the District is contemplating  
> > selling more land in to keep on feeding the habit. Not so, said the  
> > Mayor. On the contrary, he said, the Heritage Fund is growing. Now this  
> > is what I call positive thinking but it is also truly curious for more  
> > is coming out of the Fund then is going into the Fund.*

> >  
> > *So what are the facts? The best way to get at the truth and nothing but  
> > the whole truth is by turning the whole question around. How much would  
> > the District have in its Heritage bank today had it done what it set  
out*

> > *to do when the Fund was established in 1986. The answer is \$ 500  
million*

> > *dollars. That includes all the money from land sales, all the money  
from*

> > *land leases and all the interest generated by these funds. And, believe  
it*

> > *or not, this is a conservative figure. And what does the District have  
in*

> > *its Heritage Fund today? A total of \$ 20 million and that includes  
the*

> > *Northlands Golf Course which is roughly half of that amount.*

> >  
> > *Those are the facts and even a river of PR pep talk will not change  
> > them. And that is not counting the reserve Funds which have also been  
> > used up. A propos Reserve Funds - First we were told we must build them  
up*

> > *because the infrastructure needs to be replaced and then we were told  
> > there is too much in the Fund and it is safe to reduce the amount only  
to*

> > *be told one year later that we now must think seriously about the*

> > *deteriorating infrastructure and how are we going to pay for it?*  
> > *Solution? the Heritage Fund - ergo sell more land to go into the Fund*  
> > *only to be taken out of it again soon thereafter.*  
> >  
> > *So what has been done with all the money that has gone into the Heritage*  
> > *Fund for the last 16 years. It has been used as a slush fund pure and*  
> > *simple. Easy come Easy go - ergo no more Heritage Fund or at least not*  
> > *very much. We could not even pay for the Parkgate facility out of the*  
> > *Heritage Fund and had to go to referendum instead, remember. Even if we*  
> > *subtract the amount of money that was used for genuine capital projects,*  
> > *the Heritage Fund would still be in the neighborhood of \$ 200 million .*  
> > *The original goal was \$150 million I leave it up to the District*

taxpayers

> > *to figure out how much money such an amount would generate in interest*  
> > *annually. But, sorry folks, it's gone. The gentlemen who were telling*  
> > *District Council that more scars on the mountainside are coming were*  
> > *right. Brace yourself folks unless, of course, you make some changesl.*

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> > *Ernie Crist*

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