

**Subject: FW: Response to letter from Mr. Dunbar - Controller, Western Ste vedoring re 2002 tax rates.**

**Date:** Sat, 23 Feb 2002 17:40:33 -0800

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

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

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

> **From:** Ernie Crist

> **Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2002 10:41 PM

> **To:** Nathalie Valdes

> **Subject:** Response to letter from Mr. Dunbar - Controller, Western

> Stevedoring re 2002 tax rates.

>

> **Dear Mr. Dunbar:**

>

> *I am very much aware of the situation you have described. I am also  
> cognizant of the need to preserve jobs on the North Shore and keep our  
> local industry competitive.*

>

> *All municipalities are encountering difficulties in meeting their  
> obligations to the taxpayers. All municipalities have been severely  
> impacted as a result of downloading by senior levels of government. And  
> all municipalities are suffering as a result of a Constitutional reality  
> as outdated as the horse and buggy.*

>

> *Local governments have no access to any source of taxation other than the  
> property tax. Of all developed countries, Canada alone suffers from this  
> affliction. In the US, for instance, senior levels of government either  
> share with local government a portion of their budget and/or they  
> empower local government to access sources of taxation other than the  
> property tax. The absurd situation in Canada, puts municipalities in a  
> virtually untenable position when it comes to assisting industry more  
> effectively.*

>

>

> *In the District of North Vancouver the situation is exacerbated as a  
> result of the mismanagement of the proceeds realized from its land sales  
> and land leases in the past. To protect our citizens from the present  
> crisis, as early as 1986, I assisted in the setting up of a District  
> Heritage Fund. Its purpose was to maximize the potential benefits of the  
> Districts assets and allow the proceeds from both land sales and land  
> leases to accumulate and use only the generated interest to pay for  
> needed infrastructure renewal projects after the year 2001. However, a  
> large portion of those funds have been used up to cover what I term  
> "operating expenses" instead. The Heritage Fund is virtually non  
> existent today. I have on countless occasion pointed this out including  
> to our corporate community but with little success.*

>


> *We now face an extremely difficult situation.*

>

> *Notwithstanding, I will give your request very serious consideration when  
> this item comes before Council as part of the 2002 budget deliberations.*

>  
> *Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention*  
>  
> *Sincerely yours,*  
>  
> *Ernie Crist*  
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 <a href="#">Part 1.2</a>	<b>Type:</b> application/ms-tnef <b>Encoding:</b> base64
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