

**Subject: our letter to Mayor and Council re Council Procedure Bylaws on the right to explain motions.**

**Date:** Sat, 21 Dec 2002 23:49:07 -0800

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**To:** <brian\_platts@telus.net>

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

Dear Brian

I very much appreciate your concurrence and support on this important issue. Indeed the right of an elected official to introduce and explain a motion before the chair calls for a seconder for debate, in terms of importance supercedes any other issue. It is at the very heart of any credible democratic notion.

It is truly regrettable that the newly elected District Council did not see fit to support this measure. Imagine for a moment a situation in Victoria and/or Ottawa where the right to introduce and explain a motion from the floor depends on the pleasure and or goodwill of another member of the House and/or the Legislature as the case may be?

Indeed, to deny such a right brings into question whether District Council is a democratic assembly. It certainly is contrary to any and all democratic spirit. This, notwithstanding the red herrings presented during debate by various members of Council all of whom with the exception of two were endorsed by the same Civic Party namely the "Citizens for Responsible Government". I can only surmise that there is a connection between the serious problems encountered in the affairs of the District as reported in the press both recent and past and the denial of such fundamental democratic rights.

I also concur with you that this is so notwithstanding of a so called District in House opinion which claims that this is in line with Roberts Rules of Order. It is certainly contrary its spirit as you have pointed out. I wonder what the Veterans of World War One and Two who spilled their blood would say if they could respond to such a curious opinion.

Wittingly or otherwise, this measure by the present Mayor and 'Council will ensure that the friction and the subjective atmosphere introduced by the previous CCA endorsed Mayor and Council will continue. There can be no productive and businesslike atmosphere unless it is based on sound and democratic principles.

Notwithstanding any of the above however, the most salient point of this issue is not even that it is directed against the rights of any individual member of Council to pursue promises made during the civic election but that it is an insult to the electorate itself since any and every one of us is ultimately responsible to the people who have elected us based on those promises. In this connection the comments by Mayor Bell during the debate that this is not the case ( transcript) is curious to say the least.

Thank you,

Ernie Crist.

