

Subject: FW: Response to Kevin MacCauley IAFFEXE Union Executives; Gary Calder

Date: Mon, 15 Sep 2003 12:16:59 -0700

From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <cagebc@yahoo.com>

CC: "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>

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

> From: Ernie Crist

> Sent: Monday, September 15, 2003 12:06 PM

> To: Nathalie Valdes

> Subject: FW: Response to Kevin MacCauley IAFFEXE Union Executives; Gary Calder

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> Dear Mr. MacCauley;

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> I share your concerns regarding the 2004 District Budget. There are several points I would like to emphasize.

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> 1) The District Fire Services are of extreme importance as are indeed all other services we provide to the citizens. We as a modern community cannot function without the services we provide. Indeed local governments the world over are in the forefront in the struggle for global survival. Whether we will save the planet and create a livable and decent human environment for future generations will be decided in the cities and the municipalities throughout the world including the District of North Vancouver. If anything we have to expand services.

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> 2) The District Fire Department has always been a leader when it comes to efficiency. I have used every opportunity to point this out. I am, therefore, opposed to punishing the Fire Department for incompetence so evident in other departments for which I blame first and foremost the Mayor and Council of the District of North Vancouver. Leadership begins at the top. Our services should not be cut as a result of the gross mismanagement by the District as exemplified through the District Heritage Fund, the Infrastructure Reserve Funds, Northlands, the Lynn Valley Community Plan, the Maplewood Business Plan and the continued and totally unjustified subsidy to the City via the Recreation Commission, to use as examples.

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> 3) While local governments are shouldering the burden of coping with the staggering problems of a modern society, in British Columbia municipalities do not have the power to access funding other than the property tax. This despite Victoria's big noise about giving municipalities more power via the new Municipal Charter. The bottom line is that even with the NEW Charter Municipalities are still not constitutionally recognized as a legitimate level of government and they still do not have the power to access funds other than the property tax more or less. This make us one of the most backward countries in the developed world. In most other parts including Europe and the US, Local Governments share in the gross national budgets or income. In British Columbia, on the other hand we are going backwards as may be seen by the Campbell government's attempt to download port taxes onto the shoulders of local government.

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> 4) The Campbell government is nothing less than an orderly acting on behalf of global corporations whose agenda is to make BC safe and extract maximum profits regardless of the consequences. In the process they are dragging us down to a third world status and eliminating the hard-won concessions the working people of this province have won through long and hard struggles. At a time when the wealth produced is sufficient to solve every problem and fill every basic human need the "Globals" are waging war against the people who have created the wealth in the first place. They are helped by the media, which they control, making people believe that the reason why we are in a state of crisis is because we Canadians have not worked or are not working hard enough and are too demanding.

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> 5) There is no way out of this debacle other than for people to organize and fight back. The corporate agenda, with its horrendous consequences to both our standard of living and our future, including our environment and our social and spiritual values, must be challenged and it must start in our own municipality. Any struggle, however, must be led by organized labor. This may be difficult since Unions too, in many instances,

have become corrupted by the corporate environment. However, unlike society in general, it will be easier for the working people> , first and foremost its organized sections, to rid themselves of this corruption and once more become what they were when this country was built and advanced itself to a modern society. The fight against corporate corruption goes beyond mere money, however. The corporate agenda, beset by irreconcilable contradictions both at home and abroad which sets people against people and country against country, manifests itself along the whole spectrum of social, material and spiritual values of our social existence.


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> 6) People on the North Shore are beginning to fight against the manifestations of this spiritual and corporate induced decay which also manifests itself locally including the District. Organized labor has a special responsibility to lead the struggle against corruption and incompetence. Organized Labor, including your union, must become involved in civic affairs rather than standing idly by as our municipal resources continue to be mismanaged at a time when you are being asked to make cuts and by so doing, are asked to become part and party of increasing the risks to our citizens.

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> While absorbing huge cost increases, the District Fire Department has not increased its budget for the last 12 years and has shown a degree of business acumen and sense of social responsibility to our Citizens which is outstanding. I for one will not make the District Fire department and the District Fire Fighters suffer for the incompetence of the District's political and corporate leadership.

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> Yours truly,

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> Ernie Crist

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