

Subject: Motion re health care

Date: Tue, 17 Jun 2003 12:33:20 -0700

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A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

On May 16 Council received a request from CUPE which is presently engaged in a Nation wide campaign to protect Canada's Public Health Care. CUPE is concerned about the present trend and asked that we send a letter of support to the Prime Minister of Canada.

I believe that this issue is of concern to all Canadians including municipal leaders who are in the forefront of public health. Municipalities are deeply involved in health care including preventive health. They are the level of government most effected if funding for public health care were to be diminished and or eliminated altogether. Everything begins and ends at the local level and the effects of downloading would be quickly felt in our immediate vicinity. Local Government, being the closest government to the people, has a duty to speak up on behalf of their citizens since they are in the front line in the struggle for global survival and global health as expressed and officially adopted through the "healthy community" concept.

Subsequently, I prepared a motion to support their request. The motion was supported by three members of Council namely Muri, myself and Don Bell. McKeon Homes, who is in the health care field, and Councillors Nixon and Walton voted against with the result that the motion was defeated. Since Councillor Harris had been absent for the vote but had been endorsed by CUPE it occurred to me that she might support the motion when it was returned for reconsideration.

I also thought that those members of Council who had voted against the motion without being aware of the deep municipal involvement on health matters, including numerous resolutions submitted to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities(FCM) and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) conventions, might change their minds. I had given them a great deal of background material proving that public health is very much a municipal concern. I was wrong, however. There was no seconder to the motion to reconsider and my efforts to help CUPE strike a blow to save Canada's Health Care System, including lowering the high cost of medicine which many people including seniors can ill afford, came to naught.

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