

**Subject: FW: Motion re health care**

**Date:** Thu, 19 Jun 2003 16:13:32 -0700

**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>

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> *Subject: Motion re health care*

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I see from the previous e-mail re this issue that I misspelled Councillor McKeon Holmes' name - I have corrected this error (see below ) and wish to apologize.

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.*

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> *I believe that this issue is of concern to all Canadians including municipal leaders who 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. Everything begins and ends at the local level and the effects of downloading would be quickly felt. Local Government, being the closest government to the people, has a duty to speak up on behalf of their citizens. Municipalities are in the front line in the struggle for global survival and health is a key element in this struggle. I has been expressed in a thousand forms inlcuding din the officially adopted "healthy community".*

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> *Subsequently, I prepared a motion to support CUPE'S request. The motion was supported by three members of Council namely Muri, myself and Don Bell. McKeon Holmes, who is in the health care field and Councillor Nixon and Walton voted against. The result was 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 but that was not the case.*

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> *I also thought that the members of Council who had voted against the motion would change their minds once they hade been made aware of the deep municipal involvement on health matters. Numerous resolutions to that effect have been submitted over the years both to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities( FCM) and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) conventions. I had given them a great deal of background material proving that public health is very much a municipal concern. But here too I was wrong. There was no seconder to reconsider and my efforts to help CUPE strike a blow for Health Care, including lowering the high cost of medicine which many people including seniors can ill afford, came to naught.*



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