

Subject: FW: Response to letter from Mr. re Homeowner grant.

Date: Tue, 8 Jul 2003 09:50:46 -0700

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

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

Subject: RE: Response to letter from Mr. re Homeowner grant.

Dear Councillor

I don't think you appreciate what is involved here. You continue to put the blame on me, ostensibly for not being diplomatic, for failing to crawl on my knees, phone, buttonhole or do whatever is necessary to introduce and/or explain a motion which I wish to put forward in public.

I am really insulted by your patronizing remarks "that you have seconded some of Councillor Crist's motions and so has the Mayor and other Council colleagues to allow debate, but when Councillor Crist places an item on the agenda that has been rejected by prior Councillors without attempting to find lateral support, it is not surprising that the item is not seconded".

Quite frankly, Councillor Walton, I don't give a hoot whether you vote in favor of a motion I have put forward or not. I do not even care whether you second it or not. What I do care and what I insist is to be allowed to introduce and explain a motion in the presence of the public to whom I am responsible BEFORE the Mayor calls for a seconder for further debate as the case may be.

What you do after that is entirely up to you. You are intelligent enough to know that if you find it expedient you will support it and if it is not you will not. What I insist on is the right to tell the public what I see as an issue. When you understand that then we can move forward and not before. I am sorry to be so blunt but there it is.

Maybe it will help you to understand what I am trying to say is if you recognize that, in the District of North Vancouver, we have party politics, maybe not official party politics but party politics just the same. Please give some credit for my intelligence and refrain from telling me otherwise.

Ernie Crist,

To: Ernie Crist; Mayor and Council - DNV; Senior Management Committee

Subject: RE: Response to letter from Mr. re Homeowner grant.

I commend Councillor Crist for his initiating new ideas....the process would work more effectively if the ideas were discussed with council colleagues prior to submission...this is what other councillors have done and continue to do when putting items forward...sometimes initial support can be garnered through collegial discussions...

I have seconded several of Councillor Crist's motions, as has the Mayor and other council colleagues to allow debate...but when Councillor Crist or any other councillor places an item on the agenda that has been rejected by prior councillors without attempting to find lateral support, it is not surprising that the item is not seconded...politics is a collegial process....I would not expect to find council supporting my initiative without having side discussions first to discuss my initiative..

-----Original Message-----

From: Ernie Crist

Sent: Tue 01/07/2003 10:10 AM

To: Mayor and Council - DNV; Senior Management Committee

Cc:

Subject: FW: Response to letter from Mr. re Homeowner grant.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ernie Crist
Sent: Tuesday, July 01, 2003 10:08 AM
To: FONVCA (E-mail); 'cagebc@yahoo.com'
Subject: Response to letter from Mr. re Homeowner grant.

Dear Mr.

I fully appreciate your concerns re the Homeowner grant. The Provincial Government should raise the level of grants in relation to the increase in property values on a regional basis to protect against variations in property value increases throughout the province.


By way of example, Municipalities have an opportunity to speak directly to the provincial government during the annual Union of British Columbia UBCM Conventions. This is achieved by an individual member of a Municipal Council such as the District of North Vancouver, drawing up a resolution, having it passed by Council and then submitting it to the UBCM Convention which takes place annually in a City of BC.

Such resolutions are submitted, debated and if passed by the convention are in turn passed on to the provincial government for action. It is an effective way to influence provincial legislation on behalf of the citizens of a municipality which is, indeed, the very purpose of the UBCM.

In my capacity as Councillor I have submitted many such resolutions in the past indeed more than the rest of District Council, including the Mayor, put together. However, I have been unable to do this anymore. By Council policy, instituted by Mayor Bell, a member of District Council (read Crist) may not introduce and explain a resolution unless it is seconded by another member of Council first. There is no guarantee therefore that the work that goes into writing a resolution will have a chance to even be considered for debate by Council much less passed.

In light of this, I have refrained from writing any more UBCM resolutions. The result has been that the District of North Vancouver, for politically biased reasons, is no longer in the forefront in attempting to influence the Province on behalf of its citizens. A recent count of such resolutions submitted to the UBCM by District Council shows a drastic reduction from previous years, albeit that not all resolutions previously submitted were passed by the UBCM.

I do expect, however, that other municipalities will take up the call and act on behalf of people like you.

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