

Subject: Municipal Byelection

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A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

The recent District of North Vancouver municipal by election to elect a Mayor and one Councillor is a victory for the real estate and pro development interests in North Vancouver. This is notwithstanding that the sole Councillor who got elected is committed to community driven development.

The influence of the Mayor elect who is openly committed to infilling, (read higher density) and the elimination of trees to make room for more development, notwithstanding solemn declarations to the contrary, and who has consistently voted against making publicly owned foreshore land accessible to the public, as suggested in the Waterfront Task Force Report, will be far stronger than the election of one new Councillor committed to slow growth.

The reason this Mayoralty candidate got elected is NOT because of CUPE or Labour support and it is NOT because of Mountain Biker support, although this helped. It is because the real estate, the advertising and the pro development interests and their beneficiaries supported her.


And this is what the public should remember in the coming months as the applications for increased densification, subdivision and more development permits will increase.

Nor should the people in the District hope to have their taxes lowered. There will be attempts to make changes on the minuscule and meaningless scale to confuse the public and the media, but big items such as subsidizing the City on a grand scale and/or reorganising the Rec Commission to save millions of dollars, as has been suggested, will not come about.

There will be additional pressures direct or indirect on the concept of neighbourhood and community driven development. Trees will be saved but only as long as they do not interfere with development. This has been the case in the past and will be the case in the future. A Leopard does not change his spots especially when it has been rewarded at the polls. The only difference is that it will be more so in the future.

The upshot will be more traffic, more development in the name of 'affordable housing' (leaky condos), more pollution, and more congestion in North Vancouver District but fewer trees to absorb the impact of more toxins in the air.

P.S. See Crist letter in the Nov 11th Outlook re "glimmericks".

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