

**Subject: RE: A couple questions**

**Date:** Tue, 22 Mar 2005 19:46:07 -0800

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

**To:** "Jacksons4" <jacksons4@oanet.com>, "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James\_Ridge@dnv.org>

**CC:** <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <cagebc@yahoo.com>

Dear Mr. Jackson:

We have a rather large contingent of Chinese immigrants in the Lower Mainland. We have one municipality where the concentration of Chinese immigrants has become so pronounced that in some cases businesses have put only Chinese on their signs. On the surface this would appear to be counter productive since one would think that they are not maximising their business potential. Be that as it may, this is a fact and became an issue in this municipality.

In my municipality this is not yet the case. However, since my municipality is a very attractive place to settle, there is a real potential that Chinese immigration could escalate to a degree where it becomes simply overwhelming. To forestall any and all controversy I made a motion that we stipulate right now that notwithstanding anything else, any commercial sign in our municipality must also be in English and that English must be on top since this is an English speaking country and the English letters must in size be at least equal to any other letter in any other language on such a sign. This was my motion which was not accepted by Council.

As to your other question I hold to the concept that Canada is a two nation state with one nation living in one province namely Quebec and the other English speaking nation living in the remaining provinces. The definition of a Nation is the classical definition which stipulates that a Nation is a LARGE and historically constituted assembly of people, speaking the same language, sharing the same culture and psychological makeup, are occupying a common territory and are living within the same economic system.

Accepting this definition, I also accept that the French speaking Nation in Canada had the right to stipulate French as the only language on commercial signs in Quebec.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

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From: Jacksons4 [<mailto:jacksons4@oanet.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2005 5:15 PM  
To: Ernie Crist  
Subject: A couple questions

Hello Mr. Crist,

I'm currently doing a little project for school on language laws in Quebec and found the similarity of the bill you proposed on January 17, 2005 an interesting local correlation.

I realize that public apathy has become an increasing concern for you, and I can't say that I'm not guilty of this charge myself (along with

the vast majority of my age group, I'm sure). However, I'd thought I'd ask you a couple questions for a two-fold purpose: first, to start thinking a little about municipal politics myself, and second, to get your perspective on why the bill failed here in North Van. I know the issue was dealt with a time ago and that new issues are pressing, so please don't feel obliged to answer at length.

Here are the main things I was wondering if you could clear up:

I read a story (I think from CBC) where you were quoted saying that "[t]his is an English-speaking country and as a Canadian citizen I should have a right to go anywhere in my country or in English-speaking Canada and read a commercial sign in English." However, some have said that introducing language legislation borders on racism. Of course you didn't put the bill forward intending it to be racist; so, what would you say to such critics?


Overall, what were the major factors in why the motion failed?

Lastly, if you've given such matters some thought, what do you personally think about Bill 101 and the like in Quebec? Are these legitimate in protecting the assimilation of the French language? Is such comparable to the bill you proposed for North Van?

Thank you very much for your help; I'd really like to include this "local example" in my paper on language politics, an issue which has no doubt been a persistent throughout Canadian history (and, with recent immigration levels, seems to be taking on a whole new meaning).

Kyle Jackson

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