

**Subject:**  
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**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>  
**To:** <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>  
**CC:** "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James\_Ridge@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>

A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

Adhering to democratic procedures under District Mayor Don Bell was always a hit and miss proposition - mostly miss. But under Janice Harris it is worse.

In other municipalities notices of motions submitted by members of Council take only days to process. A motion submitted in the City of North Vancouver in any given week is dealt with the following Monday. But in the District a time sensitive motion submitted on July 20 did not show up on the Agenda until August 22. When it did show up it was printed at the tail end of the agenda and was deferred until Sept 12. To confuse the matter even more, it was marked as submitted on August 20. In fact, it had been submitted in July. This is no isolated incident. The unfortunate effect is that it lends itself to manipulating Council business, especially that which is politically and time sensitive.

District Council rarely finishes it's agendas with the result that the same items keep coming back until, in many cases, they are no longer relevant. Under the circumstances it is extremely frustrating for any kind of initiative by an individual member of Council. It is one of the reasons why the District, a one time leader in submitting motions to the UBCM, this year did not have a single resolution to that Body. Harassing a Councillor for trying to do a good job is obviously easier than putting the municipality on the map. Janice Harris never submitted a written resolution to either the UBCM or the FCM conventions in her career. But she has constantly criticised those who did, making it sound like a crime when, in fact, this is what those conventions are for.

An urgent motion on the recent CN Rail disaster asked to be dealt with by Ms James from CAGE BC in July, was falsely marked as having been submitted on August 20.


Procedure is being manipulated in other ways as well. At a recent Council meeting, Mayor Harris decided that the word "hoax" in connection with the Lynn Valley Community Plan was not appropriate and must be withdrawn. You remember the Lynn Valley Plan? It was sold to the public as a "Pedestrian Oriented Town Center" complete with designated bicycle lanes and green areas with benches. What the people got is more cars and a huge debt to pay for the increased density. It is the same as a car dealership promising to deliver a black Mercedes but delivering a Ford Edsel for the same price. You remember the Edsel? In the automobile industry the word Edsel, like snake oil became synonymous with fiasco.

When Councillor Crist used the word hoax during a debate on the Lynn Valley Pedestrian oriented town Center Harris ruled that Crist must withdraw this word. That the word hoax is not a swear word but an entirely permissible pejorative and is allowed in parliament did not bother her in the least. What I do know is that when I challenged her to seek Council approval for her illegal action, she refused to do that as well. Neither did she apologize for her behaviour following the meeting.

So what did the minutes state? They said that she acted in accordance with the Municipal Charter and Council procedure when, in fact, it was a flagrant violation of both.

So much for the way of Janice runs the District. It is little wonder that things are going from bad to worse as the landslide victims are finding out.

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