

Subject:**Date:** Thu, 18 Oct 2001 14:00:05 -0700**From:** Ernie Crist <CristE@district.north-van.bc.ca>**To:** "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

A message from Ernie Crist;

As a follow up to my previous e-mail re submitting of motions, you may be interested in the following.

Over the last 5 years I have submitted over 500 motions and initiatives. This works out to about 2 per Council meeting or 2 per agenda on average. This includes nationally and provincially recognized initiatives including on municipal constitutional and municipal charter issues. My work has been recognized and I received a medal from the Sovereign, a recognition from the Duke of Wales and an honorary recognition in the Official Municipal History of British Columbia.

Two initiatives per agenda in the scheme of things is not a high figure considering the number of issues facing municipalities and the number of requests from correspondence and other material for action either direct or implied. To deal with such issues and bring them forward is called leadership. It is like being in business where in order to stay alive you have to work hard and keep abreast or go under.

The alternative at the government level, I might add, is to raise taxes or otherwise in the District, at least, liquidate your Heritage Fund and the infrastructure reserves and still raise taxes. This is definitely easier than working hard and using your "brains". But to go back to my motions - in any case, it is up to Council to either accept or not to accept or even debate them.

The Councillor who has been the most critical of my initiatives has submitted 5 over the same period which works out to one per year. She is also the one who has boasted on numerous occasions that she works only 15 hours a week while some of us "Councillors" work 3 and 4 times as many hours. It is not necessary to spend more time, she has stated.

However, an example as to what is at stake became apparent at this year's FCM and UBCM conventions. Both are important to promote the cause of municipalities and exchange ideas. Indeed that is why such conventions, paid for by the taxpayers, take place.

What drives these conventions are the motions submitted by Councils. But here it is - I did not submit any motions this year. Rather than fight with Council for the right to have the respective conventions debate the merit of my motions, I let it go. I also wanted to make a point. Needless to say none of the other District Councillors did either. The result was that there were none from any member of District Council. The "critical of my motions" Councillor has never submitted any motions to either the FCM or the UBCM.

I do not know whether you still remember that in a survey conducted for the Western Business Association of Canada on the efficiency of local government in Western Canada, the District of North Vancouver was found to be at the bottom of the list. And that was before the Council expense case, the KPMG and VAT reports came to light. I rest my case.

Ernie Crist



[Part 1.2](#)

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