

Subject: My response to "Charles" re the next civic election.

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From: Ernie Crist <CristE@dnv.org>

To: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Charles:

This is in response to your enquiry re civic force:

Yes I have given this matter considerable thought. Ideally speaking any progressive civic movement should consist of unions, (teachers, nurses) environmental, social, women, seniors, small business, youth, rank and file homeowners and other potentially progressive elements and/or victims of the present Provincial Government's policies, exacerbated as they are, by the incompetence of the present CCA endorsed District Council in all major civic areas, first and foremost by its disastrous fiscal and management policies. However, this may not be possible at the moment.

What is possible, however, is for the Federation of North Vancouver Community Association (FONVCA) to play a very strong and progressive role in civic affairs leading up to the next civic election and beyond.

FONVCA cannot, because its very unbiased nature, become a civic party per se but it can play a strong and progressive role in the outcome of the next civic election just the same. FONVCA represents the genuine interests of neighborhoods, albeit in a loose fashion. FONVCA's pro-neighborhood and people-oriented policies have put it on a collision course with the present CCA endorsed District Council. The CCA as you know, was formed by a special interest group prior to the last District election. The CCA endorsed Council is essentially pro business at the expense of the community, (Billboards) it is anti-democratic, (infringing on the public's right to access information), it is anti environment (allowing development in extremely sensitive areas) plus it has failed to provide good and effective government see (KPMG and VAT reports).

FONVCA on the other hand is headed by the most "civic" conscious elements of the District and should be supported. It should have sufficient resources to advertise what it stands for i.e. genuine civic democracy, open and accessible government, plus neighborhood driven and truly environmentally friendly and livable community development.

I would personally like to see FONVCA set a list of criteria based on FONVCA principles and subsequently rate potential candidates during the next election. I would like FONVCA to have enough money so that it can advertise its ratings, while still maintaining its non partisan status.


All this is possible and doable. It would be a very big and important step forward. These are my own thoughts. The bottom line is that FONVCA is the only force capable of offsetting the reactionary, anti-democratic and special interest serving CCA, which during the last election endorsed all members of the present District Council except me. It would also provide a

genuine alternative to the other civic groups currently being formed. These groups, notwithstanding the good intentions of some of its members, under the guise of wishing to run the District better, have been formed specifically to ensure control of the municipality to take full advantage of the NEW Municipal Charter which opens the door wide for pro developer and corporate interests.

Had these newly formed groups been genuinely interested in better local government, they would have supported FONVCA for it was FONVCA which was in the frontline for a better, a more democratic and more efficient local government. That they did not, shows their true intentions.

FONVCA is the only force capable of preventing massive development in the District at the expense of the public. Just as the CCA during the last election hoodwinked the public under the guise of responsible government, when its real aim was to protect a special interest group on the waterfront, so the new civic groups real intentions notwithstanding its statements, is to seize control of District Council for the benefit of pro development and big business interests to maximize the opportunities opened up by the new Municipal Charter. The public needs an alternative. I think FONVCA is such an alternative-it is in my opinion in fact the only alternative at the present. I believe FONVCA would appreciate your support.

Ernie Crist,

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