

Subject: FW:**Date:** Mon, 22 Jul 2002 09:35:27 -0700**From:** Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>**To:** "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Ernie Crist

> Sent: Monday, July 22, 2002 9:35 AM

> To: 'adangelo@nsnews.com'

> Subject:

>

> *The Editor*

>

> *There is a serious flaw in Local Government procedures and your recent editorial chastising City Councilor Braithwaite for what at the very least appears to be poor judgment by one of his colleagues, is the best example.*

>

> *According to the NEWS, Councillor Braithwaite was wrong in questioning Councillor Musato about paying the Director of Recreation for attending a conference when, to all intents and purposes, he is no longer in the employ of the Recreation Commission. It would appear that Councillor Musato, who represents City Council on the Recreation Commission, was somewhat less than forthright when he defended this action. The scenario has its corollary in the District where both Council representatives also voted in favor of the \$ 3000 excursion by a person who has already been replaced.*

>

> *In both Parliament and the Legislature any member may question the conduct of another member including the Prime Minister himself. It is only if such charges are inaccurate that the accuser is called upon to apologize. This is not the case at the local government level however. Not only is a member of local government obliged to keep silent but should he attempt to expose any shenanigans, he runs the risk of being chastised by the press which apparently confuses Local Council proceedings with local Church services. This was recently the case in the City of North Vancouver when Councillor Braithwaite, after making charges against Councillor Musato refused to apologize, and was subsequently asked to vacate the Council Chambers.*


>

> *If allegations by a member of Council are incorrect, he or she should indeed be held accountable and apologize to the offended party, but surely not if they are true. That this is expected is clearly a hangover of the semi feudal Local Government Act and its predecessor the Municipal Act. The Newly proposed Municipal Charter unfortunately fails to address this issue as well. It is high time that this matter be addressed, however. The need for open government and the critical questioning of elected representatives, including by other elected members, should not stop at the doors of local Council's Chambers.*

>

> *This is especially so in cases when Municipal Councils are controlled by*

- > *civic parties, as is the case in the District for instance, where all*
- > *members but one were endorsed by the same civic party. If the Prime*
- > *Minister of Canada can be questioned by a member of the House then so*
- > *should a member of local government be able to question a member of his*
- > *own Council.*
- >
- > *I suggest the Minister of State for Community Charter address this matter.*
- > *I also suggest that for the sake of good government, the North Shore News*
- > *review its hasty verdict.*
- >
- > *Ernie Crist, Councillor*
- >
- > *District of North Vancouver.*
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >

 Part 1.2	Type: application/ms-tnef Encoding: base64
--	---