

Subject: FW: Response to letter from Mr. Vladimir Chicha

Date: Mon, 24 Jun 2002 17:42:43 -0700

From: Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

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

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

> *From:* Ernie Crist

> *Sent:* Monday, June 24, 2002 5:39 PM

> *To:*

> *Subject:* Response to letter [Ernie Crist] from citizen

>

> *Dear Mr. [Ernie Crist]*

>

> *Subject your letter re taxes:*

>

> *You have asked why the steep property tax increases in the District in
> the last few years.*

>

> *You may be aware that the provincial government has downloaded much of its
> responsibilities onto local government. This is reason number one. You
> may also be aware that Crown Corporations such as BC Rail and others have
> not been paying their fair share of taxes which means a loss of many
> millions of dollars to the District. Having said this, it is also true
> that the District is not efficiently run. This was confirmed in more than
> one study by outside consultants, including KPMG.*

>

> *In addition, the District is subsidizing the City of North Vancouver to a
> large extent. They are building the high-rises and we are building the
> soccer fields for them free of charge. Also for every single recreation
> facility they have, we have four, yet they do not contribute a single cent
> to the capital maintenance of our facilities which are used liberally by
> city citizens.. This too constitutes a huge subsidy courtesy of the
> District taxpayers. All my efforts to change this have failed.*

>

> *And yet another reason for the present situation is that instead of
> allowing the District Heritage Fund to accumulate and use the interest for
> capital projects as was planned, we have used up the principle to
> subsidize our operations. This too is unbusinesslike and has backfired.
> We have also accessed District reserve funds which means that here too we
> will have to pay for replacing our old worn out infrastructure out of
> taxes instead of the reserves, which was originally planned. All in all
> the District has been poorly managed and the result is that your taxes
> have gone up more than in any other municipality in the Region bar none.
> It is also the reason why they will continue to go up in the coming years,
> unless, of course, there are changes. The main reason, however, is that
> the public, with the exception of a few people such as yourself, does not
> seem to care.*


>

> *After having been in office for 22 years, this is the way I see it.*

>

> *Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention*

>
> *Yours truly,*
>
> *Ernie Crist.*
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