

**Subject: Re: FW: Notice of Motion West Nile Virus;**

**Date:** Mon, 26 May 2003 20:26:17 +0100 (BST)

**From:** Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

**To:** Ernie Crist <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>, "FONVCA \ (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

**CC:** Mayor and Council <council@dnv.org>, Cathy Adams <cathyadams@canada.com>, Eric Andersen <eric\_g\_andersen@hotmail.com>, Maureen Bragg <m.bragg@shaw.ca>, Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>, Allan Orr <allandorr@shaw.ca>, Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

26 May 2003

Dear Councillor Crist:

Thank you for copying me on this Notice of Motion re West Nile Virus.

To aid in making their decision, it will be helpful for members of Council and Staff to know that our family has already received a pamphlet from the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority. It is entitled: *It's mosquito season: Don't get bitten. Cover up and avoid mosquito bites*. The content explains what WNV is, how it is spread, how and where mosquitos multiply, what to do to prevent mosquitos, and how to protect oneself from mosquito bites.

It goes on to explain how to use mosquito repellent, how to tell if a bite is serious, what to do if a person finds a dead bird and how to handle such a bird.

The pamphlet contains two important email addresses, plus five contact telephone numbers for various local branches of the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority.

The file number of the pamphlet is: HED430-03/04 and it was printed by the City of Vancouver Print Shop.

In closing, I should like to say that I was impressed by Mr. Bennett's presentation to Council; the District is fortunate to have someone of his expertise working on our behalf. That said, having already received the WNV pamphlet, I could not understand why Council would be even considering such a duplication of effort.

Yours truly,

Liz  
[604] 988-2066

*Ernie Crist* <ernie\_crist@dnv.org> wrote:

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

> From: Ernie Crist

> Sent: Monday, May 26, 2003 11:49 AM

> To: Nathalie Valdes

> Subject: Notice of Motion West Nile Virus;

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> Agenda Addenda

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> Notice of Motion - Report Councilor Crest;

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> That Council seek clarification from staff as to the request to allocate \$ 10,000 from Council reserve which includes  
> \$ 8,000 to cover the cost for the printing and distribution by the District of an information pamphlet on the West Nile  
Virus since both printing and distribution of such a pamphlet has already taken place and may already have been paid  
for by the Ministry of Health via the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority which includes the North Shore, Coast  
Garibaldi, Vancouver and Richmond and further that

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> if the information that Coastal Health has already paid for the printing and distribution of this pamphlet Council's  
decision to allocate \$ 8,000 for the printing of this pamphlet be rescinded.

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> Rationale:

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> When District Staff recently requested the expenditure of \$ 10,000 to distribute an information pamphlet to every

household in the District on the hazards of the West Nile virus including suggestions as to how residents may protect themselves against "West Nile", the tenor of the Council discussion centered around the assumption that the Ministry of Health via the Coastal Health Authority was not about to live up to its responsibility to pay for the cost and that subsequently the District would be obliged to take up the slack and pay for both the printing of such a pamphlet as well as it's distribution in the District.

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> In the District Staff Report it stated that for this purpose \$ 8,000 would be needed to "purchase and distribute" 36,000 pamphlets in the District. Specifically it stated that the cost included "\$ 5,200 for the Purchase of 36,000 pamphlets while another \$ 2,800 was needed for the distribution to every resident via a postal walk". Information from Coastal Health however, revealed that Coastal Health has already paid for both the pamphlet and may also have paid for its distribution. In light of this the matter needs clarification.

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> If the pamphlet prepared by the Coastal Health Authority has indeed been distributed as was confirmed by Coastal Health, regardless of the assistance by the municipality or otherwise, then the expenditure of \$ 8,000 requested by Staff is clearly unwarranted especially since to do so is not the responsibility of local government in the first place. In any event the information given to Council may have been incomplete if not misleading.

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> What may be more serious, however is that, in the event that the Ministry via Coastal Health, independent of Council, has already paid for the printing and distribution of the pamphlet or was committed to do so, failure by Council to rescind its previous decision will not only be an unnecessary expenditure but would also create a dangerous precedent since it will convince the Health Authorities that regardless of whether or not the Health Authorities accept their responsibility, municipalities will fill the gap. In any case clarification is urgently needed.

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