Subject: FW: North Shore News article
   Date: Tue, 4 Feb 2003 08:31:54 -0800
  From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>
    To: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

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-----Original Message-----
From: Ernie Crist
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2003 8:10 AM
To: Ernie Crist; 'FONVCA (E-mail)'; Mayor and Council - DNV; Directors Team
Subject: RE: North Shore News article
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Dear Ms Ehler;

You have made your point and I have made mine. There is one thing that puzzles me
however. If your Union is so concerned about the lack of funding etc., and lack of
support from the provincial government and justifiably so then why did your Union not
ever appear before local Councils to seek their support on this important issue. Not once
did any member ever attempt to do so.

If you have any suggestions or specific request I would be happy to put them forward to
Council in the form of a resolution to pass on to the Minister and or the UBCM (Union
of British Columbia Municipalities Convention).

Thank you,

Ernie Crist.

P.S My apologies for misspelling - it should have been aspersion rather then dispersion
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 -----Original Message-----
From: Ernie Crist
Sent: Sunday, February 02, 2003 8:50 PM
To: 'Wendy E.'
Subject: RE: North Shore News article
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Dear Ms Ehler;

Thank you for your reply.

What I stated is the truth. What the reasons for the foul-up were, including that the
ambulance could not find the house and arrived 45 minutes late is up to the
participating parties and authorities to review and resolve. I did not cast any
dispersion on anybody other than congratulate the fire department for their job. You
may wish to avail yourself of a copy of my motion to see for yourself. The main thrust of
my motion was indeed to review this whole matter and to shake up an altogether
unsatisfactory setup. I believe this will now be done. This means that my purpose has
been accomplished, at least I hope so.

Thank you again.

Ernie Crist

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-----Original Message-----
From: Wendy E. [mailto:grandduchess@telus.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 02, 2003 8:18 PM
To: Ernie Crist
Subject: North Shore News article
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Re: Council commends NVD fire service

Mr. Crist: As a Paramedic 1 with the BC Ambulance Service, I am upset and offended by some of the comments attributed to you in this article -   "There has got to be a different solution to the fact that we have an ambulance service that is consistently late and a fire department that is consistently there first...." etc. Mr Crist, do you have any idea at all how the system works? Are you familiar with the AMPDS dispatch system? Are you aware that in the entire North Shore (North and West Vancouver) there are two ambulance stations to the five fire stations stated in the article? Are you aware that the major reason that First Responders are often able to arrive first on scene is because chances are excellent that they are at their station waiting to be called out. However, the ambulance crews may be waiting at Lion's Gate Hospital (often for hours) to be able to have their patients admitted, redirected from a less urgent call, just clearing from another or even coming from another area as the local crews are busy? As you should know, fire departments are a municipal and/or regional district concern. The Ambulance Service is a provincial concern. Both our union and management are constantly lobbying the government for increased resources. Imagine the discouragement paramedics feel when people such as yourself imply that we are falling down on the job. Maybe you should ride third some time with one of our crews and go visit the dispatch centre downtown so that you can get a better understanding of what our job entails. The fact is , the whole First Responder program was initiated because a) fire departments have a lot of down time and in order for them to continue to justify the money spent on them, something needed to be found for them to do and b) it was a stopgap measure to address shortages with BCAS. I strongly urge you and your fell council members to know of what you speak and to continue to lobby the government for increased BCAS resources - Wendy Ehler

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