

Subject: FW: Response to letter from Mr. Dutt re Lions Gate Hospital - A victim of efficiency.

Date: Wed, 29 Oct 2003 14:51:01 -0800

From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

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CC: "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>

> *Subject: Response to letter from Mr. Dutt re Lions Gate Hospital - A victim of efficiency.*

>

> *Dear Dr. Dutt:*

>

> *Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to the editor re the above subject and thank you for your words of wisdom.*

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> *Your recent misfortune of showing up at the LGH Emergency with excruciating pain evokes great sympathy on my part for I had a similar experience. Indeed this whole matter came to our attention when a North Van resident appeared before Council with a similar story and appealed to us to write a letter to the Premier. But when I rose to the occasion (nobody else did) and made a motion to that effect my efforts were derided and belittled. However, local press reports regarding staff and facility cuts at Lions Gate are common knowledge. The comments made by various members of District Council, when refusing to endorse my motion, are beyond explanation other than to say that they have to be politically motivated.*

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> *The facts you have elaborated in your letter are irrefutable. What upset me personally, even more than having to wait for hours in the Lions Gate Emergency while being in great pain, was the condition of the emergency room. Granted it was in the early hours of the morning but even so its condition was deplorable. Not just that it was untidy which may be expected in a busy place but it was dirty which in a Hospital should be anathema. What I saw was an understaffed Third World standard emergency room. It was certainly not on a par with the Lions Gate Hospital of past days when I was on the board and when its reputation inspired both pride and confidence in the citizens of North Vancouver.*

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> *That my motion failed should come as no surprise, however, considering the reputation of the District as revealed in the local press during the last few years. It may be of interest to learn that when I recently made a motion that we ask the provincial government to make fees for bona fide and professionally supervised recreation facilities tax deductible as is the case in many countries in Europe since for every dollar spent on preventive health care we save seven dollars in actual health care cost, it too was voted down by Council. All I asked for in my motion is that we make this suggestion to the premier.*

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> *The same members of Council you mentioned in your letter also voted against this motherhood motion.*

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> *With these thoughts I conclude and rest my case.*

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> *Thank you again for your letter and hopefully your health is by now improved.*

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> *With your permission I would like to send your letter including my reply to my own contacts.*

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> *I trust the NEWS will print your letter.*

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> *Yours truly,*

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> *Ernie Crist*

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