

Subject: Deteriorating Services of Lions Gate Hospital - A Victim of Efficiency

Date: Thu, 30 Oct 2003 09:21:09 -0800

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

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

CC: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>

North Shore News,
North Vancouver

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

Just as I was preparing to express my serious concern at the closing of Lions Gate Hospital's Surgical Ward (Your news coverage of 8th Oct 2003), I was appalled to read that the District of North Vancouver has not accepted the motion of Coun. Ernie Crist to the Premier (17th Oct 2003). I find nothing objectionable or improper in writing a letter on behalf of the Residents of North Vancouver, who have elected this august body to represent us and address our welfare concerns. By passing the alternate motion, I wonder, what the delegation from Vancouver Coastal Health Authority is going to speak to the Council about which is not already known. Just more of pep talk!

It is regrettable that Coun. Janice Harris does not consider it serious enough to draw the attention of or more appropriately demand an explanation from the Premier. When was the last time Coun. Harris went to the LGH either as a patient or as a representative of the District (which we expect of our Councillors) to check on the shortcomings that one faces every day? 'The Premier was quick enough to give a break to the 'Businesses' the second day after his election and since then has started clawing back on the medical essential services under one pretence or the other, including raising of the premiums and medical benefits of the seniors. I wish one of the members of the ruling class of Victoria was slated for a hip-replacement in three years time, hopefully under a difference regime.

I had the misfortune of showing up at the LGH Emergency with excruciating pain and serious urinary problems. In the four hours that I waited there, I saw innumerable very serious patents brought up by ambulances from all over the Mainland - all victims of 'improved efficiency and consolidated services'. When I could not sit any longer, I asked the attending nurse when my turn would come. Her reply was that she does not know. As my condition was 'not serious enough' to get precedence over the ceaseless flow of emergency patients, it may be not that night.

Unable to sit any longer, I left for home, where at least I could lie down and bear my pain more comfortably. Since then, even the thought of being referred to the Emergency upsets me.

Does the Dist. need a sworn testimony from hundreds of patients like me to be convinced that there is something 'very wrong' with our LGH and over-all medical services planning of the Govt.?

Thank God elections, both the Provincial and Municipal are not that far. We should know better by then.

Yours truly,
"B. Dutt"
Dr. B. Dutt

