

Subject: FW: Three cheers for the NEWS

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

> Dear Editor:

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> Three cheers for the NEWS Editorial re Port Taxes. I am certainly happy that the NEWS at least has recognized Mr. Jarvis's folly that municipalities should forego fair municipal taxes for Canada Port Properties because they are not only of benefit to the country but also to the local economy.

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> The whole country does indeed benefit from Canada's Ports, which is precisely the reason why Municipalities should NOT be expected to accept any burden of subsidy; a point of crucial importance to both North Vancouver City and District. It appears that this crucial bit of logic has escaped Mr. Jarvis who is supposed to represent North Van's interests in Victoria.

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> But there is more. It appears that Mr. Jarvis is also oblivious to the fact that, despite Victoria's noise about the NEW Municipal Charter, municipalities, still have essentially only the property tax as a source of income. British Columbia is not like Europe and/or the US where cities and municipalities receive their fair constitutional share of either Federal and/or State budgets which puts them into an infinitely more advantageous taxation position. They have tax options we in British Columbia can only dream about.

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> Mr. Jarvis, it appears, suffers from a severe reality lapse insisting, as he does, that there is only one pocket. That is hardly the issue. The point is whose hand is in the pocket? Is it the hand who has to pay the bills, the hand responsible to address the staggering problems of Canadian urban life, or is it the hand of senior governments, who have downloaded their responsibilities as both Victoria and Ottawa have done.

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> Surely Mr. Jarvis is not arguing that it is NOT Canada's cities and/or municipalities, with their close to 90% of Canada's population, who are in the front line facing Canada's staggering urban problems - problems one might add, which have been greatly exacerbated by both Federal and Provincial incompetent immigration and criminal justice systems to mention but two examples, not to speak of economic policies that have made us candidates for third world status.

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> Ernie Crist, Councillor

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> District of North Vancouver.

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