

**Subject: The 2003-2004 District Budget.**

**Date:** Sat, 6 Sep 2003 08:10:32 -0700

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

**To:** "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Nicole Deveaux" <Nicole\_Deveaux@dnv.org>

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A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

Based on Comments by one member of the public following our last Budget meeting on Wednesday last, I feel obliged to clarify my position regarding the 2003/2004 budget. I may well have given the wrong impression by indicating that I was willing to opt for a 2% pay back to the Heritage Fund from operating. This is not the case. There is something immoral about voting in favor of something when it is against one owns better judgment.

To continue using the Heritage fund in such a manner is not only morally wrong but is also an irresponsible business practice. In any case I do not believe that this or any future Council has any intention to change this practice. It has not been done during the last 12 years and there is no reason to assume that the situation would change - once a junkie always a junkie. I think that the suggestion is but a ruse to play for time while carrying on with business as usual.


I will therefore not support any budget which continues to use ANY amount of Heritage Fund money for "operating" either direct or indirect. And neither will I support any budget which continues to subsidize the City of North Vancouver as is presently the case in both the playing field and/or capital maintenance area of the existing Rec Facilities and Shared Services agreement.

As I have pointed out the present subsidies to the REC Commission can be cut and or eliminated altogether without any diminution in services by simply reorganizing the commission. I find it interesting that this Council which is complaining about lack of money and while being faced with a close to 5% increase in taxes has just signed an agreement with the City perpetuating this kind of subsidy.

Notwithstanding, I will however, submit once again a motion to reorganize the Rec Commission to make it more effective, more efficient and more responsive to community needs based on " programs geared for the maximum ( health) benefit of the maximum number of residents at minimum cost, rather than maximum programs for the minimum number of people at the expense of the general public who are subsidizing the commission to the tune of nearly \$ 6 million annually while at the same time there is no money to maintain the capital infrastructure with the result that the facilities are deteriorating. In all fairness, I have never experienced a more irresponsible attitude than that by the present Mayor and Council of the District of North Vancouver.

Notwithstanding I will shortly re submit a previous motion for the purpose of addressing this issue again.

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