

Subject: Response to letter from Mr. re Homeowner grant.

Date: Tue, 1 Jul 2003 10:08:14 -0700

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

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

Dear Mr.

I fully appreciate your concerns re the Homeowner grant. The Provincial Government should raise the level of grants in relation to the increase in property values on a regional basis to protect against variations in property value increases throughout the province.


By way of example, Municipalities have an opportunity to speak directly to the provincial government during the annual Union of British Columbia UBCM Conventions. This is achieved by an individual member of a Municipal Council such as the District of North Vancouver, drawing up a resolution, having it passed by Council and then submitting it to the UBCM Convention which takes place annually in a City of BC.

Such resolutions are submitted, debated and if passed by the convention are in turn passed on to the provincial government for action. It is an effective way to influence provincial legislation on behalf of the citizens of a municipality which is, indeed, the very purpose of the UBCM.

In my capacity as Councillor I have submitted many such resolutions in the past indeed more than the rest of District Council, including the Mayor, put together. However, I have been unable to do this anymore. By Council policy, instituted by Mayor Bell, a member of District Council (read Crist) may not introduce and explain a resolution unless it is seconded by another member of Council first. There is no guarantee therefore that the work that goes into writing a resolution will have a chance to even be considered for debate by Council much less passed.

In light of this, I have refrained from writing any more UBCM resolutions. The result has been that the District of North Vancouver, for politically biased reasons, is no longer in the forefront in attempting to influence the Province on behalf of its citizens. A recent count of such resolutions submitted to the UBCM by District Council shows a drastic reduction from previous years, albeit that not all resolutions previously submitted were passed by the UBCM.

I do expect, however, that other municipalities will take up the call and act on behalf of people like you.

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