

Subject: Fifteen Point Program

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A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

A 16 point program to put the District's fiscal, social, recreation, health, community and cultural objectives on track and save the District from further decline;

1) The District will restore the Heritage Fund and towards that end put all proceeds from land sales, income from land leases and interest generated by these funds into the Fund and allow it to accumulate to a level which will enable the District to pay for future capital requirements from interest generated by this Fund as planned in 1986 - Councillor Crist's efforts to that effect in the past failed. Unless this policy is changed the pressure to sell land to subsidize District operations will commence again - a return to the original policy of putting proceeds from these sources into the Heritage Fund is possible only through strong public pressure.

2) The District will terminate all present large subsidies extended to the City of North Vancouver under the present Joint Services agreement including recreation and field use and bring it under the direct control of Council under a Director of Recreation operating out of the District Hall - Councillor Crist's efforts to that effect in the past were not accepted - a change is possible only through strong public pressure.

3) In the District of North Vancouver, Community Plans, planning, zoning, development and redevelopment are community and neighborhood driven. It is the only guarantee that the District's livability and sustainable community concept can be achieved and maintained - deemed possible in some areas where community organizations are strong such as Edgemont, Pemberton, Seymour, Capilano etc.

4) Make public recreation an integral part of the Preventive Health Care System based on the concept of public recreation and fitness programs geared for the maximum benefit for the maximum number of people at minimum cost. Reorganize Recreation facilities along the "Parkgate" Model - Councillor Crist's efforts to this effect in the past were not accepted - a change from the present wasteful way of operating the District's public recreation facilities and the headlong gallop towards the dissolution and deterioration of facilities is possible only provided there is strong pressure from the public.

5) Lobby the provincial government to make legitimate expenditures for Preventive Health Care and Fitness Programs tax deductible - This is a great success in most countries - Councillor Crist's efforts to this effect in the past were not accepted - a change from the present is possible only if there is strong public pressure including from the health community.

5) For purposes of efficiency and direct control, Bylaw Enforcement should be returned to the District Hall and be based on an incentive system - deemed marginally possible under the present District Mayor and Council

6) The District, the City and West Vancouver will jointly pursue a common public transportation policy vis-à-vis the GVRD and Translink to achieve greater autonomy for the North Shore and to revise the existing regional transportation plans for additional Sea-Bus crossings and a direct link up with Rapid Transit in the region - Councillor Crist's efforts to this effect in the past were not accepted - a change is only possible provided the public will demand it.

7) The District will pursue a new governance formula for both the GVRD and Translink based on direct accountability - would require strong leadership and unity among all North Shore Councils - Councillor Crist's efforts to this effect in the past were not accepted - deemed to be unlikely under the present District Mayor and Council but all things are possible provided the public will demand it.

8) The District will restore the Infrastructure Reserve Funds to the 1997 level - Councillor Crist's efforts to that effect were not accepted - a change is only possible provided there is strong public demand for it.

9) The District will live within its fiscal means and pay for expenses based on the taxes it receives - Councillor Crist's efforts to this effect in the past were not accepted - deemed not possible under the present Mayor and Council unless there is strong public pressure to demand this

10) The District will assume and will subsequently request from the Port Authority responsibility for all uplands in the District which is essential for the long term community planning of Seymour and guarantee public access to the waterfront. The recommendations of the Waterfront Task Force need to be realized. The Waterfront Task Force recommendations have only been implemented on a very small scale if at all and Councillor Crist's efforts to take over all upland from the Port in the past were not accepted - a change is possible only provided the public will demand it.

11) The District management will institute meaningful benchmarks to measure the efficiency of all District operations and departments - Councillor Crist's efforts to this effect in the past were only marginally implemented except in one department namely the District Fire Department where this was done with great success - a change is only possible under an effective new municipal manager backed by Council and the public.


12) The District will radically change its policy towards the Arts as one of the most effective means to help youth, stimulate and support the tourist industry and business - deemed difficult considering the lack of understanding of the importance of the Arts by the present District Mayor and Council but a change is possible provided the Arts Community becomes more politically active.

13) Before they come to Council, all rezoning applications, DVP's etc. are referred to the existing community organizations for input with their feedback being part of the staff report for approval by Council - a change is possible provided it is strongly supported by the existing neighborhood organizations. At stake is neighborhood livability, the future, the prestige and the effectiveness of community organizations

14) The District will institute a Code of Ethics Bylaw not just for members of Council which already exists but also a Code of Ethics bylaw for staff - Councillor Crist's attempts to do so in the past were not accepted - a change is only possible provided there is strong public support to do this.

15) The District commits to set aside 5% of all new land it sells to be leased on a long term lease arrangement for non profit housing. Councillor Crist's previous efforts to this effect were not accepted - a change is possible provided the public especially the social organizations will support it.

16) The District commits to keep the District neat, tidy and well kept. Towards this end the District will not allow any billboards and/or their cousins streets signs to be displayed on District streets thus uglifying the District land and road scape.

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