

**Subject: RE: Gasoline Taxes - Feds keep theirs - Province adds more.**

**Date:** Wed, 26 Feb 2003 22:10:59 -0800

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

**To:** "Corrie Kost" <corrie@kost.ca>, "Don Bell2" <belld@dnv.org>, "Janice Harris" <Janice\_Harris@dnv.org>, "Lisa Muri" <lisa\_muri@dnv.org>, "Maureen McKeon Holmes" <Maureen\_McKeonHolmes@dnv.org>, "Alan Nixon" <Alan\_Nixon@dnv.org>, "Richard Walton" <richard\_walton@dnv.org>, "Agnes Hilsen" <Agnes\_Hilsen@dnv.org>

**CC:** "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, "Directors Team" <managecomm@dnv.org>

Dear Mr. Kost:

This particular issue has been raised by me many times in Council in various forms. I also submitted, via Council, various resolutions to be forwarded to both to UBCM and the FCM Conventions in the past. Other Municipalities have done likewise. Needless to say, it should continue to be done at every conceivable level and opportunity.

However, my ability to be pro-active on this and other important matters has been curtailed by the attitude of District Council. They claim that I am making too many demands on Staff. However, since I do virtually all this work myself, this allegation needless to say is a red herring. It can only be construed as a diversion from other serious shortcomings in the District. It is certainly not based on any kind of understanding as to what the purpose is of the UBCM and the FCM, of which we are members.

The whole idea of these bodies is precisely for municipalities to bring resolutions forward so they may be debated at the convention floor. You will understand that constant belittling of such efforts, harping and roadblocks against me in putting such resolutions forward does nothing to encourage any kind of pro-activeness.

And yet I notice that although I am criticized for doing so, nobody else is submitting any resolutions to these bodies. One Councillor, in particular, has used every opportunity to attack my efforts but has never submitted a single resolution herself. The level of ignorance is such that this kind of initiative is treated as harmful rather than the other way around. The result is that the District is being dragged down to the level of mediocrity and even below.

Only recently yet another charge was made that I am making too many demands on staff. When the matter was investigated it turned out to be a total fabrication. My demand on staff time was well within that allocated by policy. Still, it once again diverted attention away from the real issues, and created an aura of discouragement, hostility, divisiveness and frustration. It is merely the continuation of harassment by other means. The clerk too stated that although my demand on staff time was well below that allowed by policy, "it will be closely watched".

Also, it is not very encouraging to go to the trouble to prepare a resolution without even a guarantee that I would be able to explain it to the public or even to Council when it comes up on the agenda. You may recall that only recently I made yet another attempt to get this anti-democratic, subjective and counterproductive policy changed but the Mayor, with the help of several Councillors, nixed it once again.

As usual one Councillor, along with the Mayor, was in the forefront of the fight against this basic democratic right. I don't know whether such behavior is based on jealousy, ignorance or just plain politically motivated bias or a combination of all these factors, but it certainly does not help to promote any kind of constructive endeavor.

I am passing this information on to you in the hope that it will clarify the situation and also state what in my opinion is the reason why more initiatives and more leadership is not being provided by the District in many important areas including the one you have mentioned in connection with the Federal Government's "theft" of Funds belonging to Municipalities which is part and parcel of the struggle for a new constitution under which local government is recognized as a legitimate level of government.

Thank you,

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

-----Original Message-----

From: Corrie Kost [<mailto:corrie@kost.ca>]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2003 1:10 PM  
To: Don Bell2; Ernie Crist; Janice Harris; Lisa Muri; Maureen McKeon  
Holmes; Alan Nixon; Richard Walton; Agnes Hilsen  
Subject: Gasoline Taxes - Feds keep theirs - Province adds more.

Your Worship & Members of Council,

In the latest Local Government Bulletin ([http://www.localgovernment.ca/show\\_library.cfm?id=88](http://www.localgovernment.ca/show_library.cfm?id=88)) it states,


"The federal government collected about \$4.3 billion in gas tax alone in 2002. The Federal budget announcement only earmarks \$100 million/year nationally toward municipal roads and bridges, as well as sewer and water infrastructure."

As a community we should be putting a lot more pressure on the Federal Government to spend these gasoline taxes in areas they were intended for. Likewise the Province should do the same - and not put more gasoline taxes in place which only encourages the Feds to keep theirs!

Yours truly,

Corrie Kost

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