

Subject: FW: Notice of Motion, Northlands - report Councillor Crist;

Date: Thu, 27 Feb 2003 22:12:23 -0800

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

To: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Ernie Crist

> Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2003 10:01 PM

> To: Nathalie Valdes

> Subject: Notice of Motion, Northlands - report Councillor Crist;

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> Notice of Motion Northlands investigation - Report Councillor Crist;

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> Motion;

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> That notwithstanding the current criminal investigation being conducted by the RCMP into the Northlands embezzlement issue and notwithstanding the setting up of a Council Committee on the future governance of Northlands and/or related issues, Council request the RCMP to conduct a separate investigation to ascertain the exact dates when District Management was first made aware of this including the amount of the embezzlement and the exact date when this information, in turn, was brought to the attention of the Mayor of the District and further

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> That following the completion of this investigation these facts be made public.

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> Rationale:

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> The recent revelations regarding the Northlands controversy specifically the embezzlement of large funds by an employee of Don Mac Holding plus the fact, as revealed, that this criminal activity had been going on for several years without being noticed by District employees has shaken the confidence of District residents.

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> While the RCMP is conducting a criminal investigation into the matter of theft per se no specific instructions have been given to the RCMP as to when these facts were brought to the attention of District staff and what is more important, when this information in turn was brought to the attention of the Mayor.

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> According to the information supplied by District staff the embezzlement became known to staff on October 16, on October the 21 Council on the advice of District Staff debated the pros and cons of an extension of the contract to Don Mac at an In Camera Meeting. At that meeting Council was not made aware by staff that they in turn were already aware of the embezzlement. This in itself is a serious breach of ethics by staff.

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> Notwithstanding the aforementioned, however, including the embezzlement per se which is being investigated by the RCMP there is an even more serious issue.

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> The information was withheld from Council until November 25. The Mayor claims that he was not made aware of this until November 19th. If this is true it constitutes yet another serious breach of ethics by District Management. In the private sector a misdemeanor of such a magnitude would result in instant dismissal but, despite a call for disciplinary action by Councillor Crist, no action was taken by the Mayor and Council. A motion by Councillor Crist to determine the exact date as to when the Mayor had been made aware of the embezzlement was defeated by the present District Council also.

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> This has raised the level of suspicion by the public that the information has been withheld and is part and parcel of a cover-up which involves the Mayor and Council. The issue is the more critical since the events took place during the 2002 election campaign. Had these facts be known to the public during the campaign, the election results might well have been altogether different.

> This falls into the realm of speculation, of course.

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> What is true is that if such a scandal would occur at any other level of government there would be an investigation as to the accuracy of the dates when the information was made known

especially to the Mayor who stood to gain from such a possible cover-up.

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> The matter goes to the very heart of credible and responsible government. The District for the sake of credibility like Caesar's wife must not only be above reproach but must also be seen to be above reproach. Unless these questions are clarified the suspicion will linger that there is something rotten in the state of the District. It behooves Council to get to the bottom of this and this can only be accomplished if the RCMP conducts an independent investigation and if the result of this investigation in turn are made public>

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