

**Subject: The 2004 District Budget issues to tackle to provide direction to staff**

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A BUDGET MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

14 points which should be addressed before this budget is adopted.

1) Will Council continue to subsidize the City via the Recreation Commission including the joint use of playing fields, or achieve considerable cost savings by stopping this unjustified subsidy?

2) Will the District leave the administration of the Recreation Commission as is, or reorganize it along the Parkgate model and pull out of the Joint Services Agreement with the City and save millions of dollars which could be used to upgrade and expand facilities?

3) Will the District continue to give preferential tax treatment to the Waterfront industries at the expense of other tax property categories at a time when the provincial government is already putting severe restrictions on the freedom of municipalities to levy taxes?

4) Will the District continue to ignore the waterfront tax potential made possible through rezoning of these most valuable properties? I made a motion to receive a staff report to that effect a long time ago to find out what the benefits might be for the municipality. This request has been consistently ignored.

5) Will the District continue with the Crime Prevention program started 12 years ago which included an expansion of the neighborhood policing station program or stop this program by nixing the Parkgate station?

6) Will the District come to grips with the question of Arts Administration and Arts strategy or ignore this since it would require strong political leadership?

7) Will the District continue to give the Chamber of Commerce \$ 75,000 to promote Tourism, which is totally unjustified, and should instead be given to the ARTS which is a far more effective tool to promote tourism while, at the same time, it also enhances livability, promotes the economy and reduces crime?

8) Will the District continue with the present three tier (or is it four) Arts funding policy, complete with a colossal administrative waste of money for triplicate administration, when this money should go to the Arts providers directly?

9) Will the District continue to siphon off money from the Heritage Fund when this money should be allowed to accumulate in line with the original purpose which was to use the interest generated by this Fund to pay for capital projects?

10) Will the District treat public recreation as community service as part of the preventive health care philosophy or will it move to the scenario pursued by the provincial government - if you can afford it fine, if you can't, too bad - do this society a favor and die.


11) Will the District continue to give grants to organizations who have little or no impact in the community while organizations which are effective are desperately short of funds?

12) Will the District commit to pursue community planning based on community and neighborhood need and for that purpose enhance the role of community organizations or will the District fall back on developer driven philosophy.

13) Will the District continue to fool itself and the public by selling land to subsidize its operations.

14) Will the District open up its waterfront, for the benefit of its residents and provide some funding in this budget or will it CONTINUE TO capitulate in the face of special interests?

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