

Subject: Re: Notice of Motion - Election of North Shore Translink Representative

Date: Mon, 12 Jan 2004 22:16:37 +0000 (GMT)

From: Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

To: Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>, Mayor & Council <infocentre@city.richmond.bc.ca>, Mayor and Council <info@tol.bc.ca>

CC: Mayor Sharp <council@cnv.org>, Mayor Ron Wood and Council <rwood@district.west-van.bc.ca>, Mayor Lisa Barrett <barrett@bim.bc.ca>, Mayor Doug Miller <office@village.lions-bay.bc.ca>, Carolanne Reynolds <EditorWVM@WestVan.org>, Cathy Adams <cathyadams@canada.com>, Eric Andersen <eric_g_andersen@hotmail.com>, Maureen Bragg <m.bragg@shaw.ca>, Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>, Allan Orr <allandorr@shaw.ca>, Pat Higgs <patroberta@telus.net>, Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>, Bill Tracey <wrtracey@telus.net>

12 January 2004

Dear Clr. Crist:

On the basis of my current knowledge, I would certainly support this motion and imagine there will be many in the community who feel the same way. I do have a couple of questions, however, to which you may have the answers:

1. **Current Process:** Under the process which has been the norm for several years, it has been the practice for North Shore TransLink representation to rotate through the mayors of the three most populous of the five municipalities. From press reports, this has not happened in 2004.

Question: Why is that?

I can see why Mayor Bell would have declined or not been offered the position, since he is busy with his duties as GVRD Vice-Chair and will be more so in the near future with his Liberal nomination aspirations. If memory serves me correctly, however, it would have been Mayor Wood's 'turn' in any event, so.....

Question: Is that correct, and if so, why is Mayor Wood not to be named to the TransLink Board?

2. **Changes to TransLink governance:** The report of BC Auditor-General, Wayne Strelloff, expressed concerns about TransLink governance. Flowing out of that report has been a lengthy review to determine how the governance structure could/should be improved.

Question: Do you know the status of that report and its hoped for recommendations?

3. **Request for changes to allow for alternates and/or for councillor representation:** As you know, a request was put forward many, many months ago that councillors be allowed (a) to sit as alternate in the event a mayor was unable to attend a meeting or meetings; and/or, (b) to be eligible to take on the task in the first place. So far as I am aware, there has been no decision on the request.

Question: What is the reason for the delay? Is the delay in release of the governance report being used to excuse a delay in what would appear to be a fairly simple decision?

4. **Rationale for the "only 3 of 5" Mayoral rotation:** When North Shore *Council of Councils* meetings are held, representatives of Bowen Island and Lions Bay eloquently express the concerns of their residents with respect to the effect TransLink decisions are having on their communities. Just as important is the fact that they also display detailed knowledge of the transportation issues in the Region. It has never been clear why only the Mayors of West Vancouver and the two North Vancovers are eligible for the rotation.

Question: Why does the process not acknowledge the talents and right of these two municipalities to be included in the rotation?

5. **Use of TransLink and GVRD Board positions for 'disciplinary' purposes:** You may have noticed in the weekend press that Vancouver Clr. Dr. Fred Bass - an outspoken detractor on several TransLink decisions - has been denied continuance as a member of the TransLink Board. This is certainly not the first time this kind of 'discipline' has been exerted; in fact, our own Clr. Mackay-Dunn and Clr. Harris have experienced this in the past. It is absolutely unacceptable that this kind of thing happens to council members who sincerely feel they are advocating for the best interests of their constituents; it is, after all, their legal responsibility to do so - under both the LGA and now the Community Charter.

When the issue has been challenged to people like former GVRD/TransLink Chair George Puil and, more recently, to Vancouver Mayor Larry Campbell, every other reason possible has been given for the decisions - but in politics, as they say, perception is everything.

In summary, then, I believe the issue of a significant change to "the way things are done" should be front and centre on the agendas of

all community associations.

If TransLink is to exist at all, it is suggested that Board members - as well as the members of the GVRD and GVWD boards should be elected by the people and that this should commence with the next local elections to be held in November 2005.

The intervening period should be devoted to deciding how many board positions there should be and how they should be apportioned across the region. One can understand why the current vote is weighted by population. However, this system has proven patently unfair to many of the over one million residents of the 19 smaller municipalities of the Region who must pay the bills for decisions made largely for the benefit of Vancouver and Surrey. This is most obviously the case with respect to TransLink decisions. [More on this topic is in draft.]

Yours truly,

Liz James
[604] 988-2066

Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org> wrote:

Motion - Report Councillor Crist:

That the Council of the District of North Vancouver request of the other North Shore Councils that, in line with fundamental democratic principles, the North Shore Representative to Translink be elected by a majority vote at a special open and joint meeting of all North Shore Municipal Council members present and further, that such a procedure become the official policy for electing the North Shore representative to Translink.

Rationale:

According to recent Press Reports, North Vancouver City Mayor Barbara Sharp has been re-appointed to represent all North Shore Councils on Translink. Also, according to News reports, the appointment was made by the affected North Shore Mayors without consulting the Councils within their own jurisdictions. Certainly no debate took place in the District of North Vancouver as might be expected and as would be democratically appropriate.

To change this arbitrary method of electing and/or appointing the North Shore representative to Translink is the purpose of this motion.

[Yahoo! Messenger](#) - Communicate instantly..."Ping" your friends today! [Download Messenger Now](#)