

**Subject: RE: Responsible Use**

**Date:** Fri, 23 Jan 2004 18:22:53 +0000 (GMT)

**From:** Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

**To:** Ernie Crist <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>, Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>, Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>, James Ridge <James\_Ridge@dnv.org>

**CC:** FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Dear Clr. Crist:

Thank you for understanding the thrust of my letter and for your comments. All I can suggest is that there is more than one way to win a "war," and ask again, "How's it been working for you so far?"

Although I have the words of Neville Chamberlain ringing in my ears and remember what happened thereafter, I'm sure most District residents would prefer that, once again, we strive for *peace in our time*. That, after all, is the ultimate goal of the democracy you and I both revere.

So we can keep regarding this as a "war," and spend our time "fighting," or we can hope for more than we likely have a right to expect from Mr. Ridge, and give him a chance to prove that peace can break out.

Perhaps this message will carry more weight coming from someone like me, since it is my nature not to tolerate well those who betray the public trust - to whatever degree. It is far more in my nature to "fight" for democracy, than to negotiate for it when I see 'the other side' turning my goodwill to their own 'advantage.'

Perhaps a turning point for me came about a year ago when I used the word 'fight' in a friendly conversation with Colin Wright - a staff member in West Vancouver District. He said that, although he agreed with what I was saying - about TransLink probably - he preferred to think of it as an ongoing effort to persuade them to do the right thing, rather than a fight. Teachers come in the most unexpected places.

Mr. Wright and I agreed that such an approach carried its risks, and that we wouldn't carry the day on everything, or even anything, but at least we would know that we'd taken the high road and held to our principles. Maybe that's poor comfort; maybe, even, I'll change my mind. For the moment, though, I'd really appreciate it if everyone - not just you - could give Peace a chance.

As an aside, it's interesting to remember how you and I held opposite opinions on the war in Iraq...me going for war and you for peace....and now here we are the other way around. Life's a strange journey, ain't it?

Sincerely,  
Liz James

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