

Subject: FW:**Date:** Sat, 24 Jan 2004 09:36:01 -0800**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>**To:** "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>**CC:** "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>

A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST;

> The recent action by North Vancouver District Council to speak up against the deteriorating standards at Lions Gate Hospital would not have been possible had it not been for the strong support of the SENIOR CITIZENS ORGANIZATION OF BC, COSCO, THE COUNCIL OF CANADIANS AND THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE UNION EMPLOYEES OF LIONS GATE HOSPITAL. This is an important lesson.

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> When I put forward a resolution to deal with this issue previously it was all but ignored. On one such occasion, there was only one person present in support. But when the District Hall was filled with people defending their Hospital, as was the case on Monday the 19 of January, Council agreed to accept some responsibility. This is the way it should be, of course. After all, Lions Gate affects every person on the North Shore. Most of us will, at one time or other, have to go to the Hospital as patients and who but our local government should speak up when standards are deteriorating.

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> There is a lesson in this. While people may be reluctant to speak up and become involved, it is the only way politicians can be moved. This is unfortunate but it is true nonetheless. The old adage that when people lead politicians will follow, even the mediocre variety, is still valid.


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> I also want to congratulate the NEWS and your reporter Cheryl Rossi for providing good coverage and a good story. Health is surely one of the real important issues. We cannot stand idly by and let the government tamper with our Lions Gate Hospital which, at one time, was a leader in the province.

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> It is interesting also that when, on a previous occasion, I made a motion on District Council urging Victoria and Ottawa to make fees for bona fide exercising programs in both public and private recreation facilities tax deductible, as is the case in other countries, there was no support. This despite the fact that preventive health care has a proven record and has saved countless billions of dollars in other jurisdictions. This stands to reason since for every dollar spent on preventive health care such as Doctor prescribed exercising in supervised bona fide public or private recreation facilities the government saves a minimum of \$ 7.

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> Such a preventive health care policy is especially effective since more than 40% of all doctor visits are stress related. Adopting this system would put health care onto a much higher level. But when I asked Council to endorse this idea and to send a letter to the Premier of British Columbia it was ignored and when I sent a letter of my own I only got a token response. I think this is yet one more issue where the public will have to provide leadership. Our Health Care system is surely worth defending.

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> Ernie Crist, Councillor,
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> District of North Vancouver.

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