

**Subject: WILL DON BELL VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE UNIVERSAL CHILDCARE BILL AS PROMISED BY THE MARTIN GOVERNMENT.**

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A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

When Don Bell was the Mayor of the District of North Vancouver which was not too long ago, he voted consistently against any and all EFFORTS ON MY PART, INCLUDING motions to the FCM, to IMPLEMENT Universal Childcare. So obstinate was he, the now champion of Liberal Democracy, he even seduced the other bright stars on District Council from allowing debate on any subject unless such motions were seconded by one of his disciples first. Janice Harris a then Councillor and now a mayoralty aspirant no less, was equally vociferous urging other members of Council not to second any of Crist's motions.

UNIVERSAL CHILDCARE has been in existence in Europe for a long time - I am not sure about the US. In most countries, Universal Childcare has been in existence since the end of WW I - this is a long time ago. To put the burden on local government which in the absence of universal childcare is the inevitable result is yet another form of downloading - it is costing the District taxpayers well over half a million dollars per year for both direct and indirect support.

Imagine - a single mom with two children having to pay up to 500 and 600 dollars each for childcare per month - hardly an incentive to go to work.

However, any time I attempted to forward any initiative via the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), I ran into a stone wall. Don Bell, the latter-day liberal would not even allow me to explain it for the edification of Council. His disciples being at least as socially "conscious" as Don himself and just as co-operative, needless to say, were always on the side of Don.

The point is what will Don do now? ... will he be consistent and vote against his party or will he break with his convictions and vote in favor? .... somehow I don't think he will vote against it. However, it will certainly constitute a dilemma. For one thing he will not even be allowed to bafflegab his colleagues should he chose to participate in the debate. He was very good at that - baffle gabbing, when everything else failed was always his last resort to confuse his disciples when they were in danger of seeing the light.

Ernie Crist

