

Subject: Municipal Elections

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From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Lisa Muri <lisa_muri@dnv.org>

CC: NVD Council <dnvcouncil@dnv.org>, Agnes Hilsen <Agnes_Hilsen@dnv.org>, FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>, cagebc@yahoo.com

Dear Councillor Muri,

I would like to thank you for speaking up on the issue I raised during the Public Input Period at Monday's Council meeting, namely: voter accountability during municipal elections. It is unfortunate that the municipality is not able to legally (according to Ms. Hilsen) require citizens to produce identification at the polling stations.

The potential for undetectable voter fraud is significant. A dishonest person could, hypothetically, vote at all 20 polling stations using his own name, or even use the name of another person who does not vote. Ms. Hilsen gave some indication that it might be possible for the municipality to require citizens in each neighbourhood to vote at the same polling station they would at provincial or federal elections. Having the ability to vote at any one of 20 polling stations is quite unnecessary and leads only to the potential for abuse.

The "honour system" does indeed work extremely well, but just consider the numbers from the recent by-election. With about 11,000 votes cast and a margin of victory in the mayoralty race at less than one hundred votes, just five dishonest people voting at each polling station could have affected the outcome in such a close race.

Please do not misunderstand me. I AM NOT suggesting that voter fraud took place in the recent by-election. I am only pointing to the numbers to illustrate that greater accountability at the polls is required to ensure the absolute integrity of our municipal elections.

Sincerely,
Brian Platts