

Subject:**Date:** Fri, 21 May 2004 19:09:55 -0700**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>**To:** <T.Onto200@shaw.ca>**CC:** "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Dear Mr. Brand:

I did not support the District Budget and have not done so for several years. Each and every time I have stated my reasons. To begin with I know the public does not mind paying taxes for services they receive provided that they believe that the money is spent wisely. I do not believe this is the case. But there is more.

I have made numerous proposals to save money without cutting services and I have done so not on the backs of our employees but rather at the expense of inefficiency. For instance, you may be aware that the City of North Vancouver has access to our playing fields free of charge. We have a saying, the City is building the high rises and we are building the playing fields. This is but one example. The reasons for this in my opinion are purely political and may have something to do with ambitions transcending the municipal scene at the expense of District taxpayers.

Also, I suggested repeatedly that we reorganize the Recreation Commission based on the Parkgate model which would save us millions of dollars annually without in any way shape or form minimizing the level of services - on the contrary. But this too has been nixed repeatedly. This is not to speak of the misuse of the District Heritage Fund which amounts to tens if not hundreds of millions of dollars. What is true for the Heritage Fund is also true for the Infrastructure Reserve Funds.

Unfortunately, even though I have pointed this out year after year, the public seemed to be oblivious and the result has been business as usual. This is another way of saying, it is the public and only the public, which can rectify this situation. The first step is to pay attention to local issues and the second is to pay more attention as to who gets elected and/or reelected. I appreciate that YOU at least have taken the time and trouble to raise some questions.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

