

Subject: FW: A Blast from the Past

Date: Sat, 24 Sep 2005 23:16:22 -0700

From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: <fonvca@fonvca.org>, "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James_Ridge@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>

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LIES HAVE SHORT LEGS - PASSED ON TO ERNIE CRIST AND IN TURN PASSED ON TO YOU.

From: user@domain.invalid [<mailto:user@domain.invalid>]
Sent: Saturday, September 24, 2005 6:52 PM
To: FONVCA (E-mail)
Cc: Ernie Crist
Subject: A Blast from the Past

Some news from 1999 election and the CCA. Someone did stand up and say, "This is wrong" but was ignored. Will history repeat itself? We need a few good men and women. We need concerned voters to make sure this does not happen again.

<<http://www.nsnews.com>>

DEC. 6, 1999

NVD calls for election probe

Council pushes for review of district electors association

By Marcie Good
Contributing Writer

THE case of a mysterious group which many believe influenced the election in North Vancouver District should be reviewed by the provincial ministry of municipal affairs, council voted Monday night.

The motion, raised by out-going Coun. Trevor Carolan, will request that the ministry look at the activities of the North Shore Concerned Citizens Association and its advertising campaign.

"While the NSCCA campaign appears to have enjoyed singular success in electing a slate of its endorsed candidates, the promotional materials it produced and distributed at considerable expense failed to disclose the true single-issue agenda that manifestly lay closest to its heart," Carolan read from a report to council.

"... ethically such tactics fall far short of the law in spirit and can only serve to bring the municipal electoral process into disrepute."

Raised during the last meeting of the out-going council, the issue carved a sharp divide between the re-elected and the defeated. Council voted 4-3 to support the motion, with Coun. Janice Harris, Coun. Lisa

Muri, and Mayor Don Bell against, all three of whom appeared on the Concerned Citizens slate and were re-elected. But they argued Monday night that the group's campaign did not affect the results.

"Maybe it's the weekly televising of council meetings that has as much to do with election results as any number of slates," contended Harris, who was elected with the most votes of any councillor.

She pointed out that the district has a "discriminating electorate," shown by the large number of people who "undervote" -- selecting only the number of candidates they want to support.

"I am not going to denigrate the choices that the electorate made in a fair, open, and well-debated election," she said. "I think that is sour grapes."

Mayor Bell said he was not asked for his consent before his name and picture appeared on the Concerned Citizens campaign material. He also raised concerns about whether a candidate must declare unsolicited contributions.

But Bell stopped short of supporting a full-fledged review of the Concerned Citizens group. He said it was "inappropriate" for such a request to come from council.

"I don't go along with the rationale that bad politics drives out the good," he said.

Muri also declared that she was not asked to be included on the group's slate, but agreed with Bell's comments. She asked whether the new council could overturn the motion.

New councillors Doug McKay-Dunn, Heather Dunsford and Bill Denault were also chosen by the Concerned Citizens. The only candidate on the group's slate that was not elected was Maureen McKeon-Holmes, who was narrowly defeated by Ernie Crist.

The group's pamphlets, mailed to district homes in the week before the Nov. 20 election, encouraged residents to vote "no" to the waterfront referendum.

They showed a photograph of highrise buildings along the West Vancouver seawall, and warned of "uncontrollable development." No name or contact number appeared on the flyers or in newspaper ads.


"It's the fact that a group that doesn't appear to be legal can spend unknown amounts of money, and we'll never know whether there was a conflict of interest," said Coun. Glenys Deering Robb, who was also defeated. "How do we know what's gone on here?"

Carolann insisted that this was not a case of "sour grapes," but a matter of principle.

"The Waterfront Task Force plan took many years, tax dollars, hours of staff time and volunteer time that is so precious.

"To have that misrepresented in this type of flyer that went around where clearly untruths are being told, is very serious," he said.

"Somebody from the municipality has to be willing to stand up and say 'This is wrong.' "

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