

**Subject: FW: Amalgamation of the District and City of North Vancouver**

**Date:** Sun, 10 Jul 2005 10:45:46 -0700

**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>

**To:** <fonvca@fonvca.org>

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From: Ernie Crist  
Sent: Sunday, July 10, 2005 10:40 AM  
To: 'Bill Yager'; DNVCouncil; Mayor Harris; Lisa Muri; Maureen McKeon  
Holmes; Alan Nixon; Richard Walton; Jim Cuthbert  
Cc: James Ridge  
Subject: RE: Amalgamation of the District and City of North Vancouver

Dear Mr. Yager:

In response to your email - numerous studies have been done over the years and I have personally made countless efforts including motions and initiatives towards that end. District Councils including the present Council refused to pursue this matter and as for the City it has conveyed its strong opposition to such an idea and has done so consistently.

The City claims that taxes in the City are lower - which is true, that the City is better managed, Canlan, KPMG, Northlands, etc, that

The city has its Heritage Fund intact, while the District has mismanaged its own Heritage Fund more or less, that

The City still has its Infrastructure Reserve Funds amounting to \$1,300 per capita in place while that of the District which stood at \$ 1,100 per capita in 1997 has also been mismanaged more or less that

In any case the District continues to subsidise the City via playing fields of which there is no shortage in the District but as a result of a serious shortage in the City there is a shortage in both municipalities which has prompted the District to continue to build playing fields for the benefit of the City primarily. The same is true for capital maintenance in our District Recreation Facilities towards which the City contributes nothing, even though out of every 4 facilities in North Vancouver 3 are in the District and even though the population of the City is more than half of that in the District.

They also point to the fact that 50 homeowners dictated District policy towards opening the waterfront belonging to the public for public use which they say could only occur in a banana republic like the District of North Vancouver.

These are the real reasons why no amalgamation has been possible.

Any and all efforts on my part have been nixed with the strongest opposition coming not only from the City but also from the present Mayor of the District as well as the two previous District Mayors and Councils.

The message privately conveyed to me by members of the City Council is that we would be "crazy" to amalgamate with you or "who in his right mind would want to amalgamate with a mismanaged and scandal ridden municipality like the District of North Vancouver"?

These are the facts which I am revealing to you so that you know what you will be up to. Having said this, it goes without saying that amalgamation makes sense.

I should also tell you however, that, the biggest obstacle towards amalgamation with the City was the apathy of District residents. Other than that I wish you and anyone who will help push this idea, the very best of luck.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

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From: Bill Yager [<mailto:billyager@shaw.ca>]  
Sent: Sunday, July 10, 2005 9:49 AM  
To: DNVCouncil; Mayor Harris; Lisa Muri; Maureen McKeon Holmes; Ernie Crist; Alan Nixon; Richard Walton; Jim Cuthbert  
Cc: James Ridge  
Subject: Amalgamation of the District and City of North Vancouver

Dear Mayor and Council:


As you are aware, I was part of a Citizens Task Force that recently reported to Council with remuneration recommendations for Council members. This was a successful exercise in which a committee of ordinary citizens was able to perform a useful role in the governance process.

Toward the end of our Task Force work it occurred to me that a Citizens Task Force approach might be the appropriate vehicle for examining whether amalgamation of the District and the City of North Vancouver is feasible. Say a six person Task Force, mandated by the respective Councils, with three appointees from each of the District and the City and a staff liaison person from each.

I do not know whether or not any studies have recently been undertaken in regards to possible amalgamation. If not, I suggest that a serious examination should be initiated and perhaps a Citizens Task Force would be a good starting point. I can see some very definite synergies and also some possible deal breakers. My point is that it is certainly in the best interests of the citizens of both municipalities to take this to the stage of inventorying and weighing the pluses and minuses and considering the options for addressing the negatives.

Sincerely,  
Bill Yager

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