


Subject: FW: Response to letter from Shirley and Margaret.....re taxes;

Date: Sat, 26 Feb 2005 11:47:32 -0800

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

To: <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>

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> _____
> From: Ernie Crist
> Sent: Saturday, February 26, 2005 11:43 AM
> To: Nathalie Valdes
> Subject: Response to letter from Shirley and Margaret re
> taxes;
>
> Ladies;
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> You have made some excellent points in your letter re District taxes.
> Allow me to add a few more. The District, during the last 15 years,
> has used countless \$ millions of its land sale proceeds for every day
> expenses. Other municipalities have used such Funds to put into their
> Heritage Fund and have used only the interest from this fund. This is
> the smart way of doing business. An equally smart policy to that
> effect was initiated in 1986 in the District but was abandoned for no
> reason other than financial expediency and gross incompetence. Needles
> to say this has clearly affected our taxes in a very negative way.
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> The same is true for the Infrastructure Reserve Funds which have also
> been eliminated for no reason other than, what, in my opinion, was
> fiscal opportunism. The result is that now, when we are confronted
> with huge expenditures for it's renewal, the money has to be taken
> from other sources (taxes). I should mention that in 1997 the District
> had a per capita Infrastructure Reserve Fund of \$ 1,100 which is now
> gone, but not to pay for new infrastructure. In the City of North
> Vancouver this Fund is today \$ 1,300 per capita and in West Vancouver
> it is \$ 1,700 per capita. Needles to say this too has had a very
> negative effect on our taxes.
>
> As I have already pointed out before, the District, despite now
> having the second highest taxes in the region, continues to subsidise
> the City of North Vancouver through our recreation agreement. They are
> building the high-rises while we are providing the playing fields.
> Nobody dares say anything for fear of upsetting the status quo. There
> is also the question of reorganising the Rec Commission which would
> save the District a huge amount of money but this too is a "sacred
> cow" even though SUCH A STEP, if anything, would raise the level of
> services provided to the public. Another big money loser is the Arts
> Administration. There are 3 separate administrations more or less,
> when there should be only one. However, that too is a "Sacred Cow".
> Administrations are costly. However, Council has consistently refused
> to address my concerns and has, in fact, defeated all my motions to
> rectify the situation while at the same time, badly needed projects
> are short funded and taxes keep going up at twice the rate of
> inflation.
>
> Yours truly,
>
> Ernie Crist

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