Subject: FW: 2005 election
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R E V I S E D

> *A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST*
>
> *The outcome of the 2005 municipal election in the District of North*
> *Vancouver is a victory for the status quo. It is, in fact, a victory*
> *for the Liberal Don Bell who will be able to control District Council*
> *from the outside more than ever.*
>
> *It was mainly under Don Bell and the Council he controlled that the*
> *District moved to the brink of fiscal disaster and from the lowest to*
> *near the highest taxes in the region.*
>
> *To ensure control and even consolidate their position, the District*
> *Liberals endorsed a number of new candidates to eliminate any emerging*
> *opposition centered primarily around Councillor Ernie Crist.*
>
> *Crist was not running in the election but attempted to form a civic*
> *opposition group. He endorsed Wendy Qureshi, John Sharpe and Salim*
> *Kaderali for Council and David Sadler, for Mayor. None of them were*
> *elected.*
>
> *The meaning of the election outcome will become clear very soon.*
> *Council will increasingly distance itself from the community driven*
> *development philosphy which has guided development and was based on*
> *low low density for the last 30 years. The first line of attack will*
> *be the community driven planning process. Developers will get a more*
> *sympathetic ear from the new Council. Neighbourhood driven planning*
> *will increasingly come under attack;*
>
> *The next line of attack will be public recreation and the elimination*
> *of recreation facilities. With the Distirct facing a financial criss*
> *there will be a strong move towards privatisation and partnerships.*
> *This will be done in the name of streamlining both facilities and*
> *services. To extricate themselves from the fiscal dilemma created*
> *during the Bell era Council will commence selling land. This will*
> *become especially apparent in Seymour and Lynn Valley. Traffic lineups*
> *will get longer. This will occur promises to the contrary*
> *notwithstanding. Economic and philosophical imperatives will dictate*
> *District policies not promise made by politicians during an election.*
>
>
However, there will be no progress on any of the major issues including
public transportation nor on the Bus depot. Support for the Arts will
remain minimal. The foreshore will not be opened to the public. Neither
will there be a meaningful move towards amalgamation. The difference in
taxes between the City and the District is simply too great for the City
to embrace such an idea. Also the existing agreement under the shared
Services agreement between the City and the District suits the City very
well. They build the high-rises while the District builds the playing
fields.

District Council will stumble along without being able to solve any of
the major issues except at the expense of the taxpaying public. The

liveable community concept will become increasingly strained. The
influence of the Chamber of Commerce will increase. This will include
increased financial support by the District for the business community
in the name of encouraging investment and improve the business climate.
It will be done at the expense of homeowners. Subisidies to the City
will continue. All in all, public input in the decision making process
will diminish and the District will more and more resemble other high
density municipalities. At a time when Surrey removed its high density
prophet the District elected one to office.

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