

Subject:**Date:** Mon, 28 Nov 2005 13:13:33 -0800**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>**To:** <fonvca@fonvca.org>**CC:** "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James_Ridge@dnv.org>, <Davesadler@telus.net>, <Johnsharpe@shaw.ca>, <qureshi@shaw.ca>

A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

The editorial in today's "Province" calls for Translink Directors to be elected directly. The Editorial starts with a question. "What is the most pressing issue in the Lower Mainland these days? Well, jobs, health care and the environment, for sure. But transportation is right up there, as the readers of the Province readers like to keep reminding us" it goes on to say.

That Translink Directors should be directly elected should be obvious. All levels of government who spend taxpayer's money and affect daily lives as is surely the case with Translink should be directly accountable. It is a fundamental principle on which any democratic society stands. That this is not the case in BC is an anomaly and may have as much to do with apathy as it has that we are a culturally non-cohesive society.


People coming from parts of the world where democracy and democratic institutions are the exception rather than the rule can hardly be faulted for not becoming politically active and demonstrating against such backwardness. But what about people born here or having come from countries where democracy is a tradition?... People who are sending their sons and daughters to other countries in defence of democracy as is the case in Afghanistan and other places? The example might strike some people as being exaggerated but, in reality, it is merely a matter of degrees. The principle remains the same.

More than one motion was submitted on District Council to that effect. Ditto with the GVRD and much work went into drafting resolutions. There was never sufficient support from any of the recent Mayors or their Councils.

The item is of interest not only because the Province Editorial is on target, but also because it opens the question of the role of governments. District Council had numerous opportunities to lead. Not only were opportunities nixed but motions in some cases were not even allowed to be introduced and explained to the public.

It is not only Translink and the GVRD which should be reformed. Also reformed should be local government itself. The first step should be to recognise local government as legitimate under the Canadian Constitution. This would give cities and municipalities not only the recognition they deserve and provide the tools to solve the staggering problems where close to 90% of Canadians live but it would also make Canadians aware of where the planets future will be determined and where most of the action takes place namely in their own community.

Ernie Crist

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