

Subject: Response to letter from Ms Anita Dadson, President, Lions View, Seniors Planning Society;

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CC: <fonvca@fonvca.org>

ATTENTION MS DADSON

Dear Ms Dadson.

Thank you for your letter pertaining to Senior issues received in the District Hall on Jan 27, 2005. We all appreciate the good intentions of many people and the hard work of some on behalf of Seniors on the North Shore including housing and transportation as you have mentioned in your letter.

You may be aware that I have on many occasion made numerous initiatives regarding such issue including even recreation. Recently there was an opportunity to build a community center in the Lynn Valley Core containing a sizable space for seniors as part of the town center project on that site. Such a space for community activities was originally planned.

When it comes to housing, I have suggested that the District lease land to non profit housing societies, co-op housing and/or that we take advantage of the District Heritage Fund for land assembly programs to build truly affordable housing. I say truly affordable, for the housing that is being built under the pretext of being affordable is in reality not affordable to many Seniors.

When it comes to public transportation I have made numerous proposals including a rapid transit link up to the North Shore which would be of great benefit to Seniors. I have also campaigned against fare increases. However, I must note that never at any time when such motions and initiatives were presented to Council was there a single representative from any of the Seniors Associations including the Lionsview Seniors Planning Society present to support any of these initiatives. The result has been that in most instances there was not even a seconder for such motions never mind any action.

The most recent example was when in line with the original plan I advocated that there be a sizable Senior space at the proposed civic square and town center project in Lynn Valley. I also recall when I worked hard to get a minibus Service to the North Shore 'which enabled any person including Seniors to go from one place to another for only \$ 3.50 per person. When the issue hung in the balance because government legislation forced people who crossed the border between two municipalities to get out of the minibus only to get back into it again on the other side of the street i.e. the other municipality and when I appealed to your Association for a letter of support to change this legislation there was no reply.

As for the Senior space as part of the Lynn Valley Town Center project instead of coming out in support for such a badly needed meeting place, the Lynn Valley Seniors Association with the tacit support of the Lionsview Seniors Planning Society as I understand it, campaigned against it. I find this really incredulous. It is something that is truly unique. I cannot think of any other place in the world where an Association representing Seniors would come out against such a project especially since there is no similar project in this area more accessible and without having to rely on an automobile.

When I advocated recently that we go on record against transit fare increases there was not a single representative from the Seniors in support of this and neither was there when I advocated that rates for Seniors for recreation activities be exempt from steep increases.

I am not quite sure what to make of this except to say that there appears to be something very much wrong on the North Shore. However, maybe there are reasons of which I am not aware of, so maybe you could enlighten me. I would certainly appreciate it. In the meantime many Seniors are desperately looking for leadership in defence of their interests.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist



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