

Subject: UBCM - Resolutions**Date:** Tue, 23 Aug 2005 13:29:09 -0700**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>**To:** <fonvca@fonvca.org>, "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James_Ridge@dnv.org>

A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

The Council of the District of North Vancouver did not submit a single resolution to the 2005 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention to be held in September in Vancouver. The name of the District is not even mentioned on the resolutions list of the convention which will be attended by the Prime Minister of Canada, Premier Campbell and many of the Cabinet Ministers.

The Convention is a platform for municipalities to raise vital issues on behalf of the electorate. It is based on the premise that everything of importance on the globe takes place within local government boundaries. "Think Globally Act Locally" is the slogan stamped on such conventions. The process starts via a motion submitted by a Councillor which, after being debated and passed, is forwarded to the Convention for debate and a request for adoption.


In the Province of British Columbia the District of North Vancouver was considered to be a leader in this vital process. Many of the resolutions were submitted by me. It included resolutions on the environment, health, taxation, the Municipal Charter and cultural issues, to mention but a few. Many of the resolutions were adopted and became part of needed changes in local governance for the benefit of the electorate. It included proposals for changes to the Municipal Act, the Local Government Act and, subsequently, the Municipal Charter.

The practise came to a virtual halt, however, when Mayor Don Bell, with the help of Councillor Janice Harris and the other CCA endorsed members of Council, including Richard Walton, Lisa Muri and Alan Nixon decreed that any motion submitted by a member of Council (read Crist) had to be seconded before it could be debated. As very often there was no seconder there was no debate and, subsequently, not even a record. The result was the effective killing of any initiative put forward.

However, the initiative killing process also resulted in stifling resolutions submitted by District Staff itself. The race to the bottom was effective here as well and mediocrity triumphed.

The result was the virtual death of the process and the diminution of District Council from an acknowledged leader in the Province of BC to a laggard and from an inspirer to a municipal dead weight.

It is no accident that under the leadership of the CCA endorsed District Council, which includes Janice Harris, the District has gone from having the second lowest taxes in the Region to the second highest and is today the only municipally in the Lower Mainland without an Infrastructure Reserve Fund. In 1997, the fund was \$91 million.

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