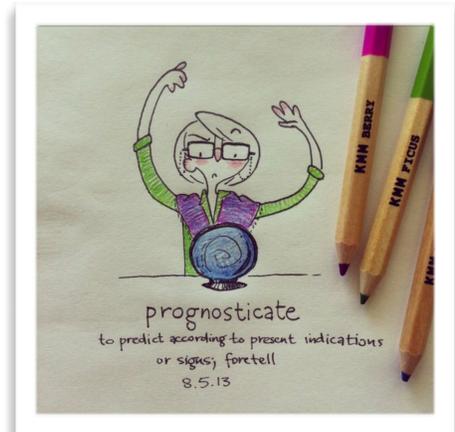


Prognostications; The NDP Plan For The Future Of The North Shore

By Kerry Morris (December 21, 2014)

The powers that be are hard at work planning a new political landscape for the North Shore. Here is a glimpse into our future.

NDP President Craig Keating, in exchange for securing a little over \$1.5 million in fresh campaign donations from developers and the party faithful, to payout the existing NDP party debts, has won his pick of ridings province wide in the May 9th, 2017 general election. Craig's inability to succeed in North Vancouver in 2013, despite a campaign budget of \$150,000, nearly all of which came from developers and channelled to Craig through the party and the local riding association, caused the President to take a page out of the Christy Clark election book. Craig will be parachuted into a provincial riding in which his election to the legislation is all but certain.



Stepping into Craig's place, his worship Mayor Mussatto now plans to run as the NDP candidate in the riding of North Vancouver Lonsdale, in the 2017 provincial election. Both Darrell and Craig believe Darrell's status as Mayor will provide the necessary impetus for him to succeed against Liberal Naomi Yamamoto where president Keating could not.

The departure of Craig and Darrell from the City council table will leave behind a hole which they plan to fill by having Linda Buchanan step-up and run for Mayor in 2017. Linda's seat will then be contested in yet another attempt at council by Cheryl Leia. Cheryl's reputation is being refreshed by way of her recent Council appointment to the North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission. Accompanying Cheryl in her attempt to back-fill the council seats vacated by Buchanan and Keating will be 2014 council candidates Matt Clark and Kathryn McGrenera. I think it unlikely that Iani Makris will get a second run as a 'Slate' member without a significant investment from Iani family. And my bet is that investment won't happen.

Who will pay for this visionary political landscape? Why of course you will! Taxpayers will suffer an even more dramatic densification of our once quaint City, until it resembles Vancouver's West End. Approval of those many new condo towers will propel the NDP bank account fortunes from red to black, in a manner not dissimilar to the donor habits which Craig successfully harnessed in 2013, exemplified by the \$78,500 donation from RPMG (Onni), coincidentally made at the time of the City's approval of Onni's 13th and Lonsdale monolith.

Inquisitive minds will wonder, will Craig and Darrell resign once they've been elected to the legislature, or will they follow in the tried and true footsteps of Superintendent John Lewis, and 'Double-Dip' till their municipal mandate is complete. My money, and yours, is on the later outcome. I'm betting on a double double-dip. What an awful prognostication!