

“Not Our Jurisdiction”

How often have we heard that tired excuse, “its not in my jurisdiction” from an elected official or an employee of government. Somehow it always seems that the thing we most want to have them do for us is always the responsibility of someone else – but “here’s their phone number, and good luck!”

This classic excuse for inaction has always infuriated me. Of course any individual official has limited scope for actual decision making. But, what they do have is unlimited scope for advocacy and collaboration. It is obvious that a Regional Director of the CVRD will be limited in the things that can be tackled formally under the mandate of that level of government.

I believe that a grass roots office, like that of an Area Director, is a first line of contact for government as a whole, not just for the narrow jurisdiction of the Regional District. Messages can be carried, advocacy undertaken and networks of cooperation developed to deal with things that cross jurisdictional boundaries.

If I am elected I will take up this challenge directly. I have already taken the step of asking MLA Bill Routley and MP Jean Crowder to meet, post election, to set up the communication channels so that we could work together on things that need collaboration and to pass things along that fit in another official basket. The same principle exists for working with adjacent electoral areas within the CVRD and the incorporated municipalities.

Don’t tell me that it isn’t in my jurisdiction, that’s like expecting me to take no for an answer!